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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 1

**Parish Profile**

*Holy Cross Church is testimony to growing congregation*

| PAGE 16

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

## Breaking of the Bread

COMMUNION IS 'SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE'

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: This is the fourth story in a series on the seven sacraments.*

CHARLOTTE — If she still lived in her native Colombia, 10-year-old Ximena Pereira would have received her first Communion two years ago. But before she was able to take part in this important sacrament, she and her family were forced to leave Colombia following assassination and kidnapping attempts.

Like the Holy Family escaping to Egypt, the Pereira family left Colombia for their own safety.

Ximena's mother, Adriana Pereira-Canas, worked for her brother's security firm, which accidentally uncovered information about people involved in the drug trade. Following attempts to kidnap Ximena and Guillermo and the murder of Adriana's other brother, the family sought refuge in the United States.

So Ximena waited until last August to share the experience with her 8-year-old brother, Guillermo.

As they lit two candles at the foot of the statue of the Virgin Mary, their faces beamed with excitement at the prospect of receiving Communion. Later, as they read the Old Testament reading and prayers of the faithful in Span-

See COMMUNION, page 9

# Soaring spirits

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

## *St. Matthew School kicks off Festival of Faith*

*"5, 4, 3, 2, 1, go!" With the go-ahead from Kevin O'Herron, principal of St. Matthew School, hundreds of red balloons sailed into afternoon sky as part of St. Matthew Church's 2nd Festival of Faith, in celebration of the new school.*

*The Festival of Faith is an annual event featuring carnival games and activities, face painting, music, dancing and food from around the world.*

*Attached to each balloon was a card with the student's name and the school's address. On each card was a note asking anyone who finds the balloon to send the card back to the school. Students will see where the balloons traveled by charting them on a map of the United States.*

## On fire with faith through confirmation

*Catechists learn history of sacraments*

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "There is a gap of Grand Canyon proportions between what the Church teaches, what the people think it teaches and what the people think it should teach," said Sister of Divine Providence Linda Gaupin, Ph.D., in a talk to parish catechetical leaders at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 18.

Sister Linda, director of religious education for the

See PCL, page 4

## Proposed Vatican document on liturgy returned to drafting

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) — A proposed Vatican document on liturgical norms was sent back to its drafting committee after cardinals and bishops raised some objections and encouraged some changes.

Among other things, the draft presented to consulting prelates in June reportedly discouraged the distribution of Communion under the forms of both bread and wine and said altar girls were permis-

See VATICAN, page 8

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**'Triumph of the Cross'**
*Arden conference explores Eucharist, faith*
| PAGE 5

**Practice makes permanent**
*St. Matthew School students brush up on study skills*
| PAGE 7

**Aspects of Appalachia**
*Conference to highlight western North Carolina*
| PAGE 13

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## VOCALIZING FOR AFRICA RELIEF

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Bono, lead singer of the rock group U2 and advocate for Africa, addresses the media Sept. 16 in Washington. He was joined by religious leaders, including Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla. (left), in urging President Bush and Congress to ensure the $15 billion, five-year AIDS relief plan and maintain current spending on other development and humanitarian assistance.

# Rock star Bono, bishops team up to seek greater U.S. AIDS effort

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rock star Bono teamed up with bishops from three Christian denominations to ask that President Bush and Congress live up to their pledge to commit $3 billion in the year ahead to combat AIDS in Africa.

Calling on America to "keep its promise to Africa" during a Sept. 16 press conference at St. John Episcopal Church near the White House, Bono was joined by, among others, Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy.

"The United States is the richest nation on earth," Bishop Ricard said. "And it is a scandal that we are the last among industrialized nations in terms of per capita spending on development assistance for the poorest countries in the world."

Bono, lead singer of the rock group U2, met with Bush at the White House before the press conference. He said Bush was "very passionate about the problems. I believe him when he says he's committed to the long term on AIDS. ... We just can't agree on the numbers."

According to Bono, Bush is willing to commit only $2 billion for the coming fiscal year, contending that it would be impossible for aid organizations to absorb a full $3 billion. "We want to build the infrastructure" that can distribute drugs and conduct education programs in up to a dozen African countries ravaged by AIDS, the singer said.

Bono praised the work of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. "They treat 4 million people in Africa — not all HIV patients, but orphans, the problem as it breaks out," he said.

A new child is orphaned every 14 seconds in Africa because of AIDS — or more than 2.25 million a year — with a current total of 14 million orphans, according to Bruce Wilkinson of World Vision US. "That would be like the total populations of New York City and Washington, D.C., consisting of nothing but parentless children," he said at the press conference.

Bono founded DATA — Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa — to address health and development issues on the continent. According to a Sept. 9 letter from DATA executive director Jamie Drummond to U.S. senators, "Spending an additional $1 billion would save 2 million lives — by giving life-saving treatment to an additional 400,000 people who would otherwise die and preventing an additional 1.6 million people from ever contracting HIV/AIDS."

Such an expenditure would save the international community $1 billion a year in AIDS treatments, Drummond added.

Bono encouraged Americans to write and to call their members of Congress to fully fund Bush's AIDS in Africa initiative.

# League criticizes Democrats' link to Catholics for Free Choice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an ad in The New York Times Sept. 16, Catholic League president William Donohue said the Democratic National Committee is openly "insulting Catholics" with its links to Catholics for a Free Choice on the committee's Web site.

Catholics for a Free Choice is "a profoundly anti-Catholic organization" that should not be linked to by the Democratic National Committee, Donohue said.

Catholic News Service was unable to reach Terry McAuliffe, Democratic National Committee national chairman, for comment.

On its "links" page, the Democratic National Committee Web site has three links to the Catholics for a Free Choice Web site — under its "pro-choice," "women" and "religious affiliated" headings. It also links to almost 50 organizations that support legalized abortion.

Donohue said the head of Catholics for a Free Choice, Frances Kissling, "has worked tirelessly to discredit the Vatican and has even sought to oust the Holy See from the U.N. She has consistently mocked the pope and has even gone so far as to brand the U.S. Conference of (Catholic) Bishops as 'the enemy.'"

Catholics for a Free Choice was denounced by the U.S. bishops 10 years ago as a group which "merits no recognition or support as a Catholic organization" and is funded mostly by non-Catholic sources.

Donohue has unsuccessfully lobbied the Democratic National Committee to drop the Catholics for a Free Choice links since last year. He said Catholics were once an integral part of the Democratic Party, but that relationship has become strained "ever since Democrats alienated Catholics on key cultural issues."

# Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — There will be a *music concert* held at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. John Apple, organist/music associate at St. Gabriel, is celebrating his 10th anniversary with the parish with this concert to be performed with local musicians. There will be music for organ solo and duo, flutes, voice, cello and piano. For more information, contact (704) 567-1066.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., invite all people to hear the *Sung Rosary* Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. the free one-hour program, "the joyful mysteries," will be sung by Michael and Terese Rowe, special music ministers and will be a candlelight meditation. For more information, please call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE — The *bereavement support group* every first Monday meets 6-7:30 p.m. in the Family Room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Mondays of every month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *cancer support group* for survivors, family and friends meet every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church will have a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meet the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Fall Day of Reflection* for seniors over 55 will be held Oct. 9 at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, will address spiritual topics relative to seniors. Please call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 by Sept. 30. This event is

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican says weapons inspections crucial to detecting secret programs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After the International Atomic Energy Agency demanded that Iran open its nuclear facilities to U.N. inspectors, a Vatican representative said "impartial, international inspections" were crucial to detecting clandestine nuclear weapons programs.

Msgr. Leo Boccardi made the comments in a speech Sept. 17 to a meeting of the agency in Vienna, Austria. Msgr. Boccardi, the Holy See's permanent observer to the atomic energy agency, said verification was proving to be a challenging task.

"This core activity becomes more and more crucial in the efforts of the international community to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons," he said.

"It is important that verification is done through impartial, international inspections, because only such activities can generate credibility and bring about good results," he said.

The question of impartiality has been raised in the debate over Iran's nuclear weapons program. On Sept. 12, after strong lobbying from the United States, the International Atomic Energy Agency gave Iran until Oct. 31 to provide detailed information about all its nuclear-related activities, to suspend uranium-enrichment activities and to allow unlimited access to U.N. inspectors.

The United States has said it fears Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Iran has said its nuclear programs are for peaceful uses, and that the energy agency was merely carrying out U.S. political wishes.

Msgr. Boccardi emphasized that in the Vatican's view verification of nuclear weapons, while very important, is not enough to "make the world more secure."

"We need to reinvigorate the nuclear disarmament process, including real progress in nuclear weapons dismantlement," he said.

sponsored by the elder ministry of Catholic Social Services.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO— *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Guilford County, Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social, cultural and charitable inter-parish group, meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, Kloster Center, at 2210 N. Elm St. RSVP to Elaine McHale, President, 292-1118 to attend meeting. All Catholic women of Irish birth or descent are welcome.

HIGH POINT — A Salesian leadership seminar, *"Becoming Blessed Givers,"* will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4154 Johnson St. Oct 3 7-9 p.m. and Oct. 4 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. This interactive program offers Salesian perspectives on the beatitudes and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. For registration information, call Brenda Agnew at (336) 869-8075 or e-mail bbrendamae@aol.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, holds a *charismatic Mass* the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

HICKORY — The *Confraternity of Christian Mothers* is open to all women in the Hickory area. Meetings are held 6:45-8 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the St. Catherine of Sienna room of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. for details call Kathy Kohrs at (828) 324-6575.

HICKORY — A *Fall Day of Reflection* for seniors over 55 will be held Oct. 16 at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius, will address spiritual topics relative to seniors. Please call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 by Oct. 2. This event is sponsored by the elder ministry of Catholic Social Services.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Father Jozef Sekete, SJ, will present *"A Walk through the Mass"* at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. Sept. 28 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 1 at 4:30 p.m. This class will examine the Mass and its historical origins. Father Sekete will discuss current practices and how the celebration of the Mass remains the greatest prayer of the church. For details, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., has an ongoing *"Landings"* group for returning Catholics. In small faith-sharing groups, returning Catholics are provided a comfortable spot to touch down and share faith journeys, prayer and Catholic spirituality with other Catholics trying to live their faith. For further information, call Jim or Penny at (704) 664-5196.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — Father Matthew Kauth will present *"Theology of the Body"* at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Catholic Young Adult Group. For more information about the presentation or the group, call Susie Bryson at (828) 293-9374 or e-mail:susiebryson@catholicexchange.com.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in Conference Room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Please submit notices of parish events for the diocesan planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# October should be a busy month in the busiest pontificate in history

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's frailty during a visit to Slovakia prompted some to wonder whether the duties of his office are finally overwhelming the 83-year-old pontiff.

But the pope is hardly preparing to ride into the sunset, as October promises to be one of the busiest periods of any pontificate with a marathon of meetings, liturgies and celebrations — including festivities for the 25th anniversary of his election.

The pope starts off October with a general audience, a two-hour event that brings him into weekly contact with pilgrims from all over the world. Over the years, he's presided over more than 1,100 of these audiences, attended by an estimated 16.8 million people.

The same day, he begins a 12-day series of "ad limina" visits with bishops from the Philippines, one-on-one encounters followed by a group meeting.

In early October, the pope will meet with the president of Lithuania; the Australian and Lebanese foreign ministers; and the Anglican primate, Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, at the Vatican for the first time.

The pope will preside over a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square to honor three new missionary saints, then helicopter to a Marian sanctuary in Pompeii to say Mass and close out the Year of the Rosary. It will be the 144th Italian visit of his pontificate.

In mid-October, the College of Cardinals descends on Rome to help the pope celebrate his 25th anniversary. After signing a post-synodal document on the role of the bishop in the church Oct. 16, the pope will say Mass in the evening for what is expected to be a huge crowd.

The pope will next attend a concert in his honor, hold a retrospective gathering with the cardinals and heads of bishops' conferences, preside over the three-hour beatification of Mother Teresa, and then meet with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican.

October finishes with more liturgies, audiences with world leaders, foreign ministers and "ad lima" meetings with English and Welsh bishops.

Pope John Paul shoulders the blame for his heavy schedule. His ambitious papacy has helped change the way popes operate: once remote and regal, the head of the church is now expected to be in a state of perpetual pastoral motion.

# Cleaning up after Isabel

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The Catholic University of America worker Julian Bennett cleans up downed tree branches outside Spalding Hall Sept. 19 after Hurricane Isabel blew through Washington. The massive storm, blamed for at least 11 deaths, left more than 3.5 million people without power and shut down the federal government for two days in Washington. The morning after the storm, the capital area was dealing with downed trees and tree limbs, power outages and flooding. Areas along the East Coast from North Carolina to Maryland suffered more extensive damage. Catholic Charities was soliciting funds to help those hardest hit by the storm.

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, 81,240 people have been received into full Communion in the Catholic Church through conversion from another Christian church. There are now 65,270,444 Catholics in the United States (23 percent of the U.S. population), and 1,018,257,000 Catholics in the world (17.3 percent of the world population).

## CORRECTION

Last issue, Rev. Mr. Gene Gillis' name was misspelled in a photo caption.

# Confirmation: On fire with faith

PCL, *from page 1*

Diocese of Orlando, is a noted author and speaker on the topics of liturgy, catechesis and sacramental catechesis and holds a doctorate in catechesis and liturgy from the Catholic University of America.

At the parish catechetical leaders' in-service day, she spoke about the church history and teachings on the sacraments of baptism, Communion and confirmation in a talk entitled "Confirmation: The Spirit Sets Us Free."

"In the last few years, several dioceses mandated the restored order of the sacraments of initiation," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan office of faith formation. "Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches have expressed reluctance to join the Roman Catholic Church if the liturgical practice of putting confirmation after the Eucharist persists."

"In order to understand the theological and liturgical issues involved, the Office of Faith Formation invited Sister Linda Gaupin to shed some light on this debate," he said.

Photo by Ellen N. Sigmon

Sister of Divine Providence Linda Gaupin talks with parish catechetical leaders during a PCL in-service day at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Sept. 18.

### *History of sacraments*

"In the Catholic Church, most people's concept of history is from 1930 on," she said. "Our recent memory is a problem. We think it's the way the church has always been."

Offering a brief history of the sacraments in the early church, Sister Linda said that up until the 500s, converts to the faith were fully initiated at Easter and received baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist in that order all in one ceremony.

"The church had one rite of baptism, no matter what your age," she said.

After the 500s, said Sister Linda, those being initiated into the church went from being mostly adults to mostly infants, but the ceremony remained the same, with deacons and adults answering for the infants. Infants received Communion just as other church members would.

But around the 900s in some areas of the Latin rite church, said Sister Linda, there began to be a separation of confirmation from baptism and the Eucharist. This was mainly due to bishops keeping the right to confirm for themselves.

"The time of initiation would come, but the bishop would not be present," she said. "It would be done when the bishop could get there. The church was very concerned about this."

Over the next several hundred years, the separation of confirmation from the other sacraments became longer (from months to years) and the practice of separating the sacraments became more widespread, said Sister Linda. In some areas, baptism was separated from first Communion, although none of this was done because of official church teachings, she said.

As the sacraments of initiation separated, local churches started to require preparatory education and proof of moral worthiness for first Communion and confirmation, and the ages for these sacraments varied widely, depending on the preferences of the local clergy.

"This Jansenism (the idea of having to earn a sacrament) was ultimately condemned by the church as heresy," said Sister Linda.

Sister Linda listed several church documents issued in the 1700-1900s discouraging the delay of confirmation, and said children should receive it at the "age of reason" (typically around the age of 7), before or at the same time that they received their first Communion.

Still, she said, there continues to be a "gap between official church teachings and pastoral practices."

"No one is doing this out of maliciousness," said Sister Linda. "We are dealing with major confusion."

### *Essence of confirmation*

Sister Linda also talked about what confirmation should and should not be, adding the current structure signals to adolescents that achieving confirmation signals the end of their religious education. She said confirmation should be seen as a sacrament of initiation that bestows the gift of the Holy Spirit, endows the recipient with special strength, and makes the recipient an anointed Christ figure.

Confirmation should not be presented as a sacrament of maturity in which adolescents decide on their personal commitments to the church and proves their wisdom to make moral decisions, said Sister Linda.

"We make people show us they have the gift of the spirit before we even give it to them," she said.

The type of people chosen to instruct confirmands is also very important, said Sister Linda. "We get involved in religious education by knocking on a rectory door for a Mass card," she said. "We come out the D.R.E. (director of religious education)."

"People leading people to conversion have to be people of conversion themselves," she said. "They need to have the fire and energy and passion of the faith. We need to enable children, youth and adults to understand the spirit that transforms us."

The Diocese of Orlando, she said, has implemented a confirmation program that involves the entire faith community, not just the confirmands. Parents and siblings of the confirmands come to the program, as well as other adults of the parish who need to deepen and enrich their own understanding and spirituality of sacramental life, she said.

"Teenagers begin to get a different attitude when they begin to see the body of Christ gathered — people who don't have to be there," said Sister Linda. "A child has a right to the love and help of the community."

"We should be on fire with the faith, because we have all been confirmed," she said.

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COME AND HEAR

Christopher West – *"Theology of the Body"*

*Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 8 - 10 at 7 pm each evening*

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
1400 Suther Road - Charlotte

One of the top Catholic speakers in the world, Christopher West's talks regarding Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" are riveting and life changing!

West teaches theology of the body and sexual ethics at Denver's St. John Vianney Theological Seminary and is also a visiting faculty member of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Melbourne, Australia. His books, extensive lecturing and tapes have sparked an international ground swell of interest in John Paul II's theology of the body.

Tickets: $12 for all 3 nights or $5 for each night.
(Workbook is an additional $5)
For information: Tony Gagliardo - 704-439-0533 or 704-655-9090

**BOOK SIGNING:** West will sign his book "Good News about Sex and Marriage" on Thursday, Oct. 9, 1:00 pm at the new store location of The Catholic Company at LAKE NORMAN (next to the Goodwill), 19905 West Catawba Avenue, #106, Cornelius (Exit 28 off I-77, 1/2 mile west on Catawba Ave.)

# Many experience 'Triumph of the Cross'

## *Arden conference explores Eucharist, faith*

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Wearing red in honor of the Sept. 14 feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Father Roger Arnsparger and Rev. Mr. Arthur Kingsley led a colorful procession to the altar of St. Barnabas Church Friday evening, Sept. 12.

The procession included Columbian Squires carrying a statue of the Blessed Mother. So began the second annual "Triumph of the Cross" conference.

"Triumph of the Cross: Building Catholic Families, Building a Catholic Culture" took place at the church Sept. 12-13. Sponsored by St. Barnabas, Saints and Scholars Bookstore and Nazareth House, a center for Catholic resources, the conference featured presentations and 16 workshops such as "Taking Your Toddlers to Mass," "Prayer" and "The Moral Imagination of Children."

"It was a much needed nourishment and a booster shot for our souls," said Karen Jambon, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. "We need the community of the church as a support group."

Approximately 220 people participated in the conference, according to Jeff Minick, conference coordinator.

In his homily, Father Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas, said, "Never forget God loved us so much that he was ready to give himself up ... This is the reason we have crosses, venerate the cross and make the Sign of the Cross."

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Adults and teen-agers questions about faith to a panel of priests during the "Triumph of the Cross" conference at St. Barnabas Church Sept. 12-13.

After Friday night's Mass, Father Paul Scalia, a pro-life activist and parochial vicar of St. Patrick Church in Chancellorsville, Va., offered the keynote on "The Eucharist and the Family."

Father Scalia, one of the nine children of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, offered a lively presentation on how the Eucharist can transform people. He focused on the three aspects of the Eucharist — sacrifice, presence and Communion — and demonstrated how they correspond to "evangelical councils of poverty, chastity and obedience."

Addressing parents in the audience, Father Scalia encouraged them to teach their children to go without some of the things they want; to sacrifice "for the good of their souls." He pointed out that parents can not see God's work in their child's soul, that the "Lord enjoys an intimacy with your child greater than the intimacy you have with your child."

He cautioned them to show a reverence for their child's soul, "a place where parents can't go."

Jim Burnham, author of the "Beginning Apologetics" series and a frequent guest on the Eternal World Television Network, offered two lectures and a meeting with teen-agers during a workshop Sept. 13.

Speaking on "Anchoring Your Family in the Faith," Burnham compared the Catholic faith to a Ferrari that needs "to be taken from the garage onto the highway in fifth gear." Burnham stressed Catholics have the body and blood of Christ, and "most personal relationship this side of Heaven."

During his "Teen Talk" session, Burnham stressed the importance of teen-agers learning about their faith, especially before attending college. He told the teens to know their Bible because their non-Catholic friends will know theirs, and said they could always find answers when non-Catholics attack their faith.

"Because the Catholic Church is true, it can defend itself," he said.

Noah Carter, a teen parishioner from St. Barnabas, said what he learned "will help me defend my faith."

Teens and adults benefited from the "Father Knows Best" panel, which consisted of Father Arnsparger; Father Scalia; Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva; and Father Patrick Winslow, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. Often with humorous insight, the priests answered questions that ranged from the difference between an atheist and an agnostic to how to answer non-Catholic friends who say Catholics worship idols and saints.

Father Arnsparger summarized the session with: "The only way to the true happiness that God desires for us to when we live the life God has designed for us."

"(The panel) made clear the understanding of what it means to be Catholic and what teen-agers should do when confronted with questions," said Jacob Wolfe, a parishioner from St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon.

"It was really informative," said April Hansbury, a teen-age parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. "It gave teens a chance to ask questions in an open environment and have discussion."

"(It) was a good opportunity to ask question that most teen-agers have and to know that other teens have the same questions that you do," said Samantha Rutherford, a teen-age parishioner from the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

Father Williams offered a workshop on "Educating Children for Heaven." June Sullivan, a St. Mary parishioner who attended the workshop, said the main goal of education is to know God.

"If we can inspire that in our children, and keep the end goal in mind, we will do the right things to get to that goal," she said.

Other workshops included the work of Rachel's Vineyard, an outreach of American Life League that offers post-abortion healing; stewardship, by Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office; and Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," by Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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## KETTLES AND CAMARADERIE

COURTESY PHOTO

*Women gather to share tea, faith*

SAPPHIRE VALLEY — Approximately 100 women attended the Ecumenical Tea for Women of Faiths took place at St. Jude Church Sept. 13.

The gathering was an opportunity for women of different faiths to share fellowship and refreshments, and partake in an inspirational sermon and meditation by Rev. Ann Dotson from Rowlett, Texas.

Father William Evans, sacramental minister for St. Jude Church, welcomed the women and said, to his knowledge, this meeting was the first ecumenical effort by women in the area.

The gathering was considered a success by those in attendance, according to Mary Phillabaum, St. Jude Family Life Commission chairperson, and the participants agreed to meet again to share their similarities rather than differences early in 2004.

# Wine tasting event to raise funds

CHARLOTTE — The 2nd Annual Vineyard of Hope Wine Tasting and Auction fundraiser will be held to benefit the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services Oct. 24.

Over 400 people are expected to attend the event to enjoy wines from local and national wineries and creative cuisine from Mimosa Grill. As an added attraction, chefs from Johnson & Wales University will be on hand to demonstrate cooking techniques and offer a virtual tour of the new university, slated to open in September 2004.

Emcees Ty Boyd and Jim Babb will lead the evening's festivities, which will include a silent auction with donations from local and regional businesses, and a live auction featuring vacations, rare bottles of wine, personal chef services, and other unique items.

The Charlotte Regional Catholic Social Services (CSS) is a non-profit human services agency that provides services to those in need, regardless of economic, soci8al, religious, racial or ethnic background. Services include: adoption services and pregnancy support counseling; material assistance; holiday outreach; burial assistance; services to Charlotte's increasing Hispanic community

### WANT TO GO?

This fundraiser will take place at the Wachovia Atrium in Charlotte Oct. 24. Tickets are $40 per person, or $75 per couple. To purchase tickets or request additional information, call (704) 370-0560. RSVPs are required by Friday, Oct. 17, 2003.

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# School of Healing Prayer begins in Diocese of Charlotte

HIGH POINT — The first class of the Level I School of Healing Prayer was held at Maryfield Nursing Home.

Bruce and Ellen Brodowski of Carolinas Ecumenical Healing Ministries (CEHM) facilitated the class of 52 students organized by Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp, permanent deacon at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, and his wife Bette.

CEHM is a nonprofit organization under the spiritual direction of Father Dean Cesa, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. The organization strives to help heal the mind, body and soul through prayer. The School of Healing Prayer seminars equip individuals, churches and prayer groups to minister healing prayer through training video's and a workbook featuring Dr. Francis MacNutt and other leaders in the healing ministry.

CEHM plans to hold a School of Healing Prayer in the Charlotte area in the future. Those called to a Christian ministry of prayer, faith and healing can obtain information by contacting Bruce or Ellen Brodowski at (704) 845-4638.

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# Practice makes permanent

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Charlynn E. Ross, director of The University Learning Center at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, helps fourth and fifth graders hone their study skills Sept. 23 at St. Matthew School.

## *St. Matthew students brush up on their study skills*

by KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "Practice makes permanent," said Charlynn Ross to the fourth- and fifth-grade students of St. Matthew School Sept. 23.

Ross, director of the University Learning Center at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, spent the next 30 minutes teaching the students techniques to improve their study skills, something that they will use for the next 12 (or more) years.

"Study skills are the foundation for a successful academic career," said Debbie Mixer, assistant principal of St. Matthew School. "The earlier you begin learning those skills, the more successful you become."

If students learn good study and time management skills early, those skills are second nature when they enter high school, said Ross.

Ross addressed the primary components of studying efficiently: avoiding distractions; breaking down assignments into smaller, more manageable tasks; taking frequent short breaks; answering study questions while reading; and taking notes effectively.

Ross further helped the students identify what type of learners they are, visual, auditory or tactile/moving learners. She gave suggestions for each specific type of learner.

"For example, my son always had to be moving when he was young," she said. "So I gave him a small, soft ball that he could hold in one hand while he wrote with the other." It kept him from swinging his legs and kicking other students under their desks, she explained.

A separate training session was held in the evening for the parents to enable them to help their children study more effectively.

"Studying effectively is more important than studying a lot," Ross said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

## Study tips from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte University Learning Center

***Maximizing Study Time***

Write down all assignments.

Keep a daily "To Do" list.

Pace yourself — don't cram!

Break big assignments and projects into smaller daily tasks.

Set a time limit for studying and reward yourself with a healthy break (eat fruit, stretch, try light exercise or take a quick shower).

Use the "25/5 Method" — for every 25 minutes of studying give yourself a 5-minute "health break" before returning to your assignments. Your brain will be at its maximum operating power!

Avoid the "Sirens' Call" of distractions during homework — relax and have fun with friends during your free time.

You should make time to enjoy yourself everyday. But teach yourself to say "NO" to behavior that will harm your learning and your grades.

***Reading Textbooks***

Read the "Chapter Summary" first.

Write down the questions at the end of the chapter on flashcards.

Then answer the questions as you find them in your reading.

Think as you read, " What would be a good test question?" Make you own practice test, then match your test with the teacher's test. You will be surprised how many test questions will be alike!

***Taking Notes***

Don't try and write down everything the teacher says — just important key words.

Do write down information that the teach writes or displays.

Use abbreviations. RW = Revolutionary War.

Rewrite your notes after class while your memory is still fresh.

Use different colors to highlight your notes. For examples, use the color green for information about oxygen, orange for carbon dioxide, yellow for photosynthesis. It is fun and you will remember more!

Make flash cards out of your notes!

### *How do you best learn?*

*Through what you see? What you hear? While you move?*

***Visual Learners***

Use colored pens, note cards and highlighters.

Draw diagrams, maps, charts and picture of information that you need to remember.

Imagine information as pictures or movies in your head.

***Auditory Learners***

Read difficult information out loud.

Practice questions and answers with a study partner/parent.

Summarize paragraphs, chapters, stories and directions in your own words.

***Tactile/Moving Learners***

There is memory in your muscles!

Try a rocking or swivel chair while you read.

Hold a smooth stone, small soft ball, etc. in one hand while you study.

Create flash cards with questions on the front and answers on the back.

Type your notes/study guides.

*Use the suggestions that help you learn best!*

***Wild but not crazy:***

Your nose knows: Study with a super scent. Try rubbing a little scented lotion under your nose while you study. Then use the same lotion under your nose while you take a test. Your recall should increase. Our sense of smell is a strong trigger of memory. Check with your parents first before trying!

**Last but not least.** Think positively about your assignments. Top leaders, teachers, musicians, athletes and other successful people will tell you that keeping a good attitude is the key to overcoming any problem.

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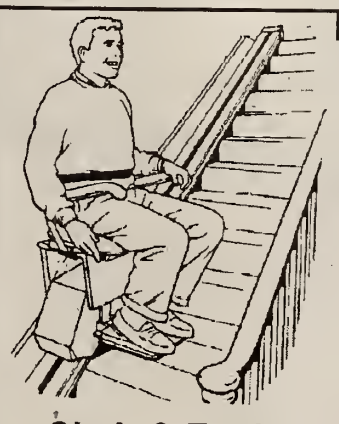
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# Document on liturgy returned

VATICAN, *from page 1*

sible only for a good reason.

The Rome-based magazine *Jesus*, a publication of the Pauline Fathers, reported Sept. 22 it had obtained a copy of the June draft.

Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said the draft was discussed by members of the doctrinal congregation and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments in June.

"Many observations were made, both negative and positive," he told Catholic News Service Sept. 24. "The document which will be released eventually will not be the same document I saw" because it was sent back for revision.

Another prelate who received the draft said members of the two congregations were asked not only for observations about specific points in the draft, but also whether they believed it was "opportune" to publish the document.

Pope John Paul II, in his April encyclical on the Eucharist, asked the congregations to prepare a document, "including prescriptions of a juridical nature," on the obligation to follow church rules for the celebration of Mass and adoration of the Eucharist.

A Vatican official, who asked not to be named, said it is normal for a document to be returned to its drafting committee for revision prior to publication.

According to *Jesus* magazine, the draft released in June emphasized the importance of maintaining the distinctions among the roles of the priest, deacon and laity at Mass, reaffirming the Vatican's ban on anyone but the priest or deacon giving the homily.

The magazine did not give any more details on distribution of Communion under both species, but said the document also:

— Specifically discourages lay "pastoral assistants" in a parish from assuming liturgical roles during the Mass.

— Recognizes a bishop's authority to permit girls and women to serve at the altar, "but never without a just pastoral reason, and priests must never be obliged to call girls to this role."

— Reminds Catholics that "the minister of the Eucharist" and the only celebrant of the Mass is the priest.

The Mass is not a "concelebration" of the presiding priest and the congregation, therefore the expressions "celebrating community" or "celebrating assembly" should be avoided.

The magazine said the draft document also states that:

— "Applause and dance inside a sacred building, even outside of the eucharistic celebration" are not allowed. The rule could mean a change in liturgies at which Pope John Paul is present; he is always greeted with applause and, with congregations from certain parts of the world, dance has been permitted, particularly during the offertory procession.

— Under most circumstances non-Catholics are not allowed to receive the Eucharist at a Catholic liturgy. Ministers from other Christian communities should not stand next to Catholic celebrants during a Mass, and they should not be asked to give a blessing to the Catholic congregation.

# Liberian Boys Choir entertains parishioners

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

*MINT HILL — The Liberian Acappella Boys Choir sang for about 130 friends and parishioners at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill Sept. 14.*

*The group of orphans from the war-torn African nation consists of 13 boys ages 9-16. The choir demonstrated phenomenal harmony accompanied by only an African (deer) drum in a few of their songs.*

*The choir is currently supported and sponsored by Perry Bown of Waxhaw until Dec. 1, when they are required to return to their country.*

*For further information or bookings, please call (206) 270-9600 or write Liberian Acappella Boys Choir, P.O. Box 1238, Lancaster, S.C. 29722.*

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# Communion: The 'source and summit'

COMMUNION, *from page 1*

ish, their parents, grandparents and aunt smiled proudly at the accomplishment of these two young people.

"It's important to feel the presence of God in our lives," said their mother, Adriana Pereira. "We receive Jesus because, as he said, 'Do this in remembrance of me.'"

### *The center of Catholic life*

"The font of all the sacramental celebrations is the Eucharist," said Cris Villapondo, director of the diocesan office of faith formation.

The Eucharist is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and confirmation. According to Father Peter Klein's "The Catholic Source Book," baptism "immerses a person in their identity" and confirmation "immerses a person in their mission." Eucharist "immerses a person in their destiny."

In the time of the early church, the sacrament of holy Communion was first given to infants at the time of their baptism. Over the centuries, the custom became to wait until the age of 14. In the 20th century, Pope Pius X declared that children "of the age of reason" — 7 years old — were to receive first Communion.

"The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church," Pope John Paul II wrote in his April 2003 encyclical letter "Ecclesia De Eucharistia."

"In a variety of ways she joyfully experiences the constant fulfillment of the promise: 'Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age' (Mt 28:20), but in the Holy Eucharist, through the changing of bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord, she rejoices in this presence with unique intensity," the pope stated.

"The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is 'the source and summit of the Christian life,'" Belleville Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote in response to the encyclical.

"The Church was born of the paschal mystery," said Bishop Gregory. "For this very reason the Eucharist, which is in an outstanding way the sacrament of the paschal mystery, stands at the centre of the Church's life."

"By giving the Eucharist the prominence it deserves, and by being careful not to diminish any of its dimensions or demands, we show that we are truly conscious of the greatness of this gift," Pope John Paul II said in his encyclical letter.

"We are urged to do so by an uninterrupted tradition, which from the first centuries on has found the Christian community ever vigilant in guarding this 'treasure,'" he continued. "Inspired by love, the Church is anxious to hand on to future generations of Christians, without loss, her faith and teaching with regard to the mystery of the Eucharist. There can be no danger of excess in our care for this mystery, for 'in this sacrament is recapitulated the whole mystery of our salvation.'"

### *Celebration of the sacred*

Following the Mass, family and friends gathered to celebrate Ximena and Guillermo's first Communion. The children handed out silver angel bookmarks with their names, the date and "First Communion" engraved on them. Although they counted and recounted their monetary gifts, it was their love of God and their family and friends that was the focus of that special day.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

## THE BREAD OF ANGELS

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Ximena and Guillermo Pereira eagerly wait for their turn to walk up the aisle at St. Ann Church. The children are Colombian natives, and had to postpone making their first Communion until they had settled in the United States.

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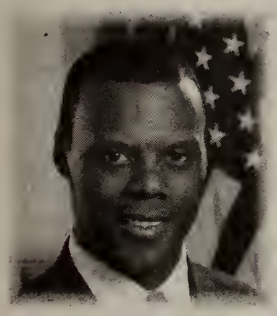

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# Culture Watch

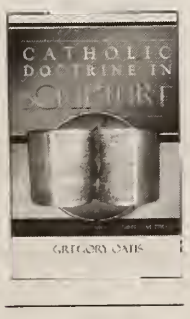
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Author aims to help Catholics 'pummeled' by those who quote Scripture

BY CHRISTINE ALEXANDER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TOLEDO, Ohio — If you've ever been bombarded by a well-intentioned friend throwing Bible verses at you, then you'll appreciate how Greg Oatis happened to write "Catholic Doctrine in Scripture," published by Coming Home Resources in Zanesville.

"I never intended to write a book," he said. "I just wanted to compile verses for RCIA candidates for times when they would be confronted by well-meaning, but not well-informed folks regarding the Bible — those who know




diddly about the Catholic faith."

So in 1996, Oatis started to comb through Scripture for explanatory verses giving background to what Catholics believe. "As I read the Bible, the list just grew and grew," he explained in an interview with the Catholic Chronicle, newspaper of the Toledo Diocese.

He looked for "hot-button" topics and issues directed against Catholic doctrine and views: papal infallibility; the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; calling priests "Father"; statues in church; Mary; infant baptism; and the Trinity.

"Unless you're schooled in apologetics, most people can't confront this — they're frequently at a loss and can be thrown for a loop," he said.

Once his list was fairly complete he started to pass it on and people would request copies. Then an RCIA director requested 20 copies.

"I was up to 50 topics," the author explained, and his own search was bearing personal fruit.

"It was moving for me to spend time in Scripture and also readings of the early (church) fathers," he said. "You cannot help but be impressed by seeing how the Hebrew traditions and Catholic faith are a seamless garment. It's like an electrical net with the references of Old and New (Testaments) all connected. It really is one work — a set of books but one Word."

He said the unraveling was both "awe-inspiring and humbling." And he discovered "no faith tradition captures it in all its immensity like the Catholic faith does."

Oatis stresses that he is no theologian. "I'm just a guy who came to love the faith late in life," he said.

But his humble search gained a greater audience when he was involved in an Internet chat. "It was a Protestant-Catholic dialogue kind of thing and I was getting pummeled," he said. "A lot of Christ-loving Protestants just have so many misconceptions about the church."

Into the dialogue came a nun from the Southwest who "rode in on her white horse and rescued me," he said, joking. Oatis sent her a copy of his quotes and the next thing he knew 100 copies were requested in the Southwest.

Then the "Coming Home" show led by Marcus Grodi, a TV show host spotlighting Protestants who have come to Catholicism, wanted to publish the manuscript.

"Every step of the way this has been a Spirit-led project," Oatis said. "If the Holy Spirit had asked me directly to write a book, I would have said, 'I'm not your man.' There are many books that do a wonderful job affirming the scriptural basis for Catholic beliefs. They're deeply educational but you pass through a lot of prose to get to the meat of the verses. This one is more streamlined."

Although the average Catholic can feel overwhelmed when facing a scriptural assault, Oatis said this shouldn't be the case.

"Catholics don't realize how much Scripture they know," he said. "We absorb it through years of hearing it at Mass, but it's not arranged topically. We can't quote chapter and verse, but we know the Bible."

Is he critical of those who lob Bible verses at Catholics? "God bless evangelicals," he said. "I love evangelical Protestants. We (Catholics) probably agree with them on a lot more than they would think."

Rather than being at odds with one another, he said, "We are allies against the pagan influence in our culture. We should be shoulder to shoulder."

*Editor's Note: More information on "Catholic Doctrine in Scripture," which costs $10.95 plus shipping and handling, is available on the Coming Home Resources Web site at: www.chresources.com; or by calling: (877) 455-3208; or by writing: CHResources, P.O. Box 8290, Zanesville, OH 43702.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 28, 2003

## *Sept. 28, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Cycle B Readings:**
1) Numbers 11:25-29
Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-14
2) James 5:1-6
3) Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last spring I made one of my life's great decisions. I retired from teaching so that I could work full time in my parish as pastoral assistant. I found the process of saying goodbye to the classroom forever a daunting experience. Outside the classroom windows the oak trees have stood as silent witnesses, marking the seasons and noting the collage of students who have worked at the art of growing up. Inside this room the pilgrims have ridden to Canterbury, Macbeth always has been fooled by the witches and seniors impatiently have looked toward graduation.

However, now was the time to sort and clean. Every dusty piece of paper and book seemed to have a memory attached. Leaving room A-104 was an intense time of reflection for me.

This classroom, designated A-104 on the school map, has welcomed students from the hot spots of the world and from all religions. I guess one might say ours has been a dialogue comprised of hundreds of voices communicating, discussing and pondering life's secrets over the years.

In the classroom we shared the common language of English, which helped to develop the common language of respect and acceptance of the dignity and worth of each student without regard to homeland or religion. We learned from each other. Conversations often started with "In my country we ...," or "We do this in my religion because ...," or "I don't understand why Americans ..." Youth whose countrymen might be trying to kill each other in other parts of the world were at home, sitting next to each other in this classroom, sharing ideas and learning to communicate.

Closing the door one last time, I was again reminded that the diverse group of young people who had been entrusted to my care taught me more than I may have taught them.

Today in Numbers and Mark's Gospel, we have stories of the unexpected. The Spirit moves beyond the tent and into the camp; likewise, the healing power of Jesus moves beyond the ranks of the Twelve and surprises John. In our own era of separation of church and state, the Spirit of God goes where it will to help facilitate understanding among people of good will.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 4**

**Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48; **Monday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, James 1:47-51; **Tuesday (St. Jerome),** Zechariah 8:20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (St. Therese of the Child Jesus),** Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (Guardian Angels),** Nehemiah 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Friday,** Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Francis of Assisi),** Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 11**

**Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; **Monday (Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher),** Jonah 1:1—2:1, 11, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday (Our Lady of the Rosary),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday,** Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday (St. Denis and companions, St. John Leonardi),** Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday,** Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday,** Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28

K OF C ®

***Please pray for the following priest who died during the month of October***

*Rev. Msgr. William Wellein 1997*

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## 'PASSION' IN FILMMAKING

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON PRODUCTIONS

Mel Gibson directs Jim Caviezel as Jesus in the movie 'The Passion' during filming in Italy. While the film was still being made this summer, Gibson and his production company, Icon, had given screenings of parts of the movie to select viewers.

# Vatican official, archbishop praise Gibson's 'Passion'

FROM
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — The head of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy said he hopes every Catholic priest will see Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion."

"One of the great achievements of this film is to have shown so effectively both the horror of sin and selfishness, and the redeeming power of love," said Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, the congregation prefect.

An interview with the cardinal about the film was published Sept. 17 by ACI Prensa, the Latin American Catholic news agency, and Sept. 18 by the Italian newspaper La Stampa.

La Stampa said Cardinal Castrillon had seen a rough cut of the film, which is scheduled for a spring 2004 release. The paper said Gibson came to Rome the first week of September and "a private viewing was organized for a few Catholic personalities," including the cardinal.

Cardinal Castrillon also is president of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," the office established by Pope John Paul II for the pastoral care of Catholics attached to the liturgy as it was celebrated before the Second Vatican Council. While in Rome shooting the film, Gibson arranged for a priest to come to the set to celebrate a Tridentine Mass each morning.

In the interview, Cardinal Castrillon said the film is "faithful to the meaning of the Gospels as understood by the church" and is not anti-Semitic. Some Catholic and Jewish scholars have expressed concern that the film blames Jews for the death of Jesus and could fuel anti-Semitism.

"It captures the subtleties and the horror of sin, as well as the gentle power of love and forgiveness, without making or insinuating blanket condemnations against one group," he said.

"Anti-Semitism, like all forms of racism, distorts the truth in order to put a whole race of people in a bad light," the cardinal said. "This film does nothing of the sort."

Cardinal Castrillon said the film, although at times graphic, "provokes love and compassion."

"It is my belief that if we could understand what Jesus Christ did for us and we could follow his example of love and forgiveness, there would not be hatred or violence in the world," he said.

The short clips of "The Passion" shown during the August convention of the Knights of Columbus left U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley "very impressed."

The archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, was at the Washington convention Aug. 7 when Gibson made an unexpected appearance and screened 10 to 12 minutes of his film on the suffering and death of Jesus.

"What I saw was very good," Archbishop Foley told Catholic News Service Sept. 15. "I thought it just reported what the Gospel describes."

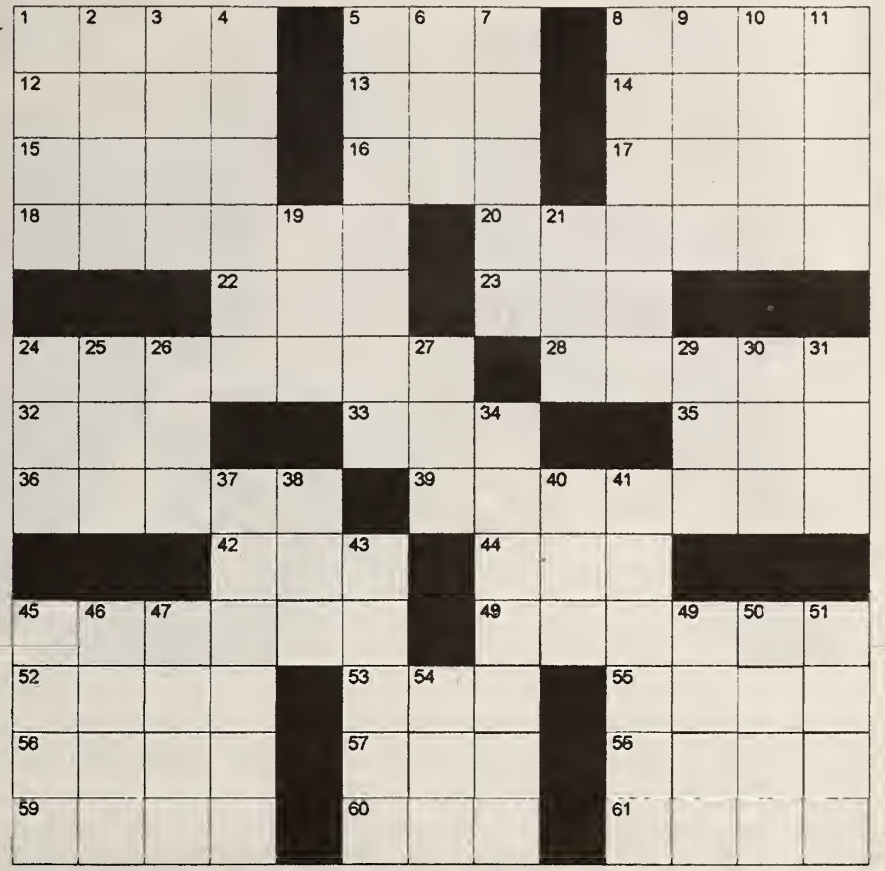
Archbishop Foley said the few scenes he saw made it clear that, as the Catholic Church teaches, "we are all responsible for the death of Jesus, and in my conversation afterward with Mr. Gibson he told me that is what he believes."

"This is his meditation on the Passion," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Foley said that the scenes he saw showed no evidence of "prejudice or a desire to inflame any anti-Semitism."

The archbishop said he did tell Gibson that if he really wanted to be accurate he should not have had the Roman officials speaking Latin, but Greek — the administrative language used in Palestine at the time of Jesus; and that the inscription placed over Jesus' head on the cross should have been written right to left in the Semitic style.

## FUN AND PROPHETS



ACROSS
1 Playwright Cocteau
5 Exclamation
8 Sicilian volcano
12 Killer whale
13 Dude
14 ___ of Judah
15 Butcher a manuscript
16 Crunch target
17 Golf club
18 ___ out
20 Ancient Hebrew ascetic
22 Singer DeFranco
23 Companion to 5 Across
24 Brain lobe
28 Loony
32 Upside down mom
33 "A Hymn to ___" (My Fair Lady song)
35 Labor group
36 Whale of a prophet
39 Papal headquarters
42 Dwarf in Snow White
44 ___ Vegas
45 Passover seder prophet
48 Ancient Spanish kingdom
52 Restaurant's offerings
53 Joan of ___
55 Small amount
56 Red planet
57 Japanese drama
58 Andy's prophetic partner?
59 Entry
60 Letters after personal revelation
61 Nelson's exclamation in "The Simpson's"

DOWN
1 Musician Billy's prophetic last name
2 Earth goddess
3 Victim of Polyphemus
4 David's advisor
5 Prophet between 36 and 58 Across
6 Sphere
7 Prophet with marital woes
8 Follower of 45 Across
9 Grow weary
10 High ___
11 Wife of Henry VIII
19 Tolkien creature
21 Witnessed
24 German philosopher ___ Schelling
25 Kanga's son
26 Possess
27 Actress ___ Tyler
29 D minus CC
30 Car maker
31 Thither
34 Last prophet in Hebrew Bible
37 Adapt
38 Condo org.
40 Pitch
41 Advent prophet
43 Gregorian ___
45 Austen novel
46 Pb
47 Cross letters
49 Spanish glue
50 Star Wars city: ___ Gunga
51 Space agency
54 One of Paul's ltrs.

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GENESIS 46

# 'Lyon's Den' holds promise

CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

Rob Lowe stars as attorney John "Jack" Turner in the new NBC drama "The Lyon's Den." The series premieres this fall on Sundays in prime time. Catholic News Service describes the show as a show that 'holds promise.'

TV WATCH

# NBC continues to push envelope

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — NBC continues to push the envelope by introducing some racy new programs which, without their vamped-up sex quotient, are clearly just derivative, stale shows that rehash familiar themes. However, one bright note is the sweet "Miss Match" starring Alicia Silverstone, whose charm helps to hide some of the program's flaws.

None of the shows can be wholly recommended as appropriate family viewing because of mature themes and the casual (and by now pervasive in practically all network shows) attitude toward premarital sex.

## NBC'S NEW FALL SERIES AT A GLANCE:

***— "The Lyon's Den," Sundays, 10-11 p.m. EDT.***

Rob Lowe returns to Washington in this law drama in which a do-good lawyer is plucked from an inner-city law clinic to replace the managing partner of a lucrative and possibly shady law firm who died mysteriously.

Holds Promise: This mixture of soap opera-melodrama and lawyerly intrigue is strangely appealing with the love-to-hate sleazy characters pitted against an implausibly good and decent guy as a potential hook for audiences.

***— "Las Vegas," Mondays, 9-10 p.m. EDT.***

Drama set in Sin City which revolves around a high-stakes casino's surveillance and security team headed by James Caan.

Some Interest: It's all smoke and mirrors as fast cuts, sharp camera angles and low necklines are used to distract audiences from shallow characterizations and mediocre writing. However, Caan and newcomer Josh Duhamel have a certain zing in their master-apprentice interactions that can be appealing.

***— "Whoopi," Tuesdays, 8-8:30 p.m. EDT.***

Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg as the owner of a small New York City hotel where her unemployed lawyer brother hangs out a shingle and an opinionated Iranian handyman keeps things lively.

Some Interest: Stereotypical characters and jokes that can be racially and politically charged may be insulting to some or just plain funny to others. The topical humor may get a mixed reception depending on which side of the political fence the viewer is on.

***— "Happy Family," Tuesdays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.***

Christine Baranski and John Larroquette star as soon-to-be empty-nesters who find their three adult children may not have turned out as well as they thought. Now they end up seeing them more often than when the kids were living at home.

Holds Promise: The writing is smart, insightful and a few times even laugh-out-loud funny. Baranski and Larroquette have a convincing relationship. The supporting characters, however, need to be better fleshed out, and the mature situations do not make it family fare despite the show's name.

***— "Coupling," Thursdays, 9:30-10 p.m. EDT.***

Sitcom about six thirtysomething singles who are either involved, formerly involved, or looking to become involved with one another, and basically just "hang out." Sound familiar?

Don't Bother: Aside from the wall-to-wall sex talk that is supposed to pass for witty repartee, the pilot's blatant rip-off of a "Seinfeld" episode is just one example of how this "Friends" replacement-hopeful sinks to new lows in its quest to imitate the edgier cable TV shows with its coarse attitude toward sex. Based on a BBC/Hartswood Films series.

***— "Miss Match," Fridays, 8-9 p.m. EDT.***

Drama about a young divorce lawyer (Alicia Silverstone) who has a knack for matchmaking despite her profession.

Good Bet: The show takes a refreshingly pleasant look at finding true love, and Silverstone's charm and infectious smile help hide the program's few flaws.

*Navarro is a part-time reviewer for the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*


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# Aspects of Appalachia

## UPCOMING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

BY
JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE JUNALUSKA — "Appalachia makes us think of people who live in the hills, who love nature's freedom and beauty, who are alive with song and poetry. But many of these people are also poor and suffer oppression" ("This Land is Home to Me — A Pastoral Message on Poverty and Powerlessness in Appalachia").

In fact, while some may think of Appalachia as poor, rural and somewhere in the Southern mountains, Appalachia comprises areas of 13 states, from New York to Mississippi. Twenty-nine of the Diocese of Charlotte's 46 counties and 33 percent of its Catholics are in Appalachia.

Retirees are moving to western North Carolina to take advantage of the beautiful scenery and temperate climate. Immigrants from Latin America and other areas of the world also come seeking opportunities they didn't have at home. Others, residents who've lived a long time in Appalachia, are stuck in poverty and joblessness, and like the new immigrants, often are without power.

The Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia, scheduled for Oct. 10-12 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, offers an opportunity to learn more about this diverse region of North Carolina.

Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services, the conference will explore Appalachian socio-economic issues and look at Catholic-sponsored grassroots community development efforts. Sessions will also assess the current and future importance of 1975 and 1995 pastoral messages from the Catholic bishops of Appalachia, the aforementioned "This Land is Home to Me" and "At Home in the Web of Life — A Pastoral Message on Sustainable Communities in Appalachia," respectively.

The conference is named in honor of Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of Charlotte.

"When Bishop Begley had been our bishop for just one year, he took on the role (in 1973) of president of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia," said Joseph Purello, Office of Justice and Peace director. "It was under his leadership that 'This Land is Home to Me' was written."

"He was the one who wrote to all the other bishops in Appalachia to encourage their being part of this letter to address issues of powerlessness and poverty in Appalachia," said Purello. "So, in a way, our diocese had a special role in that letter. We thought it was time to revisit those issues."

Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, bishop of Richmond, Va., will give the opening address, "Raising a New Consciousness of What it Means to be Church — The U.S. Bishops are Called to Respond to Powerlessness and Oppression in Appalachia." The conference brochure notes that "Bishop Sullivan will discuss the years preceding the publication of ... 'This Land is Home to Me,' highlighting Bishop Michael J. Begley's work during he pastoral letter's formative years ...."

Attendees can choose from 12 workshops, interspersed with the talks throughout the weekend. The final plenary session of the conference will feature the work of three diocesan outreach offices in Appalachia, including the Office of Economic Opportunity of the Diocese of Charlotte in Murphy.

Evening programs will focus on Appalachia's cultural richness. Looking first at the region's earliest inhabitants, Freeman Owle, Cherokee storyteller and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will recount Native American stories and legends on Friday evening. Barbara Freeman will offer traditional Appalachian storytelling, along with music from the group Smoky Mountain Melodies, on Saturday evening.

Sunday morning, Hispanics, the region's newest residents, will be remembered in the liturgy. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan administrator, will celebrate "The Mass of the Immigrants." Bishop Sullivan will preach the homily.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

### WANT TO GO?

The Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia will take place at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center Oct. 10-12. The $60 registration fee does not include meals or lodging. Call the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3225, (704) 370-3231 or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org for registration information.

Both pastoral letters on Appalachia can be purchased for $7.50 from the Catholic Committee of Appalachia (CCA). To order the letters, contact CCA director Franciscan Sister Robbie Pentecost at (606) 297-8792.

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Letters to the Editor

### Darwin book review in question

I am continually amazed at how little discernment goes into various items that appear in *The Catholic News & Herald*; this is especially true of many of your book reviews, including John Haught's "Deeper Than Darwin" ("Turning Darwin's theory into a theology of evolution," Sept. 12).

As Haught is a "Catholic theologian" from Georgetown, one's suspicions are immediately engaged with respect to this author. This no-longer-Catholic university just finished pillorying Cardinal Francis Arinze during his commencement address because he defended the family and Catholic Church teaching. The university also gave us Monika Hellwig, another "Catholic theologian" who proposed Jesus was the result of a Roman soldier's rape of his mother.

So, I was curious how this particular book would be reviewed; would it be along positive or negative lines in respect to the faith? The author clearly subscribes to Darwinian theory with its underpinning corollary, Natural Selection. There is not a shred of evidence that supports macroevolution unequivocally. There are a number of recent studies that do not support the Darwinian thesis at all, or at least cast credible doubt.

The bottom line here is such information, especially from so-called Catholic theologians, only serve to further confuse an already woefully under-catechized Catholic population.

Dr. George Knauer
Sylva

**Editor's response:** *The Catholic News & Herald* does not endorse any of the books reviewed by Catholic News Service and featured in our Culture Watch section. The Catholic News Service reviews offer analyses of books from a Catholic perspective, and often inform readers whether or not the books are in line with Catholic teaching.

The full title of the book in question is "Deeper Than Darwin: The Prospect for Religion in the Age of Evolution." As that title may be misleading, our intent was to inform readers of the book's content and its author's intent so informed decisions could be made on whether or not to read the book.

Similarly, we often choose to print movie reviews that the U.S. bishops' Office of Film and Broadcasting have declared "morally offensive" (such as the review of "The Order," which also appeared in the Sept. 12 issue). Our intent is again to inform our readers to the content of the movies so informed decisions can be made before deciding to see the movie.

### Guest column gets almost everything right

Dr. Cris Villapando gets almost everything right in his guest column ("Adult faith formation: Antidote to five myths in the Catholic Church," Sept. 12). However, his Myth No. 2 about "going to war is a matter of national security" is highly flawed.

Discussions that the just war theory was inadequate were commonplace in the news media. Even past administrations admit that Saddam Hussein had chemical, biological and planned nuclear weapons. It has been documented that Hussein tortured using electricity, routinely cut out people's tongues, forced men to watch as their wives were raped and children tortured, plunged men to die in plastic shredders, violently suppressed the 1991 Kurdish uprising (30,000 civilian deaths) and routinely executed thousands of political opponents.

It's always wise to plan a peaceful avenue to stopping this evil. The pope advocated peace as the best possibility. But even the pope understands some injustices have to be stopped, even with something as bad as war. Without any better answers, a just war can end such evils as slavery, fascism, Nazism and Communism. Has the pope ever met evils as bad as Hussein? Meeting these evils is the only way to defeat them.

The pope is infallible when it comes to doctrine and morality. As great as he is, he's only human. We hope that he deals with his next encounter with evil as efficiently.

Kevin Roeten
Asheville

**Dr. Cris Villapando's response:** The pope, the world community and I agree with him that Hussein was horrendously barbaric. However, Mr. Roeten misses the following points:

The just war theory is not an official doctrinal prescription to pre-empt evil. I and the 100 ethicists who condemned the war in Iraq believe the pope is not fallible on this doctrine. Check the catechism.

There are more than 1,000 ways of waging peace. Has Mr. Roeten tried any of them? We shamed the early Christian martyrs who for 300 years confronted evil with evangelical love. These martyrs were not dumb, stupid or naïve.

### Column proves more work ahead

In response to Dr. Cris Villapando's guest column ("Adult faith formation: Antidote to five myths in the Catholic Church," Sept. 12), I would hope to see greater rigor in defining such an important concept as faith.

Dr. Villapondo's premise that "faith is the ongoing search for meaning" describes philosophy rather than faith, which is a gift from God, "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1) It is precisely faith that "gives light to man's search for the meaning of his life." (CCC #26)

The statistics cited by Dr. Villapondo regarding Mass attendance and those concerning belief in the Eucharist prove we are not successfully conveying to our children the essential truths of the faith, so it is irrefutable that in recent years Christian education has been deficient, as he states.

That Catholic adults still "search for meaning" implies we have yet to properly introduce them to Him who is Truth. Dr. Villapondo's quote from the U.S. bishop's pastoral letter, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," stating adult faith formation as the central task of catechesis omits the paragraph's final sentence which prescribes its focus: "This can be done specifically through developing in adults a better understanding of and participation in the full sacramental life of the Church."

This brings us to his third point on which we also agree: the adaptation of the liturgy is hopefully ongoing. The liturgy as it stands today cannot support the great mystery of God's true presence on the altar of sacrifice.

The vocabulary of any program of faith formation — child or adult — must include sacraments, grace and Jesus Christ, and must proceed from a proper articulation of what faith is.

Linda Knauer
Greens Creek

**Dr. Cris Villapando responds:** Faith is the ongoing search for meaning in the sense of "Fides Quaerens Intellectum" (St. Anselm).


# For the rest of your life

BY GINA RHODES
DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING

For the rest of your life, the Diocese of Charlotte will send you a check every quarter, or annually if you wish. The amount will be the same every time. While the economy may rise or recede, your check will remain the same. You can count on it because we back our commitment to you with the full assets of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The total amount you receive every year is determined in advance and depends on several things, including your age and the amount you give to establish the arrangement. For example, if you're 75 years old, you'll receive more than someone younger who gives the same amount.

Furthermore, for the rest of your life and your spouse's life, you will enjoy the satisfaction that your arrangement with the Diocese of Charlotte will someday provide your parish with much needed financial resources. By letting us help you with lifetime support, you enable us to serve future generations.

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The arrangement we are talking about here is the charitable gift annuity. Year in and year out, it is the most popular life income-planned giving vehicle available.

Would you like to learn more about charitable gift annuities and how they can benefit you and your parish? To review a tailor-made illustration for your consideration, please call me at (704) 370.3320 or e-mail me at gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org.

*I hope to hear from you soon, so that I can begin sending you an annuity check on a regular schedule — for the rest of your life!*

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☐ Please send me (us) a free illustration to show the benefits of having a gift annuity with the Diocese.
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Please send information about the Catholic Heritage Society.

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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail this form to: Gina Rhodes, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203

# 'Rose stories' received from readers

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS ColumnistGuest

Last October, I wrote a column about my devotion to St. Therese and shared with readers a "rose story" about receiving a shower of roses after praying to God through the intercession of St. Therese.

I asked readers for their rose stories and was amazed to find my mailbox flooded with intimate and faith-filled testimonies to the power of praying to the "Little Flower," the simple Carmelite nun who has been called the "greatest saint of modern times" by our popes.

After reading more than 200 accounts of healings and miracles, I felt empowered and inspired in my devotion to the French saint, and compelled to gather even more stories for a collection I hope to publish in the near future.

Since it is time again to celebrate the feast of my patron saint, I wanted to share with readers another rose story:

The wedding invitations had been sent. The reception hall was booked. My bridal gown hung in my mother's closet waiting to be worn for the special occasion most girls dream about their entire lives.

But I couldn't quiet the anxiety that lurked in my heart: Was marriage my calling? I was about to commit myself to a life that was entirely different from the vocation I always had envisioned for myself as a missionary or member of a religious order.

Moreover, was the man with whom I was about to exchange vows really the right one for me?

Three weeks before wearing white, I became crippled by doubt and confusion. I finally called my mother in tears and asked her to pray to St. Therese. I needed a sign, something to confirm that this was the right move for me.

I confided in a priest friend of mine who, in his wisdom, helped me to separate my anxiety from the important questions. We talked every day. He counseled me. He prayed for me.

On the fifth day of the novena to St. Therese that my mother was making, she left a message on my voice mail to call her back immediately. I could hear the excitement in her voice and hoped for directions out of my inner chaos.

"Do you know the rose bush that you bought me a few years ago for Mother's Day?" she asked me.

"The one that you wanted to get rid of this spring because it hadn't bloomed more than two roses a season?" I queried.

"Yes, that one," she said. "I walked outside this morning and was shocked to see about 200 buds on it. I can't believe it. You got your sign."

I couldn't say anything for what felt like hours. I needed guidance, as the decision to cancel or continue with the wedding was too big for me to make. But I never expected such a tangible sign or gesture of love.

My mother picked all of the roses after they bloomed completely. She dried the petals and collected them in more than 100 pouches of dried rose petals that the guests threw at the bride and groom upon leaving the church.

More than seven years later I know that marrying Eric was one of the best decisions I ever have made.

So, again, I invite you to share your rose story with me. Write to me c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth Street NE, Washington, D.C., 20017.

# Catholic jurors and the death penalty

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

*Q. Is it true that a Catholic juror who votes for a death sentence commits a sin? In our diocese recently, a man convicted of murder received a life sentence. A defense attorney had told the jury (two members were Catholic) that the Catholic Church does not allow its members to vote for capital punishment. (Louisiana)*

A. There is no question that today the strong teaching of the Catholic Church is that the death penalty is unjust and immoral, at least in nearly all cases. Nine years ago the American bishops taught that "violence is not the solution; it is the most clear sign of our failures.... We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing" ("Confronting the Culture of Violence," 1994).

The following year Pope John Paul II noted the growing opposition to the death penalty, and said that cases where executing the offender is necessary are "very rare, if not practically nonexistent" ("The Gospel of Life," 56).

These kinds of statements have been repeated numerous times by church leaders here and throughout the world, though the death penalty already was abolished years ago in Europe, Canada and most other developed countries.

I give this brief background because it is an important part of the answer to your question: If I understand correctly, you are asking whether voting for the death penalty is automatically and objectively a sin. The answer is no. The church's teaching is clear, but it does not decree that kind of penalty. It is not, however, just that simple and easy.

The opposition to capital punishment is based on many factors, including the large numbers of people sentenced to death but later proved innocent; racial inequalities (nonwhite murderers are given the death sentence at a much higher rate than whites, and killers of white people are executed far more often than killers of black people); and social inequalities (poor defendants receive a death sentence much more often than the more affluent).

There are also staggering regional inequalities. Approximately 80 percent of the executions in the United States during the last 27 years took place in nine Southern states, nearly a third of them in Texas. There is also of course the larger question of whether, and how, we human beings ever have the right to directly kill one another.

In such drastic situations, serious and conscientious individuals must act out of their own sincere and well-formed consciences, considering the above factors to determine what is just.

For Catholics, of course, the teachings of the church and the reasons for those teachings should have some considerable significance.

## Miriam and Aaron

*Q. One of my parishioners asked a question I can't answer. The book of Numbers tells how one day Miriam and Aaron, brother and sister of Moses, protested that they also should be recognized as prophets, like Moses. God wasn't pleased with this and afflicted Miriam with a form of leprosy, from which, however, he soon healed her.*

*Why wasn't Aaron afflicted also? They both were jealous of Moses and not happy with God. Was God just picking on women? (Iowa)*

A. This sounds like a good Bible trivia question. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, complaining that God had spoken through them as well as through Moses, but they weren't getting any credit (Numbers 12:2).

Maybe Miriam's grumbling had some merit. She had in fact been called a prophetess previously (Exodus 15:20). But the Hebrew verb "spoke" in verse one is feminine, perhaps indicating that Aaron was just tagging along for the complaint. At any rate, it ended happily, and Moses as usual came out on God's side, or vice versa.

*A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# God helps us overcome trials of life

## The Pope Speaks

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Below is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English prepared for his weekly general audience Sept. 24 and read by a Vatican official. The pope, suffering from an intestinal disturbance, did not return to the Vatican Sept. 24 for his weekly general audience.

However, with an audio hookup from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, the pope offered visitors and pilgrims in the Vatican's audience hall his blessing.

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*Today's psalm praises the greatness of God and the dignity of man. The Letter to the Hebrews invites us to read certain expressions of the psalm in relation to Christ. By becoming man, Jesus was "for a little while made lower than the angels" (Heb 2:9). Now we see him "crowned with glory and honor." St. Ambrose applies the message of the psalm to our lives: God helps us to overcome the trials of this life, and will lift us up, in Christ, to glory.*

*I offer a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's audience, especially those from England, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Australia, Canada, the Philippines and the United States of America. Upon all of you I cordially invoke joy and peace in Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Pope says 'mysteries of light' show splendor of God through Jesus

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The new "mysteries of light" Pope John Paul II proposed for meditation when praying the rosary are events that show the splendor of God's nature shining through Jesus, the pope said.

"Jesus, with the power of his word and his works, completely reveals the 'face' of the heavenly Father, inaugurating his reign of love, justice and peace," the pope said Sept. 21 during his midday Angelus address.

In his October 2002 letter on the rosary, the pope encouraged people to meditate on "the mysteries of light": Christ's baptism in the Jordan; his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana; his proclamation of the kingdom of God; his transfiguration; and his institution of the Eucharist.

# Holy Cross Church is testimony to growing congregation

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The new Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, dedicated by Bishop William G. Curlin Sept. 13, 2003, is almost 14,000 square feet and seats approximately 800 people.

Holy Cross Church
616 S. Cherry Street
Kernersville, N.C. 27284
(336) 996-5109

Pastor: Oblate Father Joseph Tustin
Number of families: 600

KERNERSVILLE — Although Holy Cross Church's history only dates back to the late 1960s, the parish has enjoyed tremendous growth over that time. With humble beginnings as a mission of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, Holy Cross's existence is testimony to a desire to expand the Catholic Church in the Triad area through an established parish with a growing congregation active in church and community life.

Father William Pharr, at that time pastor of St. Benedict the Moor, approached then-Bishop Vincent Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh with a request to establish a mission church in Kernersville. Local residents, including 41 children, signed a request for the church, and the bishop agreed, thereby establishing the mission in August 1969.

The first Mass was celebrated Sept. 7, 1969. The building, a former antiques shop with residence, was furnished with pews, an organ and other items collected from other churches in the diocese.

The mission status continued until 1973, when Oblate Father Leon Bolich became resident pastor. The mission was elevated to a parish and in September was named Holy Cross Church.

The growing parish began plans for a new church facility in 1974, when land was bought on Southern Street. The Diocese of Charlotte received building plans for the church in January 1978, and the parish held its groundbreaking ceremony in April of that year. On Oct. 29, 1978 then-Bishop Michael J. Begley dedicated the new building, a multipurpose structure complete with a 325-seat sanctuary, classrooms and other facilities.

By 1980, registered families numbered 140, and the parish continued to grow by dozens each year. The need for more space again led to construction, and in October 1982, Bishop Begley blessed the newly expanded church area, which was reconstructed to accommodate 500 churchgoers.

More than 1,300 people joined the Holy Cross family over the next decade, and the parish became involved with a number of ministries and programs, including faith formation, Catholic Youth Organization, Cub Scouts, Boys Scouts, day care, Knights of Columbus, Columbiettes and Squires.

Hispanic ministry was established in the early 1980s and is presently staffed by one pastoral care assistant and 35 volunteers. Approximately 600 Hispanic families attend the weekly Mass in Spanish.

Continued parish growth dictated the need for more space, and so began the 14-month construction process of an almost 14,000-square-foot facility. On Sept. 13, 2003, Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus, dedicated a new Holy Cross Church with seating for approximately 800 people, the largest facility that could be built on the existing property. The Mass was celebrated in English and Spanish, with sign language for the hearing impaired.

The parish is celebrating the church's 30th anniversary with a picnic Sept. 28.

Situated between Winston-Salem and Greensboro, the Kernersville area is currently home to about 20,000 people, and that number is expected to grow in the next few years. An influx of Catholics is expected, and nearby Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School will help draw parents to the church who want their children to receive Catholic education.

As such, Holy Cross Church stands as a reminder of the extension of the Catholic Church in the Triad area and in western North Carolina.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

*Share your day and lunch with friends!*

**Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors**

TWO DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM! 9:30-3:30

**Thursday, Oct. 9** — St. Mark, Huntersville
Deadline: Sept. 30th

**Thursday, Oct. 16** — Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
Deadline: Oct. 2nd

**For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220**

To register, send form and $10.00 fee (includes lunch) to:
**Sandra Breakfield, Catholic Social Services**
**1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Parish _____

I will attend: ☐ St. Mark, Oct. 9 OR ☐ Catholic Conference Center, Oct. 16

*** SEE REGISTRATION DEADLINES ABOVE ***

**$10.00 fee per person — Make checks payable to Catholic Social Services**
*Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.*

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 3, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 2

**Parish Profile:**

St. John Lee Korean Church

| PAGE 16

PILOT CLASSROOM BRINGS DOWN SYNDROME STUDENTS INTO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

# Spelling success

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Multicolored foam letters are spread out on the carpet of the classroom floor. 13-year-old Matthew Isley carefully constructed his spelling words — sick, pick, tick, pack, look and make.

"Which ones rhyme?" asked Kitty Cypert, a special-education teacher with five years' experience.

Nearby, 13-year-old Jenna Clayton and 17-year-old Morgan Grier worked diligently in their workbooks, circling matching words and filling in the blanks to form words that end is "-ess."

Soon, three third-graders arrived to read with Matthew, Jenna and Morgan.

See SUCCESS, page 7

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Morgan Grier reads to Matt Mankowski in the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom at St. Patrick School. Morgan is one of three students with Down syndrome enrolled in a pilot program funded by The Foundation for Children with Down Syndrome. With capacity for three additional students, the foundation is hoping to expand the program in the near future.

# RAINing awards

*AIDS organization honors local*

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Many area Catholic churches and their volunteers received special recognition by the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) Sept. 23.

The interfaith organization, which provides compassionate care for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, honored parishes and volunteers at the Annual Covenant Renewal Service and Celebration at First United Methodist Church on North Tryon Street.

Members of Our Lady of

See RAIN, page 8

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

# Catholics rallying for pro-life issues

*Respect Life Sunday kit materials available to dioceses*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

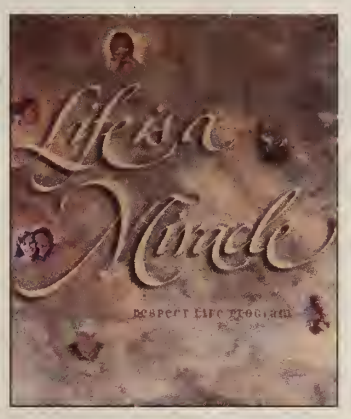
CHARLOTTE — Across the Diocese of Charlotte and the United States, Catholics are gearing up to fight for life.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life Sunday — this year themed "Life is a Miracle" — falling on Oct. 5.

The 31st anniversary Respect Life kit materials are available to dioceses and parishes from the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. The Secretariat, under the guidance and direction of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities, works to teach respect for all human life from conception to natural death, and organize for its protection.

"The materials are designed not only to educate Catholics about current and emerging threats to human life and dignity, but also to awaken in them a desire to

See RESPECT LIFE, page 13




The cover to "Life is a Miracle," a Respect Life package available from the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

## Cardinal's secretary downplays German news report on pope's health

MONSIGNOR CALLS REPORT 'COMPLETE EXAGGERATION'

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has asked Catholics to pray for Pope John Paul II, not out of any new sense of alarm but because the pontiff continues to struggle with infirmity, the cardinal's personal secretary said.

See HEALTH, page 8

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...e who sing, pray twice'
...ke music ministry tunes
...r encore performance
| PAGE 4

A 'special moment' in history
*Korean-American Catholics celebrate faith and heritage*
| PAGE 6

Ordination update
*Questions and answers*
| PAGE 9

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## LETTING EVERY ACTION BE SOMETHING FOR GOD

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Missionaries of Charity Sister Theresina feeds a seriously ill man at the Nirmal Hriday Home for Dying Destitutes in Calcutta, India, Sept. 24. Mother Teresa and her sisters opened the facility in 1952 after the well-publicized case of a young man dying alone in a gutter on the street. "Let every action of mine be something beautiful for God," the words of Mother Teresa, hang in a frame on the wall of the facility.

## Missionaries of Charity prepare relics before beatification

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CALCUTTA, India — The Missionaries of Charity motherhouse in Calcutta became a beehive of activity as the scheduled Oct. 19 beatification of their founder drew near, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Some of the nuns classified relics of Mother Teresa of Calcutta into three categories, following the tradition of the church, said the founder's successor, Sister Nirmala Joshi.

First-class relics come from the body of a person declared blessed or a saint. Sister Nirmala explained that though Mother Teresa's body was not exhumed, the sisters have some of her hair and blood.

"These had to be sealed, authenticated with a certificate and the postulator's seal, and treated with reverence," she said.

Second-class relics are articles used by a beatified or canonized person, and third-class relics are items touched by first-class relics.

Sister Nirmala said second-class relics in the sisters' possession include Mother Teresa's clothes, sheets, bed and things she used in their various houses when she visited them.

Some of these relics have already been sent to Rome, Sister Nirmala said.

The nuns made small relics of Mother Teresa's clothing, placed in plastic-covered prayer cards and authenticated with the postulator's seal.

Third-class relics, to be made for public distribution, will generally be made from cloth that has touched Mother Teresa's tomb. Pieces of the cloth will be fixed on prayer cards and authenticated.

## Catholics praised for opposition to U.S. military training center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal legislator praised Catholic priests and nuns Sept. 23 for raising public awareness of evidence that Latin American military graduates of a U.S. training center have been involved in human rights violations.

Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., said continued pressure by religious organizations and individuals is needed to get congressional action to shut down the program.

McGovern is the sponsor of a House bill to temporarily close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Ga., while a congressional review is done of the program. The institute is the successor of the School of the Americas, which was closed about three years ago.

The institute is "a stain on the honor of the U.S. community," said McGovern at a news conference in Washington.

McGovern and other critics of the institute said its graduates have been involved in killing and torturing people in Latin America, including Latin American and U.S. church people.

Despite the name change, "it's still the same old school," he said.

Thirty-seven faith-based organizations, including many Catholic groups and religious orders, visited their congressional representatives to ask them to support McGovern's bill. The lobbying day was organized by School of the Americas Watch, which sponsors yearly protests at Fort Benning involving civil disobedience.

Lee Rials, public information officer for the Western Hemisphere institute, denied the institute or the school has taught graduates to violate human rights.

"We teach respect for the rule of law, human rights and the rights of their citizens," Rials told CNS.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Peace and Tolerance Workshop* will be held Oct. 25 at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. in the St. Francis Room 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for a day of prayer, discussion and reflection. Special focus will be given to our sacred calling at Christians to be peacemakers. This is a meaningful way to promote peace in the family, classroom and workplace. To register, call Sandy Donecho at (828) 697-7420.

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity* meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Crisis Assistance Ministry* is in need of volunteers. Please contact St. Gabriel parishioner Ed Powers at edpowers@mindspring.com to volunteer.

CHARLOTTE — The *bereavement support group* meets every first Monday 6-7:30 p.m. in the Family Room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This support group is for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For details, call Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, at (704) 370-3238.

CHARLOTTE — *English as a Second Language* classes are being held Monday and Wednesday evenings 6:30-8 p.m. at St. Ann School, 600 Hillside Ave. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE — The *loss of a parent as an adult* is the single most common form of bereavement in this country. Whether you had a good, bad or indifferent relationship with the parent who died, your feelings for him or her were probably quite strong. Join others who have lost a parent or those ministering to the bereaved at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Oct. 15 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Presented by Hospice of Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE — The *cancer support group* for survivors, family and friends meets every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Blackout doesn't stop pope's announcement of new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A massive nine-hour blackout across Italy shut down electrical power in Vatican City, but it did not stop Pope John Paul II from announcing 30 new cardinals to a crowded St. Peter's Square.

Using a reserve generator, Vatican officials were able to operate the sound system from the pope's apartment window Sept. 28. The power outage that began early on a Sunday morning caught everyone by surprise. The Vatican Museums kept their doors locked, turning thousands of tourists away.

Among the new cardinals is Philadelphia Archbishop Justin F. Rigali. The new cardinals represent 18 countries from all six continents. Seven are Vatican officials, 19 are heads of archdioceses around the world and four are priests over 80 years old being honored for their service to the church.

The pope also preserved the name of one new cardinal "in pectore," or in his heart. In the past, such cardinals have served in places where public knowledge of their appointment might provoke hostility against the church.

The appointments will bring the total number in the College of Cardinals to 194, a record high number of cardinals from 69 countries. After the last consistory of 2001, there were 184 cardinals.

The pope will induct the cardinals in a consistory at the Vatican Oct. 21, adding a major event to an already heavy program of celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the pope's election.

# Vatican, interfaith officials condemn violence in name of religion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a statement issued at the end of a two-day meeting in Kazakstan, Vatican officials joined representatives of other faiths in condemning terrorism and violence in the name of religion.

The declaration also warned that chronic poverty, ecological degradation and declining respect for human life were threats to world peace.

Participants agreed to hold the meeting every three years. The interreligious initiative, praised by Pope John Paul II, will be called the "Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions."

The meeting brought together Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Shintoists and followers of 11 other religious faiths.

The final statement highlighted the right of every person to freely practice religion and said dialogue and tolerance were essential building blocks to global harmony.

The statement condemned "the misrepresentation of religions and the incorrect use of differences among religions as a means for achieving selfish, violent and disruptive goals."

Religions must make every effort to press this point, it said, in order to "save mankind from a global conflict of religions and cultures."

"Extremism, terrorism and other forms of violence in the name of religion have nothing to do with genuine understanding of religion, but are a threat to human life and hence should be rejected," it said.

Other threats, it said, include the "declining sense of respect for the sanctity of human life and the dignity of every human person"; challenges posed by poverty, illiteracy, disease and immorality; and the ecological crisis, with its grave consequences for future generations.

the first and third Monday of every month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *ordination Mass of Bishop Peter Jugis* will be celebrated Oct. 24 at 12 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The music ministry of Our Lady of Grace Church will celebrate *50 years of sacred music* with a hymn festival Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in the church, 2205 W. Market St. A Mass in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the parish will be celebrated Oct. 12 at 11:30 a.m.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — The Hickory Vicariate will offer two *evangelization retreats* for Hispanic adults at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1025 College Ave. SW. The women's retreat will be Oct. 17-19 and the men's retreat will be Oct. 24-26. To register, please contact Sister Joan Pearson at (828) 758-4207.

MORGANTON — Free *Pastoral Care Training workshops* will be held Oct. 7 and 14 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 W. Union St. 7-9 p.m. This program will train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly. Register to Sandra Breakfield, Elder Ministry, at (704) 370-3220.

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *charismatic and healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

MOORESVILLE — A support group for *parents who have lost a child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

CLEMMONS — The *OLM Little Rock Scripture Study for Women* offers a bible study Monday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. in the library of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Classes meet until Nov. 24. For more information, call Anne Gannon at (336) 727-4591.

WINSTON-SALEM — This fall's *Theology on Tap* will meet Wednesday evenings Oct. 22- Nov. 12 at Mi Pueblo Restaurant, 644 Stratford Rd. Social hour begins at 7 p.m. and a featured speaker will begin at 8 p.m. For details e-mail ws_tontap@yahoo.com.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Calling for reform

CNS PHOTO BY JIM WEST

Participants in a cross-nation ride for changes in U.S. immigration policy demonstrate in Detroit Sept. 27. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride was making stops across the country calling for reforms in the U.S. immigration system.

## THIS MONTH IN —1996

CATHOLIC STUDENTS HELP FIGHT FRAN

As the ill effects of Hurricane Fran were still being felt in the Diocese of Raleigh, Catholic school students in the Diocese of Charlotte came together to collect close to 4,000 non-perishable food and household items. The effort, reported in the Oct. 4, 1996 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, was part of a Harris Teeter and Metrolina Food Bank food drive that began the month prior.

## DID YOU KNOW?

CARDINAL NUMBERS

According to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Web site, there are currently 13 U.S. cardinals. Six cardinals currently head U.S. dioceses; one cardinal is currently an apostolic administrator; three cardinals are not diocesan bishops; and three cardinals are retired.

# 'Those who sing, pray twice'

## *St. Luke music ministry tunes up for encore performance*

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

*I was on the outside*
*No power and no name*
*A woman and a pagan —*
*So they say....*

MINT HILL — So begins an aria in the musical "Song of Mark" by Marty Haugen.

"Song of Mark," based on the Gospel of Mark, will be performed by the St. Luke Church music ministry next week. The musical pulls and arranges a number of the Gospel stories into a dramatic and powerful presentation. Several of the musical's numbers speak from the marginal drawn from the fringes of society by Jesus to share in his kingdom.

The upcoming presentation will be an encore performance led by parish music director Marti Dushak. The musical, first presented in February and March of this year, was performed to more than 250 viewers on its closing night. Demand from parishioners and friends called for a repeat performance; after seven months, Dushak and the music ministry have worked to bring back the musical to the parish.

Dushak has been a shepherding hand in the music ministry with St. Luke Church since 1998.

"I am a pastoral musician, which is what I like to be called now," she said. "To me, it is more encompassing because you are pastoring to people through music."

Dushak said the parish is abundant with talented people in three adult groups, two children's groups and a teen group. She sees herself as an umbrella figure who serves and supports these groups, which she describes as a ministry.

"Some churches call it a music program. But if I'm going to call myself a pastoral musician, then it's really a ministry, like hospitality is a ministry," said Dushak.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Pastoral musician Marti Dushak (left) and youth choir leader Theresa Lloyd lead in the song and action of a musical production at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

"One of my goals was to try to bring them (the music groups) together to form a community three or four times a year," she said. "As I went to the NPM (National Pastoral Ministries) conventions and heard the musicals and got to meet Marty Haugen and some of the other famous composers in Catholic worship, I got really inspired because I knew we had the ability here."

"Song of Mark" is composer Haugen's fourth musical to be performed at St. Luke. According to the author, St. Luke is the only church in the country to have produced all four — "Tales of Wonder," "Agape," "The Feast of Life" and "Song of Mark." The ministry has also presented "We Shall Prepare" by Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt and "Like Winter Waiting" by John Foley.

"What astounded me from the very first one was that everyone needed to complete the cast and the band was here," said Dushak. "Once in a while, I might have to get a timpani player or an unusual instrument, but never a singer."

"Marti (Dushak) has done a lot for organizing the music. And St. Luke (parish) has done a lot toward bringing 'praise and glory' style to the worship service," said parishioner Bob Smith, who plays John the Baptist in the musical.

"Early on, we were given freedom to express with different sounds to make music an integral part of the celebration," he said.

"Music is such a powerful tool," said April Ryder, who plays the woman in the crowd (Mark 5:25-34) in the musical.

Ryder described "Song of Mark" as a "healing peace."

"Practicing is one thing. But that night (of the performance) was incredible because the Spirit just took over," she said.

"For me, in studying the Gospel of Mark, it was the women who understood the message of what Jesus was trying to do," said Theresa Lloyd, who sings as the Syro-Phoenician woman (Mark 7:25-30) in the musical. Lloyd also organizes the youth choir for ages 7-12.

As practice sessions are scheduled, excitement among the music ministry and parish builds toward opening night once again. There is a confidence and a feeling of familiarity coming back into the songs and the music.

Shelly Earnhardt, who organizes the youth choir for ages 4-6, appreciates the support of the pastor, Father James Hawker, and others.

"One of the best things is that Father Jim has been very supportive of the music ministry here and realizes that it is a vital part of the community," she said.

"St. Augustine reminds us that 'those who sing, pray twice,'" said Father Hawker, pastor. "We, as members of the St. Luke faith ministry, have been and are blessed beyond measure by the magnificent music ministry within the parish."

### WANT TO GO?

"Song of Mark" will be presented at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill at 7 p.m. Oct. 11-12. For more information, call (704) 545-1224.

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*Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.*

# A day of Mercy

Courtesy Photo by Kris Reich

From left, Mercy Associate Eleanor Taddie; Franciscan Sister Jane Russell; and Maryknoll Sisters Eleanor, Therese, Peg and Mary Lou join Mercy Sisters Mary Eugenia Hartman and Mary Agnes Solari in prayer during Mercy Day celebration Sept. 24.

## Sisters of Mercy, others reflect on past, present, future

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of North Carolina, gathered with more than 100 of their friends to celebrate Mercy Day Sept. 24.

Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church, presided at the afternoon eucharistic liturgy at which Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Associates, Mercy friends and co-ministers, gathered to celebrate their past, enjoy their present and dream about their future.

Mercy Day commemorates the day in 1827 that Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, first opened her doors to the public on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland. By coincidence or act of providence, Sept. 24 is also the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, who would lend both her identity and spirit to the building and its works, when it was named the House of Mercy.

Prior to founding her religious order, Catherine's lifelong dream came true when she used her inheritance to build a home where women and children in dire need would be provided with housing, education, religious and social services, enabling them to find a far brighter future than was generally available to the Irish, particularly Irish women, of the time.

Catherine's innovative approach to housing and educating young women and children from the slums was considered shocking, especially since it brought the poor, the sick and the uneducated into an affluent neighborhood. Within three years, over 200 girls were enrolled in the school at House of Mercy and volunteers, inspired by Catherine's spirit and compassion, were numerous.

In 1831, upon founding the Sisters of Mercy, the House of Mercy also became the first convent of the Sisters of Mercy. As Catherine's passion for the poor took root in the hearts of her companions, the charism of Mercy spread rapidly across Ireland and England. By 1839, a mere eight years after being founded, the Sisters of Mercy numbered over 100 women religious and in the 10 years between the founding of the order and her death, Catherine had founded nine Convents of Mercy.

In an 1841 letter to Sister Elizabeth Moore, Catherine described the spirit which characterized the congregation and its members: "All are good and happy. The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh what a blessing, it should make all else pass into nothing. All laugh and play together, not one cold, stiff soul appears. From the day they enter, reserve of any ungracious kind leaves them. This is the spirit of the Order, indeed the true spirit of Mercy flowing on us ..."

Today, the special charism and spirit of Venerable Catherine McAuley remains alive and well within the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates. She continues to draw women to minister to the poor, the sick, the uneducated and the underserved. Almost 5,000 Sisters of Mercy of the Americas currently serve in 11 countries and one territory, while other Mercy foundations and institutes can be found in Aotearoa/New Zealand, the Philippines, Australia, Great Britain, Ireland and Newfoundland.

In 1994, the original House of Mercy was restored and opened to the public as Mercy International Centre, an important historical link for Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates from all over the globe. Although Catherine died Nov. 11, 1841, at her Baggot Street convent, her spirit of hospitality and her legacy continue today embodied within each Sister of Mercy. Mercy International Center allows all to reflect on Catherine's passion for helping the poor, which continues to inspire women as they carry forth the contemporary ministry of Mercy worldwide.

Courtesy Photo by Kris Reich

Oblate Father Joe Zuschmidt at the altar following his reception of a lei and a mwar-mwar during the presentation of the gifts on Mercy Day Sept. 24.

## Sisters of Mercy announce grants to area organizations

CHARLOTTE — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announced grant awards totaling $390,204 to 15 non-profit organizations located in several North Carolina counties.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, children's services, education, food distribution, health care, immigration assistance, services to the elderly, social services and transportation.

The organizations include:

Assistance League of Charlotte, Charlotte; Buncombe County Council on Aging, Asheville; Children & Family Resource Center, Hendersonville; Communities in Schools of High Point, High Point; Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic, Lexington; Family Services, Winston-Salem; Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville; Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County, Siler City; Regional AIDS Interfaith Network, Charlotte; Second Harvest Food Bank, Charlotte.

Since 1996, the Foundation has awarded 394 grants totaling more than $17,700,000 to organizations serving underserved populations. For more information on the Foundation, call (704) 366-0087 or visit www.somncfdn.org.

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# Day celebrates faith and heritage of Korean-American Catholics

## *St. John Lee Korean parishioners join festivities in Washington*

BY MARK ZIMMERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A faith planted in Korea by lay people two centuries ago bloomed in a special way Sept. 21, as more than 4,500 Korean-American Catholics crowded into the nation's largest Catholic church for a day in their honor.

The nation's Catholic bishops had declared Sept. 21 as Korean-American Catholic Day, and lay people from nearly every state — including North Carolina — and Canada, along with priests and women religious, gathered at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for the Mass.

A dozen parishioners from St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church in Charlotte were among the congregation greeted in Korean by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington. He said the day was "a special moment in the history of the church in this country. I am so overwhelmed by the numbers of people here. I thank the Lord for your presence, and I thank the Lord for your faith."

At the Mass, Korean-American Catholics filled the pews, stood along the walls and side chapels, and knelt in the aisles. Many of the women wore traditional silk dresses in bright colors, including turquoise, purple, yellow and pink.

Francis Ahn of St. John Lee Korean Church said the crowd at the shrine was an incredible sight. "I've never seen so many Koreans in America in one place," he told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese.

Along with the singing of Korean hymns and the proclamation of the Gospel, Our Father and creed in Korean, the Mass also featured a display near the foot of the altar of a relic of St. Andrew Kim, Korea's first native priest who was martyred in 1846. Families knelt before the relic in prayer after the Mass.

In his homily, Cardinal McCarrick noted that the "the church of Korea was founded by lay people" in the late 1700s and grew through the witness of faith of 10,000 martyrs killed during a series of four persecutions in that next century.

CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Korean Catholics pack the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington for a special Mass Sept. 21. The service marked the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States and the heritage of Korean Catholics.

He called on Korean-American Catholics likewise to promote lay leaders as apostles and missionaries in today's world, to offer their lives for their faith, and to encourage vocations among young people, whom he called "the hope for tomorrow."

When Pope John Paul II canonized 103 Korean saints in 1984 in Seoul, South Korea, he said, "The death of these martyrs became the leaven of the church and led to today's splendid flowering of the church in Korea."

According to the Catholic Almanac, South Korea has more than 4 million Catholics, about 8.5 percent of the country's population and the third highest percentage of Catholics in Asia, after East Timor and the Philippines.

The Sept. 21 Mass also marked the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States. An estimated 1 million people of Korean descent, including about 70,000 Catholics, now live in this country.

Mark Lee, one of the shrine pilgrims and a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Bethesda, Md., said the Korean Catholic community feels honored to be "the descendants of martyrs. Our ancestors paved the way with their blood. We're seeing the benefit of that. We feel obligated to do something about that. We'll start with our families first, to make sure we hand down our heritage, our faith, the gift we have received."

Agnes Kim of St. Paul Chung Parish in Fairfax, Va., wore a gray and green traditional dress with woven golden-colored butterflies as pendants. "Thanks (be) to God," she said, smiling. "I'm here to pray and sing."

Lee said the cardinal's message to encourage vocations among youths was one that many Korean-American Catholics have taken to heart. He said he recently took his two daughters and his son to witness three women profess vows as Little Sisters of the Holy Family, a Korean religious community serving in Maryland.

His brother, Father Paul Lee, serves as the president of the National Korean Pastoral Center and as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Washington. The priest joined Coadjutor Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., in reading the U.S. bishops' proclamation of Korean-American Catholic Day. Bishop Wenski, a concelebrant at the Mass, serves as chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration.

The proclamation also praised the Korean Catholic community for its work in fostering vocations.

Concelebrants at the Mass included Archbishop Andreas Choi Chang-mou of Kwangju, South Korea, the president of that nation's Catholic bishops' conference, and Bishop Peter Kang U-il of Cheju, South Korea, chairman of the Korean bishops' committee on migrants and refugees.

That afternoon, the site of a planned Korean Madonna mosaic in the shrine was blessed. The night before, the community's celebration included a gala at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington.

In conjunction with the day in their community's honor, Father Lee noted that Korean-American Catholics have begun a drive to pray 10 million decades of the rosary "to pray and work hard for renewal and healing of the U.S. Catholic Church, for evangelization of ourselves and our neighborhoods, and to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

*Contributing to this story was Paul Storer in Darien, and editor Kevin E. Murray.*

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# Pilot program takes off

SUCCESS, *from page 1*

"Did he spell that?" Matt Mankowski asked Cypert, pointing to the words laid out on the carpet.

"Yes," she answered.

"Cool," he responded.

It's clear to the third-graders that Jenna, Morgan and Matthew do not look like the other students at St. Patrick School, but they are treated with the same kindness and respect as the other students.

Matthew, Jenna and Morgan each have Down syndrome, a congenital condition characterized by moderate to severe mental retardation, slanting eyes, a broad short skull and broad hands with short fingers.

They are the first students in the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom at St. Patrick School. Now in its second year of existence, students are taught basic academic curriculum as well as life skills based on their levels of ability. Students join the St. Patrick students in the lunchroom, on the playground, at Mass and in some of the special classes.

Cypert said the main goals of the program are to make the students employable and educate more students. There is a focus on learning time and money management skills.

The pilot classroom (three now with capacity for six) was previously operated out of Village Park Traditional School, but the students' parents wanted their children to be able to experience a Christian environment in which the children could pray, learn and grow.

After discussion with the Mecklenburg Area Catholic School Board, the board recommended that accommodations be made for the group in an empty room at one of the schools.

Angela Montague, principal of St. Patrick School, came forward and said she would be willing to let them use space in the trailers at the school. She felt it would be a wonderful learning experience for the St. Patrick students.

"These children have enriched our lives," Montague said. "The fourth-graders are upset because they don't have any classes with Jenna, Morgan and Matthew."

Heleen Hogan, a parishioner at St. Matthew Church, was influential in instituting the pilot program. Currently serving as Cypert's assistant, Hogan has 17 years of experience working with children, the last 10 of which have been spent with special-needs children.

"The parents and I wanted a Catholic-based education," Hogan explained, "one with a Christian emphasis, including prayer in a loving atmosphere."

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Kitty Cypert congratulates Matthew Isley on completing his spelling lesson in the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom. As the original students in the Pilot Classroom, the program is named for Matthew and Morgan Grier.

Both Hogan and Cypert praised the students and faculty of St. Patrick School for their inclusion of Jenna, Matthew and Morgan.

"When we go into the lunchroom, students always ask Jenna, Morgan and Matthew to sit with them," Cypert said. "They are so accepting and welcoming."

The St. Patrick students and the pilot program students have a unique opportunity to share their individual gifts, said Hogan. That is a key to the success of the pilot program.

The parents are thrilled with the response to the pilot classroom.

"It's the answer to a prayer," said Alice Grier, Morgan's mother. Her husband, Riley, is the treasurer for The Foundation for the Education of Children with Down Syndrome, which helps to cover the costs of operating the pilot classroom, along with tuition.

"The reception from the school has been so warm and welcoming," Grier said. "The children feel like a part of the school family."

Principal Montague stated, "Catholic education should be for all children, incorporating all types of students into mainstream society. They are a part of our community, and we would be lost without them."

*For more information on The Foundation for the Education of Children with Down Syndrome, please call (704) 554-8216.*

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# AIDS organization honors parishes

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Volunteers and clergy united to form a great candle-light circle around the perimeter of the sanctuary during last year's covenant renewal service for RAIN at First United Methodist Church in Charlotte. The ceremony was repeated at this year's event Sept. 22.

RAIN, *from page 1*

Consolation Church's choir and organist Eric Massey led the special service titled "In Celebration and Recognition of Your Leadership."

September marked 11 years of care and service in the Charlotte region, including prevention education. Approximately 250 people attended the annual renewal service that showcased highlights of the past year and honored churches that have sponsored care team ministry for at least five years.

"Last year, we (RAIN) received the 'Leadership for a Changing World Award' from the Ford Foundation and Advocacy Institute," said the Rev. Debbie Kidd, program director. "And as a result, we decided to award our volunteers also, since they are involved in changing the world as well."

As leadership by volunteers on parish care teams is an integral part of RAIN, the organization awarded 40 Celebration of Leadership plaques at the service.

"Volunteers have a tremendous impact not only on the lives of care partners but on the way HIV/AIDS is viewed by the community as well. Many have dared to break silence about AIDS or HIV in the workplace, in church and in community. They live out the ancient teaching of compassion that we find in the scriptures, and we want to honor them," shared the Rev. Deborah C. Warren, president and chief executive officer.

Eight area Catholic churches were recognized for more than five years of service. For seven years of service: St. Gabriel Church and St. Thomas Aquinas Church. For eight years of service: Our Lady of Consolation Church, St. Ann Church and St. John Neumann Church. For nine years of service: St. Luke Church and St. Matthew Church. For 10 years of service: St. Peter Church.

In addition to care teams being honored, the annual Agnes Barry Volunteer Service Award — named for RAIN's first board of director's chairperson — was given to Scott Vitez, a parishioner of St. Peter Church.

Barry, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral, was a major contributor in guidance and service who helped RAIN gain a strong foundation. Like Barry, Vitez, who has worked with his parish care team since 1996, serves on the board of directors and has been instrumental in fundraising efforts for RAIN.

"It is such an honor to be recognized, given the contributions of the past award winners," he said. "It is an honor to be in their company since they made RAIN what it is today."

Vitez attributes his commitment to having known others who had been involved and having also known many friends and co-workers who died. He also lauds the late Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh of St. Peter Church for guiding him to the care team's mission.

"Father McCreesh steered me in that direction (to be a RAIN volunteer) when he asked me, 'What are you doing in the community?'" recalled Vitez. "He was one of the first Catholic pastors in Charlotte to get involved with RAIN and to make that a key ministry at St. Peter. It is in line with the parish's mission to reach out to the poor and the marginalized."

The renewal service was completed by a community prayer of recommissioning, followed by participants linking into a great perimeter circle with lighted candles. Our Lady of Consolation Choir led the congregation in singing, "Rain down your love on your people, rain down your love, God of life." Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan administrator, led the Benediction.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information about RAIN, call (704) 372-7246 or go online at www.carolinarain.org.

# Report on pope

HEALTH, *from page 1*

The secretary, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, downplayed a report by the German magazine *Bunte*, which quoted Cardinal Ratzinger as saying in an interview: "(The pope) is in a bad way," and "We should pray for the pope."

Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, did not give an interview to *Bunte*, Msgr. Ganswein told Catholic News Service Sept. 30.

What happened, he said, was that Cardinal Ratzinger met Sept. 22 with representatives of two German beer companies and was explaining to them why the pope could not grant them a private audience. Apparently journalists in the group picked up some of the cardinal's comments.

"The cardinal said, certainly, we all have to pray for the pope. The pope himself asked us to do this. But that is something that can be said at any time," Msgr. Ganswein said.

As for the pope's health, Msgr. Ganswein said, Cardinal Ratzinger was "more or less expressing what anyone can see with their eyes and hear with their ears, that the pope is not well and speaks only with difficulty."

"All this was not said in any manner that could give a sense of alarm. Not at all," the cardinal's secretary said.

"To present this as a piece of news is a complete exaggeration," Msgr. Ganswein said.

The pope was forced to skip his final Wednesday general audience in September because of an intestinal ailment, but spoke to those attending via an audio connection. He was back at work the next day with a full slate of appointments.

The 83-year-old pontiff, who suffers from a neurological disorder believed to be Parkinson's disease, has appeared increasingly weak and frail in recent weeks. During a September trip to Slovakia, he was unable to stand, walk or pronounce his speeches in their entirety.

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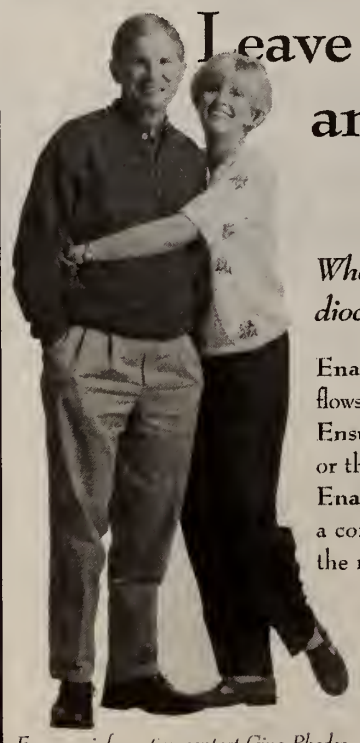

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# Choirs being formed for ordination Mass

CHARLOTTE — A diocesan choir is being formed for the Oct. 24 ordination and installation Mass of Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis at St. Matthew Church.

"We welcome the singers of the diocese to joint together to celebrate this wonderful occasion," said Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, director of music at St. Patrick Cathedral.

A diocesan children's choir is also being formed for third-graders and older. Music is available from Stratemeyer for both choirs.

Rehearsals are on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 4-5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Drive, and on Sunday, Oct. 19, from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East.

A rehearsal will be scheduled at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, on Tuesday or Wednesday, Oct. 21 or 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, ext. 22, to sign up. Please identify your voice part: soprano, alto, tenor or bass.

# Parochial patriotism

COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Leo the Great School hold hand-painted flags representing their classes during a school ceremony commemorating the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

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**ORDINATION UPDATE**

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis listens to suggestions for his October ordination and installation Mass at a planning committee meeting Aug. 29.

# Committee finalizing details of Bishop Jugis ordination ceremonies

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The countdown has already begun.

The ordination and installation Mass of Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis is now only three weeks away, and the planning committee is working diligently to hammer out all the details.

"Our committee of 10 has worked collaboratively in planning, and I'm glad to say that the bishop himself has been actively engaged with us every step of the way," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and coordinator of the ordination festivities.

Bishop-designate Jugis has worked with the committee on a variety of details, from music at the ordination Mass to his prayer card, which will be handed out at his ordination Mass.

"We continue in all the decisions to attempt to be as inclusive and welcoming to all who wish to join us for this special day in the history of the diocese," said Father O'Rourke.

Two representatives from each parish, mission, institution and organization in the diocese will join in the procession that includes bishops, priests, deacons, religious, seminarians and others.

Father O'Rourke has prepared a series of answers to commonly asked questions about the ordination ceremonies:

***Who can come? Who is invited?***

People across the Diocese of Charlotte are welcome to attend the ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church on Friday, Oct. 24.

***What time will it begin, and how long will it last?***

The Mass will begin at 12 p.m. and will last about two hours.

***What kind of seating is available?***

St. Matthew Church can seat more than 2,000 people. There will be 1,300 non-reserved open seats in the church. An additional 600 seats will be available in the parish hall with closed circuit television. The reserved seating is for Bishop-designate Jugis' family and personal friends, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, choir, parish and institutional representatives.

***Who is in the procession?***

Two representatives from each parish, mission, institution and organization in the diocese will join in the procession that includes bishops, priests, deacons, religious, seminarians and others. Those participating in the procession should arrive at the church by 11:15 a.m. so they can be directed to a special area in the parish pastoral center.

***Is there a reception afterward?***

Light refreshments will be served at the church following the Mass.

***Will parking be available?***

St. Matthew Church has parking for over 900 cars and there is overflow available in the shopping center across the street from the church.

**DIRECTIONS TO ST. MATTHEW CHURCH (FROM THE NEAREST INTERSTATE)**

I-77 to I-485 East to Rea Road exit. Turn right and go about two blocks. Take right onto Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Church will be on the left.

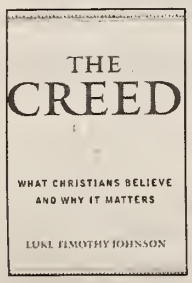
# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book good for pastors, catechists, not for others

REVIEWED BY
FATHER JAMES MASSA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters" belongs on the shelf of every pastor and catechist — but not, unfortunately, in the hands of their students preparing for baptism. This new book by Luke Timothy Johnson, one of America's foremost scholars of early Christianity, is marred by occasional lapses into partisan rancor against certain official Catholic teachings.




"The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters," by Luke Timothy Johnson. Doubleday (New York, 2003). 336 pp., $23.95.

Johnson structured the book according to the articles of the two great Western creeds, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. He discusses the prayers' historical genesis in the ancient liturgies and their relevance to contemporary Christian living.

The creed is one of the great unity-building prayers of the Christian people. It is the hinge uniting the two parts of the Mass — Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist. It begins every rosary, forms the structure of most catechisms, and is professed today by over a billion and half Christians. No wonder every Catholic child learns it by rote, after memorizing the Our Father and the Hail Mary.

So why not a presentation of the Christian faith based on a historical and theological investigation of this prayer?

Few Catholic scholars around today would seem to be as up to the job as Johnson. A former Benedictine monk, he is Emory University professor of New Testament and author of 20 books on Scripture. He is known for defending the claims about Christ's resurrection and divinity against the radical skepticism of the Jesus Seminar.

Yet in this most recent book Johnson's credentials as a defender of orthodoxy seem less certain, at least from a Catholic perspective. Written as a parish-based adult education course, "The Creed" appears to be addressed to a broader ecumenical readership, perhaps one that reflects the student body of the divinity school where the author teaches.

What has authority for Johnson is the biblical story faithfully interpreted by the first two ecumenical councils — Nicea I (325) and Constantinople I (381). On the one hand, the biblically shaped view of reality that Johnson proposes has the advantage of tolerating a wide diversity of opinion on matters that have traditionally divided Christians (Christ's presence in the Eucharist, the papacy, the role of Mary, etc.). On the other hand, it has the disadvantage of giving less weight to the authentic Catholic tradition that has faithfully transmitted and applied the biblical message to countless generations of believers.

Catholic religious educators face special challenges today. The community of Christian scholars using historical and linguistic methods of analysis has opened up new worlds of meaning in sacred texts and doctrines. However, some of these scholars fail to test their own historical theories and theological positions against the inherited Catholic wisdom of the ages.

In this admirable book Johnson's learning sheds light on the ancient prayer still professed by Christians of varying traditions. But Catholic readers should approach with caution the spin that Johnson has given to some of the creed's core tenets.

*Father Massa teaches at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, N.Y.*

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 5, 2003

## *Oct. 5, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Cycle B Readings:**
1) Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 128:1-6
2) Hebrews 2:9-11
3) Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Shirley was a young Australian girl making the grand tour of Europe when I first met her many years ago. Her funds had run dry, so she had taken a job, and we found ourselves in the same office. She was a very sociable, fun-loving person and quickly made friends.

Inside the same building worked Mike, and his visits became increasingly frequent to our office. It was soon apparent that his interest lay in Shirley, and a romance between them blossomed.

Mike was very different from Shirley. He was tall and large, while she was petite. He was very quiet, shy and ill-at-ease in social gatherings; Shirley was the very opposite. He was deliberate and solid, she was spontaneous and quick.

A few weeks ago they called unexpectedly in response to some news I'd given them. During our conversation Mike told me that Shirley had had a recurrence of cancer. This time it was in her spine. She would never walk again.

I have had much time to think about them, and as I went through the readings for this Sunday it was Shirley and Mike who came to mind.

There are almost as many different styles of marriage as there are married couples, but occasionally one stands out as an example of complementarity. As different as Shirley and Mike are in physique and personality, they not only complement each other, but in some way their union is greater than the sum of their two individual personalities.

That I think is the ideal of which the first reading from Genesis speaks, and it is echoed and even quoted in the Gospel as Jesus teaches about marriage and the standard to which God calls men and women as they unite in a sacramental bond.

As weak and fallible human beings, we so often fall short of this ideal. Shirley and Mike have had their share of life's difficulties and marital struggles, yet what they have always reflected to the world and continue to do in this latest crisis is that seamless, complementary union of "one flesh" that this week's Scriptures present to us.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 - OCTOBER 11

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; Monday (Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher), Jonah 1:1—2:1, 11, Luke 10:25-37; Tuesday (Our Lady of the Rosary), Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; Wednesday, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; Thursday (St. Denis and companions, St. John Leonardi), Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; Friday, Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; Saturday, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 12 - OCTOBER 18

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; Monday, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; Tuesday (St. Callistus I), Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; Wednesday (St. Teresa of Avila), Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; Thursday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Marguerite d'Youville), Romans 3:21-30, Luke 11:47-54; Friday (St. Ignatius of Antioch), Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday (St. Luke), 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9

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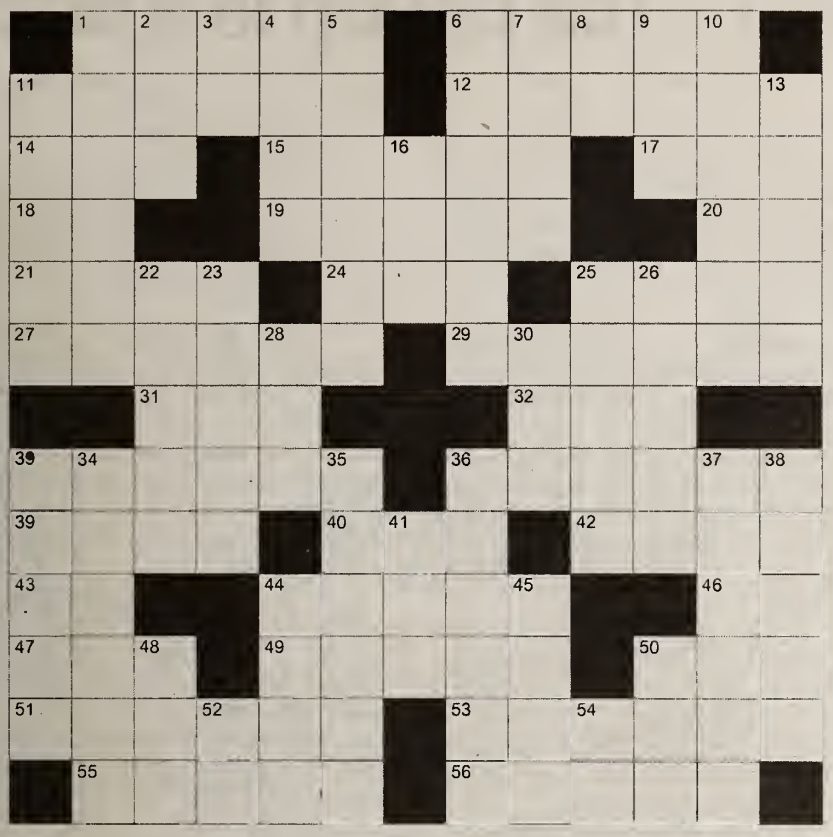

ACROSS
1 One of Zebedee's sons
6 Rocky apostle
11 Biblical River
12 MC ___
14 Tampa univ.
15 Anthropologist
17 North American Indian
18 One of 13 original col.
19 Music embellishment
20 Spielberg movie
21 Rental bldgs.
24 Upon (prefix)
25 French painters Laon, Louis, and Antoine
27 ___ of Turin
29 Spanish rice dish
31 Newark airport (abbr)
32 'This was the unkindest ___ of all"
33 Nine day devotion
36 Twisted
39 Arab prince
40 Extreme degree
42 Nabisco cookie
43 Existential verb
44 "It is a tale told by an ___"
46 Title for 3 Down.
47 East Indian shrub
49 Shakespearean work
50 Jewel
51 ___ clef
53 Armpit
55 Slanted
56 Name of 6 Across

DOWN
1 Biblical dreamer
2 Sandy's cry
3 Sawbones
4 Cain settled ___ of Eden
5 Trapped
6 One of the Twelve
7 British nobleman
8 Popular 60's spiritual exercise
9 Australian bird
10 Sell
11 Betrayer
13 Spanish queen
16 Great Expectations protagonist
22 Roman fountain
23 Field hand
25 Type of surgery
26 Church part
28 Coffee pot
30 German exclamation
33 Jeroboam's father
34 Golfer Mark ___
35 Brother of 56 Across
36 His name means "twin"
37 Skiing technique
38 ___ Rae
41 ___ Maria (liqueur)
44 Eric ___
45 Andy Kaufman TV show
48 ___ Miserables
50 Day ___
52 McD's competitor
54 "___ Always Chasing Rainbows"

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# 'Gospel of John' makes for repetitive, yet rewarding film

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — "The Gospel of John" (ThinkFilm) is a reverently filmed, word-for-word version of the life, ministry and death of Jesus Christ, as recounted by the fourth evangelist.

Beautifully shot on a modest budget and with a running time of three hours, the film, directed by Philip Saville, eschews biblical pageantry in order to paint an intimate portrait of Christ true to its source material. Far from the stolid good shepherd of "King of Kings" (1961) and "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (1965) — which tended to shy away from, if not completely ignore, Christ's humanity — Saville's Jesus (played by Henry Ian Cusick) is a flesh-and-blood manly savior.

Cusick admirably brings an appealing blend of warmth and virility to the role of Jesus. His is no milquetoast messiah, but a true lion of Judah, a firebrand rabble-rouser only too eager to ruffle the status-quo feathers of the Temple authorities in order to complete his appointed mission.

While much of his public ministry as told by John is paralleled in the other three canonical versions, many scriptural touchstones found in the synoptic gospels of Mathew, Mark and Luke — including the Nativity, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables and the institution of the Eucharist — are not recorded by the fourth evangelist. Yet in their absence, John's Gospel contains some of the most spiritually pregnant passages in the New Testament, among them the protracted Last Supper discourses leading up to Christ's passion. The wordy narrative is held together by the soulful reading of the text by Christopher Plummer.

Despite its literary eloquence, St. John's text was written as Scripture, not as a screenplay. And while adhering to it word-for-word affords viewers an opportunity to experience the Gospel message undiluted, many of the passages that make up the film's dialogue contain superfluous redundancies. This narrative repetition (a style of prose common throughout the Bible), though highly effective for contemplative reading of Scripture, at times weighs down the pacing of the film.

When dealing with dramatizations of Christ's passion and death, Catholics and others should keep in mind the words of the Second Vatican Council's "Nostra Aetate" that, while Jewish authorities and their followers "pressed for the death of Christ," at the same time "his passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today."

Saville's handling of this may get mixed reviews from people of both faiths. The film opens with onscreen text affirming the Jewishness of Jesus and his disciples and explaining that John's Gospel was written during a period of factional tension between the early Christian communities and the Jewish establishment.

In an effort to avoid broad brushstrokes when assigning blame for Jesus' death, Saville has gone with the Good News Bible's translation of the original Greek "Ioudaioi" as meaning "the Jewish authorities" rather than the more collective "the Jews." However, these attempts to sidestep controversy are undermined by a caricatured depiction of several Jewish characters — among them a villainous-looking Pharisee.

Despite some hokey moments — including Jesus' baptism, where he rises out of the water like a glittering shampoo model — Catholic viewers cannot help but be moved by the sublime power of the divinely inspired, if at times uncomfortably challenging, words. And while some may feel their viewing is hampered by the restrictions imposed by the film's verbal straitjacketed literalness, others may find its unapologetically unwatered-down approach spiritually edifying.

Due to crucifixion violence, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

# The clock's a'ticking

CNS PHOTO FROM FOX

Actor Dennis Haysbert stars as President Palmer, who is fighting to retain the White House amid terrorist attacks and internal conspiracy in Fox's returning and much-anticipated drama series "24."

## EWTN launches live radio talk show

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — EWTN Global Catholic Network has launched a new live radio talk show, airing 3-4 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday. "EWTN Open Line," which began Sept. 8, will have a different host and church-related topic each day. Here is the schedule: Mondays, Marcus Grodi, on personal conversion stories and how a specific church teaching or experience can influence those decisions; Tuesdays, Barbara McGuigan, president of Voice of Virtue International, on family matters, pro-life and chastity issues; Wednesdays, Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa, on the Bible; Thursdays, John Martignoni, president of the Bible Christian Society, on Catholic apologetics; and Fridays, Colin Donovan, EWTN vice president of theology, on theology questions. Listeners in North America can call in with questions at: (800) 585-9396. Outside North America, the number is: (205) 271-2985. Questions also can be e-mailed to: openline@ewtn.com.

TV WATCH

# Fox's fall lineup is a bust

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Fox's new fall lineup runs the gamut from wacky to weighty but, unfortunately, most of it is forgettable junk. Top-heavy with sitcoms, the fall schedule includes only two dramas, neither of which seems worth the effort.

Jumping on the bandwagon to attract more Hispanic viewers with Hispanic characters, Fox has included two sitcoms revolving around Latino families. Yet in both shows, the characters take potshots at Hispanics for a laugh, seemingly following some unspoken rule that if you are a member of the ethnic group you can make fun of yourself without reprisal.

Another program features a married gay couple as supporting characters. While the couple is not the main focus of the show, the program's tone suggests that the homosexual lifestyle will be presented in a positive light or, at the very least, for some cheap laughs.

Fox's new fall series at a glance:

— "The Ortegas," Sundays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.

Sitcom set in California about an immigrant Mexican family (including Cheech Marin) who build a studio in their garage for their son to host a talk show.

Don't Bother: Based on a BBC series, the program stars minor celebrities as guests and strains under the weight of corny jokes and ad-libbing cast members who need to brush up on their improv skills.

— "Arrested Development," Sundays, 9:30-10 p.m. EDT.

Jason Bateman returns to television as the only responsible member of a wealthy, eccentric family whose patriarch has just been jailed for shifty accounting practices in his real estate development company. Now Bateman must teach his greedy, spoiled kin how to live frugally.

Some Interest: Quirky characters placed in unfamiliar situations (e.g., getting a job, earning a living) are the basis of this sitcom, but it may not be enough to keep an audience coming back week after week for a whole season.

— "Skin," Mondays, 9-10 p.m. EDT.

Los Angeles drama that sets a pornography mogul against the city's district attorney, while their teen-age children fall for each other against their parents wishes.

Don't Bother: Taking a stab at adapting the Bard's "Romeo and Juliet" for modern times, the program throws in cliched twists such as the porn king as a truly caring family man and the district attorney as an ambitious absentee father. But the stale writing fails to generate excitement despite attempts to tantalize with the risque story line.

— "A Minute with Stan Hooper," Wednesdays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.

Norm MacDonald plays an Andy Rooney type — sharing his observations about American life at the end of a TV news program — who decides to move from New York City to a small town in Wisconsin to give his remarks a more authentic flair.

Don't Bother: Forced and predictable, the sitcom is also troublesome as it features as supporting characters a cutesy married gay couple who run the town's local diner.

— "Tru Calling," Thursdays, 8-9 p.m. EDT.

Drama about a recent college grad working in the city morgue who develops a strange ability to see people's untimely deaths before they happen and is therefore compelled to save them.

Don't Bother: Trite dialogue, one-note characterizations and a far-fetched plot merge to form a forgettable program.

— "Luis," Fridays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.

Luis Guzman stars as a Puerto Rican donut shop owner living in New York City's Spanish Harlem trying to live out the American dream.

Don't Bother: Flat, canned and forced with a slew of trying-too-hard-to-be-madcap characters, the sitcom just doesn't work and Guzman can't carry the load.

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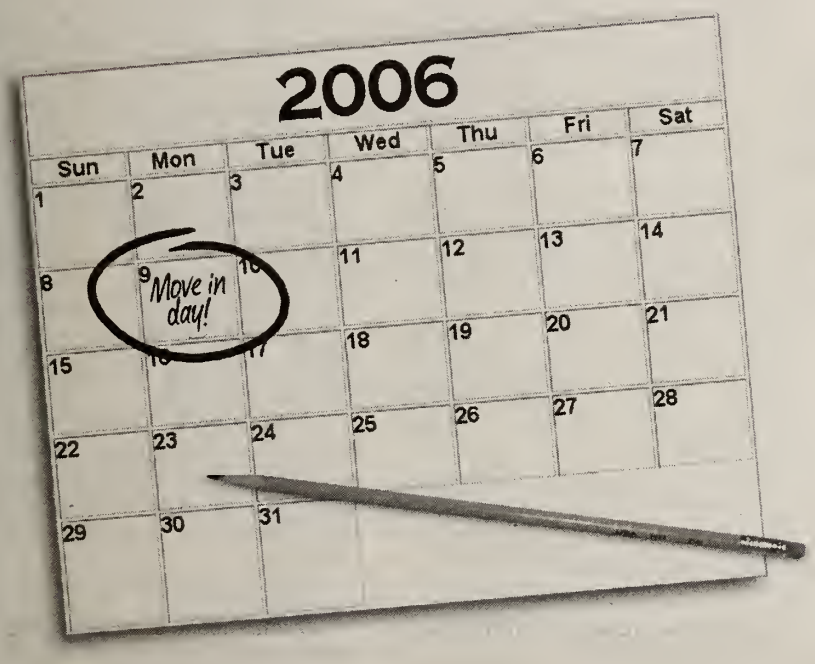


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# Rallying for pro-life issues

RESPECT LIFE, *from page 1*

celebrate and bear witness to God's creative and redeeming love for every human being," said Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, retired archbishop of Philadelphia and chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a letter to his fellow bishops.

Essays included as part of the materials focus on abortion, end-of-life care, the death penalty, cloning and the political debate surrounding life issues.

There is also a liturgy guide with homily hints and reflections for all Sundays from October through December 2003, as well as Christmas and selected Sundays and feasts in 2004.

Published in "user-friendly" packet form since 1993, the Secretariat states these materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups and other organizations.

Included with the materials is a "Life Is a Miracle" poster and one sample copy of both an English- and a Spanish-language Respect Life flier for parish bulletin inserts. The fliers can be ordered in bulk.

In addition, there is Respect Life clip art for use in bulletins, newsletters and other printed matter, and a brochure featuring a wide selection of pro-life publications and resources.

For many parishes, the Life Chain is a notable kickoff event of Respect Life Month.

Held on Respect Life Sunday, the Life Chain is one of the more visible signs against abortion as people line city streets while holding placards with messages such as "Abortion kills children" and "Abortion hurts women."

This year, hundreds of Life Chains are expected to form across the United States. In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes are participating along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns Oct. 5.

In Sterling, Va., a coalition of Catholic lay organizations is urging individuals, parishes and schools to join in the 11th International Week of Prayer and Fasting Oct. 5-16 for "the conversion of nations, the end to abortion and world peace."

The week — actually 12 days — opens Oct. 5. The event is usually scheduled for nine days but was extended this year to devote more time to the rosary in the year Pope John Paul II dedicated as the Year of the Rosary, according to an announcement released by event organizers in Sterling.

The International Week of Prayer and Fasting will include an all-day eucharistic prayer vigil Oct. 13 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The vigil will include Catholic religious and lay speakers; Mass, confessions and recitation of the rosary; eucharistic adoration throughout the day; and a preview of Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion," in the shrine's lower Crypt Church.

*Editor's Note: Copies of the complete Respect Life Sunday kit are $5 each. A program packet, which deletes the liturgy guide, poster and clip art from the kit, is available for $4.25 each. Orders may be placed by calling: (866) 582-0943.*

COME AND HEAR

Christopher West – *"Theology of the Body"*

*Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 8 - 10 at 7 pm each evening*

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
1400 Suther Road - Charlotte

One of the top Catholic speakers in the world, Christopher West's talks regarding Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" are riveting and life changing!

West teaches theology of the body and sexual ethics at Denver's St. John Vianney Theological Seminary and is also a visiting faculty member of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Melbourne, Australia. His books, extensive lecturing and tapes have sparked an international ground swell of interest in John Paul II's theology of the body.

Tickets: $12 for all 3 nights or $5 for each night.
(Workbook is an additional $5)
For information: Tony Gagliardo - 704-439-0533 or 704-655-9090

**BOOK SIGNING:** West will sign his book "Good News about Sex and Marriage" on Thursday, Oct. 9, 1:00 pm at the new store location of The Catholic Company at LAKE NORMAN (next to the Goodwill), 19905 West Catawba Avenue, #106, Cornelius (Exit 28 off I-77, 1/2 mile west on Catawba Ave.)

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Photos and memories

LIVE LIFE TODAY AND EVERYDAY

### Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

My nephew recently showed me pictures he took on his last vacation. But instead of opening a photo album, he simply pressed a button on his computer. His file of photos appeared on screen and he was able to highlight, enlarge and even print the photos. In this, as in so many things, I felt just a little bit older, especially when he remarked: "You mean you keep all your photos in those old albums, Uncle Jim?" Thanks a lot!

Photographs, in old albums or envelopes in a drawer or on the latest computer, are a special gift. They give us both slices of our past and a reality check. I still look at photos from my ordination to the priesthood and think of it as "just a few years ago." Twenty-two years ago, in fact. Where did they go?

Recently, I came upon pictures from a California vacation I'd taken a dozen or so years ago. My favorite photo was taken at a restaurant in Palm Springs. I'm in the shot, along with my oldest and dearest friend, Father Joe Lukaszewski. Next to him is the legendary film director Frank Capra, who often helped us with charity benefits; next to him was the cutting edge photographer, Berry Berenson, and at her side was her husband, actor Anthony Perkins. I remember that my friend Joe was particularly delighted to meet the star of the movie classic Psycho. He couldn't believe that such a sweet man could portray such a frightening character. He even told Perkins that. To which the actor responded: "It's called acting, Father Joe!"

The photo was striking for another reason. It suddenly hit me that all my companions at dinner that night are now with God. Father Joe and Anthony Perkins, lost to disease. Frank Capra, giving way to old age. The beautiful and kindly Berry Berenson was one of those who were tragically taken from us on Sept. 11, 2001. She'd been on a plane from Boston to Los Angeles, returning to see her son in a musical concert. She, and too many others, never reached their destinations. None of us that night would ever have imagined that not much more than a decade later, all but one of those at that table would be leaving their earthly home.

Since no one knows the future, we probably should live as if every day was the last. And live the life we desire to instead of the one we sometimes settle for. The photo led me to a number of resolutions I'm trying to embrace more fully. Maybe they would be good for you too.

(1) Live it today and don't delay. For too many of us, we mean to and intend to do the living someday soon. Just not today. There is, in fact, no time like the present to accomplish the good we intend to do.

(2) I don't know anyone who doesn't aspire to be more generous. We fully intend to actually make that charitable donation or perform that kind deed. The good we know we

should do is usually best accomplished when we think of it. In other words, right now!

(3) The overwhelming majority of people believe in God, but many postpone building a spiritual relationship and practicing their faith. If we put off our Creator until we're ready, He may get to us before we find the time to get to Him.

(4) Most of us have loose endings in our lives; people with whom we have grudges or major disagreements. We may even intend to make it right someday, but why be arrogant enough to imagine that somedays are up to us? It's God's calendar that counts. Let's make the time to reconcile while we can.

And consider the scripture verse: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Let's not presume on the Lord's time. Let's do all the good we can today.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Works of Mercy, Gifts of Love," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

## Struggling at times, pope holds weekly audience

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

### The Pope Speaks

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although he cut significant portions of his main talk and appeared to lose his voice at one point, Pope John Paul II returned Oct. 1 to his normal general audience practices, including a tour around St. Peter's Square in an open popemobile.

When the pope stopped and shook his head in the middle of a sentence, tears flowed from the eyes of several women in the square; the crowd burst into an encouraging applause and, after a few seconds, the pope resumed reading.

Although he read less than a third of his main talk, Pope John Paul read all of his prepared remarks in French, English, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish.

Marking the beginning of the month dedicated to the rosary, Pope John Paul told Polish pilgrims that, "God willing," he would go to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii, Italy, Oct. 7 "to thank God for the great work of the sanctification of hearts accomplished uninterruptedly thanks to this marvelous prayer."

The pope had missed his general audience the previous week because of an intestinal ailment.

At the beginning of the audience, he was driven around the square, waving at the estimated 12,000 visitors and pilgrims present. For the Sept. 10 and 17 audiences, he was driven in a closed car to a stage in the square without first making the rounds in the popemobile.

In his main audience talk, the pope said he was concluding his long-running series on the psalms and canticles used in the church's morning prayer.

The pope focused on Zechariah's "Benedictus," a hymn of praise for God's gift of salvation, which speaks of "the tender mercy of God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us."

Zechariah's prophecy proclaims that with Christ "there will appear the light that will enlighten every creature and make life flourish," the pope said.

Welcoming the gift of salvation in Christ, Christians must commit themselves to walking in his light, he said.

"Our uncertain steps, which during the day frequently wander onto dark or slippery streets, are guided by the light of truth which Christ spreads in the world and in history," Pope John Paul said.

The pope said, "We continually ask his help so that he will preserve in us the light of the knowledge which he has given us and will lead us to the day of perfection."

After the 45-minute audience, the pope spent almost an hour greeting individual bishops and pilgrims, posing for photographs with groups and blessing dozens of newlyweds who knelt in front of him, one couple at a time.

## Letters to the Editor

### No welcome for the stranger

I just read Catholic News Service writer Agostino Bono's article entitled "Tacos, pizza and French fries: Fast food and immigration patterns" (Sept. 12) in which Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, states: "For the church the only passport you need is your baptism."

I find it unacceptable that the church condones the blatant violation of federal immigration laws! I doubt even Jesus would tell people to violate the law! "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and render unto the Lord that which is the Lord's."

If an immigrant illegally enters the United States, they should be arrested and deported — no questions asked!

My family on my father's side emigrated from Poland and they came through Ellis Island; they did this legally. Shame on the church for condoning anything other than following the law. No one has to like or agree with any law, but until those laws are changed, we are bound by our civic duty to follow them.

Mike Basiewicz
Dana, N.C.

#### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# Lean on me

## *Defeating loneliness with activism*

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

What do Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Pio of Pietrelcina and St. Francis of Assisi have in common? The desert experience, the journey and the "Lean on Me."

In spite of the noises, mass media and activism, we live in an age of loneliness. The heroes I just mentioned found a healthy prescription to cure the existential loneliness, which has been treated as a disease that has reached epidemic range. Fortunately, there is a cure for it, if we look for it. The origin of this illness comes from the obsessive compulsion to activism, which deprives us of the necessary solitude needed for our survival.

The Gospel, being the good news and the book of life, gives us some hints in Luke 4:1: "Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, then returned from the Jordan and was conducted by the Spirit into the desert." From time to time, Jesus felt the need of being alone out in the desert or on the peaks of mountains, where he could recharge the battery and embark on his public ministry.

The desert experience, however, does not necessarily require the Sahara Desert. It may be our daily life of faith, hope and love. Both experiences, the desert of the city and the wilderness of the forest, remind us that solitude, not loneliness, is badly needed. There is a big difference between solitude (positive) and loneliness (negative). The beauty of solitude makes us aware of the old "spiritual" line: "We come out of the wilderness, leaning on the Lord."

Mother Teresa, Pio Forgione, Francis Bernardone knew very well what desert experience was: the crowded streets of Calcutta; the rugged mountains of the Gargano Peninsula; and the leprosy camps of Rivotorto. The saints survived the desert by being very active and by leaning on the Lord. Activity doesn't hinder our relationship with God, it actually may help. Activism shuts the door and builds a cage with no exit door. The silence of the city and of the wilderness makes us hear what God is saying, rather than what we say. "Be still and know that I am God," says the Lord.

The prophet Hosea has a more compelling approach by putting in God's mouth the following words: "I will espouse you, and lead you into the wilderness, and there I will speak to your heart." (3:16) He speaks to the center of our being, rather than to our "head." Do we really hear what God says?

A man had just retired and was sitting at the breakfast table, reading the morning paper and feeling very well. His wife, on the other hand, was bustling around the apartment. She had both the dishwasher and the clothes dryer going, and she was pushing the vacuum cleaner. Her husband looked up from the table and said to her, "I'm proud of you." With all the noise, she couldn't hear properly. "What did you say?" she shouted. "I am proud of you," he repeated. She snapped back, "I'm tired of you too!"

When we are surrounded by noises, we cannot hear the "love you" of God and others. And yet, God lives where we are and where our neighbors are.

A little girl, who had just moved, went with her family to their new church for the first time. The church was just a block from their house. On the way back from the church, she said, "Boy, we sure are lucky to live in the same neighborhood as God." Are we not all?

Our direction to God is easy: make a right turn and go straight always.

A gentleman called me a few days ago. He was proud to tell me that he was a parishioner for the past 23 years and he didn't live far from the church. Before hanging up, he said, "By the way, Father, since you are on the line, could you give directions to the church?"

My friends, "Lean on me," says the Lord ... and don't call.

# What to pray for when hurricanes threaten

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY CNS Columnist

As I write this, Hurricane Isabel is 24 hours away. We have spent the last couple of days preparing for it — parking parish vehicles away from trees and stowing anything that can get airborne in high wind or float away in high water.

People say things like, "Father, pray that the storm misses us" — as if God steers hurricanes around because I ask him to.

When we are young, we pray about the weather. Children pray for snow when they have tests. It is OK for children to pray for the weather they want, but when we grow up we should get an adult's idea about "weather prayers."

Weather is part of nature. It is governed by the laws of nature. We cannot change it by wishing for it.

Of course, miracles can and do happen. The disciples saw Jesus calm the Sea of Galilee. But the point is the wind and waves obeyed him, not us. The laws of nature obey the will of God, nature's author.

The Catholic Church accepts the idea that "God's will" is reflected in the laws of nature. That is partly (though not totally) what we mean by "natural law."

We accept the laws of nature, which we discern in the study of physics, chemistry, biology, geology and the other natural sciences. Our job is to try to understand these laws and use them to our benefit in medicine or meteorology or the other scientific arts.

We do not expect God should change the laws to suit us — God does not take orders from us. Our job as believers is to try to discern the will of God and to live accordingly. Servants of God accept the facts. They do not try to become God.

Prayer is about changing us, not God. By definition, God is the "unchanging" one. That's good, since we all rely on the stability of the laws of nature.

So what do we pray for in regard to the weather?

We can pray for people. We pray for courage to accept the storms of life and wisdom to learn from them. We pray for generosity to help those harmed, healing for the injured, comfort for those who mourn and peace for the dead.

These are all prayers to change us, not nature.

We don't expect God will change the path of hurricanes for us. With them we simply batten down the hatches and get out of the way.

# Will a husband and wife be united in Heaven?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN CNS Columnist

*Q. My wife of 54 years died last spring, and I'm having a hard time. There is still a lot of suffering and grief, and wondering about the future. At her funeral the priest said a prayer that "we will be with her again." Is there anything in the Bible or church teaching that tells us a husband and wife will be united in heaven? (Iowa)*

A. The sadness and terrible pain you feel over the loss of your wife is truly a heavy cross to bear. But it is also something to be lovingly grateful for. It is a tribute to the long, devoted and happy life you had together during those 52 years that makes her death such a heartache for you.

The Gospels do tell us much about the answers to your questions. We know that the heavenly Father was intimately present to Jesus always, even in the midst of his passion and death.

He knew that, even for his Son, this and other suffering was part of coming to a good and full human life, that it would lead to a joyful and eternal union at the completion of our earthly existence.

I believe it all comes down to a good bit of humility, being able to acknowledge that some truths of human existence lie beyond our comprehension in this life. Our doctrine of the communion of saints, which we profess in the Apostles Creed, means that we are already in union with those who have gone before us, that they support us by their spiritual presence as well as by their prayers for us before the throne of God — which is, of course, why we pray to the saints asking for their intercession.

As for you and your wife, it is true that there is no married life in heaven, at least in the physical reproductive dimension we experience here. That is not the whole story, however.

Some years ago, Pope Pius XII had some enlightening and consoling words to say on the subject. Speaking to engaged couples, he noted that while marriage itself may not endure in heaven, married love will continue. What does that mean?

Christian tradition is clear that part of heaven will be our conscious union and intimacy with those who were dear to us here on earth. Beyond that, however, is the fact that our personalities, our ways of loving, our way of being "ourselves," which we will carry into eternity, are molded largely by the people with whom we shared our lives here.

It is a fact that you are a significantly different person today than you would have been had you followed another vocation than marriage or if you had married a different person than the woman you did.

Her love for you and yours for her, the many ways you assisted each other, with your Christian faith, to grow and mature, the friends and other individuals who deeply affected you through the years — all these helped you become the persons you are at the end and who you will be in eternity.

All that goodness never will end. In that sense the answer to your question is yes. You will without question be husband and wife, sharing your married love, in heaven.

I'm sure some will respond, but what about people who are married two or three times because their spouses died or for other reasons? Doesn't that nullify what you are saying?

Not at all. It may add other dimensions to the husband-wife relationship and personal identities, but the truth that we are affected and formed by others close to us remains the same. Whatever good we accomplish with and for each other never dies and by God's providence will find its fulfillment in his presence.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# St. John Lee Korean Church symbolic of growing Korean-American culture

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte, built in 1994, now has 130 registered families.

**ST. JOHN LEE KOREAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

7109 Robinson Church Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28215
(704) 531-8471

Vicariate: Charlotte
Pastor: Reverend Soo Tae Bak
Number of families: 130

CHARLOTTE — As the diversity of the multicultural landscape increases throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, so too does the need for liturgical and ministerial outreach to all Catholics of western North Carolina. St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church is one center of ministry tending to those needs.

The historical tie between the martyred John (Yoon-Il) Lee and the community of Charlotte Catholics who now gather under his patronage dates back to 17th-century Korea, where Catholicism was brought in from China. Persecutions began in 1839, and over the next few decades thousands of Korean Catholics were killed. Lee was arrested in November 1866, imprisoned for two months and, in late January 1867, was decapitated.

On May 6, 1984, Lee and 102 others martyred during the 19th-century persecutions were canonized by Pope John Paul II. In January 1987, St. John Lee was named patron saint of the Archdiocese of Taegu, the very region in which he was executed a century earlier.

In Charlotte, seven Korean Catholic families began gathering in the early 1980s for liturgical celebrations. A Korean priest from Atlanta began traveling in July 1980 to St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte once a month to celebrate Mass in Korean. Soon after, the group relocated to nearby St. Ann Church.

With the Korean Catholic community growing larger during the 1980s, members formed a committee to explore the possibility of building a church. A fund drive was begun, and the committee began searching for an appropriate location.

In June 1990, the community purchased four acres of land in east Charlotte along Robinson Church Road. On site resided a house that was put to use as a rectory and meeting center. Later that year, the Archdiocese of Taegu agreed to send a Korean priest to the Charlotte Diocese to serve the local Korean community.

With the arrival of Father Dong-Su Won, services were moved to Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte. Father Won was eventually succeeded by Father Hwan-Kil Cho, and during his period of service the rapidly growing Korean community again looked to increase its worship space.

Father Kyung-Hwan Choi was the next priest for the Taegu Archdiocese to come to Charlotte, and the plans for a new church — to be built on the Robinson Church Road property — continued to develop during his stay.

In May 1994, the community gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony. By October, the 5,000-square-foot building was completed and the first Mass was celebrated there. On May 7, 1995, Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the dedication ceremony, and the church was officially declared to be St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church.

In September 1995, Father Jae-Yeong Choi was appointed to serve at St. John Lee Church. The church community has proven to be an active one, as 70 people were confirmed during a September 1996 Mass, and a variety of groups and outreaches have been formed, including prayer groups, a choir, a golf club and a youth group.

In 1998, with a parish of about 97 families, a committee was formed to oversee construction planning of an education center on the church grounds. Education of and ministry to the second generation of St. John Lee Church parishioners is an emphasis of church life, as members strive to teach Korean culture, identity and language to those young members of the community who have been raised in the United States.

The church dedicated 1998 as a year to "Learn the Bible by Heart," in which members not only paid special attention to the Scriptures, but also devoted time to evangelization among their families, friends and neighbors.

Teaching catechism and church doctrine presents challenges, especially given language barriers that exist even within the family unit. As such, St. John Lee Church seeks assistance from English-speaking volunteers to assist in catechesis for the younger Korean American generation. In addition to the Mass celebrated in Korean at 11 a.m. each Sunday, a Mass in English is said on Sunday at 9:30 a.m., primarily for these younger Korean Catholics.

In November 2001, Father Soo Tae Bak was appointed to St. John Lee Korean Church, and by 2003 the number of registered families had grown to 130.

On Sept. 21, 2003, several parishioners traveled to Washington and joined 4,500 Korean-American Catholics to celebrate Korean-American Catholic Day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a positive sign that Korean-American Catholics are growing across the nation, and in Charlotte.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: St. Francis of Assisi Church

| PAGE 16

OCTOBER 10, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 3

MAKING SAFER SCHOOLS

## Immaculate Heart of Mary School battens hatches

*Students safe inside while police nab suspect*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

HIGH POINT — It began as a normal school day for students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

Around 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, students were outside practicing a fire drill. Half an hour later, the High Point police came to the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school and advised the staff to keep the students inside and the doors locked. A man with a gun had been spotted nearby.

"They commented to a counselor that a person was in the vicinity with a shotgun," said Principal Robert Wehde. "They recommended that we shut down the facility."

Wehde notified Superintendent Linda Cherry and his staff, and the school quickly followed the police's instructions — students were kept inside and did not have morning recess. A second-grade class on a morning field trip was advised not to return to the school.

But classes continued as normal. At the school, the exterior doors are always locked and visitors must be buzzed in at the administrative offices for entrance into the building.

"It was a little unnerving, but the teachers did an out-

See LOCKDOWN, page 4

# Merriment in the mountains

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Francis of Assisi parishioners prepare for a hayride at the Macon County Fairgrounds Oct. 4. The ride was part of a parish festival commemorating the 50th anniversary of the church.

## Three churches celebrate anniversaries

### Clear skies over St. Francis of Assisi jubilee Mass

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

FRANKLIN — Tucked into a valley in the Smoky Mountains, St. Francis of Assisi Church has fostered a thriving multicultural parish for 50 years. In honor of its patron saint's feast day, the parish celebrated its golden anniversary Oct. 4.

See ST. FRANCIS, page 7

### Our Lady of the Highways becomes multicultural family

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

THOMASVILLE — Several years ago, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Highways Church were informed all parishes had a feast day in honor of their patron saint.

Since there is no feast to Our Lady under that particu-

See THOMASVILLE, page 8

### Basilica of St. Lawrence marks 10 years as minor basilica

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Melodious strains of a string trio echoed through the church as early arrivals entered for the celebration of the Basilica of St. Lawrence's designation anniversary as a minor basilica.

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus flanked the main

See ST. LAWRENCE, page 9

## Papal envoy to Bush says events proved Vatican right about Iraqi war

CARDINAL LAGHI RECOUNTS DETAILS OF BUSH MEETING

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAMALDOLI, Italy — Seven months after he tried to convince President George W. Bush not to invade Iraq, Cardinal Pio Laghi, papal envoy, said events have proved the Vatican right about the consequences of war and the difficulties of consolidating peace.

Cardinal Laghi recounted in detail his meeting last March with Bush and other White House officials in a talk Oct. 4 at a conference on "God and the Meeting of Civilizations" at the central Italian monastic center of Camaldoli.

In March, three weeks before the United States launched its offensive against Iraq, Pope John Paul II sent Cardinal Laghi, a former ambassador to the United States, to plead the case against war with Bush and his aides, but the cardinal said he did not feel his arguments were given much weight.

"I had the impression they had already made their decision," Cardinal Laghi said.

Today, as U.S. and allied forces try to resolve vast problems in Iraq, "Events have shown that the worries of the Holy See were well-founded," he added.

Cardinal Laghi said that when he sat down to talk with

See LAGHI, page 13

**Pope John Paul II**
*Health reports prompt media speculation, prayers*
| PAGE 3

**Transitus of St. Francis**
*Death, history of saint recalled at service*
| PAGE 5

**Spiritual batteries**
*Hispanic youth learn about God, overcoming setbacks*
| PAGE 12

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SHATTERED DREAMS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Two unidentified women from Haifa weep outside Maxim restaurant Oct. 5. The restaurant, owned jointly by an Israeli family and a Melkite Catholic family, was the site of a suicide attack that killed 19 and injured more than 50 people. The popular beachfront restaurant was a symbol of Israeli-Arab coexistence for more than 40 years.

# Bombed Haifa restaurant was symbol of Jewish, Arab coexistence

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The beachfront restaurant damaged in a suicide bomb attack in Haifa, Israel, has been a symbol of coexistence between Arabs and Jews for 40 years.

Nineteen people were killed and about 60 injured in the Oct. 4 bombing at Maxim, a restaurant co-owned by Jewish and Melkite Catholic families. Among the dead were five Israeli Arabs who were Melkite Catholics. Two complete families — including grandparents and grandchildren — where killed in the blast.

Immediately upon hearing the news of the bombing, Miri Taiyar and her daughter, Orly Taiyar Nir, members of the Jewish family that co-owns the restaurant, were among the first people to console the Matar family, the Melkite-Arab co-owners, five of whose members had been injured and two others killed.

"I was only one of three people who left the restaurant on his own two feet," said Pierre Matar, 29, who was slightly injured in the blast. "Everywhere else there were bodies strewn around."

His father cousins and uncle were injured. Two cousins who worked as waitresses were killed in the blast.

The long-term relationship between the Taiyar and Matar families is one built on trust, he said.

"These are more than partners in the restaurant — we are all one family," said Orly Taiyar Nir.

Nir told the Ha'aretz newspaper: "When my boys were drafted into the army, the Christian women went and lit candles for their welfare. ... I'm in contact with these (Christian) families more than I am with the Jewish families."

More than 1,500 people from the surrounding villages and towns — Jews, Christians and Muslims — attended the funerals.

"The fact is that we are living together and no one has the right to (make us) do any different — not Sharon, not Arafat, not Islamic Jihad nor Hamas," said Fassouta Mayor Geries Khoury, a relative of the Matar family. "No one has the right to kill such a common life together that we have, despite all the discrimination there is against (Israeli Arabs)."

He said villagers do not want revenge, only peace and an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

# Virginia priests sign letter supporting celibacy

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Ninety priests from the Arlington Diocese have sent a letter to Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in strong support of mandatory priestly celibacy.

In the Sept. 27 letter, the priests rejected a proposal advanced by Milwaukee priests in August that called for the ordination of married men to generate more vocations to the priesthood. The Milwaukee priests also sent their letter to Bishop Gregory.

"Common sense and historical experience indicate ... that reducing the demands of the priesthood will not increase vocations, because lessening sacrifice never inspires men to offer their lives to Christ," the Arlington priests said. "In times of crisis, the wisdom and instinct of the church have always been to respond with greater sacrifice, not less. What will inspire more vocations is celibacy lived well, not celibacy set aside."

Citing the Second Vatican Council, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and the writings of Pope John Paul II, which have all explicitly affirmed mandatory celibacy, the letter also called for an end to further discussion of changing the requirement, since it "only confuses the faithful and deprives the church of the clarity needed to inspire vocations."

The signers represented some 60 percent of the 151 active and retired diocesan priests in Arlington. The priests said they wanted Bishop Gregory and other bishops to know of their "devotion to this source and sign of pastoral charity" and their desire that it remain mandatory for priestly ordination.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity* meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

HENDERSONVILLE — A *Peace and Tolerance Workshop* will be held Oct. 25 at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. in the St. Francis Room 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for a day of prayer, discussion and reflection. Special focus will be given to our sacred calling as Christians to be peacemakers. This is a meaningful way to promote peace in the family, classroom and workplace. To register, call Sandy Donecho at (828) 697-7420.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *loss of a parent as an adult* is the single most common form of bereavement in this country. Whether you had a good, bad or indifferent relationship with the parent who died, your feelings for him or her were probably quite strong. Join others who have lost a parent or those ministering to the bereaved at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Oct. 15 7-9 p.m. in the Ministry Center.

CHARLOTTE — Father Duc Duong will lead a roundtable discussion on "*Multiculturalism in the Catholic Church*" Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in room 203 of the Life Center of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Log on to www.home.catholicweb.com/stmatthewff and click on Café, to link to two articles from US Catholic to read before the meeting.

CHARLOTTE — The *ordination Mass of Bishop Peter J. Jugis* will be celebrated Oct. 24 at 12 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services will host an informational meeting on their *adoption programs in Russia & China* Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. The meeting will be at the Diocesan offices at 1123 South Church St. If you have any questions, please call Carol or Michele at (888) 990-4199.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father James Keenan will present "*Living with an Adult Conscience*" Oct. 25 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Our ordinary lives offer ample opportunities to think and grow in our practice of virtues. For details, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Father Bill Parent will discuss "*Catholic morality at the end of life,*" a look at Catholic teachings concerning issue of life and death. This free presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Cardinal Stafford named to head Vatican office dealing with penance

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford has been named by Pope John Paul II to head the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that deals with matters of conscience involving the sacrament of penance and procedural issues concerning indulgences.

Cardinal Stafford, 71, will leave the Pontifical Council for the Laity, where he has served as president since 1996. One of the main tasks of the laity council is to coordinate World Youth Day celebrations with local organizers, and Cardinal Stafford presided over preparations for youth-day events in Paris in 1997, in Rome in 2000 and in Toronto in 2002.

The new head of the laity council is Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, 58, who had been council secretary.

The Vatican announced the appointments Oct. 3. They were among the first of a series of expected changes in the Roman Curia.

Cardinal Stafford will oversee a Vatican department that is not very well understood by outsiders. The "penitentiary" in its name refers to the penitential issues it handles.

The Apostolic Penitentiary is one of three tribunals of the Holy See. The penitentiary is divided into two offices: One governs indulgences, and the other is a court that handles cases of conscience and absolves individuals from sins reserved to the Holy See.

Cardinal Stafford will be called the "major penitentiary." The agency also commissions priests to serve as confessors in Rome's major basilicas.

St. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — The Hickory vicariate will offer two *evangelization retreats for Hispanic adults* at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1025 College Ave. SW. The women's retreat will be Oct. 17-19 and the men's retreat will be Oct. 24-26. To register, please contact Sister Joan Pearson at (828) 758-4207.

MORGANTON — A free *Pastoral Care Training workshop* will be held Oct. 14 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 W. Union St. 7-9 p.m. This program will train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly Register to Sandra Breakfield, Elder Ministry, at (704) 370-3220.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present *"I'm married, we're together, but alone"* Oct. 12 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m. This presentation will explore how married couples can recapture the closeness in their relationships. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present *"One face, four portraits"* Oct. 19 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m. This presentation will explore how Jesus Christ was portrayed by each of the Gospel writers. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — St. William Church will sponsor a *bereavement support group* that will meet Mondays for six weeks beginning Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-noon at the Glenmary Center. This group is for anyone who is grieving over any loss of a loved one, a job, friend, divorce, etc. Call Pat Levy at (828) 837-9517 for more information.

BRYSON CITY — *"Catholics and Cherokees: Learning from Each Other,"* a workshop hosted by the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, will be held on Oct. 18 1-4 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St. This free workshop is open to the public and will help participants to better understand the history of the Cherokee and current issues of major concern to them. A part of the program will be the linking of Catholic Social Teachings to Cherokee issues and the importance of advocacy and dialogue in contemporary society. For details, call Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or email maryherr@dnet.net or call St. Joseph Church at (828) 488-6766. This workshop is funded by a grant from Operation Rice Bowl.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — The *OLM Little Rock Scripture Study for Women* offers a bible study Monday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. in the library of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Classes meet until Nov. 24. For more information, call Anne Gannon at (336) 727-4591.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

WINSTON-SALEM — This fall's *Theology on Tap* will meet Wednesday evenings Oct. 22-Nov. 12 at Mi Pueblo Restaurant, 644 Stratford Rd. Social hour begins at 7 p.m. and a featured speaker will begin at 8 p.m. For details e-mail ws_tontap@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Fraternity of St. Clare* invites anyone interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order and the Franciscan way of life to an orientation and reception Oct. 23 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information, contact Sharon Jackson, SFO Minister, at (336) 722-7001.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope's health prompts media speculation, prayers among Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the beginning of one of the busiest months of his pontificate, Pope John Paul II's continuing health problems prompted speculation in the media, concern among some cardinals and prayers by the faithful.

After announcing 30 new cardinals Sept. 28, the 83-year-old pontiff carried out a full week of scheduled events appearing has he has over the last few months: tired, unable to stand or walk, struggling at times to speak, but soldiering on to the end of each event.

The pope suffers from a degenerative neurological disorder believed to be Parkinson's disease and has been slowed by arthritis of the knee and the effects of several surgeries.

His recent physical decline, although not drastic to those who have followed him closely, has prompted intense media interest, which in turn has generated comments by church leaders.

The most striking remarks — intended "philosophically" but which ended up in headlines around the world — came from Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, Austria.

"The entire world is experiencing a pope who is sick, who is disabled, and who is dying — I don't know how near death he is — who is approaching the last days and months of his life," Cardinal Schonborn said Oct. 2.

The cardinal's comment prompted anxiety among many Catholics, but several Vatican cardinals quickly downplayed concern about the pope's health.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Congregation for Bishops, said "there's no cause for alarm" about the pontiff.

"The pope is a strong man with a sharp mind and a clear vision of the world. I saw him today at lunch," Cardinal Re said later Oct. 2.

"Certainly he has difficulty with speech, especially when he's tired, and he has problems walking. But he's still a strong man," he said.

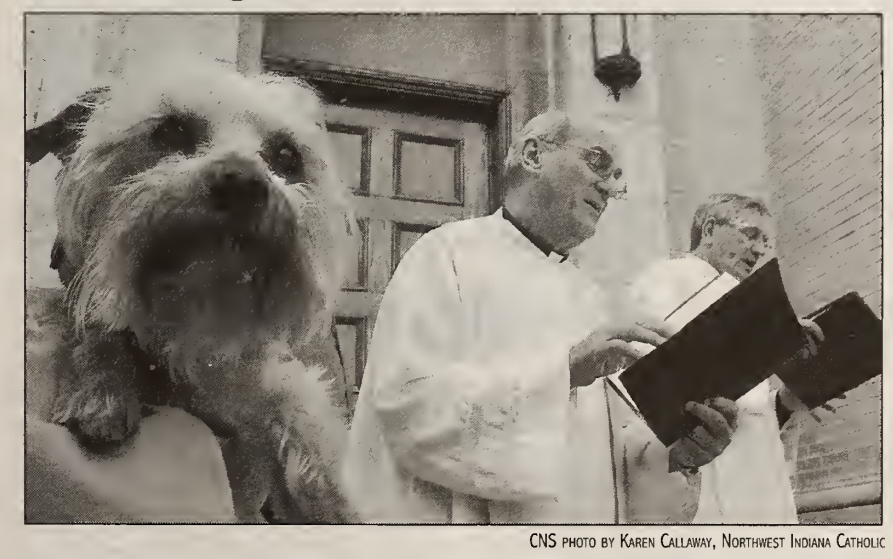
Asked about the possibility of papal resignation, Cardinal Re responded: "The Holy Father is obedient to God's will."

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, head of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the fact that the pope's heavy October schedule was being maintained showed there was no sense of panic at the Vatican. In fact, the Vatican added two major events to the schedule.

Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope's longtime personal secretary, did not seem overly concerned about the pope's health as he chatted with reporters Oct. 2. The pope was meeting with Lithuanian President Rolandas Paksas in an adjacent room.

Archbishop Dziwisz told the reporters jokingly that many journalists who have predicted the pope's demise "are already in heaven."

# Blessing 'Muffin'



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

"Muffin" is held by parishioner Karen Vine as Precious Blood Fathers John Kalicky and Gary Scherer read a blessing for animals on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4. The priests at St. John the Baptist Parish in Whiting, Ind., were among clergy a round the world offering special prayers for pets on the feast of a saint noted for his love of all God's creatures.

## DID YOU KNOW? — ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Born at Avila, Castile, Spain, on March 28, 1515, Teresa became a Carmelite in 1536. She founded St. Joseph Convent at Avila in 1562 for nuns who wished to live a more enclosed spiritual life. In 1568, she founded the first reformed Carmelite monastery for men. Teresa wrote many letters and books that have become classics of spiritual literature. Teresa died in October 1582, and was canonized in 1614 by Pope Gregory XV. Pope Paul VI declared her a doctor of the church in 1970 — the first woman to be so honored. Her feast day is Oct. 15.

# Charlotte Catholic seniors C.A.R.E. a lot

COURTESY PHOTO

Charlotte Catholic High School seniors rally at the Camp C.A.R.E. annual walkathon Sept. 20.

CHARLOTTE — Senior pride was evident when approximately 80 Charlotte Catholic High School seniors participated in the Camp C.A.R.E. 10th annual P.J. Martin Memorial Walkathon Sept. 20.

Assistant principal Steve Carpenter, faculty and parents joined NBC6's weatherman Larry Sprinkle at the 5-mile walk held at Butler High School to help raise money and send children with cancer to summer camp.

Camp C.A.R.E. (Cancer Ain't Really the End) is for children with cancer that are being or have been treated in the Charlotte area. The camp provides children with a normal camping experience and activities for them and their families. Camp C.A.R.E. staff is comprised of all volunteers and all monies raised goes toward camp and monthly activities.

Proudly wearing their red "Senior Pride" T-shirts, the Charlotte Catholic seniors and faculty showed their strong sense of community by collecting pledges and giving up their Saturday morning to raise more than $2,100 for Camp C.A.R.E.

Beth St. Martin, a Camp C.A.R.E. board member, was "overwhelmed by the tremendous show of support by these students and the Charlotte Catholic community."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information on Camp C.A.R.E., call (704) 384-7568.

A MATTER OF MERIT

# Charlotte Catholic students named semifinalists

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School seniors Michael Florack, Sarah Knish, Stephen Norris and Geoff Sholler were among approximately 16,000 seminfinalists named in the 4th annual National Merit Scholarship program.

These scholastically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards, worth $32 million, that will be offered next spring. To continue, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements and advance to finalist standing, a prerequisite to being considered for a Merit Scholarship award.

The annual Merit Scholarship competition is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. Scholarships awarded through the National Merit Program are underwritten by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions as well as by NMSC's own funds.

Merit Scholarship winners are academic champions who will be the leaders of tomorrow, according to the NMSC. Winners will be selected on the strength of their accomplishments and abilities and without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

Merit Scholarship winners of 2004 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 218,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

# School battens hatches

Lockdown, *from page 1*

standing job. They continued without missing a beat," said Wehde. "They reacted in a professional manner and reassured the children they were safe and continued with their classes."

"I am proud of the reaction and behavior of the faculty and staff, as well as the students, during this situation," said Cherry.

While the school does have lockdown procedures in case of an intruder on the property or in the building, Wehde described the Sept. 25 situation as more of a "shut-down" situation.

"We have gated areas in the parking lot. I felt OK that there would be no access to the administrative building or the classrooms," said Wehde. "When we deal with our greatest commodity — children — we have to be absolutely certain of their safety."

"While we hope we never have to use lockdown drills in our schools, the purpose of those drills is to plan for situations we can never expect," said Cherry. "Our children's safety was and is the most important factor in any situation."

About an hour later, police called the school and said they apprehended the man "fairly close to Immaculate Heart of Mary," said Wehde. Police did not find a gun, though witnesses earlier had seen him with one, according to the *Greensboro News & Record's* High Point bureau.

The man, who had been in an argument earlier with people who lived in his girlfriend's apartment complex, was charged with assault on a female, communicating threats and assault with a deadly weapon. He was also served two outstanding warrants and was being held Thursday at the Guilford County Jail in High Point under $25,000 secured bond.

"It's another reminder that the world we live in today is one of potentially great violence," said Wehde.

Although a letter was sent home to all the parents, Wehde said some parents heard about the situation that morning.

"Overall, they understand we have a professional staff that loves the children and will protect them as best as we can," he said. "They know we have safety protocols in place. They see our diligence for the concern and the safety of their children."

Wehde said the school regularly meets with law enforcement authorities to maintain a high level of security and safety at the school.

"We're re-evaluating plans to get better and better," he said.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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7702 Pineville-Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
**Oct. 12 3:00-6:00 pm**

**Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School (6-8)**
3100 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
**Oct. 12 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School (K-5)**
4225 Shamrock Drive
Charlotte, NC 28215

**St. Ann Catholic School (K-5)**
600 Hillside Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209

**St. Gabriel Catholic School (K-5)**
3028 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

**St. Mark Catholic School (K-5) & (6)**
14750 Stumptown Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

**St. Matthew Catholic School (K-5)**
11525 Elm Lane
Charlotte, NC 28277

**St. Patrick Catholic School (K-5)**
1125 Buchanan Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
**Oct. 26 1:30-3:30 pm**

*MACS proudly offers Catholic Christian values to a diverse community of boys and girls in grades K-12.*

# The Transitus of St. Francis

## *Death, history of saint recalled at service*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — The Transitus of St. Francis — the celebration before the feast.

Franciscans throughout the world honor St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4, but they also celebrate, on Oct. 3, the Transitus: St. Francis' passing from earthly to eternal life.

"It's like a wake service because we remember the person's life, but it's also joyful," said Franciscan Father John Salvas, parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church.

St. Francis' attitude, Father Salvas said, "puts life in perspective. For me, he saw it as an old, worn-out shoe that you discard for something new and better. He died resembling Christ right at the end, stripped of everything."

On Oct. 3, the Capuchin Franciscan friars from Immaculate Conception and members of the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, which meets there, processed down the church's center aisle.

Readers recounted the saint's last days, described by Thomas of Celano, his fellow friar and first biographer.

Thomas' account says "the friars sang the Canticle (of the Creatures) many times a day to comfort the saint's failing spirit, and sometimes into the night as well."

St. Francis wrote this joyful canticle to praise God through all creation. It ends with, "All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death, from whose embrace no mortal can escape."

Throughout the service, the story was interspersed with everyone singing verses from "All Creatures of Our God and King," a version of the canticle.

St. Francis blessed each of the friars, and, Thomas said, "asked for bread, and he blessed it and, like Christ at the last supper, distributed it to all present, while the Gospel of St. John was read beginning with the Passion."

As Rev. Mr. Tony Marini read the Passion at the service, Father Salvas blessed a round loaf of freshly baked bread, which was broken into pieces and distributed to the participants.

The story states St. Francis saw Death enter the room, "and he asked a brother to announce as a herald of arms does, the solemn arrival of his expected guest...."

He requested the friars place him on the ground. His nakedness covered with sackcloth and his head covered with ashes and dust, he recited Psalm 142. After which, Thomas wrote, Francis "died singing, in the forty-sixth year of his age, and the twenty-fifth of his conversion."

Those in Friday's congregation also recited the psalm.

As is traditional at the Transitus, the friars renewed their vows to "observe the Rule of the friars Minor ... living in obedience, without property and in chastity." The Secular Franciscans renewed their commitments to "live all the days of my life the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Secular Franciscan Order by observing its rule of life ... so that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love."

"I've always loved the Transitus," Brother Francisco said. "It's probably the only celebration where all the orders come together."

The Transitus "reminds us death is not the end," said Lazaro, minister (president) of the St. Clare Fraternity in Asheville. "It should not be a sad occasion, it's happy, from this place to a better place."

Larry Carter, who made his permanent Secular Franciscan profession in June 1941, said the Transitus is "just reliving the death of Francis .... He wasn't afraid of death, but welcomed it. Too bad we can't all look at death that way."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

### ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Oct. 4 is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, the environment and merchants.

St. Francis gave up his wealth to serve the poor, and is also remembered for his deep affection for other creatures and his thankfulness to God for the wonder of creation. St. Francis is considered the founder of all Franciscan orders. The mission and, subsequently, the city of San Francisco were named in his honor.

During the last years of his relatively short life (he died at 44) he was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

Catholic Social Services

**Catholic Social Services**
**Adoption Information Meeting**
**for Russia and China**

**Saturday, Oct. 25 - 2pm**
**Diocesan office: 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte**
**Info: Michele or Carol at 888-990-4199**

# Secular Franciscans celebrate Transitus with new candidates

## *Participants reflect on St. Francis' inspiration*

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

LENOIR — Each year at their Transitus service, the Hickory Secular Franciscans celebrate the passage of St. Francis of Assisi from earthly life to everlasting life. They do so with hymns, prayers and readings from accounts of the saint's life.

Six candidates for profession into the Secular Franciscan Order participated in this year's Transitus service held at St. Francis of Assisi Church Oct. 3. The feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment, is Oct. 4.

Secular Franciscans strive to observe the Gospel by following the example of St. Francis, founder of the Franciscan Order who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life. They promise to devote themselves especially to careful reading of the Gospel — going from Gospel to life and from life to the Gospel — as St. Francis is known for taking the Gospel literally.

To become a member of the order, an interested person goes through an inquiry stage of four to six months before applying for candidacy. Candidates wait 18 months, participating in meetings and events with their local groups, before they can go through the rite of profession.

The Hickory Secular Franciscans will have 17 members after their current candidates make their rite of profession at the church Oct. 12, and have two potential members in the inquiry stage. Several of the candidates read accounts of St. Francis at the Transitus service.

Candidate Bill Borst read an account of the appearance of the stigmata — the marks of Christ's crucifixion — on the hands, feet and side of St. Francis after he prayed to experience the pains of Christ's Passion.

Borst has traveled to Assisi, Italy, three times and originally became interested in St. Francis as an historical figure. St. Francis, born at Assisi in Umbria around 1181 or 1182 (the exact date is uncertain), died there in October 1226.

"I knew what an influential person he was, but after I went to Assisi, I did some reading," said Borst. "I got fascinated with him, with the power he had in communication, in getting to all those people in a time frame when communication was word of mouth or occasionally written."

Candidate Yong Sun Thompson said her mother was a Secular Franciscan in Korea.

"She was very devoted to it. I grew up with it," said Thompson.

Born in Korea, Thompson immigrated to the United States with her mother 28 years ago. She and her 9-year-old son live in Lenoir and are parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Ruth Thoni, a Secular Franciscan, holds a replica of her husband's San Damiano cross at the Transitus service at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir Oct. 3.

"I was in charismatic prayer groups and felt the Holy Spirit calling to me," she said. "I wanted to do something better, something more than just going to Mass on Sundays."

Candidate Dr. Doug Miller, a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Newton, read during the service an account of how a brother saw the soul of St. Francis ascending after his death. It was St. Francis who interested Miller in the Secular Franciscans.

"My approach to religion has always been intellectual," said Miller. "St. Francis had a very simple, pious, loving relationship with Christ. I needed that to balance my personality."

Candidates Becky Snow of St. Francis of Assisi Church and Ellie Obrist of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone also credit St. Francis with inspiring them.

"I've always loved St. Francis," said Snow, who read from the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order during the service, became interested in the group after attending an earlier Transitus service.

"I am drawn to him (St. Francis), and his love of people and animals," said Obrist, who grew up around Franciscans.

"I was raised by Franciscans and received all my sacraments from Franciscans," she said. "I was raised with stories of the kindness and gentleness of Franciscans."

Candidate Marilyn Dunphy worked for Franciscan organizations in many capacities in New York for several years.

"They treated me like family," she said. "I was their sister. I got to know their way of life. They wanted me to join, but I didn't do it. Now, years later, I'm doing it."

"I think if more people thought they could live the Gospel way of life, it would be a better world," Dunphy added. "It starts with one person, so I'll do my bit."

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the Secular Franciscans, call (800) FRANCIS or, in the Hickory area, call Bill Brockhoff at (828) 464-5113.

# Upcoming workshop to discuss Cherokee, Catholic issues

BRYSON CITY — Many new residents in western North Carolina know the Cherokee people have roots that go deeply into the history of the area. What is often not known is the history of the Cherokee, their contributions to the culture and the travails they have faced. The events of the past still have implications for the life of present-day Cherokee people.

"Catholics and Cherokees: Learning from Each Other," a free workshop hosted by the Smoky Mountain Vicariate and funded by an Operation Rice Bowl grant, will examine these and other issues at St. Joseph Church Oct. 18.

The workshop will help participants to better understand the history of the Cherokee and current issues of major concern to them. A part of the program will be the linking of Catholic social teachings to Cherokee issues and the importance of advocacy and dialogue in contemporary society.

Presenters include Patty Grant, social worker advocate for the Tribal Diabetes Program and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who will present information on historical trauma and intergenerational grief and its impact on the lives of Cherokee people today, and Cherokee culture and spirituality.

B. Lynne Harlan, public relations assistant to Joyce Dugan at Harrah's Cherokee Casino and a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will discuss tribal government and sovereignty, and the political, economic and social impact of high stakes gaming in Cherokee.

Father Shawn O'Neal, administrator at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee and St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, will link Catholic social teachings with Cherokee issues.

Russ Townsend, archeologist with EBCI Cultural Resources Department and a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, will discuss Cherokee history including the Trail of Tears and cultural values.

**WANT TO GO?**

The free workshop will be held 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 316 Main Street in Bryson City. For more information or to register, contact Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or maryherr@dnet.net; or call St. Joseph Church at (828) 488-6766.

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Architect David Clinton; building committee members Nora Resa, Laura Rolls, Father Ricardo Sanchez; architect Michael Hining; and Frank Murphy.

# Parish plans expansion, fall fiesta

BISCOE — Once a sleepy little parish, Our Lady of the Americas Church is now home to approximately 1,000 Catholics. A mission of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle, the church's growth has demanded expansion and its new location is now one step closer to reality.

The parish building committee recently presented the master plan and architectural sketches to its members for approval, and is now working with a budget to present the plans to the Diocese of Charlotte. Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, director of diocesan properties office, has been working with the committee to create a road map to bring the project into being.

The parish will celebrate a fall fiesta at the new church site on Sunday, Oct. 12. The event begins with a bilingual Mass at 10 a.m. and following festivities include authentic Mexican food, live music, auction, beauty pageant and a raffle with a $1,000 cash prize.

**WANT TO GO?**

Our Lady of the Americas Church fall fiesta will take place on Highway 221, one road east of I-220. For more information, contact Laura Rolls at (910) 673-4077.

# Brothers in service

COURTESY PHOTO BY R.W. KEENAN

From left: John, Jared and Jesse Keenan are brothers and altar servers serving their first Mass together at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Sept. 20. The brothers' 92-year-old grandmother, Margaret Keenan, made the trip from Wichita, Kan., for the occasion.

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# Golden jubilee

ST. FRANCIS, *from page 1*

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church, parishioners observed 50 hours of eucharistic adoration beginning Thursday morning and ending shortly before the anniversary Mass Saturday morning. Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis concelebrated the Mass with Father Matthew Kauth, administrator, and Father Richard McCue, former pastor of the parish, for a congregation of 200 people.

In recognition of its growing Hispanic population, the Mass was celebrated in both English and Spanish. Bishop-designate Jugis gave his homily in both languages.

Father Kauth and the parish had been anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new crucifix and two statues — Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph the Worker with the infant Jesus — which Father Kauth purchased on a recent trip to Spain.

At 10:30 p.m. Friday, the shipment arrived and the statues were put into place for Saturday's celebration. During the Mass, Bishop-designate Jugis blessed the crucifix and statues.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Bishop-designate Jugis led a eucharistic procession to three altars outside the church and concluded with a benediction.

Afterward, parishioners of all ages celebrated their parish anniversary at a church festival at the Macon County Fairgrounds Saturday afternoon, where they enjoyed carnival games, hayrides, a craft fair, a flea market sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and, of course, lots of food.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis blesses Jack Lehtinen at the church festival Oct. 4. Lehtinen has been a parishioner of St Francis of Assisi Church for 25 years — half the history of the Franklin Catholic church.

St. Francis of Assisi Church was established in the early 1950s by then-Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh. With just eight members, the parish was originally a mission of St. John Church in Waynesville.

By the time the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, St. Francis of Assisi Church had grown at such a consistent pace that then-Bishop Michael J. Begley extended the church's boundaries to include most of Macon county and include Our Lady of the Mountains Church as a mission church.

The Catholic population continued to grow throughout the next decade, and in 1981 a new church was constructed across the street from the original location.

Under the direction of then-pastor Father Richard McCue and then-parochial vicar Father James Collins, an expansion project added a new parish center that included faith formation classrooms, a chapel and pastor's office.

In 1998, Father C. Morris Boyd became the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, where he served for the next five years. In order to better serve Hispanic Catholics, Father Boyd took a yearlong sabbatical to Mexico to study Spanish and serve two churches with 64,000 parishioners. He returned to the Diocese of Charlotte this past summer to serve as administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson and its mission, St. Frances of Rome Church in Sparta.

Today, St. Francis of Assisi Church represents a wide cross-section of the mountain population — retirees, young families and a growing Hispanic population. The parish community is thriving, not just in its population, but also in its spiritual mission. The parishioners attribute this in large part to Father Kauth.

Like Bishop-designate Jugis, Father Kauth is fluent in Spanish, having spent a month in Spain prior to his coming to St. Francis of Assisi. With this fluency, Father Kauth has been able to minister to the Hispanic parishioners as well as Anglos.

"Father Kauth has done so many wonderful things for my soul," said Rosa Hoffart, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church for the past 17 years. "He is doing the job he is supposed to do — bring people closer to God."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

## HIGH-ADVENTURE HAYRIDE

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Francis of Assisi parishioners enjoy a bumpy hayride across a field at the Macon County Fairgrounds.


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# Half-century of multiculturalism

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Taylorsville enjoy international cuisine during the 50th anniversary celebration of the church Oct. 5.

THOMASVILLE, *from page 1*

lar title, the parish and pastor Franciscan Father Thomas Fitzpatrick developed a floating feast day on the fourth Sunday of September.

This year, however, the feast day was pushed back to Oct. 5 to coincide with the parish's 50th anniversary celebration of Our Lady of the Highways Church.

"It was in 1953 that the cornerstone was placed on the 3.5 acre plot on which Our Lady of the Highways stands today," said Father Fitzpatrick.

Father Fitzpatrick speaks proudly of the church's exquisite Spanish mission style architecture, which is unusual for the Carolinas.

"Perhaps it was a sign of prophecy, because at that time the Hispanic population was zero and today the Hispanic population of the parish has grown to better than half," said Father Fitzpatrick.

Marci Garcia, a parishioner of Mexican heritage, said there has been much Hispanic growth since she arrived at the church 13 years ago.

"There were only three or four Hispanic families. We celebrated Mass in Spanish maybe once a year (in the summer)," said Garcia, who runs the youth group and serves as a translator at Mass.

Our Lady of the Highways Church developed a Hispanic ministry in 1983, which began as a 17-week program.

"Now there are many members of the Hispanic community," said Garcia. "The community has grown to the point that we have Spanish Masses every week, as well as Hispanic youth groups."

Delfina Paniagua, a native of El Salvador and a parish coordinator for the Hispanic community, expressed satisfaction with the growth rate of Hispanics in the parish.

"(What I like most) is that we understand that there are other customs and backgrounds that are good to learn about," she said.

Hispanic cultures are among 21 countries that make up the parish, which now boasts over 450 families.

Irene Poppe and Louise Rawlins, who were among the original 12 families involved in the establishment of Our Lady of the Highways Church, agreed the parish has come a very long way in the last 50 years.

"It is good to see so many people celebrating as a parish family," said Poppe, who emigrated from Poland to escape war. "It means that we are growing."

The festive 50th anniversary celebration began with a Benediction by Father Fitzpatrick. During his homily, he tied in the worship practices of Israel, wherein the temple was the center of prayer and sacrifice and also the place in which the Ark of the Covenant rested.

"This building (named in honor of the new Ark of the Covenant — Mary) is where the people of God come to worship Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for our salvation," said Father Fitzpatrick.

"This church is a symbol of the presence of God. It is a beacon of the charity and love of God," he said. "People put a lot into making this church; not for themselves, but for the love of God. The images and icons on the walls and windows throughout the entire church tell the story of the life, Passion, death and resurrection of Christ."

Father Fitzpatrick concluded by thanking both the "old timers and "new timers" of the parish, for all the sacrifices they made to build and keep the church going.

Founded as a mission church in the early 1950s, Our Lady of the Highways Church was under the administration of either Holy Rosary Church in Lexington or Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point until July 1970, when the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales assisted Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh in establishing Our Lady of the Highways as a parish.

"(The festival) celebrates the perseverance and longevity of the faith and discipleship, as well as the commitment of the parishioners of Our Lady of the Highways for the last 50 years," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, who joined in the festivities.

In 1980, the parish added a picnic center and mobile classroom units for faith formation classes.

Rev. Mr. Wayne Adams, a convert since 1989 and permanent deacon to the parish since 1995, said both he and the parish "have gone through a multitude of changes. Among the (recent) changes I have witnessed is the addition of both the rectory and the parish center."

Those additions were dedicated Sept. 17, 1989.

"Today is a great opportunity to put our two communities together (Hispanic and Anglo)," said Garcia. "It shows that we can work together, even as we see and learn the customs of each other's countries."

*Editor's Note: For more on the history of Our Lady of the Highways Church, please see the Parish Profile in our next issue, Oct. 17.*

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Irene Poppe, a long-time parishioner of Our Lady of the Highways Church, displays icons from her native Poland at the anniversary celebration Oct. 5.

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# Decade as minor basilica

ST. LAWRENCE, *from*

aisle as Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor, and others processed to the altar for the bilingual celebration Mass Oct. 5.

"(The church) is a major presence of Christ in western North Carolina," said Father Thomas, "(and) a celebration of the reality and growth since the building was dedicated as a basilica."

In 1993, Pope John Paul II designated St. Lawrence as a minor basilica — from the Greek word for "house of the king," basilica is a term of special designation given by the Holy Father to certain churches because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance or significance as a place of worship. Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, former bishop of Charlotte, said it was a "great honor" for him to dedicate the church as the Basilica of St. Lawrence in October of that year.

During his anniversary Mass homily, Father Thomas spoke about how one visitor, Rafael Guastavino, was unable to find a seat during a Mass in the earlier St. Lawrence Church sanctuary in the summer of 1905. Guastavino, a renowned Spanish architect working in the area on the Biltmore House, believed a Catholic church should have enough seats for all strangers and offered to design a grander facility.

Guastavino crafted the new church in the style of Spanish Renaissance, rarely found in this area of the country, and donated the church's elliptical dome, which has a span of 58 by 82 feet — the largest freestanding elliptical dome in North America. When Guastavino died in 1908, his son took over construction and Bishop Leo Haid dedicated the new church in October 1909. Cardinal James Gibbons consecrated the church — the first one to be consecrated in the Vicariate of North Carolina — in October 1920.

The church, now on the National Register of Historic Places, houses the crypt of Guastavino.

"Many strangers have made it (the basilica) their home, a place of solace," said Father Thomas.

The challenge now, he said, is "how to make this wonderful environment a place to call home and to feel at home with one another. The church is not complete but a work in progress, being fleshed out by our living relationship in coming together within these walls."

After the anniversary Mass, approximately 500 parishioners joined a catered reception at the Asheville Civic Center.

COURTESY PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

The Basilica of St. Lawrence, designed by a Spanish architect in the early 1900s, was designated by Pope John Paul II as a minor basilica in 1993.

Lucille Lamy, a parishioner for 76 years, recalled many changes since joining the church at age 2 — the baptismal font had been moved several times and a side door had been added to accommodate the increase in Mass attendance.

In keeping with Vatican II, in 1968 the altar was moved to the middle of the sanctuary; the altar's fresco of the Last Supper and its flanking panels were removed and topped with a 1,800-pound block of Tennessee marble to form a new altar table.

Tommy Davis, whose Sicilian grandfather helped build some of the church's interior, has been a parishioner since birth. "(The basilica) is a place that makes me feel holy," he said.

"It's very special to have a church of this caliber ... and the devotion of the parishioners and priests to maintain the basilica as a historic site," said Joanne Coates, a parishioner.

"It's not easy to build a community of people," said Father Joseph Dinh, parochial vicar. "No community is perfect. We need to recognize our weaknesses and our strengths to move forward."

The basilica, which now boasts over 930 families, offers perpetual eucharistic adoration, instituted by then-pastor Father Clark Kaltreider in 1989, and a weekly Spanish language Mass.

"It's good seeing the interaction among people, some who go to different Masses and don't get to see each other often, in a parish setting at home with each other," said Father Thomas.

"We needed something to draw us together as a community," he said. "The church is an expression of faith and sacrifice of many people over the years."

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# Culture Watch

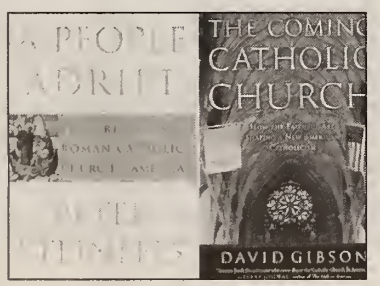
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two books take a long view of the U.S. Catholic Church

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During 2002, books with "Catholic" and "crisis" in the title were a staple in a bookstore's religion section. Their focus was the crisis of 2002 — sexual abuse of children by clergy. These two new books by Peter Steinfels and David Gibson recognize that, while sexual abuse by clergy is a part of it, the Catholic crisis is deeper, wider and more than an annual event.

Unlike some authors who, in writing about the sexual abuse crisis, cited a specific cause, such as dissent or homosexual clergy, Steinfels and Gibson demonstrate that the crisis is the result of multiple factors. Each factor, explained in a tone that is calm but emphatic, will give readers cause to think.




"A People Adrift: The Crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in America," by Peter Steinfels. Simon and Schuster (New York, 2003). 392 pp., $26.00

"The Coming Catholic Church: How the Faithful are Shaping a New American Catholicism," by David Gibson. Harper (San Francisco, 2003). 350 pp., $23.95.

As an editor, writer, and university instructor, Steinfels has the credentials to state, "American Catholicism, to put it bluntly, is in trouble." He thinks decisions in the next decade or two will determine the church's direction for the remainder of this century.

His opening chapter provides a concise overview of the scandal and the issues it raised. Steinfels sees a "vacuum of leadership," not only during the sex abuse scandal, but also in liturgy, catechesis, the role of women, institutions, and among the bishops themselves.

As he ends one chapter, Steinfels links it to the next. For example, concerns about worship lead to how the faith is being handed on from one generation to the next. A short but thorough history of catechetics in the U.S. leads him to conclude that adults must be the prime market for religious education.

In regard to women, Steinfels maintains, "Catholicism is at a very strange juncture." He is thorough in delineating church teachings and attitudes toward sexual matters and the role of women, including the ordination of women to the priesthood.

"To forbid discussion of a church practice is a virtual admission that it cannot withstand scrutiny," he writes of women's ordination. He states, "If the church's case against ordaining women to the priesthood is valid, it should withstand the test of Catholics' becoming familiar with women ordained to the diaconate and women holding positions of real decision-making power."

In his chapter on leadership Steinfels not only speaks of bishops, priests, religious and laity, he also speaks to them. His critique of bishops' leadership cites failures of comprehension, empathy, decisiveness, focus, persistence, follow-through, openness and explanation.

Maintaining that as a group U.S. bishops are less likely to take the initiative on issues than they did 20 years ago, he asks, "Why are American bishops so consistently spineless in their dealings with Rome? Why are they so pliable before the nation's handful of cardinals? Do they fear being excluded from the club of other bishops? Do they fear the low-level harassment that Vatican offices can conduct?"

Meanwhile, in "The Coming Catholic Church," his first book, Gibson touches upon most of the same topics as Steinfels, as well as clericalism and the church after Pope John Paul II. He is optimistic about the reform process, acknowledging it as a "difficult road ahead," while calling it "inspiring and invigorating."

He says that women, Latinos and young people are the "tripod on which the future of American Catholicism rests. Remove any of them, and the church will be in serious trouble."

Gibson is a former religion writer at the Newark Star-Ledger daily newspaper and a former Vatican Radio reporter who converted to Catholicism as an adult. His book draws upon polling research, Catholic thought over the last couple of decades and interviews with people who bring an educated perspective to aspects of the crisis.

Both books are must reading.

These books are a source of personal, prayerful reflection, a basis for candid discussion and an inspiration for action to correct those flaws that threaten to weaken, and possibly destroy, the institutional church. Their words are too important to be ignored if Catholics are to witness a church — their church — as one, holy, catholic and apostolic rather than as one that is perpetually in crisis.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 12, 2003

## *Oct. 12, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Cycle B Readings:**
1) Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
2) Hebrews 4:12-13
3) Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

He was a skilled laborer, unobtrusive of personality, who lived quietly and simply in a one-room apartment. He enjoyed his work and his co-workers, and was a loyal, caring friend and family member. When he died in his 70s, those who knew him were left scratching their heads in bewilderment. Through savings and careful, wise investment, he'd amassed a small fortune and bequeathed it, in the form of a foundation, to meet the educational needs of the indigent youth of his community. Maybe you read his story in the newspaper, as I did.

His family and neighbors had no idea he had all that money, not to mention such acumen in investing. They wondered: Why did he never buy himself a house or even a car? Why didn't he ever go on a nice vacation? Why didn't he get a stylish wardrobe or own a computer?

My guess is that he had an Old-Testament sense of wisdom as revealed in this weekend's reading. He preferred the simple life of work, friends and family so much that he eschewed even the smallest excesses that would detract from it.

Rather than comfort, he preferred the intensity and beauty and love of the everyday dance with humanity: toil, conversation, conflict and reconciliation, hurting and healing, quiet, resting.

And likely, he decided not to give away his money while he was still alive because the attention and admiration would change all his relationships.

That was the spirit of wisdom he chose. The scriptural version explains it metaphorically: "I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her.... Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, and I chose to have her rather than the light because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.... All good things together came to me in her company."

***Questions:***

What creature comforts in your life do you mistakenly consider to be necessities? How do these comforts lead you to sleepwalk through life and miss some of the divine gifts it offers?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"Go and sell what you have and give to the poor; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me" (Mark 10:21cd).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 12 - OCTOBER 18**

**Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; **Monday,** Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Callistus I),** Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Teresa of Avila),** Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Marguerite d'Youville),** Romans 3:21-30, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Ignatius of Antioch),** Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Luke),** 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 - OCTOBER 25**

**Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. Paul of the Cross),** Romans 4:20-25, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday,** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday,** Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday (St. John of Capistrano),** Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday (St. Anthony Mary Claret),** Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9

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**TV WATCH**

# UPN aspires to mediocrity

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — UPN once again aspires to mediocrity and achieves it with the most anemic lineup since the hapless 1962 New York Mets. What else should viewers expect from a weekly programming schedule in which the highlight is its Thursday night "WWE Smackdown"?

With its prime-time powerhouse, "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," hanging up her wooden stakes, UPN's parent company, Viacom, has threatened to shut down the network unless its new offerings — none of which can be wholly recommended as appropriate family fare — pay Nielsen dividends. A word of advice to UPN execs: Start sending out those resumes.

UPN's new fall series at a glance:

— "Eve," Mondays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.

Hip-hop artist Eve plays an up-and-coming fashion designer trying to navigate the Miami singles scene in search of true romance.

Don't Bother: UPN is crossing its fingers that Eve's popularity will translate recording platinum into prime-time gold, but the show's canned situations and forced humor — some of it sexually laced — should make channel-surfing the second most popular sport on Monday nights this fall.

— "All of Us," Tuesdays, 8:30-9 p.m. EDT.

Domestic comedy executive-produced by Will Smith and actress-wife Jada Pinkett-Smith about a Los Angeles entertainment critic refereeing hostilities between his new fiance and his ex-wife, with his 5-year-old son caught in the crossfire.

Some Interest: Despite its lackluster writing, the show does take the potentially detrimental effects of divorce on young children seriously. Unfortunately, the solution offered subscribes to the fatuous assumption that the family unit is a malleable concept which can accommodate any domestic arrangement, as long as everyone plays nice.

APOSTLES

**STANDING FIRM AGAINST THE 'RIVER'**

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

Sean Penn and Kevin Bacon star in a scene from the dramatic movie "Mystic River," a provocative, morally ambiguous tale of three former childhood pals contentiously thrown together after the daughter of one is murdered, the second becomes a suspect and the third is the homicide detective on the case.

# 'Mystic River' deep with plot, suspense

BY GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A childhood incident has shattering consequences when a murder reunites three former friends in the Clint Eastwood-directed "Mystic River" (Warner Bros.).

Eastwood seems to have come full circle, from once having starred as vigilante cop Dirty Harry in action movies that glamorized violence to directing more mature films such as "Unforgiven" and this gritty drama to address the horror and human consequences of violence.

Although this is not a morally satisfying film where the clarity of black-and-white characterizations leads to good triumphing over evil, it is a work that screams its repulsion at those who have harmed a child — and demonstrates the terrible effects that can have, even decades later.

The setting is a working-class Boston neighborhood where three boys are carving their name in wet cement when a car pulls up and two men claiming to be cops scold them — and order Dave, the most timid boy, into their car. Three days later Dave escapes from them, forever haunted by the sexual abuse he suffered at their hands.

Nearly 30 years later, the three are no longer friends, although Dave (Tim Robbins) and Jimmy (Sean Penn) have married cousins. Sean (Kevin Bacon) is a troubled homicide detective whose wife left him months ago, gave birth and phones him periodically — but never answers his plea to come home or at least tell him the baby's name. Jimmy went to the other side of the law, served time, and now is a corner-store owner and devoted family man, father of three girls. Katie (Emmy Rossum), the oldest at 19, is the apple of his eye.

Underachiever Dave has a little boy and an earnest wife, Celeste (Marcia Gay Harden), who tolerates his moodiness and secretive ways.

The story kicks into high gear when Katie and her girlfriends go out barhopping the night before her planned elopement with a young man (Thomas Guiry) her dad detests. In the middle of the night, Dave arrives home in bloody clothes and tells Celeste a suspect story about overreacting to a mugger, killing him and fleeing.

But the next day, Katie's bloodied body is discovered and detective Sean is assigned to the case. An enraged Jimmy promises to get the killer himself and uses his thuggish brothers-in-law to scour the neighborhood for information.

As Sean focuses on Katie's boyfriend and his tangled family history, he can't ignore a very nervous Dave as an emerging suspect, but determines to sort it all out before a near-crazed Jimmy falls off the straight and narrow.

With a script by Brian Helgeland ("L.A. Confidential") from Dennis Lehane's riveting best seller, Eastwood has a taut narrative to work with and gets some remarkable performances from his cast. Hands down, Penn steals the movie from the ensemble cast, his grief fueling the emotional heart of the story. His portrayal, at once intensely reined in yet explosive, may be impossible for Academy members to ignore at Oscar-nomination time.

Bacon's detective fills the bill, as does Laurence Fishburne in a smaller role as his police partner, but another standout is Robbins, who conveys how deeply frightened and vulnerable Dave is. As Jimmy's wife, Laura Linney shows her cold practicality when push comes to shove and justice be damned, while Harden as Dave's wife gradually unravels on screen.

In addition to directing, Eastwood produced the film and composed the music score which uses fiery, dramatic passages to underline key plot points. Visually, the on-location shoot in Boston serves the film well — unlike the preponderance of foul language, which may be realistic but is still unnecessary and unwelcome.

These are morally complex, fleshed-out characterizations that defy easy categories. What is of interest is not the lack of a crime-does-not-pay finish, but the inescapable conclusion that the murderous violence that resulted had its genesis in a life-deforming act of sexual molestation. We are shown how violence begets violence and its reach can extend to a new generation. This is quite different from the kind of mindless action film where violence seems to have no consequences and violent perpetrators are often made to look heroic.

Though grimly disturbing, "Mystic River" manages to be both a suspenseful and sobering meditation on our flawed human nature and capacity for evil.

Because of brief but intense violence, much rough language and occasional profanity, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*Pare is the director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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RECHARGING SPIRITUAL BATTERIES

# Hispanic youth learn about God's presence, overcoming setbacks

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Half the people in the group sat blindfolded, thinking about their lives. As they listened to soothing, spiritual music, Claretian Father Jorge Iban Gallo spoke softly of the presence of God within them, of forgiveness, family, friends and being able to accept love.

Some 46 Hispanic youth, ages 15 to 25, from parishes in Hendersonville, Asheville, Canton, Andrews, Franklin and Murphy, gathered in the Immaculata School gym for a confidence-building workshop Oct. 4-6.

The other half of the group returned, laughing, shouting and clapping, before switching places with the blindfolded group and repeating the exercise.

Clapping, said Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry coordinator of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, was a form of encouragement. Being blindfolded, he said, emphasized that eyes are not the only way to see.

Father Gallo, originally from Bogotá, Colombia, is an instructor at the Southeast Pastoral Institute in Miami, Fla., which trains Hispanic parish leaders. Bernal contacted him after Franciscan Father John Salvas, parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, asked Bernal for a youth activity. Bernal organized the event with Inocencia Chacón, the Asheville Vicariate's Hispanic ministry coordinator; and her husband, Jorge, Hispanic choir leader at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

"A lot of these people are not in any youth group, so that is why I needed them to come to this," Bernal said.

Father Gallo spoke about being able to bounce back from setbacks, about not being possessive of people and things.

"I liked how [Father Gallo] is really dynamic; he expresses serious topics with jokes and things that youth can understand," said Irene Medina, a team member from Hendersonville and a computer-science student at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Among the ideas Father Gallo conveyed: "The most important thing is the meaning of life, to pray for life, have a plan for your life. (We must) erase from ourselves the wrong ideas about our life, such as when you're in love, you think the other person is your whole life and that's not true."

In one exercise, Father Gallo had each person write on pieces of paper things that made their lives either worthwhile or difficult.

Small votive lights, representing Jesus as the light of life, surrounded a colorful serape on the floor. By placing the pieces of paper in piles on either side of a Bible on the serape, the youth symbolically gave both the good and bad things in their lives to Christ.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Claretian Father Jorge Iban Gallo makes talks about spirituality and life during the Hispanic youth workshop at Immaculata School in Hendersonville Oct. 4-6.

Sergio Ruis from Franklin said the workshop had recharged his "spiritual batteries."

"I know more about how to talk to people about my faith and to trust them," said, Viris Marin of Hendersonville. "If the person is really your friend, he will help you any time you need it."

"I know [the workshop] is going to have some kind of effect," Bernal said. "After other similar gatherings, people have a more positive attitude."

The youth took home pamphlets Bernal provided on such topics as the Mass, sacraments, Mary and Scripture. The workshop concluded with an afternoon Mass in Immaculate Conception Church.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Padres meet with bishop-designate

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The Hispanic priests of the Diocese of Charlotte met with Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis at the diocesan pastoral center Sept. 24. The bishop-designate and the priests got to know one another, learned about the diocesan plan for Hispanic ministry and exchanged their experiences in the priesthood. From left: Father Enrique Gonzalez, parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory; Redemptorist Father Alvara Riquelme, administrator of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis; Capuchin Father Juan Carlos Hildalgo, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem; Father Fidel Melo, administrator of new Boonville mission; Father Julio Cesar Dominguez, parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Bishop-designate Jugis; Vincentian Father Jaime Gonzalez, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Guadalulpe Church in Charlotte; Father Jose Antonio Juya, Gastonia Vicariate coordinator of Hispanic Ministry; Father Luis Osorio, parochial viacar of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro; and Father Ricardo Sanchez, administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe.


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# Vatican right about Iraq

LAGHI, *from page 1*

Bush on March 5 the president began expounding the reasons for war at length, until the cardinal interrupted to say: "I did not come here only to listen, but also to ask you to listen."

Bush listened to the cardinal, but raised objections to the Vatican's moral arguments against use of force, its rejection of "preventive war" and its warnings about the practical consequences for Iraqis and others.

When Bush said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was training members of the terrorist organization al-Qaida, Cardinal Laghi said he asked him: "Are you sure? Where is the evidence?"

Cardinal Laghi also questioned the administration's conviction that Iraq possessed and was ready to use weapons of mass destruction.

But Bush had no doubt that he was right, the cardinal said. The president acted almost as if he were divinely inspired and "seemed to truly believe in a war of good against evil," Cardinal Laghi said.

"We spoke a long time about the consequences of a war. I asked: 'Do you realize what you'll unleash inside Iraq by occupying it?' The disorder, the conflicts between Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds — everything that has in fact happened," the cardinal said.

Bush insisted that democracy would be the main result.

At the end of the encounter, Cardinal Laghi recounted, Bush said that although they disagreed about many points at least they held common positions on the defense of human life and opposition to human cloning. The cardinal replied that those issues were not the purpose of his mission.

On his way out of the White House, Cardinal Laghi said his sense that Bush and his aides had already made up their minds to attack Iraq was confirmed when a Marine general came up to him, shook his hand and said: "Your eminence, don't worry. What we're going to do, we will do quickly and well."

Three weeks later, air strikes and the ground campaign against Iraq began.

The cardinal said that, in the end, the pope and the church did not appear to have much influence on the decision to go to war or even in prompting a deeper reflection on the issues.

But to a wider global audience, he said, the church made the point that it was committed to peace.

According to a number of other speakers at the conference, the continuing lack of basic services and order in Iraq, along with continuing violence against U.S. occupation forces, demonstrated that the war was a practical mistake as well as a moral failure.

Cardinal Laghi said that in making his case to Bush he was guided by the pope's statements on Iraq and those of the U.S. bishops' conference.

In a written paper submitted to the conference, Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh detailed the response of U.S. bishops to the terrorist attacks and to the military response that followed.

Bishop Wuerl said, however, that the bishops' moral voice had been weakened by the clerical sex abuse scandal in the United States and the scandal's "spectacular" exploitation by the media.

"As a faith community the church in the United States had never experienced such a scandal or been the object of such intense media coverage and in too many instances manipulation of the story," he said.

"In spite of the scandal the bishops have continued to speak out as a voice of moral authority. However it is only fair to say that that moral authority has been diminished by the scandal," he said.

The conference was sponsored by Il Regno, an Italian Catholic magazine published by the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, also known as the Dehonians.

# Standing up for life

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro were part of the Greensboro Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.

## *Parishioners join others in Life Chain*

*GREENSBORO — Parishioners of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro were a part of the 1,700-member interdenominational Life Chain on Battleground Avenue on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5.*

*Father Robert Ferris, pastor of St. Benedict Church, and Rev. Mr. Phillip Killiam, permanent deacon at St. Benedict, were among the participants who stood with placards along the Life Chain, which stretched from Brassfield Avenue to Cornwallis Avenue, to protest abortion to motorists and others.*

*"This is a solidarity movement showing that we can respect life from conception to the moment of natural death," said Father Ferris. "This is a statement for the culture of life."*

*Father Ferris said only God has the right and authority to take life.*

*"By killing the unborn, we don't know what gifts we are rejecting from the Lord," he said. "Even in doubt, we must defer that decision to him."*

# Retreat to fire up faithful enthusiasm

LAKE JUNALUSKA — "Creating Enthusiasm for the Faith" is the theme of the upcoming 2003 Fire in the Mountains retreat in November. The annual one-day retreat seeks to connect people to each other and to God through faith sharing focused on issues critical to their immediate community and the modern world.

A program of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation and sponsored by the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates, is a gathering for those seeking ways to grow spiritually and share their faith with fellow Christians.

Speakers will discuss what it means to be a disciple in the 21st century and how to bring about a sense of the sacramentality of all creation. Like last year, presentations will be in both English and Spanish.

Featured speaker will be Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, whose presentations will be in English. Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte, will speak in Spanish.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan administrator, will present his reflections on the retreat's theme.

### WANT TO GO?

Fire in the Mountains will be held in Harrell Hall at Lake Junaluska (near Waynesville) Nov. 8. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the event concludes at 3:30 p.m.

Costs (including lunch and refreshments): $20 per person if registered before Oct. 25; $25 per person afterward.

For registration forms, scholarship and additional information, contact Mary Ann Wharton at (828) 667-4227, e-mail fitm@dnet.net or go online at www.fireitm.org. Registration deadline is Oct. 26.

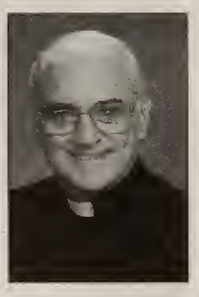
# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# The secret of sanctity and happiness

*Fidelity to the present moment is key*

**Spirituality for Today**



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Jesus said: "Do not be worried about the food and drink you need to stay alive. After all, isn't life worth more than food and the body worth more than clothes?"

Obviously a mother worries about what she's going to serve for dinner. There are countless legitimate concerns that ordinary people have to deal with every day. The Lord is not asking us to be brain-dead in carrying out our normal duties, he is telling us not to be anxious.

Webster defines anxiety as an intense state of emotional disturbance characterized by varying degrees of psychic tension. God wants us to control our fears. Unless we manage to do this, we never will know the meaning of true joy.

I have been a worrier since I was a little child. Now, as a priest in my 70s, I have come a long way in controlling my fears. In doing so I have liberated the Spirit of Joy within me. I know that Jesus wants me to worry less and trust him more.

"Do not be afraid.... I tell you this that your joy may be full." He wants you and me to be free of all anxiety.

"Take no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take care of itself. Come to me you who are burdened, and I will give you rest." He wants us to cancel the inner noise that awakens fear by immediately coming to him for help. Trust casts out fear.

The secret of sanctity and happiness, according to the great spiritual writers, rests in fidelity to the duty of the present moment. This is key. Most of us live too much in the future. We must learn to reject all the dark thoughts and fears that our imagination conjures up. When the stress mounts, come back to Jesus who abides in you. He will help you to smell the roses, to live in the present.

We owe the Lord our trust. Begin looking at your worries as unwelcome intruders, and do not identify with them. Stand apart from them as an observer. In more severe cases, like those involving temptations to commit suicide, realize that these thoughts come from a dark place outside of you.

Self-identification with your thoughts can cause great suffering. Your fears are not you. Your feelings are not facts. Jesus says, "Be not anxious." Come to him again and again. Simply say: "Jesus, hold me. Jesus, comfort me." This will put you in the present moment immediately. Return to that inner stillness where the Spirit of Joy abides.

Let me repeat this point: You can chase anxious thoughts away by repeating the name of Jesus. Come back to your spiritual center. That is where he abides.

You are the guardian at the gate, the observer who sees certain thoughts as enemies. This very act of observing your thoughts separates you from them.

Fear usually means that you are living too much in the future and not trusting enough in divine providence. Guilt usually means you have forgotten to trust the past to God's mercy. Trust is the only thing we have to give to the Lord.

Live joyfully in the present moment by calling on the name of Jesus in times of distress. Dorothy Day called this the duty of delight.

The knowledge of God's love combined with the practice of observing your thoughts eventually will heal you and introduce you to the joy of being.

# Morning, evening prayer orient daily journey toward Christ, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the rhythms of the day and of life, Christians for centuries have given priority to morning and evening prayer, Pope John Paul II said.

"Tied to important moments of our lives and work," he said, morning and evening prayer are effective ways "to orient our daily journey and direct it toward Christ, the light of the world."

Appearing to be suffering from a cold, the pope read about half the text of his main talk in Italian and only the greetings to pilgrims in other languages at his Oct. 8 general audience.

Among those he greeted, and later posed for a photograph with, were 20 students from the North American College who were to be ordained to the diaconate in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 9 by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington.

"May the light of Christ always shine brightly in your lives," the pope told the U.S. seminarians.

In his prepared text, the pope had written that even though the lives of most men and women today are not strictly regulated by the rising and setting of the sun, the phases of the day still provoke reflection on beginnings and ends and on spiritual light and darkness.

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

"As the sun sets, Christians know that God illuminates even the darkness of night with the splendor of his presence and with the light of his teaching," the pope wrote.

"Evening is the appropriate time to consider before God, in prayer, the day just past," thanking God for the gifts he has given and asking pardon for errors or sins committed, he wrote.

Prayer at the end of each day, he wrote, is also an expression of hope and expectation of the "perennial day," which believers will enjoy at the end of time with Christ, the light of the world.

# Meet Chris Godfrey

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Former members of the New York Giants gave their "Alumni Man of the Year" Award to Chris Godfrey not long ago, but the story was buried under a wave of other football news — especially the opening of the season. That's too bad, because Chris Godfrey is a very special guy, and people everywhere should know more about all the things he's done.

At the University of Michigan, he played in three Rose Bowls, and his nine-year all-star career as a pro was highlighted by a Super Bowl championship with the 1986 Giants. But he wasn't given an award simply because he once happened to be an outstanding right guard. He's also the founder and president of Life Athletes, and the driving force behind the organization's ongoing success. And if the story of his award didn't get much of a play anywhere else, his hometown paper made sure his Indiana neighbors knew all about it.

After his football career was over, Godfrey received his law degree from the University of Notre Dame and decided to make South Bend his home. He and his wife, Daria, now have six children, ranging in age from three to 19, and, as he recently told Bill Moor of the South Bend Tribune, he's even become a Notre Dame fan — except when the Irish play Michigan.

Moor's interview with Godfrey focused on Life Athletes, the primary reason the one-time ballplayer was honored by the Giants. Godfrey founded the organization in 1992, and now counts on some 300 former and present athletes — collegiate, professional and Olympic — to help him achieve its goal: inspiring young people to live lives of virtue and chastity, with a respect for all life. He's written curriculums and made videos, all centered on the theme of honoring life.

Here are the four key commitments that Life Athletes promotes:

1. I will try to do what is right even when it is difficult.

2. I will give myself only to that special person I marry as my partner for life.

3. I will respect the lives of others, especially the unborn and the aged.

4. I will not quit or make excuses when I fail. I will try again.

Want to know more about this outstanding organization? Check out its Web site at www.lifeathletes.org.

Chris is on the road almost half of each year, giving talks to youth groups and meeting educators. He likes to reach parents, too.

"Through what must be some kind of misguided sympathy, many parents seem afraid to set standards for their children," Godfrey told the Tribune's Moor. "Knowing where the fence lies is very important to kids. They need to know what side of it they are on..

"It even goes with the TV. If people in a certain sitcom aren't the kind of people you would invite over to your home, then you probably don't need to have them on your TV either."

Chris Godfrey's entire family was on hand to cheer him on at Manhattan's Sheraton Hotel, where the "Alumni Man of the Year" Award was a highlight of the Giants' annual Kickoff Luncheon. So were about 1,300 other people, giving Godfrey the kind of ovation he used to hear at Giants Stadium.

"The kids are far removed from my playing days," he said to the Tribune. "It was nice for them to see how big a part the Giants were in our lives."

# Plumbing the depths of celibacy

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

As I listened to Father William Jarema of the Mercy Center in Colorado Springs speak at an annual vocation directors' seminar on the topic of celibacy and personal wholeness, three thought-provoking statements of his had me thinking about celibacy in ways I never thought of it before.

1. "Healthy and conscious celibacy is a matter of life and/or death for clergy, religious and professional helpers. There is little room or no room in the eyes of the public for error in one's practice and application of celibacy."

As much as some people would like to do away with celibacy and have married priests, the public still has certain fixed ideas about how a celibate person should conduct himself or herself. There may be forgiveness when a celibate breaks his or her promise or vow of celibacy, but the person is also stigmatized because celibacy is still considered a sacred undertaking.

2. "Celibacy is a powerful force in our life that can be used to either enhance our life or hinder our spirit. The personal meaning and value of celibacy must outweigh the law of celibacy. If not, the experience of celibacy will be labored and burdensome."

Celibacy can never end up as just a condition for ordination; it must be a state of life one embraces as a way of complementing one's personality. Without this personalization, it is a meaningless rule, not the wholesome spirit it is intended to be.

3. "Celibacy can either be a choice or a consequence. If celibacy is reduced to a consequence, then there is less chance for personal growth and happiness. ... Today there are millions of men and women who have been forced into celibacy because of separation, divorce, widowhood, health or personal trauma. ... You will need to learn how to manage the biological, psychological and social dimensions of this powerful discipline called celibacy."

The way to manage these dimensions is to better know our thoughts, emotions and inner world. We need also to understand how family background, culture and religion relate to our celibacy.

To achieve this understanding, we must ask: Who best represents the beauty of celibacy for me? How exactly does this person fit my idea of it? How does celibacy lend character to my ministry? Do I ever thank God for the gift of celibacy, and exactly what is it in celibacy that I thank God for?

Questions such as these help to drive a celibate deeper into his or her inner self, and it is only there that the gift and mystery of celibacy can truly be understood.

# Are there animals in heaven?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. My dog recently died and I feel such a loss. He was a real comfort for many years. I'm wondering, since animals are God's creation and another testament of God's glory, and since we have St. Francis as patron saint of animals, do animals have some part in eternal life?*

A. I suspect certain readers might consider your question a bit ridiculous, but it isn't silly at all. Theologians have wondered and speculated about this subject for centuries.

One way of answering is to note that heaven is where we will be perfectly happy. If we really need a dog to be perfectly happy, surely God will see that we have one. I don't believe anyone could argue with that.

Questions about what eternal life with the Lord will be like are treated brilliantly and with wide scholarship in the book "Land of the Living" by Father James O'Connor (1992, Catholic Book Publishing Company).

In a Foreword to the book, the late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York speaks of the harmony God will bring to that transformed but enduring universe. Explicitly referring to dumb animals, he writes, "If indeed all things were made 'through him (Jesus),' and if he is the same yesterday, today and forever, then should it be out of the question that all things will somehow endure?"

The church has no specific teaching on your question one way or another. In a nutshell, however, this reflects the way most Christians have answered it through the centuries.

## Prayers after death

*Q. I read your column in the newspaper of our archdiocese and would like to see a discussion of ways to secure prayers after death. I seem to recall some programs for perpetual prayers. No one else in my immediate family is a practicing Catholic, though they would follow my wishes in this matter. (Maryland)*

A. First and most important, if you listen carefully to the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass you will discover that a constant intention of every Mass that is offered, anywhere and anytime throughout the world, is offered for all who have died, especially "our brothers and sisters in the faith," and that includes you.

This is a beautiful and consoling truth many Catholics forget. Sometimes one hears pious prayers for "the most abandoned soul in purgatory." As far as the Catholic Church and its beliefs and liturgy are concerned, there is no "abandoned soul in purgatory."

Every celebration of the Eucharist, as an unbloody renewal of the sacrifice of Calvary, has the same worldwide reach and efficacy as the first offering of that sacrifice by Our Lord. The entire human family, living and dead, are recipients of the merits of that supreme act of redemption.

Beyond that, of course, there are other ways Christian tradition provides for the spiritual good of those who have died. We can ask people to pray for us. We can request a few Masses to be offered for our special intentions, remembering again that every Mass is offered for everyone.

Or maybe even more practically, through a gift to one or more charitable, humanitarian or religious organizations, you can arrange for some good work to be carried on, for God's glory and in your name, after you die.

Try these. And as you think of death, give yourself over to the loving care of our heavenly Father as Jesus did when he died, and you will do well.

*A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# St. Francis of Assisi Church thrives in Smoky Mountain air

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Francis of Assisi Church sits atop a small hill in Franklin. The nave's back wall is composed entirely of windows, letting in natural light and heating the worship space in the winter. A statue of the church's patron stands in the courtyard. St. Francis of Assisi celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 4, St. Francis' feast day.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH**
299 Maple Street
Franklin, N.C. 28734
(828) 524-2289

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain
Administrator: Father Matthew Kauth
Number of parishioners: 700
Number of households: 400

Father Matthew Kauth

FRANKLIN — A small group composed of eight people made up the first Catholic congregation to celebrate Mass in Franklin. During the early 1950s, these townsfolk gathered at the home of local residents to assist in the celebration of Mass with Father Lawrence Newman, who traveled more than 40 miles from his resident parish, St. John Church in Waynesville, to share the liturgy.

Father Newman met with then-Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh to discuss the building of a church in Franklin. They agreed on the need, and in 1953, the first St. Francis of Assisi Church had been constructed and deemed a mission of St. John Church. The same eight parishioners attended, although the church had a capacity for 108 parishioners. The church community did begin to enlarge at a steady pace, however, and in 1955, St. Francis of Assisi became a Glenmary parish.

Due to a growing Catholic population in Franklin as well as geographical considerations, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte adjusted St. Francis of Assisi's boundaries to include most of Macon County in 1972. As such, it then included Our Lady of the Mountains as a mission church.

Back home in Franklin, a larger congregation marked the need for expansion. The parish bought land and a house adjacent to the church property, the latter of which was utilized for the pastoral team staff, parish meetings, religious education classes and babysitting during Mass.

Soon parishioners again saw the need to expand, this time in terms of worship space. During the assessment period, the parish established a building fund. Although original plans, begun in 1976, centered on adding onto the existing church, other options arose. During the summer of 1977, a sizable contribution allowed the congregation to explore the possibility of building a new structure.

The next year, land was purchased on Maple Street and plans were underway for the creation of a new church facility. A parish building commission was established, and construction on the new church began in January 1981. It housed its first Eucharistic liturgy on Christmas Eve of that year. Meanwhile, St. Francis of Assisi parish had made arrangements with the local Lutheran community, which was searching for a new church. The first church was sold to the Lutherans on Dec. 31, 1981.

The St. Francis of Assisi Church family continued to grow in the follow years. By 1996, then-pastor Father Richard McCue and then-parochial vicar Father James Collins were overseeing a large expansion project to improve the church's educational facilities. The new parish center features faith formation classrooms, a chapel and pastor's office.

The parish had also gained an active Knights of Columbus council noted for its support of schools, especially those for mentally handicapped persons.

Like many of the cities of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, Franklin has a growing Hispanic population, with approximately 120 Hispanics in the parish of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

In July 2002, Father Matthew Kauth transferred from parochial vicar of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte to administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church. In October 2003, the parish celebrated the church's 50th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Bishop-designate Peter Jugis and a church festival.

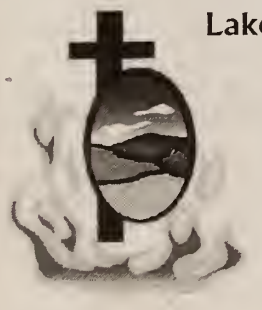
Church life is vibrant in the mountain town of Franklin. From its early status as a small mission to today's ever-growing congregation, St. Francis of Assisi Church strives to meet the spiritual, educational and social needs of its community.

**"Creating Enthusiasm for the Faith"**

Come and join us for the

**FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS**
**gathering of God's people.**

November 8, Saturday
8 am - 3:30 pm
Lake Junaluska, Harrell Hall



At this one-day annual mountain retreat, we'll focus on connecting to each other and to God by faith sharing on issues critical to our community and the modern world. Topics include what discipleship means today and how to bring about a sense of the sacramentality of creation.

PRESENTERS:
Rev. Francis Cancro, pastor, St. Eugene, Asheville (English)
Rev. Vincente Finnerty, C.M., pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Charlotte (Spanish)
Rev. Msgr. Mauricio West, Diocesan Administrator, sharing reflections

Cost: $20 before Oct. 25; $25 after - lunch and refreshments included (scholarships available)

To register or for more info: call 828-667-4227, or email fitm@dnet.net, or visit www.fireitm.org

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 17, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 4

**Parish Profile:**
*Our Lady of the Highways Church*
| PAGE 16

# Shepherd to the World

## *In 25 years, pope has shaped events, inspired millions*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II celebrates 25 years in office, the world is taking stock of a pontificate that has helped shape political events, set new directions for the Catholic Church and offered spiritual inspiration to millions of people around the globe.

By any measure, this is a papacy for the ages. Since his election Oct. 16, 1978, Pope John Paul has delivered more speeches, met with more world leaders, canonized more saints and kissed more babies than any previous pontiff.

Visiting 129 countries — from the steppes of Asia to the Rocky Mountains — he has implemented the church's own form

See SHEPHERD, page 8

CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II raises the book of the Gospels at an outdoor Mass he celebrated in Poland in 1991. In his travels he visited his home country the most and preached the Gospel on six continents.

COUNTDOWN TO THE ORDINATION

# Ceremony to be broadcast live on Internet

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The ordination and installation Mass of Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis is just a week away.

Thirteen bishops, 125 priests and 80 deacons are expected to participate in the special two-hour Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24.

Two representatives from each parish, mission, institution and organization in the diocese will join in the entrance procession that includes the bishops, priests and deacons as well as religious, seminarians, the Knights of Columbus and others.

See ORDINATION, page 12

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Altar servers lead a procession of lay people into Our Lady of Grace Church Oct. 12 to commence the Mass for the church's 50th anniversary.

FULL OF GRACE

# Our Lady of Grace celebrates 50 years in Greensboro

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — More than 500 people gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Grace Church Oct. 12, crowding the pews and aisles of the gothic-style church. More parishioners overflowed into the parish school's gymnasium, where they watched the Mass via closed-circuit television.

"Beginning with our concert on Thursday night, continuing with our school's reunion and Saturday's events with our yard sale, carnival and homecoming dance, and finally today's liturgy, this has been a great weekend, and we have been truly blessed," said Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor.

Thirteen priests, including former pastors of Our Lady of Grace Church, concelebrated the Mass with Archbishop John F.

See GRACE, page 7

# Mother Teresa's 'miracle' to receive Communion from Pope John Paul II

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Dressed in a pink sari accented with shimmering silver thread, Monica Besra, a mother of five, is without a doubt a member of the Missionaries of Charity family.

Amid the unusual hustle and bustle of the missionary sisters' convent at Rome's St. Gregory Church the week before Mother Teresa of Calcutta's beatification, the sisters greet her in the traditional Indian way — hands

See MIRACLE, page 12

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**'S.T.O.P. and Change Direction'**
*St. Gabriel parishioner's prison pilot program*
| PAGE 4

**From NC to Alaska**
*Retired priest ministers in new frontiers*
| PAGE 5

**Walkabout**
*St. Gabriel students focus on their community*
| PAGE 6

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## DEFENDING MARRIAGE

CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY L. TRACY, THE PILOT

Ron Crews, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, and Democratic state Rep. Philip Travis address the "Summit of October to Save Marriage" Oct. 2 in Wayland, Mass. Travis is sponsor of a legislative initiative that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman in the Massachusetts Constitution.

# Redefining marriage would harm families, says Boston archbishop

WAYLAND, Mass. (CNS) — "The institution of marriage, so crucial to the raising of children and a sound family life, is in crisis," Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley said at the "Summit of October to Save Marriage" in Wayland.

"Any redefinition of marriage must be seen as an attack on the common good. The weakening of the institution of marriage has already had too high a social cost," he said Oct. 2.

He called for respect for the rights and dignity of homosexuals but said that does not mean same-sex unions are entitled to be granted the same status in society as marriages.

"Marriage is not a creation of the state nor of the church, and neither has the legitimate authority to change its nature," the archbishop said. "To dismiss people's legitimate concerns about the institution of marriage as an unjust discrimination against homosexual persons is to miss the point of the centrality of marriage for the well-being of society."

About 200 people, including several religious leaders, attended the summit "to arm ourselves with the tools to defend (marriage)," said Ron Crews, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute.

"Our concern must be to strengthen marriage and create a climate that will be supportive and indeed promote the traditional paradigm of marriage," said Archbishop O'Malley.

"The divorce revolution has taken its toll on family life," he said. "Between 1960 and 1990 the number of (U.S.) children who experienced the divorce of their parents increased from less than 1 percent to more than 50 percent, and one-third of the children born today are born out of wedlock."

He cited other statistics and studies to highlight the ill effects divorce and the breakdown on the family have had on society, including an increase in violence against women, poverty, and the physical and sexual abuse of children.

"I am not so naive as to think that saving the definition of marriage is enough to undo all the harm suffered by society caused by a weakened institution of marriage," he said. "I would hope that those who promote same-sex unions will not be so naive as to fail to recognize the impact that redefining marriage will have on American culture, which has already suffered too much because of the deterioration of family life."

In 2002, about 130,000 people signed a petition for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. The Massachusetts Catholic Conference, the public policy organ of the state's bishops, backed the amendment.

# Official concerned over low number of refugees being admitted to U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Bush administration says significant progress has been made in improving how refugees are admitted into the United States, but for the third year in a row the number of refugees who reached the country was significantly below expectations.

Refugee policy experts at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are taking the government's assurances that procedures have been greatly improved with a grain of salt, according to Kevin Appleby, director of migration policy for the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services.

"They're saying the right things," Appleby said. "But we're not seeing the corresponding actions."

An administration report to Congress released in late September said new procedures are, "after many difficulties, streamlining security processing in a meaningful way."

Still, only about 28,000 refugees arrived in the United States out of an allocation of 70,000 for the 2003 fiscal year. In 2002, about 27,000 reached the country.

Catholic agencies working through MRS typically resettle more refugees in the United States than any other entity.

The administration proposes the same ceiling of 70,000 refugees for 2004, with 20,000 of those slots allocated for emergency situations.

The United States admits more refugees than any other country, but since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks fewer have been allowed entry each year than in decades. The United States instituted new security procedures both to protect personnel who process applications and to more thoroughly investigate incoming refugees.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — *A Peace and Tolerance Workshop* will be held Oct. 25 at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. in the St. Francis Room 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited for a day of prayer, discussion and reflection. Special focus will be given to our sacred calling as Christians to be peacemakers. This is a meaningful way to promote peace in the family, classroom and workplace. To register, call Sandy Donecho at (828) 697-7420.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country, 259 Pilgrims Way, will dedicate its new 72-niche *columbarium* on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, following the 11 a.m. Mass. For more information, e-mail Tom Bracken at redfishy@intergate.com or call (828) 264-1445. This event will take place weather and job schedules permitting.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *ordination Mass of Bishop Peter J. Jugis* will be celebrated Oct. 24 at 12 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services will host an informational meeting on their *adoption programs in Russia & China* Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. The meeting will be at the Diocesan offices at 1123 South Church St. If you have any questions, please call Carol or Michele at (888) 990-4199.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father James Keenan will present *"Living with an adult conscience"* Oct. 25 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Our ordinary lives offer ample opportunities to think and grow in our practice of virtues. For details, call the church office at (704) 332-2901

CHARLOTTE — Father David Valtiera will provide methods of enrichment for all families, in *"Family Spirituality,"* Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Call Susan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 271 to register.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The speaker will be Father Bittner. For more information, please call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — *Natural Family Planning* classes will begin Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Life Center, room 102, at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Judy Townsend at (704) 846-6983. Please reserve a space before Oct. 28.

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers *private spiritual retreats for lay people.* Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln., Charlotte, NC 28226 about why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope's chief liturgist defends use of dance in papal Masses

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's chief liturgist, Archbishop Piero Marini, has defended the use of dance in papal Masses abroad and at the Vatican.

Archbishop Marini said liturgical celebrations presided over by the pope have a "universal" character that should accommodate the legitimate cultural elements of Catholic communities around the world.

He made the comments Oct. 15.

Some church officials have criticized Archbishop Marini because they think the papal liturgies in recent years have been too outlandish. Reflecting strong sentiment in some Vatican quarters, a draft version of a recent Vatican document on liturgical norms recommended no dance inside churches — even outside celebration of the Mass.

In contrast, an Oct. 5 beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square featured African dance at the offertory and Indian dance at the consecration.

Archbishop Marini, who has designed papal liturgies for 17 years, said the criticism was off the mark.

"To introduce dance at a parish Mass in Italy would be pointless. But the celebration (on Oct. 5) was a missionary celebration, for the beatification of three people who evangelized Africa and Asia," Archbishop Marini said.

"Papal celebrations have a markedly universal character and therefore need the adaptation and inculturation foreseen by the Second Vatican Council," he said.

Archbishop Marini said dancing and other elements are in line with what the pope has said he wants in papal liturgies.

"Pope John Paul II has always appreciated the various cultures, even the poorest and the most distant ones," he said.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Father Bill Parent will discuss *"Catholic morality at the end of life,"* a look at Catholic teaching concerning issue of life and death. This free presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Oct. 16 in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — The Hickory vicariate will offer two *evangelization retreats for Hispanic adults* at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1025 College Ave. SW. The women's retreat will be Oct. 17-19 and the men's retreat will be Oct. 24-26. To register, please contact Sister Joan Pearson at (828) 758-4207.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is hosting their annual *Family Rosary* in various languages Oct. 26 at 5:15 p.m. in the main sanctuary. The parish will pray for unity and healing in our nation and in the world, as well as special intentions. Participants are asked to bring their favorite statue or picture of the Blessed Mother for display. The evening is sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers and will conclude with a social in Holy Family Hall. Bring a dessert to share.

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. This year's theme is "Circles of Love." Come and join us in extending our own circle outward in peace for sake of justice. For details, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present *"One face, four portraits"* Oct. 19 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m. This presentation will explore how Jesus Christ was portrayed by each of the Gospel writers. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present *"And you shall call him"* Oct. 26 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 29 at 4:30 p.m. This class will examine the many names of Jesus and their origins. See how the name of one man and elicit joy and tranquility in some people while bringing out anger in others. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — St. William Church will sponsor a *bereavement support group* that will meet Mondays for six weeks beginning Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-noon at the Glenmary Center. This group is for anyone who is grieving over any loss — of a loved one, a job, friend, divorce. Call Pat Levy at (828) 837-9517 for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Separated/Divorced Catholics of the Triad will host Maureen deLyon, M.A Ed., N.C.C. and St. Leo the Great parishioner, who will speak on *"Working through the grief of divorce and healing"* at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. Please contact Donna Kronner at (336) 631-8892 for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM — This fall's *Theology on Tap* will meet Wednesday evenings Oct. 22-Nov. 12 at Mi Pueblo Restaurant, 644 Stratford Rd. Social hour begins at 7 p.m. and a featured speaker will begin at 8 p.m. For details e-mail ws_tontap@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Fraternity of St. Clare* invites anyone interested in learning more about the Secular Franciscan Order and the Franciscan way of life to an orientation and reception Oct. 23 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information, contact Sharon Jackson, SFO Minister, at (336) 722-7001.

CLEMMONS — The *OLM Little Rock Scripture Study for Women* offers a bible study Monday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. in the library of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Classes meet until Nov. 24. For more information, call Anne Gannon at (336) 727-4591.

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is sponsoring a *parish mission* Oct. 26-29, hosted by Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta. For details, please call (336) 248-2463.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Democracy weakened when faith excluded from public life, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While governments should not have a religious identity, they weaken democracy if they try to limit their citizens' expressions of faith to the private sphere, Pope John Paul II said.

"While respecting a healthy sense of the state's secular nature, the positive role of believers in public life should be recognized," the pope said Oct. 10 during a meeting with the parliamentary assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Some 330 parliamentarians from 49 countries were in Rome for the assembly's Oct. 9-10 conference on the freedom of religion.

Pope John Paul told the group, "It is true that many young people today grow up without being aware of the spiritual heritage that is theirs."

But, at the same time, he said, religious faith continues to influence large groups of citizens who have a right to bring their religious and moral values to bear on public life.

When believers are free to express their faith and when they respect the religious beliefs of others, a "healthy pluralism" and an increase in democracy follow, he said.

"When states are disciplined and balanced in the expression of their secular nature, dialogue between the different social sectors is fostered and, consequently, transparent and frequent cooperation between civil and religious society is promoted, which benefits the common good," the pope said.

The defense of religious freedom, he said, "is a strong deterrent to the violation of human rights on the part of communities that exploit religion for purposes that are foreign to it."

Bruce George, a member of the British Parliament and president of the OSCE parliamentary assembly, congratulated the pope on behalf of the group.

"In these past 25 years, the world has significantly changed," he said. "We all appreciate with great gratitude your important contribution and your efforts to shape this new world."

HOLY SMOKE!

# Priest wears several hats including firefighter's helmet

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL FINCH, CATHOLIC SUN

In firefighter garb, Father John Canorro stands in front of Engine No. 2 at the fire station in Dewitt, N.Y. The priest, who is parochial vicar of Holy Cross Church and religious education teacher at Bishop Grimes High School, recently completed training to become a volunteer firefighter for the town.

## THIS MONTH IN —1995

SACRED HEART KICKS OFF HISPANIC MINISTRY

In an effort to attract more of Rowan County's growing Hispanic population, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury celebrated is first Spanish-language Mass on Sunday, Oct. 22, 1995. The Mass not only marked the start of a full-time Hispanic ministry for the church, but was in memory of Nixsa Guadelupe Martinez, a 2-year-old girl who died of congenital heart disease that summer and captured the hearts of local Hispanics.

## CORRECTIONS from last issue

Overflow parking for the Oct. 24 ordination Mass of Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis will not be in the shopping center across from St. Matthew Church; instead, it will be at nearby All Saints School and buses to and from the church will be provided.

Oblate Father Thomas Fitzpatrick was incorrectly listed in a story. Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville was incorrectly listed in a photo caption.

# Helping inmates 'S.T.O.P. and Change Direction'

## *St. Gabriel parishioner brings pilot program to prison*

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — When Joseph Charles Marinello reports to his job site, he must pass through five mechanical release doorways to get to his office, stopping at each passage to wait for security clearance before entering the interior of Albemarle Correctional Institution in Badin, N.C., just west of Albemarle.

But Marinello is pleased to enter into the ACI labyrinth four days a week after driving some 40 miles to Stanly County. The St. Gabriel Church parishioner is a determined educator and counselor in a full-time violent offender's treatment program within the medium security unit that houses over 850 inmates.

Marinello teaches the S.T.O.P. and Change Direction program for the North Carolina Department of Correction Division of Prisons. The words of the pilot program's acronym, "Survey, Think, Options, Prevention," are designed to slow the participating individuals to check emotions rather than to act on impulse.

"It's the only program like this in the state," said Russell Ramsey, ACI program director. "We have seen improvements in their (the inmates') behavior. We've seen more positive attitudes. We've seen fewer infractions. We've seen them continue with aftercare, after completion. We've seen them become peer counselors in the program for the new guys."

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Joseph Marinello stands outside the Albemarle Correctional Institute in Badin, where he works as an educator and counselor to 850 violent offenders.

The intense 20-week program consists of 28 men agreeing to live together in a dormitory setting. In the beginning, the group encounters a lot of trust issues. Many inmates do not want to talk about why they are incarcerated.

"When the program first starts out, there's a lot of anxiety with the men; they don't know each other," said Marinello. "And of course, I force cultural diversity. I try to put African Americans at the same table with European Americans and Latinos, because I really feel that's an important part of the program's learning about each other."

Marinello encourages the group to use more appropriate behaviors with regard to interpersonal communications and relationships. He teams with two other staff members to teach inmates through an experiential curriculum utilizing personal sharing, role-playing and one-on-one counseling. Three inmates — former graduates of the program — participate as peer counselors within the group.

Posters displayed in the ACI library, where the group meets, contrast "power and control" behaviors with "equality" behaviors. Men are learning how to be responsible for their own behaviors and how to recognize and to express a myriad of feelings that may underlie their anger.

Both the inmates and personnel speak of the positive results from the curriculum.

"When I first came into the class, I had a bad temper and I didn't really know how to deal with it," said an inmate who calls himself "Little Wayne." "This class helps. I've picked up strong bonds with this class. It's like a family, and it's going to be pretty hard to walk away from that."

Jennifer Langley, ACI superintendent, praises the program and Marinello.

"We've been very pleased with it. In fact, we have a waiting list," she said. "Joe has the ability to truly give himself. He has the heart for it, he's dedicated to it and he's very valuable to have in the program."

"Joe is the S.T.O.P. program," said inmate "Howard." "The Scripture popped in my mind, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.' If there's anyone that I've ever known to truly be a peacemaker, that's Joe Marinello. ... He can come in here and relate to us because he gives of himself."

Langley said 90 percent of the inmates will eventually be released.

"And if those people do not re-offend because of skills that they have learned in the domestic violence program here, then it will save us a lot of money and a lot of pain," she said.

There are almost 90 men on the waiting list for the next course, to be offered in 2004. The present group, entering its 15th week, contains five inmates with life sentences who transferred to ACI from other maximum-security units within the N.C. Division.

The strategy of Marinello's program is to educate and create "agents for change." The men will return to their populations after graduation in December and may demonstrate they can walk away from adversity and still feel good about themselves.

"It's not just a program. I consider it to be an option for life," said an inmate "Baby Boy Norm." "It gives you a chance to live. For you to care for somebody, you have to care for yourself, also."

Although Marinello is not allowed to accept gifts as a state employee, inmates have given him artwork, ceramic sculptures and other crafts they've made. One inmate, a Baptist, made a rosary for Marinello; the inmate learned from a Catholic pen pal how long the rosary should be when finished.

"He took plastic stirring sticks, cut them into little pieces, melted them and rolled them into beads. He used staples to hook the beads together," said Marinello. "And then he used a paper clip and dental floss to weave and bind plastic pieces together into a cross. It's very special to me."

*Contact Correspondent Stephen Uzzell by calling (704) 545-0498 or e-mail hatz@infionline.net.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information about domestic violence prevention education opportunities, e-mail Joseph Marinello at mjc31@doc.state.nc.us.

# Spiritual gathering

COURTESY PHOTO BY KRIS REICH

Women religious from around the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for a conference conducted by Paula D'Arcy, author and retreat leader, at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont Oct. 8.

# October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and children.

The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state and national levels.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year, the first national toll-free hotline was begun. In 1989, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCADV providing key leadership in this effort.

For more information, visit: http://www.ncadv.org/community/dvamonth.htm.

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# From North Carolina to Alaska

## *Retired priest ministers in new frontiers*

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Msgr. Richard Allen, retired pastor of St. Ann Church, chuckles as he repeats the phrase, "Have I got a deal for you," pitched to him first by then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh and 50 years later by Archbishop Francis Hurley, retired Archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska.

In both instances, the Plattsburg, N.Y. native accepted the challenge, acknowledging he's not much of a planner but more of an impulse type of guy.

It was during his freshman year at St. Bonaventure University that Msgr. Allen learned about the "missionary" of North Carolina and accepted an invitation from Bishop Waters to visit the state.

He returned the next summer to work at a plumbing company outside Raleigh. When Bishop Waters approached him with "Have I got a deal for you" and encouraged him to enter the seminary, he decided to give it a try.

In 1956, Msgr. Allen was ordained in Durham. He was immediately elevated to pastor and assigned to the rural areas of eastern North Carolina. His sense of adventure followed him throughout the years.

"I began ministering in the small community of Newton Grove, which at the time was dirt crossroads surrounded by cotton, peanut and tobacco fields," said Msgr. Allen. "Small groups of Catholics gathered in houses to celebrate their faith at a time when most Catholics in the state were ignored."

COURTESY PHOTO

Msgr. Richard Allen stands with his Subaru sport utility vehicle, a gift from St. Ann Church parishioners when he retired, that he uses to traverse the Alaskan wilderness.

Noticing that many children in his parishes had never been to the beach or outside their hometown, Msgr. Allen began organizing youth trips, introducing them to exploring, fishing and hiking.

The years passed; his parish assignments changed — including St. Ann Church in Smithfield; St. James Church in Concord; St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte; St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem; Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and St. Ann Church in Charlotte — and the travel groups got bigger. The destinations became more elaborate, but it was always a learning experience, a sense of adventure.

When a visitor, who turned out to be Archbishop Hurley, arrived at St. Ann Church's rectory inquiring about his retirement plans, Msgr. Allen was stunned to hear the words, "Have I got a deal for you."

A week's visit to Alaska and Msgr. Allen was hooked, enticed by the rural areas that brought flashbacks to his first ministry in Newton Grove.

In June 2000, at age 70, with the blessings of his parishioners and then-Bishop William G. Curlin, Msgr. Allen joined two other priests in Anchorage to become a pastor of people living in the state's rural areas, ministering to them on their terms. Known as circuit priests, they reach out to those who don't live in a city or community. A priest in charge of operations based in Anchorage prepares the schedules for the circuit priests.

Organizational fundraisers, donations and grants from foundations help them meet expenses. With a diocese encompassing over 138,000 square miles, the biggest obstacle is financing travel expenses, which can be over $900 for one commercial airline ticket.

"The structure in Alaska is much different than we are used to," said Msgr. Allen. "You have to be more creative, part of a team and sensitive to the environment, area and people. You respond to where people are and to their needs within their communities."

With a priest visiting only once every four to six weeks, lay people elect church administrators as "pastors," who serve as spiritual leaders. The appointment is confirmed by the bishop, and circuit priests train them in preaching, scripture and leadership to help bring the Catholic communities together

"They give excellent homilies, intertwining the lives of the people with the scriptural readings," said Msgr. Allen.

There is no "typical day" for Msgr. Allen.

"I have an apartment in Anchorage and travel by private, chartered or commercial planes, boat, car and snowmobile to the outlying areas," he said. "I also rely heavily on people helping me get from place to place."

"Each destination is different. I average seven Masses a weekend, some said in small churches, others in homes, schools, cinder-block basements, fish canneries and even on the wing of an airplane," he added. "The people have a strong faith and make every effort to come to church whether there is a priest there or not. Some travel up to 100 miles for Sunday Mass."

One difference in Msgr. Allen's current ministry is that he no longer engages in administrative responsibilities.

"I concentrate on what I am asked to do, be it Sunday Mass, a funeral or hospital visits in Anchorage," he said. "I may be asked to go to a fishing village and spend the day with a fisherman. I might not fish, just converse with him about his faith."

"I've served as a mate on a boat chartered by a National Geographic photographer," he added. "Meeting interesting people is a bonus to my ministry."

A firm believer in giving back to the community, getting involved in community activities and letting people experience the presence of a Catholic priest, Msgr. Allen continues to make his presence known in Alaska. He was instrumental in starting a quarterly newsletter for the diocese called "Crosswinds" to education people about their missionary endeavors. He's also a member of the production staff for a public radio station show in Anchorage, "The Talk of Alaska," where he screens callers for the once-a-week program.

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**HAVING A BLAST**

COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gabriel School students visit Charlotte fire department Station No. 14 during their community walk Sept. 23-24.

# St. Gabriel students focus on their community

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel School students focused on being part of their community recently by visiting the businesses and institutions surrounding their school.

Forty-four parents joined the four second-grade classes in a "community walk" as 100 students walked from the school to various establishments in the Cotswold area Sept. 23-24. Students brought together their lessons from religion and social studies with a focus on people working together in a community and making a difference as good citizens and members of the Catholic Church.

Objectives of the community walk were to spotlight similarities and differences among businesses and institutions in neighborhoods; describe the roles performed by adults in the community; identify distance and directions and to recognize the vegetation and animal life indigenous to their school community, according to Sharon Broxterman, principal.

On their first stop, students met with Msgr. Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Gabriel Church. After touring the church building, Msgr. Bellow recapped the students' connection with the church and the community.

Next on the students' walk was the neighborhood Harris Teeter, where they got a behind-the-scenes view of the store's daily operations. After having lunch at the local Pizza Hut, students visited with the fire department, Station No. 14, where they learned about the assistance and support firefighters provide to the community.

The last stop was at the local Wachovia bank, where students received information about the new $20 bill. Emphasis was made on the importance of savings and the services a bank offers to the public.

Back in their classrooms, the students created murals, flow charts and made maps of their community.

The walk was an excellent way to provide the children with a view of the role various individuals and organizations play within their own community, said Broxterman.

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# Taking the plunge

## *Father Mulligan makes a splash at Fun Fair*

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

GASTONIA — "Fa-ther Joe! Fa-ther Joe! Fa-ther Joe!"

The chant arose from the gathered crowd as Father Joe Mulligan, pastor of St. Michael Church, climbed up to the seat at the top of the dunking booth.

The dunking booth was one of many attractions at the St. Michael School Fun Fair and Silent Auction Oct. 11. Fair organizers collected $1,600 in pledges to persuade Father Mulligan to take the plunge that afternoon.

Fairgoers participated in regular and inflatable games, obstacle courses and a climbing wall. Music played while volunteers led students in various dances and musical games.

Several tables in the school gym displayed auction items donated by area businesses, baked goods donated by parents and parishioners, and theme baskets sponsored by each grade level at the school. Children could get their hair or face painted, or have a picture taken with a miniature pony.

The parent organization at St. Michael School sponsors the Fun Fair each year to raise money for school improvements, programs and materials.

St. Michael Church is celebrating its centennial this year with a series of events.

PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, enjoys cheers of the crowd while sitting, still dry, on top of the dunking booth at St. Michael School's Fun Fair Oct. 11.

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# Celebrating 50 years

GRACE, *from page 1*

Donoghue of Atlanta. Concelebrating the Mass were Father O'Rourke; Father Luis Salvador Osorio, parochial vicar; Msgr. Joseph Showfety; Msgr. John Wall; Marian Father David Lord; Father William Gurnee; Marian Father Joseph Roesch; Father Richard T. McCue and former pastors Msgr. William N. Pharr, Marian Father Walter M. Dziordz, Father Thomas P. Clements and Father Mark H. Lamprich.

"There have been many wonderful, picture-perfect moments," Father O'Rourke said. "I have been most touched by the many people who have come home here — the great excitement people have found in rediscovering each other at Our Lady of Grace."

"This church has been a source of grace and blessing for numerous parishioners," said Msgr. Pharr.

In his homily, Msgr. Pharr shared the history of the church, which was constructed in 1952 through funds provided by Julian Price in memory of his wife, Ethel Clay Price. The church is therefore known as The Mrs. Julian Price Memorial.

Our Lady of Grace Church is intrinsically connected to Ethel Clay, a convert to Catholicism. She married Julian Price, a Baptist, in 1897. The Prices lived in Greensboro for the next five decades, raising two children in a city where Catholics were a small minority of the population.

In the summer of 1946, Price approached then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh with the idea of building a Catholic church as a memorial to his wife and arranged to provide funds for its construction. Price chose the Church of Our Lady of Refuge in Brooklyn, N.Y. as a model. Henry V. Murphy, architect of Our Lady of Refuge, agreed to scale down the design to a seating capacity of 500.

Price presented Bishop Waters with $400,000 to build the church, but Price died in an automobile accident before construction could begin. World War II delayed construction efforts, and rising building costs subsequently made the original plan beyond reach. An additional gift of $300,000 from the Price children made the building of the church possible, and construction began in the spring of 1950.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta celebrates Mass at the altar of Our Lady of Grace Church Oct. 12 in celebration of the church's 50th anniversary. More than 500 people gathered for the Mass and afternoon lawn party.

The first Mass was celebrated July 13, 1952 and the church was dedicated Sept. 14, 1952 by the late Cardinal Ameleto Cicognani, then-apostolic delegate to the United States. At the celebration the Raleigh Cathedral Choir; visiting clerics, including five bishops and two abbots; and 600 lay participants of various faiths witnessed the placing of the cornerstone and the blessing of the outside walls.

The original school building was built in 1953 and was dedicated by Bishop Waters Nov. 15, 1953. The kindergarten- through eighth-grade school was staffed by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Scranton, Pa. for the next 26 years.

Msgr. Arthur Freeman served as the first pastor of Our Lady of Grace. Then-Msgr. Michael J. Begley, the fifth pastor of Our Lady of Grace, was installed in 1972 as the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. Father Francis M. Smith, who had served as assistant to Msgr. Freeman when the church first opened, returned to serve as pastor.

In the summer of 1988, the Marians of the Immaculate Conception were appointed by then-Bishop Donoghue to pastor Our Lady of Grace. The Marians remained until February 2000, when diocesan priests resumed pastoral leadership.

The new Parish Activity Center was dedicated Nov. 14, 1976 by Bishop Begley. The Parish Activity Center houses a gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria, six classrooms, school library and church and school administrative offices.

In October 1977, the parish celebrated it 25th anniversary. As part of the celebration, a new 2,226-pipe organ was dedicated. It took more than a year to design the organ and build a gallery for it over the front entrance of the church.

The parish school celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1978 by burying a time capsule containing national and international events from 1953 to 1978, plus other items of interest and meaning to students. The capsule will be dug up and opened this year as part of the ongoing celebration of Our Lady of Grace's 50th anniversary.

In 1995, a major renovation of the church was made possible through the financial support of parishioners. The renovation included painting the interior of the church, refinishing the pews and installation of new carpeting in the congregational area. Stained-glass windows in the vestibule depicting the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception were installed.

A Respect Life Garden, featuring a statue of Our Lady of Grace, was blessed Jan. 19, 1999 by then-Bishop William G. Curlin. Inscriptions at the base of the shrine include the words of Pope John Paul II encouraging respect for the gift of life at every stage of life.

Striving to be a welcoming community, the parish has evolved into one reflecting a cultural diversity that includes many from Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and an ever-increasing number of Hispanics from Mexico and Central and South America.

In 2001, with the encouragement of the parish pastoral council, Our Lady of Grace opened wide its doors to the growing Hispanic community of Greensboro by scheduling a weekly Mass celebrated in Spanish. Under the care of Father Osorio, this ministry has flourished.

"Our Lady of Grace Church is a wonderful place to join others in echoing Mary's proclaiming the greatness of the Lord," said Father O'Rourke.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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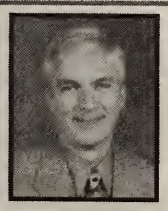

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Fr. Michael is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was ordained in 1964. In 1990, he was awarded the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John Paul II. He has authored several books including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.

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Peter is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries and has served numerous retreats, conferences, rallies, and events around the world. Much of his work has been devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts. Peter and his wife Debbie have four children and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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Bishop Baker is shepherd to Catholics throughout the state of South Carolina. He has served as a pastor, counselor, mentor, and professor during his priesthood and was appointed as the 12th Bishop of Charleston in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.

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# *In 25 years, pope has shaped events, inspired millions*

CNS FILE PHOTO

Young descendents of a group of converted headhunters perform a song as Pope John Paul II visits Shillong in India in 1986. The pope was welcomed to the mostly Hindu country as a "white holy man," said Cardinal Jozef Tomko, recently reflecting on the pontiff as an evangelizer.

SHEPHERD, *from page 1*

of globalization.

And in more than 50 major documents, on themes ranging from economics to the rosary, he has brought the Gospel and church teachings to bear on nearly every aspect of modern life.

Everyone agrees this pope already has left a moral legacy, inside and outside the church. But the pope also has weathered his share of disappointments in recent years, including the U.S. clerical sex abuse scandal, the ecumenical rupture with Orthodox leaders, legislative defeats on pro-life issues in many countries and the frustration of not being able to visit Russia and China.

Vatican officials are focusing on the accomplishments, but are going out of their way to make sure the anniversary celebration does not take on the tone of a retirement party.

"The pope still has an important message to deliver, and people are listening — perhaps more than ever," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

"He is the only global leader who is worried about the spiritual well-being of today's men and women, as opposed to their material well-being. He asks, 'Who are you?' instead of 'What do you want to do?' or 'What do you want to buy?' And people understand this and respond to it," he said.

At the start of the 21st century, a time of rapid changes in technology and biology, the pope has hewed closer to this dominant theme, Navarro-Valls said.

For papal biographer George Weigel, the pope has had tremendous impact on the world and the church precisely because "he's been the great Christian witness of our time, the man who has most persuasively embodied the liberating power of Christian faith."

"That had concrete, measurable political results in east central Europe in the revolution of 1989; but it has also had an immeasurable impact on innumerable lives throughout the world," Weigel told CNS.

### *History in the making*

As the analyses and accolades rolled in ahead of the 25th anniversary celebration, the pope was busy keeping a low profile. He purposely upstaged himself by scheduling the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta for Oct. 19 — a Sunday that falls between the anniversary of his election and his inaugural Mass.

Whether for Mother Teresa or Pope John Paul, tens of thousands of Catholics are planning to converge on Rome and join in the festivities. The world's cardinals have been invited, too.

So far, the pope has avoided great retrospective speeches or documents on his first quarter-century. In fact, he has spoken more about Mary, to whom he's dedicated this year in a special way, than about his own accomplishments.

At 83, he is frail and hobbled by Parkinson's disease and other ailments. He no longer walks in public; instead, he sits and rides on a variety of newfangled mechanisms that allow him to keep celebrating liturgies and meeting with groups.

But, thanks in part to a new regime of therapy, he has regained strength in his voice and seems to breathe easier than he did a year ago. Those improvements have encouraged aides and put an end to speculation over papal retirement — at least for now.

Many at the Vatican believe the pope's infirmities have added a new dimension to his message.

"When the Mass is celebrated by someone in his condition, the sacrifice of Christ becomes even more evident," Cardinal Jozef Tomko, a longtime friend and retired Vatican official, said in an interview with CNS.

"What comes through is a deep spirituality and the acceptance of his limitations. I think in these conditions he is winning even more people to Christ than before," Cardinal Tomko said.

### *Taking a stance*

The first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years, Pope John Paul II declared early on that the Second Vatican Council had set his agenda. In particular, his global ministry quickly focused on Vatican II's engagement of modern culture.

At the teaching level, the pope has penned three major encyclicals on economic and social justice issues and has addressed the rich-poor imbalance continent-by-continent in post-synodal documents.

Over the last 10 years, he also has authored three other encyclicals that strongly challenge what he sees as a prevailing moral relativism in postmodern society. "Veritatis Splendor" spoke of the truth of the church's moral teachings, "Evangelium Vitae" defended the inviolability of human life against what the pope calls a "culture of death," and "Fides et Ratio" argued that human reason cannot be detached from faith in God.

Meanwhile, under his guidance, Vatican agencies have issued important instructions on such specific questions as foreign debt, in vitro fertilization, the arms industry, the role of the mass media and the impact of the Internet.

Through all these pronouncements runs a central theme: that human freedom becomes destructive when people forget they are created in God's image. Whether an unborn child, an impoverished African or an elderly shut-in, the pope says, every human being has a value that goes beyond earthly advantages and accomplishments.

While pushing Catholic teaching into virtually every area of modern life, the pope also has taken the measure of the church's past mistakes. At his insistence, the church acknowledged historical errors in condemning 16th-century astronomer Galileo Galilei, in participating in European religious wars, and even in its missionary approach in some New World territories.

Against considerable resistance within his own Vatican hierarchy, the pope commissioned critical studies on the church's role in the Inquisition and the Crusades and on the failings of Christians during the Holocaust.

### *Shepherding a global flock*

On an interreligious level, Pope John Paul has reached out in ways that were once considered impossible or even heretical. In 1986 he visited a Jewish synagogue in Rome, then in 2000 prayed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem — a gesture that won the hearts of many Jews worldwide.

In Syria, he became the first pope to visit a mosque, and in Morocco he spoke to thousands of cheering Muslim youths.

Twice he convened leaders of other religions and other churches for prayer meetings in Assisi, where participants denounced all acts of war and terrorism carried out in the name of religion.

Within the church, the pope has been no less dynamic. He has disciplined dissenting theologians and self-styled "traditionalists," promulgated a new Code of Canon Law, issued new directives calling for clearer Catholic identity in church universities, and defended with the full weight of his authority the church's all-male priesthood.

Some critics have said that in dealing with in-the-field church problems, the pope's management style is too detached. They cited the clerical sex abuse crisis as an example of where the pontiff should have called bishops and others to closer accountability.

Vatican officials reject that criticism, pointing out that the pope has several times pronounced prophetically against sex abuse and other moral failings by church ministers. The pope's job is not to pore over dossiers but to set clear directions, they say.

"This is not a pontificate that acts in a crisis management style. He goes beyond crisis management, to the root of the problem. And in the case of sex abuse, the real problem is in formation," said Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

As a teacher of the faith, the pope has been exhaustive, demanding and authoritative. The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is his longest document and will no doubt be seen as one of the great accomplishments of this pontificate; a shorter compendium of church teaching is also in the works.

The pope brooks no dissent among the faithful, and in a 1998 document he

Continued next page

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Continued *from previous page*

invoked penalties against Catholics who reject the church's wide range of "definitive" positions, including those on human sexuality.

That has prompted criticism by some groups of laity and theologians, especially in Europe and the United States. Such groups say the pope has presided over an excessive centralization of church power and authority at the expense of local churches.

While supporting Vatican II's promotion of the laity in the church, the pope has warned against confusing the roles of lay Catholics and ordained priests. He has supported clerically managed lay organizations like Opus Dei, which has grown in influence.

As opposed to models of power-sharing in the church, Pope John Paul has proposed models of holiness to the world's 1.1 billion Catholics. He has canonized more than 470 people from dozens of countries and beatified more than 1,300 — including the first lay couple.

### *Critical moments*

At the 25-year mark, the pope's record on ecumenism contains a long list of agreements, joint declarations and mutual gestures of good will, especially with some ancient Eastern churches.

But as common ground has been staked out among the churches, the remaining obstacles have stood in even higher relief. The Vatican's clear injunction against shared Eucharist with Protestant churches may seem arbitrary to critics, but the pope views it as a painful reminder of the distance yet to travel in ecumenical dialogue.

In recent years, relations with the Russian Orthodox Church have sharply deteriorated as a result of the pope's determination to rebuild Catholic communities in Russia and other parts of Eastern Europe. Surely one of the pope's biggest disappointments after 25 years has been the failure to visit Moscow, which he would undertake only with the Orthodox Church's blessing.

### *Reaching far and wide*

Pope John Paul's pontificate is the fourth-longest in history, and perhaps more than any of his predecessors he has shaped the hierarchy in his image. He has named more than three-fourths of the world's active bishops and 96 percent of the cardinals who will elect his successor.

During his papacy, the church has expanded greatly in Africa and made significant advances in Asia and Oceania. This distinctly Third World tilt has been spotlighted during the pope's more than 100 foreign trips, when he has used local customs in his liturgies, spoken the native language and praised indigenous writers and thinkers.

But the trips have enormous missionary objectives, as well. While respectful of the non-Catholic or non-Christian majorities along his itinerary, the pope has always presented the figure of Christ and the Gospel message to any and all of his listeners.

That's in keeping with the pope's conviction that while all people can be saved Christ is the unique savior for all people — a point made forcefully in the controversial document "Dominus Iesus," which emphasized proclamation of Christ over dialogue.

Visiting India in 1999, the pope delineated the church's approach on the Asian continent, where he predicted "a great harvest of faith" in the years to come. He praised his hosts' non-Christian spiritual traditions but also preached the Gospel, and said the best way for Christians to evangelize was by living the Gospel values.

### *The pope and youth*

As the pope has aged, his rapport with young people has remained consistently — and sometimes amazingly — fresh and energetic. World Youth Day celebrations, like the last one in Toronto in 2002, seem to bring out the pope's good humor and vigor. He jokes more easily with the young, but there is a serious side to all this, too.

Papal biographer Weigel, who has attended the youth day celebrations and spoken extensively on Catholic college campuses, said it is striking how young people welcome the pope's challenge "not to settle for anything less than the religious and moral grandeur that they're capable of, under grace."

"He's had a tremendous impact on the young, not by pandering to them, but by holding the bar of expectation high, all the time letting them know that he loves them and that Christ loves them," Weigel said.

### *Moving forward*

As the years of this pontificate roll by, the encyclicals and teaching documents have become fewer and the speeches shorter. Those close to him say the pope has clearly not run out of things to say, however — he's just saying them in different ways.

"At the start of the 21st century, the pope continues to open people up to the transcendent, telling them that we're more than genetics, we're more than psychology, we're more than DNA," said Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

This is a message that is resonating with Catholics and non-Catholics around the world, he said.

The pope is also finding time for more reflective writing. Earlier this year, he published a small book of poetry, meditations that were inspired by the Sistine Chapel frescoes.

As his 25th anniversary approached, the pope was in the final phase of writing a book on his 20 years as a bishop in Poland. He authored a similar volume in 1996 on his life as a priest, an intensely personal review of the spiritual path that eventually led to the papacy.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II arrives at the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary in Pompeii, Italy, Oct. 7. Closing a year dedicated to the rosary, the pontiff called for prayer and peacemaking to help heal the "conflicts, tensions and tragedies of every continent."

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

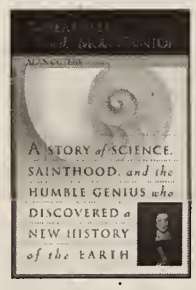
## Science and religion in the creation of the universe

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Seashell on the Mountaintop" and "Jesus in the New Universe Story," read together or separately, help contemporary Christians formulate an integrated understanding of religion and science.

"Seashell" is a book about the earth's story — a geological history of how our material world has evolved. "Jesus" is a universe story in which evolving faith engages unfolding creation.

Alan Cutler's "Seashell," written for general readers, recounts the life and times of Nicolaus Steno (1638-1686), a Danish anatomist who studied the rock formations and fossils. His insights on




"The Seashell on the Mountaintop: A Story of Science, Sainthood and the Humble Genius who Discovered a New History of the Earth," by Alan Cutler. Dutton/Penguin Group (New York, 2003). 228 pp., $23.95.

"Jesus in the New Universe Story," by Dominican Father Cletus Wessels. Orbis (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2003). 240 pp., $25.00.

minerals and their growth helped establish the new science of geology. Both traditional scientists and theologians resisted the earth science revolution that Steno began.

Steno sought a holistic explanation of creation that would link religious testaments to scientific knowledge. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988 and is known in his native Denmark as Blessed Niels Stensen. In his later years, Steno — a Lutheran convert to Catholicism — gave up scientific study for theology, becoming a priest and later a bishop serving Nordic missions. Known as the founder of geology, Steno is still remembered for his contributions to world knowledge as a Christian scientist.

How to explain a seashell embedded in a mountaintop? In a literal reading of Genesis, God produced the solid earth during those first "seven days" of creation, and later came Noah's flood. Before Steno it was presumed that receding floodwaters left seashells on mountains. Steno pioneered "observation" rather than relying on the pre-scientific wisdom of the ancients. He was convinced that a history of the earth could reconcile both the biblical narrative and empirical discoveries.

Steno taught that the earth has a history, revealed in its own rocks. He enhanced the meaning of the Hebrew creation myth by giving it an open-ended interpretation. He devised principles that helped his successors better understand the development of various strata or rock sequences. He demonstrated that water is the source of all sedimentary rock formations.

In "Jesus in the New Universe Story" Dominican Father Cletus Wessels, a preacher, retreat leader and parish educator, affirms the biblical account of Jesus while interpreting that narrative through the lens of an "emerging" universe. In his book for educated though not scholarly Christians he asks: "Where does (Jesus) fit into this 'new universe story' and this new cosmology? What does this story tell us of Jesus?"

The "new universe story" is profoundly influenced by evolutionary theory. It is the foundational teaching in most classrooms from junior high to university. It is commonly accepted by the scientific community worldwide. For the first time in history a creation story is shared by all cultures throughout the world.

Father Wessels describes how the human drama has evolved within the context of this larger cosmology. He addresses the meaning of such classic Christian themes as revelation, original sin, incarnation, resurrection, salvation and Jesus as Savior. He proposes that as we experience the presence of God in new ways in an emerging, non-confined universe. It is not surprising that we must now revision and reinterpret the traditional teachings.

Borrowing a key insight from Thomas Berry ("The Dream of the Earth," 1988; "The Great Work," 1999) Father Wessels believes the "new universe story" and humans that live within its embrace are evolving neither randomly (as scientism would claim) nor in a predetermined fashion (as advocated by intelligent design creationists) but in relation to a living Creator.

"An emerging universe," he says, "provides us with a new and powerful way of depicting our experience of the world and the presence of God in that world. ... Because of the unconditional love of God within us, there is no doubt in my mind that the human race will move (from adolescence) into (spiritual) adulthood and that the earth will be transformed."

In exciting, expansive ways, Culter and Father Wessels weave together the essential threads of classic Christian teaching and the discoveries of science as a new, blended tapestry takes shape.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 19, 2003

*Oct. 19, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20,22
2) Hebrews 4:14-16
3) Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Our parish is building a new church, a process that's taken about 12 years from vision to final construction phase. It has been an arduous process. To give you an idea, the building campaign was named "Project 2000." The new sanctuary will be dedicated in the last month of 2003.

Of course, not all parishioners have "financially participated" in the project, and over the years there was plenty of concern voiced as to whether a new church was affordable or even needed. Still, a core of committed members of the church community has seen it through.

I know a few parishioners who, although they are faithful, active church ministers, have insisted that they will not contribute to bricks and mortar. And then there is Norman.

Norman is a good family man who, for years, has served quietly and dependably in numerous parish ministries. Emphasis on the "quietly." While participating financially in the new church, he's been participating physically as well, being part of the sweat equity crew sharing wiring, carpentry and plumbing tasks. Now, as construction winds down, new offices are completed, staff and furniture are being moved, new classroom space is being opened, Norman is at the church on Saturdays and several nights a week painting an entire wing! (And yes, he has a regular job.) All those hours — Norman, his wife, son, sister and brother-in-law. If you tell him you appreciate all the work and time he's putting in, he just says, "Oh, I like to do it." At 11:30 at night?

Norman, really!

This weekend's readings are about servant leadership and servant love. They remind me of Norman and his attitude — so different from the one that says I will not contribute to any effort I deem not valuable or important. In the Gospel, Jesus is talking about his disciples' blind spot. Yes, he tells them, as disciples you will suffer in this life (drink the cup), and you will be offered the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit (be baptized). But don't assume "success" in the eyes of God if you won't humble yourself to be a true servant of all.

***Questions***

'What is the prevailing attitude in your actions as a disciple of Jesus? What differences have you seen in the effects of ministering when you are motivated by wanting to feel good compared to wanting simply to serve another?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all" (Mark 10:43-44).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 19 - OCT. 25**

**Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. Paul of the Cross),** Romans 4:20-25, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday,** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday,** Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday (St. John of Capistrano),** Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday (St. Anthony Mary Claret),** Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 26 - NOV. 1**

**Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday,** Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday (Sts. Simon and Jude),** Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday,** Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday,** Romans 8:31-39, Luke 13:31-35; **Friday,** Romans 9:1-5, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (All Saints Day),** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

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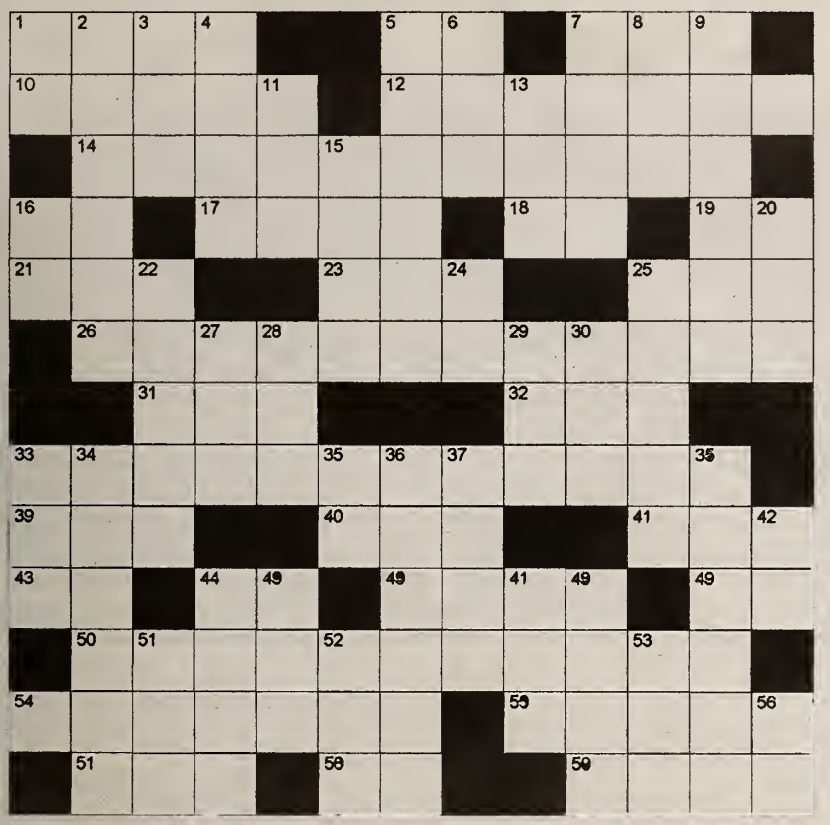

ACROSS
1 States
5 Pa's partner
7 Law's limb?
10 Florida city
12 A fool and his money ___
14 Summer song
16 A drink with jam and bread?
17 Giant armadillo
18 Hamlet's country (abbr.)
19 Arnold's state (abbr.)
21 Gov't agency
23 Mature acorn
25 Cry
26 Beach Boys song
31 Five-dollar bill (slang)
32 Popular ISP
33 Dixie Cups song
39 Above (poetic)
40 They exist
41 Cute starter
43 Ad field
44 Film co.
46 Bird home
49 Atop
50 Harrison song
54 American conductor
55 French love
57 Buddhist temple
58 Adverb maker
59 Pear

DOWN
1 Extremely
2 Hurting
3 Scottish one
4 Strip of wood
5 Handbook
6 Ship of pairs
7 Dilbert intern
8 Quarrel
9 Russian capital
11 Frank's wife
13 Conclude
15 British school
16 Titanium
20 Stomach muscles
22 "__ so good."
24 Derby State (abbr.)
25 Decipher
27 Party fare
28 "Chorus Line" song
29 Clark Kent's real name: __ El
30 "Smart drugs": __tropic
33 "Kindergarten __"
34 Religious recluse
35 "__ is my Lady"
36 Crotchety
37 Cold __
38 Genesis follower
42 Printer's measure
44 Gov't food agency
45 Piercing tool
47 Hearst kidnapper
48 Empty on Easter
51 Verily
52 Lamprey
53 Winnie-the-Pooh character
56 Pepsi competitor


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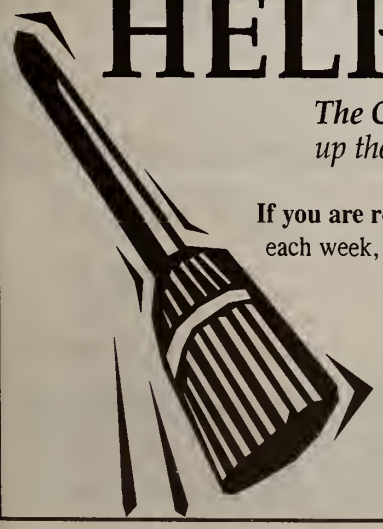

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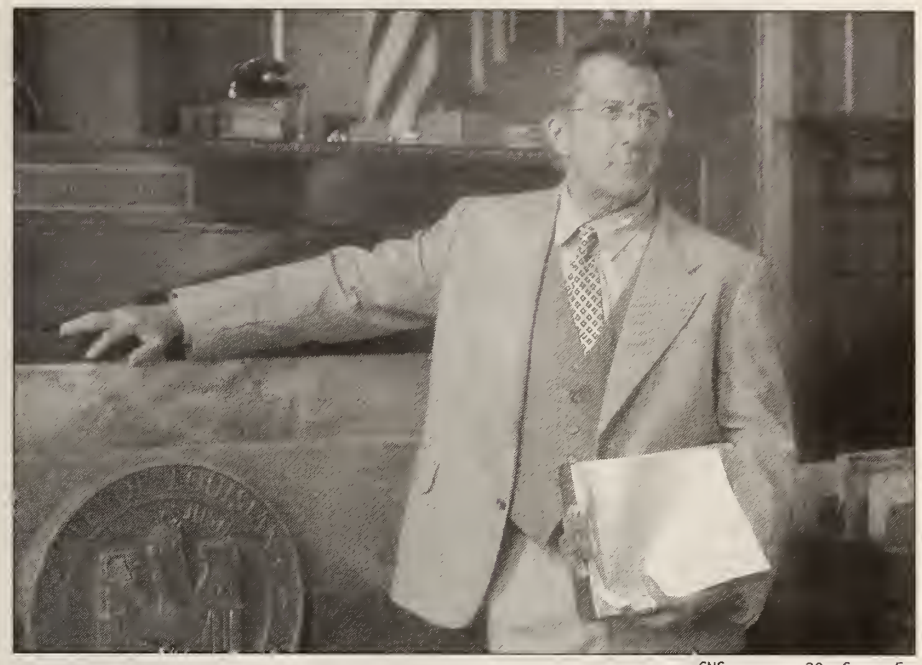
## HARDLY WORTH TESTIFYING



CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Dustin Hoffman stars in a scene from the movie "Runaway Jury," a middling courtroom drama based on the John Grisham novel.

# 'Jury' verdict is anything but suspenseful

BY GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A juror and his girlfriend conspire to buy a verdict for the highest bidder in the workmanlike courtroom drama "Runaway Jury" (20th Century Fox).

Based on the 1996 John Grisham novel, the lawsuit in the movie was switched from the tobacco industry to the gun industry after Big Tobacco began to lose cases. But, as often happens in a book with many characters (the opposing legal teams, their clients, jury consultants, judge, jury and alternates) the film must pare down the characterizations to quick thumbnail sketches. And the film suffers as a result, especially in comparison to the novel. Although director Gary Fleder sets a fast pace and has a great cast at his disposal, these characters simply aren't emotionally involving enough to make us care deeply.

Gene Hackman plays Rankin Fitch, a ruthless jury consultant for the gun industry who promises the rich CEOs paying him that with their lawyer (Bruce Davison) obeying his instructions to accept or reject a given juror, they will bring in the not-guilty verdict so crucial to prevent a slew of class-action suits that could bankrupt the gun industry. Fitch has a huge staff — both high-tech types researching each potential juror and lowlifes to intimidate or blackmail them for the "right" verdict.

The wild card in the equation, however, is juror Nick Easter (John Cusack), whose background cannot be traced by Fitch's minions before the trial begins. Bringing the suit against the gun manufacturer whose firearm a disgruntled employee used to murder 11 employees is a widow represented by crusading New Orleans attorney Wendall Rohr (Dustin Hoffman).

In short order, Fitch and Rohr are each contacted by Nick's girlfriend, Marlee (Rachel Weisz), who proposes that for millions Nick can swing the jury to the desired outcome for whoever takes her up on the offer. Idealistic Rohr is appalled; Fitch wants to gets the goods on her pronto, but is persuaded to listen to her when she proves Nick is able to manipulate the jurors to do unheard-of things such as bursting forth with a pledge of allegiance in the courtroom. As Rohr finds his key witnesses suddenly compromised, he too considers the despicable offer.

But are Nick and Marlee as mercenary as they seem, and are they in actual danger from Fitch's thugs?

Despite the director's snazzy camera moves, action elements and zippy pacing, the sense of urgency isn't there, so the suspense isn't sizzling. While never boring, the film plays like a competent police procedural as the pieces in the puzzle eventually fit together. Yet the ending is far too easily accomplished to be very credible, with its morally ambiguous characters shown in a more favorable light than deserved.

Ironically, there are scenes in a church, with a cabbie whose rosary is prominently positioned and in a store featuring candles to honor different saints, but the supposed moral victory dished out is hollow.

Due to a cynical view of the legal system, some violence and minimal rough language and profanity, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Pare is the director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# Countdown to ordination

ORDINATION, *from page 1*

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta will celebrate the ordination Mass. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio in Washington, and Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte, will concelebrate.

For the first time in the history of the Diocese of Charlotte, the bishop's ordination will be broadcast live on the Internet.

"Now the faithful of the diocese can participate in the ceremony via a live Webcast," said Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and coordinator of ordination ceremonies.

From any computer with Internet access, people can watch a live video and audio feed from St. Matthew Church. The Web site hosting the video will be accessible through the diocesan Web site (www.charlottediocese.org) at 12 p.m. Oct. 24.

"I am really excited to be a part of this historic moment, to capture and archive it for future generations to enjoy," said Mark Martindale, the ordination's videographer.

"Through this technology, we are able to offer direct access to this historic event to the people of our diocese and beyond," said Father O'Rourke, "and it gives us the possibilities of future uses for this medium."

"Using the Internet for online ministry will enable us to reach out to others more effectively and find new ways of participating in the church's mission of evangelization," said Frank Villaronga, director of diocesan evangelization and ministry formation and ordination planning committee member.

The rite of reception of the bishop in his cathedral church will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 25.

The rite of reception prescribes the new bishop be greeted on his arrival at the cathedral by an assembly of priests, deacons and the faithful of the diocese, according to Father O'Rourke.

"After reverencing a crucifix presented to him by the rector, Father Paul Gary, the bishop will bless the congregation using holy water," said Father O'Rourke. "Upon entering the cathedral, the bishop will take his place at the cathedra — the seat that signifies his being bishop of the diocese — and then proceed with the celebration of the Eucharist."

"This special ceremony is open to all who wish to join in the celebration," said Father O'Rourke.

### WANT TO GO?

The ordination and installation Mass will be at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte, 12-2 p.m. Oct. 24. The rite of reception of the bishop will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East in Charlotte, 5:30 p.m. Oct. 25.

# Mother Teresa's 'miracle'

MIRACLE, *from page 1*

pressed together — then they grasp her hands or her wrist.

Besra, who is in her late 30s, played a key role in the process leading to Mother Teresa's Oct. 19 beatification.

Suffering from a huge abdominal tumor, Besra was being cared for by the Missionaries of Charity in West Bengal state. The sisters prayed for Mother Teresa's intercession, and Besra was healed on the first anniversary of their founder's death.

With one of the Indian nuns translating, Besra told Catholic News Service she has been smiling ever since.

A Hindu at the time of the healing in 1998, Besra became a Catholic and was scheduled to receive Communion from Pope John Paul II during the beatification Mass.

"I hope people who see me will feel happy, too," she said in an Oct. 14 interview.

Besra came to Rome with a group of Mother Teresa's sisters for the ceremony. With the demands of work and school, her husband and children stayed behind in India.

The slender woman who speaks softly and laughs often said she had heard about Mother Teresa for years.

"I had heard the Mother did good for others, taking care of the sick and the poor," she said.

Besra said that although she was Hindu "I always loved Christianity and named all my children with Christian names. Even before I became Christian, I loved Jesus.

"I had Mother Mary's picture in my house and I would pray to her," she said. "I felt I was not loved enough, my life was very sad, so I turned to Mother Mary."

Besra said her husband often stayed away from home or would come home drunk.

"After my cure, my husband stopped drinking. Now if he drinks, he gets sick right away," she said, giggling.

"There is so much joy in my house now; we laugh all the time," Besra said. "That is another miracle."

In October 2002, the leader of the Science and Rationalists Association of India, as well as a former state health minister and the director of the hospital where Besra was treated for tuberculosis, claimed the healing was the result of medical treatment, not prayers to Mother Teresa.

Vatican medical consultants had examined the woman's medical records and concluded there was no medical explanation for the disappearance of the tumor.

Vatican sources said the consultants specifically considered whether medication used for treating her tuberculosis could have caused the tumor to disappear, and they concluded it could not.

But Besra did not need the input of medical experts; she was convinced from the beginning that her healing was a miracle.

"Those who believe in God and in Mother believe it is a miracle," she said. "Those who love God, they believe in miracles; Hindus, too, if they have a pure mind."

The smile faded from her lips as she explained: "I was so sick and I was healed. That is why I became a Christian.

"From the time Mother and God made me all right, all I have wanted is to honor him," she said.

"No matter what anyone says, I am convinced and I will follow my faith," Besra said.

### LOCAL CELEBRATION

A Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the beatification of Mother Teresa will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25. Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus, will be the celebrant of the mass. All are welcome. St. Patrick Cathedral is at 1621 Dilworth Road East in Charlotte.

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**FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR:** St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Full-time position with good salary (range $31-$35K) is currently available. Duties involve supervising religious education program for young people on Sunday morning. If you have experience or a degree in theology or religious studies, please send resume and cover letter to: Fr. Paul Gary, 1621 Dilworth Road E., Charlotte NC 28203, or fax to St. Patrick Cathedral at 704-377-6403.

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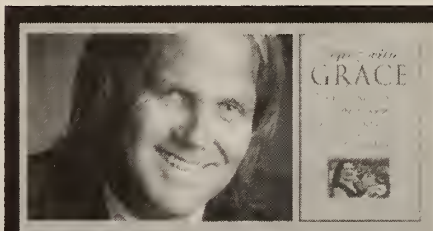


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# Boy Scout wins Eagle Award for handiwork

COURTESY PHOTO

WINSTON-SALEM — Padraig Hugh O'Doherty, of Boy Scout Troop 958 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, received the Eagle Scout Award Aug. 30.

O'Doherty's Eagle project was to construct nine stackable benches for the religious education program of the Hispanic ministry of St. Leo the Great Church. The benches, which are portable and fit in the rear of the church's 15-passenger van, are sturdy enough for long-term use yet light enough for movement by the students and teachers.

O'Doherty, a graduate of North Forsyth High School, is a freshman at Western Carolina.

# Greenway fun raises funds

COURTESY PHOTO

## *Annual golf tournament a success*

CRAMERTON — Although threats of rain from an impending hurricane were in the forecast, the sun shone bright at Cramer Mountain Country Club for Holy Angels' 12th Fall Golf Classic.

With a ceremonial first drive, Holy Angels resident Trey and emvee Jeff Johnson opened the Sept. 15 tournament in which 139 golfers participated.

All proceeds raised through the tournament help support programs and services of Holy Angels. In the past 12 years, the golf outing has raised nearly $500,000.

Golfers gathered in the clubhouse ballroom following play for a reception and the awarding of prizes. Winners of the Captain's Choice tournament included the following teams:

1st Place — Ryan's Friends: Mike Warchol, a parent of Holy Angels' resident, Ryan; Doug Lyerly; Tom Wright; and Curt Pritchard.

2nd Place — WJZY UPN46/ Charlotte's WB: Jeff Johnson, Bobby Hitchcock, Chyne Rubuer, Mat McIntyre.

3rd Place — Nationwide Insurance: Bill Gary, Arnie Broome, Chuck Norton, Tim Hausemann.

Holy Angels, founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, is a private, nonprofit corporation located in Belmont that provides residential services and innovative programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

Programs include the Holy Angels Residential Center, four Community Group Homes, four Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded group homes, Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in downtown Belmont.


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| Premarin | .625mg | 100 | $97.99 | $80.77 | $94.99 | $23.58 | 71-76% |
| Prevacid | 30mg | 30 | $127.99 | $116.97 | $134.99 | $61.95 | 47-54% |
| Prilosec | 20mg | 28 | $114.99 | $110.48 | $126.99 | $57.75 | 48-55% |
| Zocor | 20mg | 100 | $377.38 | $385.47 | $432.20 | $161.70 | 57-63% |
| Zyrtec | 10mg | 100 | $206.63 | $184.27 | $200.99 | $58.79 | 53-58% |

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

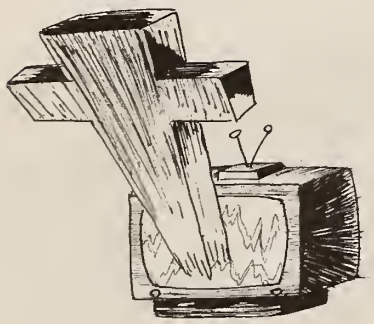
# Beyond the big issues: Ideas for the church

## *C-SPAN window on a Catholic world needed*

**Looking Around**

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

If you ever wonder why we don't have a Catholic C-SPAN, or a Catholic equivalent of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, you are doing the kind of thinking that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops never gets around to at its annual November meeting in Washington, D.C. This is not necessarily because the bishops and their conference staff have "better things to think about." It's simply because they've got so many frontline, high-priority things to discuss that they don't have time on their agenda for smaller, quieter ideas that could, if



translated into programs, contribute to the vitality of the church the conference exists to serve.

A great form of lay participation in the life of the church would be "out of the box thinking" that could lead the bishops to set up a task force or two during their annual meeting in Year 1, and commission them to produce a report that could result in an action item on the November agenda two or three years later. Any action item would, of course, have to have budgetary legs to bring it to the floor for serious debate.

Out of the box thinking would mean out of the chancery, out of the sanctuary, out of the social, theological, liturgical, educational and public-policy arenas where the bishops' agenda normally and quite properly sinks its roots. Those who come up with interesting small ideas (there are plenty of experts in the conference to generate the big ideas!) might be invited to take a place on a task force with the opportunity to speak up in support of their proposals in one of the November meetings.

What if there were a Catholic C-SPAN (the cable, satellite, public affairs network)? C-SPAN is financed by the cable industry; it began in 1979 with four employees and one telephone line. What if there were on cable television a Catholic Booknotes every weekend? What if a Catholic C-SPAN had bureaus in Washington, New York, Boston, Chicago, New Orleans, Denver, San Francisco and other Catholic centers of influence in between — South Bend, for example? Wouldn't it be great to be able to tune in to the classrooms, cultural centers, panel discussions, lectures, debates and exhibitions in Catholic institutional settings?

Catholic hospitals would surely have interesting fare to offer to interested viewers. And just as C-SPAN is on Capitol Hill every day, a Catholic counterpart could cover the daily activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington and maybe even provide a regular call-in program with conservative, moderate and progressive lines!

Those who admire the resourcefulness of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in bringing to the nation the beautiful voices of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir (while deriving a well-deserved public relations benefit in return), might sometimes ask, Why not a National Catholic Chorale with a home at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington? The church could surely use the PR bonus, and the nation would be enriched by the cultural contributions of Catholic singers and instrumentalists.

Just as there are many other places and events that could attract Catholic cable TV cameras, there are also a lot of other small ideas worthy of consideration by the body of bishops for the betterment of both church and nation. The task force mechanism can be utilized at any time to put wheels under good ideas. And lots of good ideas are out there between the ears of thinking Catholics whose eyes would welcome a C-SPAN-like window on their Catholic world.

*E-mail: wbyron@loyola.edu.*

# Buoyed by cheers, frail pope kicks off 25th anniversary celebrations

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Buoyed by the cheers of pilgrims and serenaded by Polish choirs, a frail Pope John Paul II kicked off 25th anniversary celebrations with a reflection on prayer and divine grace.

Addressing some 20,000 people in St. Peter's Square Oct. 15, the pope spoke about the value of evening prayer for modern Catholics. Then he greeted a seemingly endless line of cardinals, bishops, dignitaries and the sick — many of whom brought a gift for the occasion.

The general audience was the first official event of a weeklong calendar of ceremonies and liturgies to mark the anniversary of the pope's election Oct. 16, 1978. For the occasion, the Vatican's Web site (www.vatican.va) invited people around the world to send greetings to the pope at his e-mail address: john_paul_ii@vatican.va.

The 83-year-old pontiff rode through a crowded St. Peter's Square seated on a throne in an open jeep, looking alert and waving to the thousands of cheering well-wishers. He spoke in a relatively strong voice, although at times he seemed short of breath.

The pope's talk recommended evening prayer, or vespers, as a way to draw close to God through a sequence of psalms, canticles, readings and intercessions, culminating in the Lord's Prayer, the "perfect expression of the church's praise of God."

Like all general audiences, this one had a down-home atmosphere. The 70-person Immaculate Conception Church Choir of Port Clinton, Ohio, sang a hymn to the pope, and other groups chanted messages to him.

"He is the one pope I've known and is very special. We thought this might be our last chance to see him," said Vivian Palmer of Dearborn, Mich., who sat with her mother in the square as the pope's jeep passed.

The pope, seated on a platform in the sunny square, abbreviated some of his remarks, but still managed to express greetings in several languages.

"I want to acknowledge the wishes and prayers that have been offered for me on (the) occasion of my 25th anniversary of my pontificate," he said at the end of the audience.

"I'm happy that I can count on your spiritual support," he said.

Among the U.S. prelates who greeted the pope personally afterward were Cardinals Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and Bernard F. Law, retired archbishop of Boston.

The gifts for the anniversary were piling up at the Vatican, and more were dropped off at the audience. A Japanese delegation brought a bronze bust of the pope, Africans brought a crucifix and individuals presented books, silver plates and decorated ceramic ware to the pope, who let aides carry them away.

As usual, the biggest group of people allowed to kiss the pope's ring was the sick, including dozens who were taken up to the seated pontiff in wheelchairs. Then the pope posed patiently for group photos with pilgrims for almost an hour.

The pope began the week by remembering the day of his election and thanking everyone — especially young people — for their prayers and enthusiasm over the years.

"I look out at young people, with whom I've established a preferential dialogue from the beginning of my Petrine ministry," he said at a blessing from his apartment window Oct. 12.

He said he recalled telling young people at his first Angelus talk in 1978, "You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the church, you are my hope."

"I have to recognize that the response of young people has been truly encouraging. Today I would like to thank them for always being close to me during these years, and I'd like them to know that I continue to count on them," he said.

Speaking in a pre-recorded TV transmission to Poland Oct. 13, the pope said that at the 25-year mark the words of St. Luke's Gospel came to mind: "We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty."

The pope said he wanted to "thank God for all the good he has caused to spring from the hearts of individuals, the church and the world" throughout the 25 years of his ministry.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# A little courtesy goes a long way

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Most of us take courtesy for granted. We extend it in a mild way by holding doors open, or saying "please" and "thank you," or letting somebody with a single item go first at the grocery store. And we notice it when people don't do these things, when a driver cuts us off or someone plays a radio so loudly it hurts our ears.

Still, I don't believe we often appreciate the potential power a simple act of courtesy can exert on people. Not long ago, I read about such an incident concerning the respected religious and civil rights leader Desmond Tutu, which turned into a life-changing moment.

As a boy, Tutu saw firsthand the evils of South Africa's apartheid system. Injustice and indignities were the norm. One day, as he walked down the street with his mother, a white Anglican priest politely stepped aside and tipped his hat to Tutu's mother. Surprised, young Desmond asked her, "Why was that white man so nice to you?"

She replied, "That man is a minister of the Gospel. People like that are courteous to everyone."

Tutu later said it was at that moment he decided he, too, would be a minister of the Gospel. He also became an Anglican priest, later archbishop, and a world renowned and respected human rights advocate and winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.

Now, I'm not suggesting that every time you say "Have a nice day!" it will change someone's life. Yet there's no doubt that we all have a far greater influence on others than we credit ourselves. We are part of a human community and while we think of ourselves as pretty self-sufficient, that's not really the case. The littlest acts of courtesy and kindness are life-affirming gifts and, of course, that applies to the reverse: the smallest barbs of thoughtlessness, rudeness and pettiness cause wounds that can last a day or a decade.

Who would ever want to admit to being thoughtless, rude or petty? The other guy maybe, but not me! If we are inconsiderate, it's only because we've been provoked. If we tell people what we think of them, we're just being frank. Sound familiar? We all have our mean moments. But it's nothing to be proud of — and no way to live.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has some thoughts on being more aware of our connection with others, too: "You can't be a solitary human being. (We're) all linked. ... Because of this deep sense of community, the harmony of the group is a prime attribute. And so you realize that anything that undermines the harmony is to be avoided as much as possible. Anger and jealousy and revenge are particularly corrosive, so you try ... to enhance the humanity of the other, because in that process, you enhance your own."

The consideration and civility we share makes our world a bit less difficult, a bit more grace-filled for us not only as individuals, but as members of one human community — children of our Divine Creator. "The grace of God is in courtesy," said the writer Hilaire Belloc. It's true, and it's worth remembering whenever you're tempted not to make time for courtesy.

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

# Understanding: the heart of dialogue

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"Permit me, then, with the last breaths the Spirit gives me, to implore you: Do not be afraid to embrace the spirituality of communion, this 'little way' of dialogue with one another, with your priests, with all God's faithful. Doing so, you will touch not only the hearts of your brothers and sisters, you will draw closer to the very heart of Jesus, the Lord and brother of us all."

When I read these dying words of Msgr. Philip Murnion, I thought: If this is the most important thing he sees in this life as he leaves it, how do we translate his vision into action? I found my answer.

Before a recent funeral Mass, an elderly man dressed in a cream-colored suit entered the sacristy. Later I learned he was a priest who works with Hispanics.

Another gentleman entered the sacristy with hair down to his ears wearing layman's clothes. As he put on an alb, I realized that he too was a priest and later learned he was working in one of the toughest neighborhoods in Washington, D.C.

The celebrant at the Mass was black. When he began the funeral ceremony, it was unlike any I usually experience. Throughout it he sang. It was one of the most uplifting funerals I have ever concelebrated.

I must frankly admit that at first I felt I was among a group of maverick priests. They just didn't fit the mold of priests coming to a funeral. But the more I learned about these men, the more I came to respect them as persons.

When I read Msgr. Murnion's plea for dialogue and spiritual communion, my first reaction was: Our priests and bishops are all characters in one way or other. How could you ever have a true dialogue with so many diverse personalities? Follow the beautiful counsel of the book of Proverbs: "Wisdom is the principle thing; get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding."

If Msgr. Murnion's vision is to materialize, it must start with a desire to look into each other much more deeply than we do, to put aside labels and first impressions, to forget biases and prejudices, and to open our hearts to each other so that we can speak heart to heart.

Understanding is at the heart of dialogue. More important, it gives heart to the priesthood.

# Preparing for marriage after age 75

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. If both of a couple are over 75 years old and have known each other for 45 years, are they required to take premarriage classes? We would feel out of place with the young couples. (Iowa)*

A. As most other pastors, I have helped many older couples prepare for marriage, and we always work out some alternative to the usual preparation programs. We understand your potential embarrassment and that much of the usual information would be irrelevant for you.

On the other hand, some parts of the typical preparation programs, such as premarriage inventories, which explore your similarities and differences on numerous subjects like finances, religion, even recreational activities, could prove beneficial for both of you.

Please talk with your pastor together, and explain your concern. I'm nearly positive he will help you prepare in way you will feel comfortable with.

## Confusion over Our Father

*Q. After a recent Mass, a friend told me the Our Father we say at Mass is Protestant. She belongs to some "new" Catholic group that does things differently and was told our prayer after the Lord's Prayer (For the kingdom, the power ...") is wrong. I've never heard that. Is it true? (Illinois)*

A. No, it is not true. That prayer, called a doxology (prayer of praise), was used very early in Christian liturgical worship, possibly because a similar prayer had been common in Jewish worship for a long time.

Eventually some, perhaps overzealous, copiers of Scripture (this was long before the printing press) began placing these words after the Lord's Prayer in the Gospel of Mathew (6:9-13) as a gloss — marginal interpretations or pious notes which they occasionally inserted, possibly just to break the monotony of a tedious job.

In later centuries, some glosses, including this one, found their way into the Bible text itself. This was the situation when the King James Authorized English translation was published in 1611.

The King James version, in general use by Protestants for more than 300 years, included this addendum to the Lord's Prayer.

As biblical scholarship developed, however, it became clear to everyone, Protestant and Catholic, that this addition was not originally part of Scripture, but was inserted afterward.

Thus, Protestant Bibles since the King James translation have, almost universally, eliminated the sentence from the Scripture, mentioning it at most as an unauthentic, or liturgical, addition to the sacred text. Bible translations under Catholic auspices have never included the sentence.

For centuries, however, the doxology was included in the Mass shortly after the Our Father. We continue the ancient liturgical tradition, of course, even today by offering this prayer of praise together at Mass, not as part of, but shortly after the Our Father.

Oriental-rite Catholics, however, and many Latin-rite Catholics in other countries, still use it regularly as a concluding doxology to the Lord's Prayer.

*A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Our Lady of the Highways Church home to multicultural family

File Photo

Our Lady of the Highways Church was designed in 1953 and its first service was a reading of St. John's Passion of Christ on Good Friday, April 16, 1954. The parish, now made up of 450 families, celebrated the church's 50th anniversary Oct. 5.

OUR LADY OF THE HIGHWAYS
943 Ball Park Road
Thomasville, N.C. 27360
(336) 475-2732

Vicariate: Greensboro
Pastor: Oblate Father Thomas Fitzpatrick
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Wayne Adams
Number of Families: 450

Oblate Father
Thomas Fitzpatrick

THOMASVILLE — It was through the presence of sports that the Catholic Church arrived in Thomasville. Catholic members of the Hi-Toms Ball Team, a minor league baseball squad, attended the first Mass celebrated in the area more than a half-century ago. In the summer months during the late 1940s, Father Robert McMillan of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point said Masses in a Thomasville funeral home.

In June 1951, before the founding of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh arranged for Masses to be celebrated at a home on College Street in Thomasville. Father McMillan was celebrant, although Father Hugh Kennedy became the town's pastor that same month. Holy Rosary Church in Lexington later took the newly founded chapel on as a mission church. Named in honor of St. Thomas Beckett, the chapel was designated a mission on Dec. 28, 1951.

Increasing numbers of local Catholics soon led to expansion. The "twin priests," Fathers Clarence and Lawrence Hill, designed plans for a permanent church in 1953. Dubbed Our Lady of the Highways Church, its first service was a reading of St. John's Passion of Christ on Good Friday, April 16, 1954. The congregation attended its first Mass that Easter Sunday, when the church was blessed.

Until 1970, Our Lady of the Highways Church continued as a mission church, either under Holy Rosary Church in Lexington or Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. In July 1970, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales assisted Bishop Waters in establishing Our Lady of the Highways as a parish. By 1972, the church boasted membership of 72 families.

Parish growth continued over the years, and a new parish picnic center and mobile classroom units for faith formation classes were added in 1980. Within two years, 95 families comprised the church community. In March 1988, plans were drawn for the construction of a parish center and a rectory on the church grounds. The additions were dedicated Sept. 17, 1989.

Our Lady of the Highways Church developed a Hispanic ministry in 1983. Beginning with a 17-week program, the ministry expanded to include weekly Spanish Masses each Sunday. A growing year-round Hispanic population enhanced parish life, and in 1996 two faith formation programs were formed: one for English-speaking parishioners, the other a bilingual program for English- and Spanish-speakers.

Parishioners and clergy became active in other ministries, as well, providing assistance to the staff of Community General Hospital, and — along with a local grocer — operating a food-collection-and-distribution project for the area's needy.

Each September, parishioners gather together on Our Lady of the Highways Day, when the varied international backgrounds of the parishioners are celebrated with a dinner and Mass.

Oblate Father John Murphy, who became pastor of the church in 1977, oversaw much growth in the parish with the addition of over 100 new families. In June 1997, Oblate Father Thomas Fitzpatrick became pastor.

On April 21, 2001, Bishop Curlin presided at a bilingual Mass and blessed a refurbished church including double the worship space, a new cry room, a sacristy and a reconciliation room. Other features included new carpet, new windows depicting images of saints and biblical scenes and new marble surrounding the altar and tabernacle area. Renovations took less than five months, thanks to the generosity of local contributors and the spirit of the faith community.

"The amazing part of this church is the architecture," said Father Fitzpatrick at the ceremony. "It looks like a Spanish mission, and there wasn't a Hispanic in sight when the church was built. Now, half our parish is Spanish. It was a prophecy. It's wonderful."

The church currently has 450 families made up of 21 different nationalities. On Oct. 5, 2003, the parish celebrated the church's 50th anniversary with a special Mass and dinner featuring ethnic cuisine of the various nationalities in the parish.

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**Special Insert:**

*Included in this issue is the annual diocesan finance report, 'Building Hope, Changing Lives.'*

# Mother Teresa beatified in Rome

## *Pope offers thanks for her witness, courage*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

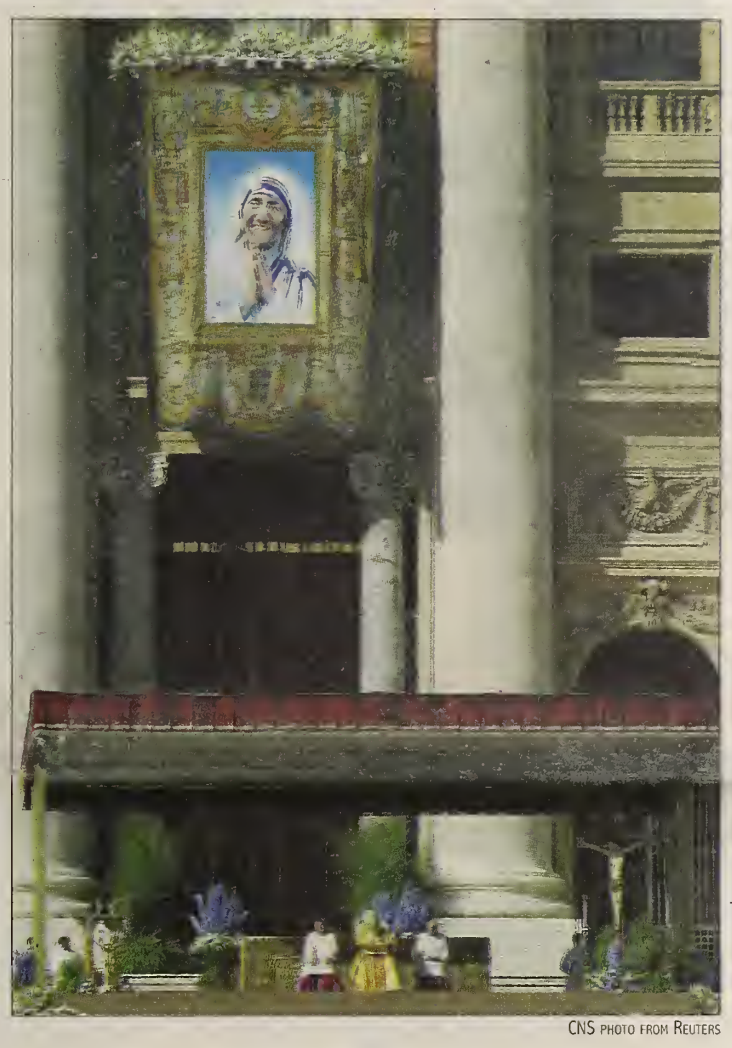
VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II offered his thanks to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, for being close to him in her lifetime and for courageously showing the world what it means to love and serve Jesus completely.

"The venerable servant of God, Teresa of Calcutta, from this moment on will be called blessed," the pope said at the Oct. 19 beatification Mass as the crowd burst into applause.

In the homily he wrote for the ceremony, the 83-year-old pope said: "We honor in her one of the most relevant personalities of our age. Let us accept her message and follow her example."

For the first time at a major event, Pope John Paul did not read even one line of his own homily. A Vatican official said that with the pope's difficulty speaking clearly, the crowd would not have been able to understand much of his message, so others were asked to read for him.

See BEATIFIED, page 13



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II presides at the beatification Mass for Mother Teresa of Calcutta Oct. 19 in St. Peter's Square.

LONG-LIVED FAITH

## Seniors gather for day of reflection

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — Laughter resonated throughout St. Mark Church as Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson shared jokes with 100 seniors who gathered Oct. 9 for a day of reflection, prayer and laughter sponsored by the elder ministry for Catholic Social Services.

Unlike the Spring Fling, when parishioners from across the diocese congregate to enjoy games and enrichment activities, the annual Senior Fall Day of Reflection is a time for seniors to come together to explore and challenge their faith, said Sandra Breakfield, program director for diocesan elder ministry.

"Seniors are very spiritually grounded," Breakfield said. "They need, and want, a day to increase their faith."

See SENIORS, page 7

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II acknowledges the cheers of pilgrims at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 15. Tens of thousands of pilgrims from around the world made their way to Rome to mark his 25th anniversary as pope Oct. 16 and to celebrate the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta Oct. 19.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

## Anniversary Mass, pope prays for 'wisdom, holiness and strength'

At anniversary Mass, pope prays for 'wisdom, holiness and strength'

by JOHN THAVIS
catholic news service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the world offered congratulations and encouragement, Pope John Paul II celebrated a 25th anniversary Mass and prayed for the "wisdom, holiness and strength" to keep leading the church.

The Oct. 16 liturgy in St. Peter's Square brought together church leaders, civil authorities and some 50,000 faithful from many countries, all of them eager to share the moment with the aging and fragile pontiff.

The Mass was an emotional high point of the anni-

See POPE, page 12

### Bishop Jugis ordained as fourth bishop of Charlotte

Bishop Peter J. Jugis was ordained and installed as the fourth bishop of Charlotte in a Mass at St. Matthew Church today, Oct. 24.

Look for complete coverage of the Mass, as well as Bishop Jugis' rite of reception at St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 25 and other events, in a special commemorative issue to Bishop Jugis in next week's *The Catholic News & Herald.*

**Ministering through music**
*St. John Neumann music director wins national recognition*
| PAGE 4

**Spreading Jesus' love**
*Women's Guild distributes funds to many*
| PAGE 5

**Aging with Grace**
*Upcoming conference to feature 'Nun Study' results*
| PAGE 6

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FIGHTING FOR LIFE UNTIL THE VERY END

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Protesters hold up signs and a photograph of Terri Schiavo with her mother outside the Pinellas Park Hospice in Florida Oct. 15. By order of a circuit court judge, Terri Schiavo's feeding tube, which was keeping her alive, was removed that afternoon.

## Fight continues after woman's feeding tube removed, replaced

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (CNS) — As protestors held signs outside the Pinellas Park Hospice, Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was removed inside by order of a circuit court judge Oct. 15.

The tube had kept Schiavo, a 39-year-old Catholic woman, alive since a 1990 collapse, believed due to a potassium imbalance, which left her with severe brain damage.

She has since become the subject of a bitter battle between her husband, who claimed further treatment was useless and sought to have nutrition and hydration ended, and her parents and other relatives, who were fighting to keep her alive.

Schiavo has no will or advance health care directives, and her husband, Michael Schiavo, had won $1.3 million for her care but has had to be brought to court to authorize routine treatment for his wife's infections.

Michael Schiavo now has a child — and a second one on the way — with another woman but remained married to Terri and in control of her medical fund and her fate.

Despite the best efforts of Terri's parents, the feeding tube — through which she has received food and water for the past 13 years — was removed and she was expected to die within two weeks.

But Oct. 20, the Florida House passed a bill to give Gov. Jeb Bush the power to have her feeding tube restored. A Senate panel approved the bill early Oct. 21 and a full Senate vote was scheduled for that evening. Meanwhile, a federal judge in Tampa, Fla., turned down a state agency's request to keep Schiavo alive while it investigated whether removal of the feeding tube could be considered a form of abuse.

"Tragically, denial of basic sustenance to people with disabilities is neither unusual nor new in our country," the National Right to Life Committee said in an Oct. 15 statement. "For about two decades, the law in virtually every state has decreed that 'surrogates' may authorize denial of treatment to those who cannot speak for themselves."

No medical consensus exists that Terri Schiavo is in a persistent vegetative state.

"Over the last 13 years, Terri has laughed with us, cried with us, talked with us, and even tried to get out of her chair," said her parents in an Oct. 13 statement. "The accusations that Terri is in a coma or is a 'vegetable' are a lie."

Msgr. Thaddeus Malanowski, a retired priest of the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., is a Schindler family friend and frequent visitor to Terri Schiavo's bedside. Shortly after the feeding tube was removed, he gave her the anointing of the sick and touched a relic of Mother Teresa of Calcutta to Schiavo's forehead, cheek and throat.

The Florida Catholic bishops have urged that artificial nutrition and hydration be continued until "a more clear understanding of her actual physical condition" could be reached.

## Poll: Believers say religion not to blame for violence around world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even though much of the world's violence is often linked to religious beliefs, a new survey of believers of the world's major faiths says religion is not to blame.

And a consensus among the more than 4,000 people worldwide who were polled for the survey released Oct. 16 by the polling firm Zogby International and University of Rochester's religion and classics department was that increased religious practices within their countries would only be a benefit.

The survey, conducted from January through March this year in seven countries, polled Russian Orthodox Christians, South Korean Christians and Buddhists, U.S. Catholics and Protestants, Indian Hindus and Muslims, Israeli Jews and Muslims, Saudi Arabian Muslims and Peruvian Catholics. Also included in the U.S. sample were those who identified themselves as born-again Christians.

John Zogby, founder and CEO of Zogby International, said the study, which is the first in a series on world religions, would be "mined" for years to come to more fully understand how people's religious beliefs shape their lives.

In India, a country torn by frequent violence, 65 percent of Muslims and 55 percent of Hindus said they disagreed that religion was the source of trouble and unrest. In Israel, 90 percent of Muslims and 44 percent of Jews also disagreed. Eighty-one percent of Peruvian Catholics and 63 percent of U.S. Catholics disagreed that religion antagonized violence within countries.

U.S. Catholics and mainline Protestants gave similar answers to many questions. For example, 15 percent of U.S. Catholics and 16 percent of U.S. mainline Protestants said they believed their religion offered the one true path to God.

## Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

ALBEMARLE — The *Forever Young Club* of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Family Life Center at 10 a.m. For details, call Gerald Maiden (704) 982-5261.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., will host a parish mission Nov. 2-4. The theme will be *Forgiveness, a Bridge to New Life*. The facilitators will be Deacon Eddie Ensley and Deacon Robert Hermann, contemplative brothers. Topics will include "How life's losses can become stepping stones to new beginnings," "How to forgive from the heart" and "Recognizing the sacred moments of our lives." Each session begins at 7 p.m. For details call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country, 259 Pilgrims Way, will dedicate its new *columbarium* on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, following the 11 a.m. Mass. For more information, e-mail Tom Bracken at redfishy@intergate.com or call (828) 264-1445. This event will take place weather and job schedules permitting.

SPRUCE PINE — St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit Ave., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 9 a.m. Mass with benediction at 4 p.m.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services will host an informational meeting on their *Adoption Programs in Russia & China* Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. The meeting will be at the diocesan offices at 1123 South Church St.

CHARLOTTE — This fall's *Theology on Tap* concludes Mon. Oct. 27 at Fuel Pizza on the Green, 500 S. College St. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and a featured speaker will begin at 7:30 p.m. For details e-mail Aschmidt@charlottediocese.org

CHARLOTTE — Father David Valtiera will provide methods of enrichment for all families in *"Family Spirituality"* Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Call Susan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 271 to register.

CHARLOTTE — *Natural Family Planning* classes will begin Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Life Center, room 102, at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Judy Townsend at (704) 846-6983. Please reserve a space before Oct. 28.

MINT HILL — *St. Luke Pax Christi* will spon-

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican nuncio to U.N. urges Africans to guard 'authentic values'

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican nuncio to the United Nations warned Oct. 16 that Africans working for the development of their continent should resist individualism and maintain "the authentic values of Africa."

Archbishop Celestino Migliore emphasized "respect for the family" as the most significant of those values, and said the extended African family reflected a "sense of solidarity and community life."

"The Holy See is confident that Africa will always preserve this priceless cultural heritage and never succumb to the temptation to individualism, which is so foreign to its best traditions," he said.

Archbishop Migliore spoke at a session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a program adopted by the African Union and designed to express a commitment by African governments to take more responsibility for improving their own economies.

The program was endorsed by the General Assembly last year, and Secretary-General Kofi Annan is scheduled to set up a panel to advise him on what African countries are doing to carry out the new partnership and how the international community could help.

Archbishop Migliore said that, "in the face of the current marginalization of Africa" and the General Assembly's action, the international community had a duty to move forward with "a new pattern of solidarity and cooperation between the wealthier nations and the peoples of Africa."

Among steps he said the international community should take was solving the problem of Africa's foreign debt. But he said the program would "become fully African" only if it was manifested through African values, particularly respect for the family.

# Vatican asks English-speaking officials to air translation concerns

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Continuing concerns over English-language liturgical translations will be aired at a Vatican meeting.

Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, has invited the presidents of English-speaking bishops' conferences to the Oct. 23 meeting that will focus on improving understanding and cooperation between bishops' conferences, which approve liturgical texts, and the congregation, which must authorize their use.

The liturgical texts used in most English-speaking countries are developed by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, formed in 1963 by 11 bishops' conferences.

In 1999, Cardinal Jorge Medina Esteves, the congregation's previous prefect, ordered the revision of ICEL's statutes, including a provision that the Vatican approve the people employed to develop the translations.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the revised statutes in June. Other conferences have yet to vote on them or, as in the case of New Zealand, have made it clear they are opposed to doing so.

In addition, the congregation's 2001 document, "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy"), set out new rules for such international commissions and required that the commissions have their statutes approved by the Holy See.

Some conferences have objected that the document, in effect, established new laws, which overrode the Code of Canon Law's precise indication that bishops' conferences are responsible for liturgical translations.

In addition to an explanation of the role of "Vol Clara," a committee of English-speaking bishops who help evaluate the English texts that bishops' conferences submit for approval, one of the most practical concerns facing Cardinal Arinze and the English-speaking bishops is the preparation of a new Missal containing the prayers for Mass.

Currently English-speaking Catholics use a 1973 translation of the first Latin Missal issued after the Second Vatican Council; the proposed English translation of the second Latin edition was never approved by the congregation, and a translation of the third Latin edition promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2002 is under way.

sor a potluck supper and educational seminar on the death penalty in North Carolina and the Catholic Church's teaching on the issue. Presenters include James Cooney, Esq. and Fr. James Hawker. Cooney, an attorney in Charlotte, is active at the Center for Death Penalty Litigation. Fr. Hawker is the pastor of St. Luke Church. The event will take place Nov. 8 at 6:30 pm in the St. Luke Family Life Center, 13700 Lawyers Rd. For details, call Laura Laney (704) 764-8169.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The speaker will be Father Bittner. For more information, please call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — The *Gaston Coalition for a Moratorium Now* (GCMN) will host a candlelight vigil Nov. 6 in prayerful witness to the scheduled Nov. 7 execution of Timmy Keel. The vigil will be held on the front lawn of Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. The purpose is to honor the humanity of the murdered victim and family as well as Keel and his family. Following the ceremony, a GCMN spokesperson will present an update on the progress of the proposed state resolution for a two-year moratorium on executions in North Carolina. For more information, call George Burazer, (704) 822-6350.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division,* the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. This year's theme is "Circles of Love." Come and join us in extending our own circle outward in peace for sake of justice. For details, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *support group for parents who have lost a child of any age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church will present *"And you shall call him"* Oct. 26 at 10:15 a.m. and Oct. 29 at 4:30 p.m. This class will examine the many names of Jesus and their origins. See how the name of one man and elicit joy and tranquility in some people while bringing out anger in others. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — For seniors who have difficulty attending Mass, there will be a *Mass and Anointing of the Sick* by Rev. Dennis McGowan 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 6 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St. (wheelchair accessible). RSVP to Dot Luce at (828) 648-7369 or Beverly Vignochi at (828) 452-4249. Local transportation will be provided and lunch will follow. This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry.

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

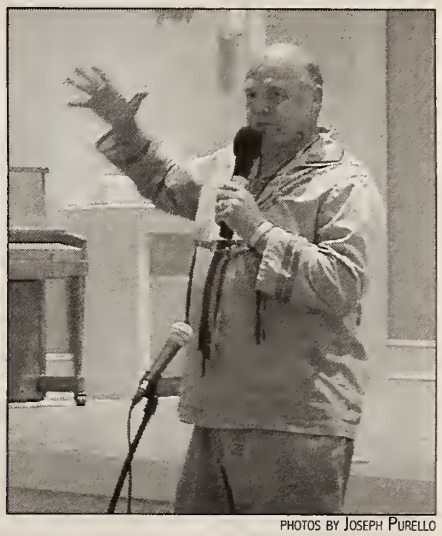
WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offer *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is sponsoring a *Parish Mission* Oct. 26-29, hosted by Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta. For details, please call (336) 248-2463.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Reliving history



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH PURELLO

## *Native American topics discussed at conference*

As members of the Qualla Boundary — Eastern Band of the Cherokee, John Toineeta (above left) performs a Native American hoop dance and Freeman Owle (above right) shares history of the Cherokee people at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia at Lake Junaluska Oct. 10-12. The conference, attended by 119 people from 12 states, explored socio-economic concerns and church-funded and sponsored programs addressing those concerns. The framework of the conference consisted of plenary addresses on two pastoral letters by the U.S. bishops of Appalachia, "This Land is Home to Me" and "At Home in the Web of Life," workshops and cultural enrichment activities.

In this issue on page 14, Joe Purello writes about "The Trail of Tears," one of the topics raised at the conference. Future issues will explore other topics raised at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia.

## DID YOU KNOW?

NO MASS ON ALL SAINTS DAY

This year, because All Saints Day, Nov. 1, falls on Saturday, the usual obligation of U.S. Latin-rite Catholics to attend Mass that day is abrogated, said a July newsletter of the bishops' Committee on Liturgy. However, the Mass obligation remains for the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, even though that is a Monday.

MINISTERING THROUGH MUSIC

# St. John Neumann music director wins national recognition

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — R. Lance Burnette, director of music for St. John Neumann Church, has been awarded the 2003 National Minister of Music Award. Ten such awards are given out annually by the National Religious Music Week Alliance, selected from thousands of nominees from across the United States.

Burnette was nominated by the choir at St. John Neumann for his outstanding contributions to the parish's music ministry.

"It was a complete shock to find out that I had won," Burnette said. "It's an incredible feeling to know that people care so much about this ministry."

"I am very proud of what Lance has brought to our parish and how it has enhanced the quality of worship at St. John Neumann Church," said Father Thomas Meehan, pastor.

"He is a terrific individual and uses his many gifts to make us into worship leaders and enhancers," said Suzie Nichols, a member of the choir. "Our choir is very proud of his accomplishments and how much he has built our skills and enriched our church's level of worship."

Burnette is currently in his fourth year at St. John Neumann Church. He serves as director of music for a folk choir, traditional four-part harmony main choir, as well as the youth and children's choirs.

Having a pastor who is willing to support the music ministry is critical, Burnette said. When he was hired, the church did not have even a piano or organ. With Father Meehan's support, the church now has both.

"Not only is Lance a pleasure to listen to, but he also makes the choir a rewarding way to give back to God and our congregation," said Nichols. "He constantly reminds us that we are singing to enrich and lead the worship service — not singing to give a grand performance, emphasizing that we are to impress the Lord, not just his people."

The church had struggled for many years with maintaining a choir. With Burnette's leadership, many parishioners were motivated to join the choir.

The choir has grown from one member to 18. Nichols said Burnette has a charismatic gift that lends itself to every balancing act he must endure.

"Lance spends countless hours planning, organizing and practicing," Nichols said. "He strives to be the best as well as make us our best — all for the glory of God."

Burnette said he hopes the music ministry will continue to grow as it has the past three years. For Advent, he is planning a festival of lessons and carols, a large undertaking for a young music program.

"Lance is a gifted musician and leader who uses his gift for praising God and enriching church worship," Nichols said. "He has truly changed the quality and quantity of music at our church, even the sound coming from the congregation — no small task for Catholics."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

COURTESY PHOTO

Augustinian Father Thomas Meehan, pastor of St. John Neumann Church, presents to R. Lance Burnette, director of music, the 2003 National Minister of Music Award.

# Song and dance at OLC

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Liturgical dancers accompanied the Our Lady of Consolation Gospel Choir in a formal concert at the church in Charlotte Oct 12.

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# Spreading the love of Jesus

## *Women's Guild distributes funds to many*

HENDERSONVILLE — The Women's Guild of Immaculate Conception Church held its second Presentation Luncheon Oct. 16, to distribute funds raised through a rummage sale and fashion show held last spring.

Beneficiaries of the fashion show included the Meals on Wheels program of the Council on Aging of Hendersonville, Immaculata School and Immaculate Conception Church. The three-day rummage sale, held annually for more than 20 years to benefit the church and charities, raised approximately $7,500.

Dr. Dorice Narins, president of the Women's Guild, presented checks to representatives of several organizations, including Bill Meehan, principal of Immaculata School, which received funds for scholarships. Meehan expressed his thanks for the many years of support provided by the Women's Guild.

Immaculate Conception Church also received a check, plus a contribution for the Good Samaritan Ministry, which helps the needy of the parish and the community.

The Women's Guild made a donation to the diocesan seminarian fund and to a Franciscan brother now studying for the priesthood. In addition to the financial support, Women's Guild members regularly remember religious in their prayers.

Representatives of Mainstay, Healing Place, Storehouse, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Operation L.A.M.B. of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Charities were also present to receive checks.

For the second year, the Women's Guild sponsored a grandmother in Bogotá, Colombia through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Support by the guild enables the foundation to give the woman clothing and food, and opportunities to join social activities. Guild members regularly send her short letters, group pictures and small gifts. She responds to the letters and prays for the members of the guild, as they continue to pray for her.

Also for the second year, the Women's Guild made a donation to Alaska Radio, an award-winning station that transmits religious programs and general programs to the widely scattered people living in northern Alaska.

Through the Maryknoll sisters, the Women's Guild donated funds to help a village rebuild houses destroyed by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. This year, on the recommendation of Sister Theresa Mangieri, the funds will help sisters in Zimbabwe build a school for AIDS orphans.

Donations were also made to Food for the Poor and the Walk for Hunger.

The annual luncheon is not the only time the Guild donates money to charitable organizations. Throughout the year, the women collect toiletries for Mainstay, a shelter for battered women.

At a September meeting, pet food was collected in honor of St. Francis of Assisi for needy people with pets. At a Christmas luncheon, baby clothes and diapers were given to the local health department. For the first time this year, the Women's Guild donated books to the Boys and Girls Club summer reading program, which is run by a local bookstore.

At the October luncheon, the Women's Guild also recognized two of its own as Woman of the Year. Usually one woman is recognized for her contributions to the guild and the church; however, two women — both past presidents — were recognized this year due to their unique efforts: Evelyn Bree, for her many contributions over the years; and Kit Daly, for her overall contribution to the guild and her outstanding work on the pictorial directory of the parish.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Women's Guild of Immaculate Conception Church presented checks to representatives of various organizations during the presentation luncheon Oct. 16.

## For the children

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Eric Kowalski, administrator of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, stands with Knights of Columbus during the blessing of the new parish memorial to unborn children Sept. 14.

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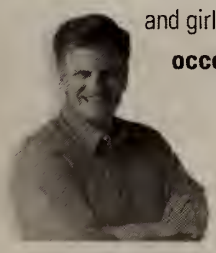

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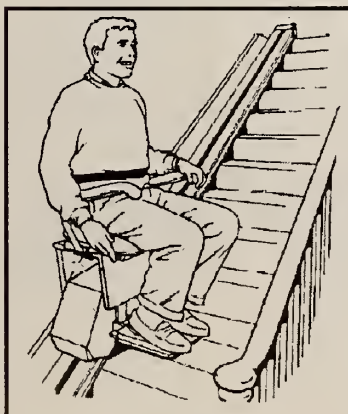

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AGING WITH GRACE

# Upcoming conference to feature 'Nun Study' results

HENDERSONVILLE — Strategies for reducing age-related illness and helping seniors to remain independent for a longer time will be offered to the region's aging population and those who serve them at the "Aging with Grace: New Frontiers — Research to Practice" conference in Hendersonville Nov. 3-5.

Keynote speaker will be David Snowdon, author of "Aging with Grace: What the Nun Study Teaches Us About Leading Longer, Healthier and More Meaningful Lives."

Snowdon, a professor in the neurology department at the University of Kentucky, will share his experience as director of the nationally known School Sisters of Notre Dame Health and Aging Study — and unofficially known as the Nun Study — a longitudinal study of health and aging that focused on 678 members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Findings of the nun study have been featured on CNN, NBC's "Today Show" and ABC's "Nightline," among other television programs. Stories on the study have also appeared in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal newspapers, and Time, Newsweek and National Geographic magazines.

CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Sister Mary Virgina Geiger of Baltimore, an 11-year member of the Nun Study, combats the old-age stereotype today by maintaining an active writing schedule. Findings of the study include the observable benefits of early education and living in community, as evidenced in the lifestyles of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

### *Ideal subjects*

A shared lifestyle and careful record keeping through the years made the group of elderly nuns ideal subjects for a major research project on Alzheimer's disease. The program involved almost 700 volunteers from the order's seven U.S. provinces. All were 77 or older.

Participants were being assessed annually on their mobility and memory. In addition, they agreed to donate brain tissue to be examined after their death.

Getting volunteers for the project was easy, provincial councilor Sister Carol Ann Collins told the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper. Many sisters, long accustomed to serving others, welcome a chance to help toward an understanding of what happens to the Alzheimer's patient and how to prevent the disease.

"They want to continue to teach people during the latter part of their life when they may not be able to speak or be totally disabled and after their death they continue to want to be of service," said Snowdon. "They just won't quit."

The study's primary focus was on Alzheimer's, but the underlying theme was an examination of factors connected with aging, "accelerated aging as well as successful aging," said Snowdon.

The project was "like an 80-year-long study following a group of 20-year-old women throughout their adult life and particularly concentrating on what happens to the survivors in old age."

He said information available in the community's archives helped in an investigation of what factors determine which of the women entering at age 20, died 10, 20 or 30 years later and which of them have maintained their mental and physical function to age 90 or older.

"We're not just looking at function in old people. Aging is something that occurs across the whole adult life span," said Snowdon.

He began pilot studies for the project in the late 1980s as an epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota, working with nuns in Mankato. He recognized they were a unique population for research because the nuns had lived in community most of their lives, ate the same meals, had equal access to education and health care and, for the most part, were engaged in the same occupation of teaching.

In 1992, Snowdon and a team of scientists organized the nun study project at the University of Kentucky's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. He received more than $1 million from the National Institute on Aging and expects the study to be funded by several more millions of dollars.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, age-related incurable illness involving memory disorder. In the mid-1990s, more than 4 million Americans were said to be afflicted, including more than 11 percent of those over age 65. That jumped to 25 or more percent of those over 85.

Sisters appear to be "an exceptionally long-lived population," said Snowdon. "Their increases in life expectancy throughout the century have increased at dramatic rates," more so than the general population of women.

In his earlier studies, Snowdon compared sisters of similar age and a wide range of function — from those who were bedridden and confused to those still working full time. He found that those with a higher degree of education lived approximately four years longer with better mental and physical functioning than those who did not.

"We can see that this difference in health between the high and low (education level) started when they were in their 20s and it's there in their 30s," he said. "There are differences in their mortality and it goes on throughout their whole adult life."

At every age between 20 and 95, he reported that the less-educated sisters had twice the mortality rates of the more educated.

"Education in general is a very, very crude marker of many things, including intelligence and early-life socioeconomic status," said Snowdon. In the general population, lower education may be associated with various factors, such as poor diet, higher levels of stress and underemployment, and lack of health care, but with the nuns those factors are not an issue.

### *Ongoing benefits*

Organizers say the "Aging With Grace" conference is an effort to ensure the region's aging population will experience a high quality of life with increased independence and extended longevity. The conference will provide multiple opportunities for professionals and adults of all ages to explore effective strategies for postponing age-related disabilities through lifestyle and public policy.

"There is no doubt that our population is aging, and the trend is especially evident in the Southeast," said John Bardo, chancellor of Western Carolina University, which is presenting the conference. "How we manage the aging trend will make an enormous difference to our region."

The conference is designed to be of interest to professionals who work with the elderly, adult children of aging parents and everyone interested in living a longer, healthier life.

"If we can keep seniors healthy and active longer, community life and our economy will be the richer for it," said Bardo. "Failing to do so will have enormous social and economic consequences."

*Catholic News service contributed to this story*

## WANT TO GO?

The "Aging With Grace" conference will take place at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville Nov. 3-5. Snowdon's presentation begins the conference at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 (after a 5:30 p.m. social and 6:15 p.m. dinner). For more information, call (828) 694-1829 or visit http://cess.wcu.edu/aging.

"The mountains shall yield peace for the people." Psalm 72:3

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PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson distributes communion during Mass at the Senior Fall Day of Reflection at St. Mark Church Oct. 9. The event gave seniors the opportunity to focus on their Catholic faith and commune with other seniors.

# Reflections on faith

SENIORS, *from page 1*

Recent studies have shown that faith, love and laughter are important factors in living a longer, more fulfilling life. According to the Web site Senior World Online, University of California-Berkeley scientists studied 8,000 men and women and found death rates were two to three times lower for those who had social ties, such as healthy relationships and deep religious beliefs.

Father Neilson stressed all of these aspects during the Day of Reflection.

"I've always had a love for the elderly and the young," said Father Neilson, who serves as chaplain to the students of Belmont Abbey College. "Sometimes we forget about the elderly."

Punctuating his address with frequent jokes, Father Neilson said laughter is great therapy. However, he first and foremost urged the seniors to pray every day.

"We can't pray just when we feel like it; we have to pray every day," he said.

Urging special attention to the rosary, Father Neilson noted the rosary is a prayer for all seasons. "It is never out of date and is always appropriate because it is a meditation on Christ."

You don't have to pray the rosary perfectly, or read Scripture with complete concentration, Father Neilson explained. However, it is important to take the time and effort to pray, and to "get back on track" when you get distracted from your prayers.

"We fail, we make mistakes," he said. "God knows how many mistakes we make." As it is written in the Our Father, we are forgiven by God to the extent that we forgive others, Father Neilson said.

"God is perfection; there is no hate in God," he continued. "Hate is in man. Jesus can change us, if we want to be changed."

Father Neilson congratulated the audience for their long-lasting marriages. "The bonds of marriage are a good investment only when the interest is kept up," he said.

According to Father Neilson, selfishness is one of the greatest problems in today's society, leading to the breakdown of marriage and other problems. "Two selfish people can't make the sacrifices necessary for the vocation of marriage," he said.

In his homily, Father Neilson encouraged the congregation to pray for an increase in faith. "God will bless us in his terms," he said. "God will never be outdone in his generosity."

"Seniors are the backbone of our ministry," said Breakfield. "This growing population is full of individuals that we look to for insight and wisdom."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

# Sister of Mercy professes perpetual vows

BELMONT — Joann Margaret Ury professed her perpetual vows in the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of North Carolina Oct. 18.

Mercy Sister Joann, originally from Ottawa, Ohio, moved to Charlotte in January 1977 with her husband, John, a radio newscaster. When her husband died unexpectedly a year later, Joann remained in Charlotte and eventually founded her own company, Joann Accounting and Bookkeeping Services.

Always an active member of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, Joann began working with Laotian and Vietnamese refugees, taking care of the church books and visiting shut-ins. During her volunteer work, Joann came in contact with several Sisters of Mercy who worked in the adult education program at the church — Mercy Sister Donna Marie Vaillancourt, Mercy Sister Brigid McCarthy and Mercy Sister Carolyn Mary Coll.

"They always seemed joyful in everything they did," said Sister Joann. "They were out there among the people."

Several years later, the thought of becoming a women religious began to appeal to Joann. However, she didn't act upon the calling until 1996, when she entered as a candidate. For two years, she lived in the community while continuing to run her business. In 1998, she moved on to the novitiate level, spending a year exploring a wide variety of ministries. A second year of study was spent at the Collaborative Novitiate in St. Louis, Mo., where she spent time exploring the deep and committed involvement necessary to be a Sister of Mercy.

On Oct. 7, 2000, she publicly professed her first vows. From that time on, she has done double duty, serving in pastoral care by working with the senior sisters at Marian Center in Belmont and visiting shut-ins from St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

"The profession of vows by an individual sister is a celebration of the whole religious community, in which we gather to praise God who loves us, and by this profession, witness to God's presence in all creation, particularly in the church," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina.

During several years of Sister Joann's formation, Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford served as her spiritual director and mentor.

"It was my privilege to mentor Joann, beginning with her entrance into the Sisters of Mercy and to help her learn about religious life and the Sisters of Mercy," said Sister Pauline.

"Joann brings to our community a great compassion and love of people, which is rooted in her deep love of God," she said. "She has an innate respect for the dignity of each person. We, the Sisters of Mercy, and the church are blessed to have Joann as a vowed member willing to give her life to God and to God's people."

COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Joann Ury receives a solemn blessing from Mercy Sister M. Rosalind Picôt, president of the Regional Community of N.C., and from Mercy Institute Leadership Team member, Mercy Sister Patricia McDermott.

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# Culture Watch

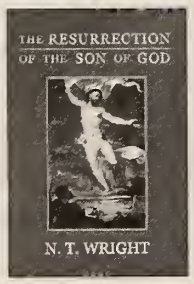
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two tough questions on Christianity

REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. HAYES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It is sometimes said that we know more about Jesus than his contemporaries ever could. These two books cut through the accretions of centuries of commentary to an understanding of Jesus in his own milieu and in ours.

Bishop N.T. Wright, the great British New Testament scholar and newly appointed Anglican bishop of Durham, England, and Father Jacques Dupuis, a French Jesuit who taught theology in India and later at the Gregorian University in Rome, tackle two of the most vexing problems in Christology: How can we understand the Resurrection? And, how can Christianity dialogue with other religious traditions and also say that Jesus is the way of salvation?




"The Resurrection of the Son of God," by Bishop N.T. Wright. Vol. 3 of "Christian Origins and the Question of God." Augsburg Fortress Press (Minneapolis, 2003). 817 pp., $49.00.

"Christianity and the Religions: From Confrontation to Dialogue," by Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2002). 276 pp., $30.00.

In "The Resurrection of the Son of God," the third pillar in a series of equally lengthy volumes on Christian origins, Bishop Wright shows that there is a compelling case for the Resurrection.

His scholarship — unmatched by most New Testament scholars today — explains the happenings on Easter morning through a close inspection of the ideas of life after death and "appearances" in the Hellenistic world of first-century Palestine. He then moves through the scriptural evidence to decipher how early Christians could hold out "hope beyond death." Finally, he looks at the noncanonical literature of the apostolic fathers and others.

All of this is preliminary grounding before entering into the Easter narratives themselves, which comes in part four (at page 587!). After supplying a tentative summary, he poses a crucial question: "Where did Resurrection show up in what the early Christians habitually did? Briefly and broadly, they behaved as if they were in some important senses already living in God's new creation."

His masterful concluding chapter on how early Christians could call the resurrected Jesus "Son of God" sets up a future volume. The scholarship is extremely sophisticated — bibliography and indexes swell to 80 pages of small type — but this book is accessible to the layperson.

Bishop Wright's question leads to those of Father Dupuis. Does the compelling case for the Resurrection lead the believer to hold a "Christocentric" or "ecclesiocentric" view of salvation, where Christ and his church are the exclusive mediators for eternal life? Father Dupuis — and the Second Vatican Council — say no. Indeed, while Jesus makes the divine-human link more intimate, other religions have their own role to play in the economy of salvation.

In his book, "Christianity and the Religions: From Confrontation to Dialogue," Father Dupuis says a theology of religions based on dialogue is needed. This is not always easy, even when the parties observe conventions of respect.

For starters, Father Dupuis argues that there is no substitute for a proper understanding of one's own faith tradition. For many, this will demand a shift in perspective when reading the Scriptures or a new assessment and application of the magisterial teaching on other religions. It might also mean pushing the "pause" button on zeal in defending the faith.

In 1998 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith asked Father Dupuis to clarify his position on this point. The congregation, as a guardian of faith and a promoter of the Gospel, has questions when prominent theologians seem to question the Lord's mandate to "go and teach all nations." In a postscript to this book Father Dupuis explains that the examination by the congregation reached a happy conclusion.

I found this to be one of the best treatments of religious pluralism currently available.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 26, 2003

### *Oct. 26, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle B Readings:***

1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
2) Hebrews 5:1-6
3) Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It is almost cinematic, this scene Mark paints for us in Sunday's Gospel. Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, sits outside the city gates, wrapped in a cloak to ward off the dust of the road. His ears catch the tumult of the crowd following Jesus. He turns his sightless eyes toward the noise, expectantly.

Perhaps he hears the name of Jesus shouted out by the enthusiastic swarm of onlookers; perhaps a friend whispers it to him over the noise. His desperation to see and his hope in Jesus' power embolden him to shout out his affliction and his need. The anguished longing of his cries pierces the excited conversation surrounding Jesus.

For a moment, silence falls. Then angry voices all shout at once, trying to drown him out.

Were they just killjoys, these self-appointed protectors of Jesus who hoped to silence Bartimaeus' cries? Were they civic boosters, embarrassed that a beggar was accosting the famous visitor to their city? Did they fear that their moment in the limelight with Jesus would be eclipsed by this dramatic plea?

Whatever their motives, the ploy backfires, as Bartimaeus calls out all the more forcefully. In the end, the goodness and mercy of Jesus overcome the meanness and self-interest of the naysayers. In spite of themselves, they convey his message to the beggar and bring him to Jesus. With a word, the blind man's longing is fulfilled, he receives his sight and the freedom that goes with it.

Immediately, Mark tells us, he followed him on the way.

May God make of us who are his disciples willing partners in Christ's ministry of healing, bringing to him all those in need. May he give us the grace to be as bold as Bartimaeus in facing our infirmities and voicing our need. May he move us, when we receive his many blessings, to follow him more faithfully.

***Questions:***

*Who do I know that might need my help in coming to church or to other places of healing? What is one infirmity for which I need help in seeking healing?*

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1**

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; Monday, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; Tuesday (Sts. Simon and Jude), Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-19; Wednesday, Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; Thursday, Romans 8:31-39, Luke 13:31-35; Friday, Romans 9:1-5, Luke 14:1-6; Saturday (All Saints Day), Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2 - NOVEMBER 8**

Sunday (All Souls Day), Isaiah 25:6-9, Romans 6:3-9, John 6:37-40; Monday (St. Martin de Porres), Romans 11:29-36, Luke 14:12-14; Tuesday (St. Charles Borromeo), Romans 12:5-16, Luke 14:15-24; Wednesday, Romans 13:8-10. Luke 14:25-33; Thursday, Romans 14:7-12, Luke 15:1-10; Friday, Romans 15:14-21, Luke 16:1-8; Saturday, Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27, Luke 16:9-15

Aging with GRACE
Featured Guest
David Snowdon, author of Aging with Grace: What the Nun Study Teaches Us About Leading Longer, Healthier and More Meaningful Lives
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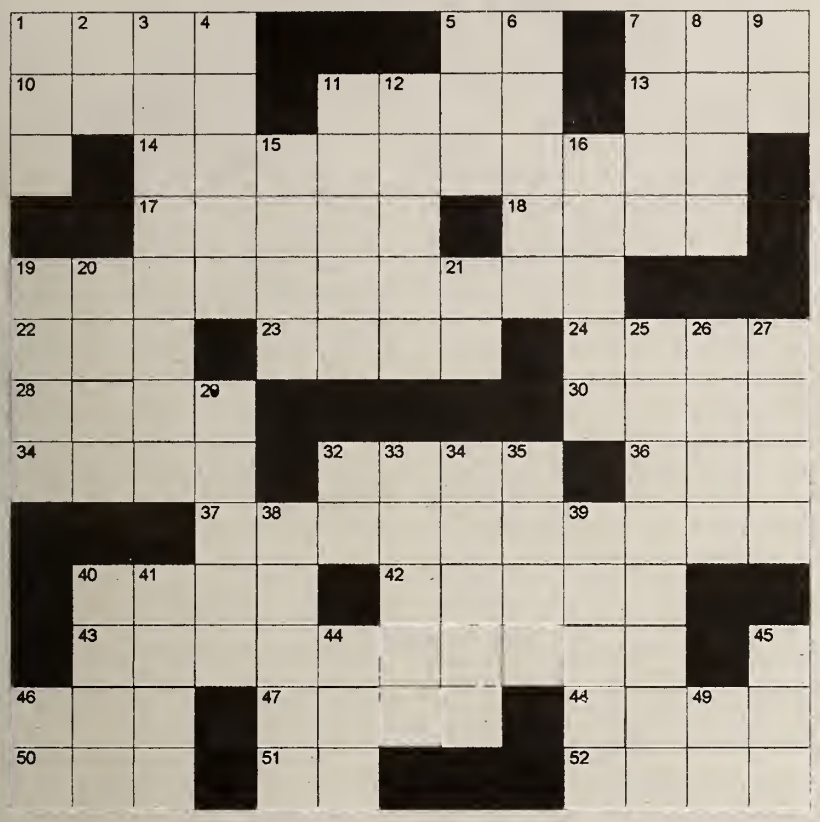
## GOOD GOD



ACROSS
1 Exec's palm pilot entry
5 Pagoda
7 Money machine
10 Spanish painter
11 Russian ruler
13 Cereal
14 All-powerful
17 Actor Michael ___
18 _ fixe
19 Omniscient
22 Mauna ___
23 To be Latin
24 Chips ___
28 Proper partner
30 Nile River island
31 Greek body
32 Pain
36 Chinese unicorn
37 Immutable
40 NOAA picture
42 American poet
43 Oil
46 School organization
47 Penny
48 Egyptian goddess
50 Dad's partner
51 Oz character
52 Jacob's twin

DOWN
1 Unit of electricity
2 3.14...
3 "I will ___ you Lord among the nations" (psalm 18)
4 Japanese Playstation 2 game
5 "The ___ of Pooh"
6 "____ Me" (Jars of Clay)
7 Tops
8 Bewitched boss
9 ___ Everest
11 Greek island
12 Erupts
15 Broadway musical number
16 First name in American writers
19 Swiss mountains
20 Spanish parrot
21 That is
25 "Bow down to the Lord, splendid in ___" (psalm 96)
26 Norse god
27 Yin opposite
29 Polish Lake
32 Electric current
33 "___ of Fools"
34 Ghost role
35 -thermic
38 Dorothy to 51 Across
39 Lamp dweller
40 Holy Roman Emperor
41 Travesty
44 Est ending
45 Chung Chi ___ (Chinese mathematician)
46 Second part of day
49 US state (abbr)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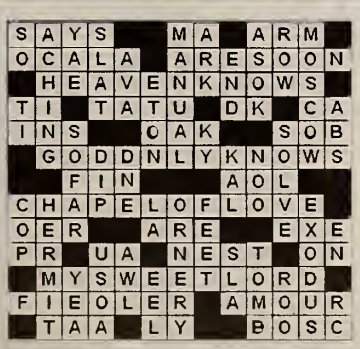
## SONG OF SONGS



ROCKING AND RELIGIOUS

CNS PHOTO BY MICHELLE ZOTTER, MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Joey Gaydos Jr. poses for a photo with Felician Sister Virginia Gola, principal at St. Stephen Elementary School in New Boston, Mich. The seventh-grade guitar player stars as Zack in the current movie, "School of Rock."

# Catholic seventh-grader hits high note in 'School of Rock'

BY MICHELLE ZOTTER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW BOSTON, Mich. — Playing the guitar is also the means he uses to pray, said 12-year-old Joey Gaydos Jr., who recently encountered fame through his role as Zack in the current hit movie "School of Rock."

Joey, a seventh-grader at St. Stephen Elementary School in New Boston, southwest of Detroit, says he feels the most spiritual when his fingers move across the strings of a guitar. "Jimi Hendrix, (Led) Zeppelin and Ozzy (Osbourne) are my (musical) role models," he told *The Michigan Catholic*, newspaper of the Detroit Archdiocese.

As a result of his 2002 guitar performance at Dayjams, a music camp in Ann Arbor, he won the role of Zack, the lead guitar player in "School of Rock," starring Jack Black. The film was the top ticket at the box office in its first weekend of release.

"He's so talented," said his mother, Margie, a parishioner at St. Stephen. "It's funny now to look back. ... Even at age 2 and 3, we have Joey on tape walking around with a toy guitar making up songs, singing 'Hey baby!'"

She was on her way home from a hair salon last year when she received the call that her son got the part.

"I cried instantly," she recalled. "Joey was so excited. To have other people recognize him in a wider realm is really satisfying."

Although Joey was gone from school while filming from September to December last year, his teachers at St. Stephen worked with tutors on the set who helped Joey keep up with his homework.

"We would Fed Ex his homework," said Kathy Krajewski, who teaches language arts. "We'd check it and send it back. He was really great with his homework."

Felician Sister Virginia Gola, the principal, stresses the importance of fine arts in any educational setting, and Joey is a prime example. "We encourage children to develop their talents and to bring them out more," she said. Besides musical talent, she said, she definitely sees acting talent in Joey.

Sister Gola, who saw "School of Rock" in its first week out, said she "really enjoyed it ... well, except for a few inappropriate words."

The U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting classified the movie A-III — adults, for "some crude humor and language, as well as several drug references." The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Not being in a classroom setting was something Joey missed, but Krajewski said the boy still learned a lot because "he really had to juggle his time. He's really self-motivated."

She added that his fellow classmates treat him like everybody else: "He doesn't have a big head," she said.

Despite his newfound fame, there are still the everyday activities he is obligated to do, Joey said. "I still live in the same house, I still do the same everything," he explained. This includes taking out the trash and washing dishes, something his mom says he could still improve on.

As far back as he can remember in his 12 years, his passion has always been music. Where his future is concerned, he said, "There's not even a doubt — it will always be with music."

"If I never do any more acting again, I'm glad I had the experience," added Joey, who said he tries to play the guitar for at least two hours every day. "That's just what I do."

To promote the movie, Joey has already appeared on "The View," "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," and "Regis and Kelly." He's scheduled to go to the United Kingdom for more "School of Rock" promotions when the film opens there.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dancers from Rince Na h' Eireann School of Traditional Irish Dance are among the dancers that will participate in the 4th Annual Feis (Irish Dance Competition) at the Charlotte University Hilton Oct. 24-25. More than 700 students have registered to compete and more than 1300 spectators are expected to be in attendance.

# Toe-tapping fun

## *Charlotte to host annual Irish dance*

CHARLOTTE — Rince Na h' Eireann School of Traditional Irish Dance will host its 4th Annual Feis (Irish dance competition) Oct. 24-25. More than 700 students have registered to compete and more than 1,300 spectators are expected to be in attendance.

"We are very excited about hosting our 4th annual competition," said Sandra Connick, school founder. "Over the past few years, attendance has more than doubled and Charlotte has provided an enthusiastic and welcoming community for this growing cultural event."

Rince Na h' Eireann school has over 300 students from five studios located throughout the Carolinas. The schools' talented dancers include the current Boys Southern Regional Champion as well as many other dedicated and equally as gifted solo and team dancers. Many of these students traveled to Ireland for the Annual Irish Dance World Championships held in April.

The annual feis will feature more than just dancing — this year, two musical competitions featuring amateurs and professionals from across the southeast region will be held. Competitions include traditional Irish instrumentals, singing and speaking. New this year for accomplished musicians and vocalists is the Carolinas championship for the Irish fiddle, flute, whistle and song.

### WANT TO GO?

The feis will be held at the Charlotte University Hilton at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24 and at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25. The music competitions are free on Friday, and admission is $8 on Saturday, free to children under 18. For more information, contact Casey Corser at (704) 752-1147 or visit www.rincenaheireann.com.

# 'Building the Kingdom' at Our Lady of the Annunciation

ALBERMARLE — A new series of suggestions for Christians in a changing world is coming to Albemarle.

"A unique and dynamic opportunity for personal growth and spiritual renewal is being offered to all members of the community," said Father Lawrence Heiney, pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church.

"Building the Kingdom in a Changing World" is the newest in a series of Isaiah Parish Missions presented nationally and presented by Father Peter Jaramillo from Kansas City at the church in November.

A professional Catholic evangelist, Father Jaramillo will offer down-to-earth, practical suggestions for believers to cope in the midst of a radically and rapidly changing world.

"The emphasis of the mission at Our Lady of the Annunciation is not to offer solutions, or to 'fix' anything, or to place blame anywhere for the wide range of crises that have assaulted us since Sept. 11, 2003, but to enable Christians to identify, name and deal with their feelings," said Ann Rowe, parish mission coordinator.

Isaiah Parish Missions, part of Isaiah Ministries, Inc., are designed to continue after the four mission days, according to information provided by Father Heiney. A six-week follow-up seminar, "Christ the Cornerstone: Christians Coping in a World of Chaos and Confusion," will begin the week following the mission with parishioners as facilitators.

The Isaiah Parish Mission was first offered at St. Ann Church in Hempstead, N.H., in 1984. To date, Isaiah Parish Ministries has presented nearly 1,100 missions in 142 dioceses in 49 states and several provinces in Canada. Sequels to the mission were necessitated when parishes began to invite back facilitators for additional series.

The content and ritual of the missions are based on Scripture, Vatican II theology, various papal and Episcopal documents, sound adult education principles and lived experience. Unlike typical parish missions of the past, where a priest comes and goes, Isaiah Missions involves the laity in collaborative ministry training, formation and adult religious education before, during and after the mission.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, formed as a parish in 1934, serves individuals, families and communities in Stanly and Montgomery counties through a variety of parish ministries and partnerships with area churches and civic organizations.

### WANT TO GO?

"Building the Kingdom in a Changing World" will be presented at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd Street in Albermarle, 7-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9-Wednesday, Nov. 11. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Ann Rowe at (336) 461-5141.

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The Catholic News & Herald

# Pope creates 30 cardinals, asks them to be 'fearless witnesses'

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a ceremony that combined solemn tradition and the cheers of the faithful, Pope John Paul II created 30 new cardinals and asked them to be "fearless witnesses of Christ and his Gospel" on every continent.

The liturgy Oct. 21 in a sunlit St. Peter's Square highlighted the international mix of the College of Cardinals, the group that will one day elect a new pope. New members from 22 countries were added, including Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

The pope said the new cardinals reflected the "multiplicity of races and cultures that make up the Christian population." He also created one cardinal "in pectore," or in his heart, withholding publication of his name.

In his sermon and prayers, the pope emphasized the cardinals' special duty to preach the Gospel and serve others.

"Only if you become the servants of all will you complete your mission and help the successor of Peter to be, in turn, the 'servant of the servants of God,'" he said in his sermon, which was read by an aide.

Throughout the ceremony, called a consistory, the 83-year-old pontiff looked pleased and alert. From an altar area decorated with thousands of red and yellow tulips, he gazed out and waved to a crowd dotted with flags and banners from many countries.

But because of his increasing difficulty in speaking, the pope let others speak for him at several key points, including the reading out of the new cardinals' names.

"All of us were pleased to be here today, although there was a hint of sadness with the manifest decline of the Holy Father," Australian Cardinal George Pell said after receiving his red hat.

The liturgy included several time-honored traditions. After pronouncing a profession of faith and an oath of obedience to the pope, the cardinals came forward and knelt one by one before the pope, who handed them a four-cornered red biretta. The cardinals placed the birettas on their own heads.

The pope explained to the cardinals that the red color signified that "You must be ready to act with strength, unto the spilling of blood, for the building up of the Christian faith, for the peace and tranquility of the people of God, and for the freedom and growth of the holy Roman church."

Pope John Paul also gave each cardinal a scroll assigning titular churches in Rome, symbolizing the cardinals' new status as members of the clergy of Rome and their new relationship with him as bishop of Rome.

Cardinal Rigali told reporters after the ceremony that when he worked at the Vatican for 30 years he never dreamed that one day he would be inducted into the College of Cardinals. He said he thought preaching and living the Gospel were the greatest challenges facing the church today.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec said the new cardinals had already formed bonds of friendship and camaraderie. Now they need to form relationships with the more veteran cardinals, he said.

Each of the new cardinals had a rooting section of well-wishers in the square; crowd members applauded and cheered as their favorite received the red hat.

The new cardinals included seven Vatican officials, 19 resident archbishops around the world and four theologians over the age of 80 with personal ties to the pope.

Their induction left the College of Cardinals with 194 members — a new record. Of these, 135 were under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave; that matched a record high set at the last consistory in 2001.

In his sermon, the pope told the new cardinals he was counting on their collaboration and prayers. He asked them to preach the Gospel "with words and with example" and to serve the church humbly, "refusing every temptation of career or personal benefit."

Selfless service is a difficult ideal to realize, he said, but "the Good Shepherd assures you of his help."

Seated apart on his throne, the pope appeared to share in the joy experienced by the cardinals as they greeted each other following distribution of the red hats.

"In this square today ... shines the church of Christ, ancient and always new, gathered around the successor of Peter," he said in his sermon.

Speaking on behalf of the new cardinals, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran said their only ambition was to love the church and help it develop in the third millennium.

"We feel that we are servants, mindful that in the church every authority is nothing more than service," Cardinal Tauran said.

"Holy Father, you can count on us," he said.

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

*Reveling in red*

New Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien celebrates in St. Peter's Square following the consistory led by Pope John Paul II Oct. 21. The archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh was among 30 new cardinals created by the pope during the ceremony.

## List of new cardinals created by pope at October consistory

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Here is the complete list of new cardinals, in the order in which they were inducted into the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II at a consistory at the Vatican Oct. 21:

— French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, 60, who recently retired as an assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs.

— Italian Cardinal Renato Martino, 70, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

— Italian Cardinal Francesco Marchisano, 74, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Peter.

— Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, 73, president of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts.

— Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, 70, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers.

— Japanese Cardinal Stephen F. Hamao, 73, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

— Italian Cardinal Attilio Nicora, 66, president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See.

— Italian Cardinal Angelo Scola, 61, patriarch of Venice.

— Nigerian Cardinal Anthony Olubunmi Okogie of Lagos, 67.

— French Cardinal Bernard Panafieu of Marseilles, 72.

— Sudanese Cardinal Gabriel Zubeir Wako of Khartoum, 62.

— Spanish Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo of Seville, a 69-year-old Franciscan.

— U.S. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, 68.

— Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, 65.

— Brazilian Cardinal Eusebio Scheid of Rio de Janeiro, 70, a member of the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

— Italian Cardinal Ennio Antonelli of Florence, 66.

— Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, a 68-year-old Salesian.

— Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, 55.

— Indian Cardinal Telesphore Toppo of Ranchi, 64.

— Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, 62.

— Croatian Cardinal Josip Bozanic of Zagreb, 54.

— Vietnamese Cardinal Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City, whom the Vatican lists as born in 1934.

— Guatemalan Cardinal Rodolfo Quezada Toruno of Guatemala City, 71.

— French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyons, 53.

— Hungarian Cardinal Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, 51.

— Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec, a 59-year-old Sulpician.

— Swiss Cardinal Georges Cottier, an 81-year-old Dominican, theologian of the pontifical household.

— Belgian Cardinal Gustaaf Joos, an 80-year-old moral theologian and former classmate of the pope's at Rome's Belgian College.

— Czech Cardinal Tomas Spidlik, 83, a Jesuit expert in Eastern spirituality who led the pope's Lenten retreat in 1995.

— Polish Cardinal Stanislas Nagy, an 82-year-old Dehonian theologian who taught with the pope at Lublin University in Poland.

# Pope prays for strength at Anniversary Mass

POPE, *from page 1*

versary events, which included a conference of cardinals and bishops discussing the pontificate's major themes, the release of the pope's post-synodal document on the role of bishops and heartfelt expressions of support from average Catholics.

"I'm 26 years old, and I've followed him all my life. I see Christ in him," Rome resident Cecilia DiCarlo said. "He invites everyone to be Christian, even when it is difficult. He knows how difficult this is for young people, and that is so special, especially from someone his age," she said.

The liturgy in St. Peter's Square was joyful and poignant, a celebration of what the pope has accomplished in 25 years and a reminder of how much his physical strength has slipped.

Youthful and energetic when he greeted the world Oct. 16, 1978, the 83-year-old pontiff had to be wheeled on a chair to the altar and struggled to pronounce the Mass prayers.

In a sermon read in part by an aide, the pope alluded to his physical difficulties and asked for continued prayers and support from Catholics all over the globe. He said that, aware of his "human fragility," he meditated daily over his ability to meet the demands of the papacy.

"I renew, through the hands of Mary, beloved mother, the gift of myself, in the present and the future: All will be accomplished according to your will," he said in a prayer to Christ, the church's "good shepherd."

The pope told the gathered crowd their support helps him carry on his ministry.

"God alone knows how much sacrifice, prayer and suffering have been offered up to support me in my service to the church," he said.

Introducing the prayer of the faithful, the pope asked that God "continue to pour upon me the Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom, of holiness and strength, in order to serve his holy people and proclaim to all people the Gospel of salvation and peace."

At 25 years, this papacy has become the fourth-longest in history and has left a defining mark on the church and the world beyond its borders.

One person who was in St. Peter's Square the night of the pope's election in 1978 was Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. A student in Rome at the time, Bishop Gregory said he was immediately struck by the new pope's vigor and youthful enthusiasm.

Today, frail and weakened by illness, the pope is "witnessing to us the human dignity that is present at all moments in life and that we never lose, even though we lose our physical strength or physical beauty, and even though we become dependent on others," Bishop Gregory said.

President George W. Bush said in a message that the pope has left the United States and the world a better place.

"For the past 25 years, His Holiness has led worldwide efforts to develop a new culture of life that values and protects the lives of innocent children waiting to be born. He has also brought the love of the Almighty to people of all ages, particularly those who suffer or live in poverty, or who are weak and vulnerable," Bush said.

"Pope John Paul II has shown the world not only the splendor of truth, but also the power of truth to overcome evil and to redirect the course of history," he said.

## Living rosary for the Holy Father

COURTESY PHOTO

In thanksgiving for Pope John Paul II, Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church, and faculty and students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem formed a living rosary around a statue of Mary. Student council officers led the group in reciting the rosary.


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# Mother Teresa beatified by Pope John Paul II

BEATIFIED, *from page 1*

St. Peter's Square and the surrounding streets were a crush of some 300,000 pilgrims and admirers of Mother Teresa.

Under a bright sun, which weather forecasters had said would not appear, the scene was awash with vibrant colors: flags from dozens of countries, banners in languages from Polish to Hindi, the blue-trimmed saris of the Missionaries of Charity, and the colorful traditional dress of Guatemalans and Nigerians.

In an unusually personal homily, read by a Vatican aide and by Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias of Mumbai, the pope wrote, "I am personally grateful to this courageous woman, whom I always felt was alongside of me.

"An icon of the good Samaritan, she went everywhere to serve Christ in the poorest of the poor. Not even conflicts or wars could stop her," the pope wrote.

Mother Teresa was beatified in record time — just over six years after her death — because Pope John Paul set aside the rule that a sainthood process cannot begin until the candidate has been dead five years.

Like the pope, many people in the crowd knew Mother Teresa, volunteered in one of her homes or soup kitchens, or at least heard her speak when she came to their home towns.

They carried official posters as well as their own photographs of the small, stooped nun who died in 1997.

Jack Griffith, 42, of Menasha, Wis., was with a group doing a "saints pilgrimage" around Italy.

"For us, Mother Teresa is important because she is a saint of our own time," he said. "Her mission of mercy was among the poorest of the poor, and in that way she was countercultural.

"She shunned everything and focused on two things: Jesus in the Eucharist and serving the poor," Griffith said.

Before the Mass began, pilgrims swapped stories about when they met Mother Teresa or recounted tales of her audacity: For example, when a bank offered her $1 million, she said it was not enough; she wanted $2 million.

Retired Australian Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was among the attendees with a story. He was a secretary in the Vatican Embassy in India from 1955 to 1962, the early years of the Missionaries of Charity.

"She was a frequent visitor," coming to inform the nuncio of her plans and occasionally asking for help, he said.

"The nuncio and I kept saying, 'Go slowly. You are building for the future, build solidly,'" the cardinal said.

Cardinal Cassidy returned to Calcutta, India, in 1975 to celebrate Mass with Mother Teresa and her sisters to mark the 25th anniversary of the Missionaries of Charity.

"She said, 'Remember when you used to tell me to go slowly? I always went away thinking, 'You'd think the representative of the Holy Father and his secretary would have more faith.' That was her little dig at us," the cardinal said.

The congregation at the beatification Mass included official delegations from the Orthodox Church of Albania, Albania's Sunni and Bectascian Muslim communities, and from 26 governments, including the United States, the Canadian province of Quebec, India, Albania and Macedonia.

Aferdita Berisha, 35, a Muslim from Kosovo, said: "All the good things Mother Teresa did cannot be divided according to faith. She helped everyone who needed help, regardless of religion."

Several royal guests were seated not far from 2,000 people who eat or sleep at the missionaries' facilities in Rome.

The royals included Queen Fabiola of Belgium, Princess Mona of Jordan, Princess Elena of Romania and Prince Emanuele Filiberto of Savoy, the former Italian royal family.

In his homily, Pope John Paul wrote that Mother Teresa's life was "a radical living and a bold proclamation of the Gospel."

"Her life is a testimony to the dignity and the privilege of humble service," he said. "Her greatness lies in her ability to give without counting the cost, to give 'until it hurts.'"

The pope met Oct. 20 with Sister Nirmala Joshi, Mother Teresa's successor as superior of the order, and with hundreds of Missionaries of Charity and pilgrims who had come to Rome for the beatification.

Mother Teresa, he told them, "was one of the greatest missionaries of the 20th century," a missionary who preached the Gospel around with world "with daily gestures of love for the poorest."

Mother Teresa was born to Albanian parents in 1910 in what is now Macedonia; in 1946, she experienced a call to found the Missionaries of Charity and live among the poorest of the poor in Calcutta.

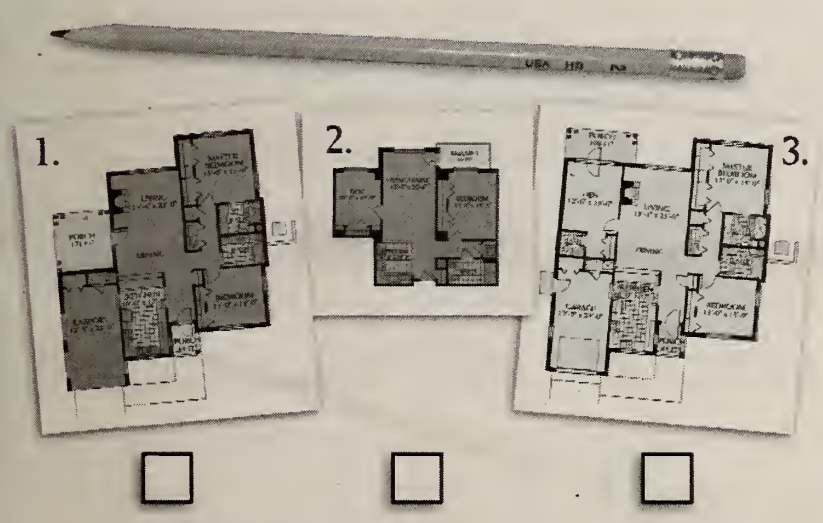
Mother Teresa — always smiling — rapidly expanded the order and opened hospices, clinics and shelters around the world, but her letters to her spiritual directors express a feeling that God had abandoned her.

"Mother Teresa shared the passion of the Crucified One, particularly during her long years of 'interior darkness,'" the pope wrote in his homily. "In the darkest hours, she clung with even greater tenacity to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"This harsh spiritual struggle allowed her to identify even more with those she served every day, experiencing the pain and even rejection they felt," he wrote.

The people participating in the processions, readings and dances at the Mass included active and contemplative nuns, contemplative brothers and priests belonging to the various branches of the Missionaries of Charity, as well as lay coworkers and children adopted from the Missionaries' orphanages.

Get out your pencil.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Bishop Begley Conference spotlights 'Tail of Tears'

### Guest Column

JOE PURELLO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF JUSTICE & PEACE

The Sunday readings from the Gospel of Mark in October call us to share our riches, be servants and have pity on those who suffer (Mark 10:17-30, 35-45, 46-52). Our reflections should include when we have failed to share, when we have coveted what others have and when we have sought to make others serve us rather than seeking ways to be servants to them. Such reflections might also include thoughts on our behavior in the realm of public policy.

As the U.S. bishops say in a recent statement prepared for the 2004 election year, we are to practice "faithful citizenship." A new kind of politics is called for, "focused on moral principles not on the latest polls, on the needs of the poor and vulnerable, not the contributions of the rich and powerful, and on the pursuit of the common good not the demands of special interests." Read "Faithful Citizenship" in its entirety at www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/index.htm.

Our nation's commitment to the democratic process, our defense of human rights and our entrepreneurial spirit are models followed, and aspired to, by many nations. We must acknowledge, however, that much of our nation's history has included injustices. I heard one commentator on a PBS show call slavery "the indelible stain on the fabric of our nation's history." We cannot pretend slavery did not happen, nor can we pretend its devastating effects are now just a part of history. Similarly, we cannot sweep under the rug other actions of our nation that have contradicted values we as Americans hold dear.

My awareness of one of our government's largely forgotten and unjust policy decisions was recently rekindled at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia (Oct. 10-12 in Lake Junaluska). Freeman Owle, a member of the Qualla Boundary — Eastern Band of the Cherokee who live in western North Carolina, spoke of the "Trail of Tears." This is the name given to the forced migration of the Cherokee from their southeastern homeland in parts of what are now Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia, to "reserved" lands west of the Mississippi.

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the start of the "Trail of Tears." In 1838, President Andrew Jackson, with the support of Congress, issued orders to remove the Cherokee from their ancestral homelands. Why? Because gold had been discovered in north Georgia and because the prevailing prejudice of the day could not fathom Native Americans living side by side in peace and prosperity with white Americans. The Cherokee — who lived in towns, went to churches, attended schools and had their own written language; who lived in peace with their neighbors — were forced to move.

Thousands of Cherokee died from starvation, disease and exposure on their western migration. Some Cherokee managed to escape from the migration routes and return to the hills of Appalachia. They joined many of their brothers and sisters who had already chosen to live under cover of the hills rather than migrate. This remnant of the Cherokee Nation formed the basis of the now roughly 13,000 members of the Cherokee living in North Carolina.

After attending the conference, I came home desiring to learn more about this terrible chapter in our nation's history. For many of us, our knowledge of American history begins at the War for Independence and then fast-forwards past 80 years of national growth to the Civil War. It is simply wrong that the incredible hardships and injustices brought on by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 (when Native Americans in the eastern United States were ordered to move west of the Mississippi) remain largely unknown to the America public.

One tragic historical fact is this land's original inhabitants were either pushed to the periphery as our nation grew, or simply eliminated (even though European settlement would have never succeeded without the advice and material assistance offered by Native Americans). Any serious reflection on our nation's failings must include the unjust treatment of Native Americans. As we shape our nation's public policy, we should be mindful of the unfortunate conditions in which many Native Americans continue to live.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 4.1 million people identify themselves as Native Americans. Roughly 12 percent are Roman Catholic (from diocesan records). There are two Native American bishops, Bishop Donald Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., and Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver, Colo. A June 2003 report from the U.S. bishops states in our country, 322 individuals currently work in Native American ministry. Let us remember in prayer those in the Church who work with Native Americans.

## Pope tells cardinals, bishops to preach Gospel

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: Due to an early publishing deadline this week, we were unable to print the pope's weekly general audience.*

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II told cardinals and bishops assembled for his 25th anniversary that their common duty was to preach the Gospel "to the last breath."

The pope said that in evangelizing the credibility of church leaders depends on the unity they show among themselves and the commitment they show to the world's poor.

The pope addressed more than 250 cardinals and heads of bishops' conferences Oct. 18 at the close of a four-day conference that reviewed the main themes of his pontificate's first 25 years.

In the face of the many changes over the last 25 years, he said, the need for the pope and bishops to be fearless witnesses of truth and hope has remained constant.

"The courage in proclaiming the Gospel must never lessen. In fact, it must be our main task to the last breath, faced with ever-renewing dedication," he said.

But to announce the one Gospel with a "single heart and soul," the church must demonstrate internal agreement, he said.

"Therefore, it is indispensable to cultivate a profound unity among us, which is not limited to an affective collegiality, but is founded on a full doctrinal sharing and is translated into harmony at an operational level," he said.

### The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

"How can we be authentic teachers for humanity and credible apostles of the new evangelization if we allow the weeds of division to enter into our hearts?" he asked.

The pope said the credibility of the church's hierarchy depends upon this unity and on showing "the face of a church that loves the poor, that is simple and that is on the side of the weakest." He said the perfect example was Mother Teresa of Calcutta, whom he beatified the next day.

The pope told the church leaders personal holiness also must be an essential component of their leadership and was "the secret of evangelization" in today's world.

At the close of his talk, the pope asked the cardinals and bishops to "pray for me, so that I can faithfully carry out my service to the church as long as the Lord shall desire."

The pope greeted participants one by one after his talk and handed each a gift: a pectoral cross for bishops, and for cardinals, a manuscript reproduction of a Greek text of a letter from St. Peter.

## Bush right, Vatican — and everyone else — wrong

I write to let you know I am embarrassed and disgusted at the arrogance of Cardinal Pio Laghi as reiterated by John Thavis in the article on the front page of *The Catholic News & Herald* ("Papal envoy to Bush says events proved Vatican right about Iraqi war," Oct. 10). Again petty, but profound arrogance with the headline where the article continues on page 13: "Vatican right about Iraq."

Where were the articles from *The Catholic News & Herald* and Mr. Thavis when the "leaders" of Iraq were torturing and murdering their own countrymen?

Where were the articles from *The Catholic News & Herald* and Mr. Thavis when people were and are murdered all over the world thanks to this horrible global — and organized — terrorism?

Where were the articles from *The Catholic News & Herald*and Mr. Thavis when the schools opened and the students found them actually clean, newly painted and when mayors, councilmen, etc., were elected to various towns in Iraq?

I suggest *The Catholic News & Herald* and Mr. Thavis get their heads out of the sand and smell the love of life and respect for mankind, as is being allowed and presented anew in Iraq — thanks to President George W. Bush!

Wanda Carton
Charlotte

## Letters to Editor

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

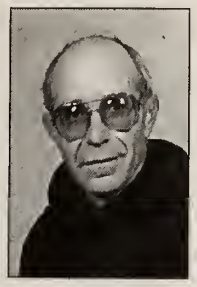
To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# The Saints are marching in and on

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap



On Nov. 1, the world celebrates men and women who were not necessarily popular when they were alive, but as time went on became more popular than ever. I am talking about the heroes called saints. They had a clear purpose in life: to overthrow the stagnant system of mediocrity and to begin a revolution of love and values.

Every year since 610, the church brings to our attention their triumphant anniversary. The peculiarity of the greatest women and men who ever lived is they are strangely oblivious to flattery. They are not affected by our compliments, because they direct them to God, who accomplished wonders in their lives.

When the great Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini rehearsed with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, he took the musicians to heights they had never before known. When the rehearsal was finished, the musicians stood and cheered their conductor. Toscanini, visibly embarrassed with tears in his eyes, did his best to stop them. When the ovation ended, in a voice of gentle rebuke, he said, "Your applause, ladies and gentlemen ... not for me, but for Beethoven."

What makes the saints close to us is the fact "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:15) That is to say their sins have been forgiven through the sacrificial death of Christ. They were sinners as we are. They needed forgiveness and cleansing as we do. The American journalist, Ambrose Bierce, enjoyed making fun of religion and Christianity in particular. He once defined a saint as "a dead sinner, whose life has been revised and edited." That was his way of saying the saints were not really saintly. The church has simply rewritten the stories of their lives to make them appear better than they were. You and I may be offended by that suggestion, but I doubt the saints are. It never occurred to them that they were anything other than ordinary people. I'll say they did the ordinary things in an extraordinary way, therefore they are the giants of our faith. They were real people, who lived real lives in the real world.

I am convinced the saints would like us to continue their work on earth, their cause for which they lived and died. They devoted themselves to projects too big to be finished, too challenging to be completed. The unfinished work of God is still in our hands. Our lives are powerful movies with the subtitle "to be continued."

While holiness has been connected with piety, which may have a legalistic and negative connotation, the saints simply showed us that holiness is a way of life. They were people who marched to the beat of a different drummer; they had to be unpopular and revolutionary to the point of being killed or persecuted by fellow human beings. Popularity has never been a mark of true Christianity. While the saints were not superhumans, they were indeed courageous enough to defeat human logic and the best marketing technique. They are models for us as they teach us the real meaning of life, which is being rather than doing, loving rather than bargaining.

For instance, an outstanding quality of every saint is humility. They knew not the proud and violent but the lowly and meek conquer the world. History, in fact, is on their side. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Rome was the undisputed ruler of the world. Caesar's legions marched on every roadway and controlled every sea lane. Then the message of Jesus came along "Love your enemies, forgive 70 times seven." In that world of violence and hatred, Jesus was a misfit, a loser, so it seemed. The truth is that humility triumphed over pride: the Roma Empire fell along with hundreds of violent regimes and dictators, Christ conquered the world and legions of saintly men and women proved that time may annihilate and wipe out everything, except the great heritage of our Christian faith.

# Agreeing to raise children Catholic

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN CNS Columnist

*Q. Thirty-eight years ago I married a Catholic lady. She is still my wife, and I converted to the Catholic faith since then. Before our marriage I had to sign a promise to bring our children up Catholic; today all three love and respect the Catholic religion.*

*Soon our son will marry a nice young lady who is not Catholic. Our pastor informed him that he (not his future spouse) must sign a paper promising to raise the children Catholic.*

*He feels he would not be truthful in signing it. After all, he says, the wife will be with the children more than the husband and perhaps would wish to bring them up in a religion she is more familiar with. Doesn't that put unnecessary pressure on a marriage that is just beginning? (Pennsylvania)*

**A.** We Catholics consider it of major importance that children born into this faith be offered the spiritual and cultural advantages of Catholic religious life, particularly the sacraments (baptism, Eucharist, penance and so on), but also the support of a Catholic community, Sunday Eucharist, daily prayer and all the other helps which enrich a Catholic life.

These are gifts of faith we, individually and as a Christian community, have a responsibility to give to our children as effectively as we can.

In light of this, the church has an obligation to assume that its members who come to be married as Catholics possess a basic Catholic knowledge and commitment sufficient to desire and provide this religious heritage for their children.

For a variety of possible reasons, no one can absolutely guarantee that this nurturing to a mature Catholic adult faith will actually happen in a marriage. Thus, the Catholic does not promise (in your words) to raise the children Catholic, but "to do all in my power to share my faith with our children by having them baptized and raised as Catholics," an entirely different promise, of course.

Such a policy simply respects the fact that the Catholic has, by God's grace, a bond with the Catholic faith, for which he or she is accountable.

(Of course it can happen, and sometimes does, that no genuine personal commitment to the Catholic faith is present at all; the desire to be married in the church could be motivated more by culture and family than by religious conviction. But that is another story.)

The church assumes furthermore that the other partner also holds important personal beliefs about God, family, marriage and similar religious matters. While it doesn't presume to know what those beliefs are, it is concerned that the beliefs of both parties be respected and confronted so any critical differences may be resolved.

Without question, the time to do this is before the marriage. It doesn't become easier later when children begin arriving and even less leisure and objectivity are available to make wise decisions about these responsibilities.

You and your son seem to have a good relationship. Might you discuss these points with them? If the Catholic faith is at all important for him, why? What do he and his future wife want for their children? If Mass, the sacraments, Communion are at all valuable for him, wouldn't he strongly desire them for his sons and daughters? What does his fiance really want? Do they feel it would it be better for their family to go into the future without these religious helps and supports?

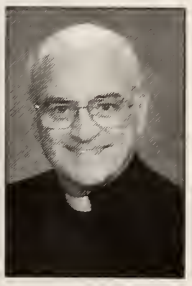
It seems to me this is the direction from which they need to examine the questions you raise. Years from now there will be no police force to monitor their spiritual lives on this or any other matter. Ultimately it is between them and God.

But the church tries every way it can, including through its marriage-preparation programs, to assure them the happiest possible relationship through the years, with each other and with God.

# Getting a grip on trust

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR CNS Columnist



It is the supreme law that we love and honor God.

But in order to honor God we at least have to trust him. Every time you make a decision to turn away from your fears, you please and honor him. The saints and mystics agree on this.

Julian of Norwich wrote, "The greatest honor you can give to almighty God is to live joyfully because of the knowledge of his love." She got this from St. Paul who said: "Rejoice always. In all circumstances give thanks to the Lord for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Decide once and for all to live joyfully? It doesn't mean good feelings follow immediately. It is simply a choice of joy over fear. Be patient.

People get into a bad habit of thinking fear helps protect them from danger. In fact, fear only adds to the woes of life. Psychologists tell us 95 percent of our worries are about future things that never happen. Trusting God eliminates all this the needless worry. You have to learn to go against your natural fears.

Living joyfully is possible, but not for those who cling relentlessly to their fears. They would rather see themselves as victims than as carriers of divine love and joy. They do not have faith enough to trust that God will supply whatever they are lacking. This is not an easy leap of faith I admit, but trust demands a radical change.

Those who do not choose to change will continue to wallow in self-pity. Some present themselves as helpless creatures in order to get attention and sympathy. By reacting fearfully to the traumas of life with little or no trust in God, they forfeit joy.

When people like that tell me their story, I try not to give them pity; instead I usually ask this disturbing question: "What would happen if today you decided to be joyful? What changes would you make in your thinking, in your activities, in your relationships?"

Sometimes they say: "Haven't you been listening? You can't just decide to be joyful." I smile and answer: "Oh, but yes you can."

Jesus said "Stop thinking about tomorrow, sufficient unto the day are the day's troubles."

To honor God, you first have to put your trust in him. The decision to be joyful is the first step. Living in fear is not a happy alternative. Contemplate the joyful presence of God within your soul. Always remember pleasure comes from the delights of the senses, but true joy comes from within.

The joy of being is another name for the divine Trinity dwelling within your soul. Train your will to obey the Lord, and be joyful.

# Basilica of St. Lawrence rises as spiritual harbor for western North Carolina

COURTESY PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

The Basilica of St. Lawrence, designed by a Spanish architect in the early 1900s, was designated by Pope John Paul II as a minor basilica in 1993.

THE BASILICA OF ST. LAWRENCE
97 Haywood Street
Asheville, N.C. 28801
(828) 252-6042

Vicariate: Asheville
Pastor: Father Wilbur Thomas
Parochial Vicar: Father Joseph Long Dinh
Number of Families: 931

Father Thomas Wilbur

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — In 1840, when Father John Barry visited Catholic families and celebrated Mass in Asheville, it marked the first time Mass was said in the mountain area, according to earliest written records.

For many years, Mass was sporadically celebrated whenever missionary priests traveled through the mountains. Little else is recorded concerning Catholicism in western North Carolina until Father J.J. O'Connell recalled his experience celebrating Mass on the summit of Mount Mitchell on the feast of St. Rose of Lima in 1866.

Bishop James J. Gibbons, then newly consecrated apostolic vicar of North Carolina, traveled by stagecoach and horseback to Asheville in 1868 and arranged for the purchase of land on which to build a church. Sibling Fathers Lawrence and Jeremiah O'Connell raised funds, even traveling abroad, for the new church that Bishop Gibbons dedicated two years later.

The mission church had no resident pastor for the next 17 years and relied on priests who could be spared for a month or two at a time. One of these dedicated missionary priests was Father Thomas Price, a native North Carolinian, who later cofounded the Maryknoll Mission Society.

In 1887, Father James White became pastor, and St. Lawrence, named in honor of Father Lawrence O'Connell, became a parish church. Father White obtained the current property in 1899 and built a small wooden church. When poor health forced Father White to resign, he recommended Father Peter Marion be appointed pastor. Then-Bishop Leo Haid also appointed Father Marion's younger brother, Father Patrick Marion, as assistant pastor.

The new church was only half filled during the off-season, but overflowed during the summer months when tourists joined the local parishioners. In July 1905, one visitor unable to find a seat during Mass was the famous Spanish architect Rafael Guastavino, who was in town during the mid-1890s to work on the Biltmore House. He told Father Marion that a Catholic Church should be large enough to accommodate everyone and offered to draw plans for a new, fireproof church and donate an elliptical dome, the largest freestanding elliptical dome in North America.

With Bishop Haid's consent, construction started shortly after parishioners helped dig the cellar. Father Marion — who worked alongside construction workers each day, mixing mortar and carrying bricks — wrote and sent 3,000 letters throughout the country for donations; only two refusals were returned. Donations of money, materials and labor helped the completion of the new church.

In 1908, Guastavino died and his son, Rafael Jr., took over with help of another famous architect, Stanford White. Bishop Haid dedicated the new church in October 1909. When Father Peter Marion's health declined and he transferred to Hendersonville, Father Patrick Marion took his brother's place as pastor and oversaw final completion of the church, which consisted of the placing of the copper roof and paying off the debt so the church could be consecrated.

On Oct. 13, 1920, Cardinal James Gibbons consecrated St. Lawrence Church, the first church consecrated in the Vicariate of North Carolina.

The church, now on the National Register of Historic Places, houses the crypt of Guastavino.

Father Louis Bour, appointed pastor in 1922, built a new rectory next to the church in 1929 and served as pastor for 40 years. During the Great Depression, the church was without heat except on Sundays and for funerals. The church basement became a USO-type canteen during World War II, serving servicemen and women stationed in the area, and attendance at Mass and devotions increased as visitors and parishioners prayed for peace.

In keeping with the spirit of Vatican II, changes took place under Father Robert Wilkin. In 1968, in order for Mass to be said facing the congregation, part of the altar was moved to the middle of the sanctuary with the fresco of the Last Supper and its flanking square panels moved 10 feet and topped with an 1,800-pound block of Tennessee marble for the altar table.

Lay committees and a parish council formed soon afterward. The parish of St. Anthony of Padua, with predominantly black parishioners, merged with St. Lawrence Church in 1969, and its pastor, Father Joseph Howze, became pastor of St. Lawrence.

Father Justin Pechulis, pastor from 1977 until 1983, purchased the building across the street from the church and named it the St. Justin Center in honor of his patron saint. The building served religious education classes and various parish functions.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II designated St. Lawrence Church as a minor basilica, a term of special designation given to certain churches because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance or significance as a place of worship. Archbishop John F. Donoghue, then-bishop of Charlotte, dedicated the church as the Basilica of St. Lawrence in October of that year.

Eighteen priests — two who became bishops — have served the church as pastors along with three administrators. Msgr. John McSweeney, former chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and first priest ordained in the diocese, also served as pastor. Father Wilbur Thomas, a native North Carolinian, became pastor in July 2000. Father Joseph Long Dinh is the current parochial vicar.

The city of Asheville recently purchased the St. Justin Center for a parking garage as part of a new plaza to be dedicated to the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Parishioners will have use of 200 free parking spaces on weekends and 150 spaces during the week. The rectory will be renovated with a new addition to house a parish life center.

The basilica offers perpetual eucharistic adoration, instituted by former pastor Father Clark Kaltreider in 1989, and for many years was the only church in North Carolina to have this devotion.

The parish recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the church being designated a minor basilica. Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta returned for the anniversary celebration Mass Oct. 5.

As the parish moves toward the future, the Basilica of St. Lawrence remains a spiritual harbor for residents and visitors of the western North Carolina city.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 31, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 6

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# Bishop Jugis ordained as fourth bishop of Charlotte

*New shepherd calls on all to help 'make known the love of Christ'*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Speaking in both English and Spanish, Bishop Peter J. Jugis asked the faithful gathered for his ordination to help him carry on the church's mission of salvation.

"All of us, regardless of our particular vocation, are involved in this grand mission of salvation," he said.

An estimated 3,000 people crowded St. Matthew Church for Bishop Jugis' spectacular two-hour ordination. Attendees overflowed into the church's gymnasium, where they watched the Mass via closed-circuit television.

Bishop Jugis, 46, a native of Charlotte, succeeds Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus, as shepherd of the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, established in 1972.

The multicultural Mass, broadcast live on the Internet, featured West African drummers, Vietnamese children from St. Joseph Vietnamese Church dancing with candles in the aisles and music — including songs in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese — that was representative of the diverse cultures of the diocese.

"We are a young church. We are a rapidly growing church, filled with joy and vitality and holiness and the love of Christ," said Bishop Jugis. "We come from many different ethnic backgrounds and together we form the body of Christ — a living sacrifice of praise."

Approximately 400 people participated in the opening procession, including priests, deacons, seminarians, abbots and representatives

See ORDINATION, page 25

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Bishop Peter J. Jugis was ordained as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 24 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. A native of Charlotte, Bishop Jugis prepared for the priesthood at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, and was ordained as a priest by Pope John Paul II in 1983.

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**Shepherding many flocks**
*Bishop Jugis contemplates his call to serve*
| Page 3

**Rite of Reception**
*Bishop Jugis received in his cathedral church*
| Page 4

**Bilingual bishop**
*Bishop Jugis ministers to many cultures*
| Page 37

ARMING A BISHOP

# Bishop Jugis devises personal coat of arms, motto

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

*Editor's note: The terms "dexter" and "sinister" (below) are historical, since the shield was borne on the same arm of medieval days.*

CHARLOTTE — It is tradition for every bishop to have his own coat of arms and motto.

Similar to many bishops' coats of arms, Bishop Peter J. Jugis' coat of arms is composed of the shield with its charges, motto and external armaments. But the details of the design and the motto have special significance to Bishop Jugis.

"Bishop Jugis impales his personal heraldic device onto the arms of this diocese to represent his governance of the people of God in the church of Charlotte," explained Father James Parker, a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., who designed the coat of arms.

Father Parker is a heraldic designer who has devised arms for cardinals, other members of the hierarchy and various church institutions. He is a member of the Heraldry Society of England, Scotland, Canada and the American Society of Heraldry.

The coat of arms' artwork is by Father Larry Lossing, a priest of the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., and a professional artist.

The impalement also represents the mystical "marriage" between the local ordinary and his jurisdiction, said Father Parker.

To the viewer's right (the shield bearer's left or sinister side behind the shield) is a gold field, which represents the great treasure of the faith and the hope of salvation offered to us all by the gift of redemption, according to Father Parker. Gold also stands for the enrichment of life given by redemption, he said.

"With the gold background, I wanted to tie in the years that I studied in Rome and my priestly ordination by the pope," said Bishop Jugis. "The colors of Vatican City are gold and silver, so I chose the gold background for my coat of arms."

"Gold is also a reference to Our Lady, who in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is called 'House of Gold,'" said the bishop. "Gold is a precious metal, and Mary, as the mother of Christ, was the most precious 'house,' or dwelling place, of God."

The cross is in a style called "bottony" in heraldry because it has three circles at the end of the staff and the cross arms. This has personal significance to the bishop and thus is a personal "badge" for him, said Father Parker.

"The design of the cross that I chose was inspired by a crucifix hanging in the living room of the rectory at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe," said Bishop Jugis. "It is a beautiful wood-carved crucifix that I believe goes back many years at the parish there."

"The cross reminds us of salvation wrought by Jesus Christ crucified and the red color suggests the precious blood, the cost of redemption," said Father Parker.

"Red is to emphasize the blood and sacrifice of Christ for us," said Bishop Jugis. "The paschal mystery — one of the central mysteries of our faith; the mystery of the suffering, death and rising of Christ — is all symbolically represented right there in the cross."

"The three circles on the cross ends denote the Blessed Trinity, whom we worship," said Father Parker.

The arms to the viewer's left (the shield bearer's right or dexter side behind the shield) are the escutcheons of the Diocese of Charlotte, explained Father Parker.

"The field is divided horizontally into green and blue portions. In the chief or upper half is a Celtic cross of silver-edged gold, which represents St. Patrick, patron saint of the cathedral church of the diocese," said Father Parker. "In the lower left part, the crown denotes Queen Charlotte, consort of George III of England. The see city is named for her."

Behind the coat of arms is a gold processional cross.

The shield is ensigned with the green heraldic hat having six "houppes," or tassels, depending from either side, denoting the hierarchical rank of a bishop in accordance with the Instruction of the Holy See (March 31, 1969). Before 1970, the pontifical hat was worn at solemn cavalcades in conjunction with papal ceremonies. The color of the hat and number of tassels were signs of the rank of the prelate, a custom still preserved in ecclesiastical heraldry.

Bishop Jugis' motto, "Caritas Christi Urget Nos" ("The Love of Christ Urges Us On"), comes from St. Paul's second pastoral letter to the Corinthian Church, said Father Parker, and offers the inspiration for growth and formation in the faith, which the bishop wishes to inspire in the people as their pastor.

"I wanted to have a motto that would somehow include Christ's love in it," said Bishop Jugis. "The love of Christ is planted in our hearts from the day of our baptisms. I remember the line from Paul's letter to the Romans — "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." That love should be the reason and motivation for everything we do as Christians, and for me as shepherd of the diocese."

"After I had chosen it, I discovered the saint whose feast day is celebrated Oct. 24 — St. Anthony Mary Claret — the very day I'm being ordained, has the same motto," he said. "I thought it was an interesting coincidence."

**Welcome to a special issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* devoted to Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who was ordained as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 24.**

**Bishop Jugis, a native of Charlotte, succeeds Bishop William G. Curlin, who retired in September 2002 after nine years as shepherd of the diocese.**

**This issue will highlight Bishop Jugis' ordination and installation Mass at St. Matthew Church (see page 1), his rite of reception at St. Patrick Cathedral as well as other attributes of our new bishop.**

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*SHEPHERDING MANY FLOCKS*

# Bishop Jugis contemplates his call to serve

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — It was more than 20 years ago when Bishop Peter J. Jugis discerned his calling to the priesthood.

Back then, he never imagined the July phone call from Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio, which literally brought him to his knees.

"Suddenly, in a single instant, God changes your life," said Bishop Jugis. "... You don't expect someone on the other end to tell you you've been appointed the next bishop of Charlotte ... I couldn't believe what I was hearing."

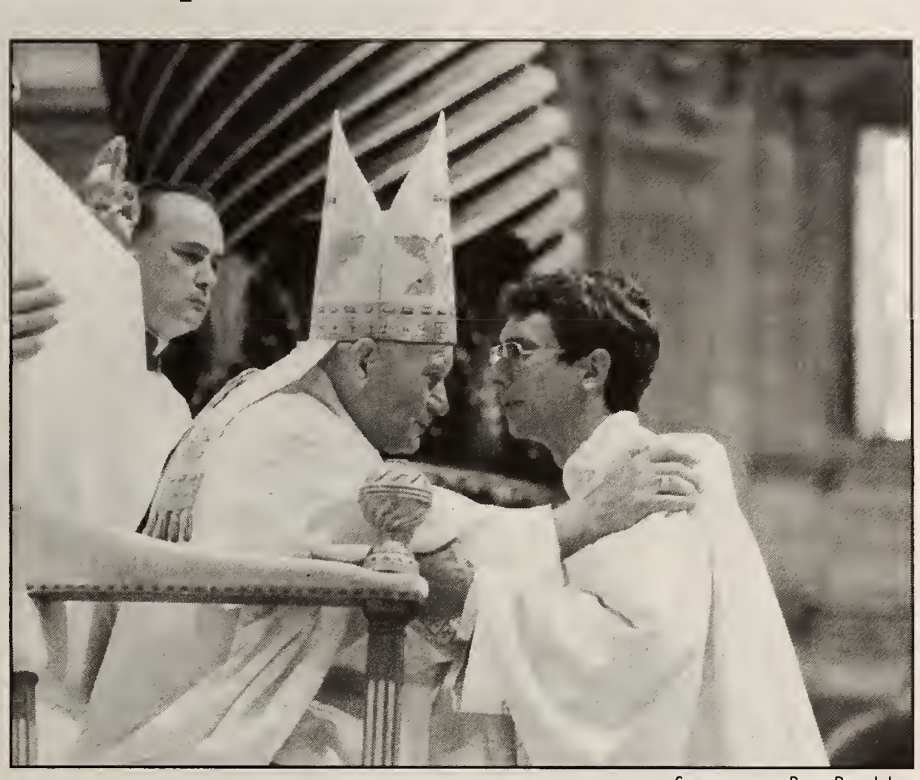
When he told his parents of his new appointment as bishop, they were pleased, yet surprised.

"They both started crying," he said. "It's something that was completely unexpected; it came out of the blue."

His decision to become a priest, however, did not surprise them.

"It was my mother who said, 'Well, Peter, we were thinking that you had been moving in this direction for a long time, but we didn't want to say anything to see if you would arrive at that conclusion on your own,'" said Bishop Jugis.

"It was a tremendous affirmation and confirmation of what I had been feeling and discerning privately for many months," he said. "They were validating the external signs of the interior vocation I had been considering."



COURTESY PHOTO BY BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Pope John Paul II embraces Bishop Peter J. Jugis at his priestly ordination June 12, 1983.

### *The calling*

A native of Charlotte born March 3, 1957, Bishop Jugis is a third-generation American hailing from a diverse back-

PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Then-Father Peter J. Jugis in a portrait taken in the early 1980s while he was a seminarian.

ground including Hungarian, German, Irish, Lithuanian and Czechoslovakian descents. After graduating from South Mecklenburg High School in 1975, he studied accounting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He supplemented his educational expenses by playing the organ during weddings at local parishes.

"I just began to realize my heart wasn't in the accounting field," he said. "I could do it intellectually, but I just didn't feel that this was what I wanted to give my life to totally."

While visiting St. Gabriel Church, where he was to play at a wedding, he met Msgr. John McSweeney, then-associate pastor for the church and vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I had seen him at other events, and noticed there were good similarities between us," said Msgr. McSweeney. "For a young man, he had a good sense of humor ... and a deep sense of faith, and where that would go, I wasn't sure."

"After the wedding rehearsal, he asked me in passing if I had ever thought of being a priest," said Bishop Jugis. "I told him, 'No, I never had.' He said, 'Well, think about it, would you?'"

And so he did — a lot over the following year — "about what I could really give my heart to completely," he said. "I started to realize more and more that giving my life to God and serving the church as a priest seemed to be agreeable at the time. Of course, I had to continue to discern and think, and to talk with priests."

He discussed the idea with Msgr. William Wellein, then-pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "I spent time talking with him and learning more about the priesthood and being a parish priest," he said.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Jugis, with his parents' full support, applied to be a seminarian of the diocese in 1979. He interviewed with Bishop Michael J. Begley, who, as former pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, baptized the infant Peter Joseph Jugis in 1957.

"I had the honor of being baptized by the future bishop of the diocese," said Bishop Jugis.

During the interview, Bishop Begley had spoken about his concern for the "unchurched" in the state.

"I remember him saying to me, 'There's a lot of work we have to do in North Carolina,'" said Bishop Jugis. "He was inviting me to study for the priesthood and to join him in the mission of the Catholic Church in North Carolina. I received from him a missionary spirit."

He studied at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, and was ordained in 1983 by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica. His parents and brothers were present at the ordination, as were Bishop Begley and Msgr. McSweeney.

### *Serving the diocese*

Since then, he has served in numerous parishes across the Diocese of Charlotte, including St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

In November 1985, he was appointed as a diocesan tribunal judge and parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church. In August 1987, he began studies for his doctorate in canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"It was the bishop who first asked me to study — Bishop Begley and then-Bishop (John F.) Donoghue — they always made the opportunities available," said Bishop Jugis.

In August 1988, he returned to the Diocese of Charlotte as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church before heading back to Washington to continue his studies in the fall of 1989.

In 1992, Bishop Jugis became the first priest of the diocese to receive a doctorate in canon law, defending his thesis at The Catholic University of America. Six years later, he began working full-time for the tribunal while regularly serving as administrator or pastor in churches around the diocese.

In 2001, Bishop Jugis became pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. While overseeing a $1.5 million building campaign for a new church, Bishop Jugis was making a weekly 40-minute trip to the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte to manage the marriage tribunal as judicial vicar.

And then Archbishop Montalvo called in July 2003. It was a very humbling moment, said Bishop Jugis, who, at 46, may be the youngest bishop in the United States.

"I'm sure there may be some auxiliary bishops who are younger than I am, but I don't know if I am the youngest bishop," said Bishop Jugis. "I'm very honored by it if it is true, but I'll leave that up to others to research."

"(Being bishop) is a tremendous responsibility, and I'm still in awe of the great responsibility that I have," he said. "I try not to think of the enormity of the task, but just want to serve the best that I can, and let the Holy Spirit guide and show me what has to be done."

"(And) I can count on the help and support of all of the priests and all of the people in the parishes to do the work of the Lord," he said.

### *Shepherding the flock*

On Oct. 24, 2003, he was ordained and installed as the fourth bishop of Charlotte at St. Matthew Church, at which Msgr. McSweeney is pastor.

"To me, with Bishop Jugis' ordination, the Catholic Church of this young diocese is truly coming into its own," said Msgr. McSweeney. "This local church has produced a bishop of its own — it gives this diocese a sense of maturity."

"The Diocese of Charlotte is growing," said Bishop Jugis. "There is much work to be done as we continue Christ's mission of salvation, which he entrusted to his Catholic Church."

Having served in the Diocese of Charlotte for two decades, Bishop Jugis got to know many of the priests and laity through his service in various parishes, on the diocesan Respect Life committee and the Cursillo movement, "which has put me in touch with people all over the diocese," he said.

While attending the 50th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin Oct. 4, "Although I've never served in Franklin, I knew people at the Mass," he said. "But even if I had not been here for the last 20 years, it would not have taken me too long to begin

See CALLING, next page

## What Others Say

TOM LALLEY, PARISH COUNCIL, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH:

**"We are thankful to God for this special gift to our parish and our diocese of Bishop Peter Jugis, our beloved pastor. His devotion to and love of the holy Eucharist is an inspiration to us all. Our prayer is that our Lord and His Blessed Mother will keep Bishop Jugis ever close to their Sacred Hearts and grant him abundant graces for a long and holy tenure as the shepherd of the Diocese of Charlotte."**

# *Bishop Jugis contemplates his call to serve*

CALLING, *from previous page*

meeting people and to know their names and feel right at home. I think that's one of the things that makes this all so awesome and humbling."

"It is a special grace and a blessing to be chosen as a bishop where I've already served, where I've really spent all of my life," said Bishop Jugis. "I was once one of the priests helping to build up the diocese. Now I'm building up the diocese in a different way as bishop."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Then-Deacon Peter J. Jugis at Charlotte-Douglas Airport on his way back to the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, Oct. 4, 1982.

*A BISHOP IN THE MAKING*

# Bishop Jugis fills may posts over two decades

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Before his Oct. 24 ordination and installation as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis served in many capacities and in many parishes throughout the diocese.

With a degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Bishop Jugis prepared for the priesthood at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome.

After his ordination June 12, 1983, then-Father Jugis was briefly in residence at St. Ann Church in Charlotte before returning to Rome to complete his licentiate in canon law.

In 1984, he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem while serving as temporary administrator of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville in the summer of 1985. In November 1985, he was appointed as a diocesan tribunal judge and parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

In August 1987, he began studies for his doctorate in canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington. In August 1988, he returned to the Diocese of Charlotte as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury before returning to Washington to continue studies in the fall of 1989.

In July 1991, he returned to St. Leo the Great Church as parochial vicar and was appointed as judicial vicar of the diocesan tribunal. He received his doctorate in canon law in May 1993.

That same year, he returned to Holy Infant Church as pastor. In March 1996, he was appointed pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont until June 1997. He worked full-time for the tribunal until November 1998, when he became administrator of Holy Spirit Church in Denver, N.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Then-Father Peter Jugis with the first Communion group at Holy Spirit Church in Denver May 8, 1999.

From June 1999 to June 2001, the future bishop returned to working full-time with the tribunal until he was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. As pastor, he would travel to Charlotte one day a week to work in the tribunal as judicial vicar.

In August 2003, Pope John Paul II named him as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington Aug. 1.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, administrator of the Diocese of Charlotte, made the announcement to the media and diocesan administrative staff at the Pastoral Center the same day.

"I have accepted our Holy Father's appointment to me as bishop of Charlotte, and I am very humbled by the confidence he has placed in me," said Bishop Jugis, after Msgr. West's remarks.

Bishop Jugis, 46, succeeds Bishop William G. Curlin, who retired in September 2002. Church canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignations when they reach 75. Bishop Curlin, bishop of Charlotte since 1994, turned 75 on Aug. 30, 2002.

"I pray I will be a worthy successor to Bishop Curlin, and serve with just as much zeal for souls as he, and Archbishop John F. Donoghue, our second bishop, and Bishop Michael J. Belgey, our founding bishop, did in their years as shepherd," said Bishop Jugis.

*MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP*

# Morrison Smith jewelers craft bishop's ring

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For Bishop Peter J. Jugis' ring, the bishop and Father Francis O'Rourke consulted with Charles W. Smith, Jr. of Morrison Smith Jewelers.

"The ring is a symbol of the bishop's faithfulness to the church of Christ, and especially to the local manifestation of the church — the Diocese of Charlotte," Bishop Jugis said.

The design of the ring, proposed by Smith, was crafted by several Morrison Smith master craftsmen. The wax model was made and cast by Jorge Chabia and final polishing was done by Peau Lorth. John Flitton, who has designed for the Queen of England, did the hand engraving of the bishop's ring.

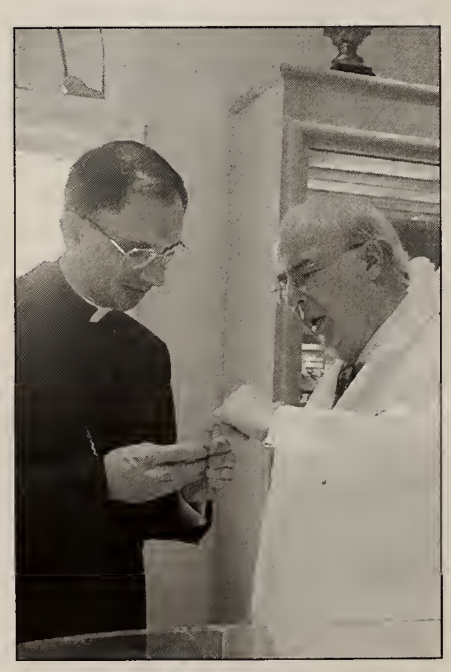
The ring is engraved with Bishop Jugis' coat of arms, his name and the date of his episcopal ordination inside the band and a pair of interlocked rings on the side of the ring. The two rings symbolize his parent's 50-year marriage, which they will celebrate on Thanksgiving Day.

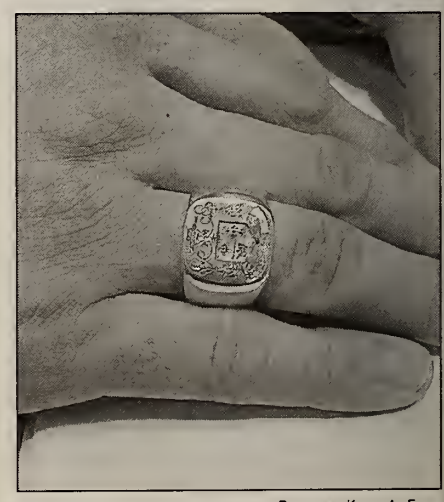
"I am very grateful to Charles Smith for the work he did engraving," said Bishop Jugis. "I'm amazed at how fine the detail is."

Smith has worked on several priests' chalices by adding the parent's wedding rings and diamonds or colored stones. He made the amethyst ring of Charlotte's first bishop, Bishop Michael J. Begley, and engraved a gold cross for the Bishop Walter Hurley of Detroit.

A native North Carolinian, Smith was raised in Asheville, where he attended St. Lawrence Church and Catholic schools. He studied at St. Jerome's College Seminary in Kitchner, Ont., and later left the seminary with Bishop Vincent Waters' permission and blessing.

Smith then attended Asheville Biltmore College (now the University of North Carolina at Asheville) and Memphis State University. In July 1962, he and Judy Lance were married at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville.





PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Charles Smith, owner of Morrison Smith Jewelers, shows Bishop Peter J. Jugis the ring he designed for the bishop's episcopal ordination.

In 1954, Smith began working as a jeweler in Asheville, continuing to work in the industry while in school in Memphis. Over time, Smith became a master jewelry craftsman, diamond setter, designer, salesman, gemologist, appraiser, machine engraver, general manager and storeowner.

In 1965, with the goal of owning his own store, Smith and his wife moved to Charlotte, where they became parishioners of St. Ann Church. In 1983, that goal was achieved when he purchased Morrison Jewelers.

"When I left the seminary studies, Bishop Waters told me that, he needed many good layman in North Carolina which I am trying to be," Smith said.

We've lost our Beloved Pastor
but gained a devoted Shepherd.

Bishop Jugis, we pray that the light
of God's Grace and Blessings will
continue to guide you along your holy path.

## The parishioners of
## Our Lady of Lourdes
## Monroe

---

Perdimos nuestro querido Párroco
pero ganamos un devoto Pastor.

Obispo Jugis, nosotros oramos para que la luz,
la gracia, y las bendiciones
de Dios continúen guiándolo por su santo camino.

## Los feligreses de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes

## Our Lady of Lourdes

Monroe

*Congratulations Bishop Peter Jugis!*
*We thank God for your devoted service to our diocese and pray that, together, the faithful will continue to grow.*

*May God Bless you in all your endeavors.*

**Basilica of Saint Lawrence**
**Deacon and Martyr**

Fr. Wilbur N. Thomas — Fr. Joseph Dinh
and the parishioners of the Basilica of St. Lawrence

Asheville, NC

*Bishop Paul S. Loverde*
and the Faithful of the Diocese of Arlington

Offer prayerful support
and congratulations to

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis*

*On the occasion of his Installation as the Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina*

*Jesus said:*

*"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."*

*(John 12:26)*

***Blessings as you serve the Diocese of Charlotte***

***Your friends at Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe — Charlotte***

**Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe**

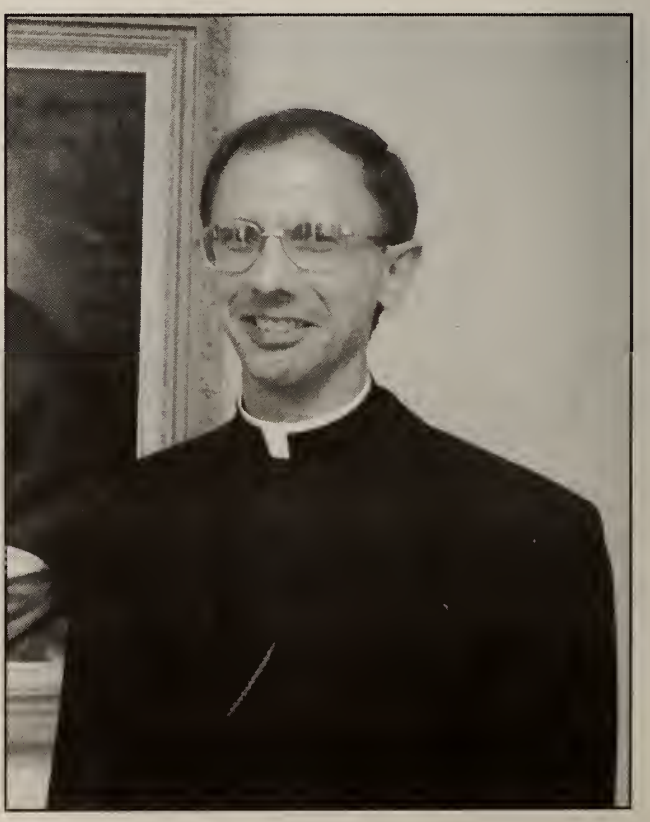
# The Faithful in the Archdiocese of Atlanta

offer their prayers & sincere congratulations to Bishop Peter Jugis as he begins his new journey to serve the Body of Christ in Charlotte, NC.

May God strengthen you and always keep you safe in His love.

+ John F. Donoghue

**Most Reverend**
**John F. Donoghue**
**Archbishop of Atlanta**



**Bishop Peter Jugis**
*CNS photo by Kevin E. Murray, Catholic News and Herald*

# The staff & residents of Catherine's House, Inc.,

a transitional residence for homeless women & children sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy

Photo courtesy of Catherine's House

extend our prayerful good wishes to

***Peter J. Jugis***

on his installation as Fourth Bishop of Charlotte

Visit us at http://www.orgsites.com/nc/catherineshouse/index.html



*The staff of the*

**CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER**

*welcomes our new Shepherd with great joy and anticipation!*

*May God bless you and guide you in your new appointment.*

The Catholic Conference Center

Hickory, North Carolina
888-536-7441



# Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Congratulations on your ordination and installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

We assure you of our prayers, our love and our support.

Your friends and neighbors,
Bishop Robert J. Baker,
the clergy, religious and faithful of
the Diocese of Charleston

# Congratulations & Our Best Wishes

Bishop Peter Jugis

*"God give you Peace!"*

The Franciscan Friars, Sisters & Secular Franciscan Order

from Winston-Salem

*Congratulations Bishop Jugis and Best Wishes as you embark on this opportunity to lead the Diocese of Charlotte for many years to come.*

citistreet℠

Ken Altman (toll free) 866-886-3673
— proudly serving the retirement needs
of diocesan employees for seven years —

# Congratulations

**BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS —**

**May God Bless You Always**

**Diocesan Association of Permanent Deacons**

# *Congratulations*

**to**

## Bishop Peter J. Jugis

**on his installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.**

**May the Lord's choicest blessings be upon you and your people as you begin your new ministry.**

**from Bishop F. Joseph Gossman and the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Raleigh**

*Prayerful Best Wishes*

to

**BISHOP PETER JUGIS**

from Fr. Thomas F. McKenna, C.M. &
Vincentian Priests and Brothers
of the Congregation of the Mission "Vincentians"
Philadelphia, Charlotte and Greensboro



La Comunidad Hispana de la Diócesis de Charlotte quiere felicitar a nuestro nuevo Obispo Peter Jugis. Tenemos la esperanza de que su conocimiento de nuestra realidad y su ministerio episcopal aumente la unidad de nuestra Iglesia local. Como Ministerio Hispano estamos deseosos de poder contribuir con nuestras oraciones, sacrificio y trabajo a la realización del Reino de Dios.

Felicidades, Señor Obispo Peter Jugis!

*The Franciscan Center*

*Congratulations*
*and God's special blessings*
*to Bishop Peter J. Jugis*

*From the Franciscan Friars and Staff*
*The Franciscan Center, Greensboro*



*Good News Ministries*

**organizers of the Southeast FIRE Rally**

**congratulate**
**Bishop Peter Jugis,**
**the fourth**
**Bishop of Charlotte.**

FIRE
A CATHOLIC ALLIANCE OF
FAITH, INTERCESSION, REPENTANCE, AND EVANGELISM

**May you experience a profound outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout your ministry to the Body of Christ.**



*With joyful prayers and thanksgiving*
*on the ordination and installation*
*of our fourth Bishop of Charlotte,*
PETER JOSEPH JUGIS, J.C.D.

Family Life Office
Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203-4003
704-370-3228

***Programs:*** *Elder Ministry, Family Life, Marriage Preparation, Natural Family Planning, and Respect Life*

# Congratulations
# Bishop Peter J. Jugis
# Diocese of Charlotte

Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz and the Diocese of Knoxville offer best wishes and prayers to our neighbor and friend, the new bishop of Charlotte.

**Best wishes and blessings!**

Good Shepherd Church
King, NC

"Ad Multos Annos"

**BISHOP PETER JUGIS**

*With prayers,*

Holy Angels Catholic Church
Mt. Airy

*Congratulations*
*to Bishop Peter Jugis*
*on the occasion of his ordination and installation*
*as Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina*
*from the Staff and Parishioners of*
*St. Matthew Catholic Church*
*Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor*

*"A bishop takes the place of Christ Himself as teacher, shepherd, and priest and acts as His representative."*
—Lumen Gentium 21

CONGRATULATIONS BISHOP JUGIS

*Ad multos annos.*

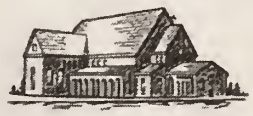
**Fr. Michael Kottar and the Parishioners of Holy Redeemer, Andrews and Prince of Peace, Robbinsville**

*Congratulations*
**Bishop Peter Jugis!**

**We look forward to seeing you here at our parish.**

Immaculate Conception
Roman Catholic Church
*Forest City*

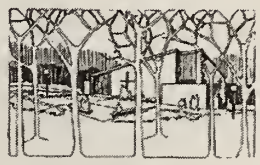
**St. Mary's Catholic Church**



818 McGowan Road
Shelby, North Carolina 28150

**Congratulations & Best Wishes to**

# Bishop Peter Jugis



**Christ the King Mission**

714 Stone Street
Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086

*Congratulations to Bishop Peter Jugis*

The parish families of Sacred Heart Church
and Sacred Heart School pledge
our prayerful support to you as you
begin your service as our Shepherd.

Salisbury

# THE MONKS OF BELMONT ABBEY

## AND THE BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE COMMUNITY

## OFFER PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES TO

## BISHOP PETER JUGIS

## ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

## AND INSTALLATION AS THE

## FOURTH BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE.

SIGILLUM COLLEGII ABBATIAE BELMONTANAE
U-I-O-G-D
1876

CRESCAT

*Above left: Then-Rev. Mr. Peter Jugis and other transitional deacons of the diocese in Maggie Valley July 20, 1982. Clockwise from left: Rev. Mr. John Hanic, Rev. Mr. John Schneider, Rev. Mr. Ron Marecki, Rev. Mr. Bob Choquet, Rev. Mr. Jugis, Rev. Mr. Ray Berg. Above top right: Bishop Peter J. Jugis at Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe in August 2003. Above right: Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers Communion at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24, 2003. Below left: Bishop Jugis at a parish picnic in Monroe in September 2003. Below right: Bishop Peter J. Jugis prays at his ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24. — Staff and courtesy photos*

Office of the Cardinal
222 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

August 4, 2003

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
725 Deese Street
Monroe, NC 28112

Dear Bishop-Elect Jugis:

Please accept my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your appointment as Bishop of Charlotte.

The news of this appointment has been a source of great joy for me. I know that you are extremely well qualified to fulfill the responsibilities of your new and important assignment. Certainly the priests, the religious and the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte will be blessed by your faithful and wise service in their midst.

While you are undoubtedly conscious of the weight of your new office, you can also be encouraged by the knowledge that God will ever be with you. Please be assured of my prayerful support and that of your brother Bishops in the United States.

As you are ordained to the Episcopacy, may you rejoice in the new life of Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord.

With every best wish, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua

Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua

THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

August 18, 2003

Bishop-elect Peter J. Jugis
Diocese of Charlotte
Post Office Box 36776
Charlotte, North Carolina 28236

Dear Peter:

My warmest congratulations to you as you embark upon your new responsibilities as Bishop of Charlotte.

The prayers and support of your brother bishops are with you as you begin this important service to the Church. The Diocese of Charleston joins the universal Church in extending to you our love, good wishes, and prayers.

I offer you
my sincere support
in the days ahead.
Call on me anytime!

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+Bob

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker
Bishop of Charleston

RJB/sw

Office of the Bishop

119 Broad Street • Charleston, South Carolina 29401
P.O. Box 818 • Charleston, South Carolina 29402 • Phone (843) 853-2130 ext 5 • FAX (843) 724-6387

BELMONT ABBEY
Belmont, North Carolina 28012-1802

Office of the Abbot

(704) 825-6675
FAX (704) 825-6680

August 1, 2003

The Most Reverend Peter Jugis
Bishop-elect of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28203

Dear Father,

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes, offered on behalf of our entire monastic community, on your election as Bishop of Charlotte. Each day through these past eleven months we have prayed at the Abbey during Mass "that God provide a good bishop for our Church of Charlotte." O ur g ood G od h as i ndeed a nswered o ur p rayers m ost generously. Be assured that I and our monastic and college communities at Belmont Abbey look forward to assisting you in any way we can in your service to our diocese.

With best wishes and an assurance of a daily remembrance in my prayers, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Placid, O.S.B.

Placid D. Solari, O.S.B.
Abbot

227 South Third Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220

Tuesday 30 September, 2003

The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop-Elect of Charlotte
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 282203

Your Excellency,

I renew my best wishes and congratulations at your nomination as the Fourth Bishop of Charlotte. I am certain that the people of your home diocese are overjoyed with this appointment. I am confident that they will cooperate enthusiastically with all your efforts to serve them.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend your Episcopal Ordination and Installation on *Friday 24 October, 2004* because I will be returning home from Rome on that date. I want to assure you, however, of my prayers on that happy day for you, your family, friends, and colleagues. May the Lord be with you as you begin this new ministry and bring you every blessing and happiness.

I look forward to working with you in our Episcopal Conference.

With cordial good wishes, Peter, may I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

✝Wilton D. Gregory,
*Bishop of Belleville*

WDG:wdg

# Bishop Jugis benefits from tribunal work

*Experiences helped guide marriage preparations*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — In November 1985, while serving as parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, Bishop Jugis was appointed as a judge to the diocesan tribunal by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue.

The tribunal examines cases of marriage nullity when married couples petition for a marriage annulment, necessary in order to remarry in the Catholic Church.

"Theoretically, the tribunal can also handle other matters, but it mostly deals with marriage matters," said Bishop Jugis.

Over the years, Bishop Jugis has often served dual roles as pastor or parish administrator while working on the tribunal. In July 1991, while serving as parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, he was appointed as judicial vicar of the tribunal.

"Whether I was looking for grounds of nullity or preparing a couple for marriage, I would just put on a different hat depending on whether I was in the tribunal office or at a parish," said Bishop Jugis.

Despite the extra work and the travel to and from the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte, where the tribunal offices are located, Bishop Jugis said he benefited from the experience.

"Working on the tribunal was a tremendous help to my marriage preparation with couples," he said.

While studying the jurisprudence of the church on marriage annulments and grounds for nullity, he said, he would look for "defects or deficiencies that were present at the very beginning of the marriage."

"Thinking in those terms, when I would meet with a couple in a parish setting to prepare them for marriage, I was made a little more aware if there were serious problems that might not have struck me in the same way if I had not been involved in the tribunal," said Bishop Jugis.

"I could see the beginning stages of a problem unresolved, and in the tribunal I could see what havoc that it reeks 10 to 15 to 20 years later," he said. "I could bring that information to bear and talk with the couple and say, 'This matter that is a problem for you in your relationship now is something you really have to give a lot of attention to, because my experience from others is that it's not going to go away and could eventually destroy your relationship if you're not serious on working on it.'"

His tribunal work "enriched my understanding of studying relationships," said Bishop Jugis.

"The most important thing is that God has to be first in the marriage, because in any relationship — including the relationship of marriage — there's going to be differences of opinion, there's going to be problems that arise," he said. "There has to be some spiritual depth to the relationship in order for that relationship to not only survive, but to prosper and to move forward."

While on the tribunal, Bishop Jugis said he has seen some relationships where God is not present and there's no spirituality or religion involved.

"There was no unity and many times couples were going for other goals in life, material possessions or things that were not going to help the couple when difficult times arose and would not see them through those difficulties," he said.

"There comes a problem upon a problem, and the couple may get through it, work through it, but it remains forever as a deep wound in a relationship that never gets resolved or forgiven," said the bishop. "But when God is there, and if each of the parties is serious about their own relationship with God, he's the one who strengthens and heals and gives the couples the grace to really forgive and build an even stronger marriage and relationship, rather than one that's just kind of drifting along."

"It's God's grace that makes the marriage something beautiful and a sacrament of Christ's love," he said.

Bishop Jugis celebrated the annual diocesan 25th and 50th wedding anniversary Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Oct. 26; his parents, Joe and Peggy Jugis, were among the participants celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

In his homily, the bishop stressed Christ's grace, which gives couples "all that you need to live your marriage." He said it is Christ's love that teaches spouses how to be patient, compassionate and forgiving — crucial qualities for a sacramental marriage.

To honor his parents' union, Bishop Jugis had intertwined circles symbolizing the marriage bond engraved into his bishop's ring.

FILE PHOTO

Father Peter J. Jugis, Msgr. John J. McSweeney and retired Bishop Michael J. Begley examine the future bishop's 400-page dissertation, "Marriage in the New Code of Canon Law" in 1992.

## What Others Say

MARY LOU HILDRETH, DIRECTOR OF THE TRIBUNAL & DEFENDER OF THE BOND:

**"I've been privileged to work with the bishop since he returned from Rome and was assigned as a judge in the tribunal. As a young man and new priest he was always obedient and served admirably where the need was, but he made no secret of the fact he was always happiest when he was in the parish, ministering to the people. How fitting and right that he's now shepherd to all of his people. And how blessed we are."**

MSGR. JOSEPH KERIN, RETIRED PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE:

**"I'm very happy that Bishop Jugis is our new bishop. He really has North Carolina in his heart - he was raised here, became a priest here and is now our bishop. I think he'll have a lot of respect and a great deal of help from the priests and the people. I do look forward to him being successful, even though as a bishop he'll have to face many tough and difficult decisions."**

# Bishop Jugis awarded doctorate in canon law

*First priest of diocese to receive degree*

WINSTON-SALEM — Following the completion of doctoral studies in 1993, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, then-parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church, became the first priest of the Diocese of Charlotte to be awarded a doctorate in canon law.

Bishop Jugis defended his thesis at the Catholic University of America in Washington in November 1992.

Even though the doctorate was a personal achievement, Bishop Jugis looked at the degree as a diocesan degree.

"It was the bishop who first asked me to study — Bishop (Michael J.) Begley then Bishop (now Archbishop John F.) Donoghue," said Bishop Jugis. "They always made the opportunities available."

Studies for the doctorate began in August 1987, two years after being appointed as parochial vicar of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte and a judge on the diocesan tribunal, which studies cases of marriage nullity when married couples petition for a marriage annulment in order to remarry in the Catholic Church.

In August 1988, he returned to the Diocese of Charlotte as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury before returning to Washington to continue studies in the fall of 1989.

In July 1991, he returned to St. Leo the Great Church as parochial vicar and was appointed as judicial vicar of the diocesan tribunal. He received his doctorate in canon law in May 1993.

With the conclusion of his studies, Bishop Jugis resumed his part-time work on the tribunal as judicial vicar while serving as pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville that same year.

"I am very pleased that he has the degree," said Archbishop Donoghue. "It will be helpful for the diocese, especially in the tribunal, and also with canonical research."

"I consider the degree for service to the diocese," said Bishop Jugis in 1992. "Whatever Bishop Donoghue wants me to do to serve the diocese, I'm there for that."

Eleven years later, Archbishop Donoghue ordained Bishop Jugis as the fourth bishop of Charlotte at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 24.

# The Capuchin Friars of Charlotte

## with the Parishioners

## of St. Thomas Aquinas and

## Our Lady of Consolation

## wish every blessing

## on our new

# Bishop PETER J. JUGIS.

## Ad Multos Annos

The Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
With the entire diocesan family of

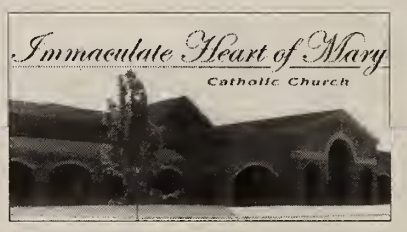
Palm Beach

Offers prayerful best wishes to
the Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
as the New Shepherd of
The Diocese of Charlotte

*Congratulations,*

**Bishop Jugis,**

*and Best Wishes!*




**High Point**

**Blessings be upon you,**
**BISHOP PETER JUGIS!**

Jesuit House of Prayer
Hot Springs, North Carolina

**The Charlotte Knights and Dames of Malta**

*congratulate you on your appointment.*

*Congratulations*
*on your appointment*

The Pennybyrn at Maryfield family and the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God congratulate Bishop Peter Jugis on his ordination and installation as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.
God's blessings
be with you.

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Continuing Care Retirement Community

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

1315 Greensboro Road • High Point, NC 27260 • 336.886.4103

Bishop Jugis,

May your episcopal ministry be characterized by
the compassion, wisdom, and openness to all God's people
which have been the hallmarks of the ministry of Bishop Gossman
with whom we have served in the Diocese of Raleigh.

Students from the Diocese of Charlotte who attend
UNC-Chapel Hill
will be well cared for!

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Catholic
Student
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Parish

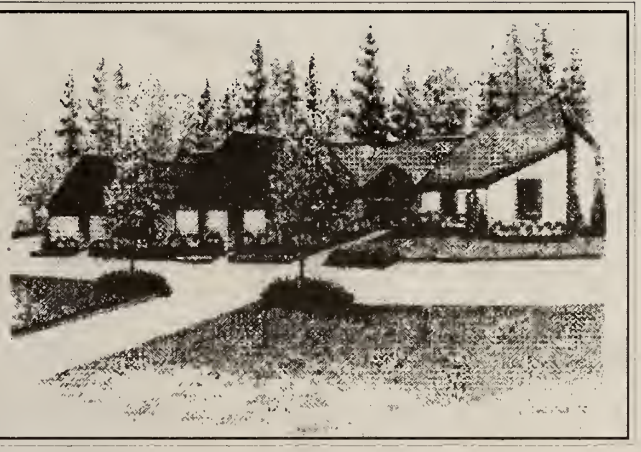
Father Phillip Leach
www.Newman-ChapelHill.org

*Best Wishes*
*from Charlotte's ONLY*
*Catholic Assisted Living Community*

*The Residents and Staff of*
***The Little Flower Assisted Living Community***
*Charlotte*

IHS

*The Maryland Province*
*of the Society of Jesus*
extends prayerful congratulations to
*Bishop Peter J. Jugis*
on his ordination and installation as
*Bishop*
of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina



ST. BARNABAS PARISH IN ARDEN

SENDS OUR PLEDGE OF PRAYER AND SUPPORT TO OUR NEW BISHOP --

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE MOST REVEREND PETER J. JUGIS, J.C.D.

St. Barnabas Parish
Arden, NC

THE ORATORY

## *Bishop Jugis*

## *Prayers and Best Wishes*

The Oratorians
Rock Hill, SC

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## *Bishop Jugis,*

THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, WITH MUCH JOY, OFFERS ITS PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES TO BISHOP PETER JUGIS

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**
**Charlotte**

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Congratulations!

Dear Bishop Jugis,

Our Faith Community pledges our prayerful support and loyal commitment to you as our Shepherd.

As the successor of the Apostles, may you teach, govern and sanctify us as Jesus' Chosen Servant.

May the Lord bless you with a loving and fulfilling ministry.

May you have many more years of God's blessings.

*Our Lady of the Rosary, Lexington, NC*

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*The pastor and parishioners of*
*Our Lady of the Highways*
*wish our new Bishop*
*a long, fruitful and happy service*
*in his ministry as chief shepherd in*
*the Diocese of Charlotte.*

***Our Lady of the Highways Church***
***Thomasville***

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The Priests of the Congregation of the
**Mission of St. Vincent de Paul**,
at **Our Lady of Guadalupe** in Charlotte,
promise their continued prayers
and support for Peter Jugis
on his Installation as Bishop of Charlotte.

VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY
Congregation of the Mission

# J.S. Paluch Company

*"Serving the Catholic Church for over 90 years"*

*Prayerful Congratulations*
*and*
*Best wishes*
*Bishop Peter Jugis*
*on your appointment as*
*Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte*

*Greg Duncan, Parish Consultant*
*Parishioner of St. Mark Church, Huntersville NC*



## Queen of the Apostles Church Congratulates Bishop Jugis

**From a small parish with a small budget, but a big heart.--**
**We salute our former pastor and our Shepherd/Bishop.**

Queen of the Apostles Church
Belmont



*The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran*
*and the*
*Clergy, Religious and Laity*
*of the Diocese of Rockford*
*offer prayers and best wishes*
*on the occasion of the*
*Episcopal Installation of*
*The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis*
*as the Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte*

Bishop Peter J. Jugis & fellow canon lawyer, Mercy Sister Jeanne-Margaret McNally.

Congratulations on your Installation as the Fourth Ordinary of the Diocese of Charlotte. Thank you for your willingness to lead God's people and for living your motto:

CARITAS CHRISTI URGET NOS
*The love of Christ urges us onward.*

You will be remembered daily in our thoughts and prayers as you shepherd your flock.

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Regional Community of North Carolina

*Bishop J. Kevin Boland and the people of the Diocese of Savannah extend prayerful best wishes to*

**Bishop Peter Jugis**

*on his installation as Bishop of Charlotte.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

**We are privileged to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte.**

**The Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio serving the Diocese of Charlotte since 1964.**

**Las Hermanas de San Francisco de Tiffin, Ohio**

*"Thus, as St. Irenaeus testifies, through those who were appointed bishops by the apostles, and through their successors down in our own time, the apostolic tradition is manifested and preserved."* —Lumen Gentium 20

CONGRATULATIONS!
BISHOP PETER JOSEPH JUGIS
MAY OUR LORD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY.

THE MOTHERS AND BABIES,
STAFF, AND BOARD

*of*

ROOM AT THE INN
3737 WEONA AVENUE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28209

*"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and even to the very ends of the earth."* —Acts 1:8

*Congratulations and God's blessings*

**St. Aloysius Church**
**Hickory**

***Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Rector,***
***And***
***The Administration, Faculty, Deacons, and Seminarians***

***Of***

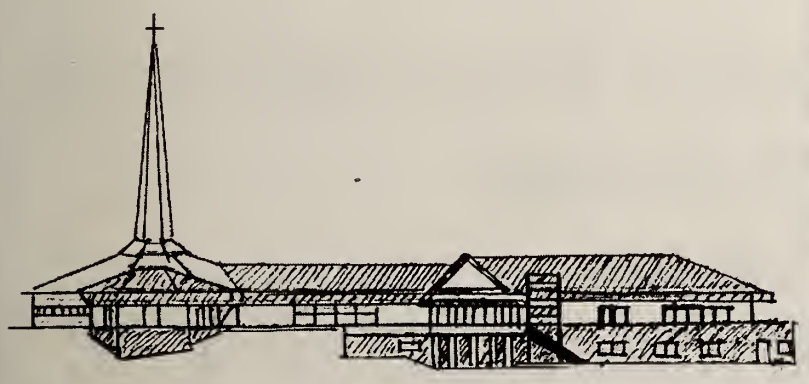
***Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary***
***in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia***

***Extend Prayerful Best Wishes***

***To***

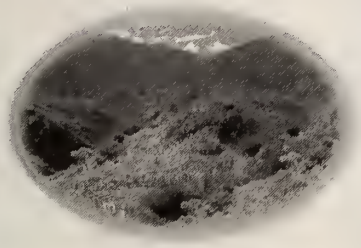
***Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis***
***on the Occasion of His appointment***
***as***
***the Fourth Bishop***
***of the Diocese of Charlotte***

The Parish of St. Eugene
offers prayerful support
and gives thanks to God
for our new Shepherd,
Bishop Peter Jugis.



Asheville

**Our congratulations and prayers**
**to Bishop Peter Jugis.**



From the Catholic community of
southwestern North Carolina,
north Georgia,
and southeastern Tennessee.

**St. William Church**
**Murphy**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**
**Hayesville**

Congratulations and
prayers for your
service as our Shepherd.

St. Benedict the Moor
Winston-Salem, NC

*Congratulations*

# BISHOP JUGIS

Be assured of our prayers that the Holy Spirit
grant you the graces to teach, rule and sanctify God's people.

*The Parishioners of St. James in Concord, St. Joseph in Kannapolis,*
*and the Redemptorists who serve them*

**St. James,**
**Concord**

*We keep you*
*in our prayers.*

**St. Joseph,**
**Kannapolis**

Charlotte Cursillo

The Cursillo Movement sends our heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as Bishop of Charlotte.

You are a blessing to both Cursillo and the diocese.

Your zeal for the Lord inspires us all.

Know that our prayers and support are forever with you.

Immaculate Conception

Roman Catholic Church

208 7th Avenue West,
Hendersonville, NC 28791-3602
Church Office: (828)693-6901
Church Fax: (828) 697-1656
Website: www.immaculateconceptionchurch.com

**Mission Statement:**

Inspired by the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ and empowered by our sacramental life, we share with all people His compassion, forgiveness and healing, while celebrating the diversity of our community.

Pax et Bonum

The friars, staff and

parishioners of

Immaculate Conception Church

welcome our new Bishop

with prayerful support and

good wishes.

Ad multos annos!

# New shepherd calls on all to help 'make known the love of Christ'

ORDINATION, *from page 1*

from diocesan parishes, missions, organizations, institutions and schools. Also included were clerical representatives of the Lutheran, Episcopal, United Methodist and Baptist denominations in North Carolina.

"God has given us great blessings on this day of joy, and it is a sign of His people's love that we are gathered in such great numbers to witness the ordination of the Diocese of Charlotte's fourth bishop, and to welcome him into the midst of his flock," said Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, the principal ordaining bishop and the second bishop of Charlotte.

Joining Archbishop Donoghue was Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte; Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh; Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston; Bishop David B. Thompson, bishop emeritus of Charleston; Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Savannah; Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Knoxville; and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Donoghue called on the people of the diocese to love and support Bishop Jugis, to seek his guidance and to accept his teaching in his role as their shepherd.

"Father Peter Joseph Jugis has already shown the people of this diocese his dedication and love, and it is because the Lord recognizes his abilities, his gifts and his potential in the souls of the faithful that the church now calls him to be your bishop," he said.

Archbishop Donoghue called Bishop Jugis "a man for the times and for the place."

"Your heart, your soul, your roots are here in the hills and plains of North Carolina," said the archbishop. "You carry in the record of development of your vocation the blessing and encouragement of two of the finest servants of the Lord — Bishop (Michael J.) Begley and Msgr. (John) McSweeney."

Msgr. McSweeney, then-vocations director for the diocese, proposed the idea of being a priest to Bishop Jugis in the late 1970s. Bishop Begley interviewed Bishop Jugis as a potential seminarian in 1979.

Continuing, Archbishop Donoghue said to Bishop Jugis, "You carry into the future the same blessing and encouragement of Bishop Curlin and myself, who have known your goodness and your devotion to the faithful of North Carolina."

"And ... you were ordained by the hand of our most beloved and remarkable pope, John Paul II," said Archbishop Donoghue. "But do not forget that it is Christ the Lord who has chosen you, and that when he chooses a bishop, he also chooses a martyr. And martyrs must be strong, for themselves and for the church they live and die to foster."

Flanking a kneeling Bishop Jugis, Msgr. McSweeney, now pastor of St. Matthew Church, and Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, a retired priest of the diocese, requested Archbishop Donoghue confer ordination on Bishop Jugis.

Archbishop Montalvo then read the apostolic letter of Pope John Paul II. The document authenticates the Holy Father's appointment of Bishop Jugis as spiritual leader of the diocese.

Archbishop Donoghue questioned Bishop Jugis in the presence of the gathered people on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duties as bishop. Bishop Jugis then lay prostrate as the Litany of the Saints was sung.

Next was the laying on of hands by the bishops on Bishop Jugis' head. The ancient gesture, expressing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, has been used since apostolic times for transmitting the authority and offices in the Catholic Church.

Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, diocesan coordinator of the permanent diaconate, and Rev. Mr. Louis Pais of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, then held the Book of the Gospels over Bishop Jugis' head, a gesture expressing the burden the bishop will assume of proclaiming the Gospel as a member of the college of bishops, as the ordaining bishops prayed the prayer of ordination.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Flanked by Msgr. Anthony Kovacic and Msgr. John McSweeney, Bishop Peter J. Jugis lies prostrate during the Litany of the Saints at his ordination Mass.

Bishop Jugis' head was then anointed with sacred chrism, signifying the full share in the priesthood of Jesus he received through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination.

The Book of the Gospels was presented to Bishop Jugis as a symbol of a bishop's ministry of teaching and preaching. He also received his ring, miter and crosier, which are signs of the office of bishop. Bishop Jugis then took his seat in the cathedra, the bishop's chair, and received a round of applause from the bishops and congregation.

In remarks at the end of Mass, Bishop Jugis resolved "to pray without ceasing to Almighty God for the holy people."

"We all must know that the Lord's work cannot be done without prayer," he said.

Bishop Jugis thanked Archbishop Montalvo for his presence at the Mass.

"Your excellency, you are the personal representative of our Holy Father, and through you we send him our affection and esteem on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as the vicar of Christ," said Bishop Jugis. "We promise our continued prayers for his ministry."

Bishop Jugis expressed his gratitude for the priests and deacons of the diocese. "We are to guide the holy people of God in the way of salvation, to shepherd souls into eternal life," he said. "What a glorious calling, the work of salvation."

Bishop Jugis also addressed the importance of the laity in salvation.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

As Archbishop John F. Donoghue prays the prayer of ordination, Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning and Rev. Mr. Louis Pais hold the Book of the Gospels over Bishop Peter J. Jugis' head during his ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24. The gesture expresses the burden the bishop will assume of proclaiming the Gospel as a member of the college of bishops, as the ordaining bishops prayed the prayer of ordination.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The newly-ordained Bishop Peter J. Jugis prays during his ordination Mass.

"The Second Vatican Council taught that sacred responsibility is given to the laity to grow in personal holiness day by day and to see to it that you make known the Gospel message of salvation to all people," he said, "and that you transform our modern culture with the spirit of the Gospel."

"All of this springs from prayer and from our celebration of the sacraments, especially from our communion with the Lord in the holy Eucharist," said Bishop Jugis. "The Holy Spirit will guide us in helping make known the love of Christ."

# Bishop Peter J. Jugis received in his cathedral

## *Bishop stresses importance of prayer, faith in God*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — It was standing room only at Bishop Peter J. Jugis' first Mass in his cathedral church.

Bishop Jugis, ordained one day earlier as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrated his rite of reception in St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 25.

"On this happy and joyful day, we are happy, excited and very proud to welcome you to your cathedral church of St. Patrick," said Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick, to Bishop Jugis. "We promise you our love, our prayers, our obedience, and we pray that the Lord may give you many wonderful, fruitful years as the fourth bishop of Charlotte."

"I think he's going to be a wonderful bishop," said Joyce Toomey, one of the original parishioners of St. Patrick Cathedral, consecrated in September 1939. "I'm thrilled that he's going to be here."

Concelebrating the Mass with Father Gary was Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari, abbot of Belmont Abbey; Father Lawrence LoMonaco, parochial vicar of St. Patrick; Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan administrator since Bishop Curlin's retirement in September 2002; and other priests of the diocese.

Assisting were Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina and Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero, permanent deacons of the cathedral.

Before processing into the cathedral, Bishop Jugis sprinkled the congregation with holy water from the baptismal font. He then took his place on the cathedra, the bishop's seat, and received a round of applause from the congregation.

Bishop Jugis thanked the cathedral clergy, staff and parish for their gracious welcome to him. He then acknowledged the priests, deacons and seminarians in attendance, as well as parishioners from churches at which he had previously served, including Our Lady of Lourdes in Monroe, Queen of the Apostles in Belmont and St. Leo the Great in Winston-Salem.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis sprinkles the congregation with holy water at his rite of reception Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral Oct. 25.

Bishop Jugis also expressed his gratitude to Bishop Curlin, who acted "as spiritual director for the people of our diocese, helping us and guiding us in the ways of holiness ... and fixing our sights on Jesus."

Reiterating some of his remarks from his ordination Mass, Bishop Jugis stressed the importance of prayer and faith.

"All of this is the work of the Holy Spirit, and anything we do for Christ in the church has to spring from prayer," he said. "I trust, as we all do, in the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit in all that we do for our Lord."

Bishop Jugis said our souls are searching for God, whether we know it or not, and Jesus is "calling you every day in every moment of your day to take courage to get up and follow him."

"Without faith, our intellect cannot understand the mysteries of our faith," said Bishop Jugis. "Without the help of God's grace, it is beyond our comprehension. Faith sheds light on our intellect ... Faith puts us into union with God and orients our entire life in the direction of Heaven, and focuses all of our energies to achieve that goal — heaven, eternal life."

Bishop Jugis asked the congregation how much time they spend "nourishing" their faith with prayer, spiritual and Bible readings and at Mass "compared to the time spent reading novels, magazines, newspapers and watching television."

"The more novels, magazines and newspapers I read and television I watch, my thoughts and my speech begin to be indistinguishable from the media at large," he said. "But the closer I stay to Christ, in prayer, with Mass and spiritual readings, the more my faith grows and I stay oriented in the direction of eternal life."

Speaking of the day's Gospel reading, Bishop Jugis said, "The first few sentences spoken to the man by the roadside leaving Jericho are fresh and full of life for us today. 'Your faith has saved you. Take courage. Get up. Jesus is calling you.'"

## What Others Say

MSGR. JOHN J. MCSWEENEY, PASTON, ST. MATTHEW CHURCH:

"He's always a man of faith. In his prayer, he's very serious and contemplative in nature. He's a man of intelligence, integrity and he has a tremendous sense of humility."

ARCHBISHOP JOHN F. DONOGHUE OF ATLANTA:

"I was delighted when I heard the Holy Father had chosen Bishop Jugis. I called him and told him I was pleased (with the appointment). The Diocese of Charlotte is very lucky to have him. He has many virtues, particularly his humility."

VALERIE GEBHARDT, ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER :

"It's a blessing by God that he chose Bishop Jugis to be the bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. It's an honor for us. We prayed so hard for a holy bishop and the fact that he's from North Carolina is wonderful. He's a bishop of our own, and we're so thrilled."

GEORGE COBB, QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES CHURCH:

"What most impresses me about Bishop Jugis is his sensitivity to the community — his ability to listen to all sides and come to a decision that both meets the needs of the parish and seems to satisfy most people involved. We talk about a spiritual discernment in making our decisions. Bishop Jugis shows us, by teaching and example, how to do that.

MARY KING, PARISHIONER AT HOLY INFANT CHURCH IN REIDSVILLE:

"Bishop Jugis will lead this diocese in the right direction."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis receives applause from the clergy participating in his rite of reception Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral.

*SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMONDS*

# Couples shine at anniversary Mass

## *Spouses celebrate seven millennia of matrimony*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Newly ordained Bishop Peter J. Jugis gave 198 married couples a special gift Oct. 26 — the gift of his prayer.

He told the couples who gathered for the diocesan wedding anniversary celebration at St. Gabriel Church that he had prayed for each couple as he signed their congratulatory certificate in recognition of their 25th, 50th or 60th wedding anniversaries.

"My prayer is that you realize that the greatest gifts are the spiritual ones, for they come directly from God," said Bishop Jugis.

"Christ's grace and presence has made your marriage come alive," said the bishop in his homily. "That grace, so rich, gives you all that you need to live your marriage — the grace of Christ flowing from the redemption, the gift of his love."

The anniversary Mass honors those couples who represent the perseverance and commitment symbolized in the sacrament of matrimony, said Gerard Carter, diocesan director of family life for Catholic Social Services.

"In this time when the average marriage lasts seven years, these couples symbolize the resolve required to live out marriage for 25, 50 years or longer," Carter said.

Peter and Tina Desrosiers of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville recommended listening, being patient and "taking it slow" as the ingredients to their 25-year happy marriage.

"The first 49 years are the hardest," teased Peggy Jugis, the mother of Bishop Jugis.

Joe and Peggy Jugis were married on Thanksgiving Day, 1953 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. Bishop Jugis will celebrate Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church this year on Thanksgiving Day, when he will bestow a special blessing on his parents in honor of their 50 years of matrimony.

Prior to the Aug. 1 announcement of his designation as the fourth bishop of Charlotte, Bishop Jugis thought he would not be able to attend the Anniversary Mass. As it turned out, he not only attended the Mass, but celebrated it, receiving the offertory gifts from his parents.

Above even love, Peggy Jugis cites trust and respect as the most important qualities in a marriage. "I completely trust Joe, except when I see him heading out the door with the pruning shears in his hands," she said.

She doesn't believe in love at first sight, because "You can't truly love someone you don't know."

Kate Boschini said when one of her sons announces his engagement, she will tell him if his bride doesn't have sense of humor "then join the priesthood." She and her husband George, parishioners of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

"Many of these couples have seen incredible happiness and sadness throughout their lives together, but they come here today to renew their commitment to one another — not always an easy task," Carter said. "We are exceptionally lucky to have such sterling examples of fidelity to one another and honor to the vows into which they entered."

George and Grace Savaria are among 13 couples from St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley celebrating 50th wedding anniversaries in 2003.

"We have had a great life together," said George Savaria. "(My wife) took care of me in sickness and in health."

"This diocese is exploding with families of all ages," said Carter. "What a wonderful opportunity we have with a bishop who is able to honor his own parents in their life of commitment, and the commitment of so many other couples."

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

From left, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Francis O'Rourke at the diocesan wedding anniversary Mass at St. Gabriel Church Oct. 26.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Roses were given to the married couples participating in the diocesan wedding anniversary Mass.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis accepts the gifts from his parents, Joe and Peggy Jugis, during the diocesan wedding anniversary Mass.

## What Others Say

PEGGY JUGIS, BISHOP JUGIS' MOTHER:

"Once (Bishop Jugis) became an adult, he was in the Lord's hands. That's the way it is with all parents — you have to let them go, but be there to catch them when they fall. (Bishop Jugis) was always very deep — he had an adult mind in a child's body. The people will see his quiet strength. Don't be fooled by the quietness."

LEE ACCETTULLO, LEADERSHIP OF THE CURSILLO FOR THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE:

"It's very special to have one of our own become bishop, and to have watched him grow in his ministry."

*Above left: Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio, reads Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter at Bishop Peter J. Jugis' ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24. Above right: Vietnamese youth dance with candles at Bishop Jugis' ordination Mass. Below left: African drummers perform outside the ordination Mass at St. Matthew — Staff photos*

Best Wishes to Bishop Peter J. Jugis
and the priests and people of the
Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina

Gratitude to Bishop Curlin

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn,
Bishop Frederick F. Campbell,
Bishop Richard E. Pates,
and the people of the
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Bishop Jugis,

Congratulations on your ordination
and installation as Bishop of the
Charlotte diocese.

*May God fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide and direct all of your endeavors as His faithful servant.*

The Parish Family at
St. Benedict Church
Greensboro

Congratulations and Best Wishes

*Lynn Murphy*

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*St. Gabriel Catholic Church*

**Blessings and prayers to**

**BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS**

**as you begin your ministry as our Shepherd.**

**With joy we welcome you.**

**The Parish Family of St. Gabriel**

**Rev. Msgr. Richard M. Bellow**
**Pastor**

**3016 Providence Road**
**Charlotte, NC 28211**
**704.364.5431**

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church/School
1918 South Main Street/1730 Link Road
Winston-Salem
&
Our Lady of Fatima Chapel
211 West Third Street
Winston-Salem

Wish to Congratulate and extend Best Wishes
and Prayers to our new Bishop
The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis

*Our Love and Prayers to*
*Bishop Peter Jugis*

St. Helen Catholic Mission
Spencer Mountain

The parishioners of St. Lucien and St. Bernadette
offer our prayerful support
to Bishop Jugis on this joyous occasion
of his Episcopal ordination and installation.

St. Lucien
Spruce Pine

St. Bernadette
Linville

# To Bishop Peter Joseph Jugis,

Your family and friends of the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul
celebrate with you and we pledge to you our support and our
continued prayers for your ministry.

## You will always be at home at St. Vincent's!

*Jesus said to His disciples: "...But seek first the kingdom of God and*
*His righteousness and all these things will be given you besides." (Matthew 6:33)*

Parish and Staff of St. Vincent de Paul Church
Charlotte

Congratulations
and Best Wishes

From the Augustinian Friars
and the Parish Community of

St. Margaret of Scotland
Maggie Valley

Congratulations
and Best Wishes

Holy Spirit Church
Denver, NC

***Our Prayers and Blessings*** *extend to*

**Bishop Peter Jugis**

from the Augustinian Friars

*of the*

Province of St. Thomas of Villanova

serving the Diocese of Charlotte at

*St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte*
*St. John Parish, Waynesville*
*Immaculate Conception Parish, Canton*
*St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Maggie Valley*
*Living Waters Reflection Center, Maggie Valley*

*The parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church offer Prayers and Congratulations to our new Bishop. May the Holy Spirit guide and be with Bishop Jugis as he begins his new ministry.*

*Newton*

*To Bishop Jugis*

*Prayerful Best Wishes*

St. Luke Parish Mint Hill, NC

BISHOP JUGIS -

The people, deacon and pastor of Sacred Heart Church send their warmest regards and choicest blessings upon your ordination and installation as fourth Bishop of Charlotte.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Brevard

The Family of
St. Ann's Parish
is Pleased to Extend
Warmest Congratulations
to

Bishop Peter Jugis

We Are Honored to Be
the Parish of
Your Baptism
by Michael J. Begley,
First Pastor of St. Ann's Parish,
First Bishop of Charlotte.

St. Ann's Parish
3635 Park Road
Charlotte, NC

"The little parish with the big heart."

# Bishop Peter Jugis

*May you be blessed*
*in your good work*
*for the Church*

*God, our Father,*
*our shepherd and guide,*
*look with love on*
*Peter your servant,*
*your appointed pastor*
*of the Church.*
*May his word and example*
*inspire and guide the Church;*
*may he, and all those in his care,*
*come to the joy*
*of everlasting life.*

## Our Lady of Grace
Greensboro

50th Anniversary Year

***Proclaim the Greatness of the Lord***

## Congratulations and Good Luck!

St. Jude Catholic Church
Sapphire Valley

The St. Therese Guild of St. Leo the Great Church
would like to congratulate
BISHOP PETER JUGIS
on his ordination and installation
as fourth Bishop of Charlotte.

St. Therese Guild
St. Leo the Great Church
Winston-Salem

## CONGRATULATIONS

## BISHOP PETER JUGIS

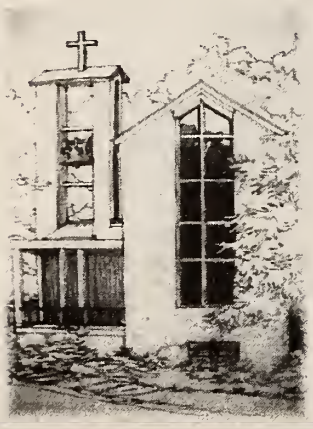
***On your Ordination***
***and***
***Installation***
***as***
***Bishop of the***
***Diocese of***
***Charlotte***

***From***

***Saint Therese***
***Parish***
***Mooresville, NC***

# Congratulations Bishop Peter Jugis

St. Elizabeth Church
Boone



May the Lord enrich you,
Bishop Jugis,
with the gifts and virtues
of a true apostle for the
good of your people.

St. John the Baptist Church
Tryon

**The Parish Staff and Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro join in prayer and gratitude for Bishop Peter Jugis as he assumes the position of Chief Shepherd of our diocese.**

ST. PAUL
THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Congratulations*

*May God send His choicest blessings on you always.*

George and Carol Stratton
Stella Saksa

WACHOVIA
SALUTES
BISHOP PETER JUGIS,

**a guiding light whose leadership,**

**philanthropy and dedication**

**have made a difference**

**in the lives of many.**

WACHOVIA
*Uncommon Wisdom*

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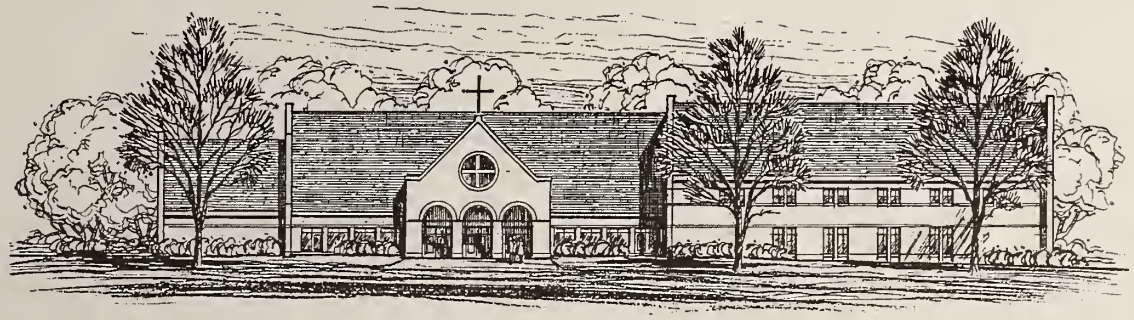
# Bishop Jugis

*The Parish Family of St. Mark Church offers you their hearty congratulations and prayerful support as you take on this most trusted assignment!*



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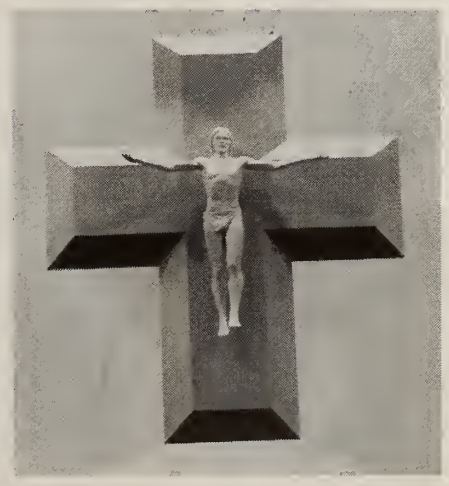

*The parishioners of Saint Pius the Tenth in Greensboro &*
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*offer our heartfelt congratulations to*
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*as the new Shepherd of the Diocese of Charlotte.*

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## BISHOP PETER JUGIS

during his years of service to our Diocese.

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**— Deuteronomy 16:15**

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*Reverend Mr. Nicholas Fadero, Deacon*
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BILINGUAL BISHOP

PHOTO COURTESY OF BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

Then-Father Peter J. Jugis at the baptism of Alejandro and Shonna Trinidad at Hispanic Mission in East Bend Jan. 29, 1989.

# Bishop Jugis ministers to many cultures

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Since being named bishop of Charlotte, every Mass Bishop Peter J. Jugis has celebrated has been at a church where a considerable population of the parish speaks Spanish. He understands that addressing parishioners in their native language is part of his ministry, and is happy to be able to offer that gift to Spanish-speaking Catholics of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"At every parish celebration I have been present at so far, whether it's the anniversary Masses in Jefferson and Franklin or the confirmation Masses I've celebrated in Hendersonville and Winston-Salem, in my conversations with the pastor prior to the Mass, I always ask 'do you want me to give some comments in Spanish?'" the newly ordained bishop said.

"It is a significant part of my ministry," said Bishop Jugis. "Since I have that gift to offer, I want to make it available whenever it would be called upon."

There are an estimated 140,000 Hispanic Catholics living in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, and that number is growing every day. The significant increase in Hispanic households, who normally do not register at parishes, may double the number of Catholic households to more than 300,000 by 2020, according to the diocesan Office of Planning.

Like most teen-agers, Bishop Jugis began studying Spanish in the eighth grade while attending Quail Hollow Junior High School in Charlotte (now Quail Hollow Middle School) and continued with his studies at South Mecklenburg High School.

"I loved it so much, and I seemed to have a talent for it, so I took it ... through the 12th grade."

Bishop Jugis' involvement in multicultural ministry goes back to his high school days in the late 1970s, when Father Joseph Waters offered a Spanish Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church, the Jugis family's parish.

The future bishop helped at the Mass by playing the music (he plays six instruments). Myrna Hoffmann, his high school Spanish teacher and a St. Vincent de Paul parishioner, helped him become accustomed to the songs and to the Mass.

While attending the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, the seminarian tried his hand at Italian. Following the completion of his studies in 1984, he returned to serve the Diocese of Charlotte and found it to have an exploding Spanish-speaking population.

"There were very few Spanish-speaking priests," said Bishop Jugis. "There was a great need, and I wasn't shy to offer my services."

As parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, the young priest would also say Mass in nearby East Bend, alternating weekends with Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, the then-pastor at St. Leo the Great.

"Whatever the status of an immigrant, whether they are documented or undocumented, there is nothing illegal about coming to the Mass," Bishop Jugis said. "Many parishioners are documented or children who are citizens, born in the United States.

"They have the right to receive the sacraments. It would be unjust not to make that available to them," he said.

Concurrently, a steady increase in the number of individuals from Southeast Asia over the years has led the Diocese of Charlotte to establish a Korean and a Vietnamese mission in Charlotte in the 1990s. There is a combined 1,000 registered individuals at the missions, St. John Lee Korean Church and St. Joseph Vietnamese Church.

Bishop Jugis expressed a willingness to learn Korean and Vietnamese in a continued effort to shepherd the immigration populations of the diocese.

"What is already beginning to happen in the parishes should be continued," he said. "That is, bilingual Masses and parish celebrations, so that the Catholic Church stays one and united and does not fall along parallel tracks according to diverse ethnic origins."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with Ms. Okwara, a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, after his ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24.

"All of the pastors are making heroic efforts and doing a very good job of planning bilingual celebrations," the bishop commented. "This brings people together — they begin worshipping together, they become familiar with each other. The parish grows and is enriched, rather than remaining two ethnic groups coincidentally occupying the same (worship space)."

"These are our brothers and sisters in the faith, and I want to make sure to welcome them," said Bishop Jugis.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez stands with then-Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church parish fiesta Sept. 7. The parish's Hispanic and Anglo communities and the Knights of Columbus presented Bishop Jugis with plaques and gifts during the event.

## What Others Say

SISTER ANDREA INKROTT, DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF HISPANIC MINISTRY:

**"Bishop Jugis has been active in ministry with the Hispanics in our diocese from the beginning of his priestly ministry. His comments to the Hispanic community in their language were received by the Hispanics present as signs of his love for them and as a challenge for the community to continue working in Hispanic Ministry in the years to come. The whole celebration was an effort to represent the diversity of our diocesan community and to be a diocesan celebration. And that it was."**

*Above: Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston; Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah; Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta; Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte; Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Bishop David B. Thompson, bishop emeritus of Charleston; Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte; and Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Knoxville at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24. Below: Bishop and members of the diocesan Catholic schools office in the pastoral center's chapel Oct. 29. The schools office made and presented the bishop with a stole, a cloth used when celebrating Mass, on which are the names of all 18 diocesan Catholic schools. Right: Bishop Jugis offers Communion to his uncle, Rev. Mr. Michael Misulia, at his ordination Mass. — Staff and courtesy photos*

*Above left: Bishop Peter J. Jugis touches his ring during his ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24. He said he had a pair of interlocked rings engraved on the side of the ring, which symbolizes his parent's 50-year marriage. Above right: Archbishop John F. Donoghue places the miter on Bishop Jugis' head during his ordination Mass Oct. 24. Below bottom left: Bishop Jugis' miter and ring sit next to the chrism oil at his ordination Mass. Below left: Bishop Jugis prays during his ordination Mass. Below right: Bishop Jugis smiles after his ordination Mass.— Staff photos*

A GROWING DIOCESE

# Bishop Jugis sees changes over two decades, looks to future

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis became a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte 20 years ago. He has served the faithful of the diocese in many ways at many parishes, and he has seen a number of changes over the years.

His parents, Joe and Peggy Jugis, were born and raised in New York but relocated to Charlotte and married in St. Patrick Cathedral on Thanksgiving Day, 1953. When St. Ann Church was established in August 1955, the Jugises were among the original families.

At the time, the Diocese of Raleigh — established in 1924 — encompassed the entire state of North Carolina and only half a dozen Catholic churches existed in the Charlotte area.

As the Jugis family began to grow, they moved to a bigger house and joined St. Vincent de Paul Church, a mission of St. Ann which became its own parish in 1965.

The Diocese of Charlotte was established in January 1972, with a Catholic population of just over 34,000. Bishop Michael J. Begley, who baptized Bishop Jugis in 1957, served the diocese as shepherd until his retirement at age 75 in May 1984. Bishop John F. Donoghue succeeded him in December 1984. Bishop William G. Curlin was installed as the third bishop in April 1994 and served until his retirement at age 75 in September 2002.

The Diocese of Charlotte, which encompasses 20,700 square miles and includes the 46 western counties of the state, has seen steady growth over the years. Currently, there are more than 54,000 registered Catholic households and almost 140,000 registered Catholics, who make up 3.5 percent of North Carolina's population of 4 million.

"North Carolina itself is growing, and probably in the last 20 years, I would dare say almost every parish has had some kind of building project or capital campaign to add on a social hall or buy a rectory, or add onto or build a new church," said Bishop Jugis.

"It seems like every time I turned around, I would hear about another parish that would be building this or building that," he said. "The diocese has grown quickly, considering we're only 31 years old."

The diocese is expected to have an estimated 300,000 registered Catholics by the year 2020, and more than 300,000 Hispanic Catholic households, who normally do not register at parishes, in addition to the registered Catholics.

When Bishop Jugis returned to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1984 from his studies at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, "there were very few Spanish-speaking priests," he said. "There was a great need, and I wasn't shy to offer my services."

Masses in Spanish are becoming common at parishes throughout the diocese, and in June 2002, more than 600 Hispanics attended the dedication of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church by then-Bishop William G. Curlin. Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, pastor, participates in a Spanish-language radio program broadcast from the church built to served the needs of Charlotte's Hispanic population.

"This means a lot for the Hispanic people," said Father Finnerty, who came to the Hispanic community seven years earlier when they were holding Mass in the gymnasium of the old Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte.

There has also been a steady influx of individuals from Southeast Asia to the Diocese of Charlotte, which established a Korean mission and a Vietnamese mission in Charlotte in the 1990s.

Western North Carolina has become a preferred resettlement community for foreign refugees, according to Cira Ponce, director of the diocesan refugee resettlement office. The diocese is currently the only one in the nation that resettles Montagnard refugees, who began arriving in 1986.

Bishop Jugis expressed a willingness to learn Korean and Vietnamese in a continued effort to shepherd the immigration populations of the diocese.

"What is already beginning to happen in the parishes should be continued," he said. "That is, bilingual Masses and parish celebrations, so that the Catholic Church stays one and united and does not fall along parallel tracks according to diverse ethnic origins."

The fourth bishop of Charlotte said the diocese has been enriched by his predecessors, as well as the many priests and women religious who have served in the diocese.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop emeritus of Charlotte, stands with the newly-ordained Bishop Peter J. Jugis after Bishop Jugis' ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24.

In 2002, there were almost 70 active diocesan priests, almost 60 religious priests, almost 80 deacons and more than 100 women religious.

Bishop Jugis' ordination was the first in the history of the Diocese of Charlotte to be broadcast live on the Internet. The broadcast, viewed by more than 1,000 people, allowed many within and beyond the diocese who could not attend the ordination to view the event.

"It is opening a door for future uses of the Internet for other diocesan events," said Bishop Jugis. "It is breaking new ground for a new mode of communication for us in the future."

In light of the clergy sex scandal that recently rocked the U.S. Catholic Church, Bishop Jugis is aware that some faith must be rebuilt in the church.

"I think continuing to be faithful to the diocesan policy on dealing with sexual misconduct and the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People' is the best way to assure people that children are safe," he said.

The charter was approved in June 2002 by the U.S. bishops and slightly modified last November after consultations with Vatican officials.

This year, the "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel" was revised in accordance with the charter, and in August the Diocese of Charlotte was audited to verify compliance with the charter. The U.S. bishops mandated an audit of 195 U.S. Catholic dioceses and eparchies to examine their policies on the problem of sexual abuse of children and young people by clergy.

"If matters come to my attention — hopefully the worst is behind us — we will follow scrupulously the policies that have been established," said Bishop Jugis. "I think that is the best way to ensure and build trust."

Bishop Jugis is eager to visit the many parishes and missions across the 10 vicariates of the Diocese of Charlotte. Although he has served in several of them, and has met many of the priests over the years, "to come back as bishop, it will be essential to learn the character and makeup of the vicariates as they are today, who the priests are and what they express as the concerns and needs of the people," he said.

"I don't come in with a preset agenda," he said. "My goal is to continue to build on what we have, and I don't foresee any abrupt changes that would be necessarily required.

"We already have a very strong, vibrant diocese and parishes," said Bishop Jugis. "So the goal would be as spiritual leader to continue the good work that's already being done."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Then-Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis raises the host during the 40th anniversary celebration of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson Sept. 6. The parish celebrated the event with a Mass and fiesta, hosted by the church's Hispanic community.

*YOUR ARE CORDIALLY INVITED*

# Bishop Jugis to visit vicariate celebrations

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Thousands of the diocese's faithful came to Charlotte for Bishop Peter J. Jugis' ordination at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24, and now the new bishop will soon be traveling to the faithful.

Beginning in early November, Bishop Jugis will attend celebrations in his honor in each vicariate of the diocese.

"I am looking forward to the vicariate celebrations," said Bishop Jugis. "It will be an opportunity for people who were not able to attend the ordination Mass to meet me at a celebration closer to their parishes."

"Effort is being made across the diocese to celebrate the cultural diversity within these gatherings," said Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and chairperson of the ordination planning committee.

"I know some of them will be bilingual and a Hispanic presence is expected at the celebrations," said Bishop Jugis.

A vicariate, also known as a deanery in some dioceses, is a form of division of a diocese into smaller groupings of parishes. Usually, vicariates are formally named by geographic designation.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, there are 10 vicariates: Albemarle, Asheville, Boone, Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Salisbury, Smoky Mountain and Winston-Salem.

"The celebrations will allow me to meet the priests of the vicariates on their home turfs, to talk to them and hear about some of the issues with which they are concerned in their vicariates," said Bishop Jugis.

Because of Bishop Jugis' long service to the Diocese of Charlotte, he said he has previously visited many of the parishes in one capacity or another.

"But now to come back as bishop, it will be essential to learn the character and makeup of the vicariates as they are today, who the priests are and what they express as the concerns and needs of the people."

## WANT TO GO?

The Charlotte Vicariate celebrations consisted of the Oct. 24 ordination Mass at St. Matthew and Oct. 25 rite of reception at St. Patrick Cathedral. Other vicariate celebrations with Bishop Peter J. Jugis are as follows:

— Monday, Nov. 3 — Salisbury Vicariate
7 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis.

— Friday, Nov. 7 — Smoky Mountain Vicariate
5 p.m. reception at Tsali Manor; 6:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cherokee (transportation from the church to the reception will be provided).

— Monday, Nov. 17 — Greensboro Vicariate
7 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro.

— Thursday, Nov. 20 — Boone Vicariate
7 p.m. bilingual Mass followed by reception at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone.

— Monday, Nov. 24 — Winston-Salem Vicariate
7 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem.

— Tuesday, Nov. 25 — Hickory Vicariate
7 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. Aloysius Church, Hickory.

— Monday, Dec. 1 — Albemarle Vicariate
7:30 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. James Church, Hamlet.

— Wednesday, Dec. 3 — Asheville Vicariate
7 p.m. reconciliation service followed by reception at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

— Friday, Dec. 5 - Gastonia Vicariate
7 p.m. Mass followed by reception at St. Mary Church in Shelby.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets two Sisters of Mercy prior to his ordination mass Oct. 24 at St. Matthew Church.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Then-Bishop-designate Peter J. Jugis blesses a young girl during communion at Our Lady of Lourdes Church Sept. 7.

# What is entrusted to Bishop Peter J. Jugis as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte?

A 31-year-old mission diocese made up of 46 counties.

A diocese with more than 54,000 registered Catholic households and almost 140,000 registered Catholics, who make up 3.5 percent of North Carolina's population.

A faith community with an annual growth rate of 6 percent over the last five years.

A diocese that will have an estimated 300,000 registered Catholics in the year 2020.

A diocese that is expected to have over 300,000 Hispanic Catholic households in 2020 in addition to 300,000 registered Catholics.

A diocese with 18 diocesan Catholic schools.

A diocese that is a preferred resettlement community for refugees. The diocese is the only one in the nation that resettles Montagnard refugees from Vietnam.

A diocese with a nationally recognized stewardship and development campaign, copied by scores of other dioceses across the country.

A diocese that is opening new parishes and expanding others. The diocese currently has 91 parishes and missions.

An award-winning diocesan newspaper.

A diocese that has formed a covenant with the Lutheran Church and is a strong supporter of ecumenical efforts.

# Congratulations & Blessings

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Bishop Peter J. Jugis

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Our prayers and best wishes.

Beatrice and Ernest Stroupe
Charlotte

Congratulations and Blessings to BISHOP JUGIS

*May St. Michael and all the angels and archangels watch over you and the diocesan Church of Charlotte.*

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*Congratulations and Best Wishes to*

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

*on his Ordination and Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte*

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*Anthony M. Petite and Candy*

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**The Knights of Columbus of North Carolina**

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North Carolina congratulates
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Our Holy Family parishioners extend
their warmest wishes and welcome
you with open arms!

May the Lord bestow
His blessings upon you.

**Holy Family Parish**
**Clemmons, North Carolina**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP PETER JUGIS!

**We treasure our years of friendship and look forward to many more. Catholics in North Carolina are fortunate to have you as our spiritual leader, and we anticipate many years of joy and fulfillment under your guidance.**

*Sincerely,*
*Rev. Joseph Long Dinh,*
*Tien Bui and his family*

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*Best wishes to*
*Bishop Peter J. Jugis*
*as you start a new stage in your*
*ministry serving as the fourth bishop*
*of the Diocese of Charlotte.*

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# BISHOP PETER JUGIS

*on your ordination and installation as fourth Bishop of Charlotte.*

May your years of service to the people
of the diocese be long and fruitful
as you serve them for Christ.

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# To Bishop Peter Joseph Jugis —

*Congratulations and Best Wishes on your Ordination and Installation as Bishop of Charlotte.*

"Entrust your works to the Lord,
and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile:
*Our Lady of Grace Church*
| Page 16

NOVEMBER 7, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 7

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

## Senator recalls partial-birth abortion ban battle

*Bishop Jugis calls ban a victory*

BY JENNIFER BRINKER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — In 1998, the year President Clinton vetoed a ban on partial-birth abortion for the second time, Republican Sen. Rick Santorum felt "this call to say more" on the floor of the Senate in the debate on a vote to override the veto.

"But the next morning, we didn't get one more vote" and the override failed, the senator from Pennsylvania told a pro-life convention in St. Louis. "We lost. To me and the world, I wasted my time."

But five days later, Santorum received an e-mail from a Michigan State University student who said he and his pregnant girlfriend had seen television coverage of Santorum's remarks in the Senate. The girlfriend, who was scheduled to undergo an abortion, changed her mind as a result of watching his debate.

"Today, there is a 4-and-a-half-year-old little girl," the senator said. "She was given up for adoption. But even if you don't have that gift of knowing that you touched someone else's life, remember that God is not calling you to be successful. He called you to be faithful."

On Oct. 21, Santorum, a Catholic and chief Senate spon-

See BAN, page 13

LIVING STEWARDSHIP

COURTESY PHOTOS BY COURTNEY EMERSON

Ken Marino (foreground), a parishioner at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, joins members of a Baptist ministry group to build an addition on the home of a family whose youngest child was severely burned in an accident.

# Arden couple make stewardship 'a way of life'

**More Coverage**

**page 8** | Consolation youth collect clothes

**page 9** | Parishes promote stewardship

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

*Editor's note: The names of a woman and child in this story have been changed.*

ARDEN — The sun was shining and the sky was blue on a recent Saturday, but Ken and Isabelle Marino weren't savoring nature's beauty. They were helping build an addition on a house in a rural area near Mars Hill.

"While Ken worked on the

See STEWARDSHIP, page 8

MAKING SAFER SCHOOLS

## St. Michael School locks down

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GASTONIA — St. Michael School's lockdown procedures were tested two days in a row last month.

"We had two separate incidents — one on campus and one on a street beyond the campus," said Principal Joe Puceta. "Nobody was in any danger, but we went into lockdown to be safe."

On the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 27, Gastonia police chased a robbery suspect across part of the St. Michael Church and school campus. Puceta immediately notified Superintendent Linda Cherry and locked down the school, which involved all students being directed to and kept inside their classrooms until the incident was over.

"We make sure all students are accounted for and wait for the police to tell us everything is OK," said Puceta. "We practice this procedure as part of our diocesan and state regulations. We practice this like we do fire drills."

The school was only locked down for 10 minutes or less, said Puceta.

"By the time I got out there to check what was going on, the suspect was already in custody and in the police car," he said.

The next afternoon, Oct. 28, someone entered St. Michael Church looking for food. When the church secretary went to find food, the

See LOCKDOWN, page 6

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**Fiesta of health and culture**
*Hispanics learn about good health*
| Page 4

**Room at the Inn**
*Event supports mothers, children*
| Page 5

**Catholic Heritage Society**
*Members honored at Mass*
| Page 7

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## LIFE IN 3-D

CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Jessica Kasel of Woodbury, Minn., catches sight of a three-dimensional ultrasound image of her daughter, Emma, on a monitor (out of view) at Grand View Ultrasound in St. Paul. Sonographer Ronda Rosenthal operates the machine that allowed Kasel to see "the form and fat cheeks and the features" of her new daughter.

## Of 'boo-boos' and baby pictures: Medical advances aid pro-life work

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "They fixed my boo-boo."

With those words in a U.S. Senate hearing room, Samuel Armas, nearly 4, put into simplest terms the medical advances helping to convince even the most hardhearted about the humanity of unborn children and the need to protect them in the womb.

In-utero surgery — like what Samuel underwent in August 1999 — and three-dimensional ultrasound technology both offer new ways of looking at unborn children as patients and as unique people in their own right.

Samuel's surgery came just 21 weeks after his conception; he was diagnosed with spina bifida. Freelance photographer Michael Clancy, hired by USA Today to photograph fetus surgical procedures, captured Samuel's hand reaching out of his mother's women and grasping a doctor's finger. An operating room nurse told Clancy unborn babies undergoing surgery "do that all the time."

The now-famous "Fetal Hand Grasp" photograph is featured on Web sites, billboards and posters.

Samuel responded with the "boo-boo" remark when Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., showed him Clancy's picture during a Sept. 25 hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and asked, "Have you seen this picture of you?"

Despite the risky surgery, Samuel's mother Julie Armas said, even at 21 weeks' gestation, "Samuel was not a hypothetical; he was already a member of our family, our son, and deserved our best efforts to improve his life."

Also testifying was Dr. Jim Thorp, a specialist in maternal fetal medicine, who quoted from Sir Albert William Liley, who is credited with performing the first fetal surgery in 1963: "From my clinical experience, I am convinced that unborn children are individuals and human beings who are capable of receiving and responding to medical care and who should have legal protection."

"It is extremely difficult not to see the fetus as a child before birth with the same value as a child after birth, especially after one sees her smiling, grimacing, moving, sleeping, yawning, stretching, sucking a thumb, as well as responding to pain from needle sticks," Thorp testified.

Some parents are getting a similar view from the detailed color images provided by three-dimensional ultrasound machines, sometimes called 4-D.

Expectant mother Jessica Kasel of Woodbury, Minn., went to Grand View Ultrasound in St. Paul for images of her unborn daughter, Emma.

"With 4-D, you can see the form and the fat cheeks and the features."

Patty McGinnity, a Catholic and co-owner of Grand View Ultrasound, said, "At 20 weeks, sometimes women don't really feel pregnant. But to see the baby just makes it so real. If they saw their baby, it would be very difficult for them to abort that child."

"There is little debate about whether the child in utero is alive, but (there is debate) about whether it is a life worthy of protecting," Brownback said at the Senate hearing. "That is a debate we will continue to have and will have another day."

## Bishops to vote on revised rites for worship without priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops will be asked to approve a revised version of the liturgical book, "Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest: Leaders Edition," when they meet in Washington Nov. 10-13.

One of the main changes in the proposed new text is the shift of the act of thanksgiving in such services to after Communion if the service includes a Communion rite. In current practice, when there is a Communion rite the act of thanksgiving precedes it.

Because the act of thanksgiving follows Communion, the revised version eliminates the current prayers after Communion that change each week.

Another major change involves permission, when the rite of morning prayer or evening prayer is used, to omit the second reading of the Liturgy of the Word.

The revised document includes an expanded introduction, with detailed treatment of the liturgical year, the importance of singing and the participation of the assembly.

Like the current document, the proposed new text offers three main forms for Sunday worship without a priest: the Liturgy of the Word alone, or the Liturgy of the Word preceded by either morning prayer or evening prayer. A Communion rite is optional with all three forms.

The bishops first approved a book of rites for Sunday worship in the absence of a priest in 1989, following publication of a 1988 Vatican directory setting out norms and rules for such celebrations.

Use of the U.S. text, which received Vatican approval in 1993, began in January 1994.

## Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Pro-Chapter of the Dominican Laity* meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in St. Justin's Center at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid, OPL, at (828) 253-6676.

BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

BOONE — Father David Valtierra of the Oratory will present an introduction to the Book of Revelation, *Reading and Praying the Book of Revelation: Challenge and Vision* at St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, Nov. 15 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Participants will read representative passages and learn solid tools for understanding the language, background and issues of Revelation. To register, contact Carol Brown at (828) 264-8338 or stelizabeth@boone.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is conducting an open membership meeting at 8 p.m. Nov. 13 for interested parties. The meeting will be held at the KC Council 770 Hall, E. Kingston Ave. off South Blvd. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncaoh@aol.com for further information.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The speaker will be Father Mark Lawlor. For more information, please call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — Holidays can create feelings of dread and anxiety in those who are bereaved. Creating new rituals and new traditions that pay tribute to the memory of the deceased is one way to survive and even embrace the holidays when a loved one has died. Janice Olive of Hospice of Charlotte will offer suggestions for dealing with *Grief and Loss During the Holidays* Nov. 19 7-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. If you have questions, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church*, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope names scholars, including American, to sciences academy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named Kevin Ryan, founder of the Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character at Boston University's School of Education, to be a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Also named Oct. 30 to the prestigious body were a Japanese Nobel laureate in chemistry, a Chinese Nobel winner in physics, a Greek biologist who studies malaria and a Spanish biologist whose research focuses on genetics.

The academy, which traces its roots back to 1603, includes about 80 scientists from around the world. The members, many of whom are Nobel winners, are chosen for their excellence in science and mathematics, not on the basis of their religious affiliation.

Ryan is one of the few members of the academy who does not specialize in hard science.

Born in 1932, he began his research in the field of education in the 1960s, focusing on moral education and the development of personality.

He has written 18 books, including "Reclaiming Our Schools: A Handbook for Teaching Character."

The other scholars named Oct. 30 by the pope were:

— Antonio Garcia-Bellido, a genetic biologist from Spain.

— Fotis C. Kafatos, a Greek biologist who has focused his research on malaria and malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

— Tsung-Dao Lee, the Chinese winner of the 1957 Nobel Prize in physics; he has worked principally in the United States.

— Ryoji Noyori, a Japanese scientist who shared the 2001 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

# Pope says fraternal religious orders offer witness in modern world

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said fraternal religious orders offer an important witness of charity and poverty to the modern world.

The pope made the remarks in a message to Franciscan Capuchin friars, who were meeting to reflect on their future ahead of a plenary council. The Vatican published the papal message Oct. 29.

The pope reminded the Capuchins that the original desire of St. Francis was to form a community of brothers who would live as true disciples of Jesus. Today, this kind of religious life can offer a form of "spiritual therapy" for humanity, he said.

"This form of life in fraternity constitutes a challenge and a proposal for the current world, which is often torn by ethnic hatred or by homicidal madness, filled with contrasting passions and interests, eager for unity but uncertain about which road to take," he said.

The pope said the Capuchins and similar orders can carry out "a type of globalization of charity" through their presence and works in many countries.

Through their example, they can remind modern men and women that they belong to a "great family without borders" and invite them to work for the "development and liberation of the whole person," he said.

The pope encouraged the Franciscans of the 21st century to remain true to their founder's emphasis on poverty and closeness to the "humble and simple" people.

He also asked them to show love and obedience for the church with the same spirit as St. Francis.

In reflecting on the future of their order, the pope said, the friars should keep in mind especially a basic Gospel teaching about conversion to Christ — that a change of heart requires a true change of life.

Without such true conversion as a goal, the effort to devise spiritual and apostolic plans and programs would turn out to be wasted energy, he said.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Natural Family Planning classes* are being held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Room 200. Classes are taught by Dr. Matthew Harrison. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Call (704) 948-0231 for directions and more information.

CHARLOTTE - The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets the third Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with a potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Dennis Teall-Fleming will lead a video presentation on the movement to close the military training *School of Americas* and a discussion on how to get involved in this movement. Many of the school's graduates have returned to their countries to take part in Latin America's worst human rights atrocities. The event will take place Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. For details, e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com or call (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division #1 Guilford County, AOH will meet Nov. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall on Horse Pen Creek Rd. followed by fellowship. AOH is the oldest Catholic Fraternal Organization for men in America. All Catholic men who are of Irish heritage are invited to contact us about joining the Division. For more information and membership application, contact Patrick C. Tracey, Divisional President at (336) 662-8421 or e-mail ptracey@bellsouth.net.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* invite all to their annual Mass of Remembrance Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. at the Franciscan Center, 233 Greene St. with lunch following. For details call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A support group for *parents who have lost a child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — St. William Church will sponsor a *bereavement support group* that will meet Mondays through Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-noon at the Glenmary Center. This group is for anyone who is grieving over any loss — of a loved one, a job, friend, divorce. Call Pat Levy at (828) 837-9517 for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — The *OLM Little Rock Scripture Study for Women* offers a bible study Monday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. in the library of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Classes meet until Nov. 24. For more information, call Anne Gannon at (336) 727-4591.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Unholy fires

CNS PHOTO BY VINCENT GRAGNANI, THE SOUTHERN CROSS

Father Robert Irwin, pastor of St. Louise de Marillac Parish in Crest, a community near El Cajon, Calif., shows San Diego Bishop Robert H. Brom the fire damage in the church from local wildfires. The structure is sound, but the church sustained damage to some windows, walls and its roof, as well as extensive smoke damage inside.

## CORRECTIONS — FROM THE OCT. 24 ISSUE

**Father Wilbur Thomas was incorrectly identified in a photo caption; Father Carl Kaltreider was misidentified in a story; The Trail of Tears was misspelled in a headline.**

# Fiesta of health and culture

## *Hispanics learn importance of good health*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Greensboro Catholic churches are reaching out to help Hispanics.

Hispanic community representatives of each church in the Greensboro vicariate held a combined celebration with several hospitals and health agencies at Our Lady of Grace Church Oct. 26. "The Festival of Health and Hispanic Culture" included cultural exhibits, skits, music and food, as well as health and wellness exhibits with free clinical care.

"This is a city-wide event that gives everyone a chance to sample traditional foods and learn about each other's culture," said Maureen Cavanaugh, a registered nurse and one of the event's organizers.

"In addition, the health clinic is set up to accommodate the health needs of the community," she said. "Among other things, the Hispanic population can have blood pressure checks, blood tests, cholesterol tests and even child identification cards printed."

There is a need to meet the spiritual as well as the physical and health needs of the Hispanic community, said Father Luis Salvador Osorio, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Grace.

"When I arrived at Our Lady of Grace, there was only one parish, St. Mary (in Greensboro), with a Spanish Mass," said Father Osorio, who is originally from Colombia.

St. Mary's Hispanic Mass was already overcrowded at the time, he said, and it was the parish's Anglo community who determined the need for additional Spanish-language Masses.

The growing Hispanic population soon dictated the need for a Spanish-language Mass at Our Lady of Grace, which was instituted two years ago upon Father Osorio's arrival.

"We started with about 200 people," said Father Osorio. "And today we are well over 600 in attendance at our Mass with nearly the same number still attending at St. Mary as there was before."

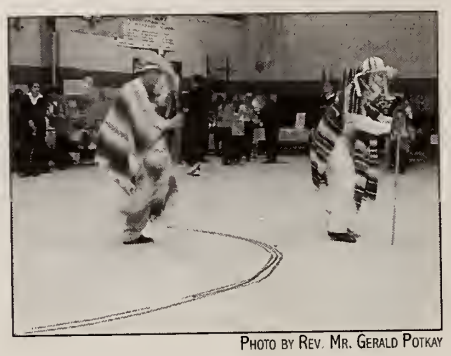

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Skits are performed at Our Lady of Grace Church's Festival of Health and Hispanic Culture Oct 26.

As the Hispanic population grows, so do their health issues, which is a concern to local health organizations. The event, held on a Sunday, was an ideal way to reach the Hispanic community, organizers realized.

"It is an easy transition for the people to go from Mass to a fiesta," said Father Osorio. "Then, as the people were celebrating local customs and traditions, to incorporate a free health clinic open to all those in attendance."

Over 1,000 people were estimated to be in attendance from Our Lady of Grace Church, St. Mary Church, Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, Holy Family Church in Clemmons, Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville and Christ the King Church in High Point, according to Rev. Mr. Timothy Rohan, permanent deacon at Our Lady of Grace.

"Based upon the success of today's festival, this type of event will probably be ongoing," said Cavanaugh.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

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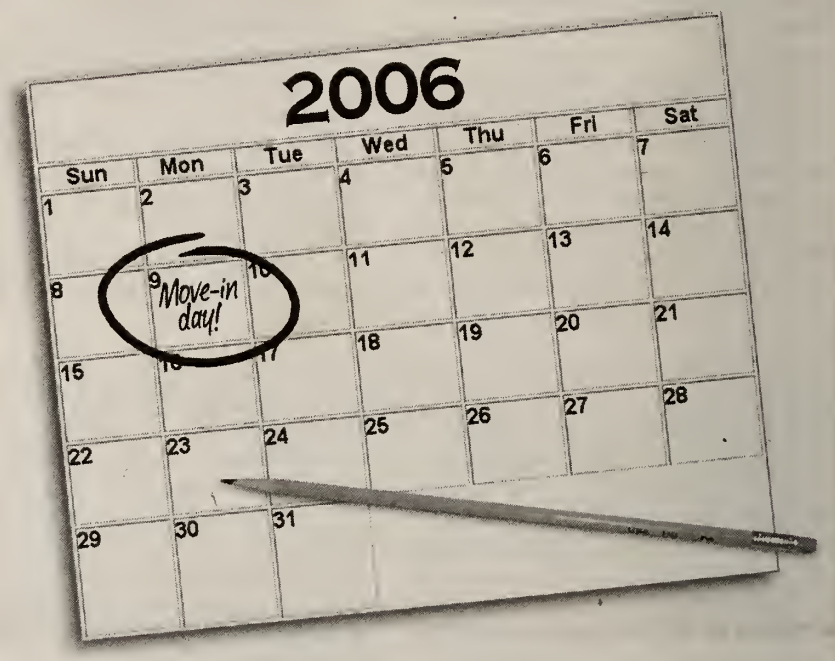


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# Helping make Room at the Inn

## *Annual dinner supports mothers and their children*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — There's a special place in heaven for those at Room at the Inn, according to Congressman J.C. Watts.

"There are many crises that young women find themselves in from time to time, and were it not for places like Room at the Inn ... we would lose those young ladies and the lives of those young kids," he said.

Watts was the keynote speaker for the Room at the Inn's ninth annual banquet and fundraiser, themed "In His Image," at the Westin Charlotte Oct. 23. Eleven hundred people attended the event that helps support the Charlotte-based Catholic maternity home offering assistance for single women and their babies, both born and unborn.

An ordained Baptist minister, Watts was elected to the House of Representatives from his native Oklahoma in 1994 and has been an outspoken voice on issues he championed in Congress, including redeveloping communities, strengthening education and restoring values.

"I just think there's a special place in heaven for all the people who work in the organization and contribute to the organization," said Watts.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Eleven hundred people attended the ninth annual Room at the Inn banquet and fundraiser at the Westin Charlotte Oct. 23.

"The young ladies" who go to Room at the Inn "need someone not to be judgmental but to see them through their crises and their circumstances," he said. "I can't say enough about organizations like this who make that commitment."

"What makes our maternity home unique is that we not only provide maternity care, but also aftercare, serving the mother and her newborn following birth," said Cindy Brown, executive director.

Since opening its doors nine years ago, Room at the Inn has served more than 300 women and their children. More than just a place to live, Room at the Inn offers women a Christ-centered rehabilitation program, based on education, personal responsibility and spiritual direction punctuated with mental health and adoption counseling services.

Transportation to the hospital, medical and social appointments, and work and school is provided, as is training in parenting, nutrition, budgeting, chastity and job skills. Mothers often work to pay off past creditors and to restore their credit rating and good name.

Guests at Room at the Inn are allowed to stay up to 24 months, so long as they are working toward independent living.

"One thing that is very gratifying is watching new mothers grow into mature mothers," said Brown.

Many of the mothers who find Room at the Inn arrive broken in heart and spirit, often rejected by their families and the fathers of their babies.

"Most women choose abortion out of fear," said Brown. "Fear of their family's response, fear of losing their partner, fear of not being able to raise a child alone."

"It's a great cause and the young mothers who are pregnant need to know they have a place to turn," said Carly Simmons, one of 40 Belmont Abbey students to attend the dinner. "We're here to help and support Room at the Inn, because life is sacred."

"Room at the Inn is an endeavor to help those who cannot help themselves," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina. "It's something that we as Christians are responsible for. This is certainly evidenced by the number of people who are here to serve this cause through their donations. It's very edifying to me that so many people are involved."

"I think it's part of the mission of the Catholic community in Charlotte to make an effective statement on pro-life," said Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari, abbot of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of its college, who was on hand to encourage financial support.

"Women have a choice; that is, to give birth to their children," he said.

A signature of Room at the Inn is its annual banquet and subtle fundraiser. Invitations are issued in abundance and the dinner is free due to pre-event fundraising that pays for the costs. Dinner guests have the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of life-altering experiences of Room at the Inn mothers.

"By far, the proceeds for this event are the second highest we've had in nine years," said Brown. "We raised $189,000."

Watts commented on the large number of people at the dinner.

"It obviously speaks to the mission, the cause, but it also speaks to the work and the service and the credibility that this organization has," he said. "I think it speaks to the leadership of the organization and the results of the work that they do."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# A living testament

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

## *Students form living rosary for pope*

*On Oct 22, in honor of the anniversary of Pope John Paul II's 25th anniversary, students at St. Pius X School in Greensboro dedicated the Mysteries of Illumination as a spiritual bouquet to the pope as part of their Living Rosary.*

*The students were positioned as a "rosary" at the school's main entrance. Each student led the rosary by saying the prayers and describing the mysteries, accompanied by the entire student body, teachers, administrators, parents and invited guests.*

*The actual rosaries were a gift from Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, who purchased them on his trip to Rome on Sept 15-Sept 26.*

*The rosaries were especially significant because of their centerpiece image of Mother Teresa, whom Pope John Paul II recently beatified.*

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# School locks down

LOCKDOWN, *from page 1*

individual attempted to break into a church office, said Puceta. The school went into lockdown again and the police were called; the suspect was quickly arrested and the school lockdown was lifted within 15 minutes.

After both incidents, the police came back to "revisit the grounds and make sure everything was safe," said Puceta. "On the second day, an officer walked the halls and checked all the doors and bathrooms, just to be sure."

And during both lockdowns, the students and staff reacted admirably, said Puceta.

"It was just like we practiced in the drills," he said. "The students paid attention. The first time they thought it was a drill, but they still took it seriously."

"The faculty was cool, calm and collected," he said. "They did an excellent job."

Letters were sent home to parents to inform them of the incidents. Puceta said he received feedback from several parents complimenting the actions taken to ensure the students' safety.

Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point utilized their lockdown procedures in September while police searched for and apprehended a suspect near the school.

"When we deal with our greatest commodity — children — we have to be absolutely certain of their safety," said Principal Robert Wehde.

"While we hope we never have to use lockdown drills in our schools, the purpose of those drills is to plan for situations we can never expect," said Cherry. "Our children's safety was and is the most important factor in any situation."

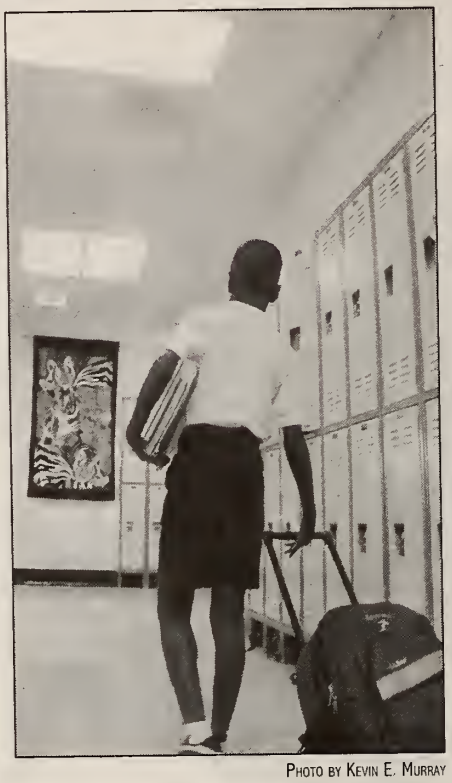

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A student heads to class at St. Michael School in this photo taken August 2003.

"It's unfortunate that we have to practice these drills, but they obviously paid off nicely this week," said Puceta. "We'll follow whatever procedure we can to make sure our students are safe."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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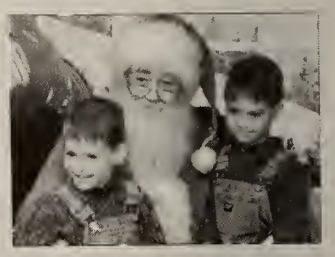

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CONNECTING

# Catholic Heritage Society members honored

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Members of the Catholic Heritage Society were honored at a Mass celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church Nov. 2. Eighty members of the society attended the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul; and Father Patrick Winslow, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Catholic Heritage Society was formed in 1994 to recognize those people who have indicated that they intend to leave gifts in their wills and estate plans to a parish, school, the diocese, the foundation or other Catholic organization in the diocese.

There are currently more than 500 members of the society, some of whom have chosen to leave their gifts to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Currently, the foundation has more than $8.5 million in assets. Most of the 115 endowments in the foundation are designated for parishes.

Contributions may be designated or undesignated gifts for a specific parish, school, foundation or organization, or to the Diocese of Charlotte in general.

According to Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving, an estimated 6 percent Catholics in the diocese have remembered the Catholic Church in their estate plans.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with Msgr. William Pharr and Nancy West, members of the Catholic Heritage Society, following the annual Catholic Heritage Society Mass and dinner at St. Vincent de Paul Church Nov. 2.

"We encourage all Catholics to consider becoming members of the Catholic Heritage Society," Rhodes said.

"The Catholic Heritage Society provides Catholics with an opportunity for people to leave a legacy and assure the continuation of the Catholic Church and all the initiatives it is involved in within the community," said Dr. Patricia Skinner, foundation board member and president of Gaston College.

"The parish of Sacred Heart Church has become like a family to me," said Katherene Kruckel, a member of the Catholic Heritage Society. "The best way to say 'thank you' for the graces and blessings God has showered on me is to share with the Catholics of the future."

However large or small the amount, contributing to the foundation joins your funds with others' gifts to make a greater contribution, Kruckel said.

"Through their gifts, members of the Catholic Heritage Society are leaving a legacy that will help meet the needs of individuals in the Diocese of Charlotte for generations to come," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. "More and more parishioners across the diocese are following their example by remembering the church in their current and future estate plans."

Kelley said individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship.

"Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the church of the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

*For Information about planned giving, contact Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org.*

AP SCHOLARS

# Charlotte Catholic High School students earn designations

CHARLOTTE — Twenty-five students at Charlotte Catholic High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams allows students to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performances on the exams.

Almost 15 percent of the more than one million high school students worldwide took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar. Students took AP Exams in May 2003 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong coursers and exams (or their equivalent semester-long courses and exams).

At Charlotte Catholic, 13 students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award. These students are Meredith Bivens, Eric Chow, Anne Garvey, Devin Hahn, Margaret Harouny, Elizabeth Johnson, Karen Kolman, Patrick Kopfle, Lindsey Keuser, Christopher Maher, Alexander Queen, Christina Valeri and Daniel Yarborough.

Seven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. These students are Jack Carley, Lauren Florack, Wade Sample, Courtney Tighe, Lindsey Tighe, Lauren Trojan and Maria Usher.

Five students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award. These students are Robert Alexander, Ryan Burke, Erica Cloer, Julia Harding and Jennifer Romano.

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# Arden couple embody stewardship

STEWARDSHIP, *from page 1*

house, I helped out in the house," Isabelle said.

The Marinos, parishioners at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, joined a Baptist ministry group to build the 24-foot-by-18-foot addition — two bedrooms and a porch — for a family whose 2-year-old daughter is still recovering from near-fatal burns.

"Emily" was 9 months old, out in her playpen in the yard, when the accident happened. Her mother, "Rita" had set up tiki torches in the yard to ward off mosquitoes she feared might carry West Nile virus. One of the torches fell on the baby, causing third-degree burns over 85 percent of her body.

Ken and Isabelle knew the family and wanted to help.

"I volunteer at the Mountain Area Hospice Foundation (in Asheville)," Isabelle said. "Usually, I go in once a week to do office work, and I work on special events. This is how I met the burned baby's mother."

Rita, formerly head of the foundation, now stays home to care for Emily, the youngest of three children, while her husband is at his restaurant job. The toddler has had multiple surgeries and needs constant care.

Every week, Isabelle goes to Rita's house and helps with the washing, cleaning and "whatever she needs," said Isabelle. "It's really important because she just needs all the support she can get."

It's one of the many stewardship facets in the Marinos' lives. They give financially to church and various causes, but, "Giving generously doesn't mean just money," Ken said.

While raising their son and daughter, the Marinos lived in Rochester, N.Y., where Ken was a data processing manager for Chase Manhattan Bank. They weren't too busy to be involved.

"You have to give back," Ken said. "It can't be just for me. Don't ignore your family, but do for others."

"We used to do Open Door mission, serve food, in Rochester," Isabelle said. "When I first came here, I volunteered (as a receptionist) at Asheville-Buncombe Christian Community Ministry."

She also gave time at Mission Hospital in Asheville, cuddling premature babies whose parents lived some distance from the hospital and couldn't be there every day.

Now, Ken and Isabelle are involved in fundraising events for the Mountain Area Hospice Foundation. Ken's part-time job leaves him time to do handyman tasks for anyone who needs assistance.

The Marinos are members of the St. Barnabas Stewardship Committee (Ken is the chair), formed three years ago out of the church's visioning meetings to set goals for its future. They are also on the parish council. Ken is on the finance council, is a eucharistic minister and usher and helps out around the church with painting and other maintenance work.

"Other people have questioned, 'Why do you do this? Works won't get you into heaven.'" Ken said. "We know that, but it doesn't stop us from doing it. There is a reward: it makes you feel good."

"Something drives me from the inside, and it's got to be God who does it," he said. "[The inspiration] comes and I feel like I can help out, and I just do it."

Isabelle is a member of the St. Barnabas Women's Guild, participates in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and washes and irons altar-server vestments.

"I think as you grow older in your life, certain things become more important," Isabelle said. "The Lord is important in my life. You say, 'Lord, what can I do in my life?' How can I repay him for having a good life? This is my way of giving thanks. I can wash and iron."

"Stewardship is a way of life," Ken said. "To do it is a kind of attitude change. You have to be willing to do things. It gives you good feelings, but it can't be just for me. It has to be for other people."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

# Consolation kids collect clothes for community

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bianca Graham smiled and waved to passing vehicles as she stood outside Our Lady of Consolation Church. She held a sign that read "Free Clothes."

Graham, one of 60 youth ministry members at Our Lady of Consolation, was helping out at the ministry's clothing drive Nov. 1.

The youth, ages 7-18, spent two weekends collecting and then sorting over 1,000 items of new and used clothing, plus shoes, donated by Our Lady of Consolation parishioners.

"We talked about a garage sale, but realized it would be better to give the clothes away," said Nanette Lide, one of the three youth ministers.

"The location of the church is in a less-fortunate location, so we'd rather give the clothes away," said Cortney Colon, 17.

Approximately 30 people showed up within the first 30 minutes of the drive to browse the tables of clothes.

Graham, 20, who's been in the youth group for four years, said this year's focus of the church's youth ministry was to reach out to the community.

"Hopefully, we'll give all the clothes away," she said.

"It's a source of evangelization," said Lide. "It shows the youth how privileged they are, and teaches them respect for the community in which they come to worship. Ninety-nine percent of us don't live in this community."

"We should be helping the community, because as a church we're supposed to help others," said Whitley Lide, 12.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Over 1,000 items of free clothes and shoes were being given away at Our Lady of Consolation Church's youth ministry clothing drive Nov. 1.

"It makes a whole lot of difference," said Virginia Robinson, who recently moved to Charlotte from Winston-Salem. She found several garments at the clothing drive.

"They've helped me," she said. "It's a blessing."

The youth ministry members were glad to help.

"I feel this was something God wanted me to do to help the community," said Julian Tucker, 12. "It doesn't matter how old or how small you are, you can still help somebody."

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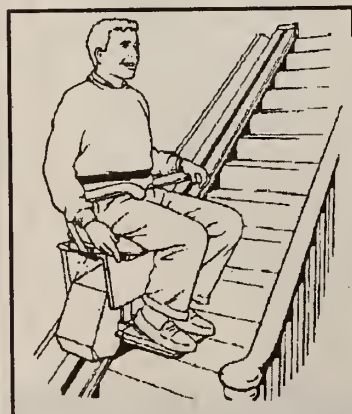

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**STEWARDSHIP OUTREACH**

# Parishes find new ways to promote stewardship

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —Throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, churches are striving to involve their parishioners in stewardship on a variety of levels. St. Therese Church in Mooresville and St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, have successfully found new ways to serve their parishes through time, talent and treasure.

***Gathering the shepherds***

In a growing parish, needs and opportunities for stewardship grow as well. St. Therese Church is attempting to meet the needs of more than 1,700 families.

When the stewardship committee was originally formed in 1983, it was one of the first such committees in the Diocese of Charlotte, according to Barbara Gaddy, diocesan associate director of development. Last year, in an effort to foster a "sense of belonging" in the parish, the pastoral council revitalized the stewardship committee.

"This is a way of thanking God for all that he does for us," said Kerry Ann Tornesello, stewardship committee chairperson and a member of the pastoral council.

To kick off the new program, the committee held a "Stewardship Summit" in the spring of 2003 in which they brought the spiritual meaning of stewardship to the parish leaders. They brainstormed, planned and prayed as a group to bring new life into the parish. Of the 50 ministries at St. Therese Church, 46 sent representatives to the summit.

The purpose of the stewardship committee is to make the six commissions and their ministries accountable for setting goals and creating mission statements, said Tornesello.

"We offer them help and a hand to hold," she said. The committee supports the ministries' missions and efforts to increase membership.

The stewardship committee began the annual parish stewardship campaign in August, using the parish Web site, newsletter, bulletin inserts and a stewardship fair to promote opportunities.

On Commitment Sunday in September, members of each ministry carried in banners representing their ministries. The banners were hung in the church as a reminder to parishioners of the importance of contributing their time, talent and treasure to the church community.

Stewardship pledge cards were mailed to each family prior to Commitment Sunday. During each Mass, parishioners were asked to demonstrate their commitments to the parish by bringing their pledge cards to the altar, rather than putting them in the offertory baskets.

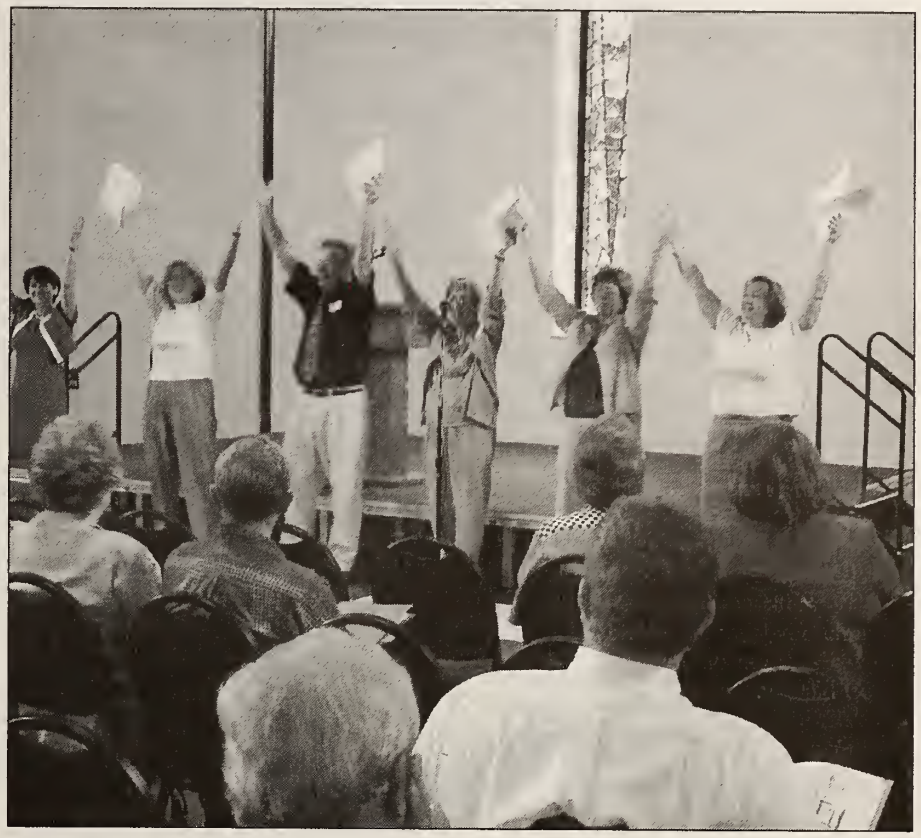
More than 760 families have responded to the call for stewardship.

"We definitely got the message of stewardship out to the community," Tornesello said.

***A little child to guide them***

At St. Pius X Church, the focus has been on getting the youth of the 1,033-family parish involved.

"We want our youth to be more active in stewardship," said Patti Dunning, chairperson of the Stewardship Committee for St. Pius X. "Our goal is to have two high school students, two middle school students and two grade school students on the youth stewardship committee."



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of St. Therese Church's stewardship committee teach stewardship through song at the parish's "Stewardship Summit" in the spring of 2003.

One way the committee is increasing gifts of treasure from the youth of the parish is by using personalized children's offertory envelopes. The envelopes have different designs for each age group, said Dunning.

Young people donate their time to projects such as Operation Christmas Child, a worldwide gift distribution project for needy children' Urban Ministry; and Mary's House, a shelter for women and their children.

These projects help the children to understand what stewardship is and the importance of their participation, Dunning said.

Although it took one year to get the youth stewardship program running, the parish has seen steadily increased participation, with as many as 50 people, including families, participating in the projects.

In an effort to further increase their stewardship efforts, St. Pius X is changing their stewardship drive to the spring for 2004 and will host a fair to showcase the ministries in need of time and talents donations.

Dunning and Tornesello are confident that their efforts will bear fruit as more members of their parishes, and more Catholics in the diocese, participate in stewardship efforts.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information on stewardship, contact Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302 or e-mail bagaddy@charlottediocese.com

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two new books on prayer and meditation

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

If "Sabbath Moments: Finding Rest for the Soul in the Midst of Daily Living" was produced in an audio version, it would be a relaxation tape. However, you could not listen to it while operating a motor vehicle for fear of having your attention diverted from the road to your heart and soul.

Author Adolfo Quezada puts readers at ease as he lulls them toward a place of peace. He describes sabbath moments as "more than a time for doing; they are a time for being." In each of the daily exercises into which he coaxes readers, that "being" is with God, and it is done in silence. He refers to the sabbath moments as a refuge, a retreat, and they are. He prescribes one each day for six weeks — long enough for practitioners to build them into their daily routines.

"Sabbath Moments: Finding Rest for the Soul in the Midst of Daily Living," by Adolfo Quezada. Resurrection Press/Catholic Book Publishing Corp. (Totowa, N.J., 2003). 110 pp., $6.95.

"Jacob's Hip: Finding God in an Anxious Age," by Kerry Walters. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2003). 103 pp., $12.00

Sabbath moments are unlike most people's lives. They are silence, not cacophony; they are peacefulness, not stressfulness; they are a place where readers can approach God, and God can approach them, not a Godless existence.

Quezada is realistic in understanding the hectic. That is why he suggests practitioners schedule their sabbath moments, that they make time to replenish themselves by listening to the God within.

"Sabbath Moments" draws from the discipline of meditation. On consecutive days during the fifth week, Quezada refers to meditative state. He talks about breathing and being aware. Those uncomfortable or unfamiliar with meditative prayer should not be discouraged from "Sabbath Moments." Rather, they would do well to accept the prodding Quezada offers, and to listen, in silence, with their hearts. Ultimately they will — by finding their sabbath moments — learn how to relax with God.

While the term "countercultural" has been overused and misused, it is apropos in describing "Jacob's Hip: Finding God in an Anxious Age." What author Kerry Walters offers is something with which many people — particularly in the wake of Sept. 11, which serves as a reference point for the author — will not be comfortable.

Walters fortifies his case for living the unsettled life, for downward mobility, for being vulnerable, with numerous quotations from Henri Nouwen, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Karl Rahner, and Archbishop Oscar Romero, among others. Readers steeped in philosophy and theology may have an easier time comprehending what Walters offers if they are familiar with the lives and works of these people.

This book requires contemplation as Walters challenges readers: "When it dawns on us that we are lovable (because God loves us), we also realize that God loves us because we are made in the supremely loving and lovable God's likeness. This, in turn, pushes us toward the discovery that, like the God on whom we are modeled, our nature is to reciprocate love, and that our hearts are restless until we do."

That thought is indicative of what he offers throughout the book; it requires at least one rereading, as well as time for digesting. In other words, this is not an "easy read."

Nor should it be, for what he proposes is intense; it cuts to the heart in that it exposes how willing or unwilling we are to depend upon God — unconditionally. Those who follow what Walters advises can expect to live a life in which turning the other cheek is a given, for human reasoning of this unquestioned link with God will not suffice.

"Jacob's Hip" will certainly get readers to think. Whether they are willing to invest themselves in what Walters advocates may be determined by how well they comprehend his train of thought, or whether or not they are comfortable with living a life that is, in fact, countercultural.

*Olszewski is editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 9, 2003

## *Nov. 9, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome*

***Cycle B Readings:***
1) Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
2) 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
3) Gospel: John 2:13-22

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The double schoolhouse doors crashed behind us as my friend Nancy and I went racing into the glory of a crisp fall afternoon. The excitement of Friday filled the air. What could be better than to be free from the tedium of our fourth-grade classroom? During these fall days we savored the walk home through the brilliant leaves that covered the yards and sidewalks of the houses and churches on our way.

Each day St. Leander's Church marked the half-way point in our journey home. No matter how many times we passed by, I found myself consumed with curiosity about what lay beyond its mysterious doors. We often tried the door, but always found it locked, which left me with a sense of disappointment mixed with relief. On this day my friend Nancy said, "Let's see if the door is open today."

I had long-standing instructions. If we were ever to enter the church, we must cover our heads and remain deathly quiet. Nancy pushed the great metal latch down. The door opened a few inches. I trembled with fear and anticipation. We slipped through the narrow slot. I followed my friend's lead and dipped my fingers in the holy water and made the sign of the cross. Afternoon shafts of light poured through the stained-glass windows. I recognized some of the statues that seemed to wait in the shadows. I breathed in the leftover spicy smells of incense. I stood in the main aisle, looking at the crucifix above the white marble altar. To me the holy had become palpable. For the first time in my young life I experienced sacred space.

The readings for this weekend remind us of the importance of sacred space in our lives as we mark the dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome on Nov. 9, 324. However, sacred space is not only like that which we find in a magnificent cathedral in a faraway land, it is also the sacred space that lies within our hearts and souls. In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us that if the foundation of our lives is Jesus the Christ, then we are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9 - NOVEMBER 15**

Sunday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome), Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22; Monday (St. Leo the Great), Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; Tuesday (St. Martin of Tours), Wisdom 2:23—3:9, Luke 17:7-10; Wednesday (St. Josaphat), Wisdom 6:1-11, Luke 17:11-19; Thursday (St. Frances Cabrini), Wisdom 7:22—8:1, Luke 17:20-25; Friday, Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; Saturday (St. Albert the Great), Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16 - NOVEMBER 22**

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; Monday (Elizabeth of Hungary), 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Luke 18:35-43; Tuesday (St. Rose Philippine Duchesne), 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; Wednesday, 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; Thursday, 1 Maccabees 2:15-29, Luke 19:41-44; Friday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary), 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, Luke 19:45-48; Saturday (St. Cecelia), 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40

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# 'Love Actually' ain't bad

CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Keira Knightley stars in a scene from Universal Studios' "Love Actually," a romantic comedy set in London which interweaves 10 stories of love. From romantic to puppy love, from love between spouses, friends and families to unrequited love, writer-director Richard Curtis has composed a touching if uneven film that pleases despite familiar cliches and overworked situations. However, unnecessary extended sexual scenes detract from the film's overall drollness. Several scenes of sexual encounters with nudity, a few sexual references and innuendoes, and intermittent rough language with an instance of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

# 'Revolutions' doesn't revolve around a good plot

BY DAVID DICERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — At one point during the grandiose climax of "The Matrix Revolutions" (Warner Bros.), Smith, the film's virtual villain, experiences a sense of digital deja vu and snarls, "I've seen this before." That sentiment may be shared by the audience throughout this final installment of Larry and Andy Wachowski's bloated cyber-noir "Matrix" trilogy.

All three movies consist of protracted, ultraviolent action sequences stitched together by dollops of pretentious, pseudo-philosophical dialogue and allegorical symbolism, with over-the-top, gravity-defying brawls serving as the visual centerpiece of each movie. Though the Wachowskis rein in the existential banter in this third go-round, the stylized carnage remains at full throttle. And while the franchise continues to push the envelope of technical wizardry, it's in inverse proportion to narrative and character development. The result is an overstuffed maelstrom of noise and violence, a sound and fury signifying nothing. Like the Matrix itself, the film looks substantial, but is ultimately empty of any real content.

For those who missed the first two films, Keanu Reeves plays Neo, a computer hacker turned reluctant messiah who discovers what he thought was the real world was just a computer simulation piped into his brain by sentient machines which, in some distant dystopian future, have taken over the world and which keep him — along with most of Earth's population — imprisoned in this illusory reality known as "the Matrix" in order to harvest their neural electricity as a fuel source.

A few hundred stalwart humans have escaped to the subterranean stronghold of Zion — the last outpost of humanity — in the hope of overthrowing the machines.

As the curtain rises on "The Matrix Revolutions," Neo's mind is trapped between the Matrix and the real world. Trinity, Morpheus and Seraph track down the elusive Trainman — the only program who can release Neo from his psychic waylay. Meanwhile, Zion prepares for an Armageddon-like last stand against an invading machine army.

Once reawakened, Neo borrows a hovercraft in order to reach Machine City, a menacing mechanized metropolis on the Earth's apocalyptic surface, and confront the machine monarch.

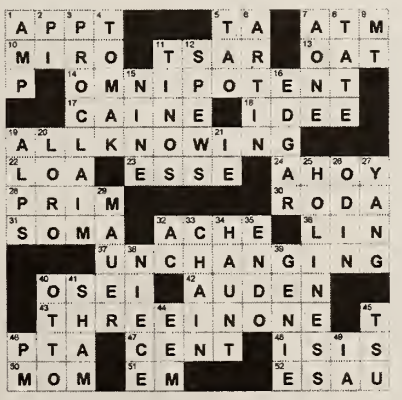
Visually, this exercise in bland grandiosity does not make the exponential leaps in special effects that helped the original redefine the sci-fi genre. The pioneering "bullet time" effect, thought so cutting-edge in 1999, is now de rigueur in less lavish films, and even commercials.

As in the two earlier films, "Revolutions" draws themes from a broad range of mythological and theological traditions. Yet much of its metaphysical musings are weighed down by its sturm-und-drang sententiousness and blustering banality. Still, enough breaks through the fray to serve as an opportunity for discussion between Christianity and pop culture, elevating the film above the morass of more mindless action movies.

Due to much stylized violence as well as recurring profanity, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

GOOD GOD

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# Father Willis made mark on Hispanic community, students' lives

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Lawrence Willis died in his room at Belmont Abbey Oct. 26.

A Mass of Christian burial was Oct. 29 by Abbey monks and diocesan priests in the presence of Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, the Belmont Abbey College community and Father Lawrence's friends. He was buried in the Abbey Cemetery.

Father Willis had served as a Belmont Abbey College professor since 1967 and as a member of the College's Board of Trustees, 1979-1982.

As an instructor, he was a pioneer audio-visual instruction and outfitted his classroom with the latest in audio and video technology.

He generously shared his talents and regularly hosted special sessions for colleagues and their classes, outside groups and individuals. Although Father Lawrence taught in a variety of fields, he particularly enjoyed teaching the mythology of various world cultures.

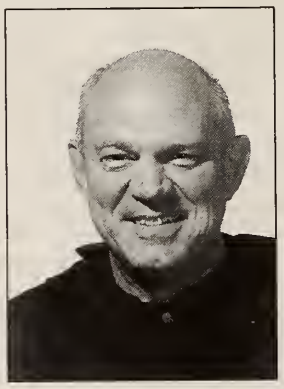
Born in Greensboro on Nov. 30, 1939, he matriculated at Belmont Abbey College in 1957, where he earned his bachelor's degree. While a college student, he entered the novitiate at Belmont Abbey and received the name Lawrence. His first profession of monastic vows was Feb. 1, 1961.

Father Willis pursued theology at the international Benedictine college, Sant' Anselmo, in Rome, where he earned a licentiate in sacred theology. While in Rome, he professed solemn vows at Sant' Anselmo in October 1964. He was ordained to the priesthood in Assisi on July 10, 1966.

Following his theological studies, Father Willis continued studies in Italian at the Università per Stranieri in Perugia and earned a master's degree in Spanish at the Universidad Ibero-Americana in Mexico City.

In addition to linguistic skills, Father Willis had a virtual photographic memory. He was a walking encyclopedia filled with information on a vast array of topics.

In his priestly ministry, Father Willis placed his language skills at the service of the church, and for many years was devoted to the pastoral care of the growing Hispanic community at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.



Benedictine Father Lawrence Willis

In recent years, Father Willis suffered from diabetes. Throughout his declining health, he constantly edified his confreres and all who knew him by his patient acceptance of his infirmities and his unwavering determination to return to his beloved classroom.

The weight training of his younger years helped as he rolled himself everywhere in his wheelchair, actively and eagerly participating in all aspects of the life of his monastic and college communities. It was with great shock and sadness that the Belmont Abbey community learned of his passing.

# Mercy Sister Mary Loreto's dedicated prayer life remembered

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Loreto Brown, 93, died Oct. 28 at Marian Center, Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Oct. 30 with burial following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Loreto was born March 27, 1910 in Washington, D.C. Her secular name was Elizabeth Valliday Brown; she took the name Sister Mary Loreto upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Oct. 30, 1954. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1955.

Sister Mary Loreto taught at St. Michael School in Gastonia, 1956-1958, and at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, 1958-1960. She served as a caregiver for residents at Holy Angels Nursery, 1960-1964.

She served her community in a variety of roles from 1964 until 1970: From housekeeping and driving duties to handling the reception desk to spiritual direction. In conjunction with her motherhouse duties, she administered in the residence halls at Sacred Heart College.

Sister Mary Loreto began as assistant librarian at Charlotte Catholic High School in 1970. In 1974, she became a pastoral visitor at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. Although unable to continue for long due to health problems, she shared and brought God's word to the sick.

Her earlier apostolic works included teaching faith formation classes, working with prisoners and visiting the homebound, all of which she wholeheartedly relished.

She was also a dedicated member of the Catholic Daughters of America in Bethesda, Md., until her death.

She will be remembered for her infectious smile, gentle nature, devout demeanor and her dedicated prayer life.

Mercy Sister Mary Loreto Brown

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, N.C. 28012-4805.

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# Ban signed into law

BAN, *from page 1*

sor of legislation to ban partial-birth abortion, and his colleagues successfully passed the measure 64-34. The vote came three weeks after the House passed the same measure with a 281-142 vote.

On Oct. 28 Congress sent the bill to President Bush, who signed it into law Nov. 5. The U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the Knights of Columbus praised the ban.

"The ban on partial-birth abortion is a testimony to the dedication of so many who believe in the sanctity of life," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte. "I am thankful for those who stayed the course and 'fought the good fight,' often at great personal sacrifice."

"Although this partial-birth abortion ban will be questioned and opposed by some, we join people of goodwill in many faith traditions who recognize the inherent truth of the Gospel of Life," said the bishop. "The truth of the Good News is stronger than campaigns of misinformation and innuendo. This victory encourages us to remain vigilant in our work to secure protection for all God's children."

During Clinton's presidency, the Senate passed the ban twice and he vetoed it both times. A third attempt was stopped by the courts.

Santorum's was a keynote speaker at the St. Louis Archdiocese's 27th annual pro-life convention came a couple days before Senate passage of the ban.

Santorum said pro-lifers are engaged in a culture war that requires several actions: getting involved in politics, which includes voting for pro-life leaders and being aware of the judges being appointed to the courts; showing that the pro-life movement is one of love and not hate and anger; and prayer, including for those in leadership positions and on the front lines.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTEE PASTOTRAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

*7 November 2003*

*My Dear Friends in the Lord:*

*Despite the best efforts of concerned Catholics, the number of people living in poverty in our country increased by 1.4 million during the past year. Almost 35 million Americans are caught in the cycle of poverty. Children are growing up in an age beleaguered with terrorism, war, violence, and intergenerational cycles of poverty that weaken the human spirit.*

*I urge you to give generously to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development when the annual collection is taken in your parish on November 22-23, 2003. The major portion of the collection is used by the national offices of CCHD to support anti-poverty projects across the country; the remainder stays here in our diocese to fund self-help initiatives that benefit our local communities, and to educate Catholics and the general public about CCHD. Among the 13 projects that received local funding from the 2002 collection are the Adequate Housing for Latino Population in Franklin, the Ellerbe Hispanic Center, an After School Enrichment Program in Waynesville, and the Far West Affordable Housing Action Program in Hayesville.*

*Together we can brake the cycle of poverty. With an increase in the collection, CCHD could fund many more of the groups that apply for help.*

*At the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia last month, cosponsored by CCHD, I was awed by the statistics cited by CCHD Executive Director Rev. Robert Vitillo in his remarks on the state of poverty in the United States. To read his entire speech, please visit http://www.cssnc.org/uploads/BBCAVitilloAddress.pdf. We must increase our efforts to respond to those in need.*

*Thanking you for your continued generosity and wishing each of you God's blessings, I am*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*Mauricio W. West*

*Very Reverend Mauricio W. West*
*Vicar General and Chancellor*

## POVERTY VIEWS

More than 32 million U.S. residents live in poverty. U.S. adults who...

| Are concerned about poverty in America | Know someone living in poverty | Lived in poverty at some point |
|---|---|---|
| 87% | 41% | 33% |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Cathalic Campaign for Human Develapment; "Poverty Pulse" survey, 2001

© 2001 CNS Graphics

# Pope says God welcomes prayer offered with heart full of praise

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer offered to God with a heart full of praise and a clear intention to follow the path of goodness is welcomed by God as a sacrifice, Pope John Paul II said.

When, as in the Psalms, believers praise God in prayer and beg for God's help in avoiding sin, they are acknowledging the close tie between "worship and life, prayer and existence," the pope said at his Nov. 5 general audience.

Under a bright morning sun in St. Peter's Square, the pope's teaching focused on Psalm 141 and its use in the church's evening prayer.

The psalmist prays, "Let my prayer come like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice."

Pope John Paul said the psalm illustrates that "prayer made with a pure and sincere heart becomes a sacrifice offered to God."

The psalm also includes petitions that God will protect his faithful from evil and give them the strength to avoid temptation, the pope said.

"Words and works are, in fact, the expression of a person's moral choices," he said.

The psalm's references to the wicked being cast down into the depths or trapped in snares and their bones being scattered is a "picturesque" way of affirming "hostility to evil, the choice of goodness and the certainty that God intervenes in history with his judgment of severe condemnation of injustice," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told the estimated 18,000 visitors at the audience that the psalms are "invocations which the Lord himself wants addressed to him. He loves to listen to them, feeling the hearts of his beloved children vibrate through them."

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Non-Catholics receiving Communion in Catholic churches

*Q. We have encountered some confusion in our area about when people who are not Catholic may receive Communion in the Catholic Church. Some say the conditions for interfaith reception of Communion are different now than a few years ago.*

*One priest told us non-Catholics cannot receive Communion in the Catholic Church because they can receive in their own churches. What is the present requirement or is it different from one place to another? (Florida)*

A. The conclusions from various Vatican directives, and seemingly official practices, can be confusingly varied.

The latest general Catholic Directory on Ecumenism (March 1993) lists four conditions for reception of the Eucharist by a baptized non-Catholic Christian in the Catholic Church, unless a bishops' conference or the local bishop has established other norms.

The individual must (1) request the sacrament freely and on his or her own initiative, (2) manifest the faith the church professes concerning the Eucharist, (3) be spiritually prepared and motivated to receive, and (4) have no access for the sacrament in his or her own church or religious denomination (No. 131).

That seems straightforward enough, but in a later (1995) encyclical, "Ut Unum Sint," Pope John Paul II seemed to eliminate the fourth condition. It is a source of joy, he says, "that Catholic ministers may administer the Eucharist to Christians who are not in full communion with the Catholic Church, but who greatly desire to receive these sacraments, freely request them and manifest the faith" which the church professes about them (No. 46).

The pope quotes that same passage again in his new encyclical on the Eucharist released last Holy Week, "Ecclesia de Eucharistia" (No. 46).

The possible significance of these reduced conditions is highlighted by several relatively recent incidents, including the pope's administering Communion to Tony Blair, prime minister of Great Britain, in March of this year at a papal Mass. Mrs. Blair is Catholic, but he is not.

Pope John Paul's comments in the two encyclicals and the reception of Communion by Mr. Blair in the pope's chapel are interpreted as possibly minimizing or eliminating the 1993 requirement that a non-Catholic not have access to his or her own clergyman for the sacraments.

The above regulations do not apply to Eastern churches who are not in communion with Rome, for whom other rules apply.

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

# Pope John Paul the Great

## *Reflecting on pope's ministry, virtues*

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

I was just leaving work after a long day at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops when word came that I might want to greet a group of visiting Polish bishops. Dutifully I walked to our conference room and greeted them, one of whom just happened to be Archbishop Karol Wojtyla.

The next time I met him he was Pope John Paul II, speaking to us about the glories of research and theology at The Catholic University of America, and then extolling the wonders of our priesthood in Washington's St. Matthew's Cathedral.

My first recollection of John Paul II is of a man with amazing energy and intellectual power. He was athletic and photogenic, conversant in several languages. He spoke with deep conviction and addressed issues in a philosophical, down-to-earth manner.

This April I saw the pope again in Rome. He was slumping over in his chair; he drooled and slurred his words. Though he made an effort to put gusto into them, his words were a whimper compared to times past.

As broken as he was, his determination to push on was very inspiring. Even more awesome was his courage in displaying his frailty in public. Like other fading greats, he could have hidden behind the scenes, only appearing when at his best. But he didn't do this.

Over the last few weeks Pope John Paul II has been lauded for being a champion of human dignity, befriending the poor and defending refugees, apologizing to the Jews, breaking down the Iron Curtain, traveling the world and working ferociously for world peace and Christian unity. I've come to think of him as a man with a mission to keep him going despite the circumstances.

One virtue of this pope that I feel writers often have overlooked is a first fervor he never lost. No doubt he, like all young priests, had aspirations to change the world through Christ and wanted to make a mark on it by serving Christ as well as possible.

Illness and old age have a way of cooling our fervor, causing us to think more of our health than of more important matters. Often they cause depression because we know we aren't our real self and that we will never have the energies to regain that self. And, too, when we get older many of our pet projects are reversed. Close friends die, leaving us with no one to share our concerns. And although we may enjoy it momentarily, we come to realize that peace can never fully be achieved in this life.

A pope is human, yet for good reason people think of Pope John Paul as a man of enthusiasm. A dreamer of new ideas; a lover of youth and, like them, forward-looking; the direct antithesis of someone who no longer has anything to live for: We all know these as characteristics of Pope John Paul.

Many feel this pope one day will be called John Paul the Great. Of all his great accomplishments, persisting in his first fervor and forever seeing life filled with God's uplifting spirit should be counted as his greatest.

# Working for peace in the "Great War"

## *Rembering two great churchmen*

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Eighty-five years ago, on Nov. 11, 1918, World War I ended, with an infamous tragedy. My late son Peter, who wrote a book on this war, told me with tears in his eyes of a decision made by Allied representatives on the early morning of that Nov. 11.

At 5 a.m., Germany signed an armistice with the Allies. But then someone got a brilliant idea. For the sake of "historical drama," news of the armistice could be held until 11 a.m. Then the news could report that the armistice had taken effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In those six hours, many more soldiers on both sides were killed — for the sake of a catchy headline!

This was also the war that, because of the explosion of new technology, would forever change how war is fought, leaving millions of casualties, civilians as well as soldiers. It initiated a new globalism that would now characterize our foreign policy. It spawned the rise of communism that would rule in Russia and its satellites for the next 70 years. It accounted for the anger and madness of Hitler, a German soldier in World War I, who was infuriated at the peace treaty that demeaned Germany; his rise to power was another chance to get back at the Allies.

Sadly, World War I shaped the 20th century as the warring time that it became.

While nations continued the killing from 1914 to 1918, what few Catholics know is that Pope Benedict XV poured out love. He established an Office for Prisoners in the Vatican, making it possible for prisoners of war and soldiers at the front on all sides, as far as possible, to maintain contact with their families. He gave money to set up welfare works for war victims in all countries, getting them food, warm clothing and medical care. He insisted on help worldwide to ease the pain and deprivations endured by countless widows and orphaned children suffering hunger and homelessness.

Pope Benedict, emphasizing Christian love, proclaimed, "It is the duty of every person to run to help another human being who is in danger of death."

That war was to greatly affect another man of God, a young priest by the name of Angelo Roncalli assigned to a medical unit, "primitive at best," in a military hospital and serving also on the horrific battlefields. "The war was a time of intense suffering for Don Angelo, a time of testing and of learning through sorrow," wrote a biographer, Alden Hatch.

Like Pope Benedict, the young priest called this war "a useless massacre." Influenced by the pope, he founded a house for soldiers and worked to search for soldiers unaccounted for.

Clearly, as he brought the love of Jesus to soldiers, the seeds were sown of his yearning for "pacem in terris" — peace on earth. That wartime priest decades later became Pope John XXIII. In 1963 he published his great encyclical on peace, "Pacem in Terris."

On this anniversary we should remember with pride and gratitude those two great churchmen, who tried to bring Christ's compassion and peace to the world. Our pope today speaks also as they did, pleading for the end of hate and killing among nations.

Pope Benedict argued that if a peace settlement was not built on Christian principles of justice and, above all, charity, latent hostilities between peoples would rise again and there could be no real reconciliation and therefore no lasting peace. His words have been, sadly, prophetic.

# Stewardship Awareness Sunday

## Guest Column

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

On Sunday, November 9th, we celebrate our fifteenth annual Stewardship Awareness Sunday.

Personally, it provides an opportunity for me to reflect on my own gratitude to God for his abundant blessings in my life. I am always humbled by the generosity of God, who has given us everything-even His only Son. I am in awe when I consider every breath that I breathe, every drop of water that I drink, every faith-filled moment of my life is a gift from God. I constantly look for ways to give thanks to God through my stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

I encourage you to take some time today to reflect on your own gifts of time, talent and treasure and give prayerful thought as to how you can best respond to God's generosity. Perhaps it might mean making a concerted effort to improve your prayer life, giving God the first fruits of your time. It could involve taking an inventory of your talents and finding ways to use those talents in service to God through your parish, the diocese or your community. It may be a time to take another step in giving a proportionate amount of your financial resources to support your parish, the diocese or other charities.

We all need to ask ourselves what kind of stewards we are of the Catholic faith that we cherish and of the natural resources God has provided the world in which we live.

I am aware that many of you have already completed your annual parish stewardship renewal. Others will be making commitments of time, talent and treasure on Stewardship Awareness Sunday or later in the spring of the year. Whether you make a formal pledge in your parish or a simple private renewal, I encourage you to give proportionately of the first fruits of God's many gifts. Jesus assures us that the good and faithful steward will "share in the master's joy" (Matt 25:21).

Through Baptism we are called to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We must make a conscious choice to follow His way-a way of life that embraces stewardship.

# Our Lady of Grace serves as spiritual dwelling for Triad Catholics

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, established in 1952, is now home to over 2,300 registered families.

**Our Lady of Grace Church**
2205 West Market Street
Greensboro, N.C. 27403

Vicariate: Greensboro
Pastor: Father Francis O'Rourke
Parochial Vicar: Reverend Luis S. Osorio
Deacons: Reverend Mr. Timothy Rohan; Reverend Mr. Paul Teich
Number of families: 2,353

Father Francis O'Rourke

GREENSBORO — In January 1952, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh (which encompassed all of North Carolina at the time) established Our Lady of Grace Church as a division of St. Benedict Church, the mother parish of Greensboro.

Construction funding came from Julian Price, a Baptist, whose wife, Ethel, a convert to Catholicism, died in 1944. Price donated $400,000 for the project, but died in 1946 before building of the 500-seat church began. World War II and rising building costs delayed construction, but the Prices' children gave an additional $300,000 to ensure the memorial church would be built.

Construction finally began in the spring of 1950. Modeled after the Church of Our Lady of Refuge in Brooklyn, N.Y., Our Lady of Grace hosted its first Mass in July 1952 and was dedicated by the late Archbishop Amleto Cocognani (then-apostolic delegate to the United States) in September of that year. Msgr. Arthur Freeman was appointed as pastor.

The parish quickly established a school, dedicated by Bishop Waters in November 1953. Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Scranton, Pa., arrived in August to staff the school for the next 26 years. The school opened in 1954 to 175 students in kindergarten through eighth-grade.

Additions and renovations to the church property were made during the following years. The current rectory was purchased in 1954, and the convent in which the sisters lived was expanded in 1963. The convent, which originally served as rectory, was also furnished with a chapel at that time.

Then-Msgr. Michael J. Begley, the fifth pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, was installed as the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972. Father Francis Smith, who had served as Msgr. Freeman's assistant, returned as pastor.

In 1973, a nearby house was purchased for parish meetings and social activities. The structure, named St. Agnes House, was sold in 1982.

Bishop Begley dedicated the new parish activity center Nov. 14, 1976. The three-story center houses a gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria, six classrooms, school library and church and school administrative offices.

In 1977, the parish celebrated the church's 25th anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McKinley Bryan — the latter of whom is the daughter of Julian and Ethel Price — donated money for the 2,226-pipe "jubilee organ." It took more than a year to design the organ and build a gallery for it over the front entrance of the church.

The parish school celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1978 by burying a time capsule containing national and international events from 1953 to 1978. A growing student body led to further expansion of the school, which now teaches over 400 students.

In summer 1988, the Marians of the Immaculate Conception were appointed by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue to pastor Our Lady of Grace Church. The Marians remained until February 2000, when diocesan priests resumed pastoral leadership.

In 1995, parish financial support funded a church renovation, including painting the interior, refinishing pews and installing new carpeting. Stained glass windows in the vestibule depicting the Assumption and the Immaculate Conception were installed, and a Divine Mercy chapel was added to the sanctuary.

A Respect Life Garden was blessed Jan. 19, 1999 by then-Bishop William G. Curlin. In June 2001, Father Francis O'Rourke and Father Luis Osorio were appointed as pastor and parochial vicar, respectively.

Parish growth has been steady. In 1952, the congregation comprised 300 families; by 1982, 775 households made up the church community. In the mid-1990s, more than 1,700 families called themselves Our Lady of Grace parishioners.

Striving to be a welcoming community, the parish has evolved into one reflecting a cultural diversity that includes many from Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia and an ever-increasing number of Hispanics from Mexico and Central and South America. In 2001, Our Lady of Grace Church began a weekly Mass celebrated in Spanish.

More than 500 people gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the church Oct. 12, 2003. Thirteen priests, including former pastors of Our Lady of Grace Church, concelebrated the Mass with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta.

Our Lady of Grace is more than a loving memorial to Ethel Price. From its beginnings a half-century ago to the present, it has also served as a spiritual dwelling for the ever-growing numbers of Catholics who call the Triad region of North Carolina home.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NOVEMBER 14, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 8

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**Parish Profile:** *St. Leo the Great Church*

| Page 16

TO FEED THE HUNGRY

## Catholic Social Services Food Pantry in need of restocking

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Every year, more than 1,200 people in western North Carolina turn to the Catholic Social Services (CSS) Food Pantry to help feed their families. More than 2,500 bags of non-perishable food were donated to the Food Pantry in 2002.

However, with an increasing population and declining economy, 2,500 bags of food will not feed the hungry of western North Carolina in 2003, said Geri King, director of the Charlotte Regional Office of CSS.

In the past two years, CSS has noticed a significant increase in the number of first-time Food Pantry clients. King said this is a commentary on the state of the economy and the effects of Sept. 11. Even though the economy is improving, there are still many families in need of assistance until economic progress affects them in a positive manner.

"The Food Pantry used to be so full we could send our overstock to the Metrolina Food Bank," said Barbara Grisinger, a social worker for the Charlotte Regional Office. Now, the pantry is barely stocked to meet the needs of its own clients.

There is always an increased need in the colder winter months, King said.

"It's very hard on the staff when there is nothing to give out to a needy family," she said. "We are grateful for the sources that have been with us for years, but we need more people to respond."

See PANTRY, page 4

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Barbara Grisinger, a social worker for the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services, examines the inventory of the Food Pantry. Food Pantries throughout the Diocese of Charlotte are experiencing shortfalls in their stock as donations fail to meet steadily increasing requests for food.

A HELPING HAND

## Breaking poverty's cycle through CCHD

BY TERRI JARINA
SPECIAL TO *THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD*

CHARLOTTE — P.T. Barnum said "money is a terrible master but an excellent servant."

Experts tell us the economy is on the rebound, yet unemployment figures and our own observations present a conflicting message. As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, we are bombarded with marketing that lures us with false hopes that we will find happiness in materialism and excessive consumerism.

Throughout the year, our Catholic faith challenges us to be the master of our money when we respond to the needs of others in our families, in our communities, in our nation, and in our world.

In his speech at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia in October, Rev. Robert J. Vitillo, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), stated the U.S. Census Bureau had announced in September that the number of people living in poverty in our country increased by 1.4 million over the past year. Father Vitillo also contrasted quotes on poverty by Washington's political "wonks" with a poignant statement by Pope John Paul II.

According to the Washington sources, the Census Bureau statistics were a "fairly predictable product of the slowing economy" and the "results of the surveys have been

See POVERTY, page 12

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Seventeen priests joined more than 250 parishioners in celebrating the 75th anniversary of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Nov. 10, the feast day of St. Leo.

A 'MONUMENT TO GOD'

## St. Leo the Great Church celebrates 75th anniversary

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — More than 250 parishioners gathered with nearly two dozen religious to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Saint Leo the Great Church Nov. 10, the feast day of St. Leo.

Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey celebrated the Mass, concelebrated by 17 priests including former St. Leo the Great pastors Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, Msgr. Joseph Showfety and Father James Solari.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis was unable to attend the celebra-

See ANNIVERSARY, page 6

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**'Fire in the Mountains'**
*Exploring enthusiasm, discipleship*
| Page 5

**'Circles of Love'**
*Celebrating World Community Day*
| Page 7

**Christian initiation**
*Teaching catechists to echo God's word*
| Page 8

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SIGNING FOR LIFE

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Members of Congress surround President Bush as he signs the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act into law Nov. 5 at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington. The bill prohibits the partial delivery of a fetus "for the purpose of performing an overt act that t he person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus."

## Signing of partial-birth abortion ban called 'vital step' for nation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what a U.S. archbishop called "a vital step in the right direction for our nation," President George W. Bush signed the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act into law Nov. 5 at a Washington ceremony attended by many Catholic leaders.

"The facts about partial-birth abortion are troubling and tragic, and no lawyer's brief can make them seem otherwise," Bush said. "By acting to prevent this practice, the elected branches of our government have affirmed a basic standard of humanity, the duty of the strong to protect the weak."

The president said a partial-birth abortion "involves the partial delivery of a live boy or girl, and a sudden, violent end to that life. Our nation owes its children a different and better welcome."

The partial-birth abortion procedure, used only in the second half of pregnancy, is defined in the law as the partial delivery of a fetus from the womb "for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living fetus" and then performing that act, killing the partially delivered fetus instead of delivering it alive.

"We commend the president for his action, and we pledge our prayers and support to see that this brutal procedure remains prohibited by law and intolerable to the American people," the Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Pro-life members of Congress have worked since 1993 to ban the procedure. Bills barring partial-birth abortions were twice vetoed by President Bill Clinton on grounds that there was no health exception in them. A health provision would have rendered the legislation virtually meaningless because of the broad definition of maternal health given by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 in its decisions to legalize abortion.

"For years, a terrible form of violence has been directed against children who are inches from birth, while the law looked the other way," Bush said. "Today, at last, the American people and our government have confronted the violence and come to the defense of the innocent child."

He also pledged to "vigorously defend this law against any who would try to overturn it in the courts."

Less than an hour after the president signed the legislation, U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf of Lincoln, Neb., issued an injunction against implementation of the law. The ruling applied only to Dr. LeRoy Carhart of Bellevue, Neb., and three other abortion providers who had filed suit against the law.

## Nuncio says market economy helps nations but can't solve all problems

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Relying on a market-based economy will benefit developing countries, but "markets by themselves do not solve every social problem," the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations said in New York Nov. 5.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore said that governments, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, may need to play an important role in the economy to deal with problems such as poverty and unemployment.

"The relationship between government and markets should be viewed as complementary rather than competitive or even antagonistic," he said.

Addressing a committee of the U.N. General Assembly reviewing trade and development issues, the nuncio said "removal of artificial restraints" could produce economic growth, but might also bring "social distortions."

Those distortions, particularly in less developed countries, may "require government measures" to alleviate the suffering of the poor, and "international trade rules should not hinder the ability of governments to adopt such measures," he said.

Archbishop Migliore also spoke of the "distorting" effects of agricultural tariffs and export subsidies maintained by rich countries, and the failure to get these reduced at the September meeting of the World Trade Organization in Cancun, Mexico.

He expressed hope that "the tense situation" at the Cancun meeting would not "jeopardize the possibility of building ... a strong and more multilateral system in the areas of trade and development."

"What is needed is a greater degree of international solidarity among all the nations of the world and abandonment of those group interests that can promote their own selfish objectives while disregarding the common good," he said.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *The Celebrant Singers and Orchestra* will perform a community-wide Christian concert Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. The Celebrant Singers are an internationally known Christian music ministry performing concerts of praise and worship for more than 20 years. The concert is free and open to the public. For details, contact Nancy at (828) 254-5193.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Catholic School, 3028 Providence Rd., will hold a *Meet and Greet Coffee for Prospective Parents* at the school cafeteria Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Current students, parents and faculty will be available to share information about the school and answer any questions. If you have questions, please call (704) 366-2409.

CHARLOTTE — Do you want to tone down the commercialism of Christmas? Are you wondering how to approach Christmas in a more prayerful way? St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will host an *Advent Reflection* Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Father David Valtierra of the Oratory will present the reflection. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The speaker will be Father Mark Lawlor. For more information, please call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — Holidays can create feelings of dread and anxiety in those who are bereaved. Creating new rituals and new traditions that pay tribute to the memory of the deceased is one way to survive and even embrace the holidays when a loved one has died. Janice Olive of Hospice of Charlotte will offer suggestions for dealing with *"Grief and Loss During the Holidays"* on Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. If you have questions, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — *C.A.F.E. (Catholic Adult Faith Exploring)*, a web-based learning experience with a monthly roundtable discussion of a current issue in the Catholic Church, will meet Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Matthew New Life Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Deacon Jeff Evers will facilitate a discussion on "Orthodoxy in the Church." For more information connect to http://home.catholicweb.com/stmatthewff/ and click on "Links," look for CAFE and click on the web-based article to read for this month's discussion.

CHARLOTTE — A *Natural Family Planning class* will be taught Nov. 20, 7:30-9 p.m. in the Life Center, room 102, at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Com-

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope reiterates warning against use of embryonic stem cells

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Stem-cell research opens new hope for curing diseases, but such cells must never come from human embryonic tissue, Pope John Paul II told scientists at the Vatican.

"Any treatment which claims to save human lives, yet is based upon the destruction of human life in its embryonic state, is logically and morally contradictory, as is any production of human embryos for the direct or indirect purpose of experimentation or eventual destruction," the pope said Nov. 10.

He made the remarks to members of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which was meeting to discuss "stem-cell technology and other innovative therapies." The pope pronounced a small part of his text and let his aide say the rest.

The church's teaching that all human life — even embryonic — must be respected and protected has placed it in opposition to researchers who use stem cells from human embryos, which are then destroyed.

The pope acknowledged the potential of stem cells in the treatment and possible cure of "ills affecting many people." But he said it was clear that "stem cells for purposes of experimentation or treatment cannot come from human embryo tissue."

He noted that instead he has encouraged stem-cell research on adult human tissue or tissue superfluous to normal fetal development.

mons Pkwy. The method being taught is the Billings' Ovulation Method. For more information, call Judy Townsend at (704) 846-6983. Please reserve a space before Nov 18.

CHARLOTTE — New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oaks Ln., invites you to join in celebrating *Christ the King* Nov. 23 as our patronal feast with festive Mass at 10:30 a.m. Young professionals and new friends are especially welcome. The monastery will also offer sung vespers and Benediction at 5 p.m. For details, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Dennis Teall-Fleming will lead a video presentation on the movement to close the military training *School of Americas* and a discussion on how to get involved in this movement. Many of the school's graduates have returned to their countries to take part in Latin America's worst human rights atrocities. The event will take place Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. For details, e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com or call (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GASTONIA — Educator Dr. Allen Queen will present *"Transitions of Children and Youth"* at 6:45 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Parish Center of St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln. The presentation will follow the Wednesday evening dinner that begins at 6 p.m. Activities for children ages 4-12 will be provided in the Rose Room. For details call the church office at (704) 867-6212

BELMONT — The Burke family invites friend to attend a *memorial Mass* for the repose of the souls of Sister Mary Thomas Burke and her brother, Msgr. Thomas P. Burke, to be celebrated on the occasion of the anniversary of their deaths Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Dr.

GASTONIA — St Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., will host a *free Thanksgiving celebration* Nov. 27, 12-3 p.m. in the parish center. Family and friends are all invited for food and fellowship. Transportation is available for those needing rides. Meal will be delivered to those who cannot attend. Call the church office at (704) 867-6212 for details.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY —*Sacred Heart School,* is having its first reunion of alumni, faculty, parishioners and friends Nov. 29 at the Salisbury Civic Center, 6-9 p.m. The program for the evening will honor the past; rejoice in the present and present plans for our future. For details, call Sacred Heart School at (704) 633-2841.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat* is a weekend of hope and healing for anyone who has personally experienced an abortion or anyone who have been involved in the decision to choose abortion: husband, boyfriend, sister, parent. The retreat will take place Nov. 21-23. For details, call Martha Shuping at (336) 659-1342 or the diocesan Respect Life office at (704) 370-3229.

CLEMMONS — The *OLM Little Rock Scripture Study for Women* offers a bible study Monday evenings 7:30-9 p.m. in the library of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Classes meet until Nov. 24. For more information, call Anne Gannon at (336) 727-4591.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican aims to create 'sacred vernacular language,' official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's new rules and structures for translating the prayers and readings used at Mass aim to create a "sacred vernacular language" that is easy to understand but more formal than everyday speech, a Vatican official said.

The Vatican "contests the affirmations that do the rounds in certain circles to the effect that the language of the liturgy should slavishly reflect the development of local speech," said Father Anthony Ward.

Father Ward, an official at the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, wrote about Vatican rules on liturgical translations in the congregation's bulletin, Notitiae.

Father Ward's article looked specifically at the congregation's 2001 instruction "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy").

Some English-speakers saw the document as a sharp criticism of the approach their bishops had taken toward translations, as an attempt by the congregation to take control over liturgical translations from bishops' conferences and as a move to impose a style of English that does not reflect the way most people speak the language.

However, Father Ward wrote, "The document takes a fundamentally positive tack, planning for the future rather than expending any great energy on criticizing the past."

Father Ward also disputed the charge that the congregation improperly had taken upon itself the bishops' authority to oversee translations.

The 2001 document, he said, "aims at promoting a collaborative or a collegial model," ensuring that bishops, and not the translators they hire, are directly responsible for the translations.

When a translation is being prepared for use by more than one bishops' conference — as is common with Spanish, English and German texts — it is "necessary that some guaranteeing authority enter the scene, and the only candidate is the Holy See," he said.

The Vatican, Father Ward wrote, is the proper authority for establishing translation commissions such as the International Commission on English in the Liturgy and for approving the commission statutes.

In addition, he said, the Vatican must be involved in translations into the world's major languages because those translations are used by the Vatican and its embassies around the world.

# To heal a flock

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, addresses the nation's bishops at the opening session of their general meeting in Washington Nov. 10. Bishops, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, were scheduled for three days of meetings to discuss such issues as food, farmworkers and clergy sex abuse. Bishop Gregory urged healing and reconciliation be part of efforts to address the clergy sex abuse crisis.

# Fighting hunger pains

PANTRY, *from page 1*

"Everybody thinks about giving during the holidays, but we need people to continue donating food well into the new year," said Becky DuBois, a social worker for the Piedmont-Triad Office of CSS. "Give now, but keep giving in February and March."

The Food Pantry serves people who are homeless, unemployed and the working poor. Many of the working poor must spend their meager earnings on rent, utilities and medicine, leaving little or no money for food, King said.

Many Food Pantry clients are not eligible for food stamps or donations from relief organizations such as Loaves and Fishes. Also, the rations eligible clients do receive from these agencies may not be enough to sustain their families until they are next eligible to receive food, according to King.

The requirements are less strenuous for the Food Pantry than other organizations. However, clients are encouraged to apply elsewhere before coming to the CSS Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry receives its donations through a variety of sources, King said. Several Charlotte churches regularly collect food from parishioners. The CSS office also welcomes donations from individuals.

St. Gabriel School sponsors an outreach ministry once a month and has chosen the Food Pantry for November. Each student and faculty member who brings in a can of food is allowed to "dress down" for the day. Sharon Broxterman, principal, said she expects all 530 students and 60 staff members to participate. While many students bring in one can, others will donate a whole bag of food, she said.

"It's a non-exclusionary way for all the children to minister to the poor," Broxterman said. "Everyone has one item in their pantry they can donate."

King said the most valued donations the pantry receives are cash and store vouchers. The vouchers, which cannot be used to purchase alcohol or tobacco products, allow clients to buy perishable and specialty foods, and non-food items, including medicine.

"We honor their dignity by letting them buy their own food," she said.

According to Grisinger, a number of their clients are seniors or have special dietary needs due to high blood, diabetes or other conditions. For this reason, cash and voucher donation are also valued.

The work of the Food Pantry is a way of living out the gospel message of feeding the poor, said King. It also carries out the mission of CSS, which reads, "Catholic Social Services is a Christian ministry of love, service and justice dedicated to supporting and empowering individuals, families and faith communities as they meet the challenges of life and address the conditions of society."

"In a ministry like this, you truly see the hand of God," King said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

### WANT TO HELP?

*The CSS Food Pantry will gladly receive donations at the following locations:*

Charlotte Regional Office
1123 S. Church St., Charlotte
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Piedmont-Triad Office
627 W. Second St., Winston-Salem
9 a.m.-5 p.m., except 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Western North Carolina

Lilies of the Field Food Pantry
35 Orange St., Asheville
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Designate for "Lilies of the Field"

*The Food Pantries are in need of the following items:*

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- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Unsweetened fruit
- Canned soup
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned tuna and tuna helper
- Canned meat
- Macaroni & cheese dinners
- Dried beans
- Oatmeal
- Grits
- Dry cereals
- Powdered and canned milk
- Boxed baking mixes that only need water
- Ensure nutritional supplement

Household cleaning supplies
Toiletries
Baby care needs
Paper products — toilet paper, paper towels
Laundry detergent

*Lilies of the Field will also accept:*

- Diabetic sweeteners (Splenda)
- Meat
- Pet Food
- Medicines — vitamins and Tylenol

# Experts at Vatican conference split on genetically modified foods

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although affirming principles such as the goodness of creation, human responsibility and the need for solidarity, two priests looking at the morality of using genetically modified foods drew different conclusions.

U.S. Jesuit Father Roland Lesseps, an agricultural scientist working in Zambia for the past 15 years, and Legionaries of Christ Father Gonzalo Miranda, dean of the bioethics faculty at Rome's Regina Apostolorum Athenaeum, spoke Nov. 11 at a Vatican conference.

Father Miranda said if, as most scientists claim, the risks of genetically modified foods for human health and the environment are no greater than with traditional foods, then it could be considered morally obligatory to promote their use to feed the poor.

Father Lesseps said Catholic moral teaching requires caution when intervening in God's creation, leading to a rejection of genetically modified crops until their long-term impact on human health, on the environment and on the poor is evaluated.

Father Miranda was asked if he came upon a starving person and the only food he had might be poisonous would he give it to the starving person.

"No," the priest answered. "But we are not in that position. We know that competent authorities have said genetically modified foods are safe."

Father Lesseps objected to attempts to focus on the morality of genetically modified foods strictly from the point of view of their potential for reducing world hunger.

"There are better ways to address the problem of world hunger, and debating genetically modified organisms is distracting us from the real debate about poverty," he told reporters.

"It is clear that hunger is not primarily a matter of scarce food resources, but of the economic structures of distribution and accessibility and the social structures of traditional practices and education," he said.

"There are other and more suitable ways to feed a hungry world than adopting genetic engineering of crops," the priest said. They include increasing general health and education, improving food distribution and battling trade barriers that keep products from poor countries out of the international marketplace.

Father Lesseps said his position stresses "the respect due to all of God's creation, a respect that recognizes the sacredness and inherent value of the cosmic order."

The need to exercise caution in manipulating creation, he said, is especially important when dealing with "something as basic to human life as food."

Father Miranda said it is incorrect to present as a Catholic position the idea that any action that alters nature is ethically wrong.

He said human beings are just one part of creation, but "man was created as a being superior to all other visible creatures."

Human beings were created "with the ability to understand nature and the laws of nature and to intervene to modify living and nonliving beings in order to defend themselves from danger or to gain a determined advantage," he said.

Father Miranda agreed that human beings do not have a right to damage or destroy nature or to risk human health.

But if genetic engineering does not harm nature or human health, then the use of the technology is an opportunity for people "to cooperate, using the power of their intelligence, in the work of creation begun on the first day of the world," the priest said.

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# Conference explores enthusiasm, discipleship

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE JUNALUSKA — "Amen" and "Right on" rang out during Father Francis Cancro's presentation on "Creating Enthusiasm for the Faith."

Father Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, was a speaker at the 10th annual Fire in the Mountains (FITM) Nov. 8. Some 300 people attended the event, sponsored by the Asheville and Smoky Mountains vicariates.

Father Cancro said enthusiasm for the faith comes from such aspects as belonging to a faith community, zeal for the Eucharist, continuing education including learning Catholic history, and putting faith into practice in the world.

"We are called to share our faith," he said. "Faith is not something we do alone. In the Tridentine liturgy, you could come to Mass with your missal and your rosary and sort of be alone. The revisions of Vatican II changed that, taking us back to the golden age (of more communal celebration)."

"You're not doing this salvation thing alone. You're connected through those baptismal waters," Father Cancro said. "We are in union with God and with each other through Communion. It isn't just about me and Jesus, it's about all of us together."

Eucharist is the best expression of Catholic community, he added; it's "about people coming together with unique roles, not for position, but to celebrate unity. The determining factor in who receives Eucharist in a Catholic church is not belief that it's the body and blood of Christ. Eucharist is a sign of denominational unity, as Catholic believers gathered around the table."

"Eucharist pervades everything we do when we leave the table," said Father Cancro. "The most important words of the Mass are the last words, 'Go in peace.' They allow us to be broken and shared with one another."

Father Vincent Finnerty, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte, spoke in Spanish about "Being a Disciple of Christ."

"Jesus spent a good amount of time forming those 12 men," said Father Finnerty. "That's the main thing that he did in his life. We'll be looking at how we're all called to be disciples."

"All the people were so excited, because we're learning how we can be disciples of Christ," said Jaime Sevilla, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Boone Vicariate. "We must minister according to who we are," he added.

Sevilla learned that one must be a listener (a disciple) and a doer (an apostle).

"The people are now learning to be disciples," he said. "After they learn, they can be apostles. Many times, we are apostles but not disciples. To be a disciple is to be with Jesus and to listen to him, and then you can be an apostle. Many people are good disciples, but that is not enough."

Echoing what Father Finnerty said in his presentation to the Hispanic attendees, Father Cancro said, "The primary challenge for enthusiasm is to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The first disciples were disciples in their own context. We are called to discipleship in the same way."

That means being able to "engage the world to help it understand the Gospel," he said, and using things like modern technology to help evangelize.

"Vatican I (1869-1870) saw the church as a perfect reality in and of itself," Father Cancro said. "That isn't the reality of most of our history. Our Catholic worldview is that all is grace. For us, everything in the world is grace unfolding. A Catholic stance should not make us run away from the world. We are challenged to embrace the world and use it for the Gospel. Our perspective celebrates God's giftedness in all creation, even the most broken parts."

"How do you fit 'all is grace' into situations like adultery and pedophilia?" an audience member asked.

"All is grace, but humans screw it up," Father Cancro replied. "[Sin] started with us. It's the choices we make."

Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation, said the event's turnout "shows how people here treasure their faith."

"People come to this who are not just catechists but who are interested in exploring their faith," he said. "The reason it's important to come to this event is that our faith has always been given to people. ... This doesn't preclude individual conversion, but faith is communal, and for Fire in the Mountains people gather from many communities."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

'FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS'

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Linda Elrod (at the piano) and other musicians from St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville and the Boone Vicariate lead the singing during the opening prayer service at Fire in the Mountains Nov. 8.

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# Painting history at St. Michael

Courtesy By Photo by Mike Ford

*GASTONIA — St. Michael School students holding a painting of St. Katharine Drexel stand with Olga and Ivan Horvat, refugees from Croatia, and Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor of St. Michael Church. Ivan made the painting and donated it to the school during an all-student Mass Oct. 30.*

*"Its significance is St. Katharine Drexel helped fund the beginning of our parish, primarily for African Americans to be included in worship and education at that time," said Principal Joseph Puceta.*

*Ivan Horvat also painted a rendition of the Last Supper, which took him over a year to complete, and donated it to the church.*

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# 75th anniversary

ANNIVERSARY, *from page 1*

tion due to the annual bishops' conference in Washington, but sent a video greeting that was played during the dinner following the Mass. Bishop Jugis spoke of his two assignments at St. Leo the Great, and shared fond memories of being warmly welcomed by both pastors and parishioners.

"I'm thinking of you this evening and remembering you in my prayers," said the bishop.

During the celebration, Father Paul Gary, a former parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great, told the history of the church, for which Bishop William Hafey of Raleigh placed the cornerstone in January 1928. Many parishioners shared their memories of the church during the dinner that followed.

"I received all the sacraments but Holy Orders here at St. Leo," said Mary Lib Daye, one of the founding parishioners who was baptized in the original church structure, a small frame church purchased in 1891, and was 11 years old when the present church was dedicated.

Barry Schline, a parishioner for 22 years, served on the building and finance committees during the construction of the church's current activity center in the 1980s.

"The major thing that I think this parish center has helped to bring is a wonderful sense of community to the church," said Schline. "It offers a place for parish-wide activities to be held such as this event tonight."

The celebration also included the unveiling of a special 75-year parish booklet detailing significant milestones of Saint Leo the Great Church and of those who helped achieve them, including clergy members and the Sisters of Saint Joseph who were instrumental in running the parish school founded in 1953.

St. Leo the Great School's 50th anniversary and the Sister's 60 years of service in the area were recognized at the celebration. Sister Dennis Eileen, eucharistic minister at Baptist Hospital and former teacher at Bishop McGuinness High School; Sister Emma Yondura, first-grade teacher at Saint Leo the Great School; and Sister John Christopher, a Bishop McGuinness teacher, attended the event.

Two Sisters who once worked at St. Leo the Great also returned for the celebration — Sister Jeanne Morgan, former director of faith formation, and Sister Joan Pearson, former director of Hispanic ministry and St. Leo the Great School teacher.

"I am literally a daughter of the parish," said Sister Joan. "I went all through grade school here. The Knights of Columbus, the St. Theresa's Guild and the Sisters all prayed for me and got me ready for the convent. The lifeblood of this parish is in my veins."

A history committee, with more than 20 people to archive the history booklet, worked on the Nov. 10 anniversary celebration and two other anniversary events for over a year.

"This was a lot of hard work with many hours, particularly in the formation of the booklet," said Joyce Anderson, co-chair of the history committee. "There are so many people who contributed to this and we couldn't have done it without any one of them."

St. Leo School Librarian Christine Hurley and the audio-visual club, comprised of eighth-graders, worked for six months — including summer vacation — to create a video archive for the celebration.

"I learned a lot about video editing right along with the kids," said Hurley. "The students were so enthusiastic, and they worked very hard."

Approximately 20 older parishioners as well as Msgr. Showfety were interviewed on camera and six hours of tape was edited down into a 45-minute video for the school.

"Having the opportunity to meet some of the elderly parishioners meant a lot to me," said Hurley. "Many of them are also those who have been so generous over the years."

"All of us who are privileged to worship here should be appreciative of all those who have supported the church all these years," said Joseph Williams, a longtime parishioner.

Father Thomas Kessler, pastor of St. Leo the Great, was grateful to the parishioners and religious who helped celebrate the church's anniversary.

"We are certainly celebrating a certainly joyous occasion — the 75th anniversary of our beautiful monument to God, the church we have here in Winston-Salem," he said.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more on the history of St. Leo the Great Church, see the Parish Profile on page 16.

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'CIRCLES OF LOVE'

# Many denominations celebrate World Community Day

*Participants promise commitment to humanity's future*

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Representatives from 20 Hickory-area churches formed a circle around St. Aloysius Church's sanctuary and prayed for forgiveness for the times they had excluded others from their own circles with their words, deeds or attitudes.

"Is not all that is unjust caused by one person overlooking the needs of another?" asked Rev. Christie Page, associate pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Hickory.

Rev. Page was the guest speaker for the annual World Community Day service at St. Aloysius Church Nov. 7. The theme of this year's service, "Circles of Love," came from the writings and songs of Medical Mission Sister Miriam Therese Winter, a professor of liturgy, worship and spirituality studies at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

"We cannot love on our own. We can only love through God," said Rev. Page. "Giving up the rights to ourselves is love. Love is praying that God will bless the person who hurt you."

"Love is turning the other cheek when someone strikes you, not dropping a bomb on them so they won't do it again," she said.

The first World Community Day was celebrated at another time of war 60 years ago during World War II. The idea came from a meeting of the United Council of Church Women as a way of showing unity across their various churches to promote peace.

Women across the country were asked to participate, and positive responses came from 90,000 women representing 46 states. The women voted to encourage the United States to join and take full responsibility in a world organization, and to affirm their willingness to continue wartime rationing so that the needs of victims of the war overseas could be met.

The women and men participating in this year's service in Hickory promised their commitment to the future of humanity by reading together a pledge from a manifesto developed by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in the year 2000. In it, they promised to respect life, reject violence, share their time and resources, listen with open minds, preserve natural resources and work for solidarity.

Youth from the participating churches made peace ribbons to decorate St. Aloysius' pews. Dennis Jones of Temple Beth Shalom sounded the shofar, a ram's horn trumpet used by the ancient Hebrews during high religious observances, at the beginning and the end of the service. Members of the St. Aloysius contemporary choir provided the music.

"We pray today for the peace that we all hope will come about," said Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church. "May we respect the lives of all people."

PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Women leading the World Community Day Service at St. Aloysius Nov. 7 demonstrate the farther they move away from the center of the circle (representing God), the more remote they become from one another.

## Scouting trek scholarships

CHARLOTTE — The Diocesan Committee on Scouting is sponsoring scholarships for up to two Scouts from the Diocese of Charlotte to participate in the St. George Trek at Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico July 4-19, 2004.

Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 17; active, registered members of a Boy Scout troop of Venture crew; and active, registered members of a Catholic church in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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# Christian initiation of adults

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Catechists from the Diocese of Charlotte practice a method of "Echoing God's Word" at an institute presented by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate Oct. 16-18. The three-day institute is designed to teach catechists how to use their own encounters with God's word to enhance the spiritual lives of RCIA candidates and catechumens.

## *Teaching catechists to echo God's word*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

BROWNS SUMMIT — Eighty catechists from the eastern United States gathered at the Episcopal Summit Conference Center Oct. 16-18 to experience "Echoing God's Word," an institute sponsored by The North American Forum on the Catechumenate (Forum).

"Echoing God's Word" is one of the Forum's Initiating Community Institutes, which trains catechists to learn and rehearse a method and the related skills to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word, and to prepare catechists and homilists to help people move beyond a fundamentalist and privatized approach to both Scripture and Catholic teaching.

"This weekend is to help catechists, especially during the catechetical process, to learn to attend to the word," said Sister of Charity Donna Steffen, one of the institute's presenters and a member of the Forum.

According to Sister Donna, the method primarily consists of listening to the word and reflecting on 'what struck me?' about the passage.

Unlike many institutes that focus on the practical applications of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for catechumens and candidates, "Echoing God's Word" concentrates on teaching catechists how to better reflect on the Gospel, thereby passing their enhanced understanding on to the catechumens and candidates of their parish.

"The purpose of the workshop is to reinforce our encounters with God's word," said Father Tim Fitzgerald, director of adult faith formation and lay ministry for the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa and institute presenter. "(These encounters) are a cornerstone of God's church and the initiation of adults into God's faith."

"The value of the institute is twofold: it helps ministers of the Diocese of Charlotte to understand how to approach Scripture in preparation of a catechetical session and it helps us implement that knowledge in our own lives," said Linda Licata, chair of the Diocesan RCIA Commission and Forum team member.

"God's word has the power to change us," Licata said.. "Reliable resources help us to be changed and formed by God's word."

The method helps adult believers to realize they can read Scripture from the perspective of their own lives, Father Fitzgerald said. The liturgical life of a parish is the foundation of the parish, he said.

"The models presented in the institute help catechists implement the ideas in their parishes," said Pat Millar, member Diocesan RCIA Commission. "We are able to walk the faith journey with the inquirers and show them what this journey is all about — and that it is based on Scripture and liturgy."

According to its Web site, the Forum is an international network of people dedicated to the full implementation in parishes of the RCIA and its implications for reconciliation. Members of Forum share ideas and offer support for initiation and reconciliation as well as collaborate with other ministries and organizations whose mission includes elements of the initiation process such as evangelization, conversion and discipleship.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

# College mourns death of former president

## *Father John Bradley remembered for wisdom, faith*

BELMONT — The namesake of Belmont Abbey College's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, Father John Paul Bradley, died peacefully Nov. 8.

The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Nov. 13 by Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey, monks of Belmont Abbey, priests of the Diocese of Charlotte and Father Bradley's friends. Father Bradley was buried in the Abbey Cemetery following the service.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland on June 18, 1919, Father Bradley entered the Roman Catholic priesthood at age 25. After serving as a parish priest, Father Bradley was awarded a scholarship to Oxford University, where he completed one of the university's most prestigious degrees, Literae Humaniores.

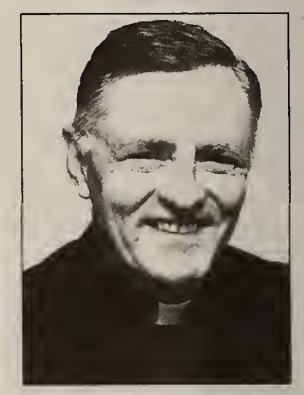
He also pursued a position on the university's soccer team, which would eventually turn into a lifelong love of the sport. After extensive studies in literature, philosophy, education and the classics in his native Scotland and at Oxford, Father Bradley came to the United States to work as an assistant to Archbishop Fulton Sheen in New York City.

In 1952, Father Bradley came to Belmont Abbey College, where he served in a variety of roles from moderator of athletics to head of the department of philosophy. This assignment helped forge a relationship with Belmont Abbey that would continue the rest of his life. During this time he also became editor-in-chief of Good Will Publishers, Inc.

Father Bradley had also served as a senior editor at J.G. Ferguson Publishing Company, a subsidiary of Doubleday.

In 1970, Father Bradley accepted the position of president of the college, a position he held for eight years. After retiring as president, he served as provost of the college from 1978 until 1981, and thereafter served as a member of the board of trustees of the college. At the time of his death, Father Bradley was the chairman emeritus of the board of directors of Good Will Publishers and a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte.

A longtime resident of Charlotte, Father Bradley was known to his many friends and associates as a uniquely warm and engaging man of letters whose wisdom, wit and great faith were at all times put to use in the service of others. Friends say his Scottish charm was exceeded only by his love for truth, his faith and the virtuous life.



Father John Paul Bradley

Father Bradley's work and great deeds have had a lasting impact on the many friends who had become family to him; converts to the Catholic faith; a host of former students; the many business and professional leaders who were drawn to him and Belmont Abbey; a community of scholars who respected his passionate commitment to truth and fellow clergy.

He is survived by his devoted sister, Rose Bogan; by her daughter and son-in-law, Ann Michelle and John Monaco; and their children, Joseph, Rosemary, Catherine, and Gregory.

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# Culture Watch

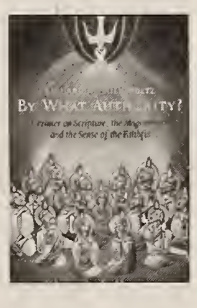
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book looks at church authority sources

REVIEWED BY
BROTHER JEFFREY GROS, FSC
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

School boards and parish councils, bishops' conferences and synods, priests' councils, diocesan assemblies and many new ecclesial lay ministries: All were created as part of the renewal of the Catholic Church after the Second Vatican Council. They were new structures for managing authority in the church.

Now the sexual abuse crisis, Pope John Paul II's offer to discuss the papacy with other Christians, and new scientific advances in areas from sexuality to genetic engineering have sparked new discussions about the source of church authority. There is a pressing need for widespread grounding in Catholic sources of authority.



"By What Authority? A Primer on Scripture, the Magisterium and the Sense of the Faithful," by Richard Gaillardetz. Liturgical Press (Collegeville, Minn., 2003). 155 pp., $14.95.

"By What Authority? A Primer on Scripture, the Magisterium, and the Sense of the Faithful" by Richard Gaillardetz answers this need. It is a brief and readable contribution to the educational challenge of this revolution in leadership.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that there is one source of divine revelation: God's self-disclosure in Jesus Christ, kept alive in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit. This revelation is mediated to us in the church by the tradition embodied in the Scripture and in the ongoing life of the community. The fidelity to this revelation is served by the authority of the magisterium.

Gaillardetz begins with what the Catholic Church believes about Scripture, its inspiration, canon and relationship to tradition. He carefully recounts the history, controversies and the teaching of Vatican II. The second part of the book outlines the nature and purpose of the church's teaching office — the magisterium — and how it is understood today. In a simple but clear fashion the author explains the roles of bishops, the papacy, councils, synods and bishops' conferences, and the difference between dogma and doctrine.

The third section covers the authority of the believing community. The Second Vatican Council, understanding church as a communion, renewed focus on the Holy Spirit's action in all baptized believers. Here Gaillardetz discusses the sense of the faithful and its relationship to the other elements of Christ's authority in the church. He includes a timely chapter on disagreement in the church and the appropriate role of authorities in dealing with them.

The book is designed to be reader-friendly for the informed-but-not-specialized Catholic. It is not overly technical, but provides a useful bibliography at the end of each chapter. Charts and analogies make for both readability and clarity. Each chapter not only presents the official positions but also closes with a list of disputed questions. These resources enrich the usefulness of the volume for the teacher and those in ministry formation processes.

This will be an important volume for teachers, preachers, ecclesial lay ministers — anyone exercising leadership in the Catholic community.

*Brother Gros is associate director in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington.*

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 16, 2003

## *Nov. 16, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle B Readings:***

1) Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
2) Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
3) Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My paternal grandmother has been dead for several years, but I remember in my childhood spending hot summer days at her house, frequently visiting the fig tree by the garage, waiting for the figs to become ripe so I could gather and eat them. Later, as a teenager, I found a recipe for fig jam and put up several jars to enjoy and to give away to friends. Despite the risk of seeds clinging to front teeth, the recipients seemed to love the treat that could not easily be found on store shelves.

The Gospel of Mark uses the maturing fig tree as a metaphor for the watchfulness that is characteristic of a follower of Jesus. At the time of the Gospel's writing, Mark's faith community was dealing with the political and social upheaval of Roman occupation in Palestine, which resulted eventually in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, their center of worship and ancient site of God's visitation. What had been their supreme symbol of religious stability now was reduced to rubble. Jesus is assuring his followers that these events, catastrophic though they would be, would serve as a reminder that God's visitation is nearer to them than ever.

I find myself thinking of the unfolding events of history — both in my personal life and in the world around me — and the gradual change and even deterioration of the structures in my life that had seemed so stable. The perfect vision that I once took for granted must now be aided with reading glasses; my grandmother's house with the fig tree has long been occupied by strangers; my neighborhood parish has experienced three pastors and two building projects since we came here; my eldest daughter's room is empty after her departure for college. These are but a microcosm of the more global political, social, cultural and economic changes reflected in the news each day.

Jesus calls us to watchfulness of the signs around us, but not to the point of panic and despair. Distress is unavoidable in times of uncertainty, but rather than succumb to the distraction and drama of events beyond our control, we must remain fixed on the assurance that "he is near, at the gates." He has "made my destiny secure," and, unlike property, health, finances or even political and religious structures, his "words will not pass away."

***Questions:***

What signs of upheaval or instability in your personal life or in the world around you cause you the most distress? What words of today's Scriptures give you the most hope and assurance?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"I keep the Lord always before me with the Lord at my right, I shall never be shaken" (Psalm 16:8).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16 - NOVEMBER 22

**Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; **Monday (Elizabeth of Hungary),** 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (St. Rose Philippine Duchesne),** 2 Maccabees 6:18-31, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday,** 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday,** 1 Maccabees 2:15-29, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Cecelia),** 1 Maccabees 6:1-13, Luke 20:27-40

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 29

**Sunday (Christ the King),** Daniel 7:13-14, 5 Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday (Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, Martyr and His Companions, Martyrs),** Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday,** Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel 3:57-61, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday,** Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28,Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday, (Thanksgiving Day),** Sirach 50:22-24, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Luke 17:11-19; Friday, Daniel 7:2-14, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday,** Sirach 44:1, 10-15, Mark 10:17-21


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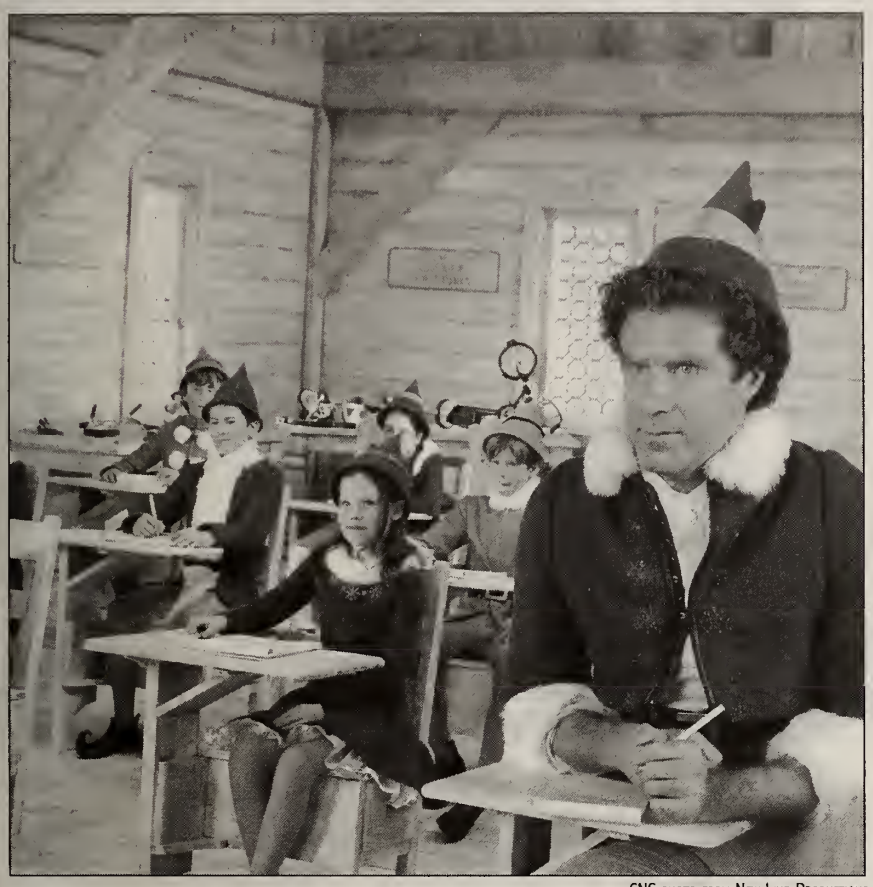
# 'Elf' is big at heart



CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS

Will Ferrell stars in "Elf," a warmhearted yuletide comedy about a foundling (Ferrell) raised by elves in Santa's workshop who travels from the North Pole to New York City in order to reconnect with his long-lost father (James Caan), a workaholic scrooge bereft of Christmas cheer. Full of goofy candy-cane humor, the holiday film imparts a strong family-friendly message, but uses a secular sieve to filter out any religious references about the true meaning of Christmas. Minimal mildly crude language and humor. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

# 'Far Side' a masterful, commanding film

BY DAVID DICERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An intrepid British navy captain must seek and destroy a Napoleonic frigate menacing the waterways of the early 19th century in the lavish historical high-seas adventure "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" (20th Century Fox).

Director Peter Weir is at the helm of a $135 million budget, in order to bring the movie, based on Patrick O'Brian's highly popular maritime novels, to the big screen.

Russell Crowe plays "Lucky" Jack Aubrey, the stalwart but affable captain of the HMS Surprise, whose seafaring exploits fill the pages of O'Brian's swashbuckling series — 20 in all (the film combines elements of the first and 10th books).

Set seven years earlier than the 10th novel — in 1805 rather than 1812 — during the Napoleonic wars, the film opens with an overlay of text explaining, with military economy, the mission facing Aubrey and his crew — hunt down and seize the Archeron, a French man-of-war which represents the evolutionary next step in naval warfare.

Tracking his prey with Ahab-like tenacity, Aubrey must weather titanic squalls, near mutinies and omen-tainted dead calms. Yet, in true heroic fashion, it is the inner storms — the tidal waves of pride, which dwarf the outer swells — that Aubrey must master and command if he is to win the day.

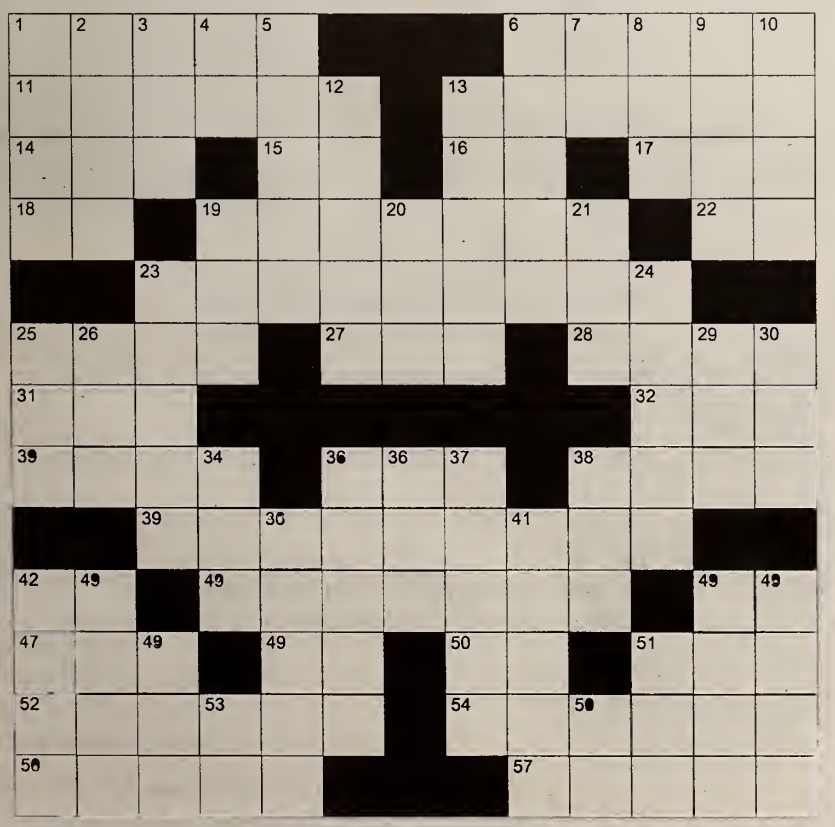
Firing a shot at the bow of would-be Oscar contenders, Weir has achieved a stunning victory on both a large and intimate scale. The film contains the grand spectacle of the original source material, as well as its painstaking attention to detail, proving effective as both a work of historical realism and escapist fare. And while the movie echoes the thrills of such past classics as "Captain Blood" (1935), Aubrey and his mates are endowed with complicated inner lives absent from their silver-screen antecedents.

Following in the swashbuckling footsteps of fellow Aussie Errol Flynn, Crowe is well-cast, exuding a sense of steely determination tempered by blithe humor and genuine affection for his men.

Beneath its epic rigging, "Master and Commander" explores deeper thematic waters, including friendship versus duty and the role of hierarchy in staving off anarchy. While containing several graphic naval battle scenes, the film shows their consequential toll exacted in human life, with Weir's hand maintaining a strong hold on the wheel, steering the narrative ship clear of the morally treacherous reefs of gratuitous violence. On a pleasantly surprising note, rather than sailing around the topic of religion — or tossing it overboard completely — the film contains a touching moment of Aubrey leading his crew in reciting the Lord's Prayer at a funeral service for their fallen comrades.

Due to naval battle violence with related gory images, a suicide, and minimum mildly crude language, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS



ACROSS
1 Buenos _
6 Eagle's nest
11 Citrus soda
13 Holiday beverage
14 ISP
15 Chemical compond containing hydroxyl
16 Ford model
17 FAA relative
18 Hospital emp.
19 Vatican basilica
22 Time suffix
23 Little Flower
25 Cut
27 Alias
28 "You're the __"
31 Lamprey
32 Ancient Roman spirit
33 Asian cuisine
35 Dull finish
38 "White Flag" singer
39 OP Founder
42 Backstreet boy
44 Infirmary of song
45 College degree
47 Stern opposite
49 Object orientation
50 Dorothy's aunt
51 Admirer
52 Refrain
54 "__ the Clowns"
56 Grimace
57 Carotid's relative

DOWN
1 From a distance
2 Golf club
3 Catholic school subj.
4 Is in Spain
5 Great ___!
6 Concur
7 For example
8 Genetic material
9 Miniscule amount
10 Mild oath
12 "I am the ___ and the Omega"
13 Sugarless gum
19 Motor oil or rock band
20 "A mouse!" preceder
21 Q-U connector
23 Paul's companion
24 Borne by the wind
25 Gel
26 Ezr. biblical follower
29 Home (slang)
30 Sellout
34 Possessive pronoun
35 Magic charms
36 Medical grp.
37 Letter x
38 Insult a homie
40 Delirious' live album
41 Ancient Greek valley
42 Alphabet
43 Apostle
45 Lure
46 "__ and the King of Siam"
48 Misery
51 HST predecessor
53 Musical syllable
55 "__ way!"

# Breaking poverty's cycle through CCHD

POVERTY, *from page 1*

consistent with what one would expect during a down economic period." On the other hand, Pope John Paul II said, "Precisely because people have been endowed by ... extraordinary [human] dignity, they should not be reduced to living in sub-human social, economic, cultural or political conditions."

Since 1970, CCHD has addressed the root causes of poverty and funded groups working to break the cycle of poverty. CCHD has made more than 6,000 grants to self-help projects within the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands that are created and managed by low-income people.

CCHD's primary source of funding is the annual parish collection. Among the organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte receiving national CCHD funding is the Center for Participatory Change (CPC), based in Asheville. CPC works with approximately 30 grassroots partner organizations in western North Carolina providing technical support for collective entrepreneurship, communities of color organizing, community support and participatory development. The far western counties of North Carolina are home to many of the poorest citizens in our state.

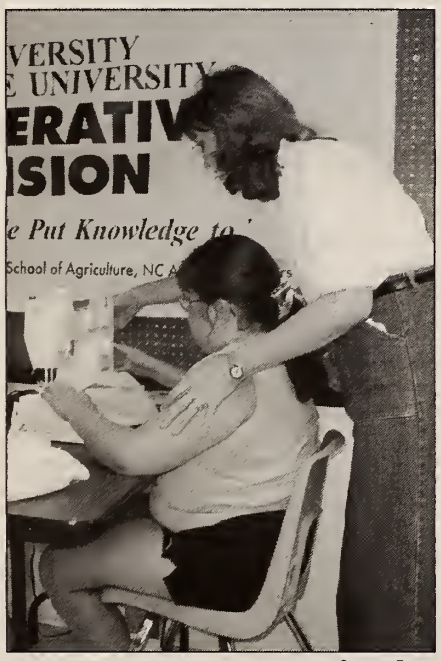
A collaborative effort between the Yancey County School System, the Yancey County 4-H Program and Mars Hill College provided an innovative bilingual camp for more than 100 kindergarten-through-eighth-grade children last summer in Burnsville.

County Extension Director Joyce Watts said, "This project provided Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth [with] the opportunity to interact with each other in a week-long day camp setting."

In this program, the youth learned more about themselves and their own culture and environment as well as developing an appreciation of other cultures.

By supporting the grassroots efforts of community groups, CCHD brings hope, fosters self-sufficiency and provides the tools for permanent improvement. Help continue these efforts with a generous donation during the annual CCHD collection in your parishes Nov 22-23.

*Contact Terri Jarina, program director for parish social ministry in the Office of Justice and Peace, by calling (704) 370-3234 or e-mail thjarina@charlottediocese.org.*




COURTESY PHOTO

Joyce Watts helps Kelsie Surrett sew Boo-boo Bunnies for a service project during the All Stars Language Summer Institute in Burnsville.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, visit www.usccb.org/cchd and www.povertyusa.org.

To read the complete text of Rev. Robert J. Vitillo's speech, visit http://www.cssnc.org/uploads/BBCAVitilloAddress.pdf.

For a complete list of the nationally- and locally-funded CCHD projects in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.cssnc.org/uploads/CCHDLocalGrants2003.htm.

# Painting a warm welcome

COURTESY PHOTO

*St. Gabriel School third-grader Ashton Kloiker paints her "spot" on a pottery platter, to be presented as a gift to Bishop Peter J. Jugis. The school's faith advisory committee sponsored the painting of the platter, and students painted little black and white sheep on the platter that contains the inscription, "Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep. (John 21:16) From your flock at St. Gabriel Catholic School."*

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*November 13-23, 2003*

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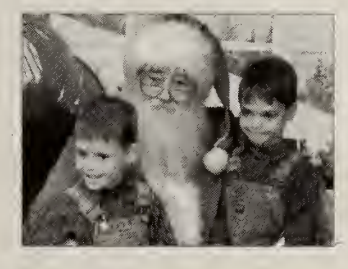

***Sing Your Favorite Carol*** along with choirs from local schools and churches. Or, enjoy puppets, magic, dancers and musicians.

***Visions of Sugar Plums*** as well as gingerbread cookies, strudel, special coffees, marvelous breads, jams and jellies bring smiles to faces young and old.

***Hear that Whistle Blowing*** and watch those model trains whizzing through tunnels, around mountains and through little villages. And, there are special steps so small people can see.

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The Charlotte Observer CONNECTING


# St. James parishioners celebrate ancestry, good food

HAMLET — St. James Church held its annual fall education fundraiser on the feast of All Soul's Day, Nov. 2.

Over 180 people attended the fundraiser, this year titled "Ancestral Festival," which was designed to bring together all of the parish's nationalities.

Festivities included a "human rosary" for the eternal life of deceased loved ones, a bilingual children's liturgy; a cook-off contest, silent auction and a raffle.

Cook-off contest winners were Jerry Lindstrand for his homemade salsa, Ursula Wallace for her German potato salad and John Jackson for his gourmet grilled salmon.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jerry Lindstrand, Ursula Wallace and John Jackson were the cook-off contest winners at the St. James Ancestral Festival Nov. 2.

# 'Safari' wrangles in school funds

COURTESY PHOTO

Dot Herron, Beth DePopas and Bridget Delaney planned and organized Bishop McGuinness High School's annual fundraiser and auction, "Sunset Safari," which exceeded its goal by raising $75,000. The money will be used to provide items from teacher wish lists, teacher enhancements, a Triad Area Catholic Schools donation, technology updates and other items.


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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# The what and the who of Thanksgiving

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

Here comes another Thanksgiving, when the Christmas shopping begins and the turkeys run for their lives. We all rejoice in celebrating Thanksgiving, except the turkeys!

I like this holiday, so distinctively American and so symbolic with positive and spiritual attitude toward God. Gratitude, after all, depends not upon physical or material well being, but on "something bigger and deeper."

If Thanksgiving were simply good food and good cheers, then our first Thanksgiving Day should have its origin in the Jamestown Colony of Virginia, which enjoyed marked comfort and prosperity, rather than in Plymouth Colony in New England, where hardships, misery and destitution were the living conditions.

When our Pilgrim Fathers instituted this anniversary, it was for them no holiday. They were separated by the breadth of the ocean from home and family and friends. Neither were there abundant harvests nor peace, prosperity and wealth for which to give thanks. A bleak prospect confronted them and foes surrounded them.

For what and whom then did they give thanks? They thanked God for God, not for "things." They were thankful not for the misery and starvation, but for the hope that wealth and food would come, as it did.

I understand that for some, Thanksgiving is not a holiday, but a hollowday. Our faith, however, teaches us that light always follows the darkness and the tunnel will eventually end ... so we are thankful for what's coming.

There is a huge difference between superficial Thanksgiving and sacrificial Thanksgiving. It is easy to hold a Thanksgiving service. It is much more difficult to translate thanksgiving into life.

A little schoolboy living in the most poverty-stricken part of a great city found his way into a Mission Sunday School and became a good Christian. Not long after, someone tried to shake his faith by asking him some puzzling questions: "If God really loves you, why doesn't He take better care of you? Why doesn't He tell someone to give you a pair of shoes?"

Thinking a moment, with tears rushing suddenly to his eyes, the boy replied: "I think He does tell somebody, but they are not listening."

The Holy Bible gives us three levels of Thanksgiving. The first level is found in Luke 18:11: "I give thanks, o God, that I am not like the other men." You remember who said that: the Pharisee. Sometime in our lives we may have been just like him or we may have met somebody just like him. He is the self-made man who is so very grateful for himself, his fame, his country. He uses God to congratulate and applaud his accomplishments. He is not like the other men; he is better and better off. There is a definite line between gratitude and self-glorification.

The second level is outlined in Philippians 1:3: "I thank my God every time I remember you." That's much better. St. Paul had the humility to acknowledge the power of God in his friends living in Philippi. Remembrance is an important element of our thanksgiving. We need to remember what the Pharisee forgot: most of the good things are not necessarily fruit of our skills and talents, but gifts of the infinite generosity of God as well as the skills and talents of other people.

Retrace your steps of this day: You were awakened this morning by an alarm clock invented by a Swiss mechanic. You crawled out from between sheets made of cotton grown by a Southern farmer. You stood in the bathroom on a tile floor processed by the Romans. You washed your face in a porcelain bowl developed first in China. You dried yourself with a Turkish towel. You put on a suit made by a Jewish craftsman in New York and a pair of shoes taken from the hide of a Texas steer. You ate breakfast out of dishes that originated in England. Your cereal came from a Kansas wheat field and your coffee from a Brazilian plantation. You went to work driving a car manufactured in Detroit or Singapore. You walked into the office, built by hands you never saw.

Yes, indeed, I thank God every time I do something and many people have prepared the path for me.

The third level and the highest level is Jesus himself when He said: "I thank you, Father." (John 11:41). Someone said that the worst moment for an atheist comes when he wants to say "thank you" and has no one to say it to. Jesus knew to whom to say it. We sometimes forget or take for granted what is given to us every day. You never miss the water until the well is dry.

# Pope says prayer should lead to sharing of others' joy, pain

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The sufferings and joys of individuals must find an echo in the Mass and other Christian prayer gatherings, Pope John Paul II said.

"The pain of the individual must find an echo in the hearts of all and, in the same way, the joy of each person must be lived by the entire praying community," he said at his Nov. 12 general audience.

The main audience talk focused on Psalm 142, the psalm St. Francis of Assisi recited as he was dying Oct. 3, 1226, the pope told an estimated 11,500 people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The psalmist begs for the Lord's help and, at the same time, professes his faith that safety and happiness are found in God alone, Pope John Paul said.

The psalmist promises that if God hears his prayer and rescues him, he will offer his praise in the midst of the liturgical assembly, the pope said.

"This atmosphere also must pervade Christian celebrations," he said. The just "experience the salvation of a brother or sister as a gift given to them as well."

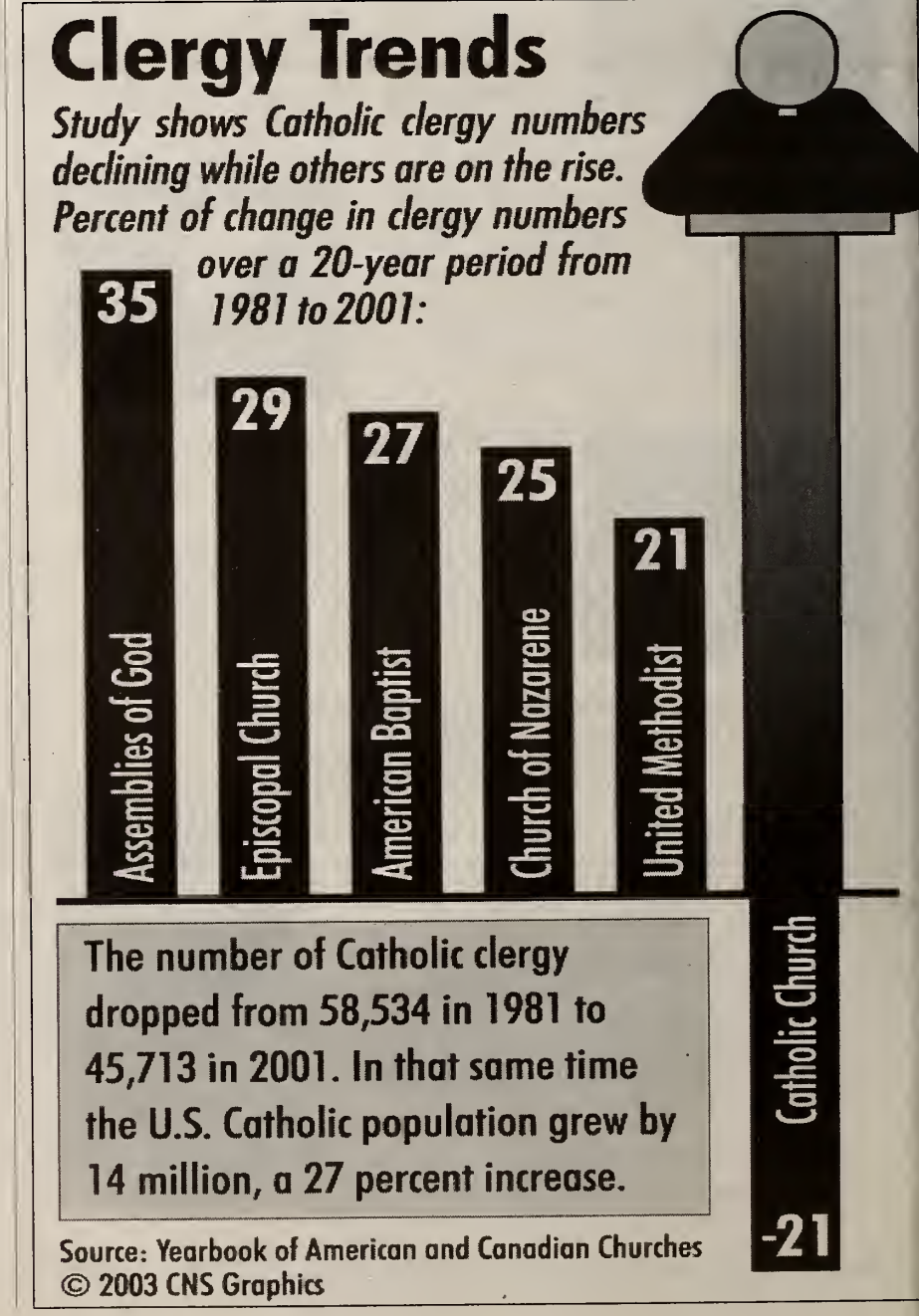
## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul said the psalm recognizes God as the one who provides safety and refuge, the one who saves believers from the traps set by their enemies.

Reading the psalm and its references to being trapped and suffering, Christians have connected the psalm to Christ and his capture, suffering and death, the pope said.

Christians read the psalm remembering that God not only rescued Christ, but raised him to glory and promised that those who believe in Christ will be raised with him, he said.



# Enlist in the CCHD

## Looking Around

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ

In 1969, the U.S. Catholic bishops faced up to the fact that the church had no national program funds for direct assistance for the poor. They launched the Campaign for Human Development to fill this vacuum and began providing direct anti-poverty grants for projects that meet three criteria: 1) Recipient organizations have to be working for institutional change that gets at the causes of poverty; 2) the principal beneficiaries of the projects have to be poor people; and 3) at least 50 percent of those who plan and manage the projects have to be involuntarily poor.

Now officially labeled the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, this anti-poverty initiative passes the basket in Catholic parishes across the country every year on a Sunday close to Thanksgiving. The connection is obvious. Show your gratitude by sharing what you have with the poor.

Here in America we used to say "much obliged" to express our gratitude for favors small or large. Some of our elders still use that expression. All of us should hear in that phrase an echo of a moral obligation to share with those less favored than we in the possession of income and wealth.

"Credible Signs of Christ Alive" is what John P. Hogan calls CCHD projects. That's the title he put on his just-published (Sheed & Ward) book presenting six case-studies that convey the substance and style of the good works made possible by CCHD funding. The selected projects "tell the story behind the poverty statistics and the hope behind the headlines," says Hogan.

Conscientious Catholics who puzzle over the question of why the church calls for a "preferential love of the poor" will be helped by this author's reflection on the famous parable of the Good Samaritan.

The Samaritan in the Gospel story is "a member of an outcast minority." He takes a risk and "opts for the victim." The story makes the point, says Hogan, that God "is on the side of the victim — the poor, the outcast. But that doesn't mean he's not on our side. It means rather that God is pushing us to see, understand and identify with the less fortunate in our society. That is the meaning of the church's 'option for and with the poor.'"

The parable ends with Jesus' instruction to the lawyer to "go and do likewise." The Catholic Campaign for Human Development puts the same challenge before contemporary Catholics at the time of Thanksgiving.

The six "credible signs" of Christ alive in the midst of poverty are an organization in Pocomoke City, Md., that brings justice to poultry workers; an Alexandria, Va., Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee; a Camden, N.J., group called "Churches Organized for People"; a Southeast Iowa citizens organization aimed at stemming forces that are destroying the family farm; an "Anti-Displacement Project" in Springfield Mass., that links community organization to economic development and control of assets by low-income people; and a Los Angeles, Calif., parish-based "Safe Passage" program for the defense of children in troubled neighborhoods.

Jack Hogan laces his narrative with excerpts from important documents in the body of Catholic social teaching. Readers will come away from a reflective reading of this book with a better ability to "see, understand and identify with the less fortunate in our society."

Not a bad way to spend a few hours as well as part with a few dollars in the spirit of a CCHD Thanksgiving observance.

# Ugly Americans? Is that all there is to it?

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

The United States increasingly is hated by other countries. We aren't acting right in Iraq, Western Europe despises our belligerence, the Arab world distrusts our handling of the Israeli-Palestinian war, and South America considers our tariffs unjust. The world community also believes we care nothing about global warming. Worse than this, we are pictured as an opulent nation living off the fat of the land. We could end up thinking we are just ugly Americans after all!

There is some truth in the accusations, but there also are signs to show we are a thoughtful, caring nation. Take our present efforts to conserve resources and reduce pollution. In the automobile industry, one of the chief polluters and wasters of resources, we now are witnessing a proliferation of hybrid cars. The motors run off gasoline and battery power, getting as much as 59 miles to the gallon with minimum pollution.

Because they carry a large pack of batteries, they have sufficient weight to ride comfortably on open, windy highways. The same technology now is being planned for gas-guzzling SUVs and oversize sedans.

Is there hope that we can become true conservers of energy? Consider:

—In Washington, as in other big cities, we are seeing more buses and taxies run on natural gas.

—It is now common to see people installing thermal windows to save on natural gas and electricity when remodeling a home. This is even more apparent in big high-rise offices and apartments.

—At a convention center I stayed in last year, I noticed that all the light bulbs were energy savers, known for long wear.

—Every week when the garbage men come to our building they have the threefold task of picking up raw garbage, old newspapers and plastic and glass separately.

—When you drive through America's windy plains, every so often you'll see hills dotted with windmills to generate energy.

—And if you walk the neighborhood, every so often you'll see solar panels mounted on roofs.

These are just a few success stories. In disturbing times that could leave us feeling like reckless culprits, we need to dwell more on these successes. We are called to be God-loving people and good stewards, and yes, there's still much to do.

But our successes should help lift our spirits and reaffirm that we are reasonable people concerned about the world's well-being.

# Did Mary ever die?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. A sister in our city, who recently worked in Israel, spoke of visiting the tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I didn't know there was one! Did Mary die? Why would she have needed a tomb? (California)*

A. On the southwest side of old Jerusalem, on a hill called Mount Zion, there is a church named the Dormition (falling asleep) of the Virgin. Christians often referred to death as falling asleep, awaiting the resurrection.

That church's establishment goes back nearly 1,500 years, to fifth-century writings referred to as the Transitus Mariae, the passage of Mary. Christians, especially pilgrims to the Holy Land, wanted to know more about the death of the mother of Jesus; these works, which are largely inventive and fictitious, attempted to satisfy that curiosity.

During the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries, a feast of the Dormition was established in various areas of the Christian world on Aug. 15, honoring all her prerogatives as the mother of the Lord. Later the celebration was re-titled the Feast of the Assumption.

The crypt in the Dormition church contains a sculpture of Mary lying peacefully in death. But no one today hints that this is her tomb or even that there is a tomb.

Did Mary actually die? The question has been debated for centuries. The church has not declared authoritatively one way or the other.

When Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption in 1959, he avoided the subject of her death. He said simply that Mary, "having finished the course of her earthly life" (in Latin, "expleto terrestris vitae cursu"), was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. That's where the question rests.

# Laicization and married priests

*Q. Your recent column on laicization of priests was interesting. But I'm confused. Outside of the Eastern churches (with which we in the West have little contact) and a few former Lutherans and Episcopalians who are now married and active Catholic priests, do we really have "many married priests in the church"?*

*Why do you say "it's obviously different with marriage." If you can vacate your vows in one vocation, why not in the other? (New York)*

A. I'm not sure what constitutes "many," but I believe we have in the neighborhood of 100 former non-Catholic men who now serve as married priests in the United States, perhaps more. Additional numbers are active married priests of the Catholic Church in other countries, particularly in Europe.

A priest's ordination is not "vacated" through laicization, unless the ordination itself was found invalid — for reasons similar to those which may invalidate marriage vows.

When a priest loses the clerical state, he remains a priest, just as, for example, a baptized Christian does not lose his baptism if he later becomes a Buddhist. The priest is no longer permitted to exercise his sacramental ministries, or publicly function as a priest.

He still, however, in severe emergency situations such as danger of death, may validly celebrate Mass and minister the sacraments of penance, Eucharist and anointing of the sick. He is, in other words, still an ordained priest. In fact, it is possible, with the necessary processes and arrangement with his bishop, for such a priest to return later to active ministry.

A laicized priest is normally free to marry. The rule of celibacy is a longtime tradition and law of the church, but, unlike the marriage covenant which we believe was established by God, celibacy is a church law, not a divine command. It can therefore be dispensed by the church.

In a somewhat similar way, marriage vows are not "vacated" unless the marriage is declared invalid or is superseded by dissolution through a Pauline Privilege or other tribunal procedure.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# St. Leo the Great Church is 'active parish' of faith

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem was built in 1928 and is now home to over 1,300 families.

**St. Leo the Great Church**

335 Springdale Avenue
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104
(336) 724-0561

**Vicariate:** Winston-Salem
**Pastor:** Father Thomas Kessler
**Parochial Vicar:** Reverend Johnathan Hanic
**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Dennis O'Madigan; Rev. Mr. Robert De Sautels; Rev. Mr. Thomas O'Connell
**Number of Families:** 1,360

Father Thomas Kessler

WINSTON-SALEM — The Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey were the first Catholic clergy to minister in Winston-Salem. During the 1880s, the monks celebrated Mass in the homes of the few Catholic families in town.

Those early visits laid the foundation for what would become a major Catholic house of worship in Forsyth County — St. Leo the Great Church.

The gradual addition of Catholic families to the area presented a need for a permanent structure in which to gather for Mass. In 1891, Bishop Leo Haid of Belmont Abbey, then-vicar apostolic for North Carolina, purchased a small frame church in downtown Winston-Salem. A rectory was added in 1903, and Father Thomas Stapleton soon became the first resident pastor. The congregation grew, and by 1916, plans were underway to construct a larger church.

A local Catholic, Zaffaroni Angelo, donated the site of the present church in 1924. Benedictine Father Michael McInerney of Belmont Abbey, the renowned architect of hundreds of churches through the Southeast, was called upon to design the building. Bishop William Hafey of Raleigh placed the cornerstone in January 1928 and the church was placed under the patronage of St. Leo the Great. Construction was completed the following year.

Above the main altar was placed a large crucifix, whose corpus was carved by Anton Lange, the famed portrayer of Christ in the Oberammergau Passion Play. In 1930, enhancements were made to the church landscape and a 1,000-pound bronze bell, originally from St. Paul Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, was purchased and placed in the St. Leo the Great bell tower.

Decades of Benedictine pastorate in the parish ended when then-Msgr. Michael J. Begley was appointed as the church's first diocesan priest in 1942. During his ministerial time there, he furthered educational causes in Winston-Salem and welcomed Sisters of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill in Pennsylvania to teach religion classes at the church.

A house adjacent to the church property was purchased for the Sisters' convent. The original school, Villa Maria Anna, opened in 1947.

Just over 1,000 parishioners composed the congregation by 1953. Thanks to the zeal of the sisters; Msgr. Begley and Msgr. Dennis Lunch, pastors; and Bishop Waters, the religion classes led to later developments that included the founding of St. Leo the Great School in 1954 and Bishop McGuinness High School in 1959.

While serving as director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Raleigh, Msgr. Begley returned to St. Leo the Great Church as pastor from 1966 until 1971. In 1972 he received even more far-reaching pastoral responsibilities by serving as the first bishop for the new 46-county Diocese of Charlotte.

A major renovation project ensued at St. Leo the Great Church and school during the mid-1970s. A church nursery and library were also added and the rectory was expanded.

Largely aided by industry, the 1970s and '80s marked continual growth in the number of Catholics in the Triad region and throughout North Carolina. In 1978, Holy Family Church in Clemmons joined Christ the King Church in Kernersville and St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem on a list of Catholic sanctuaries opening their doors to Forsyth County Catholics.

During the pastorate of Msgr. Joseph Showfety, St. Leo the Great Church experienced yet another renovation. A parish center, housing the parish office, meeting rooms, library and an activity center with a kitchen, was built over the site of the former rectory and dedicated in honor of Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley in 1990.

Father James Solari arrived as pastor at St. Leo the Great Church in July 1993 and continued to help build up the local community of faith at what he called "a very active parish" with extensive service projects to the area's needy and poor at Christmas and Easter. With the intention of providing for the area's growing Hispanic community, the Hispanic Family Ministry was formed in August 1996 to help people sacramentally, catechetically, financially and in other ways.

In 1998, the parish acquired a house across the street from the church for the priests' residence.

The church now boasts a youth ministry, Knights of Columbus council and a special needs ministry, among others. The Sisters of St. Joseph continue to assist in the faith lives of St. Leo the Great parishioners and members of the community through a variety of ministries including education, hospital ministry and faith formation. St. Leo the Great School enrolls almost 300 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, thereby advancing the educational mission of the church in Winston-Salem.

More than 250 parishioners and nearly two dozen religious, including former pastors and parochial vicars and Sisters of St. Joseph, gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Saint Leo the Great Church Nov. 10, the feast day of St. Leo.

Like that small gathering of Catholics in Forsyth County in the 1880s, the parish of St. Leo the Great Church — as conveyed in its mission statement — continues to strive in its "sense of mission and service to all of God's people through liturgy, prayer and formation of activities that will foster our growth in spiritual and community life in and through Jesus, our Lord and Brother."

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile:
St. James Church
| PAGE 16

NOVEMBER 21, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 9

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REFLECTIONS OF AFGHANISTAN

# Holy Spirit parishioner finds calling overseas

COURTESY PHOTOS BY AMY SCHULTZ

Members of the Koochi nomad tribe travel from Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Holy Spirit parishioner Amy Schultz shakes hands with Afghan President Hamid Karzai after a health care meeting.

## *Schultz helps to build hospitals, clinics in Afghanistan*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

DENVER — It's only been a few months since Amy Schultz returned from her tour of duty, but the experience will last her a lifetime.

"It was very humbling," she said. "It has definitely changed my outlook on life."

Schultz, 31, is a Civil Affairs Specialist and a parishioner of Holy Spirit Church who left her marketing job and her fiancé in North Carolina when her unit was activated in October 2002.

Schultz was with the unit

See SCHULTZ, page 6

# A matter of marriage

## *Boston archbishop says Massachusetts same-sex decision is 'alarming'*

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Reacting to an "alarming" decision by Massachusetts' highest court to overturn a ban on same-sex marriages, Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley of Boston said he hopes the state's legislators "will have the courage and common sense to redress this situation for the good of society."

The Boston archbishop's statement followed a Nov. 18 ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court in the case of Goodridge vs. Department of Public Health.

In a separate statement, the Massachusetts Catholic Conference said the decision "defies reason" and was a rejection of "an understanding of marriage tested over thousands of years and accepted nearly everywhere as the key to a stable society."

The agency representing Massachusetts' Catholic bishops said the decision "must be reversed."

"As devastating as the ruling is, it will not end the debate," the Catholic conference statement said. "We urge the state Legislature to send the Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment Act to the 2006 ballot. Thus the people of Massachusetts can reaffirm marriage as the union between one man and one woman, overriding the court's misguided decision in further-

See MARRIAGE, page 8

AROUND THE WORLD IN FIVE DAYS

# Holy Trinity students go international

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Students milled through the crowded gymnasium, pausing to examine displays of the accomplishments of President Benjamin Harrison, the history of Arlington National Cemetery and the development of the Pullman Sleeper Car.

The three-dimensional displays were the culmination of International Week, Nov. 10-14, when the student body of Holy Trinity Catholic

See WORLD, page 7

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Kevin McManamy presents the model of Arlington National Cemetery his team constructed for International Week.

**Making opportunities**
*OEO grants, awards for deserving recipients*
| PAGE 5

**Up and away**
*OLA students to take flight to Kitty Hawk*
| PAGE 7

**Bishops' meeting**
*Conference covers sex abuse crisis, farms, budget and devotions*
| PAGE 8-9

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MOURNING THE VICTIMS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A priest prays during a ceremony at the An Nasiriyah, Iraq, airport Nov. 15 as coffins of Italian military police killed in a suicide attack are taken on a plane for return to Italy. A suicide bomber attacked the Italian military headquarters Nov. 12, killing 19 soldiers. Pope John Paul II called for a global movement against terrorism Nov. 16.

## Pope criticizes Israel over wall, deplores attacks in Iraq, Turkey

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II criticized Israel's building of a wall to keep out Palestinians and called for a global movement against terrorism following deadly attacks in Iraq and Turkey.

"In reality, the Holy Land does not need walls, but bridges. Without reconciliation of souls, there can be no peace," the pope said at a Sunday blessing Nov. 16.

He renewed his "strong condemnation" of all acts of terrorism in the Holy Land and said it was disappointing that the peace process seemed blocked.

"The construction of a wall between the Israeli and Palestinian people is seen by many as a new obstacle on the road to peaceful coexistence," he said.

The Vatican has stepped up criticism of the Israeli security barrier, which when completed will stretch more than 200 miles along the Israeli border and deep into sections of the West Bank.

The pope said he was concerned that in recent days "terrorism has once again accomplished its wicked work." He spoke the day after two synagogues were bombed in Istanbul, Turkey, and in the wake of a suicide attack that killed 19 Italian soldiers and more than a dozen civilians in Iraq.

While condemning the attacks, the pope said the reaction cannot be one of more violence.

"No one can abandon themselves to the temptation of discouragement or of revenge," he said. "The respect for life, international solidarity and the observance of the law should prevail over hatred and violence."

The synagogue bombings left at least 20 people dead and more than 300 injured. The synagogues were filled with Jewish families attending bar mitzvahs; the blasts also killed 11 Muslims in the vicinity.

Turkey, a predominantly Muslim country with a Jewish community of about 30,000, has close ties to the United States and Israel.

The pope sent his "deepest condolences to the entire country and to all those concerned" and said he was praying for the dead, the wounded and their families, and for "all believers touched by this new drama."

He urged "men and women of the whole world to mobilize in favor of peace and against terrorism, in the respect for the freedom of personal beliefs and convictions."

"Never again should religious identity be a source of conflict that bloodies and disfigures humanity," the pope said.

On Nov. 12, a suicide bombing on a military police headquarters in Iraq left 19 Italian soldiers dead in the city of An Nasiriyah. The pope briefly embraced one soldier's widow and baby girl during an audience at the Vatican Nov. 15.

## Brochure to help explain church's teaching on contraception

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Too many Catholics misunderstand and ignore the church's teaching on contraception, the U.S. bishops agreed, as they approved the drafting of a new brochure to help explain it.

In a voice vote Nov. 12 during their annual meeting, the bishops authorized their Committee on Pro-Life Activities to prepare a simple brochure for popular use that explains the church's opposition to artificial means of contraception and the alternatives it considers morally acceptable.

Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, interim chairman of the committee, said an outside writer "who thoroughly understands the church's teaching" would be commissioned to draft the brochure. It would be ready for comment, amendment and approval at the bishops' meeting next November.

Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Dallas encouraged the committee to emphasize the church's support of natural family planning.

"So many Catholics think in terms of 'rhythm,'" he said. But there has been a great deal of advancement in family planning without artificial means since that system was recommended by the church, he said. Natural family planning supporters emphasize it not only works as a way of planning families, but helps married couples become closer.

Bishop Allen H. Vigneron of Oakland, Calif., said he thinks the document "will help us get at the problem people have with seeing a vocation in marriage."

Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton, Pa., described the use of artificial contraception as a silent marriage killer in much the same way that high blood pressure is considered a silent killer of people.

## Diocesan planner

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

ALBEMARLE — The *Forever Young Club* of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Family Life Center at 10 a.m. For details, call Gerald Maiden (704) 982-5261.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit Ave., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 9 a.m. Mass with benediction at 4 p.m.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Father Efiri Matthias Selemobri of *The Missionaries of St. Paul*, the first indigenous missionary society from Africa, will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. A reception will follow the 11 a.m. Mass sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry.

CHARLOTTE — A *Service of Lessons and Carols* will premiere at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. The program will consist a 55-voice choir, including the children's and youth and choirs. Prelude music will begin at 5:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *cancer support group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., will host a *free Thanksgiving celebration* Nov. 27 12-3 p.m. in the parish center. Family and friends are all invited for food and fellowship. Transportation is available for those needing rides. Meal will be delivered to those who cannot attend. Call the church office at (704) 867-6212 for details.

BELMONT — Dr. William F. Powers will give a talk entitled *"Catholicism in North Carolina: Periods of Frustration and Growth,"* Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey College. Admission is free and open to the public. Dr. Powers served as a professor of sociology for 30 years at Suffolk Community College on Long Island. He was ordained in the Diocese of Brooklyn and resigned from the ministry ten years later. He holds a doctorate from St. John's University in New York.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENBORO — *Pilgrim icons of Our Lady of*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Bible shows evidence of depression, offers a cure, official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Bible contains evidence that depression was experienced in ancient times and outlines the kind of spiritual activity needed to combat it, a Vatican official said.

In particular, the hope of everlasting salvation offered by Christianity is an antidote to the fear and anguish that leads to depression, Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins told a Vatican conference on clinical depression Nov. 13.

"Whoever really believes in the paschal mystery of Christ and identifies with him should never be depressed," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Martins, head of the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes, offered a wide-ranging overview of depression as experienced by modern people and those in biblical times.

He said several Psalms could be read as "expressions of a depressive state," with symptoms of sadness, lack of interest, diminished work capacity, sleep disturbances, weight loss, sense of guilt and suicidal thoughts.

The cardinal quoted several examples, including Psalm 55 and the distressed author of Psalm 102: "I am withered, dried up like grass, too wasted to eat my food."

But he said many Psalms offer a response and remedy: the conviction that "man is always loved and appreciated by God," that the world is not hostile but good, and that is it normal to express one's emotions.

The cardinal said recent research has shown a healthy spiritual life can "prevent neuroses, including reactive depression" by moderating negative and stressful experiences, and it also favors greater self-awareness among individuals, which helps prevent depressive reactions.

*Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego* will be on display at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St., Dec. 1 beginning with Mass at 7 p.m. A Mass in celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. For details, call the church office at (336) 383-8650.

GREENBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invite all to their *Christmas Tea* Dec. 11, 2:30–4:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Food will be collected for a local food pantry. For details call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY —Sacred Heart School, is having its first reunion *of alumni, faculty, parishioners and friends* Nov. 29 at the Salisbury Civic Center 6-9 p.m. The program for the evening will honor the past, rejoice in the present and present plans for our future. For details, call Sacred Heart School at (704) 633-2841.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *charismatic and healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

CLEMMONS — Father Adrian Porras will celebrate a *Healing Mass* at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., Dec. 1 at 7:30pm. Reconciliation will be offered at 7p.m. and a laying on of hands will follow the Mass. Please join us for praise, worship and healing. For more information, call Jim or Monie Passero (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — Parents Together and the Knights of Columbus Council #2829 will host its *Breakfast with Santa* for special-needs children and their families Dec. 13 9:30-11:30 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. The Knights will supply a pancake buffet as Parents Together welcomes families for face painting, crafts, breakfast and an opportunity to meet Santa and have a photo taken with him. The event provides families with a special-needs child to meet other families who have similar challenges. Space is limited. To register your family or to volunteer, call (336) 924-5301.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Two Iraqi priests concerned country slipping into chaos under U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two Iraqi priests said they are deeply concerned Iraq is slipping into chaos and terrorist violence under U.S. occupation.

One of the priests said Catholic institutions were being targeted for intimidation in the northern part of the country, presumably by Muslim extremists.

"We do not want Iraq to be another Palestine — without a state, abandoned and left to the mercy of terrorist groups, and its people dying of hunger," said Father Denka H. Toma, superior general of a Chaldean-rite order of 45 monks. "Everything depends on the United States, which has absolute power. It can do our nation good or cause it harm."

Father Toma said U.S. forces need to put security back in Iraqi hands, or at least involve them more directly in national security.

"Most people are not satisfied with the situation," Father Toma said. "They are grateful to the Americans for liberating Iraq from the dictatorship. But today, six months after the war ended, the people lament the lack of social, civil and economic reconstruction. They are beginning to think the real aim of the Americans was to take control of Iraq's oil."

Father Toma said it would not work for U.S. administrators to turn over authority to the temporary Iraqi Governing Council.

"(Council) members obey the Americans, and they are Iraqi businessmen who have lived abroad," he said. "They have not shared the Iraqis' suffering in recent years. The people consider them 'foreigners.'"

Father Nizar Semaan, a Syrian-rite priest working in the northern city of Mosul, said in early November a bomb was defused in front of the city's Catholic school, and the local Syrian-rite archbishop's office had been fired upon with machine guns.

The priest said the attacks were probably carried out by local Wahhabite Muslims, a term for followers of a strict form of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia. Wahhabites were around under former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but since his downfall they have raised their profile.

# Raising the roof

CNS PHOTO BY JONAH DYCUS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

Teenagers raise their hands in song during the opening ceremony of the 2003 National Catholic Youth Conference "River of Life" celebration in Houston Nov. 13, sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston welcomed some 23,000 young people, including youth from the Diocese of Charlotte, to Reliant Stadium for the event. Look for more coverage in the next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald.*

## CORRECTION

Osvaldo Gentile and Diane Moffa were not identified in an Oct. 31 issue photo caption as the designers of the stole presented to Bishop Peter J. Jugis by the diocesan Catholic schools office Oct. 29.

# Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**November 24 — 7 p.m.**
Winston-Salem Vicariate Mass and reception
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

**November 25 — 7 p.m.**
Hickory Vicariate Mass and reception
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

**November 27 — 10 a.m.**
Thanksgiving Day Mass
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

**December 1 — 7:30 p.m.**
Albemarle Vicariate Mass and reception
St. James Church, Hamlet

**December 3 — 7p.m.**
Asheville Vicariate reconciliation service and reception
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

# Vatican officials say migration brings opportunities for Catholics

By CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Migration brings with it an opportunity for Catholics to experience the universality of their church, to forge bonds with other Christians and to discover the way God is at work in other religions, Vatican officials said.

Migration and the need for dialogue with other cultures, other Christians and other religions was the focus of Nov. 19 presentations at the Vatican-sponsored World Congress for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees.

In societies increasingly marked by the presence of people from different cultures and religions, dialogue must be the Catholic response, said Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

"Dialogue, the transformation of closed minds and a love that is open to the innovation of life and history ... hold central positions in our Christian identity: They are the positions of Jesus Christ," the archbishop said.

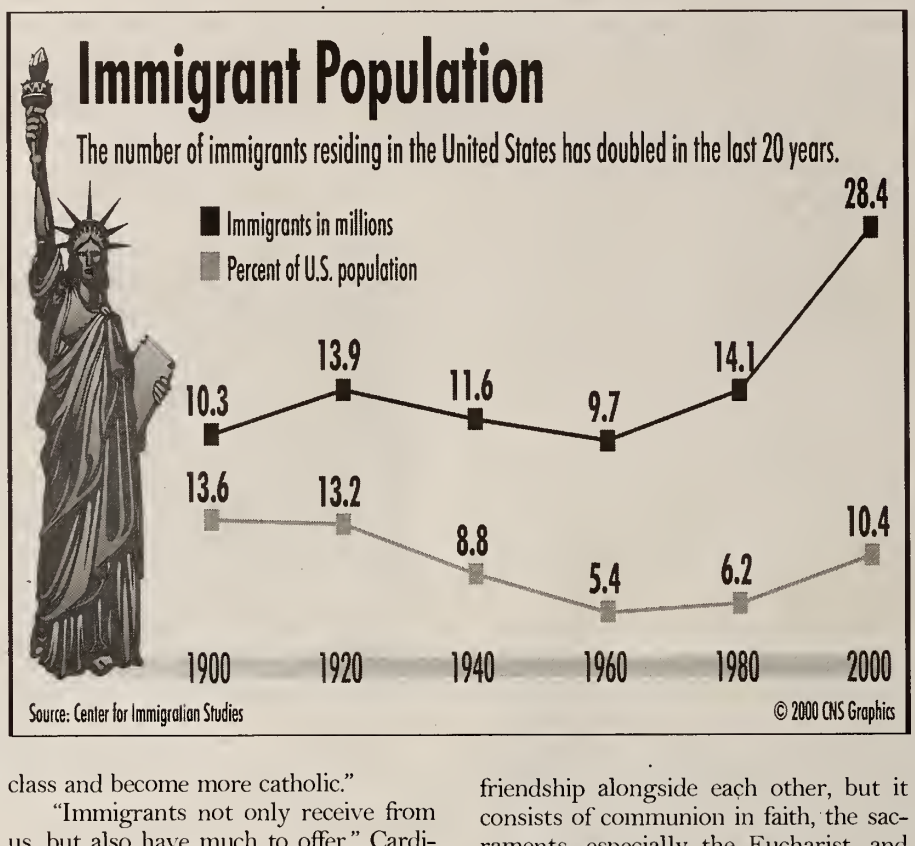
In meeting those with different cultures and faiths, he said, the first step for Christians is "discovering Christ in the faces of our brothers and sisters from far-off places."

When welcomed into a parish community, Catholic immigrants are concrete signs for local Catholics of the reality of the universality of the Catholic Church, he said.

A genuine Christian love, Archbishop Marchetto said, leads to a spirit of welcome and hospitality, respect for others and a desire to learn from and share with them through dialogue.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said his native Germany's encounter with Catholic "migrants and refugees led to the growth of a new awareness of the universality of our church and of our catholicity."

Throughout the world, he said, "through an encounter and an exchange with the religious cultures and customs of immigrants, our Catholic communities lose the characteristic of often being too national, ethnic or limited by social




class and become more catholic."

"Immigrants not only receive from us, but also have much to offer," Cardinal Kasper said.

Migration also brings Catholics into closer contact with other Christians, providing opportunities for ecumenical dialogue and for appreciating aspects of Christian life which one community may emphasize more than another, he said.

For example, Cardinal Kasper said, many Catholics have rediscovered the importance of the Bible from their Protestant friends, Protestants rediscover the importance of the Lord's Supper from Catholics, and both can learn from the Orthodox the importance of mystery in the liturgy.

At the same time, he said, an increasing mix of Christian communities can lead some people to thinking there are no differences among Christians or to thinking those differences are not important.

The goal of ecumenical dialogue is to discover the truth in love, Cardinal Kasper said.

Full communion, he said, "is not a pluralism of churches which live in friendship alongside each other, but it consists of communion in faith, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and apostolic governance."

Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said migration is forcing more and more communities to take seriously the need for interreligious dialogue.

The Christian inspiration for dialogue is the recognition that God created each human being in his image and calls all people to himself, he said.

The Catholic Church believes God's spirit may be at work in other faiths, and Christians are called to discover traces of God's work within them without neglecting their obligation to witness to the fullness of faith in Christ, he said.

Interreligious dialogue, the archbishop said, also has practical motivations, including the commitment to protecting the right of each person to worship according to his or her conscience and to fostering peace within communities, nations and the world.

"It is unfortunate that religions are sometimes held to be one of the causes behind many problems in the world today," Archbishop Celata said.

While religions can be exploited for political reasons, he said, religious leaders have an obligation to ensure their faithful know what they teach and to protect their faith from political manipulation.

Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, told the conference, "Many politicians and media, together with international organizations, are justifiably concerned about conflicts which mix God and political ambitions, revolutionary violence, fundamentalism and destructive hatred."

Equally worrying, he said, are "arrogant attempts to dominate the world according to simplistic models whose error lies primarily in the lack of any serious and fair recognition of the culture of others."

A truly human culture, he said, develops out of a group of people living together, trying to make sense of their lives and to give meaning to them.

True culture is not static, Cardinal Poupard said, but develops as new situations and challenges arise and as new peoples are encountered.

Intercultural dialogue is essential in multicultural societies in order to emphasize the positive values that all people share as well as to promote an awareness of the weaknesses of each culture that may impede the full protection of human dignity, justice and charity, he said.

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# Making opportunities

## *OEO grants, awards for deserving recipients*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

STECOAH VALLEY — It was just one word, but no one at Pathways for the Future had ever heard the woman speak.

One day, though, she finished painting a wooden silhouette of a watering can.

"Before she left, she said 'Paint,'" said Kate Sullivan, Pathways director, holding up the artwork at the second annual Office of Economic Opportunity awards and grants presentation Nov. 11.

That one word was the kind of miracle that happens through grants from the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), a project of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

An OEO grant last year helped buy materials for Pathways, a facility for mentally and physically challenged adults.

At the Stecoah Valley Arts, Crafts and Education Center in Graham County this year, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, presented grants totaling $11,865 and community service awards.

"After tonight, we will have given out about $90,000 to 38 agencies," said Joan Furst, OEO director.

Where does the money come from?

"It was about six years ago that [Father Mo] had a vision," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville, and OEO advisory board chair. "Father Mo commissioned a study on the needs here. Out of that study came the Office of Economic Opportunity."

During a brunch in his honor at St. William Church Nov. 12, Msgr. West said when the diocesan-sponsored Good Shepherd Home Healthcare and Hospice in Hayesville was sold to the local hospital, the diocese wondered what to do with the proceeds.

"I decided it would be best to ask the local people," Msgr. West said. "Given my ethnic background, I was tired of people telling me what I needed. The people here certainly know (what they need) better than me, sitting in Charlotte."

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Karen Wilson displays material woven at Stecoah Valley Weavers. The cloth will become placemats. Stechoah received a $2,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity to train weavers and buy colored yarn.

OEO, serving Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties, opened four years ago in the Bishop Begley Center in Murphy. Its goal, Furst said, is to "attack poverty at its roots by systematic programs."

The grants awarded Nov. 11 will provide help to a number of programs, including those which preserve mountain heritage. In an area where there is little industrial development or flat land for large factory complexes, traditional crafts are among the region's most precious commodities.

Karen Wilson explained what that means when she thanked OEO during the awards program. Wilson is a student and instructor at Stecoah Valley Weavers (SVW), which received $2,000 last spring to train weavers and buy colored yarn.

Wilson works in a greenhouse, but the employment is seasonal. Learning to spin and weave has added income and a new dimension to her life.

"I love it," she said. "I grew up here in Graham County. [SVW] is looking forward to being here for many more years."

Wilson works at home on two looms loaned by SVW. Five other women are learning to spin and weave, and four more work at home, making table linens and other items sold locally and as far away as Florida.

Demand is high.

"We just can't make enough," Wilson said.

She teaches youngsters to spin and weave. "It's a wonderful opportunity to learn a heritage craft and pass it on," she said.

"I think that we as a diocese need to continue what we've begun here," Msgr. West said at the brunch. "I think that there's so much more we can do. I'd like to commit once more to supporting your efforts here."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

Below is a list of grants and awards handed out by the Office of Economic Opportunity at a presentation Nov. 11.

**Grant recipients:**

— Pathways for the Future: $1,500 for its independent living skills, craft and creativity program;

— Far West Mountain Economic Partners: $3,000 for tools and training for building-construction apprentices;

— Hinton Rural Life Center: $2,365 for vehicle maintenance and homebuyer education in its program to repair existing homes and build new ones for low-income families;

— Latino Outreach: $2,500 for "Latino fairs" to educate Hispanics in health matters and in resources available to them;

— Appalachian Heritage Crafters: $1,500 for seed money to fund its first arts and crafts festival;

— Stecoah Valley Center: $1,000, for marketing for the Graham County Artisans Drive-About, during which visitors drive to crafters' studios throughout the area.

**Community award recipients:**

— Leadership: Barbara Hughes for community involvement in Murphy and Rev. Ben Bushyhead for his work with the Cherokee;

— Community Advocacy: Ida Timpson, helping families be able to purchase homes through the Hinton Rural Life Center;

— Community Development: Linda Cable-Thomas, initiating projects benefiting Swain County; Yellow Creek Botanical Institute, native plant marketing and cultivation research;

— Women and Family: Dora Ochoa, Latino outreach;

— Empowerment: Alicia Campbell, working with Far West Families First.

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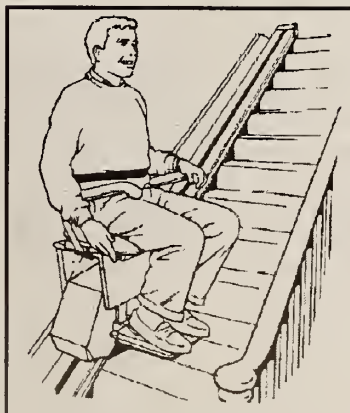

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# Reflections of Afghanistan

SCHULTZ, *from page 1*

of Army reservists who in August returned from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

"It's easier now for me to prioritize what's important in life, and to be a good neighbor," she admitted.

Schultz grew up in Babbitt, what she describes as a "small north Minnesota town," about 100 miles from Canada. There were only 32 seniors in her graduating class, she said, and they all longed to leave the community.

"It's a beautiful place; definitely God's country," said Schultz. "(But) we wanted to get educated and have some adventure."

When all of her fellow graduates enrolled in colleges and technical institutes, Schultz and her best friend joined the U.S. Army Reserve.

"We thought it was a great opportunity," said Schultz, who enlisted as a medical specialist.

"I felt the need to help people," she said, admitting she was intrigued to go overseas to find her adventure.

Her quest eventually brought her to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

### *Afghan mission*

Afghanistan's recent history is characterized by war and civil unrest. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979, but was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-Communist forces supplied and trained by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others. Fighting continued among various tribal factions, giving eventual rise to the Taliban, which captured most of the country until Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil forced the group's downfall.

"Eighty percent of Kabul was destroyed from years of war," said Schultz, a member of the Civil Affairs for six years.

Civil Affairs units serve as liaisons between the U.S. government and the host country, said Schultz. Schultz's unit helped reopen schools for both girls and boys and coordinated the building of medical clinics, the repair of roads and bridges and drilling of water wells. The efforts were to help establish stability and order in Afghanistan, which is still rebuilding two years after the United States launched its first raids on Oct. 7, 2001, against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban.

"People welcomed us with open arms," said Schultz. "They had a safety and calmness they hadn't had in years with the Taliban."

Especially appreciative of the soldier's efforts were women, who were not able to attend school under Taliban rule.

"Women weren't allowed to go to school for more than 10 years," said Schultz.

While in Afghanistan, Schultz worked with about 25 different ministries, but was mostly aligned with the Ministry of Health. Much of her time was spent in meetings to coordinate the rebuilding of hospitals, clinics and health care facilities, schedule surgeons for operations and help find ways to fight infectious diseases such as whooping cough, an infection of the respiratory system that results in severe coughing spells.

She was apart of a team effort to establish pharmaceutical companies and worked with WHO (World Health Organization) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to acquire in vaccinations for diseases not commonly found in the United States.

Schultz said she employed her marketing skills and experience during the meetings with Afghan ministers and other government officials.

"The military depends on Civil Affairs to help rebuild the infrastructure," said Schultz. "They want people with real-life experience."

"There's a lot of good things happening, but you'll never see it in the media," she said. "Soldiers are doing a lot of good things in conjunction with the community. We were helping rebuild Afghanistan."

One large project of which Schultz was especially proud was the rebuilding of a women's hospital, the only one in the country.

"It was wonderful to see three shifts of women go back to work," she said.

"Seeing women and children getting access to health care and going back to school — and seeing the joy and happiness on their faces — was incredible," said Schultz.

Many women, said Schultz, were attending classes with their children.

"How challenging that must have been. But they rejoiced for that opportunity," she said. "We have kids in this country who don't see (education) as a privilege, yet Afghanistan has kids who die for that privilege."

### *Faithfully united*

Schultz worked with representatives of many countries, including France, England, Germany, Turkey, Romania and the Netherlands. She often attended non-denominational religious services and Bible studies several nights a week with her comrades.

"The services helped bring people together," she said. "Our faith helped bring us together."

A German Catholic priest would often come to offer Mass, said Schultz, but it depended on the area's threat level. In recent months, several U.S. soldiers have been killed by Afghan insurgents.

During her time in Afghanistan, Schultz and other members of her unit lived and worked at a heavily armed, walled-off compound in the heart of Kabul. The compound was down the road from the U.S. embassy. As such, due to possible attacks, the compound was occasionally locked down, preventing Schultz from attending services.

Security precautions were taken when Schultz traveled with her two-person team (including another soldier and an interpreter).

"It gave us an increased awareness. But even when there was a threat, we knew what our jobs were," she said. "We were building bridges to help the Afghan people. When you see such need in people, you're willing to forge ahead. They're dependent on you."

"People need to help those who can't help themselves, and (Afghans) are not in a position to help themselves," said Schultz. "When you can make a difference in the life of one person, or in many people's lives, those are the heartfelt moments."

### *Lasting memories*

Although back at her marketing job for Sagebrush Steakhouse in North Carolina, Schultz would return to Afghanistan, "if I was single," she said.

"The most difficult part of my tour in Afghanistan was the pre-deployment phase," said Schultz. "Saying goodbye to my fiancé and family was difficult because we didn't know how long we'd be separated."

While she now looks forward to her December wedding, she still looks back to her overseas adventure.

"Afghanistan is not just a place on the map for me anymore," said Schultz. "There are some wonderful and talented people there. (Afghans) are just like you and me, just born in a different country and without the privileges we've had."

"I've developed friendships and left some good friends behind," she said. "It was hard to leave, and was a bittersweet goodbye."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Vatican agency concerned about Afghanistan's draft constitution

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Afghanistan's draft constitution would declare the country an Islamic state and curtail freedoms of other religions, a Vatican agency said.

The constitution, unveiled in early November, does not provide much more religious freedom than the policies of the previous Taliban government, said a Nov. 10 article published by Fides, the Vatican's missionary news service.

"The hope is that in this discussion phase of the constitution, Western diplomats can exert pressure and ask that authentic freedom of religion be recognized in the new Afghanistan," the agency said.

The constitution, which will be debated in the Afghan Parliament Dec. 10, establishes Islam as the state religion but says that other religions would have freedom of worship.

Father Giuseppe Moretti, who heads the church's missionary jurisdiction in Afghanistan, told Fides that "it remains to be seen what is meant by freedom of worship — whether the interpretation will be restrictive or whether, for example, authorities would allow the construction of a church outside an embassy compound."

"In the draft of the constitution, freedom of worship is conceived in terms foreseen by Shariah (Islamic law), and therefore does not admit the possibility of evangelizing or making conversions," Father Moretti said.

The draft constitution has a "decidedly Islamic tone" throughout its 160 articles, Fides said.

The date on the cover is 1382, following the Islamic calendar. It states that it is the duty of the government to institute and organize mosques and Islamic religious centers. It says Afghan citizens are free to organize political parties and social organizations — which must, however, conform to the principles of Islam.

"These instructions are in contrast with other sections of the constitution that affirm the state must respect and protect the freedom and dignity of every person" and ensure democratic policies for all, Fides said.

Father Moretti said that aside from the constitution he is hopeful about the future of interreligious relations in Afghanistan. Some Muslim leaders there have already shown a positive interest in the Catholic Church's activities.

He said Fazul Shinwari, an Islamic mullah who heads the Afghan Supreme Court and the Department of Justice, attended the opening of the Vatican's mission in Kabul and expressed his desire to meet some day with Pope John Paul II.

# Students learn about world

WORLD, *from page 1*

Middle School was immersed in the cultures of the United States and other nations.

"International Week is centered on the social studies curriculum for each grade and its connection between the United States and international events," said Carol Belle, the eighth-grade social studies teacher who brought the concept of International Week to Holy Trinity eight years ago.

"With the Internet and today's current affairs, it's a little easier to spark the interest of our students about what is happening in parts of the world other than Charlotte, North Carolina," Belle said. "It is truly an interdisciplinary experience with all areas of the curriculum involved an contributing to the student's learning."

For International Week, social studies and history teachers assist students in deciding on exhibits for each team in each grade. Other core class instructors such as English, math, science and religion work closely with the students to enhance their projects. Other teachers focus on various aspects of international culture. For example, physical education classes participate in games played by students in other countries and the foreign language classes share information about the clothes, customs and special events in various countries with their teams.

"Our theme is that we are a global community and we have more things in common than things that are different with people of other nationalities," said Belle.

International Week began with students and teachers of different ethnic backgrounds participating in the Mass Nov. 10. Throughout the week, students said prayers in different languages. Flags from various nations were hung in the gym and the cafeteria served international foods.

"Our world in changing," she said. "There is more for our students to try and comprehend about our neighbors. Helping our children learn more about other countries through International Week is an easy was to help promote peace and harmony."

One goal of International Week is to help students understand the dynamics of working in groups, learning skills they will need for the business world.

According to Belle, a key principle of middle school education is learning to work cooperatively together and integrating all curricular areas. International Week accomplishes this by having the whole school and all subjects involved in the project.

"By studying other countries, students learn about peace, justice and inequality in the world, including civil and individual rights," Belle said. "They also consider the response we have as Catholics to be servants and to preach peace and justice through words and actions."

# OLA students take flight to Kitty Hawk, in classroom

CHARLOTTE — Spirits and lesson plans are soaring at Our Lady of the Assumption School as students, faculty and parents prepare for the school's most ambitious field trip — a two-night, three-day journey to the Wright Brothers National Memorial Dec. 10-12 to take part in the centennial celebration of the Wright brothers' historic first flight.

The field trip will include more than 60 students from the school's third, fourth and fifth grades, along with more than 30 parents and four faculty members. Traveling by bus, the group will stay at a hotel in Corolla and plan to be on hand for the opening day of the First Flight Centennial Celebration at Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills Dec. 12.

The fun begins for Our Lady of the Assumption students several days before the actual trip, as teachers in third, fourth and fifth grades, along with the school's learning enrichment instructor, have planned many special activities and lesson plans to enrich the learning experience of the trip.

Among the activities planned is a school-wide paper-airplane exhibition, with students in kindergarten through fifth grade receiving instruction on how to make their own paper airplanes. The event will culminate with a competition at the school in early December that will include such categories as longest flight distance, longest air time and most creative design.

*Other special lessons will include:*

Third-graders will re-create a newspaper from Dec. 17, 1903, that reports on the historic Wright brothers' flight. They also will create their own diagrams of the Wright Flyer and make a timeline of the history of flight.

Fourth- and fifth-graders will build their own kites, just as the Wright brothers did to test flight theory, and will research and write reports on inventors and make their own inventions. Fifth-graders also will practice perspective writing by making their own diary entries for Dec. 17, 1903.

Students will leave for the Outer Banks in the early morning of Dec. 10. They will spend Dec. 11 at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. The group will head to the Wright Brothers National Memorial on Dec. 12 for the opening-day celebration that will feature exhibits, speakers and entertainment designed to inspire the next generation of aviators by engaging children of all ages in the power of flight.

# They got milk

COURTESY PHOTO

St. Ann School students enjoy ice cream sandwiches, thanks to Harry the Dragon, who visited the school from Harris Teeter Oct. 28 as part of the Harris Teeter Milk Challenge. Harry also brought pens, pencils, rulers and notepads, and a video explaining how milk gets from cows to the stores and how ice cream sandwiches are made. Students have participated in the milk challenge since the start of school. Students collect caps from Harris Teeter and Hunter Farm milk products and bring them to school. At the end of the year, the students will turn in the milk caps for money.

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# A matter of marriage

MARRIAGE, *from page 1*

ance of sound public policy."

In its 4-3 decision, the court said that "barring an individual from the protections, benefits and obligations of civil marriage solely because that person would marry a person of the same sex violates the Massachusetts Constitution."

The court stayed the opinion for 180 days "to permit the Legislature to take such action as it may deem appropriate in light of this opinion."

Calling marriage "a vital social institution" that both "provides an abundance of legal, financial and social benefits" and "imposes weighty legal, financial and social obligations," the majority opinion by Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall said the Massachusetts Constitution "forbids the creation of second-class citizens."

The commonwealth, the court said, "has failed to identify any constitutionally adequate reason for denying civil marriage to same-sex couples."

"We are mindful that our decision marks a change in the history of our marriage law," the decision said.

"Many people hold deep-seated religious, moral and ethical convictions that marriage should be limited to the union of one man and one woman, and that homosexual conduct is immoral," it said. "Many hold equally strong religious, moral and ethical convictions that same-sex couples are entitled to be married, and that homosexual persons should be treated no differently than their heterosexual neighbors. Neither view answers the question before us."

State legislators have twice sidestepped action on a popular petition, signed by 130,000 residents, seeking a state constitutional amendment to preserve the traditional definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. In order to get on the ballot for a popular referendum, such constitutional petitions must be approved by at least 50 of the state's 200 legislators gathered jointly in at least two separate legislative sessions.

Under this process, the earliest possible vote on the measure by Massachusetts citizens would be in 2006.

If it takes effect in 180 days, the decision changes the law only in Massachusetts.

The majority decision said the Massachusetts Constitution "is, if anything, more protective of individual liberty and equality than the federal Constitution; it may demand broader protection of fundamental rights; and it is less tolerant of government intrusion into the protected spheres of private life."

Each of the three dissenters — Justices Francis X. Spina, Martha B. Sosman and Robert J. Cordy — issued an opinion of his or her own and concurred in the dissents of the other two justices.

"What is at stake in this case is not the unequal treatment of individuals or whether individual rights have been impermissibly burdened, but the power of the Legislature to effectuate social change without interference from the courts," Spina wrote. "Today, the court has transformed its role as protector of individual rights into the role of creator of rights."

Sosman said the decision, "as a matter of social history, ... may represent a great turning point that many will hail as a tremendous step toward a more just society. As a matter of constitutional jurisprudence, however, the case stands as an aberration."

At their just-completed fall general meeting in Washington, the U.S. bishops approved a 2,000-word teaching document on why same-sex unions should not be given the social or legal status of marriage.

"Marriage, whose nature and purposes are established by God, can only be the union of a man and a woman and must remain such in law," it said.

The statement is to be published in brochure form, with plans for wide distribution in parishes.

In September, the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee issued a public policy statement calling for a constitutional amendment to protect the unique social and legal status of marriage as a union of a man and a woman.

# Bishops' meeting covers sex abuse crisis, farms, budget and devotions

## *Bishop Jugis impressed with range of topics discussed*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops opened their annual fall meeting with a challenge from their president to direct "the energy of the whole church" to the eradication of sexual abuse and the healing of its victims. They also heard from the review board they established to respond to the abuse crisis.

During general sessions the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also discussed and voted on a vast array of issues from same-sex unions, agricultural concerns, popular devotions, socially responsible investment, stewardship, conflict-of-interest policy and several liturgical matters. The bishops elected a new secretary, a pro-life committee chairman and chairmen-elect for eight other committees.

"Being my very first meeting with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, I was very impressed with the range of issues the bishops covered," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte. "Also, with the amount of work we got done in the short amount of time."

The meeting, initially scheduled for Nov. 10-13, finished one day early as the bishops moved up their scheduled items of business to conclude at the end of the day Nov. 12.

On the first day of the annual fall meeting, held at Washington's Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, the bishops approved the addition of one full-time and two part-time staff members for their Office for Child and Youth Protection at a cost of more than $265,000 through 2005.

Failure to approve the new posts "would look like our institutional memory has been lost" on the abuse issue, said Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Dallas.

The bishops heard a presentation on the work of their National Review Board, formed last year in the wake of

CONTINUED next page

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family, discusses his committee's proposed statement "Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions," at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall general meeting in Washington Nov. 12.

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*From previous page*

ıe clerical sex abuse crisis, and were ›ld of major national studies on the risis and the U.S. bishops' response to it ıat will be released early next year.

The studies will include a report on ıe extent of sexual abuse of minors by atholic priests and deacons since 1950 y the John Jay College of Criminal ıstice in New York and the review oard's consensus report on interviews ith bishops, priests-abusers, victims nd a wide array of professionals re-arding the "causes and context" of the buse crisis.

On Nov. 12, the bishops over-helmingly approved a short teaching ocument on why same-sex unions hould not be given the social or legal tatus of marriage. The bishops were ›ld that rapid developments on the is-ıe across the country led the USCCB dministrative Committee in Septem-er to seek development of the statement ı time for the November meeting.

The 2,000 word statement, "Be-ween Man and Woman: Questions and nswers About Marriage and Same-ex Union," states that marriage be-ween a man and a woman is God's plan, een in nature and in divine revelation. It as approved in a 234-3 vote.

The same day, they also unani-ıously approved their first new docu-ıent on agriculture in 14 years: "For I Vas Hungry and You Gave Me Food: atholic Reflections on Food, Farmers nd Farmworkers." The document, hich examines agricultural issues from enetically modified crops to crop subsi-ies and market forces affecting rural life oth in the United States and in the ation's trading partners, passed with a 37-0 vote.

The bishops spent time Nov. 10 dis-ussing the need for guidelines on how hey should handle relationships with atholics whose actions in public life are ot in accord with church teaching.

The guidelines, which are not ex-ected to be in final form until after the 004 elections, are meant to help bish-ps make distinctions between "respect for the office and approval of the office-holder ... to distinguish between fundamental moral principles and prudential judgments on the application of those principles," said Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., chairman of a new task force charged with addressing the issue.

On other political matters, Mark Chopko, the bishops' general counsel, told the bishops Nov. 12 that the church faces a "multifaceted affront" to its integrity and identity from regulatory and legislative pressures.

Those pressures include laws that require church-run social service agencies to include contraceptives in prescription drug plans for employees, or that seek to use charitable trusts or tax exemptions as ways of forcing changes in policies based on church teachings.

He warned that if Catholic and other faiths' agencies are confronted by the choice of conforming to some societal standards or withdrawing from society, they might have to stop serving the poor, the vulnerable and needy.

That same day, the bishops approved, in 236-6 vote with two abstentions, a pastoral statement encouraging popular devotions but cautioning that those devotions should never supplant the liturgy, the primary form of the church's worship and sacramental life. The 21-page statement is called, "Popular Devotional Practices: Basic Questions and Answers."

During the meeting the bishops also approved:

— A stewardship document that encourages young adults to change the world by using their gifts and skills to embrace the church's social teachings.

— A policy to prevent conflict of interest in conducting business and an updated version of their guidelines on socially responsible investing, by voice vote.

— A revised edition of "Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest" and a revised edition of "Guidelines for the Concelebration of the Eucharist."

— A 2004 budget for the USCCB that shaved $4.5 million off the 2003 expenditures.

The bishops elected Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., as the new secretary of the USCCB, succeeding Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., who completed a three-year term.

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, addresses the nation's bishops at the opening session of their general meeting in Washington Nov. 10.

They also elected Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore to a three-year term as the new chairman of their Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He succeeds Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, now retired archbishop of Philadelphia. They also chose new chairmen-elect for eight other committees who will automatically succeed the current chairmen at next year's fall meeting.

The bishops also agreed to extend for another three years 14 USCCB ad hoc committees, including stewardship, Spanish-language Bible, sexual abuse, Native American Catholics and aid to the church in Central and Eastern Europe. They disbanded the Ad Hoc Committee on Agriculture Issues since the conference approved a statement raising concerns about the ethical dimensions of policy on agriculture and trade.

They heard a report Nov. 10 on plans for their 2004 special assembly in Denver, which will involve discussions of a possible plenary council of the U.S. church. No decision will be made on that issue at the June assembly, however, said Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Plenary Council.

Another report, given by Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett of Seattle, Catholic co-chair of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, spoke of Anglican-Catholic dialogue and urged bishops to remain committed to dialogue despite challenges raised by the recent ordination of an openly gay bishop in the U.S. Episcopal Church.

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Catholic bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, gave a report on the preparations for a new ecumenical forum in the United States that would embrace a wider range of churches than the National Council of Churches currently does. He said the bishops may be asked to make a decision about joining this body next year.

"Many of the committees are ongoing and are working on future document, such as adult and adolescent catechism, support for the church in Africa and other issues," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishops were asked to consider formalizing economic support for pastoral programs in Africa similar to what they now provide to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The first two days of the meeting had an international flavor, with reports from the president of the Vietnamese bishops' conference, a former Vatican justice and peace official and African bishops seeking renewed attention to the plight of their continent.

Coadjutor Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, Ireland, former Vatican representative at U.N. agencies that are based in Geneva and former secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, spoke on issues of war and peace 40 years after the encyclical "Pacem in Terris." He said international cooperation and gathering accurate intelligence about terrorist groups are preferable to war in combating terrorism.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Protestants and Catholics discuss the role of Mary

REVIEWED BY
BROTHER JEFFREY GROS, FSC
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

All Christians recognize Mary as the mother of God, as attested in Scripture and the Christian tradition. However, among Catholics, Orthodox and the Reformation churches, such as Lutherans, there have been a wide variety of devotions and a wide range of opinions of each other's practices.

Martin Luther had a higher regard for the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception than did St. Thomas Aquinas. Most of the reformers presumed the Assumption, and some kept the feast day. However, all Protestants were wary of some Catholic practices, and evangelical Christians particularly so, even accusing Catholics of idolatry because of our Marian piety. On the other hand, the Catholic Church has always upheld the appropriate veneration of Mary while warning against practices that go beyond the bounds of faith and question the centrality of Christ's unique mediation role.

"Mary: A Catholic-Evangelical Debate," by Dwight Longenecker and David Gustafson, with forewords by Father Richard John Neuhaus and J.I. Packer. Brazos Press (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2003). 240 pp., $14.99.

In our own day there have been important agreements between Protestants and Catholics on the role of Mary — in the U.S. Lutheran and Catholic dialogue, among Catholics and Calvinists in France in the Groupe des Dombes, and in an important forthcoming statement among Anglicans and Catholics. Even as early as 1983 the subject was treated in the important Evangelical and Roman Catholic Dialogue on Mission.

"Mary: A Catholic-Evangelical Debate" is a significant contribution to that literature and an important educational resource for evangelicals and Catholics alike.

Although this book is called a debate, it often rises above that level. It is a good example of ecumenical dialogue in action. It has these important characteristics of dialogue:

— Clarification, without stereotype, of the other's positions.

— Appreciation of the truth in one another's positions.

— Recognition of misunderstandings and abuses in one's own community.

— Finding common ground in the shared truth of the Gospel without compromise.

The book has 12 chapters. The first three look at common ground: the biblical evidence, common faith in Mary as mother of God, and the virginity of Mary. The next three chapters take up contentious titles and the doctrines that stand behind them: Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Immaculate Conception and the Assumption.

The following three chapters explicate the devotional life of Catholics that is so easily misunderstood by Protestants, especially evangelical Christians: veneration, apparitions and the rosary. These chapters will be of interest to Catholics as much as to Protestants because of the distinctions the authors attempt to clarify among Catholic faith, the official devotion of the church and the variety of private practices, some of which clearly go beyond Catholic teaching.

There is a chapter on the titles for Mary which are controversial even within Catholicism: co-redeemer, mediatrix and advocate. The book ends with a summary and conclusions. The volume has a helpful bibliography, two indices and useful study questions at the end of each chapter.

This book is designed as a suitable resource for an evangelical-Catholic dialogue in a local setting of a parish or school. It will also be a valuable resource for those working with evangelicals interested in Catholicism, with candidates in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or with Catholic students who live in an evangelical environment.

Mary is central to Catholic devotional life as model of the church and as pointer to Christ in her own role in the plan of salvation. Catholics will be enriched in their own understanding of Mary by appreciating the reservations serious Christians have about our faith and practice. By reading a volume like this, Catholics will also be equipped to renew and reform their own Marian piety and communicate the Catholic culture and faith to fellow Christians in dialogue.

*Brother Gros is an associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 23, 2003

## *Nov. 23, Our Lord Jesus Christ the King*

***Cycle B Readings:***

1) Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5
2) Revelation 1:5-8
3) Gospel: John 18:33b-37

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The 8-year-old was helping the 6-year-old set the table. She consulted the 11-year-old: "Which cup do you want?"

"The blue one."

"Put the blue one there."

"No! I already put the red one there. The blue one goes over here!"

"Well, Zack wants the blue one. So give Mom the red one."

"No! Mom gets the one with the flowers!"

"Then put the red one over here and the blue one there."

"No!" The 6-year-old was bellowing now, "I'm in charge!"

"No you're not."

"Yes, I am! Mom, didn't you say I'm in charge of setting the table?"

When our kids were young it seemed that their continuing power struggles usually came down to someone's claim that "I'm in charge!" And the arbiters to that claim always were Dad and Mom — which proved who really was "in charge."

That's pretty typical of family life. Parents give various tasks to different children. They do this to nurture the needs of each child as well as to serve the good of the family as a whole.

When the children overstep their own bounds of authority — which they do because they care more about their authority than the good of the family — there is strife, and the ultimate authority (Dad and Mom) must step in to restore peace.

With this weekend's readings for the feast of Christ the King, we are reminded that Christ is the ultimate authority amid constantly competing cries of "I'm in charge!"

Although God has offered us responsibilities for this world and our relationships with each other, we God's children, regularly overstep our bounds in our desire to call the shots. More concerned with being in control — of others' actions or our own agendas — we forget or refuse to serve the greater good of all.

So, often despite our efforts to the contrary and after we cause some suffering and harm, Jesus — we are assured — will come, ultimately, in some way and step in to restore peace to God's family.

For this he was born to us.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23 - NOVEMBER 29**

**Sunday (Christ the King),** Daniel 7:13-14, 5 Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday (Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, Martyr and His Companions, Martyrs),** Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday,** Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel 3:57-61, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday,** Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28,Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday, (Thanksgiving Day),** Sirach 50:22-24, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Luke 17:11-19; **Friday,** Daniel 7:2-14, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday,** Sirach 44:1, 10-15, Mark 10:17-21

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6**

**Sunday (First Sunday of Advent),** Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36; **Monday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Francis Xavier),** Isaiah 25:6-10a, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8


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## He's the One, but he's no Savior

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROTHERS

Keanu Reeves stars as Neo, also called the One, in "The Matrix Revolutions." Vatican Radio calls the film a "superficial commercialization of Christian ideas and symbols." The movie, which received a USCCB classification of A-IV — adults, with reservations — engages in "open looting of the Christian story," Vatican Radio said.

# Bishops sign petition to rerelease film about Irish Catholic soldiers

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The quest to get a 4-year-old movie back on the big screen took its next step as more than two dozen bishops signing a petition asking the studio to either rerelease the film or to sell the rights to a studio that will.

The movie, "One Man's Hero," deals with the San Patricio Battalion, a group of Irish immigrant soldiers who deserted the U.S. Army after promises of citizenship were not honored and the soldiers were mistreated because of their Catholic faith. The men fled to Mexico before and during the Mexican-American War amid a new promise of citizenship, plus land.

"One Man's Hero," which stars Tom Berenger, was screened before about a dozen bishops — and an equal number of reporters — Nov. 11 at the Washington hotel hosting the U.S. bishops' fall general meeting in Washington. After the movie, the bishops in attendance signed the petition.

The movie was made for Orion Pictures, but Orion was sold to MGM before the film was released. MGM showed the film in 60 theaters, mostly in the U.S. Southwest, then issued the film on video.

MGM controls the film's rights in the United States, Canada, Ireland and Northern Ireland; "One Man's Hero" was not released in the last three countries. The movie has already been shown in Mexico.

"We exhort MGM to rerelease the movie in major markets that have large Catholic populations," the petition says, identifying New York City, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Washington and Philadelphia.

"We believe that not only the Catholic faithful in the United States would profit from viewing this film, but also people of different faiths and other backgrounds," the petition said.

The petition adds that the movie should also be released in Ireland and Northern Ireland. "The San Patricios are heroes and not only to the people of Mexico but, first and foremost, (to) their own countrymen in Ireland," it says.

Tom Nash of Catholics United for the Faith, who has spearheaded the rerelease campaign, said he believes MGM is acting with "bias" and "animus" against Catholics in its refusal to rerelease "One Man's Hero" or sell the rights. He cited MGM's negotiations with a prospective English distributor that broke down even after the distributor, he said, had met all of MGM's conditions for distribution rights.

Paul L. Newman, one of the film's associate producers, said that, with the MGM takeover of Orion, "Orion people who loved the idea and would have fought for this idea weren't there anymore." Likewise, he added, "the people at MGM who made the decision (to withdraw 'One Man's Hero') probably aren't there anymore."

"This is great," said Auxiliary Bishop Emilio Allue of Boston after seeing the movie. "It's very historical," he said, alluding to an incident that occurred earlier in U.S. history when an English governor in colonial South Carolina destroyed the Spanish missions there. "It's happened to us the same as it happened to the Irish," said Bishop Allue, one of 24 active U.S. Hispanic bishops.

Bishop Allue doesn't agree with the contention that "One Man's Hero" is anti-American because it shows the Army in a bad light. "It is not anti-American; it is very factual," he said. "You cannot deny history."

For bishops who couldn't make the hotel screening, Silver Lion Films, which made "One Man's Hero," arranged to have the movie shown on closed-circuit TV in their hotel rooms.

The movie can be seen occasionally on cable television, and is available on videocassette and DVD.

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Ralph is the founding President of Renewal Ministries, a Catholic mission organization, and hosts a popular weekly television series, *The Choices We Face*. Ralph is also the founding editor of *New Covenant* magazine and author of several books. He presently leads The Word of God, an ecumenical Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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**SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL**
Sr. Ann is the superior of the Servants of God's Love in Lansing, Michigan, and is a regular co-host on the television program, *The Choices We Face*. She also hosts a radio program, *Food for the Journey*. She is the author of several books, including *Fire in My Heart*, and is a frequent conference speaker.

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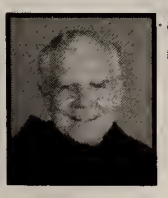

**FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN, TOR**
Fr. Michael is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was ordained in 1964. In 1990, he was awarded the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John Paul II. He has authored several books including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.

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**PETER HERBECK**
Peter is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries and has served numerous retreats, conferences, rallies, and events around the world. Much of his work has been devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts. Peter and his wife Debbie have four children and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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**MOST REV. ROBERT J. BAKER, STD**
Bishop Baker is shepherd to Catholics throughout the state of South Carolina. He has served as a pastor, counselor, mentor, and professor during his priesthood and was appointed as the 12th Bishop of Charleston in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.

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# Racing for the cure

COURTESY PHOTO

A team of students, parents, teachers and staff of St. Gabriel School raised over $900 for breast cancer during the Race for the Cure event in Charlotte Oct. 4. Molly Sweeny, a third-grader, raised $307 and Hank LeFlore, a fifth-grader, raised $235.

# Dr. William Powers to speak at Bradley Institute

BELMONT — Dr. William F. Powers will give a talk entitled "Catholicism in North Carolina: Periods of Frustration and Growth," in the student commons at Belmont Abbey College at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4. Admission is free and open to the public.

Powers served as a professor of sociology for nearly 30 years at Suffolk Community College on Long Island. He holds a doctorate from St. John's University in New York. He moved to Chapel Hill in 1999 to work on his book "Tar Heel Catholics: A History of Catholicism in North Carolina," which was published in September 2003.

The talk is part of the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, which provides opportunities for business executives, career professionals and clergy to examine relevant ethical, theological and philosophical topics within the context of their modern lives. Program topics range from business, legal and medical ethics to history and philosophy.

The Institute, sponsored by Belmont Abbey College, was founded in 1996 and is named for Rev. John P. Bradley, former president of Belmont Abbey College and former CEO and chairman of the board of Good Will Publishers of Charlotte.

# Annual Catholic Camporee for Scouts and Cubs

NEBO, N.C. — Catholic Camporee XXIX, an annual camping event for Scouts and Cubs, will be held at Camp Grimes March 26-28, 2004.

All Catholic Scout troops, Cub Packs, individual Catholic Scouts or units led by Catholics are encouraged to attend the weekend camporee, and awards for the winners of Scout competitions will be distributed after the Sunday Mass.

Camp Grimes is located on the Mecklenburg Scout Reservation in McDowell County, nestled in the foothills of the South Mountains.

All parties interested in attending are encouraged to make plans now. For more information, contact Joe Vari at (704) 846-5155.


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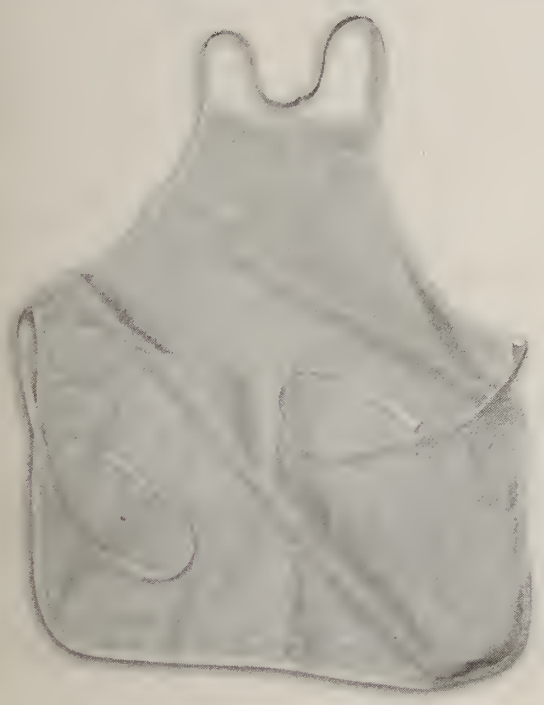

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# Interpreting Mary

COURTESY PHOTO BY PEG RUBLE

Students create their interpretations of Mary during the Fall High School Retreat held at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Oct. 17-19. Almost 40 youths from nine parishes throughout the diocese explored the theme "Behold Your Mother," which was the theme of World Youth Day celebrated nationally Oct. 26.

# Breaking ground

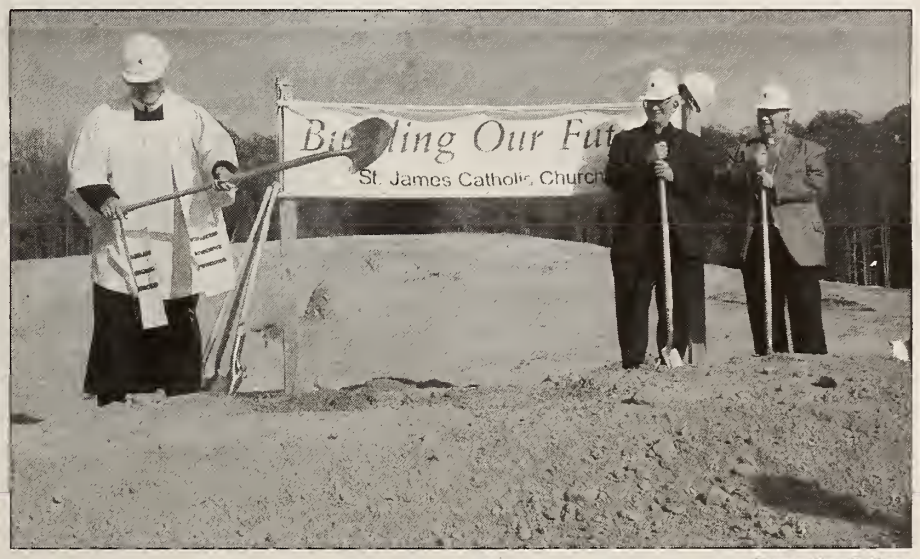


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Redemptorist Father James Geiger shovels dirt as Rev. Mr. Daniel Carl and Rev. Mr. Guy Piche watch during the Nov. 16 groundbreaking ceremony for the new St. James Church in Concord. The new facility will be several miles from the current church and is expected to be complete next year. See Parish Profile on page 16.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Drawing unfortunate conclusions on intercommunion

*Clarifying recent column with church teaching*

**Guest Column**

FATHER JOHN PUTNAM
GUEST COLUMNIST

In responding to a question regarding intercommunion, Father John Dietzen in his Nov. 7 column "Non-Catholics receiving Communion in Catholic Churches") is misleading. As Catholics, we recognize the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Catholic life. Because of this, the church is very clear on who may and who may not receive Communion during the celebration of the Eucharist. The U.S. bishops issued norms in 1996, and these can be found in the missalettes used by most parishes. Those norms, as printed in Father Dietzen's column, have not changed.

Father Dietzen's conclusions can lead to error in at least two ways. First of all, his presentation of certain passages in the papal documents "Ut unum sint" and "Ecclesia de Eucaristia" is taken out of context. In the former, Father Dietzen notes the first few lines of No. 46 but omits reference to the previous paragraph, No. 45, and the remainder of the paragraph quoted. In these passages, the Holy Father notes that "Certainly, due to disagreements in matters of faith, it is not yet possible to celebrate together the same Eucharistic Liturgy ... (where the sharing of sacraments can occur) The conditions for such reciprocal reception have been laid down in specific norms; for the sake of furthering ecumenism these norms must be respected."

In the latter, the Holy Father does indeed reiterate No. 46 of "Ut unum sint," but he also includes the following passage that Father Dietzen omits: "These conditions, from which no dispensation can be given, must be carefully respected, even though they deal with specific individual cases, because the denial of one or more truths of the faith regarding these sacraments and, among these, the truth regarding the need of the ministerial priesthood for their validity, renders the person asking improperly disposed to legitimately receiving them."

And the opposite is also true: Catholics may not receive Communion in those communities that lack a valid sacrament of Orders. These documents are certainly instruments of the clear and consistent teaching of the ordinary magisterium of the church; however, neither document set out to nor effected a change in the current norms of the church with respect to intercommunion sacramental sharing.

Secondly, Father Dietzen refers to certain actions of the Holy Father with regard to the British prime minister. None of us knows the exact circumstances of that situation, and we really do not have to. Simply because the Holy Father does something or does not do something does not make it the definitive norm for church practice. If such was the case, we would be subject to widespread chaos and confusion.

Should the Holy Father wish to change the current practice of the church with regard to intercommunion and sacramental sharing, he certainly has the authority to do so, but there is a clear and precise manner in which this has to be accomplished. Such a change has not taken place, and even Father Dietzen notes that his observations are simply speculation.

Unfortunately, even with an article that admits speculation, many individuals read such a column in a Catholic newspaper and draw unfortunate conclusions. This can lead both to hurt and misunderstanding. While we continue to pray for the unity of all Christians, that all may be one (ut unum sint), that unity has not yet been realized. Hence, intercommunion can only take place in certain specific circumstances as indicated in the law of the church.

*Father John Putnam is pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

# At audience, pope urges pilgrims to remember importance of prayer

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — At a flag-waving and song-filled general audience, Pope John Paul II greeted pilgrims from all over the world and urged them not to forget the importance of prayer.

The 83-year-old pontiff appeared in good form as he spent nearly two hours in a packed Vatican audience hall Nov. 19, delivering brief talks in 10 languages. His voice sounded relatively strong, although he skipped over parts of his main speech.

The pope continued his series of audience talks on evening prayer, highlighting the canticle from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, which is chanted each Sunday at vespers.

That ancient liturgical hymn, the pope said, captures the entire mystery of Christ, his humbling incarnation as man and his triumphal ascent to heaven at Easter. He said it was important for the modern church to keep its connection with such forms of prayer that go back to the early days of Christianity.

Those in the hall added music and spirit to the encounter, serenading the pope with hymns and folk songs. Five choirs from the United States were among those present, and the pope thanked them for their "praise of God in song."

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

He also greeted a delegation of Jewish war veterans from the United States, who sat near the front of the audience hall.

National and local flags unfurled as the audience groups were called out by name. Members of a national pilgrimage of Hungarian Gypsies stood and sang a traditional hymn.

At the end of his audience talk, the pope offered special words in support of the cloistered nuns around the world. He asked all Catholics to give spiritual and material support to cloistered religious orders.

"We are, in fact, greatly indebted to these people who consecrate themselves entirely to incessant prayer for the church and for the world," he said.

Before leaving the hall, the pope greeted dozens of pilgrims, tracing a cross on each forehead, accepting their gifts and caressing their babies. Then, seated in his mobile throne, he posed for several group photos.

**Letters to the Editor**

# High praise for bishop tribute

What a wonderful special edition (Oct. 31) to celebrate the ordination of Bishop Peter J. Jugis. I suspect Bishop Jugis' humility might say it was maybe a little too much to do over him, but I would say that issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* accurately reflects the excitement and joy we feel over our new bishop (and I'm not even Catholic).

While we welcome Bishop Jugis, we are also grateful for Bishop William G. Curlin's dedication and service to the Diocese of Charlotte. We have every confidence Bishop Jugis will continue the high Christian ideals set by Bishop Curlin.

Bob Gunn
Black Mountain

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# Actor knows keys to successful life, family

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

This fall marks the 51st season of Christopher television. In a world where new programs can come and go in a matter of weeks, I think we have the right to be just a little proud of our longevity. Far more than that, we continue a tradition of presenting guests who are doing their bit to change the world for the better in an amazing variety of positive ways.

The current Christopher Closeup line-up includes a high school principal who helps inner-city children succeed, a singer who volunteers as a mentor and a minister and author who helps people find peace in times of anxiety. I was delighted to interview these interesting and, yes, inspiring people.

Among the other equally entertaining and thought-provoking guests was an actor I had really looked forward to meeting. As a fan of Cuba Gooding, Jr.'s performance in "Jerry Maguire" (for which he won an Academy Award), and his costarring role with Robert DeNiro in "Men Of Honor," I wanted to know more about him. I went to see his newest movie before I interviewed him for Christopher Closeup. I'm happy to report "The Fighting Temptations" is good fun. It's also blessed with sensational music, most of which is performed in a southern Baptist church. To say it is music with gusto is an understatement. You'd be hard pressed to be unmoved by this soulful singing.

At a time when many movies make us cringe with poor values and language, "The Fighting Temptations" is different. And it was a particular joy to find that the star of the film not only speaks words of value in the movie, but tries to live those words in real life.

Cuba Gooding, Jr. is charming, articulate and delightfully sincere. He's also obviously a religious man. In fact, in an earlier interview, he'd said every night before he goes to bed, he recites the Scripture verse, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) He clearly sees all life as a gift from God and has his priorities straight. I asked him how he lives out The Christophers' message: How is he making the world a better place? How is he making a difference for the good?

From a career point of view, he wants to be a role model for every young African-American who aspires to act. He wants to send the message that nothing is beyond their dreams. He says his life should make believers of all who think there are limits. From a personal point of view, he said the kind of father and husband he is will determine his real success. Family is the place where he wants to make the biggest difference. I couldn't help but think if every father and husband had this priority, our whole society could be much healthier. It's great to be a movie star, but it's even more vital that a man star in his own family as a source of goodness, stability, good values and direction.

I'm not sure why it's so hard for us to get our priorities straight, but it is. Time and again I hear about people who put so much energy into work they have little left for their families. Yet, a key to a meaningful life is deciding what — and who — is really important to us. It's unrealistic to say that success doesn't matter in this world. But if we just spent a bit more time thinking about the kind of success we really want to achieve, then we — and the people who are dear to us — would gain more than we ever dreamed.

# What is the right method of baptism?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. My question involves the process of baptism. Is immersion the only fully authentic way to administer baptism, as some non-Catholic religions teach? I know some Catholic churches have immersion "pools" for baptism; but is pouring the water over the head just as proper? (Ohio)*

A. Either way is proper, according to the practice and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church. The reasons are important and, I think, interesting.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us of a significant truth about the sacraments. "All sacramental celebrations," it says, "are woven from signs and symbols. In keeping with the divine pedagogy of salvation (that is, God's method of teaching us about his way of saving the human race), their meaning is rooted in the work of creation and in human culture" (No. 1145).

From the beginning, the church has taken that idea seriously. It is essential that all material elements and actions used in the liturgy (bread, wine, oil, water, words) be recognized for what they should be, authentic "signs" of what Jesus Christ accomplishes in us through these rituals.

What is Jesus really doing in baptism? From the beginning, Christians were familiar with several biblical images of the effect of baptism. Through it "we put on a new self" like a new garment (Col 3:10). We are "enlightened," and we taste "the good word of God" (Heb 6:4-5).

The central image, however, was the one indicated by Jesus to Nicodemus in the Gospel of John, "We are born of water and Spirit" (3:5). That's the way St. Paul saw baptism. We were "buried with him (Jesus) through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life" (Rom 6:4).

Immersion of people receiving baptism — standing in water which is then poured over the heads of the baptized — was seen as a fuller expression of this burial and rising to new birth. It continued to predominate in the church for hundreds of years.

Interestingly, early Christian art and literature reveal that, already in the first decades and centuries after Christ, the method of baptism with which we are more familiar, pouring water over the head (called infusion), was also acceptable. This form of the sacrament has grown more common since the 14th century, as the "washing away of original sin" became the more prevailing symbol of the effects of baptism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1239), continuing the ancient tradition, says, "Baptism is performed in the most expressive way by triple immersion in the baptismal water."

However, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (No. 213), the Rite of Baptism for Children (No. 18), and the catechism, all indicate that either immersion or infusion may be chosen, according to local traditions and circumstances.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Smile, God — and the camera — loves you!

## Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

Let me begin by thanking the millions of you who have written, called, e-mailed or sent singing telegrams in regard to the redesign of *The Catholic News & Herald.* To the reader who sent the note with the home-baked cookies, that was an especially nice touch! I only wish other readers would take such initiative (wink, wink).

We're still making changes here at your diocesan newspaper and plan to introduce several new features in the coming weeks.

I've also received a few letters about recent national and religious coverage — conservative readers have called me a "left-wing liberal" and liberal readers have labeled me a "right-wing conservative." I'm not entirely sure if everybody's reading the same newspaper, but at least I can't be faulted for taking sides. If anything, it can be said there's content for everybody in *The Catholic News & Herald.*

If I try to do anything, though, it's present the Catholic perspective on issues. Why I have a few readers claiming I'm in league with the devil, and worse, with *The New York Times,* is beyond me.

But as many of you have kindly noticed, the amount of local content continues to go up. This is, in part, thanks to you. We've received a plethora (I'm trying to make use of my thesaurus) of submissions, including photos and press releases and, in some cases, short stories from the churches, schools and ministries of the diocese. These are usually the stories that run without bylines, the photos that run with "Courtesy Photo" captions.

Unfortunately, our small staff can't be everywhere all the time, so these reader submissions are very welcomed, and while I unfortunately can't promise to include them all in the newspaper, they certainly add a nice (and increased) local element to the pages of *The Catholic News & Herald.*

So take a camera to your next church, ministry or school event and snap some photos, then send them in with a brief description. Or come to our office, stand in the doorway with your arms crossed, and glare at us until we are intimidated enough to go out and photograph your event.

Either method will work, but standing around all day with arms crossed is just simply bad for your circulation.

So, grab your cameras and start snapping. I look forward to your submissions and immortalizing you in *The Catholic News & Herald.*

Now if you'll excuse me, I have some cookies to eat.

# St. James Church serves as spiritual home to Concord Catholics

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. James Church in Concord, which now boasts more than 800 families, sits on land acquired by a parishioner during an auction.

CONCORD — In the 1800s, Cabarrus County Catholics, like many others in the state, had to travel elsewhere for Mass.

Joseph Barnhardt, a convert to Catholicism, dreamed of having a church built in Concord, but died in 1858 before he could help plan it. But when Barnhardt's father-in-law died in 1869, he deeded a picturesque plot of land for the future church.

With the help of the Concord-area Catholics, the first St. James Church was built and dedicated on Aug. 1, 1869. Father Joseph J. O'Connell, who would later write a book about Catholicism in the South, became the first pastor of the parish.

In the 1950s, a parishioner named J.B. Williams attempted to buy a piece of property inside the town for the church. When non-Catholic residents discovered his intention for the property, he was immediately outbid. A short time later, another property was auctioned for which Williams bid — he purchased the property and turned it over to the church. This became the property on which the church currently stands.

The first pastors of the church were Benedictine priests from Belmont Abbey and other areas of the diocese. In 1944, Bishop Vincent Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh (which covered all of North Carolina) asked Redemptorist Fathers to begin priestly ministry work at St. Joseph Church, built in 1945 in nearby Kannapolis. In 1974, the Redemptorist Fathers came to St. James Church and remain today.

In 1954, Charlie Williams, a St. James parishioner, started an annual barbecue to raise money for the church. The event, open to the entire community, became the largest fundraising project for the church.

In August 1969, St. Joseph Church became a mission of St. James Church. Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme, a current parochial vicar of St. James in Concord, now serves as St. Joseph's pastor.

In a double celebration July 31, 1994, then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a new 12,000-square-foot parish center — complete with 11 classrooms, a large central area and a kitchen — and helped commemorate the church's 125th anniversary. The parish was presented with a proclamation signed by Concord Mayor George Liles declaring that date as "St. James Catholic Church anniversary day."

In 1993, Redemptorist Father Daniel Carboy, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, became pastor of both St. James and St. Joseph. In 1994, Father Carboy started an endowment for the church with a $4,000 donation from a parishioner. By 1997, the endowment, used to generate funds for the church, had grown to $30,000.

In 1995, St. James Church hosted its first "Jimmy Murphy's Christmas Dinner," an event to bring people of the growing parish and community together on Christmas Day.

Redemptorist Father James Geiger became pastor in 2002 and helped the 800-family parish push forward with plans for a larger church. On Nov. 16, 2003, the parish celebrated a groundbreaking ceremony on their new property, which will include a larger church and two additional buildings for parish activities expected to be complete by Christmas of 2004.

**ST. JAMES CHURCH**

251 Union Street North
Concord, N.C. 28026
(704) 720-0600

Vicariate: Salisbury
Pastor: Redemptorist Father James Geiger
Parochial Vicars: Redemptorist Father Edward Gray, Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme
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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NOVEMBER 28, 2003

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 13 Nº 10

Parish Profile: St. Mary Church in Greensboro

| PAGE 12

WALKING TOWARD JESUS

## Kairos ministry brings prayer, hope to inmates

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

MINT HILL — There was great singing and praising, spontaneous hugging and dancing. Strangers joined together in emotional praying and sharing.

Participants in Kairos 23 inside Evans Correctional Institute in Bennettsville, S.C., reached a spirit-filled level of energy during their "Walk" Oct. 16-19. Forty-two inmates in the all-male medium security facility met daily with 55 male members of the interdenominational Christian team from the Carolinas. Nine parishioners from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill comprised the Kairos ministry team.

"I had never even considered this ministry," said parishioner Gay Loesch. "I wouldn't expect a woman to be called to go into a prison to minister. But it begins when you are volunteering to be a minister to others, and it grows into a very humbling experience that shows you that God calls us all to love one another."

The ministry of Kairos, the

See KAIROS, page 6

**More Coverage**

**page 7** | St. Margaret Mary parishioners assist women prisoners

**page 7** | Bishops support legislation for mentally ill offenders

# Catholic youth share faith at national conference in Houston

*North Carolinians connect to other Catholic teens*

BY JONAH DYCUS AND ERIK NORIEGA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HOUSTON — A shared faith, a sense of communion and plenty of song and prayer flowed through the 23,000 young people attending the 2003 National Catholic Youth Conference, held at the Houston sports complex of Reliant Park Nov. 13-16.

High-school-age teens from all over the nation, including 38 representatives from the Diocese of Charlotte, gathered at the "River of Life" celebration sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and hosted by the Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

"You have come from different parts of this wonderful country to gather here together as a body of Christ, to express the great faith you have in Jesus and the love that you want to bring to the world," said Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston as he welcomed the thousands of young guests in Reliant Stadium.

The aquatically decorated stage in Reliant Stadium featured waterfalls, pools and vegetation in keeping with the conference's "River of Life" theme. A large crucifix, positioned on the south end of the floor, shadowed the entire centerpiece, while colored lighting enhanced the stage.

"This stadium was built for professional football, but

See YOUTH, page 6

COURTESY PHOTO BY PEG RUBLE

Young people from western North Carolina stand in front of Houston's Reliant Park in November. Thirty-eight teen-agers, representing six parishes and Bishop McGuinness and Charlotte Catholic high schools, attended the 2003 National Catholic Youth Conference, which gathered teen-agers from across the nation to expand and express their faith.

75 YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS

## St. Mary Church celebrates history, diversity

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — It was a milestone of time and diversity.

Nov. 22 marked the final day of a celebration that began Jan. 14 for the 75th anniversary of St. Mary Church.

"Today is a time to

See ST. MARY, page 9

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Vincentian Father Michael Manh Nguyen (center) stands with Vietnamese parishioners at St. Mary's anniversary celebration.

**Project of Life**
*Hispanic youth craft book on vocation of laity*
| PAGE 4

**Silent generosity**
*Anonymous benefactors provide for students*
| PAGE 5

**National Night of Prayer**
*Churches to participate in pro-life event*
| PAGE 9

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## REMEMBERING A PRESIDENT

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Members of the Kennedy family pray as U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., lays a flower at the gravesite of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Nov. 22. It was the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy.

## Mourners mark 40th anniversary of JFK's death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four decades ago, royalty, heads of state and government officials filled the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington for the funeral Mass of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963.

Forty years later, almost 800 everyday Catholics from across the region gathered at the cathedral to pray for and remember the slain president, who was the first Catholic to be elected to that office, at a Mass of remembrance offered on the anniversary day his tragic death.

In his homily, Father J. Bryan Hehir, outgoing president of Catholic Charities USA, said the Mass was "a time to reflect and to pray (in the place where) President Kennedy was entrusted into the hands of God for eternity."

The priest said Americans old enough to remember President Kennedy's death would "never forget the time, place and impact" of that day in history.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., President Kennedy's youngest brother, and the senator's wife, Victoria, were also in attendance.

Father Hehir described President Kennedy as a leader who sought "to change the world in which he lived."

"He expanded people's sense of possibility and responsibility. ... He captured people's imagination, interest and raised their hopes," the priest said.

Earlier in the day, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington led a private prayer service for members of the Kennedy family at the Arlington National Cemetery grave site of the slain president.

Following the evening Mass many attendees stopped to view the marker in front of St. Matthew's main altar that memorializes the spot where President Kennedy's casket was placed during his funeral Mass.

John Whelan, a longtime parishioner at St. Matthew, said he wanted to attend the anniversary Mass to honor and pray for the late president.

A former employee of National Geographic magazine, Whelan said he can vividly recall the funeral's events.

"I will never forget it as long as I live," he told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese. "I remember standing along Seventh Street. There were thousands of people watching the procession and you didn't hear a sound. There was utter silence."

Ron Linton, a former staff member in the Kennedy administration who also attended the Mass, said the 40th anniversary of the president's death "is no more important than the 39th or 41st, but what is important is to pray and to remember what he was, what he did and what we lost."

## Relief agencies assess impact of international AIDS efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Initiatives to combat AIDS in Africa and elsewhere continue to grow, with hopes by many charitable organizations that additional federal funds will increase efforts.

With an expected $2.4 billion earmarked by Congress to be available next year, religious charities are eager to apply for grants. The funding is part of President Bush's pledge made in last January's State of the Union address to deliver $15 billion in African AIDS prevention and treatment funding over the next five years.

Dozens of religious charities gathered Nov. 19-20 at Georgetown University in Washington for "Faith-Based Initiatives and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief."

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas aid and development arm, currently works on AIDS relief in 30 countries with $45 million in grants from various sources.

Catholic Medical Mission Board spends about $8 million a year on anti-AIDS programs in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland and is starting programs in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria.

Two critical nations facing the disease are China and India. "You've got a billion (people) in India, more than a billion in China," said John Galbraith of Catholic Medical Mission Board. "If we don't work now to stop AIDS in those countries, pretty soon we're going to be seeing numbers there like we're seeing in Africa."

Bishop Franklyn Nubuasah of the Apostolic Vicariate of Francistown, Botswana, said AIDS is "devastating" his nation. With 40 percent of the population infected, "We have 15 funerals a week" from AIDS-related deaths, a number so high that "you have to choose which ones you are going to attend."

## Diocesan planner

**BOONE VICARIATE**

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

**CHARLOTTE VICARIATE**

CHARLOTTE — Father Efiri Matthias Selemobri of *The Missionaries of St. Paul*, the first indigenous missionary society from Africa, will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. A reception will follow the 11 a.m. Mass sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry.

CHARLOTTE — A *Service of Lessons and Carols* will premiere at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. The program will consist a 55-voice choir, including the children's and youth and choirs. Prelude music will begin at 5:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will sponsor a family potluck on Dec. 12 at 6 .m. in the New Life Center Banquet room. After dinner our special guest speaker will be Linda Schaefer, the last photojournalist personally invited to make a *photographic journey through Mother Teresa's world.* Linda also attended Mother Teresa's beatification in Rome with Bishop Curlin. Call Sue VanderJeugdt (704) 541-8362 for more information.

BELMONT — Dr. William F. Powers will give a talk *entitled "Catholicism in North Carolina: Periods of Frustration and Growth,"* Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey College. Admission is free and open to the public. Dr. Powers served as a professor of sociology for 30 years at Suffolk Community College on Long Island. He was ordained in the Diocese of Brooklyn and resigned from the ministry ten years later. He holds a doctorate from St. John's University in New York.

GASTONIA — Is peace possible in our time? What can we do to bring peace to our world? Join us for the next *Prayer Vigil for Peace* Dec. 15, 7-8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 258 W. Franklin Blvd. Come pray with people of all faiths - Jewish, Christian, Muslim and others - as we gather together to ask the Lord for peace in our time. If you have any questions or need directions, contact St. Mark's Church, (704) 864-4531, or Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invite all to their *Christmas Tea* Dec. 11, 2:30–4:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Food will be collected for a local

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope assigns new cardinals to Vatican congregations, councils

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Highlighting the role cardinals play in assisting the pope to govern the church, Pope John Paul II has given the newest group of cardinals their assignments as members of Vatican congregations and councils.

The pope created 30 new cardinals in late October; their Vatican assignments, which they are expected to fulfill in addition to their primary ministries and offices, were announced Nov. 24.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia was named a member of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, a position he already had in his former position as archbishop of St. Louis. He also was named a member of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, a Vatican office that oversees investments and properties.

Australian Cardinal George Pell of Sydney was named a member of the presiding committee of the Pontifical Council for the Family and a member of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, both positions he held previously.

Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien of St. Andrews and Edinburgh was named to the pontifical councils for social communications and for migrants and travelers.

Indian Cardinal Telesphore Toppo of Ranchi was named a member of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He had been a member of the council before being named a cardinal.

# Bridging the gap: Israeli ambassador uses personal touch at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited Rome, the gulf between Israel and the Vatican appeared to be growing.

Israeli and Jewish leaders were miffed that upon Sharon's arrival Nov. 17, the pope for the first time publicly criticized Israel's construction of a security barrier to shut out Palestinians. In Rome, Sharon said he understood the pope's view that the Holy Land needs "bridges, not walls," but he added. "Bridges cannot be built over the corpses of Israeli civilian victims."

While stating Italy was Israel's best friend in Europe, Sharon noted the Vatican was surrounded by a tall brick wall. The fact that there was no Vatican meeting during his three-day visit spoke volumes.

While it looked to some like the Vatican and Israel were busy building their own dividing wall, a Nov. 16 invitation-only event at a Jewish cultural center brought members of Rome's Jewish community together with Oded Ben-Hur, Israel's ambassador to the Holy See, who explained diplomacy is more than formal briefings — sometimes it requires personal overtures.

Ben-Hur has spent much time visiting with Vatican officials regarding Israel's motives, and recently met with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's chief doctrinal official, about changes in church teaching on the Jews introduced by the landmark Second Vatican Council document, "Nostra Aetate," which called for an end to anti-Semitism.

Aware the doctrinal congregation was working on a "mini" version of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," Ben-Hur asked if highlights of 'Nostra Aetate could be included. Cardinal Ratzinger agreed.

Ben-Hur said he saw little change for effective dialogue with Muslims because, as he put it, moderate Muslims have little if any influence on the extremists. At the Vatican, he said he is trying to build a "network of Catholic-Israeli friendship."

food pantry. For details call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — A *support group for parents who have lost a child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild of St. Francis of Assisi Church*, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle of St. John's Catholic Community* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved, which meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

WINSTON-SALEM — Parents Together and the Knights of Columbus Council #2829 will host its *Breakfast with Santa* for special-needs children and their families Dec. 13 9:30-11:30 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. The Knights will supply a pancake buffet as Parents Together welcomes families for face painting, crafts, breakfast and an opportunity to meet Santa and have a photo taken with him. The event allows families with a special-needs child to meet other families who have similar challenges. Space is limited. To register your family or to volunteer, call (336) 814-5301.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**December 1 — 7:30 p.m.**
Albemarle Vicariate Mass and reception
St. James Church, Hamlet

**December 3 — 7p.m.**
Asheville Vicariate reconciliation service and reception
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

**December 5 — 7p.m.**
Gastonia Vicariate Mass and reception
St. Mary Church, Shelby

**December 12 — 7p.m.**
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Wait Chapel, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem

# Out in the cold

CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERALD

Cardinal Stritch University students huddle in their sleeping bags the morning of Nov. 21 after sleeping outdoors on campus in Milwaukee. Seven students and a campus minister braved the cold in an effort to raise awareness of inadequate housing and to help fund a spring trip to North Carolina, where they will construct homes with Habitat for Humanity. Pictured from left are campus minister Jeff Montoya and students Jocelyn Schmitz, Sara Klos, Erin Strube and Katie Pagel.

## THIS MONTH IN —1997

Holy Angels, founded by the Sisters of Mercy to provide residential and health care services to adults and children with varying degrees of mental retardation, opened "Cherubs," a craft and coffee shop in downtown Belmont Nov. 29, 1997. The shop, which would later become known as "Cherubs Café and Candy Bouquet," featured gourmet coffees, espressos and specialty coffees such as cappuccinos and lattes, sandwiches, gourmet cookies and ice cream confections.

## 'THE PROJECT OF LIFE FOR HAPPINESS'

# *Hispanic youth craft book on vocation of laity*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — When the vocal voting was over, 28 choices had been narrowed to the winner: "Proyecto de Vida Para Felicidad: Vocatión" ("The Project of Life for Happiness: Vocation").

Hispanic youth, ages 16-27, were at the second session of Taller Pascua (Easter Workshop) 2004, held in the Immaculata School gymnasium and Immaculate Conception Church hall Nov. 15-16 to finalize chapters for a book the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI) will publish prior to Ash Wednesday 2004.

"Proyecto," which has six chapters, is designed for use during the six weeks of Lent.

Vocation, as defined in "Catechism of the Catholic Church," "belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will."

"Proyecto de Vida" will be a guide to that search.

Piarist Father Mario Vizcaino, SEPI's southeast regional director for Hispanic ministry and one of the workshop facilitators, explained that discerning vocation is a lifelong project. Using the talents God has given a person is one way to determine if he or she is living according to God's will.

"How do you discover the project of your life?" he asked. "This project has to coincide with the will of God. How does God speak to you? If you're not a good mathematician, forget about being an engineer."

The Diocese of Charlotte has participated in SEPI book projects for the past three years, but this was the first year the diocese was host for a workshop.

Sixteen of the Taller Pascua attendees were from the Diocese of Charlotte. Others were from the dioceses of Mobile and Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Charleston, S.C.; and St. Augustine, Venice, St. Petersburg, Pensacola-Tallahassee, Tampa, Palm Beach, and Orlando, Fla.

Taller Pascua's first session, Bienvenidos (Welcome) 1, took place in Charleston, S.C., Oct. 11-12. The youth explored the paschal mystery as it relates to vocation and received the materials they would work on in their own dioceses. Two groups worked independently on each chapter. Charlotte and Venice, for instance, concentrated on the chapter on resources and instruments an individual can use in practicing his or her vocation.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Ricardo Veloz distributes bags of lollipops to Hispanic youth during the second session of Taller Pascua 2004, held at the Immaculate Conception Church and Immaculata School Nov. 15-16.

This month, during Bienvenidos 11, the diocesan groups critiqued the chapters.

Now, SEPI will edit the material and publish the book, the sixth bilingual (Spanish and English) title in the series.

"It's an activity book with prayers, reflections, dynamics and activities," said Ricardo Veloz, associate director for Hispanic youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"All the topics are related to the theme and how it relates to the paschal mystery," he said.

Adults as well as younger people can use the book, because vocation is the work of a lifetime.

"This is a topic you can always reconsider in your life," Father Vizcaino said. "It's not so that you can change your vocation, but so that you can refocus and consider your vocation as a mission. We all have a mission to enrich the world."

Bienvenidos III is scheduled for Feb. 14-15 in St. Augustine. Attendees will receive the book and learn how to use it in their communities.

This is SEPI's 23rd book produced with the assistance from Hispanic youth. Past titles include "Morals: The Way to Full Humanity"; "Catholic Youth Identity and Image"; "Family"; and "Human Sexuality."

"We create a book every year with a theme chosen by the kids," said Laura Flores of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. "We explore the paschal mystery as it relates to that topic."

Advisors attend each workshop to assist the youth, but the books are written entirely by the young people, Veloz said.

The diocesan groups brainstormed about how they could make the books available to more people. The Diocese of Charlotte group suggested Lenten programs be held in every vicariate instead of one program for the whole diocese, as in the past.

"My dad participated in the retreat last year, and he liked it," Flores said. "After that, he started talking to other adults about how valuable the book was. Our priest (Father Francis O'Rourke) let him talk about it during Mass, and we sold the books after Mass."

In his homily at Sunday Mass in the gym, Father Vizcaino asked the youth what would inspire them to pursue their vocations.

"If we ask God's help to serve him, then we will be able to serve him and be happy with it," said Jose Marie Gutierrez of Charleston.

"God is love," Father Vizcaino said. "The more possessed I am by love, the more possessed I am by God. The more possessed I am by myself, the more my life will be messed up.

"If you serve happily, you will be truly happy in life," he said. "People who serve are those who are happy with themselves. ... Everyone is called to sainthood, which is in service and service is love."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

### WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about how to obtain this book and others in the series, contact Ricardo Veloz at velricardo@aol.com or at 704-370-3355.

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**SILENT GENEROSITY**

# Anonymous benefactors provide Catholic education for students

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: To protect the identity of the benefactors and recipients, names have been changed.*

CHARLOTTE — Some students in Charlotte are receiving a two-fold education — a typical Catholic education designed at developing students spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially; and the lesson of charity.

Anonymous donors have enabled several students to attend Charlotte-area Catholic schools by providing funds for tuition, books, uniforms, school supplies and extracurricular activities.

Last summer, "Edward and Elizabeth Smith" contacted Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan schools, with the idea of providing a full scholarship for a needy minority student. The scholarship will be renewed annually as long as the student, "Jane," remains in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) system, enabling her to attend Catholic schools through high school.

"We recognized the importance of, and need for, more diversity in Catholic schools," said Elizabeth Smith, whose two grandchildren are Catholic school students in Charlotte. "We felt all the students would benefit from a more diverse student body."

Since tuition costs are a limiting factor for many minority families, the Smiths decided to provide a scholarship to allow a minority student to benefit from a Catholic education.

"When I first received a call in June with an offer to assist a child with tuition, it took no time for me to respond that I would be happy to find a student," said Cherry. "This family has given a student and family the gift of being part of our Catholic school system. This gift from their hearts is what being Catholic and Christian is all about."

COURTESY PHOTO BY MIKE FORD

Students process down the staircase at St. Patrick School in Charlotte. Anonymous donations are enabling students in the Diocese of Charlotte to attend Catholic schools, an opportunity they would not have without the generosity of their benefactors, most of whom choose to remain anonymous.

The Smiths have been angels for Jane, said Angela Montague, principal of St. Patrick School. They not only provide tuition funds, but also pay for her field trips and extracurricular activities.

"Jane spoke almost no English at the beginning of the school year," Montague said. "She is becoming very Americanized — she emulates the other students."

Their generosity has proved contagious.

"When a second family heard of this special gift through an order of religious sisters, they offered to assist with the tuition for someone they knew who really wanted to attend our schools," said Cherry.

"William and Emma Jones" helped a young man they know, "Michael," apply for a scholarship to Charlotte Catholic High School. Their family, friends and a Charlotte Catholic teacher provided uniforms, books, a computer and school supplies.

Michael was apprehensive when he learned which public high school he would be attending, Emma Jones said. Now, he is thriving at Charlotte Catholic.

"He is a great example of how our faith is supposed to be lived," she said.

"Throughout our diocese, each of our 18 schools could tell the story of something similar in each of their schools and parishes," Cherry said.

"We have five or six families helping other Charlotte Catholic families," said Gerald Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic. "There is a solid core of people who I've known for years, and all I have to do is pick up the phone and ask. They will always step up to help."

The benefactors don't want recognition, Healy said. "They just want to give back some of what they've been given," he said.

"We have many stories of families wanting to be able to give that experience (of a Catholic education) to their children, but are unable to do so, because of the cost and lack of enough tuition assistance money," said Cherry. "We have now begun the 'Least of My Brothers' scholarship fund, using the motto 'For whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.'"

"If anonymous donors want to fill my school, I'd be happy to have them," said Montague.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

## WANT TO HELP?

Linda Cherry welcomes calls, e-mails or letters to discuss providing partial or full scholarships to needy students. Every gift would remain anonymous, if wished by the donor. Interested parties may contact Cherry by e-mailing llcherry@charlottediocese.org or calling (704) 370-3271. You may write to her at 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

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# Catholic youths share faith at conference

YOUTH, *from page 1*

by having more than 20,000 young Catholic people here who want to be great witnesses for Jesus Christ in the world, you have made this a very sacred place," Bishop Fiorenza said.

"These few days that you will be together will be a time to increase your love for Jesus, and to be renewed in your efforts to bring the knowledge and love of Jesus to the world," he added.

"We want the teens to bring back a sense of connectedness to the greater Catholic Church," said Peg Ruble, associate director for the office of youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Keynote speakers at the event were Bud Welch, a death penalty opponent whose daughter was killed in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, and Craig Kielburger, a 20-year-old advocate for children's rights.

"This is actually the sixth youth congress; during the last ... congress (in Indianapolis), we asked the young people what they wanted to talk about, and social justice was very high on their list," Carolyn Adrian of the Diocese of Victoria told The Texas Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Galveston-Houston Diocese.

"For this congress we wanted to affirm the work young people are doing around the issue of social justice," she added. "We obviously wanted them to learn more about Catholic social teaching. And most important, we wanted to inspire them to go out and do more within their own parish community and in the community in which they live."

Through the conference, Charlotte teenagers "gained a sense of how to bring Christ into their lives on a daily basis and live out his message, especially the message of justice," said Ruble.

Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi was impressed with the teenagers participating in the discussion group he led.

"Realizing that we have young people of this caliber, of this commitment, gives me great hope for the future," he said. "I see great things happening in our communities through the work of the young people gathered here today."

Outside of the conference's general sessions, concurrent meetings tackling issues like violence, social justice and relationships were conducted.

Some of the young people from the Diocese of Charlotte met with the bishops to discuss the issue of poverty, as seen through the lens of Catholic social teaching. They talked about how they experience poverty and how their churches and schools are addressing the issue, Ruble said.

The facilitators encouraged young people to show their faith beyond the conference, said Myra Jones-Romain, music director at St. Matthew the Evangelist Church in Houston.

"It is so easy to feel isolated when you are around friends who don't share your beliefs," said Jones-Romain. "But this conference shows that there are a lot of young people — not only in the United States, but in the world — who have the same fervor for Christ and for God. You can love God, praise God, and still have fun."

*Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

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***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of December:***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Smith* | *1983* |
| *Rev. Vincent M. Stokes* | *1979* |
| *Rev. Thomas McAvoy* | *1978* |
| *Rev. Michael J. Hoban* | *1995* |

***Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus***

# Ministry brings hope to inmates

KAIROS, *from page 1*

Greek word for "God's time," was preceded by the Cursillo movement within a maximum security prison in Florida in 1976. The very concept of time carries a heavy significance within the penal environment.

"The inmates feel that what they have done is so bad that God could never forgive them. It blows them away when they see the great lengths God goes to bring them back to him," said parishioner Cindy Platko. "The love that they feel on that weekend is God's love calling their name. And it knocks down walls that have taken years to build."

The Walk began Thursday afternoon and finished Sunday night, carefully planned around a systematic, structured program. The outline of activities followed a series of talks by individual team members and a number of daily chapel services that engaged the entire group as a growing body of Christ.

"It is incredible to witness the change in the residents over the course of the three days," said parishioner Greg Platko. "They arrive on Thursday unsure, frightened and untrusting. On Sunday, they are filled with joy they thought they could never experience. They are smiling, laughing, singing and sharing their dreams."

"It's as though all of us, team and residents, are swept along in a current of God's powerful love," said Platko, who has served with 12 Kairos teams since 1996.

A very strong force in the formation of this new faith community was its shared praise through music. Music ministers and inmates led the group's singing of various hymns and inspirational tunes.

"The thing about the music is that it is participatory. And that's what moves their spirit," said parishioner Bob Smith, music team coordinator. "It includes some old and some new which touches their memories and makes them feel comfortable with upbeat praise and glory."

The entire effort was closely assisted by a team of men and women who prepared and delivered meals from Camp Pee Dee, the off-site support headquarters for the Kairos team.

"The accommodations are very Spartan and the bunks aren't that comfortable. Sleeping on the first two nights is very difficult," said parishioner Dee Smith.

"When you work in the kitchen, you get up at 4 a.m. and stand on a concrete floor for 12-14 hours, working very hard," she said. "But when you walk away after the closing, you feel like it was the greatest weekend ever. It has to be God."

The Kairos ministry worked to establish strong Christian communities among the inmate populations. During the Walk, inmates joined into small groups at separate tables with two Kairos group leaders. These peer groups began to thrive and energize as they listened to the personal presentations of Kairos team members.

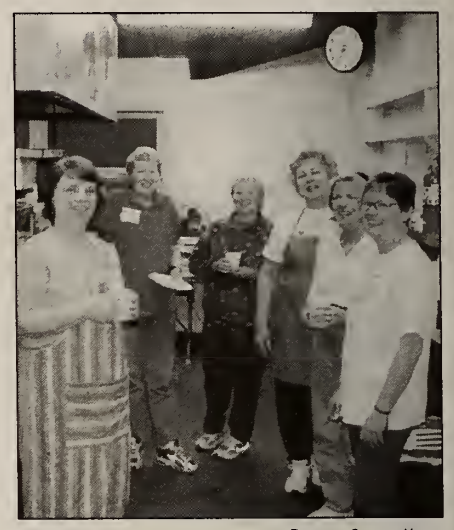


Photo by Stephen Uzzell

Kairos 23 team members regroup between meal preparations and support for the October prison ministry in Bennettsville, S.C.

"A lot of good things happened on this weekend and a lot of hearts were cracked open. Now it is up to the individuals to take the next steps on their spiritual journey," said Smith. "One of the best parts of Kairos is that we go back every month and help with those steps."

The inmates also gained support from beyond the walls of the prison. During the weekend, they heard and read prayer wishes and Christian greetings from other Kairos groups from prison units throughout the United States and abroad.

"So many people from the outside care for us here on the inside," said an inmate. "Now I can embrace another brother without fear."

Prayer wheels, each representing a 24-hour period, were posted daily in the meeting area of the gymnasium. Men found hope and courage as they saw many names of parishioners within other churches who were praying for them at any given hour.

"I never felt so much love; never from my family," said another inmate. "This is real, and God is coming back."

Parishioners also baked dozens of cookies for inmates. The 42 inmates who participated in the Walk shared the cookies with the other 1,800 residents in the facility each day of the Kairos weekend. The sharing helped to bond many together in prayer and through words of support.

"I used to always hear a voice saying, 'Serve the devil, serve the devil.' But here all I could hear was, 'Serve Jesus, serve Jesus,'" said an inmate. "My graduation from high school and the birth of my baby girl were proud days. Now I can add Kairos to that list."

*Contact Correspondent Stephen Uzzell by calling (704) 545-0498 or e-mail hatz@infionline.net.*

# Bishops support bill to treat mentally ill offenders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy said legislation that would ensure mentally ill criminal offenders get the treatment they need is a good start to address the needs of mentally ill prisoners.

Cardinal McCarrick commented on the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003 in a letter to Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, who introduced the bill.

The cardinal noted that while the mentally ill population poses a difficult challenge to society and to the criminal justice system, many individuals suffering from a mental illness are being housed in prisons and jails across the country.

He quoted the bishops' 2000 pastoral statement, "Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice," which stated that "while government has an obligation to protect the community from those who become aggressive or violent because of mental illness, it also has a responsibility to see that the offender receives the proper treatment for his or her illness."

The legislation passed in the Senate Oct. 29. The House has yet to vote on a similar measure.

The cardinal praised the legislation for promoting collaborative efforts to help the mentally ill.

"Establishing a network of services for offenders with mental illness would also promote public safety by curbing recidivism among this population," he added.

GIVING 'THE HOPE OF A NORMAL DAY'

# St. Margaret Mary parishioners assist women prisoners

BY DIANNE M.A. RIGGS
CORRESPONDENT

BLACK MOUNTAIN — Volunteers can be far more important to inmates than many people realize.

For many inmates who earn "off-site" privileges from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women, a minimum security prison, they are unable to leave the facility on temporary allowances because there are no volunteers to accompany them.

"Some women have been (in prison) for years," said Mary White, a prison volunteer from St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa. "How ready can they be to reenter society if they never go out? Taking women out is a simple thing."

Volunteers accompany inmates to do ordinary things: to go shopping, to get fast food, to take a walk at Lake Tomahawk, or to go to church. For women who have been in prison for a long time, said White, some ordinary things can become very different because of technology, such as the self-checkout counters at grocery stores.

White became involved in prison ministry more than seven years ago after reading in the church bulletin about women wanting to go to Mass but having no one to take them.

"That seemed terrible to me for someone to be in trouble and be unable to go to Mass," said White.

The first time White took out an inmate, she was nervous and "stumbling, bumbling." However, the experience turned out to be a very enjoyable.

"I have always been treated with respect, thanked," she said.

PHOTO BY DIANNE M.A. RIGGS

Father Frank Seabo, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa, stands with inmate Darlene Dills and volunteer Kathleen Sacco. Attending Mass is considered a vital step in a Catholic inmate's rehabilitation and re-entry into society.

"Jesus said we have to visit people in prison. (He was) pretty specific ... he said for us to do that," said White. "We are all made in his image."

White recruited Kathleen Sacco to take prisoners on outings. Sacco, who has taken one woman to Mass for almost five years, believes if more Catholic volunteers took an interest in prisoners, inmates would return to the Catholic Church.

White said the stereotype of a female prisoner is that of a loathsome person.

"You meet them and discover they are like anyone else ... they are like your next-door neighbor's daughter," she said.

Because the women's prison is relatively small — only 80 inmates — it is not eligible for a state-provided chaplain. However, the Black Mountain ecumenical Christian community considers a chaplain essential. White became involved in the chaplaincy committee several years ago and is currently serving as its chair. This committee, she said, exists only to raise the needed $38,000 per year to supply the prison with a half-time chaplain.

"People incarcerated have no one to share their faith with," said Margaret Knopt, a St. Margaret Mary parishioner and certified public accountant who serves as the committee's treasurer. "Can you imagine any more of a (time) when you would need your faith?"

Knopt believes it is important for Catholics to be represented on the ecumenical committee. She is also hopeful that more Catholics will financially support the chaplaincy effort at the prison.

"I think all churches in our diocese have a social responsibility to this ministry and to the women who are struggling to rebuild their lives without a whole lot of help," said White.

She said there are "more and more Catholic women" in prison.

According to Rev. Debra Rice, an Episcopal priest and chaplain, being in prison is especially difficult for women because most of them are mothers or grandmothers and they are often the primary care givers.

She said prison is devastating for them because they miss the "everyday milestones" in their children's lives, such as the baby's first step, the first baseball game. A fundamental issue for them is "who will care for my children?"

Religious volunteers can give "the hope of a normal day," said Rice.

"The women here want to feel normal and that means being accepted by others and by God — and (to know) that they haven't been discarded."

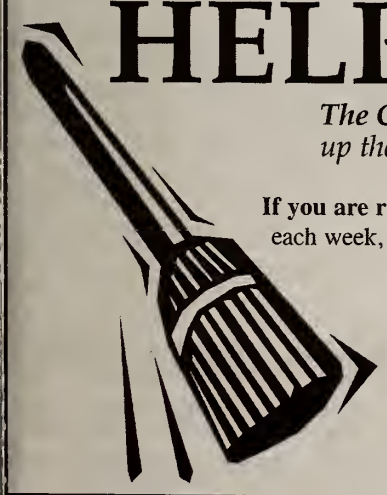
Rice stressed the need for "off-site" volunteers. She said it is especially important for Catholics — volunteers and prisoners — at certain liturgical times of year.

"Nothing is quite as satisfying and uplifting as being part of a community you're familiar with," she said.

### WANT TO HELP?

For more information on St. Margaret Mary's prison ministry, contact Mary White at (828) 669-4543.


# HELP!



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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book to help find 'small s' sacraments

REVIEWED BY ELIZABETH RACKOVER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

This book is a "small s" sacrament.

Let me explain: Life, as described by author Kathy Coffey, is a series of minor blessings, prayers and surprises masquerading as daily chores, getaways, errands, sidebars and commitments. In the same way, a series of memories, meditations and "small r" revelations together shape the enlightening message of "Immersed in the Sacred."

Samuel Taylor Coleridge said it pretty well several centuries ago: "He prayeth best, who loveth best / All things both great and small." It's easy to see the great miracles of this world — birth, heroic rescues, selfless sacrifices, the outpouring of human compassion in response to a great tragedy. Coffey, an editor and frequent workshop speaker, shares with her readers the "small s" sacraments of daily life.

"Immersed in the Sacred: Discovering the "Small S" Sacraments," by Kathy Coffey. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2003). 191 pp., $12.95.

"The only door we have to the absolute, the only bridge to the sacred begins in this world, opens through concrete and specific places," Coffey writes in a chapter called "Gazebo: Place of Reconciliation." If we can see the divine in the mundane, it makes each day holy.

Coffey writes that grace "creeps into the unlikeliest cracks and the most unseemly surprises." The possibility of grace "helps alleviate the burden of dragging ourselves to ... yet another drudgery. We begin to see how 'sacramental rites wait to be replicated in our quotidian lives: simple grace.'" She says that these "small s" sacraments "transcend denominational boundaries and open a way to all seekers who want to deepen their ordinary experience."

In this diary of extended personal essays Coffey proposes scenarios for readers to discover their own prayers and blessed surprises. She finds sacramental moments not just in a snowbound hotel room but also in a department store dressing room. (I can't wait for my next run-in with the ironing, for instance, so I can see just how much holiness I can divine from pressing table linens and blue jeans!)

Coffey has chapters on the sacraments of friends, family, strangers and my personal favorite, since I discovered "The Power and the Glory" only recently, "Graham Greene's Unlikely Saints."

Coffey is a very good writer. Her style is very informal with a friendly tone, and her structure is superb. She writes, "The crafting of words has always delighted me; I play with their beauty and weigh their meanings as some would handle precious stones."

To tell the truth, I feel a bit shy writing about her book because her communication skills are vastly superior to my own. I can only encourage you to take a moment to find this book and tuck into it a pen to make notes about some of her precious stones.

Then, armed with new eyesight for "small s'" sacraments, go on out to the garden, or your office, or the laundry room, or out into rush hour traffic and create something precious of your own. You'll be surprised by what's out there — your own divinity, your own spirituality. Your own "small s" sacraments.

Enjoy.

*Rackover, a writer and publicist, lives with her family in Rochester Hills, Mich., and teaches in the religious education program at St. Irenaeus Church.*

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 30, 2003

## *Nov. 30, First Sunday of Advent*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
2) 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
3) Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When we left our son at college, the dean's office was eager to assist parents in dealing with this momentous transition. In the information packet, they gave us was a sheet outlining various key experiences students inevitably have.

"During the first semester," the paper read, "your student will ..." followed by a laundry list of things to expect. Some of these guaranteed experiences were reassuring, precisely what you hope for your children when you send them off to college:

"Your student will ... make new friends, be exposed to life-changing ideas, deal with new responsibilities and freedoms," etc. Others were, frankly, somewhat scary: "Your student will ... have relationship problems, be homesick, feel overwhelmed by academic challenges, embrace ideas and values different from their parents." The last item on the list was designed to allay parental fears: "Your student will be OK."

Transitions are difficult, and the bigger the transition the stronger the impulse to anxiety and panic. In today's Gospel reading, the transition Jesus warns his disciples about is the biggest of all: the radical transformation of the world and his return as glorious judge. It's no wonder that he predicts terror and dismay. But note that he does so neither to demonstrate his knowledge of the future nor to frighten his listeners, but to warn and reassure them.

The key to surviving the tribulation of great upheaval is staying awake, avoiding the impulse to shut our eyes until it's over or to distract ourselves from our experience in hopes that it might not really be happening.

As Advent advances, let us pray for the grace to recognize in the turmoil and tribulation of the world and of our lives signs of Christ's imminent presence — coming not to frighten but to heal and save us.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6**

**Sunday (First Sunday of Advent),** Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36; **Monday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Francis Xavier),** Isaiah 25:6-10a, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 13**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent),** Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monday (The Immaculate Conception),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Juan Diego),** Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Our Lady of Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Luke 1:39-47; **Saturday (St. Lucy),** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

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## CROSIER CARVING

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

*GREENSBORO — Bishop Peter J. Jugis, with Paul and Francesca Nixon, holds the wood crosier carved by Paul at the Greensboro Vicariate celebration at St. Paul the Apostle Church Nov. 17.*

*Paul, a well-known woodcarver in the Triad area, incorporated Celtic symbolism into the ceremonial crosier, which is currently on loan to St. Paul the Apostle Church.*

*Carved into the crosier are a Celtic Lion (symbolic of St. Mark), a snake (symbolic of rebirth to the Celtics), two intertwined dragons (symbolic of two powerful belief systems). Also represented is a monk looking forward to Christianity and a Celtic warrior looking backward to the past with his pagan tendencies.*

*The crosier took seven months to complete. Paul says he intends to donate the crosier to Bishop Jugis in the very near future.*

# St. Mary celebrates 75 years

ST. MARY, *from page 1*

celebrate and give thanks for all of the blessings God has showered upon our parish over the last 75 years," said Vincentian Father Michael Mahn Nguyen, who was first assigned to St. Mary Church in 1995 as a transitional deacon and is now pastor.

St. Mary Church kicked off its 75th year celebrations with a Benediction and Mass in January, the first of many events planned throughout the year to celebrate the multicultural growth of the parish. On Nov. 22, 2003, the parish celebrated the 75th anniversary of the church with a special dinner.

"Seventy-five years is a relatively short period of time, but it is a milestone that we celebrate today," said parishioner Michael Diamond, who served as emcee. "We have evolved from a small missionary African-American church to a full-fledged, diverse, three-language, one-faith service community."

Consecrated in September 1928, the African-American mission has grown to include a broad cross section of nationalities and customs from every continent in the world except Antarctica.

"I am happy to be here to witness all of the accomplishments that were made by the parishioners (and the priests) of St. Mary," said Virginia Smith, a longtime parishioner.

Smith was baptized at two years old in the church in 1937. She said the final celebration of the 75th anniversary year was "very important because it is one of those occasions that bring many of St. Mary's diverse people together united as the Body of Christ."

Smith recalled "the parish starting out with 12 people and rapidly growing to 100 people, while today there are over 390 families in the parish and it is still growing."

Growth dictated the need for expansion, and on June 23, 2002, St. Mary parishioners broke ground on their new parish center to replace the facility that once housed a middle school. In addition to eight classrooms, three offices and a full-size kitchen, the new center was designed to seat 350 people for Mass or 250 for a sit-down dinner.

"It is good for us to be here as a people united in Christ, ever reaching out to more diverse groups as we work together at building the community of God," said Madaline Shaw, a parishioner who converted to Catholicism in the 1950s.

The parish welcomed Catholic Vietnamese and Montagnards as they arrived in the area and by October 1995, Sunday Mass in Vietnamese became a reality with native Vietnamese Father Nguyen as celebrant.

That same year, the Vincentians sent Father Joe Elzi to celebrate Mass for the growing Hispanic population.

In 2000, the parish celebrated its first multicultural Mass and festival. By 2001, more than 500 parishioners celebrated at this annual event.

"Ours is a parish that lives the message of the Gospel, because we literally clothe the poor and shelter the homeless as we go about looking for opportunities to unite our parish," said Diamond.

The parish has become involved in a variety of ministries, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the SHARE food ministry program, faith formation and Knights of Columbus.

"Today is the culmination of 75 years of fidelity and faithfulness to the teachings and commands of Jesus Christ," said Vincentian Father Robert Stone, parochial vicar. "It is an opportunity to thank God for giving us another day as we continue (our fidelity) each day. This is a wonderful challenge that the parish will face for many years to come."

WANT MORE INFORMATION?
For the history of St. Mary Church, read the Parish Profile on page 12.

# National Night of Prayer for pro-life issues

CHARLOTTE — The National Night of Prayer will be held Dec. 8-9, on the eve of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The event is a pro-life prayer service involving exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and Benediction.

"People assemble to ask God's help and forgiveness for sins against our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — the unborn," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office.

Parishes are to begin the night at 9 p.m. Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and continue until 1 a.m. Dec. 9, when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico.

Fourteen churches will participate in the National Night of Prayer:

**Albemarle Vicariate**
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

**Asheville Vicariate**
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville (Dec. 9 only)

**Boone Vicariate**
St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine

**Charlotte Vicariate**
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

**Gastonia Vicariate**
Holy Spirit Church, Denver

**Greensboro Vicariate**
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

**Hickory Vicariate**
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

**Smoky Mountain Vicariate**
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin

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Good Shepherd Church, King

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Cronos and Kairos of Advent 2003

*Jesus challenges us to reach our goals*

**Guest Column**

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

I asked a friend of mine if she was a cronos-person or a kairos-person. She replied: "I am a Sagittarius."

Advent 2003 invites us to really reflect on the meaning of waiting and looking — for whom, for what? In both instances, time is the key.

There are two Greek words in the New Testament for time. One is "cronos," which indicates time that can be measured by the clock. The second is "kairos," which means a particular moment of time that gives meaning to our lives.

Our technological world speaks about quantity-time (cronos) and quality-time (kairos). The cronos affects our punch card, the kairos touches us and unfolds a new discovery, when we say, "Aha, I see!"

Advent 2003 perhaps is simply cronos, therefore not different from Advent 2001 or 2002; and 2004 will not be different either. The clock will never change or challenge our lives. The wonder of Advent is that it is or should be always a kairos in our lives. What are we looking for?

As Jesus was walking one day, John looked upon Him and said to those nearby, "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Two of the disciples heard John and followed Jesus.

He turned to them and said, "What are you looking for?" (Jn. 1:38).

Their reply was: "Where do you live?"

Jesus answered: "Come, and you will see."

Jesus' question and answer to the disciples is a timeless one (kairos). It applies to all people of all generations.

Whenever we are looking for someone or something, we probably will find it. If we are looking for goodness in people, we can find it; if we are looking for the evil, we can find that, too.

This Advent season should make us aware of our life's goal. How many are not really clear about what they want and where they are going?

When Jesus saw the two disciples, they followed Him. Their goal was clear and unmistakable. When we set our goals, we want to make sure that they are definite, concrete and reachable. It doesn't matter if they are short-range or long-range goals as long as we apply the principle of the "maximum required not the minimum necessary."

The task of reaching our goals is a lifetime project and it requires hard work. Genius has been defined as 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration.

Furthermore, if a goal can be reached easily, it is, in all probability, not a worthy goal.

A young man, who was fascinated by the mastery and dexterity of an outstanding pianist, said, "Master, I would give my whole life to play as you do." The master replied, "I did."

Maybe in this process, we experience days of failure and days of success, days of disappointment and days of optimism. So be it. That's part of the whole package. It's OK to say, "This is one of my bad days. Tomorrow will be better."

The last requirement of reaching goals is to have patience. Rome was not built in one day, but it was destroyed in an hour. The courage to wait (Advent) for what we are looking for is already a progressive step toward fulfillment.

So much depends on whom or what you are looking for and if you know how to wait. Let us not forget that for every thousand people who can talk, there is one who can think; for every thousand people who can think, there is one who can see.

My friends, when I ask you if you are a cronos-person or a kairos-person, don't tell me you are a Sagittarius. During Advent, perhaps, we may ask ourselves, "What or whom are we waiting for?" Are we hearing Jesus saying, "Come and see?"

*Father John Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

# After concert, pope tells musicians song is pathway to Christ

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: Due to an early publishing date, we are unable to print text from the pope's weekly general audience this week.*

**The Pope Speaks**

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II was treated to a concert of choral music at the Vatican, and he told the musicians that song was a way to move closer to Christ.

The pontiff attended the concert at the Vatican audience hall Nov. 22, the feast of St. Cecilia, traditionally honored as the patron saint of musical performers.

"May St. Cecilia accompany each of you from heaven, dear brothers and sisters, and help you fully realize your mission in the church," the pope told the musicians after the performance.

The saint, a Roman martyr who according to legend played the organ, "invites believers to walk with vigilance toward the encounter with Christ, gladdening the earthly pilgrimage with the joy of song and music," he said.

Some 20,000 musicians and singers came to Rome in mid-November for the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art, held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Italian St. Cecilia Association. Among those attending were several choirs from the United States.

Speaking at an Angelus blessing the next day, the pope greeted the musicians and artists who participated in the encounter. The pope, speaking with a relatively strong voice from his apartment window, was applauded by thousands of people in St. Peter's Square.

He said the feast of Christ the King, celebrated Nov. 23, was an important day for all Christians, who are reminded of their relationship with Christ and his kingdom.

The contemplation of Christ as king and creator of all things highlights "the mission of believers, who are called to cooperate in a variety of ministries and charisms in the construction of his kingdom," he said.

# A heartfelt Thanksgiving prayer

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

You can understand it if Jamie Luketic says an extra Thanksgiving prayer this year. Next year, too, and, in all likelihood, for a good many years to come. Jamie will be thankful for many things, among them the sheer fact that she's around to enjoy the holiday — not to mention the hand of fate that placed a total stranger in the right place at precisely the right time.

I read about Jamie and her extraordinary story in a feature by Wayne Coffey in the New York Daily News, and it moved me so much that I wanted to be sure to share it with you. I think you'll see what I mean.

It all happened earlier this year, on Saturday, Sept. 13, at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where Jamie, a 21-year-old junior at Baldwin-Wallace College of Berea, Ohio, was running in a meet along with other members of the women's cross-country team. She loves the sport. She didn't always; as a high school freshman she quit track after two weeks. But as Coffey explains, that was the last time she quit anything.

She's a go-getter with a 3.9 grade average, and somehow she still finds time to captain the cross-country squad. "She's the kind of athlete who keeps you in coaching," her coach said. "She's an overachiever."

The second person in the story — the fellow who happened to be in the right place at the right time — is Mark McClure, cross-country coach at John Carroll University, another of the Ohio schools taking part in the meet. He came to John Carroll last August, after nine years as an assistant coach at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Before leaving Miami, McClure took a refresher course in CPR and emergency medical training. That turned out to have been a pretty good decision.

The men's cross-country event had gone off at 10 that morning; now it was 2 in the afternoon and the women were about to start. McClure found the finish line area was too crowded, and he wanted to urge his runners on as they came down the home stretch. So he walked up the course, to a deserted area a few hundred yards from the end. Then the runners began to stream by.

One of them was Jamie, and it didn't take the coach's trained eye to see she was in trouble. She was choking, and suddenly went down on all fours near the spot where McClure was standing.

"What's wrong?" he called out as he rushed to her aid. She grabbed her throat and began to turn pale. McClure pulled her up and put one hand on her back while he pressed in her abdomen. A stone the size of penny shot out of Jamie's mouth, a stone another runner had kicked up in such a way that, in what must have been a million-to-one shot, it lodged in Jamie's throat. There it would have stayed — unless, in another million-to-one shot, somebody had been there in that deserted area and came to her aid. Someone with first aid training. Someone who saved her life.

Jamie cried that night as she wrote McClure a letter of thanks. He cried when he read it. "I just know God was looking out for me," she said. And at two festive holiday tables this year in Ohio, there'll be words of thanksgiving as usual. This year, though, they'll be more heartfelt than ever.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "The Greatest Gift — Celebrating Life," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# The bells of forgiveness

## Guest Column

KATHY SCHMUGGE
GUEST COLUMNIST

I have one object that holds a special place in my heart and it is a gold orthodox cross that sits on my mantle, the remains of a crystal bell that a friend brought from Russia years ago. She bought it when she traveled abroad to bring home her 18-month-old Russian child, Grace, whom she and her husband adopted.

This fragment of a bell symbolizes so much to me. Because the religious piece was made during a time when it was against the law to even sing a Christmas carol, I appreciate that someone risked his life so that I could have it in my home. I also am thankful I live in a country where I am free to practice my faith, thankful I can share this reflection with you and not have to fear persecution.

A few years ago, my beloved bell came crashing to the floor of my fireplace. My daughter had reached for it, hoping to ring it without my notice. I remember hearing it shatter from several rooms away. I was devastated and sent everyone out of the room, weeping as I carefully picked up hundreds of glass slivers scattered about the floor.

After an hour, my four-year-old bravely came into the room. As I held tight to the only salvageable piece of the bell, the cross, he said gently, "Mom, you know you have to forgive, because God forgives."

At that moment, I knew that the bell and cross — and the faith they symbolized — was only a token of sentimentality if I did not look beyond my treasured bell and see an opportunity to show forgiveness to the children I treasure so much more. I called everyone into the room where the "I am sorry" and "I forgive you" were joined with loving hugs.

So why am I thankful for this orthodox cross that once sat on top of a delicate crystal bell? First, it represents how precious life is because my friend traveled many miles and spent money she did not have so Grace could have a mom and dad and know what love looks, smells and feels like. It represents the value of faith and how some Christians persevered even during the most difficult times, taking risks and never looking back. Its brokenness reminds me of how fragile I am and yet God in his mercy reaches out with a helping hand that can come in the whisper of a small child.

The bell fragment continues to be a symbol to me of God's goodness and generosity. We all need to be thankful for the gift of faith that is more precious than any object or earthly possession and thankful for a country that allows each of us to share this faith with others.

God bless and Happy Thanksgiving.

# Did the prime minister receive Communion in Rome?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. I am writing in response to your recent column about non-Catholics receiving Communion in the Catholic Church. You said the Holy Father gave Communion to British prime minister Tony Blair, and indicated that event as one possible indication of a change in conditions for Protestants receiving Catholic Communion. Three of our parishioners were disturbed and asked me about it.

Blair's wife is Catholic, he is not. Did the pope give Communion to Mr. Blair at a papal Mass earlier this year? There were rumors to that effect, but they were never confirmed and were publicly rejected by some who were there.

I give below some information from John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter, in an article of March 28, 2003. "I don't like to write about rumors," he said, "unless I'm in a position to settle them.... I don't know what really happened.... Several readers have contacted me, however, wanting to know about the incident."

The story first broke in the Church Times, an Anglican publication, Allen reported, which attributed the information to a Roman liturgist. This liturgist was not at the Mass, denied having privileged information and later denied having said that Mr. Blair received Communion.

Both the Vatican and 10 Downing Street are treating the matter as a strictly private affair. A Vatican spokesman told Allen it would be "incorrect" for the Holy See to confirm or deny an incident pertaining to the prime minister's private life.

Aside from the Blair family, the Mass was attended by a few seminarians. One said Mr. Blair went in the Communion line with his arms crossed, as if wanting to receive a blessing, but a priest (not the pope), perhaps unaware of the meaning of the gesture, gave him Communion anyway.

Other seminarians say they saw no such thing. Another journalist described someone who was "fully briefed" about the Mass and who is adamant that Blair did not receive Communion. "I [Allen] don't know what happened, and short of a personal statement from Blair, I doubt the uncertainty can be resolved."

Thus far Mr. Allen. The implication that the Holy Father gave Holy Communion when there's no proof that he did can scandalize the faithful. I'm hoping you will clarify this in the immediate future. (Massachusetts)

A. The alleged ministration of the Eucharist by the pope to a Protestant head of state was widely discussed and analyzed last spring, with several usually reliable sources implying the rumors were true.

I'm grateful to the pastor who passed along the above information. Obviously, there is no present basis for using that event as a credible element in evaluating the lawfulness of Communion to people who are not Catholic.

The conditions listed in the 1993 Vatican ecumenical directory still apply. Any official changes would not find their way into Catholic policy so obliquely, but would be promulgated much more specifically and directly.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# St. Mary Church evolves as center of diversity for Greensboro Catholics

## *Parish celebrates 75 years of multiculturalism*

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

In June 2002, St. Mary Church broke ground on their new parish center to replace the facility that once housed the middle school. In addition to eight classrooms, three offices and a full-size kitchen, the new center was designed to seat 350 people for Mass or 250 for a sit-down dinner.

GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church was established in the late 1920s to support increasing numbers of Greensboro-area Catholics. Today, the 391-family parish joins five other Greensboro Catholic churches to compose one of the highest concentrations of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

St. Mary Church, originally comprised of a mostly African-American congregation, was consecrated with its first Mass by Bishop William J. Hafey of Raleigh on Sept. 16, 1928. That same month, at the invitation of Bishop Hafey, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul from Baltimore, Md., opened the parish school to a dozen children. The student population rapidly grew to exceed 100.

The church was soon given parish status with Josephite Father Charles Hannigan, a missionary priest known for building churches, as the founding pastor.

Due to the growing number of Catholics in the area, a new church building, with the Blessed Mother as its patron, was constructed in 1936 to accommodate 150 people and it was dedicated on Nov. 1 of that year under the guidance of Passonist Father Patrick Darrah

In August 1939, the first priests of the Congregation of the Mission arrived to minister at St. Mary Church, thereby beginning a pastorate that continues today. This order of priests, also known as Vincentians, was founded in France in 1625 by St. Vincent de Paul, who also co-established the order of sisters who arrived in Greensboro in 1928 to staff the school.

In the late 1940s came a name change for St. Mary Church — in 1948, Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh granted a request that the church be called Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. This church was officially known as such until 1972, when again the church was placed under the patronage of St. Mary.

The St. Mary Church community played a role in the building up of the Catholic Church in western North Carolina during the 1950s and beyond. In 1951, the priests of the Greensboro parish began ministering to the mission congregation of Reidsville. Their pastorate lasted until 1968, when Holy Infant Church was given parish status.

Dwindling enrollment forced the parish to close its four-room middle school in 1972. The building, however, remained a part of the parish landscape, serving as a parish center and host to a variety of ministerial and social activities, including those of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the SHARE food ministry program, faith formation and Knights of Columbus.

Because of the welcoming atmosphere of St. Mary Church, Catholic Vietnamese and Montagnards soon came to worship. By October 1995, Sunday Mass in Vietnamese became a reality with Vietnamese Vincentian Father Michael Mahn Nguyen as celebrant.

That same year, the Vincentians sent Father Joe Elzi to celebrate Masses for the growing Hispanic population.

The parish has become a multicultural community consisting of people and races from every continent in the world except Antarctica. In 2000, the parish celebrated its first multicultural Mass and festival. By 2001, more than 500 parishioners came to celebrate this annual parish event.

Parish growth continued over the years, and on June 23, 2002, parishioners of St. Mary Church broke ground on their new parish center to replace the facility that once housed the middle school. In addition to eight classrooms, three offices and a full-size kitchen, the new center was designed to seat 350 people for Mass or 250 for a sit-down dinner.

St. Mary Church kicked off its 75th year celebrations with a Benediction and Mass Jan. 14-15, 2003, the first of many events planned throughout the year to celebrate the multicultural growth of the parish. On Nov. 22, 2003, the parish celebrated the 75th anniversary of the church with a special dinner.

Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, former priest in residence at St. Mary Church and diocesan director of Hispanic ministry, is now pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Charlotte. Vincentian Father Nguyen, former parochial vicar of St. Mary under Vincentian Father Robert Prior, now serves as pastor.

Today, between 1,000 and 1,2000 people attend Mass every Sunday at St. Mary Church.

**St. Mary Church**
812 Duke Street
Greensboro, N.C. 27401
(336) 272-8650

**Vicariate:** Greensboro
**Pastor:** Vincentian Father Michael Manh Nguyen
**Parochial Vicar:** Vincentian Father Robert Stone
**Number of Families:** 391

Vincentian Father
Michael Manh Nguyen

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

DECEMBER 5, 2003 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 11

**Parish Profile: St. Helen Church**
| PAGE 12

# A country of conflict and crisis

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Followers of a radical Shiite cleric pray in front of a U.S. Army tank during the Islamic festival of Eid al-Fitr in the Baghdad, Iraq, suburb of Al Sadr Nov. 25. The Vatican's representative in Iraq has said a military withdrawal now would be the worst option.

## HAS VATICAN CHANGED POSITION ON IRAQ WAR, OR HAS WAR CHANGED IRAQ?

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Early this year, during the countdown to the Iraq War, Pope John Paul II and his Vatican aides wasted no opportunity to broadcast their opposition to a U.S.-led invasion.

They warned that besides being unjust, an invasion would be counterproductive — it would leave many dead and wounded, destroy Iraqi infrastructure, increase the hardships on civilians, increase political pressures on Iraqi Christians, ignite civil strife in the country, weaken the United Nations and foment global terrorism.

Fast-forward eight months, and it seems that most or all of the Vatican's warnings were accurate, but

See IRAQ, page 6

# World AIDS Day draws support from churches

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — From Washington to Dakar, Senegal, Catholic bishops joined in marking World AIDS Day Dec. 1 with promises of support for those with HIV/AIDS and encouragement to change behaviors that lead to the spread of the disease.

In Rome, Pope John Paul II and the head of the Vatican office for health care encouraged Catholics to join them in praying for people with HIV/AIDS and to care for those with the disease.

Catholic organizations worked on AIDS prevention across Asia.

In Dakar, the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, which represents the bishops in Africa, issued its first collective statement on HIV/AIDS, proposing a plan of action involving work with parishes,

See AIDS, page 6

**FROM LEBANON TO NORTH CAROLINA**

# Maronite Catholics seek to strengthen, grow their church in Southeast

BY JOHN STRANGE
NC CATHOLIC STAFF

DURHAM — Father Joseph Thomas has a gift for some North Carolina Catholics — a gift of "self-knowing" and a return to the traditions of their ancestors in the Maronite Catholic Church.

"I encourage the people of Maronite origin, people who all their lives have heard the word 'Maronite' but never knew what it meant, to make themselves available" and open-minded when considering the Eastern church, Father Thomas, pastor of the Maronite Catholic mission of St. Sharbel in Raleigh, told the *NC Catholic.*

St. Sharbel hosted the Nov. 14-16 Southeast regional conference of the National Apostolate of Maronites, where much of the focus was on how to strengthen and grow the Maronite Catholic Church in the Southeast.

The Maronite Church is one of 22 Eastern Catholic churches with origins in Eastern Europe, Asia or Africa, often identified by a national or ethnic character. The Maronites, for example, trace their history back to St. Maron

See MARONITE, page 9

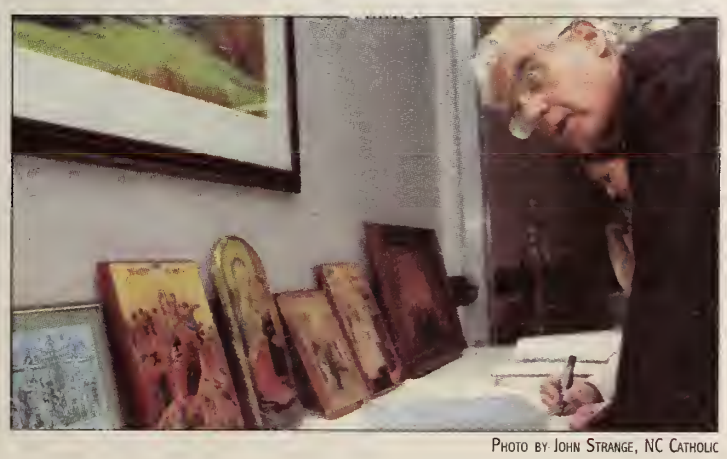

PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE, NC CATHOLIC

Father Joseph Thomas, pastor of St. Sharbel's Maronite Catholic mission, identifies Maronite icons for a display at the Southeast regional conference of the National Apostolate of Maronites in Durham Nov. 14-16.

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**Dreams of Eagles**
*Student project beautifies Immaculata School*
| PAGE 4

**Sister Evelyn Mattern**
*Raleigh Diocese loses crusader for justice*
| PAGE 5

**Culture Watch**
*Children's books for Christmas gift-giving*
| PAGE 8

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## REMEMBERING RACHEL

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Family members of Rachel Scott, one of those killed in the Columbine High School shootings, write messages May 27 on Rachel's cross, which is part of a permanent memorial to the victims at Chapel Hill Cemetery in Littleton, Colo. From left are Rachel's sisters Bethanee Scott McCandles and Dana Scott and cousin Jeff Scott.

## Slain Columbine student's parent addresses Catholic high school

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Beth Nimmo, mother of Rachel Scott, one of the Columbine High School students killed during a shooting rampage at the Littleton, Colo., school four years ago, said the tragic event "demands a spiritual response."

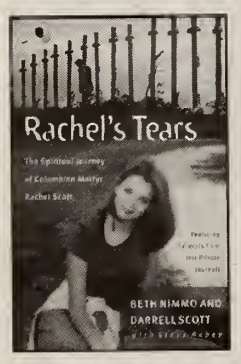
During a November ceremony at St. Genevieve High School in Panorama City, the mother of 17-year-old Rachel told students and faculty members that God was preparing people before the killings on April 20 "for his witness."

According to Nimmo, Rachel — whom she described as someone with "a strong love and devotion to Jesus Christ — had a premonition of her death and wrote in a journal on May 2, 1998: "This will be my last year."

Other journal writings, gathered in a book by Nimmo called "Journals of Rachel Scott," reveal that the teen had a "heavy heart" over the society "we've created" where kids kill kids.

Nimmo displayed a drawing Rachel had made in class the morning of her death, which shows 13 tears falling from a pair of eyes and a rose watered by 17 drops of blood. She said the drawing symbolically represents the 13 Columbine victims, killed by two fellow students, and the 17 years of her daughter's life.

"There is triumph in Columbine — many wonderful things have come out of




it," said Nimmo. "I'm proud that my daughter died for something that's worthy," she said, pointing out that the Columbine killers were overheard taunting Rachel for her Christian faith.

"Her life was all about character," the mother added.

Nimmo's address was part of a St. Genevieve High School celebration recognizing the school's 2003 National School of Character Award. More than 700 people attended the event.

According to Principal Dan Horn, the staff at St. Genevieve's made a conscious decision to learn lessons from the Columbine tragedy by creating a "more welcoming environment for all."

He said the staff members also envisioned the school as "a living monument to all of those who had lost their lives or who had lost loved ones to school violence."

## Catholic educators attend regional meetings to discuss future roles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many Catholic educators across the country have been doing some extra homework this fall looking at where they want Catholic schools, religious education and campus ministry programs to be in the future.

More than 100 regional meetings, sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association, were scheduled from August to December and the findings from all of these meetings will be compiled for a symposium on Catholic education to be held Jan. 8-11 in Washington to mark NCEA's 100th anniversary.

The results from that symposium will then be presented at the annual NCEA convention in Boston next April.

About 90 Catholic educators attended one of the regional meetings Nov. 20-21 in Washington. Participants — including faculty members, diocesan officials, catechetical and campus ministry leaders — came from the dioceses of Wilmington, Del., Arlington and Richmond, Va., and Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., and the Baltimore and Washington archdioceses.

They spent the greater part of two days in small groups discussing the importance of Catholic identity, how to shape future leaders, and the role of Catholic schools and religious education programs in society.

"What we're about today is to create a shared vision of the mission of Catholic education for the 21st century," Dan Curtin, NCEA's executive director of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education, told participants.

He urged them to reflect on their own experiences in Catholic education and to relate them "to the larger world of the American culture through the eyes of faith" to come up with strategies for the future.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Paul Tate, with Deanna Light and the St. Eugene choir, will perform a *community-wide Christian concert* Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St. Tate is nationally recognized for his work as a composer, pianist and vocalist. He is the director of music and liturgy at St. Brendan Church in Cumming, Ga. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call Nancy at St. Eugene, (828) 254-5193.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will sponsor a family potluck on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. in the New Life Center Banquet room. After dinner, the special guest speaker will be Linda Schaefer, the last photojournalist personally invited to make a *photographic journey through Mother Teresa's world.* Schaefer also attended Mother Teresa's beatification in Rome with Bishop Curlin. Call Sue VanderJeugdt (704) 541-8362 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — Father Patrick Winslow will present an *Advent retreat* Dec. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Call Peggy at (704) 588-7311 for reservations or e-mail bhoppy57@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church,* 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a *Supper-Study Series* Dec. 10 and 17 in the Family Center. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. with children's activities at 6:30. Catechesis will take place 6:45-7:30 p.m. Father Joe Zuschmidt will speak on the sacrament of reconciliation, in preparation for the parish Advent reconciliation service Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the church. For details, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GASTONIA — Is peace possible in our time? What can we do to bring peace to our world? Join us for the next *Prayer Vigil for Peace* Dec. 15, 7-8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 258 W. Franklin Blvd. Come pray with people of all faiths — Jewish, Christian, Muslim and others — as we gather together to ask the Lord for peace in our time. If you have any questions or

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican trims pope's Christmas schedule, omitting some January events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Christmas season schedule has been trimmed, apparently excluding his usual ordination of new bishops on the Jan. 6 feast of the Epiphany and his custom of baptizing infants on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The pope's liturgical schedule for December and January lists him as presiding over six events, but does not specify if he will be the principal celebrant of the liturgies.

The Vatican released the 83-year-old pope's schedule Nov. 25. The schedule includes:

— Laying a wreath at a Marian statue in central Rome on the Dec. 8 feast of the Immaculate Conception, but not making his annual visit afterward to the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

— Christmas Mass at midnight in St. Peter's Basilica.

— The Dec. 25 solemn blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) at noon.

— An evening thanksgiving prayer service Dec. 31 in St. Peter's Basilica.

— The Jan. 1 Mass for the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and World Peace Day in St. Peter's Square.

In addition, Vatican Radio reported the pope would not hold his weekly general audiences Dec. 24 and 31. A Vatican official said because the calendar did not go beyond Jan. 1 indicated no other papal liturgical events were scheduled for the month.

# Pope: Catholics in the Americas must reach out to people with Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Millions of people in the world are yearning for meaning in their lives, Pope John Paul II said, and Catholics in North and South America must reach out to them with the Gospel.

"Show your desire to be joyful witnesses and enthusiastic apostles of the Gospel to the ends of the earth with the example of your holy lives," the pope told some 3,200 people gathered in Guatemala City for the American Missionary Congress.

Pope John Paul sent a message to the Nov. 25-30 gathering of bishops, clergy, religious and lay people, who met to coordinate and increase missionary activity among the continent's Catholics.

"Millions of men and women who do not know Christ or have only a superficial knowledge of him live in the hope — at times, unconsciously — of discovering the truth about man and about God and about the way which leads to liberation from sin and from death," the pope said.

Because the answer is Christ, Pope John Paul said, the proclamation of the Gospel is a vital and obligatory task.

The pope said God has given the peoples of North and South America "beautiful fruits of holiness in men and women, who, faithful to the missionary mandate of the Lord, have spent their lives proclaiming the Christian message, including in heroic circumstances and conditions."

The example of how holy individuals supported by holy communities resulted in the massive evangelization of the continent hundreds of years ago is a reminder that holy people and holy communities are still the most effective means of spreading the Gospel, he said.

New programs or more efficient organizations are not the answer, the pope said.

"It is necessary to give rise to a new yearning for holiness" among believers so that people can see in their lives the rewards of faith, he said.

need directions, contact St. Mark's Church at (704) 864-4531 or Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all women to its *Christmas Tea* Dec. 11, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Food will be collected for a local food pantry. For details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — The fourth annual presentation of the reenactment of the *St. Francis of Assisi Crib at Greccio* will be held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Ln., Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. The theme for this year's live nativity scene will be St. Francis and the sermon to the birds.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — A *support group for parents who have lost a child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — In recognition of the ministry of Betsy Meehan, who is presently on sick leave from her position as music director of St. Leo the Great Church, the St. Leo choir will present *"Encounters with Christ: A Celebration of the Birth, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord."* The concert will be held Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Admission is free. For details call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

WINSTON-SALEM — Parents Together and the Knights of Columbus Council #2829 will host its *Breakfast with Santa* for special-needs children and their families Dec. 13, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. The Knights will supply a pancake buffet as Parents Together welcomes families for face painting, crafts, breakfast and an opportunity to meet Santa and have a photo taken with him. Space is limited. To register your family or to volunteer, call (336) 814-5301.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following event:*

**December 12 — 7p.m.**
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Wait Chapel, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem

# Celebrating history

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Black Catholic History Month was celebrated with a special Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville with Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor, and Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte and vicar for the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States designated November as Black Catholic History Month on July 24, 1990 to celebrate the long history and proud heritage of black Catholics.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### ST. EUSTRATIUS AND COMPANIONS

Eustratius, an Armenian, was tortured during Dioclestian's persecution of Christians — first by Lysias, the governor at Arabraca, then by Agricolaus, the governor in Sebasta. He was then burned to death in a furnace about the year 304. Also martyred with him was his servant Eugenius; two friends who had pleaded for his life, Mardarius and Auxentius; and Orestes, a soldier who was converted by Eustratius' courage under torture. The feast of St. Eustratius and his companions is Dec. 13.

DREAMS OF EAGLES

# Student project beautifies Immaculata School

HENDERSONVILLE — In need of a project to qualify for an Eagle Badge, Taylor Lantrip, a Boy Scout and Immaculata School student, approached the faculty regarding an extensive project to beautify the front of the school.

The project had been a topic already under discussion for several years, but little action had been taken, according to William Meehan, principal.

"This is an example of widespread involvement and commitment by many people in a project of this magnitude that began as a dream of one student," said Meehan. "(It) just seemed to mushroom and grow."

The project was divided into three phases. The first phase involved the creation of a courtyard, complete with two benches, pavers and a statue of Mary, the patroness of the school. Lantrip assumed responsibility for this phase, which was completed in June.

Phase Two involved moving and refurbishing six benches along the front of the school. Lucas Sofie, Taylor's classmate and fellow Scout striving for an Eagle Badge, assumed responsibility for this phase and the project was completed in August.

Phase Three involved the removal of scrubs and the planting of perennials and shrubbery more conducive to the aesthetics of the school. The Immaculata School student council, with assistance from Marti Sofie (Lucas' mother), oversaw the project, completed in October.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Immaculata School students and parent volunteers work to beautify the front of Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

Marti Sofie expressed her appreciation to the students, volunteers and "the Scouts, Taylor Lantrip and Lucas Sofie, who got the ball rolling with their Eagle projects."

"I hope all those involved feel a sense of pride in their contribution to our school community," she said.

Meehan called the project a "tremendous learning experience for students."

"It captured a special spirit in the community and is a concrete manifestation that dreams can come true and that young people can make a difference when guided and supported by the adults in their lives," said Meehan.

# Bishop McGuinness students plan mission south of the border

KERNERSVILLE — The Campus Ministry Office of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is currently enlisting students and adults to participate in an April 2004 special mission experience in Mexico.

The program is designed to heighten students' awareness of conditions in a nation and culture the resources of which are quite different from their own.

Traveling to San Luis de Posoti during Holy Week, students will spend Easter weekend experiencing the special worship activities for that feast in a small-town setting. This will be followed by a bus excursion to the village of El Realejo, where students will work with children in their church and school environments, teaching them English and reinforcing their own Spanish language skills. They also plan to leave a memorial gift for the people of the parish.

Students will then travel by bus to Mexico City, stopping in the city of San Miguel de Allende and Doris Hidalgo. While in the city, they plan visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Zócalo and the Museo de Anthropologia before returning to North Carolina.

. Staff members traveling with the students include Martin Mata, campus minister; and

Juanita Abreu, Maryann Tyrer and Shirley Shaw, members of the faculty.

The students are holding numerous fundraisers to offset the cost of their excursion, and the school asks the community to help support this outreach.

**Want to Help?**
To help support the outreach efforts, call Martin Mata at (336) 564-1012 or e-mail mmata@bmhs.us.

# Bishop McGuinness United Nations team scores big

KERNERSVILLE — In its first year, the Model United Nations team of Bishop McGuinness Catholic School distinguished itself with awards earned during the recent annual conference at Appalachian State University in Boone.

Two teams of Bishop McGuinness students were cited for excellence: Andrew Heberling and Megan Wizke; Greg Means and Matt Ingersoll. David Seidel, history teacher and the groups' moderator, praised their performance as exceptional for a first-year effort.

The program has been established at the school to complement the long-standing and award-winning Harvard Model Congress program, which takes groups of more that 20 students to congressional simulations in Boston each year sponsored by Harvard University.

The school chose the Appalachian program for the current year and is currently investigating other options for the following year, including the Duke University Model U.N.

The ASU simulation involved 85 competing teams from 45 North Carolina high schools. The Model U.N. team will compete again in the spring when ASU holds its Model Security Council session in March.

Seidel's group, assembled for this inaugural effort, included seniors Dunia Fleihan, Katie Preske, Meghan Witzke, Megan Good, Matt Ingersoll, Greg Means, Andrew Heberling, J.P. Delaney and freshmen P.J. Dascoli and Michael O'Shea.

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# Raleigh Diocese loses crusader for justice

## *NC's ecumenical, social justice community says goodbye to Sister Evelyn Mattern*

BY JOHN STRANGE
NC CATHOLIC STAFF

RALEIGH — Christian Community Sister Evelyn Mattern, founder of the Diocese of Raleigh's Peace and Justice Department and former program associate at the North Carolina Council of Churches, died Nov. 30 in a nursing home in Philadelphia.

Her work covered almost every aspect of social justice, from obtaining housing for poor immigrant workers to demonstrating against the death penalty, from environment to gender equality to interfaith issues to pro-life work. Through the years, she made many friends, but also foes, of politicians, farmers, business owners and others.

The North Carolina community of Christian social activists celebrated Sister Evelyn's ministry Oct. 1 as the longtime North Carolina resident and activist, dying of cancer, prepared to leave for her native Philadelphia. Hundreds filled Our Lady of Lourdes' Fallon center in Raleigh for the luncheon, which was filled with tears and laughter as various leaders of the ecumenical and social justice community came to pay tribute to Sister Evelyn.

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and former president of the Council of Churches, recalled how he and Sister Evelyn worked to address the miserable living conditions of migrant workers by building new housing in Johnston County.

"The people of Johnston County did not exactly welcome us with open arms," he said. Sister Evelyn's efforts "stirred up the populace from the KKK to Jesse Helms." Town leaders complained that "Catholics are taking over Johnston County," said Father Kloster, a native of the county.

"It never happened," he said. "But just because it didn't happen doesn't mean it wasn't good."

Christian Community
Sister Evelyn Mattern

North Carolina desperately needs people like Sister Evelyn, Bishop Joseph Gossman or Raleigh said. "We need someone to come forward and replace her. But she is irreplaceable."

Father Kloster recommended forming a North Carolina Justice Hall of Fame, with Sister Evelyn joining the late Father Charles Mulholland and the Rev. Collins Killburn, former executive director of the Council of Churches, as charter members.

Rev. George Reed, executive director of the Council of Churches, said Sister Evelyn's gift to the Council was a "real sense of justice rooted in deep spirituality."

Sister Evelyn was part of a U.S. peace delegation to Iraq in October 1990. The visit brought Iraqis 1,000 pounds of vitamins and medicines and helped prepare for an ongoing presence of American peace advocates in Iraq during the first Gulf War.

In a pre-trip interview with the *NC Catholic*, Sister Evelyn said she had some fears about going to Iraq, such as being in Baghdad if U.S. planes bombed the city and "being taken hostage or being kept as a 'guest.'"

Sister Evelyn said if she met Saddam Hussein, she would listen first. "The first step in reconciliation is to listen, try to feel for the common human dimension that is present.

Sister Evelyn's most recent work, Rev. Reed said, was in the environmental arena. She and others worked for the formation of "GreenPower," a way for consumers, congregations and small businesses to work with their power company to purchase electricity from renewable sources. The program is just now being offered to some consumers, he said.

During the luncheon, Rev. Reed announced the Council of Churches had collected more than $14,000 for the new Sister Evelyn Mattern Fund, to be used to support issues of peace and justice. The fund, he said, will "guarantee we will remember you in Raleigh. Fifty years from now people here will still have occasion to say, 'Let me tell you about Sister Evelyn Mattern.'"

After the final speaker, Sister Evelyn spoke not of herself, but of others in her ministry.

She said she is "very struck by what is unique of North Carolina, something which may not be true of other places: We work together in collaboration. We are on the line, holding hands. We work together. We collaborate."

Sister Evelyn had helped with "Of One Heart and One Mind," the joint pastoral letter issued in 1997 by then-Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop John F. Gossman of Raleigh calling on North Carolinians to reach out to those in need.

Sister Evelyn's funeral arrangements were not available at press time.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

# Vocation director's father dies

CHARLOTTE — Barton R. Allen, 82, father of Father John Allen, vocations director, died at his home in Charlotte on Sunday, Nov. 23.

A funeral Mass took place Nov. 26 in St. Patrick Cathedral. Interment was at St. Gabriel Church.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Father Allen at the following address:

Rev. John Allen
2744 Tiergarten Lane
Charlotte, NC 28210

# Holy Trinity students score tops honors with Duke University

CHARLOTTE — Duke University notified Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School that its eighth-grade class received the highest number of participants in North Carolina for the Duke Talent Identification Program.

The Talent Identification Program identifies academically talented seventh-graders on the basis of standardized test scores taken in elementary and middle school. A minimum qualifying score of 96 percentile on the ITBS test is one of the standards used for participation. Qualifying students are then invited to complete the SAT1 or ACT Assessment college entrance examination.

Seventh-graders participate in college entrance exams for several reasons, including gaining experience taking the college entrance exams, identifying areas of strength and weakness and receiving recognition for their achievements.

Holy Trinity was notified in August of last year's results. The students, now in eighth grade, continue to excel academically as they prepare for the transition into high school.

# Winners on and off the field

CHARLOTTE — Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School's eighth-grade football team won the conference championship against Weddington Middle School Nov. 1 with a score of 30-0.

The team has played together since the sixth grade and has won the conference championship for three consecutive years, losing only two games in the 2001, 2002 and 2003 seasons combined.

Included on the team are many honor roll students who also have qualified for the Duke University Talent Identification Program, which recognizes students based on academic excellence. The eighth-grade class this year has 52 percent of its students qualifying for the Duke program, which is the largest percentage from any one school in state. The eighth-graders also work every week as volunteers at Crisis Assistance Ministry.

Most of the football players will be moving on to Charlotte Catholic High School next year, taking their enthusiasm for football, academics and community service with them.

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# Has Vatican Iraq position changed?

IRAQ, *from page 1*

no one is saying "I told you so."

On the contrary, several top cardinals have warned against a pullout of U.S. and allied troops from Iraq, especially after deadly attacks on soldiers there. The Vatican's own representative in Iraq has said military withdrawal now would be the worst option.

And the Vatican has offered zero support to those who view Iraqi attacks on U.S. soldiers as legitimate resistance to an illegal operation.

After a recent truck bomb at an Italian army headquarters left 19 dead, Italian bishops denounced the attack as terrorism. The pope seemed to sign on to that definition a few days later when he spoke of the "wicked work" accomplished by terrorists in Iraq.

The pontiff and Italian bishops joined in honoring the dead Italian soldiers, saying they were engaged in a mission of peace.

Has the Vatican changed its mind about the war in Iraq?

"It's not that the Vatican position has changed, but the situation in Iraq has been completely transformed," said one Vatican official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The Vatican clearly said 'no' to the war. But at a certain point, you have to manage the situation that's been created in the way that does the least damage," he said.

"If the military pulls out of Iraq now, the country would fall into chaos. The vase has been broken, and we have to try to find a way to mend it. Of course, there is the problem that the more deeply one becomes involved in this project, the greater the tendency to justify that involvement," he said.

Before the war, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, raised U.S. diplomatic hackles when he warned that the United States might find itself in a Vietnam-like quagmire in Iraq.

But today, as the problems mount and the death toll rises in Iraq, Cardinal Sodano has said "now is not the time for recriminations."

What the Vatican emphasizes is the need for Iraqis to govern themselves as quickly as possible and for the United Nations to have a greater say in the interim running of the country.

But with Iraq's political vacuum, self-governance seems impossible now.

"Any country that finds itself under occupation does not think the ruling authority represents the people," Archbishop Fernando Filoni, apostolic nuncio to Iraq, told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera.*

"But there's a crisis of power in Iraq. The people need a leader, someone who talks to Iraqis as an Iraqi, and that leader isn't there," he said.

Archbishop Filoni said that with no short-term political solution in sight and no real plan for civil harmony that involves Iraq's ethnic and religious communities, a military pullout now would leave Iraqis in a "terrible crisis."

Before the war began, the Vatican frequently relied on then-Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, an assistant secretary of state, to articulate the arguments against use of force. He was recently named a cardinal and left his diplomatic post, and the Vatican has generally fallen silent on the day-to-day situation in Iraq.

At the same time, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome and president of the Italian bishops' conference, has assumed a higher profile. His public influence peaked during the national mourning and state funeral for the Italian soldiers killed in Iraq, when the cardinal said there should be no withdrawal of Italian troops from their "great and noble mission."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator of Iraq and a Catholic, attends a Nov. 18 memorial service at St. Joseph's Chaldean Catholic Church in Baghdad for the 19 Italians killed in an attack in An Nasiriyah.

To those asking whether the soldiers died in a war that should not have been fought, Cardinal Ruini replied: "They are victims of terrorism, pure and simple."

The handful of European countries that have contributed soldiers to the current military operation in Iraq include four with heavily Catholic populations: Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

Even many Europeans opposed to the war supported sending soldiers to help restore order in Iraq in the immediate aftermath of the hostilities. But now the soldiers are coming under fire, and there is debate over whether their engagement is part of an illegal occupation, a peacekeeping mission or a reconstruction project.

"That's the $100 million question," said one Vatican official. He noted that no one at the Vatican had really spoken on this issue.

"Rather than define what it is, right now we need to try to help make things work as much as possible," he said.

# Catholics vs. HIV/AIDS

AIDS, *from page 1*

other faiths, medical institutions and religious formation programs. It focuses on changing behavior and accepting responsibility for tackling the problems of HIV and AIDS.

"Poverty facilitates the transmission of HIV, makes adequate treatment unaffordable, accelerates death from HIV-related illness and multiplies the social impact of the epidemic," they said.

More than 11 million children in Africa under age 15 are AIDS orphans, and in sub-Saharan Africa, as many as 28 million people have HIV/AIDS.

In Washington, the U.S. bishops' Committee on African-American Catholics and the Committee on Hispanic Affairs issued a joint letter urging Catholics to fight the crisis. They said more than half of all new HIV/AIDS cases in the United States are among African-Americans, with 61 percent of those cases among teens, and Hispanics account for 20 percent of the total reported AIDS cases. And 78 percent of all cases of women with HIV/AIDS are either African-American or Hispanic.

African-Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population. Hispanics account for 14 percent.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 700,000 and 800,000 people in the U.S. are infected with HIV or have AIDS.

The pope said Nov. 30 to "pray for those struck by this plague," and to "encourage all those in the church who provide a priceless service of welcome, care and spiritual accompaniment to these brothers and sisters of ours."

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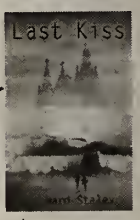


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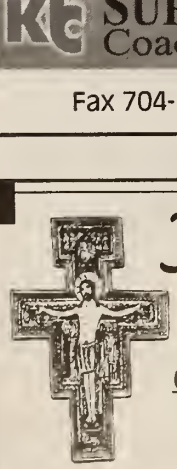

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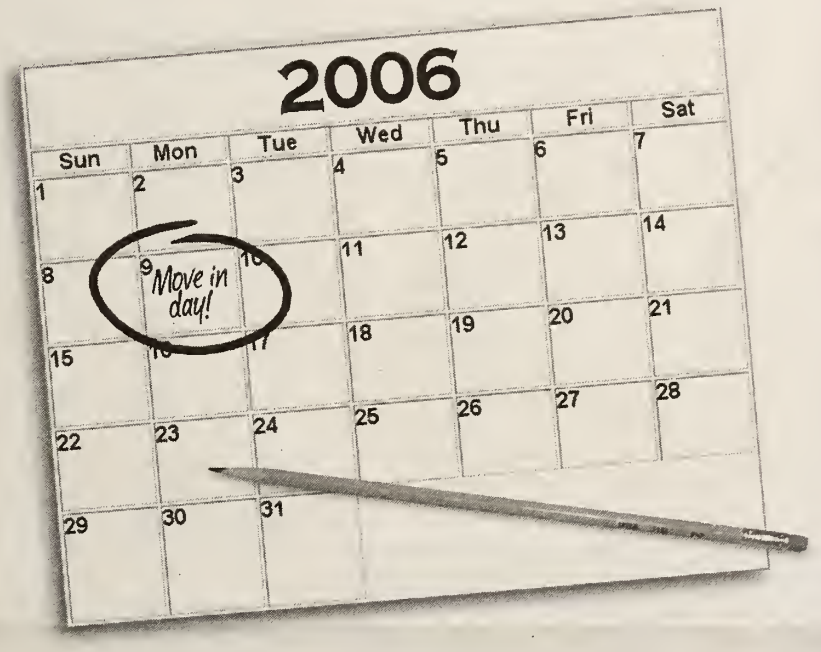


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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Children's books for Christmas gift-giving

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The following children's books are suitable for Christmas giving.

"The Invisible Seam," by Andy William Frew, illustrated by Jun Matsuoka. Moon Mountain Publishing (North Kingstown, R.I., 2003). 28 pp., $15.95.

"The Invisible Seam" is a well-woven story of a young Japanese girl who must apprentice as a seamstress when her aunt can no longer care for her. Michi's stitches are small and tight and bring great pride to her teacher but cause tensions with the other apprentice seamstresses. As the plot unfolds, Michi deals with peer pressure, the need to keep her promise to do her best, and the discovery that different people have different talents. Matsuoka's watercolors help illustrate Michi's feelings of pride, aloneness, conflict and joy. For younger readers, this is a good read-aloud book. Ages 7-10.

"Little Pierre: A Cajun Story from Louisiana," by Robert D. San Souci, illustrated by David Catrow. Silver Whistle (Orlando, Fla., 2003). 28 pp., $16.

This colorfully illustrated yarn is a great read-aloud book, mixing some Cajun dialect with outrageous adventure. Brothers Big Pierre, Fat Pierre, Wise Pierre and Foolish Pierre have special talents, but they are no match for their youngest brother, Little Pierre. Catrow's illustrations and caricatures stretch the imagination; the watercolors dominate the pages, with text blended in. Be prepared to read this book to the children multiple times. Ages 5-9.

"Dinosailors," by Deb Lund, illustrated by Howard Fine. Harcourt Inc. (Orlando, Fla., 2003). 29 pp., $16.

With a rocking rhythm, clever wording and humorous illustrations, Lund and Fine have rigged a swashbuckling story that children will love. The "Dinosailors" — dinosaurs who take off on a ship — are ready for adventure, until their vessel hits a squall. "Their dinotummies slosh and churn. They groan with every twist and turn. Their paling faces dinofrown. 'Heave ho!' they cry. 'It won't stay down.'" This book rose dinoheads and scaley tails above the rest. Ages 4-9.

"Mint's Christmas Message," by Mary Y. Spitz, illustrated by Joanne Y. Pierce. Mother Moose Press (Potomac Falls, Va., 2003). 32 pp., $17.95.

"Mint's Christmas Message" is an unusual twist on the message of Christmas. A grandfather who does not believe in Christmas receives the message of its real meaning when Mint, a retired champion, and other horses refuse to come in during a snowstorm. Pierce's illustrations are designed to look like old-fashioned oval-framed pictures, and they face text of a story told quite conversationally by Spitz. The result is an appealing story. All ages.

"The Wondrous Adventures of St. Francis of Assisi," by Tricia Gray, illustrated by Vicki Shuck. St. Anthony Messenger Press (Cincinnati, 2003). 164 pp., $14.95.

Fifteen tales about St. Francis, his life and miracles are retold in short vignettes that teach without preaching. With enticing titles like "The Three Murderous Robbers" to "The Wicked Wolf of Gubbio," the vignettes clearly convey Francis' love of God and his belief that God is reflected in every human, good or bad. Early elementary children will find the vignettes interesting to listen to if read by an adult; older readers will find the chapters quick reading. Ages 7-12.

"When We Were Saints," by Han Nolan. Harcourt Inc. (Orlando, Fla., 2003). 291 pp., $17.

"When We Were Saints" is not a historical tale, but the modern story of a young man struggling to find his identity after his grandfather's last words, "Young man, you are a saint." In a complex search that involves a teenage girl who thinks she is St. Clare and calls him Francis, Archie Caswell takes a spiritual journey into prayer and a physical journey to New York, all the while struggling to combine his common sense and love for his ailing grandmother with his discovery of religion. The book deals with some difficult topics, including anorexia and the stigmata, but will keep readers turning pages, trying to see how Archie resolves his conflict. Ages 11-15.

"Saints And Angels," by Claire Llewellyn. Kingfisher (Boston, 2003). 64 pp., $14.95.

"Saints and Angels" is a collection of portraits and profiles of famous saints, from St. Anne to St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as some famous archangels. The illustrations, taken from portraits at internationally renowned galleries, dominate the book. Llewellyn presents one-page profiles of the saints and angels. Each profile also has outtakes that include the saint or angel's feast day as well as what they are patron of. This beautiful book is a nice introduction to saints from ancient to modern times. All ages.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 7, 2003

## *Dec. 7, Second Sunday of Advent*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Baruch 5:1-9
   Psalm 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
3) Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The door burst open on a dreary winter afternoon. I heard the smack of books on the kitchen counter and the familiar sound of foraging for an after-school snack that would sustain a teenage boy until dinner. Then the call came, "Mom, I need to talk to you."

Walking into the kitchen, I unwittingly went to heart of the matter. "Hi. How was school?"

Immediately, I was told that Mark's American history teacher, having lost contact with reality, had given the class the most nonsensical of assignments known to humankind. I was forewarned that his American history grade would plummet to unsalvageable depths. Each student was required to interview someone who had served in World War II and be prepared to share the findings with the class.

At that moment I could have hugged the teacher. "What a super idea!" I thought to myself. To my son I said, "I think we know someone you can interview."

"Who? Where am I going to find someone?"

"Remember, Mr. Julson, who moved in next door, is a World War II veteran. Interview him."

After spending two hours interviewing our neighbor, Mark came home filled with astonishment and admiration for a man who had fought in Gen. Patton's army at the Battle of the Bulge and later witnessed, firsthand, the ravages of the Holocaust.

"Mom, can you believe that Mr. Julson lived through all that? I just thought he was a nice retired guy who went around taking food and clothes to church — somebody who bought day old bread for the ducks on the lake. What do you suppose helped him through it?

St. Paul describes a dynamic faith, in his letter to the Philippians, as a "partnership for the Gospel." Paul prays that the "good work" that has taken root in his readers will flourish throughout their lives until they meet Christ.

We witnessed the partnership with the Gospel that Paul mentions in the life of our friend in the good years of his retirement and through years of deteriorating health that left him a wisp of a man.

On Oct. 16, American flags flew in our neighborhood to mark his passing. In his heart faith never failed.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 13**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent),** Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monda (The Immaculate Conception),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (St. Juan Diego** Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Our Lady o Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Luke 1:39-47; **Saturday (St. Lucy),** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 20**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent),** Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monda (Advent Weekday),** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a, Matthew 21:23-27; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday),** Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Frida (Late Advent Weekday),** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a, Luke 1:5-25; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday** Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38

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# Maronite Catholics seek to grow in Southeast

MARONITE, *from page 1*

(born about 350) and the ancient monasteries in the mountains of Syria and Lebanon.

The Eastern churches are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, equal parts in the body of the Catholic Church, although they have their own distinctive liturgical and legal systems.

It is not known how many of today's North Carolina Catholics have their roots in Lebanon and the Maronite Catholic Church. What is clear, however, is that the Diocese of Raleigh owes much of its early development to Lebanese immigrants who settled in North Carolina years ago.

No other state in the country has had more early influence from Maronites than North Carolina, Father Thomas said.

Father Robert Lawson, a retired priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, said during the conference that to find Lebanese immigrants in North Carolina one had only to "follow the railroad."

The rail brought immigrants from the north, branching off through Raleigh in the east and Charlotte in the west. Many of these new Americans found their homes in these cities and at other railroad stops.

They came to the United States to escape religious persecution in Lebanon, Father Lawson said, but in North Carolina they found no established Maronite church and much prejudice. Not only were they foreigners in early 20th-century North Carolina; they were also Catholics.

They found Catholic parishes struggling to get their footing in often hostile communities. There were few Catholics, few priests, few churches.

"People rightly came to the country and joined the Latin Rite Catholic Church," Father Thomas said.

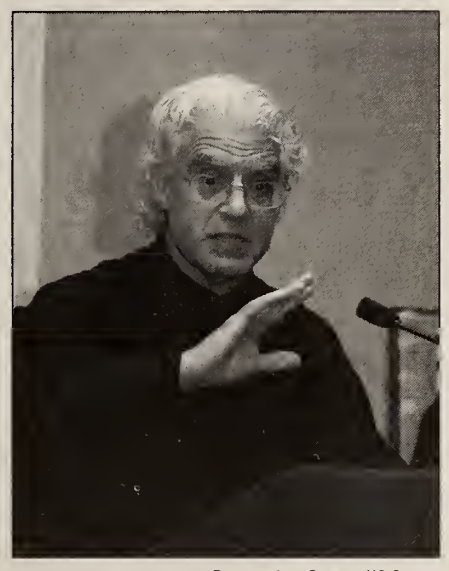

PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE, NC CATHOLIC

Father Joseph Thomas, pastor of the Maronite Catholic mission of St. Sharbel in Raleigh, speaks at the Nov. 14-16 Southeast regional conference of the National Apostolate of Maronites.

Father Lawson was born in Durham in 1923, the year before the Vatican established the Diocese of Raleigh.

"It was the last mission territory in all of the United States," Father Lawson said. "It was called the China of the Americas."

There were 5,000 Catholics in the whole state, he said, and of those, "at least 1,500 were Lebanese."

Father Lawson said he and other pioneering priests in North Carolina came to appreciate and love the Lebanese Catholics for their undying faithfulness and devotion to the Catholic Church.

He said that before the conference he had spoken to retired Msgr. James Jones, who asked Father Lawson to bring a message to the conference: "Tell them that no one in the state of North Carolina has been better, more faithful to the Church than the Lebanese Catholics. They kept the faith in the state when there was nobody else."

He and Father Jones represent two of the oldest priests of the Diocese of Raleigh. "We both say we depended on the faithfulness of the Lebanon people. This is your diocese. We are very proud of you."

For his part, Father Thomas first came to North Carolina in the early 1970s. Bishop Vincent Waters had long lobbied the bishop of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, the Maronite diocese that covered the entire eastern seaboard, to send a Maronite priest who could serve the Maronites living in North Carolina.

Father Thomas was assigned to establish a mission in Fayetteville, now St. Michael the Archangel Church on Arsenal Avenue.

He found initial resistance on the part of Lebanese Catholics to join the mission. They had become ensconced in their Roman Catholic parishes and in the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Further, they expressed concern that to move to the Maronite community would be to segregate the Lebanese Catholics from the rest of the community, something they hated to do in the racially divisive South.

But Father Thomas said many came to a "growing love and admiration for the tradition that was their own, but one that they never knew."

It is the same today for Catholics who have a Maronite tradition in their past, he said. "They have never known what it meant to be a Maronite Catholic."

Father Thomas and others at the conference said that while they wish to reach North Carolina Catholics who have Maronite roots, they are in no way in "competition" with the Roman Catholic Church. Indeed, they said, they want to especially reach those Maronite Catholics who have "fallen away" and are not active in either church.

In addition, they said, in today's modern Catholic Church, it is acceptable for Catholics of both traditions to participate in both rites if they wish.

What is important, said Ed Shiner, said executive director of the National Apostolate of Maronites, is that people are aware of what is available to them.

"They should be aware of who they are and where their roots are," he said.

Shiner said the Maronite liturgy is a traditional one usually featuring three languages: Arabic, Syriac, and English. People are "intrigued" by the liturgy, he said, its spirituality, and the "poetry of our liturgical texts."

While the Maronite Catholic Church is a traditional Eastern Catholic church with roots as far back as the year 350 with St. Maron's birth, it is growing and changing with the times. Especially in the United States, Father Thomas said, it is no longer "only" an ethnic Lebanese church.

"We were never meant to be an ethnic church," he said.

Boston's Roseanne Solomon, a past president of the national apostolate, said the Maronite Church has roots in Lebanon, but being Lebanese is not the most important thing about being a Maronite.

"My father was Irish and English," she said, "and he was a very good Maronite. He had not one ounce of Lebanese blood."

Good Maronites are faithful, she said, and "we open our arms and take in anyone who wants to be a part of us."

Shiner predicted that in 50 years the Maronite Church will still have a core that is distinctly Lebanese, but its members will be a "tossed salad" of different races and nationalities.

Father Thomas likened the synod in importance and impact to the Second Vatican Council. It was the first such synod since 1736, he said, and while the second session of the synod begins next October, already it has sent an important message to Maronite Catholics worldwide.

Before the synod, Father Thomas said, the Maronite Church outside of Lebanon was known as the "Church of the Diaspora," or the church of immigrants.

But one of the first findings of the synod was that the Maronite Catholic Church in the world will be known instead as the "Church of the Expansion."

"It is the very nature of the church is to extend itself throughout the world," Father Thomas said. "It is within our nature to expand ... for the church to spread all around the world, bringing our traditions and enriching the Catholic Church in its full glory."

*John Strange is the editor of the NC Catholic.*

*Editor's note: For more on the Maronite Catholic Church, to go www.stmaron.org.*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Cracking the real 'Da Vinci Code'

*Exploring anti-Catholic themes in novel*

**Guest Column**

FATHER MICHAEL BUETTNER

*(From Father Buettner's homily given at St. Gabriel Church Nov. 16, 2003)*

Well, have you cracked "The Da Vinci Code" yet? It seems this book is the newest fad that has recently dominated not only *The New York Times* bestseller list, but also television documentaries and coffee break conversations. A number of parishioners have even asked whether I have read the book yet, seeking some feedback and guidance on this book. Since I am not normally taken by modern fads and since I approach most modern innovations with a bit of healthy skepticism, it took me a while to buy the book.

The fast-paced action and intrigue grabbed my attention from the very beginning. I could see why so many are drawn into this story. It is like a puzzle or a riddle waiting to be solved. But I had to stop about halfway through. My threshold for anti-Catholic bigotry had reached its breaking point. In our day, anti-Catholic bigotry is about the only acceptable prejudice that is not only permitted, but also supported by the vast majority of the secular media. So, I asked myself, "Why should I continue to read a book that disparages the Church?" It would be like reading a scathing criticism of my own mother, which is not such a strange analogy considering the Church is our mother.

But it doesn't take long to see the author's direction, as well as the lies and misrepresentations that will lead him to his conclusion. So, what's this book all about?

In one sense, the book is nothing more than the perennial quest for the Holy Grail: the search for the original vessel that held the blood of Christ at the Last Supper. You may recall recent renditions of the ancient tale in such movies as "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" and the slightly more risqué "Monty Python's Holy Grail."

Although it's the same adventure, Dan Brown, author of "The Da Vinci Code," not only repackages the story, but completely reinterprets the Grail legend. Brown takes the insight that a woman's body is symbolically a container for new life and applies this truth to the Grail legend. He gives the container a Christian name that everyone should recognize, Mary Magdalene. Then Brown suggests the theory that St. Mary Magdalene was actually the vessel that held the blood of Jesus Christ in her womb while bearing his children. This, of course, would mean that Our Lord took St. Mary Magdalene to be his bride to continue his bloodline through the centuries.

Consequently, Brown claims "the quest for the Holy Grail is the quest to kneel before the bones of Mary Magdalene" rather than the traditional legend of the search for the chalice used at the Last Supper.

So, does Brown prove his case? First of all, he is not proving a case. Dan Brown is not a lawyer. He is an author: his job is to sell books. As an author, he is successful, by stirring up interest and reaching the bestseller list; but at the same time, Brown is a poor writer, with a superficial writing style filled with historical errors and characters as flat as the paper on which they were printed. If you are interested in the many historical inaccuracies, I would direct you to an article in Crisis Magazine from September entitled "Dismantling The DaVinci Code" by Sandra Miesel, a Catholic journalist (www.crisismagazine.com/september2003/feature1.htm). She does a splendid job of responding to Brown's implausible book.

In the end, cracking "The DaVinci Code" is not all that difficult. The answer to Brown's success is printed on page 169 where he writes, "Everyone loves a conspiracy." "The DaVinci Code" is a fictional tale, a novel, retelling the famous quest for the Holy Grail in modern, anti-Catholic language.

But in the midst of all such lies remains a bit of truth that has been covered up. If we investigate Brown's claim that Christ took to himself a bride to continue his bloodline and his lineage throughout each generation, we will discover that Brown was on to something, a truth that is deeply Catholic, despite his prejudices.

Before Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He did indeed take to himself a bride, in fact, the Church, and prepared her to receive a divine gift. And after Our Lord ascended into heaven, he sent his Holy Spirit upon his bride at Pentecost, impregnating her with divine life. Why? So that his bride, the Church, would produce sons and daughters of us for the glory of the Father.

In the sacrament of baptism, you and I are given divine life by water and the Holy Spirit and become sons and daughters of the Father. It is the Bride of Christ, the Church, our mother, who produces this divine life in our souls.

And not only does Christ's lineage continue in the Church, but also his bloodline, in the holy Eucharist. For 2000 years, the Church has taught the holy Eucharist, instituted at the Last Supper, is the living body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, donated by the bridegroom to impregnate his bride and give her divine life; that is, Christ, the bridegroom gives to you and me, his bride, the unsurpassing gift of his Body and Blood. At every Mass, the bridegroom gives himself to his bride so that "the two will become one flesh."

For a Catholic, the search for the Holy Grail is not legend but reality, it is not lost, but found. The perennial quest for the chalice that holds the blood of Christ does not begin here, but rather ends here. For, the truth that here and now, 2000 years after the Last Supper, Christ will come again at this holy Mass and change wine into his blood, changing a simple chalice into the Holy Grail out of love for you and me, is much more exciting than any fictitious novel or modern theory.

No, I have not finished "The Da Vinci Code" and I don't plan to do so. My quest for the Holy Grail is ultimately satisfied with the truth — with the marvelous truth that Christ's love for you and me impels him to give us his body and blood so that we might become one with him.

*Father Buettner is parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.*

# Pope says God saves people from political, spiritual oppression

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — From the beginning of time, God has acted to save his creatures from oppression, both political and spiritual, Pope John Paul II said.

Reflecting on Psalm 114 during his Dec. 3 general audience, the pope said that just as God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt across the Red Sea he saves his people from slavery to sin through the waters of baptism.

For Christians, he said, the psalm's hymn of praise extends to "a more radical and universal liberation," freedom from sin and death through new life in Christ.

Pope John Paul said that in "The Divine Comedy" Dante placed the hymn on the lips of those in purgatory, "seeing in the psalm the hymn of expectation and hope of those who, after purification from every sin, are headed toward the ultimate destination of communion with God in paradise."

The psalm's final verse praises God for having "turned the rock into pools of water, the flint into flowing springs."

**The Pope Speaks**

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul said the new springs of water are "the sign of the salvific love of the Lord who sustains and regenerates humanity as it advances across the desert of history."

As St. Paul explained in his First Letter to the Corinthians, Christ is the rock that is the source of life-giving water, he said.

The pope read most of his prepared Italian text and greetings to pilgrims in seven languages. With fewer than 6,000 people at the audience, the pope spent just an hour in the audience hall, about a half hour less than normal.

# Everything old is new again

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Most people divide the year in ways that have nothing to do with nature's winter, spring, summer and fall. Religion and tradition make this time "The Holidays" for many. In the world of sports, fans know that everything has its season.

At the moment, football, basketball and hockey are prime topics of conversation and speculation. Even those of us who are not avid enthusiasts can't miss the extensive coverage of major sporting events. That was certainly true this autumn, when baseball's post-season created a number of dramatic situations. Cubs and Red Sox fans believed for a while that this really would be their year to win. It wasn't. And Yankee fans (who are everywhere in my part of the world) had faith that they would win, yet again. They didn't.

The World Series belonged to the Florida Marlins. Not a team of lore and legend, at least not yet, but they won it all. They played a beautiful game of baseball, not only going after the division, the pennant and the Series, but through most of the season. Starting in May, that is. And that's a great story, in itself.

The Marlins began the year with 16 wins and 22 losses. That's when a new guy took over as manager. His name is Jack McKeon. Although, as one wag put it, you might think his full name is "72-Year-Old Jack McKeon," since reporters and commentators keep making such a big deal about his age. Already retired from over a half-century in baseball, managing both minor league and major league teams, when he was called to interview for the job, he took charge of the young team. They had talent, but needed leadership. McKeon managed the Marlins to a 75-49 record. And kept going from there.

Described by a sportswriter as a "an incongruous mix of salt and sweetness," McKeon encouraged the players to "use their imaginations out there. They have to have fun." On the other hand, he never worries about simply being liked. Early on, he had the clubhouse door locked when he found several players relaxing there during a game. The combination of turning a team into winners and his colorful style made the manager with his trademark cigar a natural for media attention. Here was a man who was obviously enjoying himself.

He also enjoyed his first-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share the success with his family. McKeon and his wife Carol have been married for 49 years and have four children and nine grandchildren. The close-knit family has a lot to do with Carol McKeon's efforts at home in North Carolina, while her husband traveled across the country and the years. She was the one who got them to classes, after school activities and church. But they made sure they spent their summers together — wherever Jack McKeon happened to be working.

He's also someone who takes his faith and his prayer life seriously. Though he doesn't bring up the subject himself, he attends Mass daily. When questioned, McKeon just says something like "Isn't that a great way to start the day?" Then lights another cigar.

At a time when too many sports stories seem to focus on money, not to mention sex, drugs and even crime, I like this one about an old man in a young man's game, about a guy who cares about family and faith — and who knows the value of honesty, humor and having fun.

By the way, the Marlins have signed Jack McKeon for next season. He's just turned 73.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Be a Good Sport — Keeping Athletics in Perspective," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Love postponed: an Advent reflection

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

As we go through the Advent season, we hear the solemn proclamation, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand," (Mt.3:2) and the challenging question: "Are you the one who is to come or must we wait for someone else?" (Mt. 11:3).

In both instances, there is a sense of emergency today, rather than to enjoy our past goodness or guilt, or in our future greatness and fictional world. We seem to love the future, because it is not here yet, and the past, because we can dwell on memories rather than realities. It's easy to say we will be better, spend more time with our families, help a person in need, pray more tomorrow. This is the love-postponed syndrome. Advent is coming today.

The Gospel doesn't languish in the past nor dream in the future. It speaks about today. You remember John the Baptist being arrested and beheaded for his courageous confrontation with King Herod. The story's peak is when John sends his disciples to Jesus to ask: "Are you really the Messiah our people are waiting for?" Jesus' answer is not in the form of a scholarly set of religious, historical and philosophical proofs. Rather, he says: "The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are healed, the deaf hear, the downtrodden are being liberated." (Mt.11:5).

Did you notice all the verbs are in the present tense? What a great statement, when we are able to say, "See what I do and you know who I am."

Another example is the dialogue between St. Peter and Jesus, who asks three times, "Do you love me?" The triple emphasis is not an effort by Jesus to test Peter's sincerity. Nor did Peter later deny Jesus three times because he cured his mother-in-law! You can almost read between the lines: "Peter, do you love me not next week, but now?"

There is a sense of urgency in loving today and tomorrow, but real love involves change and renew, which are the qualities of true repentance so often repeated during Advent.

Repentance is not easy because we are creatures of habit; we don't want to change because it is uncomfortable. Modern society encourages change, but only in a superficial and commercial fashion. Advertising deals with changes, but is about shirts, perfumes, cars, houses. All of the above will definitely enhance a new image of ourselves, a new lifestyle, but will not affect our hearts, our values, our souls.

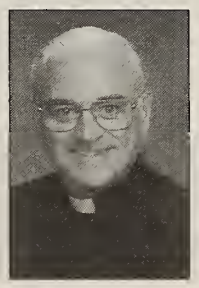
For Jesus, the change has to be radical: to forgive those who hurt us, pray for those who mistreat us, bless those who hate us, humble ourselves before the dregs and outcasts of society.

What distinguishes the good and the bad people are love and willingness to renew themselves every day. Love is contagious, and so are joy and faith.

# Coming home for Christmas

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist



The Gallup Poll says there are more than 100 million unchurched Americans, 20 million of whom are lapsed Catholics. Those who leave the church have reasons for doing so; some were driven away by the scandals. The poll goes on to say that nearly half the fallen-away Catholics feel spiritually dry and confused. They actually admit they would be willing to come home to their faith if they were prodded.

Many of them stopped believing the claims of Catholicism for personal reasons, so it is not an easy sell. But faith opens a thousand eyes. For those who are no longer believers, there is always hope. Never underestimate the power of God's grace.

Lorene Hanley Duquin told the story of her departure from the church in her book "Could You Ever Come Back to the Church?" (Alba House). She grew up in South Buffalo. The nuns who taught her were rigid and demanding. After learning and believing that eating meat on Friday could earn eternal damnation, she and her classmates were scandalized by these same nuns who were leaving the church to marry priests. It's all lies, she thought.

Only to please her parents, who were annoyed at her rebellious streak, she went to a Catholic college and took a course in religion, "if only," as she puts it, "to convince myself that they had lied to me." In her senior year, she fell in love with a fallen-away Protestant named Dick Duquin; they married, had four children and never bothered to baptize any of them.

Somehow the first son became an altar boy and invited a priest home to dinner. The priest suggested that the father take an adult education class in Catholicism. Being a teacher, Duquin wanted to know what his son was learning at school, so he took the course and to everyone's amazement decided to convert to Catholicism. At first his new fervor confused his wife, but gradually her faith reawakened. She called it "a miracle of grace."

Lorie Duquin was a successful feature writer for national magazines, and one day while browsing the Internet she found that there were many other lapsed Catholics like herself who had returned to the practice of their faith. She began collecting their stories and got the idea for her book, "Could You Ever Come Back to the Church?"

Now she has written two new resource books for people who are searching for answers: "A Century of Catholic Converts" (Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington Ind.) and "When a Loved One Leaves the Church" (Our Sunday Visitor).

In the first book, the stories of converts like Trappist Father Thomas Merton, Cardinal Avery Dulles, Clare Booth Luce, Scott Hahn and many others make fascinating reading. What do these people, and others such as J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "Lord of the Rings," and Jane Doe of "Roe v. Wade" have in common? They are all 20th-century converts to Catholicism. I think "A Century of Catholic Converts" would make a great Christmas gift for a loved one who is drifting.

Catholicism has inspired and attracted billions of people down through the ages. In view of that, let me mention another great book from Our Sunday Visitor publications: "Treasury of Catholic Stories," by Gerald Costello. It is the best anthology of heartwarming Catholic stories by saints and scholars that you will find anywhere.

Fill your mind with good spiritual reading, and your soul will be refreshed and gladdened.

# St. Helen Church serves Catholics of Gaston County

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

St. Helen Church, originally built in the 1910s to serve the black Catholic community of Spencer Mountain, is the spiritual home to 50 families.

SPENCER MOUNTAIN — The Catholic church in Spencer Mountain placed under the patronage of St. Helen was built in the mid-1910s, but it was from the 19th century shadows of the Benedictine monastery in Belmont that this mission church was born.

Bishop Leo Haid, the Benedictine abbot of Belmont and apostolic of North Carolina, directed the building of St. Benedict Church just south of the abbey to serve the black Catholic population in the area. But with the building of the abbey church in the early 1890s, most St. Benedict parishioners assimilated into that new church community.

**ST. HELEN CHURCH**

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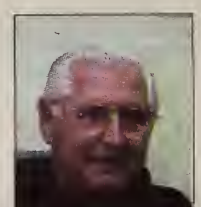
Pastor: Capuchin Father Jude Duffy
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Guy Piché
Number of Families: 50



Capuchin Father Jude Duffy

St. Joseph Church near Mount Holly — one of the oldest existing churches in western North Carolina, built in 1843 — became a mission for black Catholics for a brief period as well.

By the mid-1910s, Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, a renowned architect, was designing plans for a new church to be built in Spencer Mountain, north of the abbey. The site for the church — and, in part, its inspiration — came from Robert Gardin, a former Baptist who in his younger days converted to Catholicism after having a dream in which St. Peter called on him to continue his faith by way of the Catholic Church.

Local lore? Perhaps, but Gardin's conversion is said to have brought hundreds of friends, neighbors and family members — including eight siblings — into the church. With Gardin's enthusiasm and Father McInerney's plans, the red brick building was constructed.

Benedictine Father McIchior Reichert, one of the original monks who traveled from Pennsylvania to help establish Belmont Abbey, was the first priest assigned to St. Helen Church. He later founded St. Joseph School for the black children in nearby Dallas.

By the mid-1930s, when Abbot Vincent Taylor began his pastorate of the abbey and its territory, the black parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly had transferred to St. Helen Church. The school in Dallas was also closed.

The Spencer Mountain church would remain in the care of the Benedictines for decades to come, and except for the period from 1926 until 1934, when St. Helen was a weekend assignment, there was a regular ministerial presence at the church.

The nullius territory of Belmont Abbey was partitioned in 1960, placing St. Helen Church under the administration of the Diocese of Raleigh (which encompassed all of North Carolina at the time). The church became a mission of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, one of the many parishes established with the help of the missionary zeal of the nearby Benedictines.

In November 1991, the Benedictine pastorate officially ended in Spencer Mountain, and St. Helen Church became a mission of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, with then-pastor Father George Kloster serving as pastor of the two communities.

With the diocesan landscape growing and changing during the 1990s, St. Helen Church was again placed in the care of Queen of the Apostles in July 1995. In addition to his duties in Belmont, then-pastor Father Richard Hokanson also ministered to the almost 50 household comprising the Spencer Mountain church family.

In 2000, St. Helen became under the care of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, with Capuchin Father Judy Duffy as pastor. In November 2002, Rev. Mr. Guy Piché diocesan director of properties, became the church's permanent deacon.

In August 2003, the church celebrated a homecoming at which original families of the church were invited. More than 150 people attended the special event.

Other activities over the past year and a half included the annual blessing of the cemetery on All Soul's Day, blessing of pets on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a Halloween carnival for the children of the parish, a men's club and weekly Scripture and spiritual studies groups.

On Nov. 23, 2003, National Black Catholic History Month and the history of St. Helen Church was recalled during a special Mass celebrated by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Through Benedictine cultivation and ancestral heritage, St. Helen Church in Spencer Mountain conveys in its mission statement a dedication to tradition — that of the Catholic Church and of African and African American culture.

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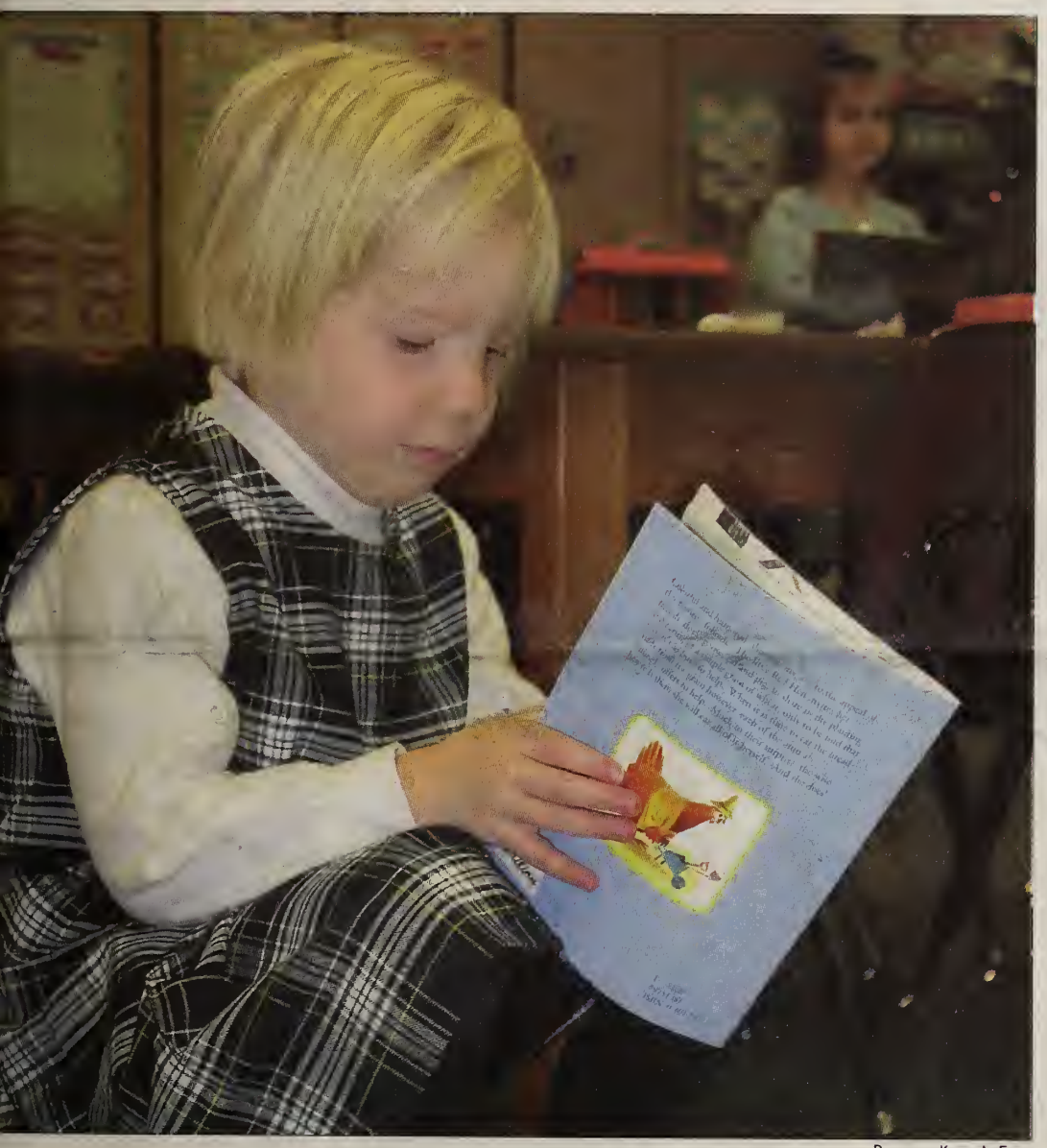
**Parish Profile:**
**St. Michael Church**
| PAGE 16

# Driving literacy one book at a time



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

*Students in the Charlotte area collected nearly a thousand books for local organizations in November.*

*Above, Sarah Kramer, a kindergartner at St. Mark Catholic School, reads one of several hundred new and gently used books collected as part of National Children's Book Week, which will be distributed to the battered women's shelter, homeless shelter and the Children's Hospital at Carolinas Medical Center.*

*At left, D'arcy Kenworthy sorts through the box of books collected by Boy Scouts Pack 9 Bear Den at St. Patrick Church. The eight-member troop collected more than 200 books for the Charlotte Reads book drive. Charlotte Reads supports Reach Out and Read, The Family Literacy Program, Bright Beginnings and Workplace Basic Skills.*

# Scars and lies

## *One woman's journey from abortion to healing*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Constance Russo knows first-hand how it feels to be young, alone and pregnant. She also knows the pain of choice.

As a teenager, Russo looked for the love she was missing in her home and turned not to God but to men. She became promiscuous. At age 19, she became pregnant.

She went to a Planned Parenthood clinic where she felt pushed into having an abortion. Abortion had been legal for only five years and the counselors never discussed the emotional or physical repercussions an abortion could cause. She was scared and uninformed.

According to Russo, the counselors at Planned Parenthood compared having an abortion "to having a wart removed." The counselors made it seem as if after the abortion, time would turn back and the experience of being pregnant and having an abortion had never happened. She was also told that she could "get married and have babies later."

At a Kaiser hospital in California, there was an assembly line of gurneys holding young women waiting to have abortions, Russo said.

"We were all crying, all shell-shocked," she said. The procedure was not explained to

See ABORTION, page 9

# Bishops told of national sex abuse response plans

### AUDIT, INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS TO BE RELEASED EARLY 2004

BY JERRRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Major national studies on the crisis of clergy sexual abuse of minors and the U.S. bishops' response to it will be released next January and February, members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops learned Nov. 11.

Justice Anne Burke, interim chair of the National Review Board monitoring diocesan compliance with the bishops' program to protect children and respond to clergy sexual abuse, told the bishops that the board plans to release two major studies Feb. 27 at a press conference in Washington.

They are the national study on the extent of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests and deacons since 1950 by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and the board's consensus report on interviews with bishops, priests-abusers, victims and a wide array of professionals regarding the "causes and context" of the abuse crisis, she said.

Burke, a justice of the Ap-

See ABUSE, page 8

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**Seeking La Posada**
*Sacred Heart students' search for shelter*
| PAGE 5

**December ordination**
*Three seminarians to become transitional deacons*
| PAGE 7

**Culture Watch**
*2003's top movies, Santa style*
| PAGES 10-12

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FIGHTING FOR HER CAUSE

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

New Jersey Sister Margherita Marchione displays a portrait of Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Square in early December. The 82-year-old member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order appealed to Pope John Paul II and various Vatican officials for the beatification of Pius XII. Her admiration for the World War II pontiff stands in sharp contrast with some historians who have portrayed him as silent on the treatment of

# New Jersey nun keeps up pressure for beatification of Pius XII

ROME (CNS) — New Jersey Sister Margherita Marchione, one of the most energetic defenders of Pope Pius XII, didn't surprise Pope John Paul II when she asked him in a late November audience: "Your Holiness, almost 50 years have passed. When will Pope Pius XII be beatified?"

Sister Marchione explained hundreds of people around the world had asked her to implore the pope's help in speeding up the beatification process. The pontiff smiled and acknowledged her interest, but made no commitments.

She took it up with the pope's secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, who said the pope had read all her letters and appeals. She went to the Congregation for Saints' Causes, where Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins promised her things were moving along at the proper — and careful — pace.

Those who know the 82-year-old Sister Marchione, a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order in Morristown, N.J., are not surprised at her in-your-face approach, event at the Vatican. She says criticism about Pope Pius' alleged "silence" on the treatment of the Jews during World War II is a "smear campaign."

She wonders why Jewish organizations today don't highlight testimonials from Jews who were saved through the late pope's efforts. And she is a little disappointed, after writing five books on the subject, few opponents will debate with her.

"I'm waiting for the opportunity, because I've got the documentation for everything," she said.

Her interest in Pope Pius's wartime papacy grew in the 1990s, when she listened to older members of her religious order describe how they and other Catholic institutions in Rome hid and saved many Jews. Her 1997 book on the subject credited Pope Pius with making this protection mission possible.

Her latest book, "Pope Pius XII," sketches a case for the late pontiff as someone who prudently and quietly helped the Jews, opposed Hitler at every turn and practiced the virtues of a saint. She calls it her "positio," a reference to the term used by the Vatican for the dossier that launches a person's sainthood cause. In the case of Pope Pius XII, the Vatican's "positio" is still being prepared.

Sister Marchione would like to help move things along, though she's aware this sainthood cause is controversial. Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who is helping to document Pope Pius XII's sainthood cause, said it would take several years for the beatification.

# Religious groups look at raising profile of nuclear disarmament

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Participants in an interfaith consultation on nuclear disarmament in Washington believe it's time to raise the profile of the issue — 25 years after the SALT II treaty led to the United States and the Soviet Union scaling back their weapons.

At a Dec. 3 consultation in Washington, representatives of several dozen religious organizations acknowledged that, amid the global debates about terrorism and weapons of mass destruction over the past couple of years, concerns about nuclear disarmament have been little more than part of the babble.

The conference included status reports on nuclear weapons policies and weapons development. Speakers discussed strategies for bringing concerns about nuclear weapons to the attention of the White House and members of Congress, and how to mobilize religious congregations to support disarmament.

Gerry Powers, director of International Justice and Peace for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminded participants that with their 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," the U.S. bishops "made it OK to talk about morality and nuclear weapons."

Until that point, public discussion about nuclear weapons was primarily about limiting the arms race, but not for reasons based in morality, he said. Now, "everyone knows religious leaders think nuclear weapons are problematic."

Others at the conference proposed strategies for appealing to members of Congress and presidential candidates; they include using people's enthusiasm on other political issues as a way of reaching politicians to lobby for disarmament.

# Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Father Patrick Winslow will present an *Advent retreat* Dec. 20 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Call Peggy at (704) 588-7311 for reservations or e-mail bhoppy57@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association is hosting the annual *Alumni Basketball Tournament* Dec. 26. All alumni are welcome to participate. To register, please visit www.CharlotteCatholicAlumni.org or call Jennifer B. Johnson at (704) 543-9118. Alumni and their families are also invited to the *Alumni Christmas* Party Dec. 27 at 8 p.m. at the Gin Mill, 1411 S. Tryon St. No RSVP required.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Natural Family Planning* classes are being held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Room 200. Classes are taught by Dr. Matthew Harrison. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Call (704) 948-0231 for directions and more information.

CHARLOTTE - The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets the third Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with a potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln, Charlotte, NC 28226 about why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — Is peace possible in our time? What can we do to bring peace to our world? Join us for the next *Prayer Vigil for Peace* Dec. 15, 7-8 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 258 W. Franklin Blvd. Come pray with people of all faiths - Jewish, Christian, Muslim and others - as we gather together to ask the Lord for peace

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope meets Dalai Lama in strictly religious encounter, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II held talks with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, in a meeting downplayed by the Vatican for fear of political reaction by China.

The Dalai Lama spoke privately with the pope Nov. 27 in an audience not listed on the pontiff's official activities. A papal spokesman said afterward "it was a brief courtesy visit, of an exclusively religious nature."

An informed Vatican source said the Vatican recognizes the Dalai Lama as a world religious leader and for that reason the pope was pleased to meet with him. But the Dalai Lama has also been pushing for autonomy for Tibet, a land he fled with about 100,000 Tibetan Buddhists when it was occupied in 1959 by China, which has placed tight controls on Buddhist monasteries.

"The Vatican's concern, of course, is to avoid repercussions by the Chinese government on the Chinese Catholic community," the Vatican source said.

China routinely objects when foreign government officials meet with the Dalai Lama, who is still recognized by many of his followers as the spiritual and temporal ruler of Tibet. He has met with Pope John Paul several times.

Speaking to reporters after the papal audience, the Dalai Lama said he had come simply to pay his respect to the pope and show appreciation for the pope's efforts to promote peace and interreligious harmony.

in our time. If you have any questions or need directions, contact St. Mark's Church at (704) 864-4531 or Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or teallfleming@yahoo.com.

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a *Supper-Study Series* Dec. 17 in the Family Center. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. with children's activities at 6:30. Catechesis will take place time 6:45-7:30 p.m. Father Joe Zuschmidt will speak on the sacrament of reconciliation, in preparation for the parish Advent reconciliation service Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the church. For details, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

MARION — Our Lady of the Angels, 258 North Garden St., will host a one-day retreat, *"A Preparation for Christmas,"* Dec. 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Father Thomas Selvaraj, pastor of Saint Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden. The retreat will consist of talks, reflections, exposition of Blessed Sacrament, reconciliation, Benediction and refreshments. For more information please call (828) 652-6851.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present the annual *Advent Service of Lessons and Carols* Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. This service will celebrate the preparation of the season through music and scripture by the Chancel Adult and Handbell Choirs and the Lake Norman Ensemble. Call the church office at (704) 664-3992 for more information.

MOORESVILLE — The adult enrichment program of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will present *"The True Story of Birth of Jesus Christ"* Dec. 21 at 10:15 a.m. For more information, call Tom Calabro at (704) 664-7762.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — In recognition of the ministry of Betsy Meehan, who is presently on sick leave from her position as music director of St. Leo the Great Church, the St. Leo choir will present *"Encounters with Christ: A Celebration of the Birth, Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord."* The concert will be held on Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Admission is free. For details call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478

# Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

December 21 — 11:30 a.m.
Transitional diaconate ordination Mass
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

December 24 — Midnight
Christmas Eve Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

January 1 — 11 a.m.
New Year's Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

# Pope urges Catholics, Muslims to increase dialogue for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a speech to Iranian Muslim leaders and in a letter to international Catholic organizations, Pope John Paul II urged renewed efforts to increase respect among peoples to build peace.

"Religion is, in fact, called to build bridges between individuals, peoples and cultures, to be a sign of hope for humanity," the pope told nine Iranian Muslim leaders participating in a Dec. 2 meeting at the Vatican.

The leaders, led by Ayatollah Mahmood Mohammadi Araqi, head of the Organization for Islamic Culture and Communications in Tehran, were participating in their fourth colloquium with members of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The meeting's theme, "Truth, Justice, Love, Freedom: Pillars of Peace," was taken from Blessed Pope John XXIII's encyclical, "Pacem in Terris" ("Peace on Earth").

"Today there is an especially urgent need for dialogue, understanding and cooperation between the world's great religions, especially Christianity and Islam," said the pope.

He asked the Iranian leaders and "all men and women of good will to join your voices with mine as I repeat that the holy name of God must never be used to incite violence or terrorism, to promote hatred or exclusion."

Asking God's blessings on all efforts to promote Catholic-Muslim cooperation for peace, the pope also prayed God would grant "to all mankind the courage and strength to embrace truth, justice, love and freedom as true pillars of peace."

In a message published Dec. 2 by the Vatican, the pope also encouraged Catholic organizations to take a more active role in building a culture of peace.

The Conference of International Catholic Organizations, which includes some 40 groups ranging from the International Catholic Conference on Scouting to the International Catholic Union of the Press, was meeting Nov. 30-Dec. 6 in Rome.

The pope told the group that building a culture of peace requires an awareness that human rights have corresponding human duties.

# 'You can't sleep in'

CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

"You can't sleep in, because if you do, you're buried," says Mary Maureen Shanklin, who is raising 15 children — 13 through adoption. She is pictured, seated at center, with her children outside their Baltimore home.

## DID YOU KNOW?

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated Dec. 12, celebrates the apparitions of Mary to a devout Nahua Indian, Juan Diego, on Tepeyac Hill in December 1531. Mary's message of hope was for a fusion of the two cultures, Spanish Catholic and Native American. As a result of the apparitions and the miracles attributed to Mary, 8 million Mexicans converted to Catholicism within a few years.

## CORRECTION

Father Matthew Buettner was misidentified in a column headline in the Dec. 5 issue.

'A LIVING LEGACY'

# Greensboro builder endows funds for St. Pius X Church

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — Roger Kavanagh is still finding ways to get it done.

"He was well known for his leadership in the business community and his concern for the citizens of Greensboro," said Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Kavanagh, a St. Pius X parishioner and leader in Greensboro's home building industry, died July 25, 2002. In his more than 30-year career, his company built 25,000 single-family homes and apartments in North and South Carolina.

"He was very successful in the business world, but you wouldn't know it from his demeanor," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. Pius X Church from 1979 until 1988. "He was a quiet, private person."

He was also a supportive person, said Father Kloster, especially from behind the scenes.

"In all my years in Greensboro, I don't recall him being out front about anything, but he was very supportive of others," said Father Kloster. "If Kavanagh could offer (financial or moral) support to a project, he would."

"Mr. Kavanagh was a long-standing, generous and faith-filled member of our church who supported every major effort in our parish and diocese," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

"Catholicism was very engrained in his culture," he said. "He was always faithful to the church in his own quiet way."

Kavanagh helped build Dolan Manor, a housing complex for low-income seniors, on the property of St. Pius X Church.

"It had never been done in the diocese before," said Father Kloster, "(but) it happened, and part of it was because Roger was in the background encouraging to make it happen."

When he died, Kavanagh left money to various charities around Greensboro. Several years before his death, Kavanagh had met with Jim Kelley, director of the Foundation for the Diocese of Charlotte, to find a way to keep supporting his Greensboro parish after he was gone. Kavanagh decided to set up endowments to support St. Pius X.

"Mr. Kavanagh's estate has provided funds to endow our parish and its future needs, as well as provide our school with much-needed financial assistance for tuition," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

Those two endowments total more than $430,000.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan Foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in a person's estate plan or in an endowment agreement, according to Kelley.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

People in the diocese are giving not only of their current income, said Kelley, but more and more people are taking another step in stewardship by giving their cumulative assets to take care of the church.

"The endowments established in Mr. Kavanagh's name are a living legacy that will help us answer the call to ministry together," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

In addition to a bequest in a will — in which you can stipulate that the Foundation or named endowment receives a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or remainder after other bequests are filled — there are five other primary ways to donate an endowment to the diocese, according to Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving. They are:

— Gifts of cash, securities or real estate.

— Gifts of life insurance, which allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can donate a paid policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

— Life income arrangements, in which allow you to make a gift during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. This includes trusts and charitable gift annuities.

— Gifts from retirement plans, which you can designate your endowment as the remainder beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or annuity to receive what is left in your retirement plan after your death.

— A gift of life estate in real property, which allows you to enjoy your home or vacation property during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your church will benefit from the gift after your death.

To learn more about planned giving or to set up an endowment, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org, or Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org.

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# UNCC Catholic campus ministry lends hands to society

BY COURTNEY CLIFFORD
SPECIAL TO *THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD*

CHARLOTTE — Imagine a world void of compassion; a place where no one attempts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked or shelter the homeless; a war-torn land free from peace promoters and volunteers.

Fortunately, this fictitious world could not succeed for long. In reality, there are compassionate volunteers and peace promoters who help the world stay afloat today.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Catholic Campus Ministry is one group that, little by little, strives to make the world a better place.

"Our Catholic faith teaches us to use the gifts God gave us to help others," said Justin Schumacher, ministry intern. "We're taught that meeting human needs comes before satisfying our desires for luxuries."

Catholic Campus Ministry's devotion to service projects demonstrates its efforts to help the less fortunate. Group members have raised life-saving dollars for the American Cancer Society by participating in its signature event, Relay For Life.

In November, the group constructed a house for a low-income family through Habitat for Humanity. The ministry's members have also participated in food and clothing drives, recycling programs and services for the Catholic Church.

In addition to these corporal works of mercy, Catholic Campus Ministry members aid others through spiritual works of mercy. The spiritual works of mercy are counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offenses, bearing wrongs patiently and praying for the living and the dead.

"We try to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate," said student-leader Josh Hallingse. "We can truly see the love of God in our everyday lives when people come together and put their good deeds into action by simply helping."

Although the university's Catholic Campus Ministry members can't move mountains or turn tree leaves into money, they can help improve the quality of life for some people.

All they have to do is remember the words of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement: "We can, to a certain extent, change the world; we work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw a pebble in a pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach the world."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

To learn more about Catholic Campus Ministry at UNC-Charlotte, visit www.uncc.edu/catholic_community, or e-mail Josh Hallingse at joshhallingse@hotmail.com.

ANOTHER BLESSING FROM LOURDES

PGA Golf Pro Ron Garcia, member of Immaculate Conception Church, tells of a religious experience that led to a cure for asthma and year-round allergies. By sharing the story of his spiritual enlightenment, he hopes to help others with similar ailments.

For a copy of his complete manuscript, mail check or money order for $14 (includes handling) to:
Ron Garcia, PO Box 1817, Hendersonville, NC 28793 **Visit www.rglourdes.com**

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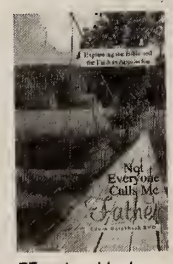


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**— +Bishop Bernard Schmitt Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston**

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**SEEKING LA POSADA**

# Sacred Heart students reenact Holy Family's search for shelter

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

SALISBURY — Mary and Joseph knocked on each door, Joseph asking for shelter for his pregnant wife and himself. In each classroom of Sacred Heart Catholic School, they were turned away, told there was no room for them. Nine times they sang their request, and nine times the refusal came back to the same tune.

Students at Sacred Heart School reenacted La Posada, a Mexican tradition that recollects Mary and Joseph's search for lodging on the eve of Jesus' birth, for nine days beginning Dec. 9. La Posada means inn or lodging in Spanish.

Commemorating the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem, the origins of La Posada can be traced back to St. Ignatius Loyola in the 16th century. He suggested a Christmas novena, and in 1580 St. John of the Cross made a religious pageant out of the proceedings. Seven years later the nine-day remembrance was introduced to the Indians in Mexico by Spanish missionaries.

Kathleen Miller, principal of Sacred Heart School, decided to celebrate La Posada this year as a way of preparing the students for Christmas by teaching them about novenas and other cultures' traditions. A different pair of eighth-graders are taking on the roles of Mary and Joseph each of the nine days.

"Instead of getting (the students) ready for Santa, we're getting them ready for Jesus," Miller said.

Maria Rivera, who portrayed Mary the first day of Sacred Heart's La Posada, took part in La Posada seven times in her native Honduras.

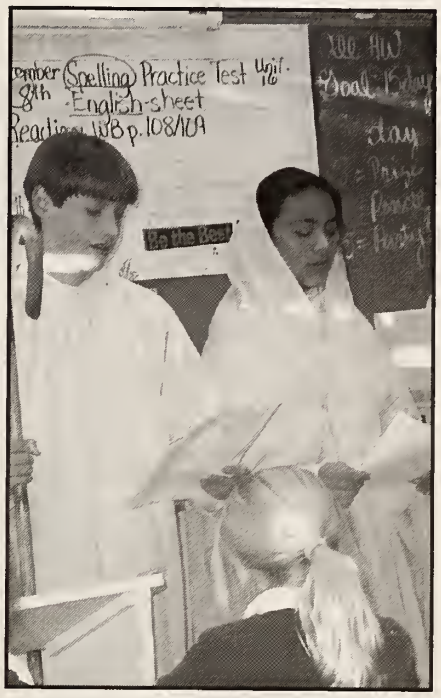
"(As Mary and Joseph) it's hard, to need something and be turned away," Rivera said.

On the ninth day, Dec. 19, Mary and Joseph will be welcomed into one of the classrooms and a Mexican family from Sacred Heart School will provide traditional Mexican treats for the students.

Father Julio Dominguez, parochial vicar for Sacred Heart Church and a native of Mexico, translated the La Posada songs into English. Cynthia Desch, second-grade teacher at Sacred Heart School, taught the songs to the students.

Students also learn about the anticipation of waiting to see who will eventually welcome them and give them la Posada, Miller said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Eighth-graders Maria Rivera and John Simpson portray Mary and Joseph on the first day of Sacred Heart School's La Posada reenactment Dec. 9. Over nine days, different students will play the couple seeking lodging to commemorate the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. La Posada, a Mexican tradition, can be traced back to the 16th century.

# Holy Trinity student to run in National Junior Olympics

CHARLOTTE — Alex Focht, 13, will compete in the National Junior Olympics Cross Country 2003 Championships to be held in Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 13.

Focht, a seventh-grader at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte, is an honor student and year-round swimmer on the New South Swim Team.

She qualified for the National Junior Olympics after placing ninth in the USA Track & Field state meet and then 19th in regional competition for cross country.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WELCOMING THE STRANGER

# Government looking to reach out to immigrants with new assistance

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The federal agency charged with settling immigrants will enlist churches and community organizations to provide a range of services to help newcomers with the transition to life in the United States.

Alfonso Aguilar, chief of the new Office of Citizenship under the Department of Homeland Security, said in November that in the next six months his agency would launch a test run of a program that follows the models of Canada and Australia when it comes to helping new immigrants adjust to the country.

Among the differences between the current U.S. approach and that of the other countries are things as simple as providing basic information would-be immigrants need in an easy format on agency Web sites, and efforts such as Canada's practice of pairing new immigrants with Canadians who serve as mentors while they get settled.

Other aspects of the proposal would include having community groups and churches provide classes in English, American history and U.S. culture, in addition to similar courses already directed at immigrants who are at the point of seeking naturalized citizenship.

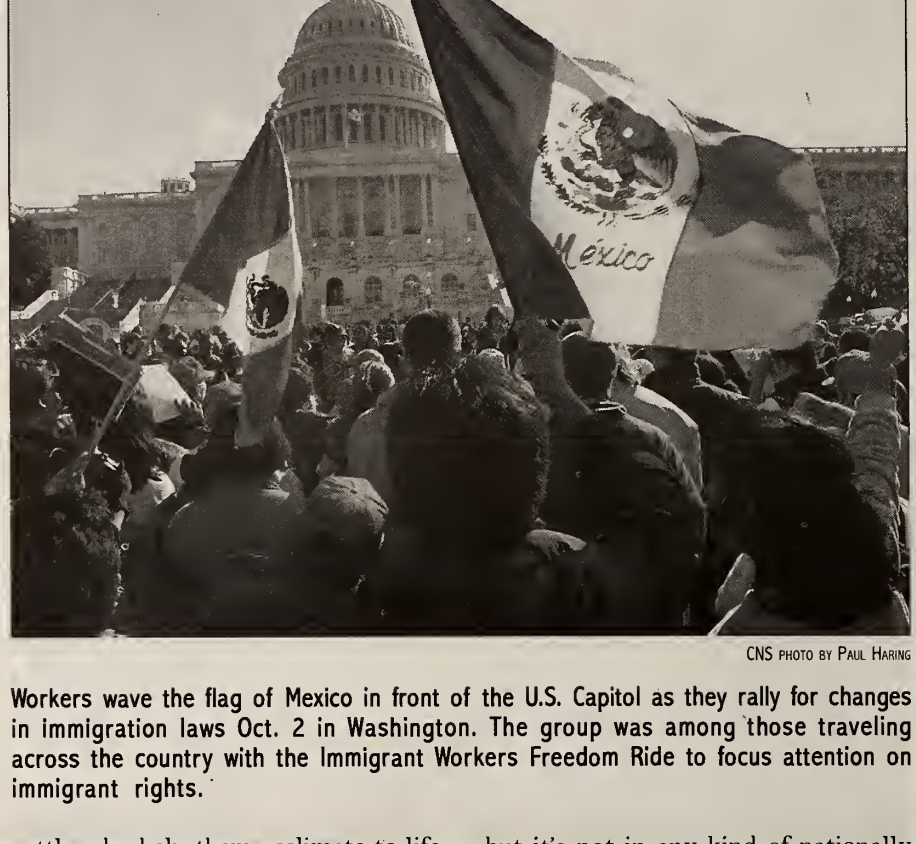
Aguilar told Catholic News Service he hopes to have a pilot program running in a handful of cities by March.

Mark Franken, director of Migration and Refugee Services for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he thinks Aguilar's concept is "right on."

"We've tried to influence the government on this in the past," he told CNS.

But he's concerned that there has been little mention of any financial resources to support the churches and community organizations being asked to provide a range of new services to immigrants.

Franken said he has argued for years that the government should provide all immigrants the kind of resettlement assistance it currently offers to refugees. That includes helping refugees find jobs, providing English classes and matching them with people in the communities where they settle who help them acclimate to life in the United States. Refugees also are given a monthly stipend for about eight months, as well as medical coverage and assistance in finding employment.




CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Workers wave the flag of Mexico in front of the U.S. Capitol as they rally for changes in immigration laws Oct. 2 in Washington. The group was among those traveling across the country with the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride to focus attention on immigrant rights.

Refugees come to the United States after fleeing their homeland, typically because of war or natural disasters. Their status of being unable to remain in their own countries distinguishes them from the general immigrant population, including people who come to the United States to reunite with family members, for better jobs or for education.

Through MRS-affiliated programs in dioceses, the Catholic Church resettles more refugees than any other entity in the country. That work is largely funded by the federal government through grants.

MRS also provides a range of services, from legal aid to pastoral programs for migrants, for other kinds of immigrants.

Franken said he believes some of the kinds of services Aguilar is promoting are currently being offered to other immigrants through parishes and dioceses operating on their own, but it's not in any kind of nationally coordinated system, as Aguilar envisions.

Aguilar said he thinks such efforts will help newcomers become more integrated into their new home.

"Many people arrive skeptical of government," he said. "The Canadians have found that this helps them understand how government functions in a place where government actually functions well."

He said the Canadian experience after 30 years of this kind of outreach has been that immigrants' perceptions of how government works is dramatically better because of the outreach.

# Retired Jesuit's modesty belies efforts on behalf of world's refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It shouldn't have come as a surprise to those gathered to honor Jesuit Father Frank Moan at the National Migration Conference in Washington this summer that he was a no-show.

A modest man, the founder of Jesuit Refugee Service USA and "Refugee Voices," an educational radio program about refugee life, can be engaged in conversation for almost a full hour before mentioning his trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early 1990s at the height of sniper activity in Sarajevo.

"That was probably the most daring thing I ever did, because I had to go in by a U.N. plane and I couldn't go in without a flak jacket and helmet," said the 76-year-old priest.

"At that time, even though you landed supposedly in a safe place," he added, "when the plane landed, we were told we had to run from the plane to the hangar."

It was for this work in Bosnia, and for his efforts on behalf of refugees in Cambodia, the Philippines, El Salvador, Jordan, Israel and around the globe that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network honored Father Moan.

CNS PHOTO FROM REFUGEE VOICES

Jesuit Father Frank Moan, right, holds a baby while visiting a refugee camp on the Thai-Cambodian border in this 1986 photo.

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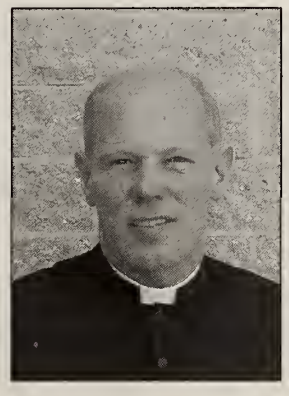
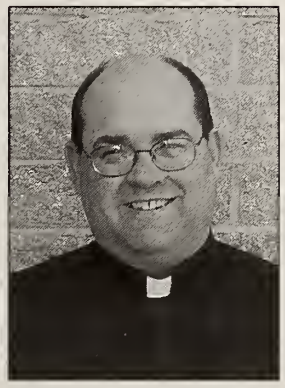
# Bishop Jugis to celebrate first ordination

**Above are, from left to right, seminarians Timothy Reid, Robert Conway and John Starczewski who will ordained to the transitional diaconate at a Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 21.**

## *Three seminarians to become transitional deacons*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will ordain three seminarians to the transitional diaconate at a Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 21.

Those to be ordained are Timothy Reid, Robert Conway and John Starczewski.

Reid, a native of Martinsville, Ind., is the son of Gordon and Sharon Reid. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1988 from the University of Indiana and his master's degree in philosophy at Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and is presently concluding his studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, NY.

He has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Catholic University of America and was employed in the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. prior to his acceptance as a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Reid has served pastoral internships at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill. He will return to the seminary in January 2004 to complete his final semester.

Robert Conway, a native of Moorestown, N.J., is the son of the late Thomas and Marion Reid Conway. Widowed in 1988, he was the husband of the late Joan Conway. A graduate of LaSalle College in Philadelphia, he worked for many as a corporate accountant in New Jersey before entering the seminary. He has prepared for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. and at Blessed Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Conway has served pastoral internships at St. Gabriel Church and Holy Infant Church in Reidsville. He will return to the seminary in January 2004 to complete his final semester.

John Starczewski, a native of Utica, N.Y., is the son of Evelyn and the late Francis Starczewski. He is a 1976 graduate of Clarkson University in New York with a bachelor's degree and earned a Masters of Business Administration in 1990 from the University of Wisconsin. He worked for several years in manufacturing research and development in western North Carolina. He is preparing for the priesthood at Blessed Pope John XXIII National Seminary.

Starczewski's pastoral assignments have been at Our Lady of the Assumption Church and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. He will return to the seminary in January 2004 to complete his final semester.

*· Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT TO GO?**

Bishop Jugis will ordain three seminarians to the transitional diaconate Dec. 21 during a Mass at 11:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

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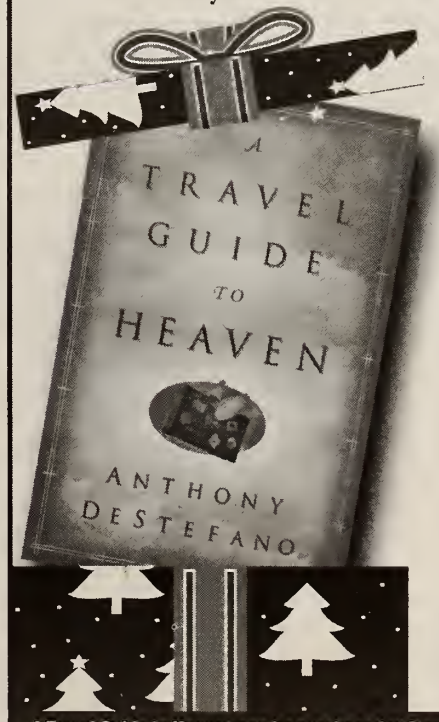

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, there is an amazing new book that has just been released by Doubleday that will make you feel better than you ever have in your entire life. It's called *A Travel Guide to Heaven*, and it is being hailed as a modern spiritual classic by top religious leaders as well as famous celebrities throughout the country.
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# Bishops told of national sex abuse response plans

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' president Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., and National Review Board interim chairwoman Justice Anne Burke answer questions during the USCCB general meeting in Washington Nov. 11.

ABUSE, *from page 1*

pellate Court of Illinois, has headed the all-lay National Review Board since the resignation last June of its chairman, former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating.

William Burleigh, a review board member and veteran communications professional with the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain, told the bishops that nearly two months before the release of the two studies the board intends to release on Jan. 6 the first annual audit of dioceses. The audit will measure diocesan compliance or failure to comply with the mandates of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The charter, adopted by the bishops in June 2002, established the review board and the policies and procedures all dioceses must meet to assure that minors are protected from sexual abuse in church environments and that allegations of abuse are dealt with promptly and adequately.

William Gavin, a former FBI official and head of the Boston-based Gavin Group commissioned to audit compliance of all U.S. dioceses with the mandates of the bishops' charter, commended the bishops for their cooperation with his audit teams as they traveled the country in the past six months to investigate how well or poorly each diocese is meeting the charter mandates.

"It was difficult," he said. "Difficult for the clergy, as it was really the first time that the laity has had such in-depth access to the problem of sexual abuse of minors within each diocese. It was difficult for the auditors, as they worked very hard to uphold the principles of a valid audit and remain sensitive to the concerns of the victims and the clergy."

He said the audits, which typically lasted a week, required "comprehensive documentation" of what each diocese is doing to respond to allegations of sexual abuse, along with interviews with the local bishop, "diocesan personnel, victims, abusers, prosecutors and (diocesan) review board members."

Each diocesan audit ended with instructions if a diocese was found not in compliance with a charter mandate, recommendations if compliance with some segment of a mandate was deemed lacking, or commendations if the diocese "was determined to have addressed issues prior to the charter or had taken actions above the demands of the charter," Gavin said.

Gavin also reported that the diocesan audits had come in "under budget," with an average cost of $2,200 per auditor per audit, not counting travel costs.

Burke told the bishops that the National Review Board's interviews with a wide range of church officials, abuse victims and perpetrators, professionals in various fields and others represented a "pro bono" contribution of at least $500,000 by the law firm of board member Robert Bennett.

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse, urged bishops to participate in a process to develop candidates for replacement of the current members of the National Review Board, saying his committee and the board will soon offer suggestions for qualifications of future replacements of current members of the board.

At a press conference following the session, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., USCCB president, defended a recent comment in an interview with the Boston Globe daily newspaper in which he said the bishops have "turned the corner" on the sexual abuse issue.

He cited the progress the bishops have made in the past two years in removing priests from ministry who have sexually abused children, reaching out to victims for reconciliation, and taking other actions that signal a new seriousness about dealing with the problem.

"Turning the corner does not mean crossing the finish line," he said.

The U.S. church still has a long way to go to complete the job of protecting children and reaching out to victims of clerical sexual abuse of minors, but "we certainly have made significant progress" along that path, he said.

# USCCB opposes proposal for over-the-counter emergency contraception

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration should reject a proposal to change the status of emergency contraceptives from prescription-only to available over the counter, according to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In comments filed with the FDA Dec. 5, the conference's general counsel, Mark Chopko, listed six reasons why the bishops object to the proposal to change the prescription category of levonorgestrel-only emergency contraception, known as EC in the documents.

The FDA has scheduled Dec. 16 meetings of two of its advisory committees to consider the reclassification. It invited written comments before the meeting of the Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs.

Among the reasons cited by the USCCB for opposing the change are:

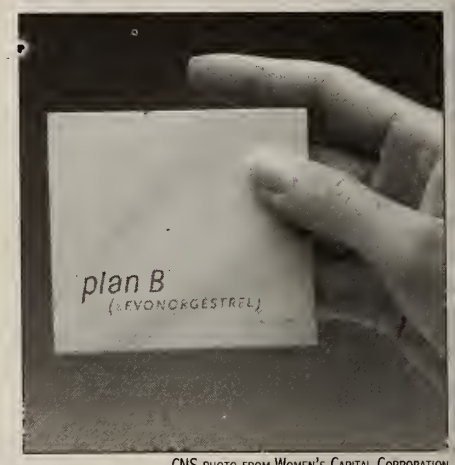
— The drug can be used as an abortifacient, rather than as contraception before fertilization. Chopko said making an abortifacient more readily available "would conflict with a trend in law and medicine which recognizes the human embryo as a human subject and a patient deserving of protection."

— Many women are unaware that the drug can work as an abortifacient. Making it available without requiring a physician to prescribe it "will only guarantee continued unawareness."

Catholic teaching rejects both artificial contraception and abortion, but it also distinguishes between the two: If a pill or device works only by preventing conception, it is a contraceptive; if it prevents the already fertilized egg from implanting in the womb or dislodges it from the womb, it is an abortifacient. Some methods can do either.

— Emergency contraception also carries significant risks, and should not be used by women with certain conditions, Chopko said. "Making EC available over the counter would eliminate the clinical oversight necessary to ensure that EC is not used routinely," his letter said.

For instance, clinical studies of the risks of emergency contraception have been based on occasional or one-time use, while over-the-counter availability might encourage more frequent use, the risks of which are unknown, he said.




CNS PHOTO FROM WOMEN'S CAPITAL CORPORATION

Women's Capital Corporation, makers of the emergency contraceptive Plan B, has petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to change the prescription category to over-the-counter availability. In a statement to the FDA Dec. 5, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged the agency to reject the proposal.

— "The potential for misuse of EC is especially grave in the case of minors," his letter said. Easy availability may increase risky sexual behavior by minors, who already have higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases than teens in other countries, it said.

— The drug is unlikely to significantly reduce the number of abortions, as has been found in regions where the drug is readily available.

— Pharmacists would be under increased pressure to violate their consciences by more readily providing a drug to which they may already have moral objections.

"Already, a bill in Nevada has been introduced to override pharmacists' moral or religious objections and require them to fill prescriptions for EC," Chopko wrote. The American Pharmacists Association has passed a resolution recognizing pharmacists' rights to exercise conscientious refusal to dispense certain drugs, he said.

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# Abortion: from anguish to self-forgiveness

ABORTION, *from page 1*

her, and she hadn't grasped what the abortion would do to her physically, emotionally or spiritually.

For more than a decade, Russo suffered from the emotional aftereffects of her abortion. She and the father of her baby broke up, and she slid into a lifestyle of drinking and drugs for the next 15 years.

"I has a sense of longing, that something was missing," Russo said. "I was missing God in my life."

Russo eventually quit her self-destructive lifestyle and confessed her abortion in the sacrament of reconciliation.

"Even though I had confessed, I couldn't forgive myself," she said. "I felt like I had a poison in my system, like I was disconnected."

In her early 30s and newly married, Russo returned to the Catholic Church, grasping for forgiveness and thought she was "doing all right."

Ready to finally have a family, Russo could not conceive. She was diagnosed with fibroid tumors and her obstetrician/gynecologist recommended a hysterectomy, a procedure that would eliminate any chance Russo had of conceiving and bearing her own children.

At an appointment prior to her surgery, her doctor told Russo she was late. Russo apologized for her tardiness.

"I'm always running late, so I kept saying 'I know I'm late, I'm sorry,'" she said. "The doctor said, 'No, you're late for your period.'"

Russo was finally pregnant again. She and her husband could now add their own child to their family, which included two daughters from his first marriage. But their happiness was short lived. Less than three months into her pregnancy, Russo suffered a miscarriage while on a business trip. It was virtually the same point at which she had aborted her first pregnancy.

"I was angry at God — I had been praying for children," said Russo. "I threw away that gift 26 years ago." She wondered if she was being punished.

Once again, Russo struggled with the pain of losing a child. But unlike the abortion, which pushed her and her teenage boyfriend apart, mourning her miscarriage drew Russo and her husband closer together. They became "spiritually intimate" because of the maturity of their faith, Russo said.

Russo also credits her doctor, Joseph Narins, with helping her heal following her miscarriage. A Christian, Narins has his new patients sign a consent form granting permission for him to pray for them.

"Dr. Narins dealt with the physical and emotional aftereffects of my miscarriage," Russo said. "When I had my abortion, I was alone. This time I had my husband and my doctor."

At the time, the Russo family was living in Greensboro and worshipped at St. Paul the Apostle Church. One Sunday, there was a notice in the church for a Rachel Network Evening of Prayer. Rachel Network is a ministry set up to provide a range of post-abortion services.

"I needed to get over the miscarriage, the abortion and my feeling of being punished," Russo said.

She first attended the Evening of Prayer service, then a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat, and felt the Holy Spirit working through her.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats are centered around Scriptural meditations, called "Living Scriptures" in which people listen to a passage of Scripture, such as Jesus meeting the woman at the well, and then imagine themselves in that story.

At the retreat, Russo said she realized Jesus' love and forgiveness for her, not his condemnation.

"I was able to meet Christ through the retreat," she said. "Thorough the Living Scriptures, I was able to reconcile with Christ and forgive myself."

Russo said the toxic poison she had felt for so long was finally gone. She truly forgave herself for her abortion.

"It's a wonderful experience to feel God's love and forgiveness," she said. She could visualize Jesus playing with her children in heaven.

"The child I aborted is not in some dark horrible place," said Russo. "He is with Christ. I did this horrible thing, but my child isn't being punished because of it."

"I still miss him," she said. "This would have been his 26th Christmas. I did not give him a chance to come into this world."

Russo said knowing that both of her sons are with Christ, she feels peace, not torment.

Now living with her family in Fort Worth, Texas and a member of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo, Russo shares her experiences with abortion and miscarriage as a volunteer with Rachel's Vineyard.

"I see women come in (to a weekend retreat) angry, anguished and scared," said Russo. "They leave healed by the Holy Spirit — emotionally and physically changed. On Sunday, they are joyful."

Russo admitted that having an abortion was the most traumatic event in her life.

"It's a death that I chose," she said. "Grieving an abortion is a forbidden grief. You're supposed to feel anguishing guilt or empowerment, but you're not allowed to grieve. That's not like the death of a parent or sibling."

According to Planned Parenthood's Web site, "For most women who have had abortions, the procedure represents a maturing experience, a successful coping with a personal crisis situation (Lazarus, 1985; Zabin et al., 1989; Russo & Zierk, 1992; DeVeber et al., 1991). In fact, the most prominent emotional response of most women to first-trimester abortions is relief (Adler et al., 1990; Lazarus, 1985; Armsworth, 1991; Miller, 1996)."

When she decided to have her abortion, Russo said she lost her faith in God for a long time. She also believes the counselors at Planned Parenthood lied to her. They did not discuss options such as adoption or the long-term physical and emotional consequences.

"I lost those 15 years of not living my life, not being in control," Russo said. "Instead of surrendering to God's will, I tried to be in control of my own life."

Unlike many women, she did not suffer a major depression after her abortion. But she was thrown into an adult world she wasn't ready for.

Russo considers her teenage stepdaughters to be her children and hopes they will have better informed consent if they are ever faced with the choice of terminating a pregnancy. She was not told by Planned Parenthood counselors about the emotional consequences, increased likelihood of developing breast cancer or future miscarriages. She said she would tell them about the loss, depression and regret — that having an abortion is a tragic experience.

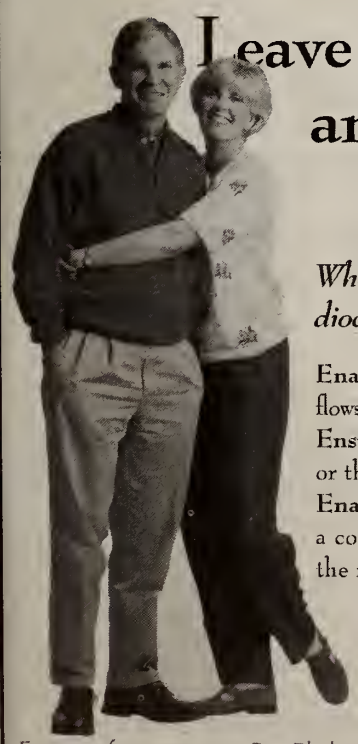
"If more post-abortive women would talk about the trauma of the experience, it would change society's view of abortion — it would make abortion more rare," said Russo. "It would be about individual women, instead of being a political issue."

Russo said churches need to support Rachel's Vineyard retreats because they work by providing a support network for women who have had abortions.

"Women who have had abortions are the best people to speak out about abortion," said Russo.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**
For more information about Rachel's Vineyard visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Four slices of American Catholic history

REVIEWED BY FRANK ALLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Based on new historical research, these four books describe the arduous work of pioneering Catholic leaders in the early 19th century. These leaders overcame hardships of geographical distance and ethnic and racial prejudice to establish education and religious institutions and to make significant contributions to "the embattled life of the nascent Catholic Church in America," in the words of Jesuit priest and historian Father Thomas C. Hennessy.

The most comprehensive of these four histories is Diane Morrow's "Persons of Color and Religious at the Same Time," the inspiring story of the early

years of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first permanent community of women religious of African descent.

The order, founded in Baltimore in 1828, is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The founding members were French-speaking "free women of color" who had fled the revolution in Haiti, then known as the French colony of St. Domingue. Morrow says that as the official seat of the Catholic Church in the United States Baltimore was a "logical haven for Catholics fleeing revolutions in France and the Caribbean." Many refugees from Haiti settled in the same city where the Sulpicians fleeing the French revolution had founded the first Catholic seminary.

With "unstinted zeal" the capable French Sulpician priest Father James Joubert directed and encouraged Oblate communal life. Morrow says Father Joubert advocated forcefully for the "right of black women — a doubly despised minority — to access to formal education." As teachers, nurses and convent superiors, these French Caribbean women strived for self-dignity in a restrictive society that denigrated all black women — slave or free — and kept adherence to celibacy in a time when women were urged to accept marriage and motherhood.

In 1847-1860, Oblate sisters broadened their "cultural identity" to include pastoral ministry to other black congregations. Their "genuine concern for the welfare of antebellum black Catholics" spread beyond the archdiocese to other parts of Maryland, the District of Columbia and New York and addressed spiritual and social needs of immigrants and other minorities. Morrow argues that an "assertive and confident black community" sustained this order through violence and political threats in the oppressive and sometimes violent pre-Civil War era.

The Oblate Sisters contradicted expectations of women of color, Morrow writes, by "forging a positive, assertive, and empowered communal self-image" that anticipated acceptance of black women by other religions and secular society by a half-century. The affirmation of humanity and high standards of "ethnic ecumenism" by this pioneering Southern black sisterhood is a remarkable achievement.

In "Uncommon Women, Unmarked Trails," Suzanne Schrems vividly depicts the "courageous journey" of women missionaries traveling to Montana and throughout the West to build and administer mission schools. Teaching Native American girls domestic skills and caring for the sick and needy, experiencing "hardship, sacrifice, and poverty," they established hospitals and orphanages. In doing so, they created new opportunities for women as "teachers, missionaries, and reformers" journeying down "unmarked trails" of frontier life.

Father Thomas J. Steele has annotated and edited the "Historical Sketch of the Catholic Church in New Mexico," which was written by Father James Defouri in 1887. Father Defouri was the secretary of the famous Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, the subject of Willa Cather's novel, "Death Comes for the Archbishop." Correcting inaccuracies in Father Defouri's account, Father Steele shows how pioneering priests in the Southwest had to overcome a brutal climate, vast region, and entrenched traditional customs of Native Americans in the Land of Enchantment.

Father Hennessy's well-informed "How the Jesuits Settled in New York" brings to light fascinating documents from Jesuit archives, which illuminate the founding of Fordham University and other colleges in Kentucky, New York state and Canada. Using original historical sources (correspondence, diaries and manuscripts) from the 1840s and earlier, he chronicles how world-class colleges evolved from the hard work and inspiration of diverse individuals.

Concern for the quality of life of the community in the rapidly changing terrain of pre-industrial America took pragmatic toughness and devotion to the spiritual life. These accounts pay tribute to men and women from various ethnic and national backgrounds who established institutions that played a significant role in the equality and openness of American culture and education.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 14, 2003

## *Dec. 14, Third Sunday of Advent*

Cycle C Readings:
1) Zephaniah 3:14–18a
(Psalm) Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6
2) Philippians 4:4-7
3) Luke 3:10-18

BY JEANE DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Emily, Katie and Amie, best friends, were off to the inner-city soup kitchen. In my mind's eye, I could imagine those three "bopping" into the dining area and raising the enthusiasm level with their teenage fun-loving attitude. Peppy, popular varsity athletes, they'd recently been taken down a notch by a minor incident at school, for which they were required to perform community service. So when the opportunity came to serve a Sunday dinner at the soup kitchen together, they happily signed on.

Later that evening, Emily and Katie were responsible for our church youth group's prayer activity. As their youth director, I offered ideas for a nice reflection on Thanksgiving and Eucharist. They worked on it, then told me: "We're also going to get Amie to tell about going to the soup kitchen this afternoon. It was so cool, and we just want everybody to know about it."

There could've been no better prayer than what Amie gushed: "The three of us went to the soup kitchen today and we had the best time! Omigosh, you wouldn't believe! We talked to so many people, and then afterward, we talked to this one man — about the Redskins (football team)! I swear, we just sat and talked for an hour after lunch, we were having such a good time. And it made his day."

It was true. They had stayed an extra hour to talk because they enjoyed being with this man so much.

After the prayer that night I stopped Amie on her way to class. "It sounds like it made your day, too," I said.

She put her hand on my shoulder, "Like no other! You would not believe!"

I believed. The three girls had an experience they couldn't keep inside. They had to share it so that their friends might go and see for themselves.

That's the Advent answer to the Gospel's question by the people: "What should we do?"

Go out, as Amie did. Go out, and "share with the person who has none," and you'll realize, as she did, what the prophet Zephaniah foretold, "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love."

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 20**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent),** Zephaniah 3:14-18a, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monday (Advent Weekday),** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a, Matthew 21:23-27; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday),** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Thursday (Late Advent Weekday),** Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday),** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a, Luke 1:5-25; **Saturday (Late Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent),** Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Thursday (The Nativity of the Lord),** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Friday (St. Stephen),** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Saturday (St. John),** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8


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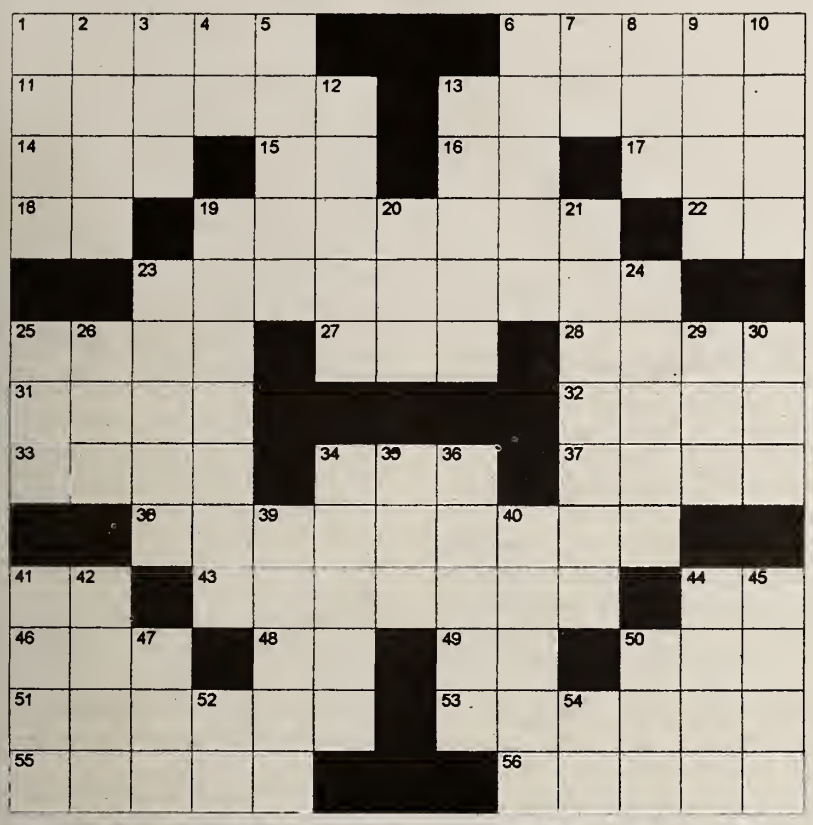

**ACROSS**
1 Make up
6 Middle East country
11 Reddish blue
13 ___ of fish
14 Great ending
15 __ crossing
16 Sun god
17 Airplane
18 Blood factor
19 Make ready
22 Spanish is
23 Aroma
25 Reed musical instrument
27 MSN rival
28 Mound
31 DIII + DCI
32 Margarine
33 Lucy's husband
34 Perceive
37 Shakesperean villain
38 Biblical part
41 Dominican
43 Expecting
44 That is
46 Bone
48 Trendy
49 The __ of Piglet
50 Tolkien creature
51 Interested
53 Biblical city
55 "The game is ___"
56 Leaven

**DOWN**
1 Assert
2 Plate
3 Abraham's nephew
4 State abbreviation
5 Baseball player Yogi
6 Crave
7 Spielberg movie
8 Everest and McKinley
9 Instead
10 Nabs
12 Trillion prefix
13 Elephant enclosure
19 Sneak peek
20 Expert
21 Resounding
23 Cheat
24 Israel seaport
25 British pop group ("If You Leave")
26 Biblical time abbr. (var.)
29 Limb
30 Lavatory
34 Police member
35 Munch
36 Gives out
39 Holy person
40 Foe
41 Marine mammal
42 French singer
44 Taverns
45 French state
47 Sis' sibling
50 Epoch
52 Jupiter moon
54 Archaic pronoun

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# 2003's top movies, Santa style

— by DAVID DiCERTO
Catholic News Service

*'Twas the night before Christmas*
*And all through the land*
*All the theaters were empty*
*'Cause the movies were bland.*

*The studio execs were tucked in their beds*
*While visions of Oscars danced in their heads.*
*While Ma in her kerchief and I in my cap*
*Were perched on the sofa, the remote on our lap.*

*We checked local listings, we even checked twice*
*But most shows were naughty, and too few were nice.*
*We surfed through the stations, and what did we see?*
*Tabloid-style tell-alls and reality TV.*

*When up on the roof I heard a loud swish,*
*I jumped up and moaned, "Not that darn satellite dish!"*
*When what to my wondering eyes should appear,*
*But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.*

*With a little old driver, so lively and quick,*
*Was it a "Queer Eye" guy, or jolly St. Nick?*
*No sooner down the chimney did he appear,*
*Than he informed me he's changed his career.*

*He said with a sigh, "I'm old and arthritic,*
*I'm giving up toys, I'm now 'Santa Critic.'"*
*So, just which movies did make Santa's Top 10?*
*I'll give you a hint: None starred J-Lo and Ben.*

*"'Finding Nemo' was great, 'Big Fish' ranked quite high,*
*'Spellbound' is a gem, 'Seabiscuit' made Rudolph cry.*
*'Master and Commander' is up there, so's 'Return of the King,'*
*Perhaps 'Mystic River' or 'The Triplets of Belleville's' your thing.*

*"While 'Cold Mountain' and 'Last Samurai' have grand scope and size,*
*In truth, 'Winged Migration' should take home the prize.*
*More films to see before my work is done,*
*But could you give my red suit to Paris Hilton?*

*"Such a request, I know, sounds rather bold,*
*But from what I hear, she might be quite cold."*
*Then I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight,*
*"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"*

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Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero, *Deacon*
Rev. Lawrence LoMonaco, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina, *Deacon*

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4 p.m. - Children's Mass
6 p.m. - Children's Mass
Midnight - Bishop Peter Jugis

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. - Bishop Peter Jugis

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
Midnight Mass
*Doors open at 11:00 p.m.*
Bishop William Curlin

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
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11 a.m. - Bishop Peter Jugis

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THE KING OF ALL TRILOGIES

CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

The battle for the Ring of Power comes to life in the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King."

# All good things ...

## *'Return of the King' is grand conclusion to epic trilogy*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The king has indeed returned.

In "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (New Line), the title refers to Aragorn, the reluctant warrior who assumes his kingship to help defeat the evil forces of Sauron from conquering Middle-earth.

But the king's return also refers to the arrival of the much-anticipated third and final epic installment of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy trilogy "The Lord of the Rings." The first two films — "The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Two Towers" — are among the highest grossing movies in box office history. They have taken in a combined $1.8 billion.

This is credited to the apparent king of all directors, Peter Jackson, who has once again orchestrated an army of technicians and crew and a cast of thousands, seamlessly blending live action and cutting-edge digital effects in bringing to life a timeless fable of the eternal struggle between good and evil.

With an epic price tag of $300 million for the trilogy, New Line has a lot riding on the film's ability to not only work similar magic at the box office as its predecessors did, but bring a satisfying conclusion to the classic story.

It's safe to say this "King" will rule with a golden crown.

"The Return of the King" begins where the last film left off. Valiant Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) and his companions — reborn wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellan), elfin archer Legolas (Orlando Bloom) and bellicose dwarf Gimli (John Rhys-Davies) — joined forces with the people of Rohan to repel invading Uruk-hai orcs. Pippin (Billy Boyd) and Merry (Dominic Monaghan), hobbits of the Shire, led Treebeard (voice of John Rhys-Davies) and the tree shepherd Ents to victory over the corrupt wizard Saruman (Christopher Lee).

And Frodo (Elijah Wood), on whose shoulders the fate of all Middle-earth rests, continues his arduous trek toward shadowy Mordor to destroy the evil One Ring in the fires of Mount Doom with fellow hobbit and trusted friend, Sam Gamgee (Sean Astin) and a not-so-trustworthy guide Gollum (Andy Serkis), a pathetic, mercurial creature, himself warped by the Ring.

From his tower fortress of Baraddur, the dark lord, Sauron, who forged the Ring ages before, has set his malicious will on reclaiming it, and wielding its power to master all of Middle-earth.

This film brings together mostly all of the players, including Rohan's king Theoden (Bernard Hill) and shield maiden Eowyn (Miranda Otto) in an impossible battle against Sauron's vast armies marching on the capital of Gondor. Spectacular visual effects have helped create some of the most impressive combat sequences on film, but it is Jackson's understanding and love of the characters that makes the action so compelling.

Sacrifice seems to be a common thread among many of the players, and Jackson makes us feel every emotion as if we were standing beside them. And while Aragorn and company wage war against impossible odds, Frodo and Sam's grueling climb up the lava-covered slopes of Mount Doom is a true test of determination and character. It is the strength of the friendship of two little hobbits that will either bring victory or defeat for the people of Middle-earth.

As much of the previous "Ring" film's box-office appeal were generated by the effects and epic scope, Tolkien — a lifelong, devout Catholic — chose to emphasize the underlying religious concepts as the wellspring of his story's lasting appeal.

While borrowing heavily from classical Celtic and Norse mythology for inspiration, especially the Icelandic sagas, it is orthodox Catholic theology that forms the bedrock upon which the various themes explored are built.

True to the spirit of the book, Jackson incorporates several such themes into the films. Like in "The Two Towers," "The Return of the King" is a veritable passion play, with Frodo serving as a Christ figure, bearing the Ring, an emblem of sin, like a cross on his own Via Dolorosa — selflessly exercising free will, willing to sacrifice even his life so others might live.

The Ring symbolizes the Catholic understanding of the parasitic nature of evil. The Ring, in and of itself, has no power beyond its subtle but potent ability to corrupt the desires of all who come in contact with it.

Gandalf who was seemingly killed in the "The Fellowship of the Ring," was resurrected and transfigured as an ethereal Christ-like figure in "The Two Towers." Other motifs included the redemption of sinners (Gollum), communion with nature versus materialistic industrialization, death and immortality. Even the Elfin "Lembas bread," which sustains Frodo and Sam throughout their trials, echoes the Eucharist.

The story's overall message of hope in strife, and the ultimate victory of light and goodness over darkness are as reassuring to our troubled times as they were when Tolkien wrote it during the horrors of the Second World War.

Fans of the books and previous films should not be disappointed by the trilogy's conclusion, although true aficionados will suspect some scenes may have been cut despite the film's three-and-a-half hour running time. In the end, however, remains a thrilling cinematic experience that people — and even hobbits — will talk about for a long time.

Due to many gory scenes of battle violence with several frightening images, the Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*David DiCerto of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*


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# Applications invited for local poverty grants

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's office for the Catholic Campaign of Human Development is accepting grants for the 2004 funding year.

CCHD makes small grants from $500 to $5,000 to organizations without regard to religious affiliation. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 16, 2004.

Established in 1970 as the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, CCHD is a response to the biblical call for justice for those who are poor. The Diocese of Charlotte CCHD committee solicits programs and projects that:

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To obtain the application as an e-mail attachment in a Word document, send an e-mail request to thjarina@charlottediocese.org. The application is also available online at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

# Father Paquet, former St. Peter parochial vicar, dies

PHILADEPHIA, Pa. — Jesuit Father Robert Joseph Paquet, former parochial vicar of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, died Dec. 2, 2003, at Manresa Hall Assisted Living Facility in the Jesuit Community at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa. He was 87.

A Mass of Christian Burial took place in the chapel of St. Joseph's University Dec. 6.

Father Paquet was born in St. Romald, Province of Quebec, Canada, Sept. 2, 1916. He entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) Sept. 7, 1932 at St. Andrew-on-Hudson Novitiate in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he made his initial ascetical and literary studies until 1936.

On completion of his A.B. and licentiate in philosophy from Woodstock College, Md., in 1939, Father Paquet was assigned to teach at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia from 1939 until 1942. He then returned to Woodstock for theological studies and was ordained to the Catholic priesthood by Bishop John McNamara June 17, 1945. Father Paquet made profession and last vows in the Jesuit Order at the Church of the Gesu in Philadelphia Feb. 2, 1950.

He spent several years performing both teaching and ministerial duties in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1989, Father Paquet's attention turned to the Jesuit apostolate in Appalachia when he was appointed parochial vicar of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, where he served faithfully for the next 13 years.

By 2002, declining health prompted Father Paquet's retirement to the Manresa Hall Assisted Living Facility. There, he exercised his apostolate of prayer for the Society of Jesus and the Catholic Church until his death. He is survived by a sister, Marguerite B. Paquet of Havertown, Pa.

***Condolences may be sent to:***
Ms. Margaret B. Paquet
Haverford Arms, Apt. 21A
66 South Eagle Road
Havertown, Pa 19083

***Memorial contributions may be sent in Father Paquet's name to:***
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# Welcoming a shepherd

COURTESY PHOTO BY REGINA MILLER

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates a Mass during his Albemarle Vicariate celebration at St. James Church in Hamlet Dec. 1. From left: Benedictine Father David Draim, Rev. Mr. Jesus Reyes, Father Ricardo Sanchez, Bishop Jugis, Augustinian Father James Cassidy, Father Lawrence Heiney and Benedictine Father Patrick Shelton.

## BISHOP JUGIS HONORED IN ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

HAMLET — Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Mass at the Albemarle Vicariate celebration held in his honor at St. James Church in Hamlet Dec. 1.

The bishop has attended similar celebrations held in all 10 vicariates of the Diocese of Charlotte since his Oct. 24 ordination and installation as bishop.

The other nine vicariates are: Asheville, Boone, Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Salisbury, Smoky Mountain and Winston-Salem.

The Albemarle Vicariate consists of St. James Church, Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle, Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe and Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro.

Each parish's choir participated in the Mass, as well as a children's bi-lingual choir.

Bishop Jugis, speaking in both English and Spanish, spoke of the diversity of cultures in the parishes and stressed how they can all learn from each other.

**Catholic Social Services**
**Western Regional Office**

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Faith, state and fatherhood

*How faith can offer strength during crisis*

## Looking Around

FATHER WILLILAM J. BYRON, SJ

This could be considered a Fathers' Day story, but it's worth telling now to get parents thinking about spending time with their children at Christmas.

Former Pennsylvania Governor and U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh was the dinner speaker at Princeton Theological Seminary during a recent seminar on "Faith, Ethics and the Law." Panel discussions earlier in the day encouraged participants, mostly lawyers, to reflect on the relevance of their religious faith to a variety of ethical challenges in life and law. Thornburgh's speech was titled "The Role of Faith in Decision Making."

His approach was personal. His thoughts were influenced by the launch that evening of his autobiography, "Where the Evidence Leads" (University of Pittsburgh Press). Written originally as a narrative to be shared with his children and grandchildren, the writer received encouragement to publish it for a broader audience. Many will be glad he did.

Politically, he had to deal with the Three Mile Island disaster in his first year as Pennsylvania's governor. He commented how much his faith had influenced his decision making in that unprecedented moment of crisis.

Personally, he had, at age 28, to deal with the death of his 26-year-old wife Ginny in an automobile crash, minutes after she and their three young sons had delivered their dad to his downtown Pittsburgh law office for what would otherwise have been an ordinary day's work. The boys were not yet school age; the youngest, Peter, was just 4 months old. The two older boys, John and David, survived the crash without serious injury; Peter, who suffered multiple skull fractures, nearly died. Faith kept this family together.

Thornburgh spoke movingly of Peter that evening at Princeton and spoke with gratitude to God for Ginny Judson, who, three years after that tragic day in 1960, became the second Ginny Thornburgh. The boys had a new mother; she formally adopted them one year later. Not long after, she and Thornburgh presented the boys with their new baby brother Bill.

Peter, whose mental capacity remains limited as a result of the brain trauma he suffered in the accident, became, said Thornburgh, "the conscience of the family, somehow bringing out our very best. Through him we learned to be more tolerant and appreciative of diversity and more committed to the general welfare of persons with disabilities."

When his parents moved into the governor's home in Harrisburg, Peter, age 19, and his other brothers moved in with them. Dick and Ginny soon noticed the attentive house staff and the friendly and ever-present state troopers, there to provide security and transportation, were doing so much for the likable Peter that his self-reliance skills began to erode and the household chores that had served to build up his self-esteem were disappearing.

Trusting in God, they decided it would be best to move Peter into supervised living in a nearby group home where he would share common facilities with other clients and participate in some kind of protected workshop employment.

Peter, now 43, tells people he "works for the poor," a reference to his regular volunteer service at the Community Food Bank in Harrisburg. Occasionally he spends weekends with his parents in Washington. And that brings me to the point of the story.

Father and son spent time together recently at the Washington Zoo. At the end of the day, Dick, with elephants, tigers and giraffes in mind, asked Peter, "What did you like best?" Peter looked at his dad and said, "Being with you."

Amen, everybody!

*E-mail: wbyron@loyno.edu.*

# Pope, at audience, says God intervenes in history to save oppressed

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — God watches over each person and all peoples, intervening to save those who are oppressed and to judge those who do evil, Pope John Paul II said.

"God is present in history, taking the part of the just and of victims," he said Dec. 10 at his weekly general audience.

Continuing a series of audience talks about the psalms and canticles used in the church's evening prayer, the pope focused on a hymn of praise from the Book of Revelation.

"Our prayer," he said, "must invoke and give praise for divine action, for the effective justice of the Lord and for his glory obtained with his triumph over evil."

The canticle from the 19th chapter of Revelation begins with a "festive hymn of praise" sung by "a great multitude in heaven" giving witness to the fact that "the Lord is not indifferent like an impassive and remote emperor before the events of human history."

The chapter continues by celebrating "the wedding day of the lamb," the union of Christ with his church and with each individual.

Signs of the Advent preparation for Christmas permeated the audience: the pope already was wishing people a Merry Christmas; a group of children from Poland, who had their photo taken with the pope, wore Santa hats; and shepherds from Italy's Abruzzo region played "Silent Night" on their pipes.

## The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul also thanked the people from Zakopane, Poland, who once again have brought to the Vatican several small Christmas trees for the papal apartment.

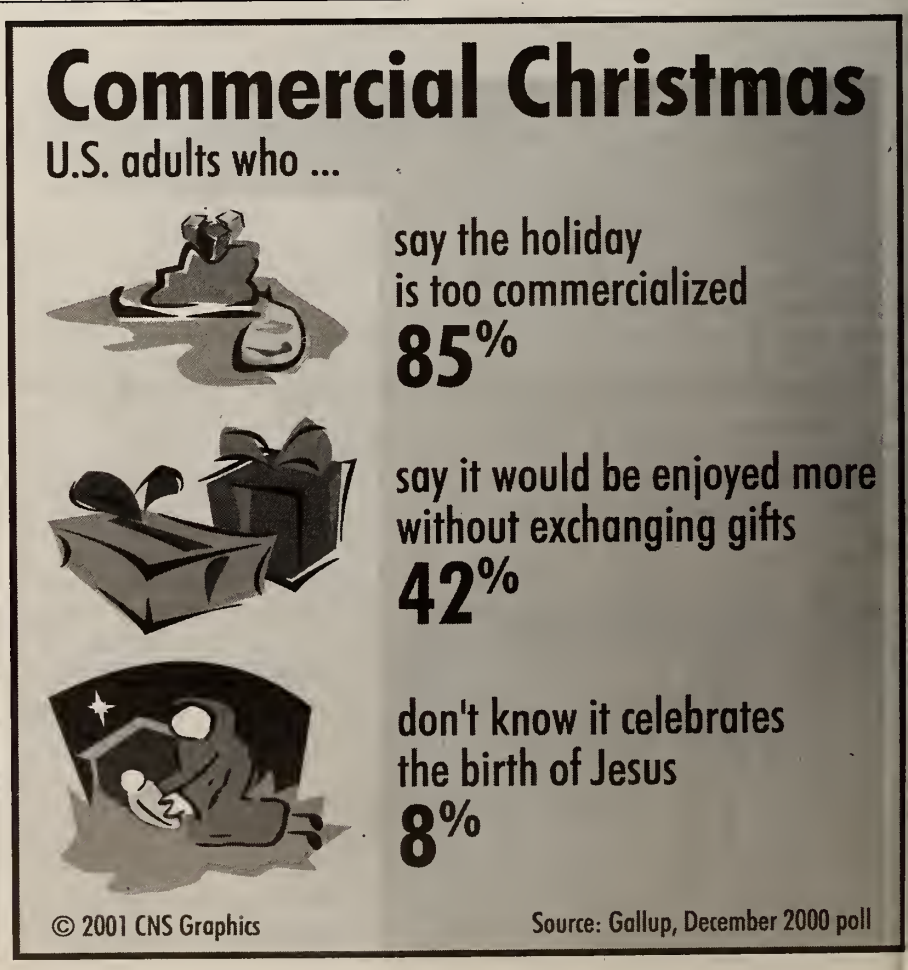
At the end of the audience, the pope prayed that all the visitors and pilgrims would prepare themselves "to welcome Christ who comes to realize his kingdom of justice and peace."

After the audience, Pope John Paul greeted several thousand members of the Italian air force who were celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Loreto, patron of flyers.

The air force's "Frecce Tricolori" jet team had been scheduled to fly over St. Peter's Square demonstrating their acrobatic flight maneuvers for the pope, but thick clouds and rain forced its cancellation.

Pope John Paul, speaking from the window of his apartment, encouraged the military to invoke Mary's help in every situation, saying, "She will be your support, your comfort and your hope."

He also said, "I will use this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas."



# 'Here I Am, Lord'

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

When Phyllis Willerscheidt agreed to take on a job for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis 13 years ago, she never dreamed it would become as all-consuming as it has. Then again, she never dreamed the Catholic Church would be caught up in the kind of sexual abuse scandal we have, as major as any other crisis in the history of the American Catholic Church.

The job Willerscheidt took on back in 1990 was that of lead advocate for victims of sex abuse, and not surprisingly it's an assignment that has taken on added dimensions in the last two or three years as revelations of long-ago incidents came to light. That doesn't faze the Minnesota woman. "I always like challenges," she said. "They kept increasing."

Reporter Christina Capecchi told the story of Willerscheidt in a recent issue of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. She pointed out that Willerscheidt sees the mere fact of her presence with abuse victims as the first step in helping them heal. It's fitting, then, that she finds inspiration in her favorite song: "Here I Am, Lord."

Willerscheidt was director of her archdiocese's Commission on Women (a position she still holds) when she accepted the invitation to work with victims of clergy abuse, serving as their advocate and helping them to get on with their lives.

"There's no simple recipe," she said. "It's a matter of offering victims options so they can feel empowered." No two victims deal with their past in exactly the same way, she added, although sharing their stories always seems to help. "The more they can talk about it, the faster they'll heal."

She didn't set out to make a career of healing others. Married at 19, she and her husband, Tony, raised five children. She didn't start college until her oldest child began studies at the University of St. Thomas and she enrolled as well. She completed her bachelor's degree there in 1982, and went on to earn a master's at the University of Minnesota.

Willerscheidt sees her ministry as one of "filling a need," and says that at the outset she never could have imagined the depth of the pain and suffering she would witness.

Her greatest challenge, she told Capecchi, is convincing victims they're not at fault. Joining in victim support groups has been a major help in that direction, she noted.

How many victims of abuse has she helped personally? It's hard to put a figure on it, she said, but at least 50, and possibly as many as 75. One she remembers in particular is a woman who endured 52 years of sexual and emotional abuse from a priest in another state. The woman later said of Willerscheidt's healing concern: "If our paths had not crossed, I would have committed suicide."

Willerscheidt's dedicated work recently earned her the Crosier Ministry Award, but obviously she doesn't do it for public acclaim. "This is my church and Jesus is a part of it," she said. "I see Jesus in priests, lay people and religious. We're all part of the church."

Nor is she likely to call it quits if the task becomes more demanding. "I always dig deeper because I always feel that's what Jesus would do," she said. "He would never turn people away."

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Scandal: From Whispers to Headlines," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Along the Good Shepherd's Path

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

*Lord, you rise up in the fog's breathing stillness.*

*O God, you bring life into my nostrils full and deep.*

*Ahead of me you watch my path and my steps.*

*Answered prayers like friends and family gather*

*Around me in quiet warmth.*

*— morning submission*

# Home again, home again

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS Columnist

Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't the only guy uttering the admonition "I'll be back." So are more than half the college students polled in a survey by Monster.com (the job-search Web site) who plan to move back in with Mom and Dad after commencement.

It's not that they are homesick for Mom's cooking or the household rules they abided by for 18 years. They simply can't afford a place of their own or haven't found a job yet.

With young adults delaying marriage and the job market in the pits, approximately 4 million Americans between 23 and 34 are heading home to live. Some of these "adultolescents," as they were labeled by Newsweek magazine, are enjoying all the amenities of their childhood home without paying the dues.

And that's a problem in terms of becoming self-supporting, conscientious and responsible people.

"There's a later passage to adulthood," said Frank Furstenberg, a sociologist who directs a MacArthur Foundation project studying the transition into adulthood, "and at the same time it's less orderly. There's more moving in and out."

Some parents are thrilled to hear the question "Can I move back home?" But others enjoy their empty nest.

"Children should be raised so they truly are adults when they legally become so," said author LaVonne Neff. "By age 18, young adults should be self-supporting, responsible for their own debts and decisions. Teach the birdies to fly, and then shove them out of the nest."

I don't think there is anything wrong with helping young people out as they find themselves, go back to school or try a few entry-level jobs before committing to a career path. But I do think during the interim period they shouldn't be exempt from financial or household contributions. Treating them as dependents might put a Band-Aid on the problem, but it ultimately enables and encourages laziness and irresponsibility.

If I've learned anything in my young-adult years, it's that I am fully accountable for my decisions. If I accidentally bounce a check, it shows up on my credit report five years down the line when I apply for a mortgage loan. If I accrue debt, I have to work twice as hard to pay it off.

And when everything is on the house, we are deprived of the true joys of adulthood such as turning up the thermostat as high as we like, pigging out on ice-cream for breakfast and being in control of the remote. Such freedom is surely worth working for.

# St. Michael Church grows in richness and diversity over 100 years

*New church symbolic of growing, diverse parish*

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Michael Church above, a 13,500 square foot building, was designed to accommodate 750 people and dedicated on March 9, 2002.

GASTONIA — It was 100 years ago that St. Michael Church was born. Founded at the request of workers who were in the area building a mill, the church became a possibility with the help of a $1,500 donation from Mother Katherine Drexel of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People.

In 1902, Bishop Leo Haid, vicar apostolic of North Carolina and abbot of Belmont Abbey, began construction of the church dedicated April 1903 as a mission of Maryhelp of Christians Church in Belmont, which in 1910 became Belmont Abbey Cathedral.

Fewer than 15 churchgoers attended Mass in the early years, although by 1922 the congregation had grown to 56. Priests from Belmont Abbey administered the church. In 1925, St. Michael Church attained parish status and Benedictine Father Walter O'Brien became its first resident pastor.

Father O'Brien added a rectory beside the church and began offering daily Mass. When Benedictine Father Alphonse Buss became pastor in 1936, he initiated a parish vocation school in religious instruction and organized Boy Scout Troop 13.

Through the years, the Belmont Abbey Benedictines assisted St. Michael's growth in many ways. From architecture to construction, ecclesiastical duties to teaching, Belmont Abbey's clergy proved instrumental in St. Michael's development.

Parish life grew further to enhance the lives of children in 1942, when a five-room house was converted into a first-through sixth-grade Catholic school at the request of parishioners. By mid-decade, while the parish comprised 165 people, land on Gravely Avenue (now St. Michael's Lane) was bought to accommodate a new, permanent kindergarten- through eighth-grade school building, which was dedicated in February 1952. The school, staffed by Sisters of Mercy from Belmont's Sacred Heart Convent, hosted more than 120 students in its first year.

Parish membership continued to expand during the 1940s, '50s and beyond. Structural failures and a steeple collapse forced then-pastor Benedictine Father Gregory Eichenlaub to initiate designs for a new church beside the school. That church, a granite-faced structure which cost $160,000, was dedicated in 1958 and seated 350 people in its 4,700 square foot building.

The project marked the third time Benedictine Father Michael McInerney's talents were called upon by the parish of St. Michael Church — the architect, who designed more than 500 buildings during his career, had designed plans in 1903 for the original church and in 1944 for the school building.

Parishioners broke ground for the construction of a parish center in 1978, a time during which more than 1,400 people attended St. Michael Church. The addition was dedicated in late April 1979.

In 1962, St. Michael Church was merged into the Diocese of Raleigh, which at the time encompassed all of North Carolina, and again 10 years later with the formation of the Diocese of Charlotte. Still, the church was staffed with Abbey Benedictines until 1989 when then-Bishop John F. Donoghue installed diocesan priest Father George Kloster as pastor.

Over the years, the parish grew to almost 3,200 people and became involved in community projects, parish council activities, Knights of Columbus, nocturnal eucharistic adoration, faith formation, Scouting, sports and Experienced Articles, a thrift shop that generates money that through the St. Vincent de Paul Society was filtered back to the community. St. Michael parishioners also became actively involved with the area's Lutheran community and played roles in ecumenical services and projects.

Gaston County's Hispanic population grew by 562 percent after 1990, leading to a regular Spanish-language Mass on Sundays. In 1992, Father Kloster initiated the long-term Project 2000 Building Fund, which was handed down to three subsequent pastors: Father Larry Heiney in 1998, Father John Allen in 1999 and Father Joseph Mulligan in 2000.

On March 9, 2002, then-Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte dedicated a new St. Michael Church, built to accommodate 750 people, more than double the capacity of the old church. Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey concelebrated the Mass in the 13,500-square-foot church featuring a symbolically placed baptistery, the St. Katherine Drexel Chapel, a Blessed Sacrament adoration area, reception rooms, a nursery and hospitality space.

The new church also incorporates many elements of the old church, including statues and Stations of the Cross.

In an area that honors one of North Carolina's earliest and most important Catholic laymen, Judge William P. Gaston, St. Michael Church remains a vital presence in the Gaston Vicariate.

ST MICHAEL CHURCH
708 St. Michael's Lane
Gastonia, NC 28052
(704) 867-6212

Vicariate: Gaston
Pastor: Father Joseph Mulligan
Regional Hispanic Ministry: Father Jose A. Juya
Deacon: Rev. Mr. John Weisenhorn
Number of Families: 900

Father Joseph Mulligan

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

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FC282 C363c

Parish Profile: Holy Spirit Church

| PAGE 16

# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

## SANTA GETS HELP FROM ST. GABRIEL STUDENTS

BY KRIS REICH
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — It may have been cold, rainy and gloomy outside, but the weather didn't dampen the spirits or the warm, giving hearts of students, staff and families from St. Gabriel School in Charlotte.

Fifteen student council members from all four fifth-grade classes, along with Principal Sharon Broxterman and four assistants, managed to figuratively and literally blanket with a dazzling display of Christmas generosity the 12 women and 13 children living at Catherine's House.

Located in Belmont, Catherine's House is a transitional facility for women and their children who are homeless and is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

"I first brought the idea to collect gifts for Catherine's House to our Parent Teacher Organization and they were all in favor of it," said Broxterman. "The Sisters of Mercy opened our school and staffed it for many, many years, so it was time to do something for them."

See STUDENTS, page 4

COURTESY PHOTO BY KRIS REICH

Students from St. Gabriel School in Charlotte recently brought gifts and needed items to the residents of Catherine's House, a transitional facility for women and their children, in Belmont.

# Hussein's capture may bring peace, doesn't excuse war, cardinal says

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The capture of Saddam Hussein may help bring peace to Iraq, but it does not change the fact that "the war was useless, and served no purpose," a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal Renato R. Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said the Vatican wants Hussein to receive a fair trial for alleged crimes during his long dictatorship. But the Vatican is opposed to the death penalty for the fallen Iraqi leader, he said.

Speaking during a Dec. 16 press conference, Cardinal Martino offered the first substantial Vatican reaction to the capture and detention of Hussein by U.S. forces.

The cardinal said he hopes Hussein's capture "contributes to peace and the reconstruction of Iraq. But it would be illusory to think that it will repair the damage caused by that great defeat for humanity which war always represents."

"I hope his capture does not have other, serious consequences. But this is not the total solution to the problems in the Middle East," he said.

Cardinal Martino voiced displeasure at the broadcast of TV images showing a bedraggled Hussein undergoing a medical examination shortly after his detention.

"What caused me pain was seeing this ruined man,

See HUSSEIN, page 12

# Spreading sunshine

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Jane Bodem, a member of St. William Church's Sunshine Kazoo Band, chats with patient Devota Jarrett at Murphy Nursing Home Dec. 10. *See story page 5.*

FOSTERING HEALING

# Rachel's Vineyard harvests hope in Ireland

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Vineyard Ministries, the support network offering retreats for healing after abortion, has recently expanded into unlikely territory: Ireland.

In a nation where 88 percent of the population is Catholic and abortion is illegal, it may seem there would be no need for post-abortion counseling services.

Not so, according to Martha Shuping, M.D., a volunteer with Rachel's Vineyard and a member of its board of directors.

An estimated Irish 6,000 women travel to England each

See VINEYARD, page 7

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**A Christmas story**
*St. Ann students ponder their Christmas roles*
| PAGE 4

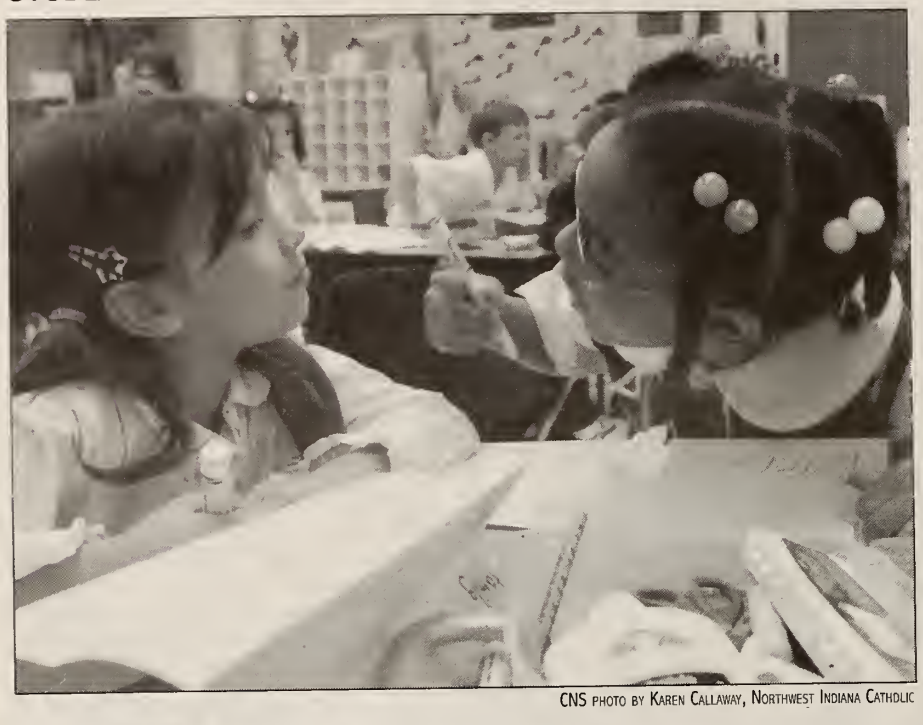
**Turning frowns upside down**
*St. Leo students hop aboard The Smile Train*
| PAGE 6

**A mother's influence**
*Songwriter draws inspiration from Mary*
| PAGE 8

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## STUDENT TO STUDENT



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Second-graders Ariel Stamper and Aja Taylor talk about a class project during an exchange that brought suburban Catholic school students from Indiana to a Catholic school in Chicago. Stamper, from St. Thomas More School in Munster, Ind., and Taylor, a student at St. Dorothy School on Chicago's South Side, met in November through a program to help youngsters learn about their cultural, geographic and economic differences.

## More than a bus ride separates inner-city, suburban Catholic schools

MUNSTER, Ind. — What do the students at St. Dorothy School, on Chicago's South Side, and the suburban St. Thomas More School in Munster have in common?

Quite a bit, it turns out — including a healthy interest in lunch.

In November, when about 270 students from St. Dorothy, most of them African-Americans, took a half-hour bus ride to visit St. Thomas, which serves a predominantly white community, the thing most talked about first was lunch: corn dogs and peaches and pretzels and a choice of white, chocolate or strawberry milk.

The next thing they talked about was church.

"One thing I noticed about their church — it was a little more traditional than ours," said Ashley Ambrose, an eighth-grader at St. Dorothy. "They sing more all together, and they sang some of the same songs we sang last year. We switch up a little bit more."

Russell Gonzalez and Mallory McShane, eighth-graders at St. Thomas More, also noticed the difference in the Masses.

For Gonzalez, it was the music. "Theirs was more interactive," he said, recalling an earlier visit St. Thomas More students made to St. Dorothy.

For McShane, it was the dance. "They do what I guess you would call Christian dance during church," she said. "I studied dance, and I'd like to do that."

The St. Dorothy students will again host their friends from St. Thomas More in February as part of the second year of the "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" exchange between the two schools.

While they aren't very far apart geographically, St. Thomas More serves mostly middle- to upper-middle-class white communities, and has 640 students enrolled in pre-K to eighth grade. St. Dorothy's students are racially mixed, the majority African-American, and come from households that don't necessarily have the same economic advantages as those at St. Thomas More.

While the St. Dorothy students said the Indiana school was bigger, they also discovered eighth-grade algebra is the same in any neighborhood.

"We're really trying to build an awareness and an acceptance that people are different, and that being different is actually a good thing," said Noreen Bickel, development director at St. Thomas More.

"But also, that 'Gosh, they really aren't that different. The color of the skin might be different, but the thoughts and ideas are pretty much the same.'"

# Bill reintroduced to bar discrimination for not providing abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman praised a bill to forbid discrimination against health care providers who do not want to be involved in abortion.

The Abortion Nondiscrimination Act was reintroduced in the House Dec. 8. A Senate version was introduced in July and assigned to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

"No one should be forced into the practice of abortion," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. She urged Congress to act quickly "to pass this common-sense protection for the rights of conscience of all health care providers."

Similar legislation was approved by the House in 2002 by a vote of 229-189, but never came up for a vote in the Senate before the 107th Congress adjourned.

The bill would expand upon current federal law that protects "health care entities" from having to perform or provide for abortions.

"No one who provides health care should be forced to participate in abortion," said Ruse.

She said the legislation is necessary because of coordinated efforts to force hospitals, insurance providers and outpatient clinics across the nation to provide, pay for and make referrals for abortions.

She said it is ironic that "the same abortion advocates who promote a 'right to choose' deny the right of health care providers to choose not to perform abortion. They tell us, 'If you don't like abortion, don't have one.' Pro-life health providers must be able to say: 'We don't like abortion, so don't force us to perform them.'"

# Diocesan planner

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

ALBEMARLE — The *Forever Young Club* of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Family Life Center at 10 a.m. For details, call Gerald Maiden (704) 982-5261.

### BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — All Catholic young adults in the Boone Vicariate are invited to a *Potluck Supper and Christmas Party* hosted by Elizabeth Rupp Jan. 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 325 Poplar Summit. Singles, married couples and children are welcome. Come have a great time and meet new friends as we craft an identity for our group. Please RSVP to Matt or Amber Mellon at (828) 265-2581 before Dec. 30.

SPRUCE PINE — St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit Ave., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 9 a.m. Mass with benediction at 4 p.m.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate a *Polish-language Mass* Dec. 21. Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope, Israeli foreign minister meet, discuss Middle East tensions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and Israel's foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, met privately at the Vatican Dec. 11 to discuss the ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

Shalom also met with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state.

"In the course of the meetings, both sides expressed their points of view on the path to follow in order to obtain peace in the Holy Land," a Vatican statement said.

The pope, the cardinal and the foreign minister agreed a "way out of the current situation" must be found, and "concrete acts of reconciliation" by both Israelis and Palestinians are necessary, the statement said.

Israel's foreign ministry said Shalom told the pope, "We all hope that peace will happen next year."

The foreign minister said Israel is committed to reaching a peace agreement through direct negotiations with the Palestinians, and Israel would do everything it could to ensure Christian pilgrims would have access to Bethlehem and other holy places during the Christmas holidays.

Jonathan Peled, a foreign ministry spokesman, told The Associated Press that at Christmas Israel would increase officers on duty at its checkpoint between Jerusalem and Bethlehem to allow tourists to pass through more quickly.

"It's a goodwill gesture on the part of Israel," Peled said. "We appreciate and respect the wishes of all those who want to celebrate Christmas here."

# Pope tells university students God will show them the right path

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told university students that if they trust in God and turn to him in prayer, they can be assured he will show them the right path for their lives.

During a Dec. 11 Mass in preparation for Christmas, the pope focused on a verse from the Book of Isaiah, in which God tells his people, "Fear not; I will help you."

God's promise to be near and assist each person was fulfilled with the birth of Christ, the pope said. "In him, God became one of us. This is why we do not have to be afraid."

The pope sat facing the altar during the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, leading some of the prayers, but allowing Cardinal Camillo Ruini, his vicar for Rome, to be the main celebrant.

Joining Rome university students for the annual Advent Mass were delegates from dozens of universities throughout Europe.

Reading his homily in a clear voice, the pope told he students they must play their part in ensuring European integration is built on common humanitarian and spiritual values, and not just on common economic and political policies.

"It is indispensable that today's Europe safeguards its patrimony of values and that it recognizes that Christianity has been the primary force to promote, reconcile and consolidate them," he said.

Pope John Paul told the students Christmas is a privileged time to recognize one of the greatest values, the value and dignity of human life.

"With the birth of Jesus, in the simplicity and poverty of Bethlehem, God restored dignity to the existence of every human being," he said. "He offered everyone the possibility of participating in his own divine life."

The pope prayed that "this immeasurable gift always would find hearts ready to receive it."

He encouraged the students to seek God as they continue their studies.

"Do not stop in the face of doubts and difficulties," he told them. "God, as the prophet said, will take you by the right hand, he is alongside of you."

# Jesus is the reason for the season

CNS PHOTO BY CATHY LOCHER, CATHOLIC TIMES

Bruce Frank, 18, moves a Christmas tree while working on his family's tree farm in Athens, Ill. Behind him is a sign that reminds customers that Jesus is the reason for the season.

them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

December 21 — 11:30 a.m.
Transitional diaconate ordination Mass
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

December 24 — Midnight
Christmas Eve Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

January 1 — 11 a.m.
New Year's Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

## TO OUR READERS

We will not publish next week, Dec. 26, due to Christmas. Our next issue will be Jan. 2. We wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# St. Gabriel students help out Santa

STUDENTS, *from page 1*

"About a month ago, each class took a list supplied by individual families at the residence and began to collect items on the list," she said. "Before we packed up the presents, our entire lobby was filled. It was overwhelming. Our families are wonderful. All we have to do is ask and they respond."

Overwhelming indeed. A jam-packed busload of infant and children's car seats, cribs, mattresses, vacuums, lamps, paper towels, diapers, detergent, soap, gift certificates, clothing, dishes, dozens of sheets and comforters, pots and pans, toys, candy and even several checks. All the students and staff pitched in to help unload the wide array of items.

"One of our donors bought a purse for each woman, then filled it with jewelry and cosmetics, something special just for them, something to boost their self-esteem," said Broxterman. "Another made hand-knit scarves for each."

Organizers ensured that each child was outfitted with essentials such as socks, underwear, pajamas, jeans and sweatshirts, and that each woman would receive a complete outfit. There were also plenty of gift-wrapped, age-appropriate toys as well as other gifts for the adults.

"I was simply overwhelmed at the generosity of St. Gabriel School parents and children," said Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara. "What an example the parents are setting for their children — teaching them to share with people who are less fortunate."

"Sometimes it is difficult for children who have everything to realize that there are other children who have nothing, not even a place to call home," she said. "This experience today, seeing love in action, convinced me once again that when we serve the poor, God's special children, He always provides."

As the youngsters brought bag after bag of presents into the facility, the faces of Sister Bernadette, Sister Maureen Dees, Sister M. Carmelita Hagan, Sister Virginia Raymond and Sister Pilansia Karsom — all of whom minister at the residence — reflected their amazement. But their astonishment paled in comparison to that of one very small

COURTESY PHOTO BY KRIS REICH

**Hank LeFlore, a St. Gabriel School student, helps deliver presents at Catherine's House in Belmont.**

Catherine's House resident, Riana.

"Why are they bringing us presents?" she asked Sister Bernadette, with her eyes wide.

Ever ready to respond with a totally truthful answer, Sister Bernadette replied, "Riana, that's easy to explain. They're Santa Claus' helpers."

And, indeed, they are.

*Kris Reich is the communications director for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of N.C.*

### WANT TO HELP?

Catherine's House is always in need of donations to continue providing necessary services to residents, such as transportation to school and/or work, child care, counseling for both women and children, parenting classes and many other services that encourage residents to become financially independent, responsible parents and contributing members of society.

Contact: Catherine's House, P.O. Box 1633, Belmont, NC 28012-1633; phone (704) 825-9599; or online at http://www.orgsites.com/nc/catherineshouse/index.html.

A CHRISTMAS STORY

# St. Ann students ponder their Christmas roles

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann School third-graders were asked what part they would play in the Christmas story. Here are their responses.

*If I had a part in the Christmas story and could be at the stable with Jesus, I would be ...*

*"An angel, and I would tell the people that the baby Jesus is born. I would tell baby Jesus: 'I hope you will grow up and be nice and kind.'"*
*— Flannery Kuhn*

*"Joseph, and I would try to keep baby Jesus safe. I would tell baby Jesus: 'You will always be safe with Mary and me.'"*
*— Gregory Pascarella*

*"Mary, and I would cradle and love him very much. I would tell baby Jesus that he was the Son of God and that I would be with to the end."*
*— Elli Lybrand*

*"The donkey, and I would give warmness to baby Jesus by my breath. I would tell baby Jesus: 'You have a very good life.'"*
*— Jenna Pauli*

*"The sheep, and I would keep Jesus warm. I would tell baby Jesus: 'You are the light of the world.'"*
*— Felipe Riedener*

*"An angel, and I would send the message that Jesus is being born. I would tell baby Jesus: 'You have a very big job now. But I will watch over you.'"*
*— Toria Roth*

*"The star, and I would show the wise men the way to Bethlehem. I would tell baby Jesus: 'I will shine over your stable and you are the light of the world.'"*
*— Kevin McCarthy*

*"A cow, and I would give baby Jesus milk. I would tell baby Jesus" 'Thank you for coming and being born in my house.'"*
*— Kevin Cassaway*

*"A donkey, and I would breathe hot air on baby Jesus. I would tell baby Jesus: 'Hee haw — that means, you are the chosen one.'"*
*— Chris High*

*"A wise man, and I would be there to see the newborn child. I would tell baby Jesus: 'I came a long way to see you.'"*
*— Andrew Loesch*

*"One of the wise men, and I would give him my gift of gold. I would tell baby Jesus: 'Here is your gift,' and "You are a king, too.'"*
*— Liam Anderson*

*"A wise man, and I watched the star leading to you. I would tell baby Jesus: "You are very special because you are God's son.'"*
*— Michael Parra*

*"The star, and I would show the shepherds where to go and show the kings where to go if baby Jesus needed something. I would tell baby Jesus: 'If there is anyone who wanted to see you, I would show them how to get to the stable.'"*
*— Anthony DellaMea*

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| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Msgr. Eugene H. Livelsberger | 1987 |
| Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Newman | 1981 |
| Rev. Arthur J. Racette | 1975 |

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**IT'S A REAL HOOT**

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

The Sunshine Kazoo Band from St. William Church in Murphy kazoos its way from Murphy Nursing Home to Murphy Hospital's Alzheimer's unit Dec. 10.

# Kazoo band brings sunshine to the masses

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — In the Murphy Nursing Home lounge, the residents are eagerly waiting.

It's Dec. 10, and over in the break room Jane Bodem, Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbell, Chung Jang, Joan Kennedy, Lois Miller and Babs Truro are putting on their red-velvet-banded straw boaters, going over the selections for the Christmas program and tuning up their bugle-shaped kazoos.

At 10:30 a.m., kazoos buzzing, the Sunshine Kazoo Band makes its grand entrance into the lounge.

The band, from St. William Church in Murphy, has entertained the St. William's Ladies' Guild and at Helping Hands, a daycare center for the handicapped. But it's the monthly visits to the Murphy Nursing Home and the Murphy Hospital's Alzheimer's unit that is the band's special ministry.

Members practice the week before their performances, kazooing or singing along with music tapes.

"I was in a kazoo band in Florida," Bodem said. "My leader made all these tapes for me so I could do it here."

The band has a different program for each month. There are patriotic songs for July 4. For "I've Been Working On the Railroad," band members don railroad engineer hats and add wooden railroad whistles to their instrumentation.

Christmas selections include "Christmas Island," with the band singing about gift-laden canoes and Christmas fun on a tropical island. Bodem ties on a funky hat and puts caps over her front teeth for a rousing rendition of "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth."

The band invites the audience to join in on Christmas songs such as "Jingle Bells" and gives bells to some of the residents so they can help make the music. There's applause after each selection.

"I like to bring joy where joy is needed," Rev. Mr. Hubbell said. "Sadness is a terrible disease in our society, and loneliness. Mother Teresa said that — that the most terrible disease in America is loneliness."

"I think it's wonderful to make people laugh and forget their troubles, for a few minutes anyway," resident Cordie Griggs, 97, said. "They do a good job making people laugh. I enjoy it."

When the music ends, the band disperses around the room to spend time chatting with the residents.

Then, kazooing their way down the hall and popping into rooms to say "Hi" to those who couldn't make it to the concert, they head for the hospital's Alzheimer's unit, where they repeat their program for those gathered in the bright, airy lounge.

The residents sing along to songs they remember from their childhoods. A tall, white-haired man, holding an attendant's hand, gets up to dance in place, weaving back and forth and grinning happily. As in the nursing home, the band members spend time chatting with the residents.

It's time they gladly spend spreading sunshine. For Babs Truro, it's the answer to a prayer.

"I had a miracle," she said later. "I was a golfer; I loved it. Then I had a problem with my heart. I was supposed to have an operation. I got down in front of my crucifix and said, 'God, I can't go through this operation. If you help me, I'll give up my golf and devote my time to helping others.'"

The doctor who advocated the surgery had told her she needed the operation right away. A second doctor told her, soon after her prayer, that there was nothing wrong with her heart. That was two years ago, and she's had no more heart trouble. Instead, she's opened her heart to others.

"When Jane told me about this (kazoo band), I said, 'Yes, I want to do this very much.' I feel uplifted when I come here."

"It's about happiness," Rev. Mr. Hubbell said. "We're called to care for one another."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Holiday social

COURTESY PHOTO BY REGINA MILLER

The Altar Society and Knights of Columbus of St. James Church in Hamlet held their annual adult Christmas party in the parish hall Dec. 6. After a 5 p.m. Mass, dinner was served in the candlelit hall and all guests went home with door prizes.

# Turning frowns upside down

COURTESY PHOTO BY CHRISTINE HURLEY

**St. Leo the Great School students are trying to "Change the World One Smile at a Time" by raising funds for The Smile Train, an international charity dedicated to helping children who suffer from cleft lips and palates through free surgery, free training for doctors and research to find a cure.**

## *St. Leo students hop aboard The Smile Train*

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — It's said that smiling is contagious. St. Leo the Great School students want to help spread some smiles.

The students dressed up Dec. 12 to raise money for The Smile Train, an international charity dedicated to helping children who suffer from cleft lips and palates through free surgery, free training for doctors and research to find a cure.

The students each brought $1 to school, which, with an enrollment of approximately 250 students, would pay for an operation for one child. Hoping to help even more, the student council decided to also donate funds raised from a pumpkin contest and Christmas stocking contest.

Linda Fatale, reading teacher, heard about the work of The Smile Train from her sister, a fellow teacher in New Jersey.

"In some countries, children are shunned and left on doorsteps and in orphanages because of the disfigurement which accompanies this affliction," said Fatale.

"Some children also suffer from health problems because they are not able to eat properly," she said. "There is no reason in the world that these children should suffer with this. We know how to fix the problem."

The Smile Train is working to help as many children as possible. For $250, the organization can put a smile on a child's face. The organization applies 100 percent of its donations toward its programs. The overhead, which is less than 7 percent, is paid for by their board of trustees.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information about The Smile Train, visit www.smiletrain.org.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE

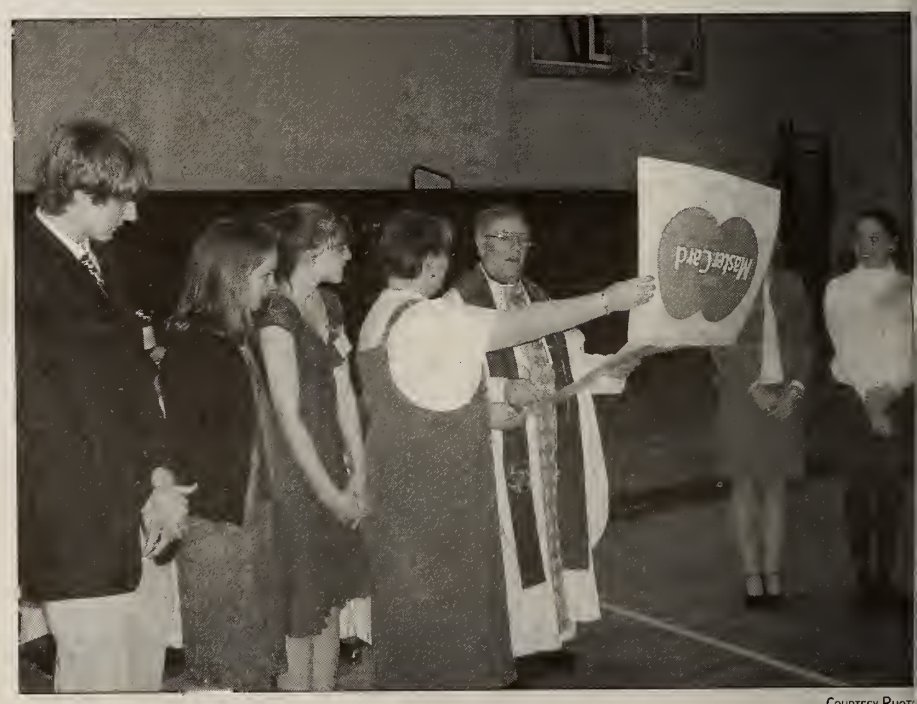
# Bishop McGuinness high schoolers says thanks to Father Kelleher

KERNERSVILLE — Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, was recently honored for his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood by the Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School community.

The school held a reception for Father Kelleher following his celebration of the Eucharist for staff and students on the feast of the Immaculate Conception Dec. 8.

Father Kelleher, an Irish immigrant who was ordained Dec. 20, 1953, has a long history with the school beginning in its earliest years, during which he served as the school's priest administrator. Prior to his retirement, Father Kelleher served the school as its chaplain and he remains involved in many aspects of the school. His frequent visits bring a vital priestly presence and enthusiasm to the school, according to George Repass, principal.

The school's Peer Ministry students designed the presentation that included highlights of Father Kelleher's involvement with the school. The students also presented him with a stole in honor of his ordination, a briefcase and soda bread, an Irish delicacy.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students and faculty honor Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, for his 50 years to the priesthood Dec. 8.**

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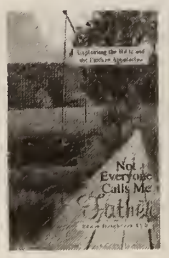

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# Harvesting hope

VINEYARD, *from page 1*

year to obtain abortions, said Shuping. With a total population of 3.9 million, there may be as many as 60,000 Irish women who have had abortions.

Shuping said because abortion is illegal in Ireland, there are very few crisis pregnancy centers or support groups for post-abortive women.

A member of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, Shuping recently spent three weeks in Ireland leading a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and training a team to lead retreats on a regular basis.

Ireland joins half a dozen other nations with Rachel's Vineyard retreats and the ministry is poised to move into several more countries.

"Pregnancy loss can trigger depression in women," Shuping said. "Because the medical community wouldn't admit there was a problem, it didn't develop ways of helping (women heal mentally)."

However, Shuping said, in the last 18 months there has been a wealth of new studies showing increased occurrences of depression, mental illness and suicide in post-abortive women.

Shuping also said spiritual, rather than medical, counseling is necessary for post-abortive women to heal.

"One of the things that is critical to realize is when these women think of their baby, they're thinking about a dead baby," Shuping said. "But the reality is, as Pope John Paul II said, 'Your baby is now living in the Lord.'"

When women realize that, Shuping said, they have a hope of seeing their baby again and they can go through the grieving that has been suppressed because "nobody wanted to hear about it."

Shuping noted that because of their Christian faith, women have the hope of the resurrection and a reunion with their baby.

"All medicine will give you is a dead baby," said Shuping.

Shuping has already introduced her 16-year-old daughter, Jennie, to the world of abortion and its consequences.

"Jennie has learned compassion for others and would never judge," Shuping said. "She knows about the misinformation and often coercion that can push women into an abortion, as well as the pain that many suffer afterwards."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARTHA SHUPING

**Capuchin Father Laurence Kettle, Martha Shuping and Jennie Shuping in Ireland.**

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information about Rachel's Vineyard retreats, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org or call Dr. Martha Shuping at (336) 659-1342 or the Respect Life office of Catholic Social Services at (704) 370-3229.

## BREAKING GROUND

COURTESY PHOTO

**Father Joseph Ayathupadam, Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Rev. Mr. Richard Kauth shovel dirt during the Holy Spirit Church activity center groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 7.**

# Holy Spirit holds groundbreaking for new activity center

DENVER — Ground was broken for the Holy Spirit Church activity center Dec. 7.

The shovel used during the groundbreaking by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who was administrator of Holy Spirit Church from November 1998 until June 1999, was signed by him and Father Joseph Ayathupadam, pastor. It will be kept at the church as a memento of the occasion.

Also participating in the ceremony was Rev. Mr. Richard Kauth, permanent deacon; members of the building committee and parish council; Knights of Columbus; and members of the church.

Bishop Jugis gave a brief homily that rendered honor and praise to the parishioners of Holy Spirit.

"This ceremony marks four years of work, which started with the initial survey," he said.

The survey, which began in 1999 as a result of parish growth, was conducted by the pastoral council. It indicated a pressing need for classrooms, youth activities and programs and parish activities. Growth projections were conducted by the diocesan Office of Planning and, based on these projections and the survey results, an in-depth parish profile was authorized that was completed and approved by the Diocese of Charlotte in December 2000.

During the summer of 2001, plans were finalized for the parish activity center and the capital campaign was initiated in September 2002.

The 19,908 square foot steel and brick center will consist of 11 classrooms, three offices, a chapel, a sacristy, a kitchen, a locker room with showers and restrooms and a 7,128 square foot multipurpose room.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

For more on the history of Holy Spirit Church, please see the Parish Profile on page 16.

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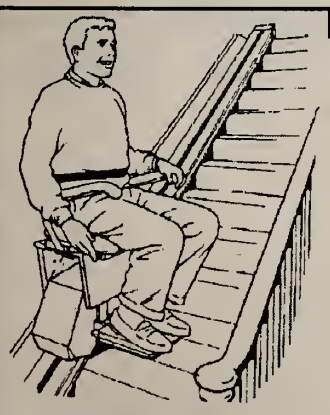

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A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

# Songwriter draws inspiration from Mary

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — "If we asked God right now, 'Do we need your mother?' God would say, 'I needed her. She fed me, cared for me and walked the way of the cross with me, and from the cross I gave her to you.'"

Jesus' words from the cross were meant not only for John but for everyone, singer and songwriter Elyse O'Kane told the congregation at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville.

Following an evening Mass to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, O'Kane, who is also a reading resource teacher at a Catholic school in Atlanta, told how Mary came into her life.

Growing up in a devoutly Catholic family, O'Kane found Mary everywhere: statues, prayer cards, scapulars, May crownings. Still, Mary seemed so perfect that O'Kane felt she could never measure up.

"Mary was supposed to be my model," she said. "How could I possibly be like her? She was so pure, so holy, and I was a brat. I was raised with Mary all around me, but I was unmoved. I basically did everything by rote."

O'Kane drifted away from the Catholic Church, but after she and husband, John, became parents, her interior life began to change. The O'Kanes realized they needed to attend Mass regularly. Moving to Atlanta, they became involved in activities in their new church. Bible study seemed so much richer than it had been when she was growing up.

"I couldn't believe this was the 'boring' Bible," she said.

Her women's group decided to pray the rosary. That, too, had always been boring for O'Kane, but she agreed to participate. At first, she mouthed the words, her mind on all the things she had to do.

During one rosary session, she saw herself as a child, wearing a tattered old dress and sitting apart from other children. She was ashamed of the way she looked. O'Kane sensed Mary's presence but didn't want to look at her. Still, she felt Mary reaching out "with a mother's love."

"She was not the unapproachable, sinless woman, but a loving mother," O'Kane said. "We had something in common: we were both mothers."

O'Kane realized, just as she loved her own children even when they were rebellious, that was how Mary loved her. From this realization, the rosary took on new meaning, and her spiritual life began to open up.

When she was asked to join a church choir, she agreed, even though she had never sung before. Choir members enjoyed being together and formed a couples' prayer group.

"Community is a powerful tool that God gives us to help us grow," O'Kane said. "Even our Lord needed 12 to walk with him."

As her spirituality grew, O'Kane felt she was being led to devote herself to Jesus through Mary. She had to struggle, though, "with the idea of giving myself totally to God to do with as he pleased."

Finally, realizing how much God had done for her, she made an act of consecration before an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A year later, driving her car, she found herself singing a new melody to Mary's canticle, "The Magnificat." It was the first music she had ever created.

"I could almost feel the incredible joy Mary felt as she kept the secret that she was to be the mother of God," O'Kane said. "Like Mary, I wanted to proclaim the greatness of God."

Untrained in music, she needed a friend to help her write the melody. Now, she said, the song is used all over the world in the Magnificat Ministry, a ministry to help women.

"If Mary is the mother of the church, and the church is the bride of Christ, doesn't that make Mary the mother of the bride?" O'Kane asked. "I believe that if we take Mary by the hand, she will help us to become that radiant bride."

Bill Barr of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands enjoyed hearing about O'Kane's "experience that brought her to know Mary; it was beautiful."

"We have known Elyse for 20 years; I think she's wonderful," said Bob Hauert of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who sang with O'Kane during the Mass. "As a matter of fact, she's the godmother of our youngest daughter, Elisabeth, so we are family."

O'Kane has placed her total trust in Mary.

"I know that if God entrusted his son to her, I must be entrusted to her as well," she said. "The world offers us plenty of difficulties. Maybe our jobs are difficult, maybe an illness in the family, maybe there are addictions....Mary will walk with us and teach us to trust as she did. All we have to do is ask her."

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Elyse O'Kane and Bob Hauert sing during her program at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12.

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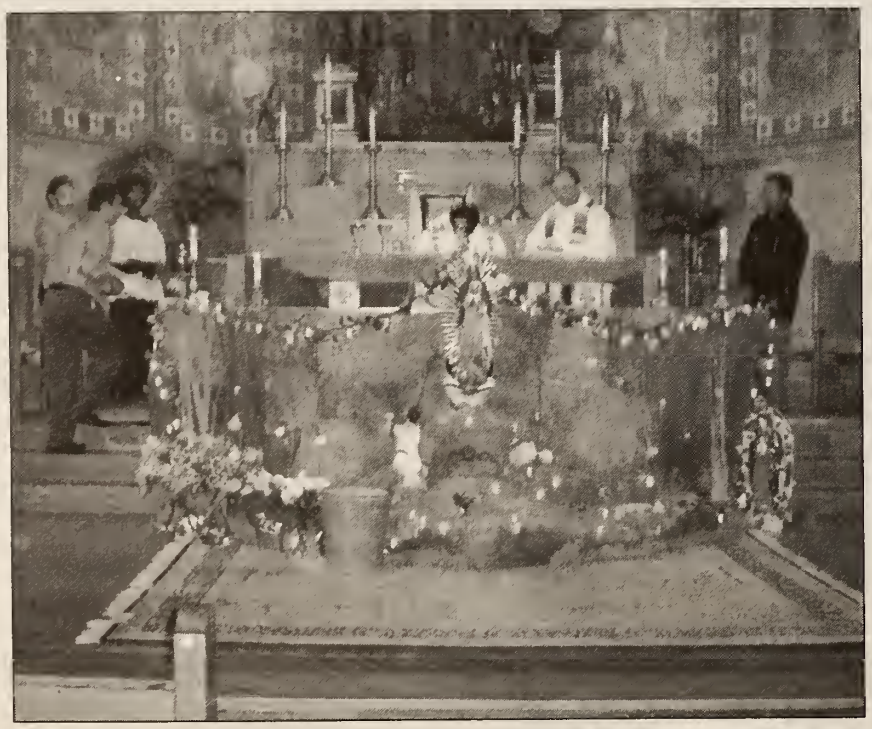

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Father Oscar Gracias from Guatemala and Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, celebrated a bilingual Mass at the church celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12. The feast day celebrates apparitions of Mary to Juan Diego, a devout Nahua Indian, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico in December 1531. As a result of the apparitions and the miracles attributed to Mary, 8 million Mexicans converted to Catholicism within a few years.

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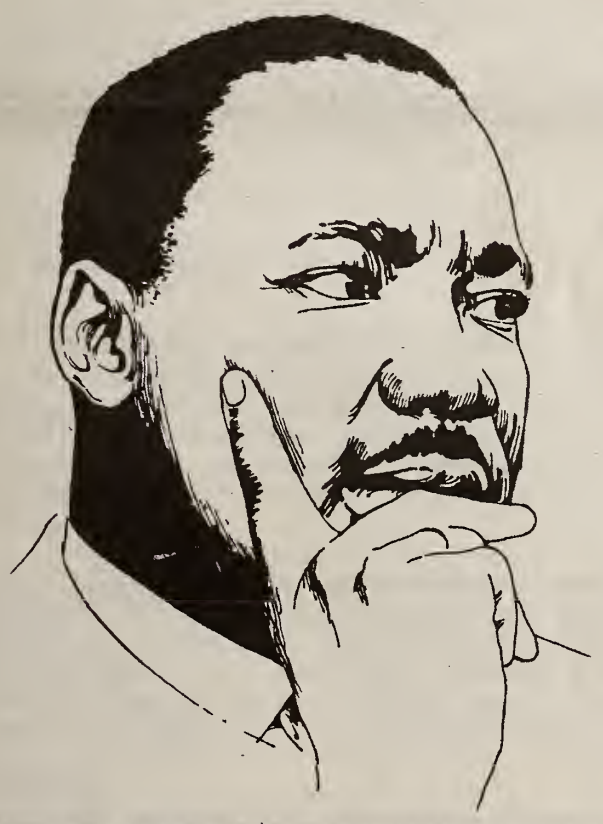

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# Culture Watch

**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

# Two guides to the Bible for Catholics

REVIEWED BY MITCH FINLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Getting to Know the Bible: An Introduction to Sacred Scripture for Catholics" belongs in the hands of any adult who wants a better, more adult understanding of the Bible. And it belongs in the hands of every Catholic teen, both those in parish youth programs and those in Catholic high schools.

This little book, written by Sulpician Father Melvin L. Farrell and now revised by Joseph McHugh, is an outstanding — and very affordable — introduction to the Bible and how to read it with understanding. Both adults and teens will find considerable light among the pages of "Getting to Know the Bible."

"Getting to Know the Bible: An Introduction to Sacred Scripture for Catholics," by Sulpician Father Melvin L. Farrell; revised by Joseph McHugh. ACTA Publications (Chicago, 2003). 112 pp., $6.95.

"Student Bible With Deuterocanonicals." Notes by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford. Zondervan (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2003). 1,613 pp., plus maps, $34.99.

Written for Catholic readers, it answers, up front, the questions most crucial to truly understanding the Bible: questions about what the Bible is and is not, how it should and should not be read, and what it means and does not mean to say that the Bible is divinely inspired and the word of God.

Following a brief but informative introduction, it discusses first the Old Testament and then the New. It addresses major Old Testament personages, themes and literary forms, and how the Old Testament we know today came into being.

Next, an excellent overview explains that the New Testament, as a whole, is about the coming of the kingdom or reign of God. It then examines together the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, then the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, and finally the Gospel of John. It discusses in clear, lively language the unique yet complementary approaches of these documents.

Moving along, the epistles of St. Paul can be difficult to grasp. The section on St. Paul in "Getting to Know the Bible" will clear up considerable misunderstanding of what the apostle was up to. This section alone is worth the price of the book.

Meanwhile, the dust jacket of Zondervan publishing's "Student Bible With Deuterocanonicals" says this edition is for Catholic readers. It is the Good News Translation of the Bible, long known as a clear and easy-to-read version. This new edition adds introductory comments by best-selling Protestant author Philip Yancey and Christianity Today writer Tim Stafford.

The material contributed by Yancey and Stafford is frequently enlightening, but Catholic observers may wonder why a Catholic writer wasn't asked to contribute to a study Bible designed for Catholic students. The perspectives of Yancey and Stafford are, naturally, shaped by the fact that they are Protestants. A Catholic contributor could have commented on the place of Scripture in the Mass, the role of the community of faith in reading and understanding Scripture, and the prominent place of the Bible in the lives of popular saints such as St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

The only apparent adaptation of this student Bible to Catholic readers is the addition of a "reading plan tied to the Lectionary." But this is a case of too little, too late. This student Bible is a Bible for Protestant students, regardless of the dust jacket's suggestion that it's for Catholics.

If you're in the market for a good study approach to the Bible for Catholic students, save yourself considerable money. Use "Getting to Know the Bible" along with either the New Revised Standard Version Bible, Catholic Edition, or the New American Bible — both of which are available in relatively inexpensive editions.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 21, 2003

## Dec. 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
2) Hebrews 10:5-10
3) Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm a person who was taught from an early age that it is impolite to inconvenience others; far better to inconvenience oneself. Thus, I think twice before asking others to change their schedules or depart from their usual routes or help with a project that is ultimately my responsibility. Even when I do make such a request, I usually look for an opportunity to return the favor as soon as possible or at least to express my profuse gratitude.

On the positive side, this approach can indicate a deeply rooted courtesy toward others. Taken to a scrupulous extreme, however, it can lead to great difficulty in legitimately asking others for help. Thus, when someone truly goes out of his or her way to assist me or offer a kindness, I always am shocked a little.

That's why I find this Gospel story so appealing. Elizabeth is shocked a little that Mary, who is herself with child, would travel "in haste" to the hill country — hardly an easy journey — to pay a visit. Given that this child is the Lord, she is even more surprised, as if the tables had somehow been turned. One would think that Elizabeth would be the one to visit Mary.

Yet, this story says a great deal about the way that Jesus and his mother Mary always go out of their way to visit you and me, even in the most unexpected times and places. In such encounters, the revelation can be so wonderful that our inner selves quicken and "leap for joy."

In 1956, the Christian author C.S. Lewis wrote an autobiography titled "Surprised by Joy." In telling of a spiritual journey that led him from the Christianity of his early youth into professed atheism and then back to Christianity, Lewis relates the surprising paradox of his search for God and the startling realization that God is actually the seeker.

During this Advent season, the Scriptures have urged us to be watchful for the coming of the Lord in our lives. As our hearts wait in expectant faith, let us yet rejoice in the knowledge that God is a God of surprises.

***Questions:***

When has someone gone out of his or her way and surprised you with an unexpected kindness? How did it make you feel? In what way has God surprised you with joy this Advent?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21 - DECEMBER 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Advent),** Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday),** 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday),** Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday),** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Thursday (The Nativity of the Lord),** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Friday (St. Stephen),** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Saturday (St. John),** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 3**

**Sunday (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph),** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52; **Monday (St. Thomas Becket),** 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Tuesday,** 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40; **Wednesday (St. Sylvester I),** 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Thursday (Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God),** Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Friday (Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen),** 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Saturday,** 1 John 2:2—3:6, John 1:29-34

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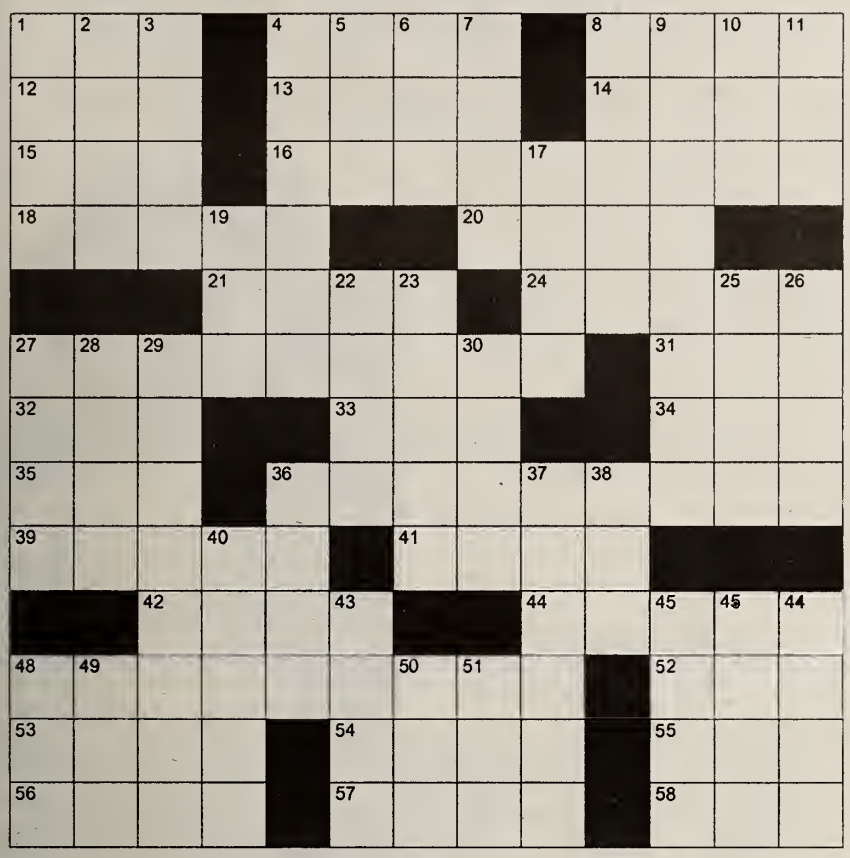
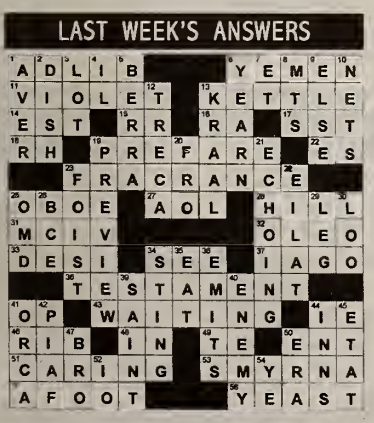


ACROSS
1 Partner of neither
4 Hitchcock movie
8 Teen's reply
12 Canadian cheese
13 Two-toed sloth
14 Broadway musical
15 Aquatic bird
16 English feast and subject of this puzzle
18 Delibes opera
20 Dryope sister
21 Pitcher handle
24 Babel sight
27 Nativity season
31 City in Paraguay
32 Spanish river
33 Musician ___ Law-Lata
34 Pod type?
35 Co.
36 First Christian martyr
39 Giant perch
41 Dagger handle
42 Spouse
44 Metrical feet
48 Twice a baker's dozen
52 Franken and Sharpton
53 Angel topper
54 Sumerian god
55 Morning star
56 Web addresses
57 Slander
58 "Quiet on the __!"

DOWN
1 Joyeux ___
2 Gumbo ingredient
3 Stature
4 Flemish painter
5 Mrs. Lennon
6 Latin peace
7 Deliver us from ___
8 __ Saxon
9 Align
10 Japanese City
11 Cast member of 50 Down Tina ___
17 Forget-me-___
19 French month
22 Immediately
23 Mennonite sect
25 Raison d' _
26 "He causes ___ to fall on the just and the unjust."
27 Manger, perhaps
28 Photographer
29 American painter
30 Italian city
36 Sieve
37 Potion
38 School organization
40 Greek island
43 "Bette Davis ___"
45 Catholic liturgy
46 Sad color
47 "___ it a Pity"
48 Wed follower
49 Battle
50 Comedy show (abbr)
51 Animator Mohamed ___

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



# Not anti-Semitic, but too violent?

*Vatican officials attend private screening of Gibson's 'The Passion'*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Just days after Mel Gibson refused to allow his film, "The Passion of Christ," to be shown at a Vatican-sponsored film festival, several Vatican officials were invited to private screenings in Rome and a copy was sent to Pope John Paul II.

It was not known if the pope had watched the film directed by Gibson.

The film was shown Dec. 4 and 6 in a small screening room in Rome to invited guests, including U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, U.S. Dominican Father Augustine DiNoia, undersecretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Msgr. Kevin C. McCoy, rector of the North American College.

Gibson, whose film is set for a February U.S. release, turned down a request for a private screening of the movie at a Dec. 2 conference that was part of a film festival co-sponsored by the Vatican.

Organizers of the festival said Gibson turned down the request because the film's final version had not been completed.

Father DiNoia told Catholic News Service the version he saw Dec. 4 obviously was not complete, but was nonetheless "powerful."

Asked if he thought the film was anti-Semitic, as some critics complained, he responded, "Absolutely not. On the contrary, in the 'calculus of blame' the Jewish authorities have a part — we all do — but it is the Roman soldiers" who carry the greatest blame in the film.

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON PRODUCTIONS

**Jesus (Jim Caviezel) is approached by his mother Mary (Maia Morgenstern) as he carries his cross in "The Passion of Jesus Christ."**

"By the end of the film," he said, "the only thing you are thinking about is your soul."

Msgr. McCoy sat through two screenings and said, "It is a very powerful film."

"It is strongly theological in the statement it makes on the sacrifice of Christ for the redemption of all mankind," he told CNS.

The film is violent, he said, but Jesus' crucifixion "was a very violent death."

As for charges that the film blames the Jews for the death of Jesus, the rector said, "When you ask the question, 'What happened here?' the real response is that Christ bore the sins of all of us."

Archbishop Foley was out of town Dec. 9 and unavailable for comment.

Another Vatican official who saw the film, but did not want to be named, said he found it much too violent.

"You cannot use Christ's passion the way other brutal, violent films do to make an impression on an audience," he said. "You cannot use the passion of Christ to provoke a reaction."

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# Hussein's capture doesn't excuse war, cardinal says

**HUSSEIN,** *from page 1*

treated like a cow whose teeth are being examined. They could have spared us those pictures," he said. "I felt compassion for him."

The cardinal described Hussein as "a man of tragedy," with heavy responsibilities for the crimes he committed.

Asked if he thought it would be appropriate for a tribunal to consider imposing the death penalty, the cardinal said, "You know well that the pope has spoken repeatedly against capital punishment. I have spoken against capital punishment. The European Union has abandoned capital punishment; the international tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia do not even consider imposing the death penalty."

He said the Vatican hopes "the trial will take place in an appropriate forum," but he said at least at this point the Vatican could not specify what would constitute an appropriate forum.

In Iraq, bishops and other church leaders said Hussein's detention would help the country "turn the page" in building social peace and order. But they, too, cautioned that violence would probably continue for some time in the country.

Pope John Paul made no official comment on Hussein's capture, but an informed Vatican official, who asked not to be identified, said the Vatican hoped Hussein's arrest would "help contribute to improving the security situation." But there were doubts that would happen, the official said, because Hussein appeared to have been isolated from insurgents.

According to U.S. authorities, Hussein was found in a one-man hole next to a two-room hut where he had been living.

The Vatican official said the Holy See hoped the dictator's capture would help "accelerate the involvement of Iraqis in the governing of their country" and help bring more involvement by the United Nations in postwar Iraq.

Chaldean Bishop Rabban Al-Qas of Amadiyah in northern Iraq said with the capture of Hussein, "the head of the serpent has been crushed."

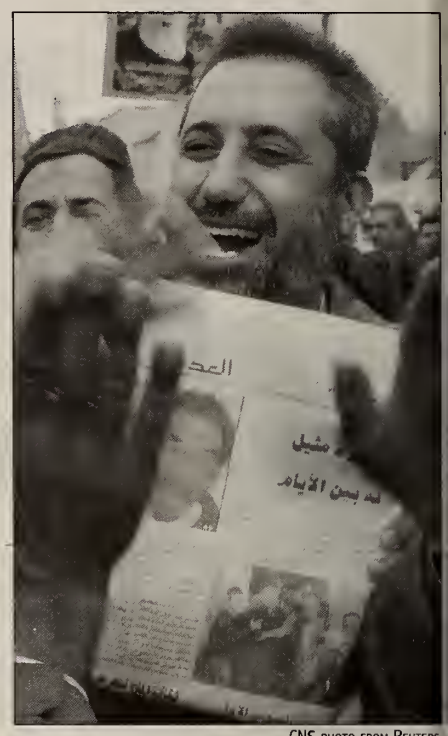
"The arrest of Saddam Hussein is a joy for all Iraqis, and also for us bishops. Finally the fear has been removed ... along with the suspicion that Saddam could reappear," Bishop Al-Qas said.

He said Saddam should now be tried in an Iraqi court.

"Even if he is a wicked man, his dignity should be respected. But he needs to confess his crimes, the millions of people he killed. Even Christian forgiveness supposes confession and expiation," he said.

Syrian-rite Father Nizar Semaan, who works in northern Iraq, said news of Hussein's capture was greeted with great joy among average Iraqis. But most people are aware it won't mean the automatic end to violence and terrorism in the country, he said.

"With the arrest of Saddam Hussein, a chapter of Iraqi history is ending, characterized by crimes against humanity, injustice, poverty, the embargo and emigration of young people in search of a better future," Father Semaan said. "Now we can turn the page."



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Iraqi men in Baghdad celebrate the capture of Saddam Hussein Dec. 16. U.S. forces found the former Iraqi leader Dec. 13 hiding out at a farmhouse outside his hometown of Tikrit. The Vatican wants Hussein to receive a fair trial for alleged crimes during his long dictatorship, said a top church official.**

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# Good food and memories

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

*Mercy Sisters Jean Marie Kienast and Mary Andrew Ray, Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, Father Gabriel Meehan and Mercy Sister Mary John Madden look through photographs during a luncheon at the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte Dec. 11. They were part of a group invited to help identify unlabeled photographs for diocesan Archives and The Catholic News & Herald.*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# The gift of Christ

## From the Bishop

MOST REV. PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Our hearts are filled with joy each year as we celebrate the feast of Christmas.

God our Father showed his great mercy to us when he sent his only-begotten Son to be our Savior. Christ is the Son filled with grace and truth. Despite the passage of time, his birth still causes each succeeding generation to stand in awe of the greatness of the Father, who in his wisdom decreed such an amazing gift for our salvation.

As we receive the sacred Body and Blood of our Savior in communion this Christmas, we recall that the very purpose of Christ's coming was the supreme moment of his death and resurrection, of which the Holy Eucharist is the living memorial. He came into this world to bring about our salvation. We will hear the words spoken at Mass, "Take this all of you and eat it, this is my body. ... Take this all of you and drink from it, this is the cup of my blood..." and once again be in the presence of the living Savior.

In his encyclical on the Holy Eucharist this year, our Holy Father reminded us of the striking words Pope Paul VI once wrote in regard to the Eucharist: "[I]n objective reality, independently of our mind, the bread and wine have ceased to exist after the consecration, so that the adorable body and blood of the Lord Jesus from that moment on are really before us under the sacramental species of bread and wine."1

This fact of our Lord's presence rivets our attention on the most amazing gift which the Father gives us at Christmas — Christ our Lord. When we receive Holy Communion, our union with Christ is increased, the life of grace is preserved, increased, and renewed within us, and our charity is strengthened.2 How marvelous are the blessings the Father bestows upon us.

O Christ, saving Lord, sovereign majesty, gift of the merciful Father, come to our humble hearts again this Christmas.

1 Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, n. 15, quoting Pope Paul VI, Solemn Profession of Faith, 30 June 1968.

2 CCC 1391, 1392, 1394.

# The story of "Silent Night"

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

I would wager that everyone reading this column has felt the beauty and peace that shines from "Silent Night, Holy Night," the Christmas carol said to be loved around the world.

Stories of the origins of this beautiful song tell how Franz Xavier Gruber, organist at the Catholic church in Oberndorf, Austria, confronting a broken organ, composed the music for "Silent Night" on an old guitar on Christmas morning 1818. But rarely have we ever heard the whole story. Few know that the words had been written on that Christmas Eve by the 25-year-old priest assigned to that town, Father Joseph Mohr.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the 185th anniversary of "Silent Night," I wanted to tell the story of how I learned about the origins of my forever favorite Christmas carol. Several years ago, I was at a used-book sale, saw a thin, hardcover book, with its original attractive paper cover, titled "Silent Night, Holy Night: The True and Touching Story of the Greatest Christmas Song of All Time," published in 1933.

I grabbed it immediately. It was written by Frederick H. Jaenicken, in Chicago, who explained that the story emerged from his research with several historical societies in Austria. I was impressed with his account of the relationship between Father Mohr and Gruber, then 32 years old.

The priest had a spectacular tenor voice, and the organist was a baritone. They would often get together to sing in the church garden or rectory. Villagers would linger to listen and announce, "The pastor and teacher are singing again."

How they remained forever linked as inspired co-composers of the great Christmas hymn is an amazing story. On Christmas Eve 1818, a tired woman came to Father Mohr's door with a message from a young woodcutter whose wife had just given birth. He was asking if the priest would come and bless them. Father Mohr set out in the snowy night and made it to the cabin where he saw "a scene never to be forgotten — an infant on a bed of pine logs, a young mother, a husband glowing with joy." He said that "a strange radiance filled the room," and he was overwhelmed with the thought, "Jesus the Savior is here."

On the way back, his path lit by glittering snow and stars, he felt he was seeing symbols of everlasting light on this "silent night, holy night." The words stayed with him so powerfully that back at his study he sat at his desk and wrote the words we so well know.

Early in the morning, he brought his manuscript to Gruber, who was "visibly animated" by the beauty in the words he read. Both men knew these should be set to music. Gruber was devastated that the organ was broken. Father Mohr saw the old guitar on the wall and said to his friend, "Let this be your instrument."

Before the afternoon Christmas service, Gruber had composed the music to fit the young priest's words. The people it is said, were "spellbound" as they heard the beautiful voices of their priest and organist singing "Silent Night."

The song might have been lost and forgotten if not for an organ repairman who rediscovered it a year later. This, too, is a great story — perhaps for next year.

Jaenicken ended his lovely book, in those troubled days of the world's history, with his belief that "Silent Night" has an everlasting spiritual mission: "It is a prayer for harmony and better understanding among all nations cries out above the troubled regions of the earth."

Let us sing — and remember this!

# Christmas should bring hope, help ease life's burdens

## The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a world that often seems overburdened by problems and conflicts, the celebration of Christmas should bring a sense of hope, Pope John Paul II said.

The coming of Christ should also remind people that there is more to life than material well-being and economic progress, the pope said at his weekly general audience Dec. 17.

The pontiff looked fit as he addressed some 6,000 pilgrims who packed the Vatican audience hall. However, he skipped over half of his prepared speech, and his words were hard to understand.

In his talk, the pope spoke philosophically about the impact of Christmas on people's daily lives. Above all, it should bring encouragement to those who feel dispirited by life's many difficulties, he said.

"Every person dreams of a more just world, where decent living conditions and peaceful coexistence make for harmonious relations between individuals and peoples," he said.

"Often, however, it's not like that. Obstacles, conflicts and problems of various kinds weigh upon our existence and sometimes nearly oppress it. The strength and courage to work for the good risk giving in to evil, which sometimes seems to gain the upper hand," he said.

Especially in moments like this, Christmas should bring a ray of hope, he said. The celebration of Christ's birth should remind people that God does not forget his promises, and is always with us, he said.

Christmas should also prompt people to widen their vision and contemplate the meaning of their own lives, the pope said.

"Not infrequently, one asks oneself: Who are we? Where are we going? What sense is there to what we do on earth, and what awaits us after death?" he said.

The pope said there are certainly worthy earthly goals, including material comfort, social and scientific advances, as well as individual and community projects.

"But are these goals enough to satisfy the most intimate aspirations of our soul?" he said.

The pope said Christmas invites people to "rise above the daily routine" and reflect on God's alliance with man and his generosity in sending his son as savior.

The audience was enlivened by brief performances by choirs and singing groups from many countries. A decorated Christmas tree stood to one side of the papal stage.

Because of the pope's Christmas schedule, it was his last weekly general audience of the year. The Vatican released statistics showing that in 2003 more than 501,700 people attended 48 general audiences. That was more than 90,000 more than the year before.

In his 25-year pontificate, the pope has presided over 1,112 general audiences at the Vatican. At the end of 2003, the total number of people who have attended the audiences was 17,138,200, the Vatican said.

Later on Dec. 17, in a ceremony that combined Christmas songs and short speeches, the Vatican's Christmas tree was lit in St. Peter's Square. The tree, a 110-year-old blue red spruce that stood about 90 feet tall, came from the Valle d'Aosta region in northern Italy where the pope has vacationed several times during the summer.

The pope in 1982 began the practice of having a Christmas tree and a giant Nativity scene erected in St. Peter's Square. Over the years, the pontiff has said he enjoys watching from his apartment as hundreds of families come to view the creche and tree.

# A heart to do more

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Musical star Billy Ray Cyrus was a recent guest on our syndicated television program, Christopher Closeup. When I mentioned to friends that he'd be on our show, people tended to smile and say, "You mean the 'Achy-Breaky Heart' song guy?" Folks seem inclined to think of Cyrus as a one-hit wonder. He is, in fact, much more. His albums have sold over 14 million copies. He's an in-demand actor, having appeared in film director David Lynch's "Mulholland Drive." He stars in the PAX Network's top-rated series, "Doc."

The man I remember from that big hit song was a ladies man not known for settling down. That's all changed. Cyrus says he came to see the fast life was, in the end, vacuous. He was left with an emptiness he couldn't shake. His first marriage ended badly. But he got a second chance to enjoy life and love. He's become a dedicated family man who relishes the role of father of six children. He delights in playing with them and knowing that they see him as a true and loyal friend.

The choice of his TV series is no accident either. Cyrus was enjoying some success in Hollywood, but it wasn't fulfilling. That, he suggested, was because his parts weren't celebrating the greatness of the human spirit. Then along came "Doc," the story of Dr. Clint Cassidy, a country doctor who moves to New York City to practice medicine. Healing the bodies and the hearts of those entrusted to his care, the title role exemplifies the good in humanity. Now, Cyrus feels like he's doing something of value. Who'd expect the "Achy Breaky Heart" man to use the powerful medium of television to affirm the best in our nature? But he does.

Cyrus also told us he knows what its like to be in real need. Some years ago, he had to live out of his car, trying to get by while singing in roadside bars. He hasn't forgotten the experience. And he believes when God blesses you with talent and opportunity, you've got an obligation to remember those in need and to give something back. He's often on the road, not just for concerts, but for charity. He's this year's spokesperson for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. He delights in the notion of bringing Christmas joy to kids who might otherwise experience a bleak holiday. This effort for kids is only the most recent of his charitable efforts. In fact, he has won several humanitarian awards including the first Bob Hope Congressional Medal of Honor Society Entertainer's Award for his dedication to philanthropy.

Cyrus's Christopher Closeup conversation also turned to an open expression of faith. Knowing everything he has is a gift and a blessing, he now recognizes life without a spiritual center misses something vital. While raised in a religious family (in fact, his grandfather was a Pentecostal minister), Cyrus had long ago drifted from the faith. Too much disappointment in life gave him a jaded sense of God.

That's changed. Looking for meaning in his life, Cyrus found it in God and living for others, especially his wife and children. He's just produced "The Other Side," his first album specifically to celebrate the peace that God, family and giving to others have given him.

"I prayed that my music would be heard around the world and that God would give me the vision to use my music to do good things," he said. "So I am going to see and be with as many needful and sick children as I can."

And all this from a public figure I thought I knew. I learned the valuable lesson of never judging a person by a reputation.

Life gives us many choices and chances to prove ourselves. May our hearts guide us well.

# Jingle all the way to the mall

## Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Everywhere you turn, signs of the holiday season are evident — Santa and his elves in every store window, inflatable snowmen atop car dealerships, parking lots with rows of trees for sale, blinking lights and wreaths strung every which way, and so on.

Yep, it's obvious Christmas is a'coming. But where's it going? For many, the holidays are a depressing time of year, a reminder of things they don't have or simply can't afford. For others, Christmas is only equated with bumper-to-bumper traffic around shopping areas and ridiculously long lines at the mall.

A 2000 Gallup poll found eight percent of U.S. adults don't even know Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus! Then again, Christianity has been all but stripped from the holiday made-for-TV movies; folks are forced to have "holiday parties" at work, not Christmas parties; and it's OK to put up bells and holly at city hall, just don't display the Ten Commandments or a manger scene.

To some, Christmas time is a bargain hunter's delight. Early to bed and early to rise and rejoice — ye may find discounted sale items, so long as supplies last. I'd be curious to ask what Christmas means to the woman recently trampled in Wal-Mart by frantic hordes trying to snatch up $29 DVD players. I just won't ask her to whistle "Jingle Bells."

That same Gallup poll also found 85 percent of U.S. adults believe Christmas has become too commercialized. Forty-two percent said the holiday would be more enjoyable without exchanging gifts.

I couldn't agree more.

Now, I'm no Scrooge, but I do feel as if I'm being coerced into helping drive the commercial machine that has become Christmas. Like many others, I must buy everyone I know gifts simply because it's Christmas and that's what is expected. What will people think if you don't buy a gift for someone?

And in actuality, I have no idea what my distant second cousin's three-year-old wants or needs, no more than ol' Uncle Leo knows what I want or need, but we'll all be at the same party so out we go, braving the holiday shopping madness to buy something, anything, to be unwrapped at Christmas. Sadly, the majority of these gifts will be returned, not appreciated or re-gifted to somebody else.

But it's the thought that counts, they tell me. Just don't tell that to my nieces and nephews after they open their gazillion gifts and ask, "Is that it?"

It's a shame we seem to have lost track of the true meaning of Christmas. But who has time to think about Jesus when there's a shopping list to make?

Well, if it's the thought that counts, then this year I'm going to be truly thoughtful and take a stand. After we've all exchanged gifts 'round the ol' Christmas tree, and everyone notices they didn't get anything from me, I'm going to draw my family in and offer them all a warm, loving hug. Even Uncle Leo, who often smells like an old sock soaked in bourbon. I may end up wearing the eggnog, but at least my gift will be unique — and if this gift is returned, I won't complain!

And, dear readers, I would like to extend a nice Christmas hug to all of you as well. Come now, lean in ... a little further ... there you go. Now enjoy the embrace. Ah. Doesn't that feel nice? Better than any store-bought gift, no?

To all of you, I wish you well in braving the madness that has become the holidays. Most of all, I hope you find a quiet moment to truly revel in what Christmas really means, and that you do so with your loved ones.

As for lil' ol' me? My shirt size is XL, shoe size is 12, I prefer silver over gold jewelry and my complexion goes well with dark or earth tone colors. I also could use a new watch, nothing fancy.

***Merry Christmas!***

# The place for Penance

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Is it mandatory now to receive the sacrament of penance behind a screen? Many people prefer to go face-to-face, but that is not allowed in our parish.*

*For years we understood either way is permitted. Has that changed? Can a priest decide only one way is allowed? (Iowa)*

A. As of a few years ago, a priest has permission to make that decision for anyone who comes to him for confession.

The 1973 revision of the Roman Ritual for the sacrament of penance provided that conferences of bishops should determine "the place proper for the ordinary celebration of the sacrament of penance" (38). Fixed grates or grills between penitent and confessor should always be provided, however, so those who wish to use them can do so (Canon 964).

Priests, especially pastors, are to "choose a place more suitable for the celebration according to the regulations of the conferences of bishops so the entire celebration may be enriching and effective" (40).

The following year, the conference of bishops decreed for the United States it is desirable that reconciliation rooms be provided in which people might choose to confess either face-to-face or kneel to speak with the priest anonymously through a stationary screen. This is to what most Catholics have become accustomed.

In July 1998, the Pontifical Council for Interpretation of Legislative Texts said priests have the right to refuse face-to-face confessions, even if penitents request it.

For a just reason, said the document, "and excluding cases of necessity (emergencies, in hospitals, when patients are dying at home, etc.) the minister of the sacrament can legitimately decide, even in the event the penitent asks otherwise, that sacramental confession be received in a confessional equipped with a fixed grill."

In 1999, the U.S. bishops reiterated the choice open to people to confess either way, but noted that the 1998 Vatican interpretation is still in force.

Why did the Vatican agency require this change? When the new interpretation was presented, a council official referred to two reasons. Confessing behind a grill is an ancient practice. And it "responds to the need for prudence."

"It is a protection against human weakness both on the part of the priest as well as on the part of the penitent," he said. "The sacrament of confession should not be an occasion of sin for either priest or penitent."

To answer your question, if a priest feels he should hear confessions only with a grill between him and the penitent for these or other "just" reasons, the ritual gives him permission to do so.

# Holy Spirit Church a tribute to faithfulness of growing congregation

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Holy Spirit Church in Denver was once an elementary school considered a landmark in Lincoln County.

DENVER — Church is defined as both the company of Christian faithful and the building in which they worship. The history of Denver's Holy Spirit congregation includes a period of years without a structure to call its own; hence, the two-fold definition indeed applies.

Then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte established a mission in Denver during the late 1970s, as the Catholic population in the area had been growing over the years. With no building in which to worship as a Catholic family, Father Carlo Tarasi, then pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, celebrated the mission's first Mass at St. Peter by-the-Lake Episcopal Church in nearby Westport in March 1979.

Father Dennis Fotinos, vicar of St. Peter by the Lake Episcopal Church at the time, had extended an invitation to the Catholic mission to use the Westport facility for worship. Approximately 20 people came together to worship as a Catholic community.

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**Father Joseph Ayathupadam**

That message of welcome marked the beginning of a nine-year stretch in which the mission congregation gathered on Saturday evenings for Mass in the Episcopal church. Pastors from St. Dorothy Church continued their administration of the Denver faithful, with occasional assistance from the Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey.

With weekly Masses continuing at St. Peter by-the-Lake Episcopal Church — and the local Catholic population growing — the mission family began to yearn for a spiritual home of its own. By 1987, when more than 100 families were worshipping together, Father Charles Rooks moved the mission Mass time from Saturday to Sunday. The switch led to the congregation being moved from St. Peter by-the-Lake Episcopal Church to the East Lincoln Optimist Club building.

Finally, in May 1988, the Diocese of Charlotte purchased from Lincoln County a structure that once housed Triangle School on 6.5 acres of land. The 7,300 square foot building, considered a community landmark, had served as an elementary school from 1925 to 1986.

That development marked a new phase in the mission's history. A renovation project ensued during the summer into the autumn, resulting in a nave, sanctuary, offices, classrooms, living quarters and space for social events. Many excited parishioners were active in the remodeling of the facility.

The new church was ready for Christmas in 1988, and the first Mass was celebrated Dec. 25. Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue blessed the structure in May 1989.

In 1991, the Holy Spirit Church family began its annual Septemberfest, a church carnival whose proceeds have helped reduce church debt.

By 1996, about 265 families worshipped at Holy Spirit Church, which was by then a mission of St. Therese Church in Mooresville. On May 31, 1998, Holy Spirit Church was officially designated as a parish in a ceremony presided by then-Bishop William G. Curlin.

In July of that same year, a new rectory was purchased and furnished.

In early 1999, continued parish growth led the pastoral council to conduct a survey to assist in determining parish needs. With approximately 60 percent of the families participating in the survey, the results indicated a pressing need for classrooms, youth activities and programs and parish-wide activities.

Growth projections were conducted by the diocesan Office of Planning and, based on these projections and the survey results, an in-depth parish profile was authorized that was completed and approved by the Diocese of Charlotte in December 2000. During the summer of 2001, plans were finalized for a parish activities center with the actual campaign initiated in September 2001.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presided over the activity center's groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 7, 2003, with Father Joseph Ayathupadam, pastor, and Rev. Mr. Richard Kauth participating.

During the ceremony, Bishop Jugis gave a brief homily that rendered honor and praise to the parishioners of Holy Spirit.

*A booklet on the history of Holy Spirit Church is available. Contact the church at (704) 483-6448.*

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**Parish Profile: Our Lady of the Annunciation Church**

| PAGE 12

PRIESTS IN THE MAKING

## Three seminarians ordained to transitional diaconate

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Three seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte have taken another step toward the priesthood.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis ordained Rev. Messrs. Timothy Reid, Robert Conway and John Starczewski to the transitional diaconate during a special Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Dec. 21, 2003.

"God has chosen a special calling for you, and has tenderly formed you," said Bishop Jugis to the candidates. 'How marvelous is the call you have received."

The candidates, whom the bishop called "ministers of the charity of Christ," committed themselves to celibacy and to the obligations of ministry — serving the sick, the poor, the needy.

"Your attention must be riveted on Christ at every moment," said Bishop Jugis.

See DEACONS, page 5

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and others pray the litany of the saints as Timothy Reid, Robert Conway and John Starczewski lay prostrate during their diaconate ordination Dec. 21.

PEACE, JUSTICE, LUNCH

## Just Second Fridays to offer topics on justice, business ethics

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — In the midst of a busy workday, it will soon be possible to add a side of justice to your lunch.

John Carr, secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops Department of Social Development and World Peace, will this month kick off the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace's educational luncheon speaker series. "Just Second Fridays," which will be held the second Friday of every month, will cover a variety of topics on justice, peace and business ethics.

"The goal of the program is to develop in the hearts and minds of attendees a rhythm of being engaged on an ongoing basis in theological and ethical

See JUSTICE, page 6

## Field of food

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Matthew Church parishioners organize baskets of food and paper products at the Pastoral Center Dec. 22. St. Matthew Food Pantry Ministry collected enough for 150 needy families.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

## Bishops' child protection charter has numerous mandates for dioceses

*Diocese of Charlotte receives two commendations*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte was credited for its compliance in following guidelines for the protection of children and youths.

According to Bishop Peter J. Jugis, in August 2003, independent auditors found the Diocese of Charlotte to be compliant with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

When the U.S. bishops adopted their charter in 2002, they said, "We pledge ourselves to act in a way that manifests our accountability to God, to his people and to one another in this grave matter" of clergy sexual abuse of minors.

The charter established a National Review Board and an Office for Child and Youth Protection to ensure bishops comply with the policy decisions spelled out in the charter and the legally binding "Essential Norms" accompanying it.

But most of the charter and norms were directed at dioceses themselves, with specific policies and procedures all dioceses were mandated to implement. Last summer and fall, the youth protection office sent independent auditors to every diocese and eparchy — Eastern-rite diocese — to assess their compliance with those mandates.

A detailed national

See AUDIT, page 7

**Breaking ground**
*More room for Holy Angels*
| PAGE 4

**Priest assignments**
*New vicars forane, others*
| PAGE 5

**Perspectives**
*Columns, Letters to the Editor*
| PAGES 10-11

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## FAR OUT: SMALL VILLAGE CHURCH ENDURES IN ALASKAN BUSH COUNTRY

CNS PHOTO BY KELLY DUFORT, CATHOLIC ANCHOR

Marita Gardiner and Holy Cross Father LeRoy Clementich stand outside the small St. Peter the Fisherman Church in the Alaskan fishing village of Clark's Point. Gardiner meets the priest at the gravel airstrip in her four-wheel all-terrain vehicle when he visits about twice a month from Anchorage.

# Heat being added to church in Alaskan village

CLARK'S POINT, Alaska (CNS) — Although Clark's Point in southwest Alaska has no priest, the Yup'ik fishing village of 65 residents does have a church.

But with no heat or electricity, St. Peter the Fisherman Church has been used only during the summer for about the last 12 years. About eight months out of the year, parishioners worship in living rooms or at the town's only school.

But the 15 or so parishioners in Clark's Point plan to winterize the church with help from members of parishioner Ann Martin's home-town parish, Church of the Assumption in Franklin, La.

The small church is a simple rectangular shape; it has a sloping roof, a rusty gas stove in the corner and the austerity of a one-room schoolhouse.

The church, built in the early 1950s with donated building supplies and help from villagers, sits on stilts to protect it from flooding.

"There was so much love, so much faith, so much fellowship. With every nail that was pounded, every (piece of) wood that was cut — it was community," said Domingo Floresta, who as a young man helped his father build the church.

"The church looks kind of lovely sitting out there on the flats," Holy Cross Father LeRoy Clementich said after a recent visit to the village.

He is the latest in a long line of "supply priests" who have ministered to Clark's Point Catholics for almost 60 years.

Based 350 miles away in Anchorage, Father Clementich flies to the village twice a month in the summer. He comes less often in the winter when bad weather can often prevent flying and the short daylight sharply restricts the time available for landing and taking off from the village's unlighted, gravel landing strip.

Parishioner Marita Gardiner picks up Father Clementich on her four-wheeler, an all-terrain vehicle used extensively in the Alaskan bush.

While there aren't as many people to fill the town or the pews these days, St. Peter the Fisherman Church "has a name and a history; it's important to them," Father Clementich said.

Martin is eager to worship in the church year-round and to find solace within its walls. "When things are down, you need a place to go and just know someone is listening," she said.

# Bishops' official decries panel's OK on emergency contraception

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Dec. 16 recommendation to the Food and Drug Administration to make emergency contraception available without a doctor's prescription was described as a "reckless experiment" by a spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops.

"A drug which destroys human embryos and puts women at greater risk of ectopic pregnancy does not belong on the shelves of a drugstore," said Cathy Ruse, director of planning and information for the pro-life secretariat at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs voted 23-4 in favor of a proposal to allow the "Plan B" emergency contraception to be sold over the counter.

The final decision rests with the FDA, which is expected to act in February. The FDA will also decide if customers should request the pills from pharmacists or if the pills would simply be located on drugstore shelves.

Approved on a prescription-only basis in 1999, the petition to make Plan B more widely available was filed by Women's Capital Corporation, Plan B's distributor, a move Ruse described as being "about a drug company that wants to sell more drugs to women."

She also noted the pills, which use a form of the synthetic hormone progestin called levonorgestrel to block ovulation and fertilization of the egg, are being "marketed and advertised as a contraceptive," but they can work before and after conception and women "deserve to know what is being marketed to them."

Ruse said making this drug available without a prescription poses serious health risks to women because the drug is associated with an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, a potentially fatal complication.

## Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *A Service of Lessons and Carols* will be present on the Epiphany, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. A reception will follow in the Activity Center. For more information, call the church at (704) 554-1622.

CHARLOTTE — *Just Second Fridays* is a luncheon speaker series on social justice topics that meets the second Friday of each month, 1-2 p.m. in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. John Carr will discuss "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Social Responsibility" Jan. 9. For details call (704) 370-3225.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a program to welcome back inactive Catholics and/or those who have left the Church but are interested in returning to the practice of the Catholic faith. The *Catholics Returning Home* series will meet Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, call Sue Johnson at (704) 333-8028.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club of St John Neumann Church,* 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican clears way for canonization of Italian mother who died to save baby girl

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An Italian mother who declined medical treatment that might have saved her life but caused the death of the child she was carrying probably will be canonized in 2004.

The miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla was recognized formally Dec. 20 during a Vatican ceremony presided over by Pope John Paul II.

Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said Blessed Molla, a pediatrician, "lived her marriage and her maternity with joy, generosity and absolute fidelity to her mission."

"During her fourth pregnancy, she freely decided to sacrifice her life to save the baby that she carried in her womb," he said.

Near the second month of her pregnancy, she was diagnosed with a uterine tumor. Knowing the risk to her own life, she refused medical treatment that would have threatened the life of the baby. She died in 1962, a week after giving birth to a girl.

The miracle recognized by the Vatican also involved a pregnancy at risk. In 2000, in the third month of her fourth pregnancy, Elisabete Arcolino Comparini, a Brazilian, learned the baby she was carrying would die because the amniotic sac had broken; she and her husband prayed for the intercession of Blessed Molla and the fetus' heart continued beating.

The following May, the woman gave birth to a healthy baby girl.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, Guilford County, Division I, an Irish Catholic social, cultural and charitable inter-parish group will meet Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, N. Elm St. and Cornwallis Dr. All Catholic women of Irish birth or descent are welcome. RSVP to Elaine McHale, President, (336) 292-1118 to attend meeting.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Faith Formation ministry of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will present *"A Tale of Faith and Medicine"* Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. A physician will share his journey of faith that led him to truly give the gift of life to a young woman. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-1837.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Fraternity of St. Clare* invites anyone interested in learning about the Secular Franciscan Order, the Third Order founded by St. Francis of Assisi, and the Franciscan way of life to an orientation meeting Jan. 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third Street. For more information, contact Joanne Jacovec at (336) 765-8892 or sfojmj@aol.com.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope says his work has only one aim: proclaiming Christ's Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said his 25 years of service as pope and the daily efforts of everyone who works in the Vatican have only one aim: "To proclaim the Gospel of Christ for the salvation of the world."

Meeting with cardinals and Vatican officials Dec. 22 to offer his Christmas greetings, the pope said love for Christ and for humanity was the motivation for the trips he made, the documents he wrote, the meetings he held and the ceremonies he celebrated in 2003.

During the audience, the pope also prayed for the gift of peace for the world.

To be witnesses for peace and to educate for peace are urgent "in these our days when risks and threats to peaceful human coexistence still darken the horizon," the pope said.

The pope said Catholics today must have the same optimism Blessed Pope John XXIII showed 40 years ago in his encyclical, "Peace on Earth."

"Peace remains possible today and, if it is possible, it is an obligation," Pope John Paul said.

Europe, he said, needs saints and models of holiness and the beatifications and canonizations he celebrated during the year offered Europe great examples, including Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was born of Albanian parents.

The pope said Blessed Mother Teresa was an "icon of the good Samaritan who became for all, believers and nonbelievers, a messenger of love and peace."

The 83-year-old pope told the cardinals and Vatican officials, "With the passing of the years, I become ever more deeply aware of this: Jesus asks us to be his witnesses, concerned only with his glory and the good of souls."

The pope said that was why in April he issued his encyclical letter on the Eucharist; it was why he traveled to Spain, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Slovakia and why he tried "to intensify ecumenical contacts" with representatives of the Orthodox churches and the Anglican Communion.

# Iraqi Christmas

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

U.S. soldiers join Iraqi children in enjoying their presents at an orphanage operated by the Missionaries of Charity in Baghdad Dec. 19. The 18th Military Police Brigade with help from the sisters organized the Christmas party for youngsters from the center and the surrounding neighborhood. The orphanage opened following the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

## THIS MONTH IN—1997

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Then-Bishop William G. Curlin and other dignitaries gathered to celebrate the Diocese of Charlotte's 25th anniversary and Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley's 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination at St. Matthew Church Jan. 12, 1997. More than 500 people attended the jubilee Mass.

BREAKING GROUND

# More room for Holy Angels

## *Facility breaks ground for fifth group home*

BELMONT — The N.C. Division of Facility Services has approved Holy Angels' Certificate of Need to build a fifth Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) group home on the main campus in Belmont.

The official groundbreaking for the new 15-bed facility was held Dec. 18. The Certificate of Need (CON) for 22 beds also will allow Holy Angels to add an additional seven beds to the current eight-bed Belhaven ICF/MR group home, located on the Holy Angels campus.

Residents who currently live in the Holy Angels Specialized Residential Community Center, or Main Center, will move into the new group home.

"I am pleased about the decision," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels' president and CEO. "I know it means a great deal to the families and friends of those residents who will now be able to continue making their home at Holy Angels."

Holy Angels, founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides residential services and innovative programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

Programs include the Holy Angels Residential Center, four Community Group Homes, four ICF/MR group homes, Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in downtown Belmont.

Supporters of the group home asked the state to once again allow construction near the Main Center so those residents who have severe and profound mental retardation, physical disabilities and who have complex medical conditions, can be near medical and healthcare resources.

The four existing ICF/MR group homes are located on the main campus. The residents who live in them benefit from their proximity to the Fisher Health Care Center and other programs and services offered in the Main Center.

"This groundbreaking is truly a wonderful event for Holy Angels," said Moody. "Our commitment to provide programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities is strong."

"We are ready to take this next step in our history, which began when a young mother brought her infant daughter to the Sisters of Mercy for their help," she said. "The children's families, our staff, volunteers, donors and the community at-large have shown great support for this home and project through their letters of support (over 100) submitted with the CON application.

The new home will include bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room and living room and space for recreation, therapy and day programs. It is projected the new construction will cost an estimated $3.5 million. Funding sources will include grants and private donors.

The current plan is to complete the seven-bed addition to Belhaven by early spring 2005. Construction for the new home should be completed in time to kick-off Holy Angels' 50th anniversary celebration in December 2005.

During the groundbreaking ceremonies Dec. 18, Maria, Holy Angels' first resident, celebrated her 48th birthday.

## Sisters of Mercy award grants

BELMONT — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announced Dec. 15 grants totaling $757,567 to 28 nonprofit organizations in 13 N.C. counties.

The funds will be used for a variety of purposes, including children's services, education, food distribution, immigration assistance, job training, literacy skills, elderly services and social services.

The organizations include: Alzheimer's Assocation, Western Carolina Chapter, Asheville; Burke County Literacy Council, Morganton; Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool, Charlotte; Christian Love Ministries, Murphy; Highland Family Resource Center, Gastonia; and Meals on Wheels of Rowan, Salisbury.

*For more information, call (704) 366-0087 or go online at www.somncfdn.org.*

## Playing Christmas

COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte perform the school Christmas play each year. This year's cast included (pictured) Gabriel Thamm, Susan Park, Meredith Ferraris, Ashley Francis and Jonathan Nguyen as angels; Kaitlyn Sommer as Mary; Tyler Ross as Joseph; and Donavan Perkins as the eagle.

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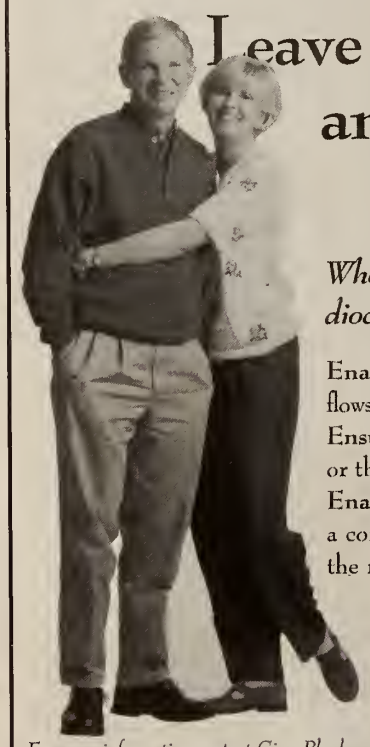

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The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

*For more information contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320, or Jim Kelley, Director of Development, 704-370-3301, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org*

# Three new deacons in Diocese of Charlotte

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Rev. Mr. Timothy Reid, Rev. Mr. Robert Conway, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Rev. Mr. John Starczewski and Father Christopher Roux stand at the end of the diaconate ordination Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Dec. 21.**

**DEACONS, *from page 1***

"Our diocese is especially blessed at Christmas with the ordinations of Timothy, Robert and John to the transitional diaconate," said Father John Allen, diocesan vocations director.

"They bring unique gifts and very generous hearts to the service of God's people," he said. "I'm sure their diverse gifts and professional backgrounds will equip them to be very effective priests."

The road to the priesthood is marked by a series of milestones: lector, acolyte, candidacy, transitional deacon, priestly ordination.

During the rite of ordination of a deacon, the bishop calls the candidates forth to make promises of celibacy and vows of obedience. The candidates lie prostrate on the floor while those in attendance — including the bishop, the priests concelebrating and deacons serving — kneel and pray the litany of the saints.

The bishop lays his hands on their heads and asks the Holy Spirit to descend upon the candidates. The candidates are then vested with the dalmatic and stole and kneel before the bishop, who places in their hands the Book of Gospels. As deacons, they assist during the rest of the Mass.

Deacons may preach, assist priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and administer blessings during certain liturgical rites.

"I've been waiting for this day," said Rev. Mr. Starczewski during the reception afterward. "It's a wonderful gift from God."

Rev. Mr. Starczewski, a native of Utica, N.Y., worked for several years in manufacturing research and development in western North Carolina before preparing for the priesthood at Blessed Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

"It feels wonderful. It's hard to express in words," said Rev. Mr. Conway, a native of Moorestown, N.J.

Widowed in 1988, Rev. Mr. Conway worked as a corporate accountant in New Jersey before entering the seminary. He prepared for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. and at Blessed Pope John XXIII National Seminary.

"It's very humbling," said Rev. Mr. Reid, a native of Martinsville, Ind., who is concluding his studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, NY.

Rev. Mr. Reid was employed in the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. prior to his acceptance as a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The three men will return to their seminaries this month to complete their final semesters. They are all eager to return as priests to the Diocese of Charlotte.

"With God's grace, I will continue to the priesthood ... be a parish priest and serve the people of the Diocese of Charlotte," said Rev. Mr. Conway.

"I would like to do what all good clergy are called to do — to bring the compassion of Christ to all people," said Rev. Mr. Starczewski.

"I just want to serve the people of this diocese," said Rev. Mr. Reid, "to live out God's will for my life by serving to the best of my abilities."

Bishop Jugis expressed his hope that God would bring the good work started in the deacons to a conclusion with their ordination to the priesthood. Bishop Jugis plans to ordain the three men to the priesthood in June 2004.

"As Bishop Jugis said, we await their priestly service to this diocese in June," said Father Allen.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Newly ordained Rev. Mr. Timothy Reid offers the blood of Jesus at the transitional diaconate Mass Dec. 21.**

**WANT TO GO?**

The priestly ordination of Rev. Messrs. Timothy Reid, Robert Conway and John Starczewski will be held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte at 11 a.m., June 5.

## PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

*His excellency, Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis, wishes to announce the following appointments:*

**VICARS FORANE**

Albemarle
Right Rev. Patrick Shelton, OSB

Asheville
Very Rev. Wilbur N. Thomas

Boone
Very Rev. John Schneider

Charlotte
Rev. Msgr. Richard Bellow

Gastonia
Very Rev. Eric Houseknecht

Greensboro
Very Rev. Francis O'Rourke

Hickory
Very Rev. Kenneth Whittington

Salisbury
Very Rev. John T. Putnam, JV

Smoky Mountain
Very Rev. George Kloster

Winston-Salem
Very Rev. Michael Buttner

**OTHER**

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Very Rev. John T. Putnam

Vicar General
Rev. Msgr. Mauricio W. West

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# Just Second Fridays coming to Charlotte

JUSTICE, *from page 1*

exploration, reflection and discussion on a variety of social justice issues and concerns," said Joseph Purello, Office of Justice and Peace director.

Participation will hopefully lead to a greater advocacy on behalf of justice for those who lack justice, and new or renewed direct action and intervention in the lives of those who are marginalized and threatened in society, said Purello.

"If a practice of being regularly engaged in matters of social justice is established, one will hopefully be better able to receive the grace of knowing God's presence in one's own life," said Purello.

The program's concept was inspired by Jesuit Father Fred Krammer's "Doing Faithjustice," a book that discusses the intimate connection between justice and faith as developed in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Father Krammer states "the single word ('faithjustice') forged of the two concepts undercuts those who would elevate one concept over the other, render one instrumental to the other, separate the two, or otherwise downplay the importance of one," said Purello.

Purello said Just Second Fridays is designed to facilitate the attendance of people of all ages.

"The Office of Justice and Peace has observed the demographic group most often missing at justice and peace events held during evenings and weekends is young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s who often have non-business hour demands on their time associated with raising and nurturing pre-school and school age children," he said.

But attendance at holy day and regular noon Masses at St. Peter Church demonstrates there is a large Catholic presence in downtown Charlotte during the business day who are interested in enriching its spiritual life.

"Since the primary target audience for these presentations is the downtown working community of Charlotte, we will be recruiting speakers who can address topics related to business ethics, labor issues and economic justice," said Purello. "A variety of other social justice topics will also be offered."

On Jan. 9 at 1 p.m., Carr will discuss "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility."

Carr, who has been involved with Catholic social ministry for 25 years, assists the bishops in sharing and applying Catholic social teaching, advocating on the moral dimensions of key domestic and international issues and building the Catholic community's capacity to act on its social mission.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

John Carr

## WANT TO GO?

Just Second Fridays will be held the second Friday of each month in the Annex Building behind St. Peter Church, 507 Tryon Street in Charlotte (in the lower level Atrium Room with entry from The Green). All events run 1-2 p.m. except Good Friday, April 9, which will be 11 a.m.-12p.m.

Limited free parking is available in the garage under The Green next to St. Peter Church.

Bring your own lunch to the programs. Cold drinks are provided. Arabica Coffee House and Mr. Hero, located in the Annex Building food court, offer 10 percent discounts to those attending Just Second Fridays.

For more information, go online at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

## JUST SECOND FRIDAYS

*Here is a list of the upcoming Just Second Friday topics and speakers.*

**Jan. 9, 1 p.m.**
*"Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility"*
John Carr, secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Social Development and World Peace

**Feb. 13, 1 p.m.**
*"Shareholder vs. Stakeholder Value"*
Dr. Terry Armstrong, director of Arrupe Program in Social Ethics for Business and Woodstock Business Conference, Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

**March 12, 1 p.m.**
*"Pope John Paul II's Gospel of Life: Reflections on the Consistent Ethics of Life"*
Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski, professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, N.Y.C.; Maggi Nadol, director of Respect Life Office, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte

**April 9, 11 a.m. (special time)**
*"Reflections on Death in a Civilized Society: Death Penalty in America"*
James Cooney III of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice in Charlotte

**May 14, 1 p.m.**
*"How Can Business Ensure All Have a 'Place at the Table' — Reflections on Poverty and Opportunity in Today's Economy"*
Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator of the USCCB in Washington, D.C.

Speakers for June 11, July 9, Aug. 11, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 will be announced in May 2004.

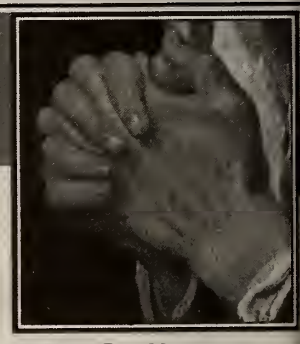
# Crafting Christmas

COURTESY PHOTO

**Students, teachers and parents at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem created floats for their Christmas pageant. Pictured: (standing, from left) second-graders Jessica Kleean, Jack Ronan and Sophie D'Agostino; (sitting, from left) Phillip Polselli, Emily Atkins and Brian Mahan.**


# Do You Need Healing?

*Find Hope in Prayer!*



If you or someone you care about needs healing, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual, take comfort in the healing power of prayer. **Please join the Discalced Carmelites in our devotions for Health and Healing.**

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DC122CNH-04

# Charlotte Diocese commended for charter compliance

AUDIT, *from page 1*

report on those compliance audits is to be published Jan. 6.

Auditors commended the Diocese of Charlotte for early proactive initiatives to ensure the protection of children and youths under its pastoral care, including the establishment of an advisory board. The diocese was also commended for the Comprehensive Safe Environment Program, which includes training programs and background investigations for volunteers, teachers, employees, clergy and contractors who have contact with children.

The auditors also recommended the diocesan policy for reporting allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy be clarified and made more readily available.

In compliance with the "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel," a review board, the majority of whom are laypersons and not employees of the diocese, was appointed. The policy calls for the board to include at least one priest, a civil lawyer (not the diocesan attorney), an individual having particular expertise in the detection and treatment of the sexual abuse of minors and Catholic and non-Catholic laypersons.

In addition, an investigator competent in sexual misconduct investigative procedures and techniques has also been appointed.

More than 6,800 employees and volunteers have attended one of the 165 "Protecting God's Children" workshops held throughout the Diocese of Charlotte since June 2002. The workshops train participants in the awareness and prevention of child abuse. The program also includes an online continuing educational component.

"Our diocese will continue to comply fully with all requirements of law and the charter promulgated by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, and we will respond without delay whenever there is an allegation of sexual abuse," said Bishop Jugis.

Here is an overview of what the charter and norms require all dioceses and eparchies to do in order to respond effectively to allegations of clergy sexual abuse and to prevent such abuse from now on.

For healing and reconciliation of victims, they must:

— reach out to victims and their families with "a sincere commitment to their spiritual and emotional well-being." This outreach is to include "provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, support groups and other social services agreed upon" by the victim and diocese.

— "not enter into confidentiality agreements" unless the victim requests it "for grave and substantial reasons."

— "have mechanisms in place to respond promptly to any allegation where there is reason to believe that sexual abuse of a minor has occurred."

To guarantee an effective response to all allegations, dioceses must:

— "report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities."

— "cooperate with public authorities about reporting in cases when the person is no longer a minor."

— "advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities" and support this right.

To protect children in the future, dioceses must:

— "establish 'safe environment' programs," educating "children, youth, parents, ministers, educators and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children."

— "employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques" on the fitness of candidates for ordination.

— "evaluate the background" of ordination candidates and all diocesan and parish personnel who have regular contact with minors, utilizing "the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies."

The most detailed requirements of the charter and norms concern the way the bishop deals with an accused cleric.

Upon receipt of an allegation, the charter mandates a prompt, objective preliminary investigation, in accord with church laws protecting rights of the accuser and the accused, to determine if there is sufficient evidence to merit further steps.

If the allegation is judged not credible or is proven unfounded — every step possible is to be taken to restore the good name of the accused cleric.

If after the preliminary investigation the allegation is judged credible:

— The bishop "will both notify the (Vatican) Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and ... relieve the alleged offender promptly of his ministerial duties."

— The alleged offender "may be requested to seek, or urged voluntarily to comply with, an appropriate medical and psychological evaluation, so long as this does not interfere with the investigation by civil authorities."

— If the time of prescription — the statute of limitations for prosecuting a crime or applying a penalty — has already passed, the bishop "shall apply to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for a dispensation from the prescription."

— An offending cleric may be laicized at his own request, by a request of a bishop to the doctrinal congregation, or after a church trial and conviction.

— An offender "will be offered professional assistance for his own healing and well-being, as well as for the purpose of prevention."

The charter also mandates in each diocese and eparchy:

— "Clear and well-publicized diocesan/eparchial standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries" for clergy and other personnel who are in positions of trust with children and youths.

*Jerry Filteau of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

## Classifieds

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**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:** Holy Redeemer Catholic Community in the Outer Banks of North Carolina is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to be part of a collaborative pastoral team. Responsibilities will include working to enhance existing adult formation opportunities, including the development of small Christian communities; and working toward whole community catechesis. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic, with a combination of training and/or experience in adult formation. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949, Attn: Faith Formation Search Committee, or email herrityt@raldioc.org.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Experienced with degree or certification in youth ministry, theology or related field. Send resume and statement of your vision of youth ministry to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336)294-6149; email jmalmfelt@stpaulcc.org.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Faith, fantasy, friendship of Tolkien and Lewis

REVIEWED BY ANNE LeVEQUE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

With the opening of the third and final installment of the movie version of J.R.R. Tolkien's masterwork, "The Lord of the Rings," interest in Tolkien's life and work is at an all-time high.

A few years ago two polls in the United Kingdom asked people to name the greatest book of the 20th century. When the first poll, in 1997, showed that "The Lord of the Rings" was the overwhelming choice, the results were greeted with disbelief. Surely James Joyce's "Ulysses" or some other equally incomprehensible tome must be the greatest! So the poll was done over, and again Tolkien came out on top. A similar

poll conducted by Amazon.com on this side of the Atlantic in 1999 proclaimed it the greatest book of the millennium.

Whether greatness can be determined by popular poll is debatable, but it is clear that Tolkien has touched something in the hearts of the reading public, and now in the moviegoing public as well.

In "The Gospel According to Tolkien," Ralph C. Wood, who has written about Christianity and authors Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, John Updike and Peter De Vries, offers a thorough treatment of the underlying theology of Middle-Earth. Unfortunately, Wood relies heavily on Tolkien's "The Silmarillion" for much of his exposition.

"The Simarillion" has been called "the least-read best seller of all time." It is background mythology of Middle-Earth, and was probably not intended for publication (it was published posthumously). It is also agonizingly boring for all but the most dedicated lovers of Middle-Earth. That's not to say that Wood's book is boring — he does a fine job of demonstrating the Christian underpinnings of "The Lord of the Rings," and in a readable fashion — but I would say that this is definitely for the most dedicated Tolkien fans.

"J.R.R. Tolkien: Myth, Morality & Religion" by Richard Purtill was originally published nearly 20 years ago. It is republished by Ignatius Press with a new introduction which references the movies. This book has stood the test of time — it is engaging and informative. I felt like I was rereading the trilogy with a very knowledgeable friend. Purtill looks at the mythological framework of Middle-Earth in the same way that we would look at the mythology of any culture, including our own, and talks about what myth is and the different kinds of myth. He gives examples from the books and discusses them with a narrative fluency that is remarkable.

Tolkien fans are aware of his friendship with fellow writer and Oxford don C.S. Lewis, author of the Narnia stories and many books about Christianity. They, and a handful of other Oxonians, met regularly over the years to discuss their writing, and were known as the Inklings. Tolkien was instrumental in Lewis' conversion to Christianity. Lewis went on to become a great apologist for Christianity. The two friends were estranged for a time but reconciled in later life.

Most of the material in Colin Duriez's book, "Tolkien and C.S. Lewis" can be found in other primary or secondary sources. Duriez claims to be the first to write a kind of joint biography, showing how the lives of these two great men intertwined. Duriez's contribution to the Tolkien/Lewis canon is one of cumulation and synthesis. He offers a very readable result.

"C.S. Lewis and the Catholic Church" is Joseph Pearce's speculation on the question of whether Lewis might have become Catholic had he lived longer than his 64 years. Pearce is well-versed in Lewis and Tolkien — he wrote the new introduction to Purtill's book, above, and in 1998 published the biography "Tolkien: Man and Myth" — but there is so much diatribe in this book that it is difficult to take seriously that which isn't diatribe.

Lewis was raised in Protestant Ulster and absorbed the anti-Catholic bigotry of that culture unquestioningly. Tolkien was a devout Catholic. Their estrangement in the 1950s was over Lewis' marriage to a divorced woman. In his autobiography, Lewis details how he joined the Church of England when he converted to Christianity from atheism. It is clear from his own words that bigotry is one thing that kept him from becoming a Catholic. There were other reasons, though, mostly doctrinal and certainly not trivial.

Pearce selectively conjures up all the modernist outrages he sees in the Church of England since Lewis' death, and declares that Lewis would never have stayed in such a church. Pearce rails against Anglicanism and the Church of England to such an extent that his treatment of the central question can hardly be said to have a shred of objectivity.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 11, 2003

## *Jan. 11, The Baptism of the Lord*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
2) Acts 10:34-38
3) Gospel: Luke 3:15-16,21-22

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Mike has enjoyed watching his son Brian's confidence and leadership flower during his senior year of high school. How could a parent not be gratified seeing his son direct a 200-member marching band through a season of football half-time performances, concerts and competitions?

Mike was proud that Brian was both attractive and sensitive, that he was especially attentive to the others in the band who were younger and less popular while still holding the esteem of the core group who appreciated his diligence, selflessness and enthusiasm. But Mike positively beamed as he told about a moment when Brian crossed over from talented boy to mature man.

One day the band director, his emotions frayed by grief over the recent death of his mother, also was feeling unsuccessful in his efforts at his job. He tearfully admitted to Brian, "I'm lost." Recovering quickly from his initial surprise, the student gently, deftly became the teacher, explaining to his older friend that he was the reason Brian had become interested in playing music. He reminded him that the band's success in competition wasn't as important as what the students gained in discipline, friendship and the basic joy of making music together.

Brian's father was pleased with his son's wisdom, pleased with his concern for a friend and pleased with his being a source of strength for someone who needed it. But mostly Mike was pleased to see the first manifestation of the man his son will be. There was no longer any doubt where Brian's heart is and whether he will act according to that. What a moment for a father.

In the Gospel story of Jesus' baptism, this is exactly what we witness as Jesus came up out of the water. By choosing, in his humanity, to be baptized, he signified his willingness to cross over and accept the purpose for which he had been born — to be a light for the nations, open the eyes of the blind and release the imprisoned.

His Father was moved to say, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." This is how God reacts, as well, when we submit to the call of our own baptism and recommit ourselves to Jesus mission — our mission — to establish justice on earth.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4- JANUARY 10**

**Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord),** Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (St. John Newmann),** 1 John 3:22—4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; **Tuesday (Blessed Andre Bessette),** 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; **Wednesday (St. Raymond Penafort),** 1 John 4:11-18, Mark 6:45-52; **Thursday,** 1 John 4:19—5:4, Luke 4:14-22; **Friday,** 1 John 5:5-13, Luke 5:12-16; **Saturday,** 1 John 5:14-21 , John 3:22-30

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11- JANUARY 17**

**Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord),** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; **Monday,** 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday (St. Hilary),** 1 Samuel 1:9-20, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday,** 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday,** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1, Mark 2:13-17

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# 'Cold Mountain' is lukewarm epic

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Star-crossed lovers torn apart by war struggle to reunite in the handsomely carpentered but emotionally unsatisfying Civil War romance "Cold Mountain" (Miramax). In the film, based on Charles Frazier's 1997 novel, director Anthony Minghella chooses an epic historical canvas on which to paint an intimate story about one man's journey through hell and the woman whose love guides him back home.

Set in 1861, in Cold Mountain, a rustic hamlet in the North Carolina Blue Ridge range, the film stars Jude Law as Inman, a reserved young carpenter, and Nicole Kidman as Ada, a refined southern belle from Charleston. On the eve of war, Ada rides into town with her preacher father (Donald Sutherland). From the first glimpse of her porcelain skin, Inman finds Ada entrancing. Their antebellum amour takes root awkwardly, but is pruned before blossoming by the war fever sweeping through the South.

Caught by the undertow of their Dixie delirium, Inman soon marches off to war, buoyed by one life-altering kiss from Ada. Yet hope of a speedy return is dashed along with his innocence in Virginia during the siege of Petersburg, where he experiences the horrors of war firsthand.

Sustaining an injury, he is transported to a makeshift triage hospital where he receives a letter from Ada imploring him to return to her. Exorcised of his idealism, Inman decides to escape, fully aware of the dangerous consequences of desertion, embarking on an American version of "The Odyssey" as he hoofs his way across the war-torn landscape back to Cold Mountain.

Along the way, he endures trials and tribulations, including arrest and confinement in a chain gang, and encounters a confederacy of characters, among them a fornicating minister (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and a distraught war widow (Natalie Portman) whom he saves from a gang rape. Inman and the film take an excursion into backwoods bad taste, culminating in a raunchy orgy scene involving Hoffman's character with a coven of corn-liquored hillbillies.

Meanwhile, back on the farm, Ada is left to fend for herself after her father's death. Though highly educated, her book smarts serve as a poor substitute for basic survival skills and have left her ill-equipped for the back-breaking labor involved in working the land. With her farm in disrepair, Ada is saved from starvation when a concerned neighbor sends help her way in the person of Ruby Thewes (Renee Zellweger), whose pistol personality injects a much needed shot of energy into Ada's side of the narrative equation.

Under Ruby's can-do tutelage, the wilting lily blooms into a formidable Cold Mountain lioness — a change that parallels Inman's own personal transformation. Ray Winstone plays Teague, the thuggish leader of a vigilante Home Guard formed to ferret out deserters, and whose unwelcome advances on Ada set in motion the film's melancholy ending.

Though rapturously shot by John Seale with exquisite production design by Dante Ferretti — with Romania standing in for North Carolina — "Cold Mountain" falls short of a being a wholly satisfying film. Despite fine acting and a Homeric framework, the episodic nature of the narrative and the tenuousness of the central love affair leave viewers less than totally engaged emotionally.

And though it presents a hauntingly poetic picture of the Civil War-era South, "Gone With the Wind" is in little danger of being eclipsed as its greatest saga, though comparisons are inevitable. Law imbues Inman with a convincing blend of grizzled resolve and shell-shock. Kidman, at times too diaphanous, takes a back seat to Zellweger's scene-stealing performance.

Far more effective is the movie's treatment of war. The massive Petersburg sequence is one of the most sobering depictions of warfare ever filmed. It is disturbingly realistic in its raw images of carnage yet impressionistic, as waves of gray and blue crash against each other knee-deep in mud turned crimson with blood — a ballet of brutality played under a burnt sienna sky.

It brings to mind scenes of the damned from Dante's "Inferno," illustrating that war is truly hell. The ugliness of the sequence stands in stark contrast to the romanticized violence often peddled by Hollywood.

Yet apart from that scene, the war serves mainly as a backdrop, a looming shadow, against which the characters' stories play out. Rather than lingering on the battlefield, Minghella signals a retreat in order to explore the loss and inhumanity war engenders in the lives of noncombatants, and to meditate on the rending ripple effects it has on the fabric of life behind the front lines.

More conspicuous is the film's skirting of the issues and politics that drove a country to go to war with itself — though some vague references are made about "the rich man's slaves." Inman's comment that he was "sent off with a flag and a lie" is treated with similar ambiguity.

Sadly, "Cold Mountain" is only lukewarm.

Due to recurring graphic battlefield and associated violence, several explicit sexual situations with partial nudity, an attempted rape, as well as some crude language and humor, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

*DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

# 'Mona Lisa' has nothing to smile about

CNS PHOTO FROM COLUMBIA PICTURES

**Julia Roberts stars in "Mona Lisa Smile, a 1953 drama about a free-spirited teacher locking horns with rigid faculty at a conservative all-girls college while empowering her students to free themselves from the future yoke of domesticity. The film's misguided strain of feminism promotes a view of marriage and motherhood as slave-state stumbling blocks to self-fulfillment. An antagonistic attitude toward traditional morality, an implied sexual encounter, as well as minimal crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# A ministry of presence in Iraq

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS Columnist

It is hard to get people's attention at luncheon meetings. Usually they are more interested in talking to the person next to them or signaling the waiter for another cup of coffee.

But a young Army officer recently reduced a well-fed crowd of Washington "swells" to silence when he got up to speak at the downtown Washington, D.C., chapter of the Serra Club. (Serrans are Catholic lay men and women who promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life by prayer and witness.)

Father Michael Heninger got our attention by telling his story. He is a chaplain in the U.S. Army, just returned from Iraq.

Father Heninger is one of a small cadre of Catholic priests who serve in the U.S. military. Of the 1,200 chaplains in the Army, only 100 are Catholic priests, while 25 percent of the Army's enlisted personnel are Catholics and nearly one-third of the officer corps. In all, there are fewer than 900 Catholic chaplains serving 1.4 million Catholics in uniform.

Father Heninger found his vocation in the military. Just out of high school, he joined the Air Force as an enlisted man and served 12 years.

Like many soldiers, he stopped going to Mass and fell away from the faith. But gradually he sensed he was being called to another duty. God called to him to service.

After leaving the military and going to college, he answered God's call to duty, this time as a priest. He was ordained in 2002 and immediately released by his diocese to serve in the Army.

An Army chaplain has a "ministry of presence," says Father Heninger. He supports the living, comforts the dying and honors the dead. There is no shortage of work.

He is one of only two priests for a whole Army division (10,000 to 15,000 soldiers). His flock is spread out all over central Iraq. His parish is young, many just a few months out of high school. They are away from home for the first time — lonely, tired and afraid.

They also must face the big spiritual questions of life and death in a way most people never confront. Not only do they see their friends die, but at times they are asked to kill. It is a situation made for spiritual anguish.

In such a situation people are looking for faith. They want the sacraments. They want to know that they are not forgotten by God or by their church. The chaplain is an important presence. Father Heninger represents something of home, faith and family, not just to Catholics but to all faiths.

At times he has five Masses in a day. After Mass he opens the religious "gift shop" on the hood of his Humvee, setting out Bibles, rosaries, medals and prayer cards sent by folks back home.

There are a lot of conversions. One young man he baptized proudly showed off his "dog tags" on which he had scratched out the line where it said "no religion" and etched in "Catholic."

Sometimes his work is to try to remind the soldiers of their own call to compassion as Christians. He organized soldiers to visit the orphanages in Baghdad run by the Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's order).

It is transforming for a tough "warrior" in a kevlar vest to pick up a little handicapped baby and start singing a lullaby. Pretty soon the toughness of combat falls away to tenderness.

Father Heninger brought a crowd of talkers to silence and reminded us of the need for the ministry of presence.

# Pope says migration can contribute to peace

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's Note: Due to an early publishing schedule, we are unable to print the pope's general audience this week.*

VATICAN CITY — Although often a cause of fear and tension, migration can contribute to building peace if newcomers are welcomed as brothers and sisters, Pope John Paul II said.

"If the dream of a peaceful world is shared by many and if the contribution of migrants and refugees is valued, humanity can become increasingly the family of all and our Earth (can become) a real common home," the pope said.

The pope focused on the connection between migration and peace in his message for the 2004 celebrations of the World Day for Migrants and Refugees, marked by Catholics on different days in different countries. In the United States, National Migration Week is Jan. 4-10.

Pope John Paul said the news shows the problems caused "by war and violence, terrorism and oppression, discrimination and injustice."

Peacemaking requires serious efforts to provide every person on the planet with the conditions needed for a dignified life and a hope-filled future, the pope said.

A commitment must be made to "safeguarding the right to not emigrate, that is, to live in peace and dignity in one's own homeland," he said.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Assisted by the international community, local governments must ensure their citizens freedom of expression and movement as well as food, health, work, housing and education — necessities which, when lacking, make people feel they are forced to emigrate, he said.

The earth and its resources belong to all people, he said, and while governments have a right to regulate migration, people have the right to seek safety and a dignified life for themselves abroad.

While people may fear the impact immigrants will have on their country and economy, overcoming the fear and welcoming newcomers is a contribution to peace all are called to make, he said.

Treating others with the respect they are due and being willing to hear their stories and learn about their cultures is the first step in a dialogue that will create harmony, he said.

When peoples of different races, religions and cultures live side by side and work or study together, the pope said, they have an opportunity to discover "values common to every culture capable of uniting rather than dividing."

## Letters to the Editor

# Story reveals abortion lies

Karen Evans' "Scars and lies — One woman's journey from abortion to healing" (Dec. 12, 2003) was the best article I've read so far about the true traumas of abortion and how it affects the life of a woman over the years.

What the article points out are the real truths about abortion and how this particular woman over a long time was able to find hope and healing. Thank you for your candidness about Planned Parenthood.

Your article is also a tribute to and expresses the need for an understanding Christian doctor and Catholic Church.

Your article offers many positive images and the necessity for positive responses. Most of all you have advanced the truth about abortion so it will, as you quoted Constance Russo, "change society's view of abortion." This is needed so badly — everyone needs to hear this.

This day you have made God's smile bigger.

— Randal Romie
Greensboro

# Infant loss healing available

After reading article "Scars and lies — One woman's journey from abortion to healing," we felt called to respond with information regarding the experience of pregnancy and infant loss though miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death.

The death of a baby before or after birth is a difficult and often lonely experience. Few may understand the love and longing parents feel for children known only briefly or maybe never held or seen. The resulting uncomfortable and sometimes insensitive responses of others may leave parents feeling as if they are not allowed to grieve, and therefore their sadness should not be expressed or shared.

Feeling unsupported in their grief and with few resources, many struggle privately and are uncertain as to what may be helpful in their healing.

Particularly troublesome is the strain that can arise in a marriage after such losses because of the differences in how men and women grieve.

One of the most difficult aspects of the emotional aftermath of pregnancy or infant loss can be the sense your spouse does not understand, appreciate or share the depth of your grief. Often parents will feel disconnected from each other.

It is important for those grieving the loss of baby to know help is available.

St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and St. Mark Church in Huntersville both offer information, support and understanding through Elizabeth Ministry to those who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death.

Elizabeth Ministry allows parents to share their stories of loss and pain through one-to-one peer support with others who know the sadness of pregnancy or infant loss firsthand.

Thank you for allowing us to share this information with your readers.

— Tracy Webb, Elizabeth Ministry coordinator, St. Matthew Church
(704) 543-4780

— Sandy Buck, Elizabeth Ministry coordinator, St. Mark Church
(704) 948-4587

# Through the years

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

My folks met in a Brooklyn park 60 years ago. My dad was playing softball. My mother was with friends. On that sunny afternoon, they struck up a conversation. They began to date and decided to marry. But those plans were postponed by the Second World War. Separated for most of four years, they nonetheless maintained the only lifeline open to people in love back then. They wrote letters.

Happily, those letters survive today and tell a story of long distance love. Not an easy love to maintain, but one they nurtured regardless. Ending the war as a Marine captain, my dad came home and they finally married. He became a New York City police officer and detective. She kept busy with the three of us youngsters. I gather that life was happy, but also a struggle, especially when he decided to go to law school. Through child rearing and tight money, through the move to suburbia and the loss of loved ones, they kept on living out their love.

Now here's the most recent chapter. Mom underwent what should have been fairly routine surgery. Dad was with her, just planning to sit by her side and do his crossword puzzles. Before his eyes, he saw my mother collapse. Doctors and nurses came quickly, thank God. In the middle of their efforts to save her life, I called the hospital room. Imagine my surprise when a nurse asked who I was. "I'm her son," I replied. My dad then came to the phone and told me: "Your mother has collapsed. Come quickly."

I have no recollection of the road that day. By the time I arrived, the doctors had brought her back to a modest stability. But we counted our blessings prematurely. As they moved her to cardiac care, she went back into seizure. A second code red was sounded. Again, that team of experts did what never ceases to amaze. But this time they had one problem they hadn't counted on. It was my dad. After her first attack, my mom had weakly told my father, "Please don't leave me." Well, he took her at her word. No doctors or nurses were going to move him. He parked himself within inches of my mom and stood watch as the doctors did their best. And their best was incredible. They brought her back a second time, got her stable and, in time, sent her home. My father's tenacious loyalty continues. He is her primary caregiver. He's positioned a couch next to her bed so that he can be there in the night. The nurses and therapists they have know they need to work with the person who guards her with tenderness: her partner, her oldest friend. Her husband.

Recently, after tending to her from dawn, Dad fell asleep at the dining room table. So we let him sleep. I mentioned to my mom that Dad was obviously tired. She nodded and then said something that will always stay with me. "You know, Jim, we've been through so much in a lifetime together. The war. The children. The tough years. The loss of our parents and brothers and sisters. But after 56 years of marriage I can honestly say, I've never felt closer to your dad than I do now. He has been so caring, so patient, so good."

Tom Brokaw has written a wonderful book about the generation who fought and won the Second World War. He rightly names them The Greatest Generation. They accomplished amazing things. But I think their greatest feats continue to be lived today. In the faithfulness they share. In the devoted care they offer. In living out promises made so long ago, our folks teach us so much. In their lives, we are so richly blessed.

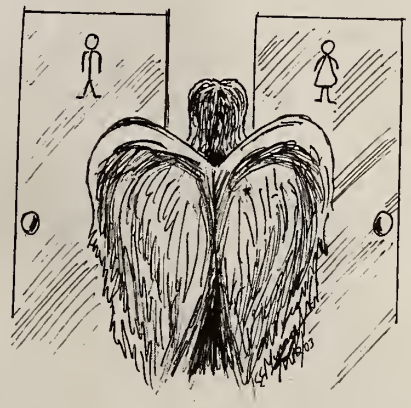
My dad was a courageous Marine, a dedicated police officer. He was a terrific lawyer and teacher. But, for me, the greatness of his caring at home is a quality that matches or surpasses what we do in our public lives. Loving for the long distance, now that's something to be proud of!

# Are angels always male?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. I don't know where I heard this, but somewhere we were told that all angels are men. Is that right? (Louisiana)*



A. According to Catholic tradition, and generally for all Christians, angels are believed to be pure spirits. They are creatures of God, intelligent and capable of moral decisions and actions but have no material or physical make-up, therefore no bodies, and therefore no sexual identity. In themselves, they are neither male nor female.

Perhaps you are asking about something else. When angels appear to human beings, in the Bible for example, in what form are they seen? Obviously, they would need some physical appearance to be seen by human eyes. What do they look like?

In earlier Hebrew stories angels rarely appear. God deals with human beings, Adam and Moses for example, face-to-face, as it were, with no angels in between.

Later on, as the Jewish awareness of God's transcendence, or holiness, developed, angels appear in the Old Testament more and more often as intermediaries between God and humans. By New Testament times they became more evident and are mentioned often in the Gospels and other Christian writings after Jesus. In fact the voice of the Father is heard rarely in the New Testament, while angels have a significant role in important events, such as the annunciation and the resurrection.

When angels do appear to human beings it is nearly always in human form, and always when a sex is indicated it is masculine. You can refer to Genesis 18:2, in which three men, obviously angels of God, receive Abraham's hospitality; Joshua 5:13, Ezekiel 9:2, and Zecharia 1:8 are just a few examples in pre-Christian Scriptures.

Instances in the New Testament include Luke 24:4 at the tomb after the resurrection and Acts 1:10 at the ascension of Jesus.

Otherwise, even when gender is not mentioned explicitly, other circumstances seem to point toward males — masculine forms of names; functions for which a woman would not serve in ancient culture, such as the angel Raphael guiding Tobit's journey to find a wife, and so on.

The canonical Scriptures assign names to three angels, all of whom serve in what would usually be seen as masculine roles: Gabriel, who interprets visions in the Book of Daniel and of course plays a central role in the birth stories of Jesus and John the Baptist; Raphael; and Michael, who is a "great prince" (Daniel 12:1), and leader of the host of angels in the book of Revelation (12:7).

Someone once said that in the Bible angels are always male, young and good-looking. That would be difficult to prove, but it may help explain why, nearly without exception, the angels were treated with such deference, graciousness and esteem by the biblical characters and authors.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Beware of Queen Bee

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is absent in today's classrooms and offices, and is wreaking havoc among women from 10 to 40 years old, stealing the self-esteem and self-confidence they brought to work and school.

The bully is back, but he isn't tall, fat and round-fisted. She is a skinny, popular girl who won the reign of Queen Bee. And whatever she says goes.

This is not new, of course. I still recall the damage of my junior high years when kids befriended me, the acne-faced loser, to get to my popular twin sister. I remember being the last one picked at gym because I was uncoordinated. And I can still name the "character defects" my so-called friends listed in a letter of "constructive criticism" they sent to me.

There were better years to come: nicer friends and clearer skin. But the bully came back in my first job, which is so often the case. I was back to junior high for a year when Queen Bee decided I wasn't suited for the clique, mocking me in staff meetings and posting photos of the party to which I wasn't invited.

The damage to my self-esteem in my young adult years was more severe because I thought I was over this stuff.

Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can hurt, too. And that's why girls' aggression can be so hurtful.

"Girls very much value intimacy, which makes them excellent friends and terrible enemies," says Marian Underwood, professor of psychology at the University of Texas in Margaret Talbot's "Mean Girls and the Movement to Tame Them" story in *The New York Times Magazine.* "They share so much information when they are friends that they never run out of ammunition if they turn on one another."

Only in the last decade have psychologists paid attention to the nastiness of girls, conceding although they are less likely to engage in physical fights, girls emerge from their own confrontations — in the form of vicious rumors, venomous e-mails, backstabbing behavior — with as many (maybe more) bruises as their male counterparts.

And the pain hasn't abated with the national headlines, cover stories and Oprah episodes devoted to the topic. Everyone has to chip in for Queen Bee and her cohorts to ease off. No one is immune from the meanness epidemic affecting young girls today.

Everyone has a part in teaching and living by the golden rule today so that youths and adults are able to learn and work instead of defending themselves against the long-term effects of a popularity contest.

# Our Lady of the Annunciation Church is spiritual home for Albemarle Catholics

ALBEMARLE — The dedication of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church took place in 1934 with nine Catholic families composing the congregation. However, the first Catholic residents in the area arrived back in 1887, when the Ewing family relocated to Albemarle from Richmond, Va.

Visiting priests sporadically celebrated Mass in the area, or families traveled by train to Salisbury for Sunday services. That changed in 1934, when Father James Cowan, originally from New York, worked to establish a church in the South. Father Cowan celebrated Mass in the living room of the rectory until a gift from Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in New York made construction of a church building in Albemarle possible.

The new structure was dedicated on Sept. 4, 1934.

By the mid-1940s, 35 families made up the parish community, and the textile industry began to yield an even larger Catholic population in the area. A rectory was built in 1941, and Our Lady of the Annunciation Church began to experience its first significant growth. By the time of the parish's 25th anniversary in 1959, some 75 families called the Albemarle church their spiritual home.

Sustained needs for additional space marked the following years. The congregation saw a parish hall constructed in 1966 to provide room for their religious education classes and social events. Father (now Msgr.) Anthony Kovacic, a native of Bijelsko, Yugoslavia, presided as parish administrator at the time — Father Cowan had passed away that year — and became pastor in January 1969.

After the 1967 dedication of the hall, Father Kovacic turned attentions to building a new church, as the parish community grew to more than 100 families by decade's end. A sizable donation from the estate of Father Cowan and his mother led to the construction of a new facility, and on July 31, 1971, Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh said the first Mass at the new, 380-seat Our Lady of the Annunciation Church. Msgr. Michael J. Begley, soon to become the Diocese of Charlotte's founding bishop, preached the homily at the celebratory Mass.

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle was dedicated on Sept. 4, 1934 for the nine Catholic families comprising the congregation. Today, the church has around 330 registered families.

Several diocesan priests have served the parish since Father Kovacic was appointed pastor to a Charlotte parish in 1973. During this time, the parish enhanced its participation in a number of community and ecclesial projects, such as Meals on Wheels, campus ministry, charismatic prayer and youth ministry.

On March 25, 1984, the parish of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church gathered to celebrate its Golden Jubilee Liturgy. Fathers Kovacic, Joseph Kelleher and Carl T. DelGiudice — all pastors of the Albemarle church at various times — joined Bishop Begley in celebrating the Mass for more than 200 families who were then registered at the parish.

In May 1990, Bishop Begley dedicated a newly built Family Life Center to mark the continued physical expansion in the parish. Spiritual growth has also continued as many parishioners remain active in a host of ministries and community efforts, such as a program for the elderly called OASIS, Knights of Columbus, pregnancy crisis outreach and a morning prayer group.

The church also expanded beyond parish boundaries with the establishment of a mission, Our Lady of the Americas in Biscoe in 1989. In 1999, Father Lawrence Heiney became pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church.

To celebrate Lent last year, the parish held a unique Parish Stations of the Cross on March 21. Fifteen parish groups each wrote and read a reflection based on a particular Station of the Cross. Groups included the parish choir; Bible study; MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing), which includes several non-Catholic members; and sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders involved in faith formation.

The parish population of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church now consists of approximately 330 families. The parish is one of the largest in the Albemarle Vicariate, and by its active stance in church and civic life, it makes a strong statement of devotion in the Stanly County town.

**OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION**
416 N. Second Street
Albemarle, N.C. 28001
(704) 982-2910

**Vicariate:** Albemarle
**Pastor:** Father Lawrence Heiney
**Number of families:** 330

Father Lawrence Heiney

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: St. Aloysius Church
| PAGE 16

JANUARY 9, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 15

A GROWING CONCERN

## Poverty growing in United States

*Diocese of Charlotte working to combat poverty in N.C.*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — If you live in North Carolina, chances are you know someone living in poverty.

As many Americans rang in the New Year, 34.6 million of them — one out of eight — are struggling to afford food, shelter, clothing, childcare and medical care, an increase of 1.4 million people during the past year. Currently, 12.1 million children — one in six — live in poverty.

"The majority of poor people in the United States today are working poor people who struggle to make ends

See POVERTY, page 9

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

## First charter implementation report issued by U.S. bishops

**AUDITS FIND MOST DIOCESES NOW COMPLY WITH BISHOPS' SEX ABUSE NORMS**

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — By the end of 2003, the Diocese of Charlotte was among the nearly 90 percent of U.S. dioceses in compliance with the bishops' national policy to protect children and respond to clergy sexual abuse of minors, according to the first national audit report released Jan. 6.

On most elements, the report said 98 percent to 100 percent of audited dioceses were judged to be in compliance with the 17-article "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" adopted by the U.S. bishops in June 2002.

There were only two mandates on which compliance was

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

**Bishop Wilton D. Gregory responds to questions about national audit results at a briefing in Washington Jan. 6.**

lower than 98 percent: having comprehensive safe environment programs in place throughout the diocese (91 percent), and conducting background checks on all church

See AUDITS, page 8

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

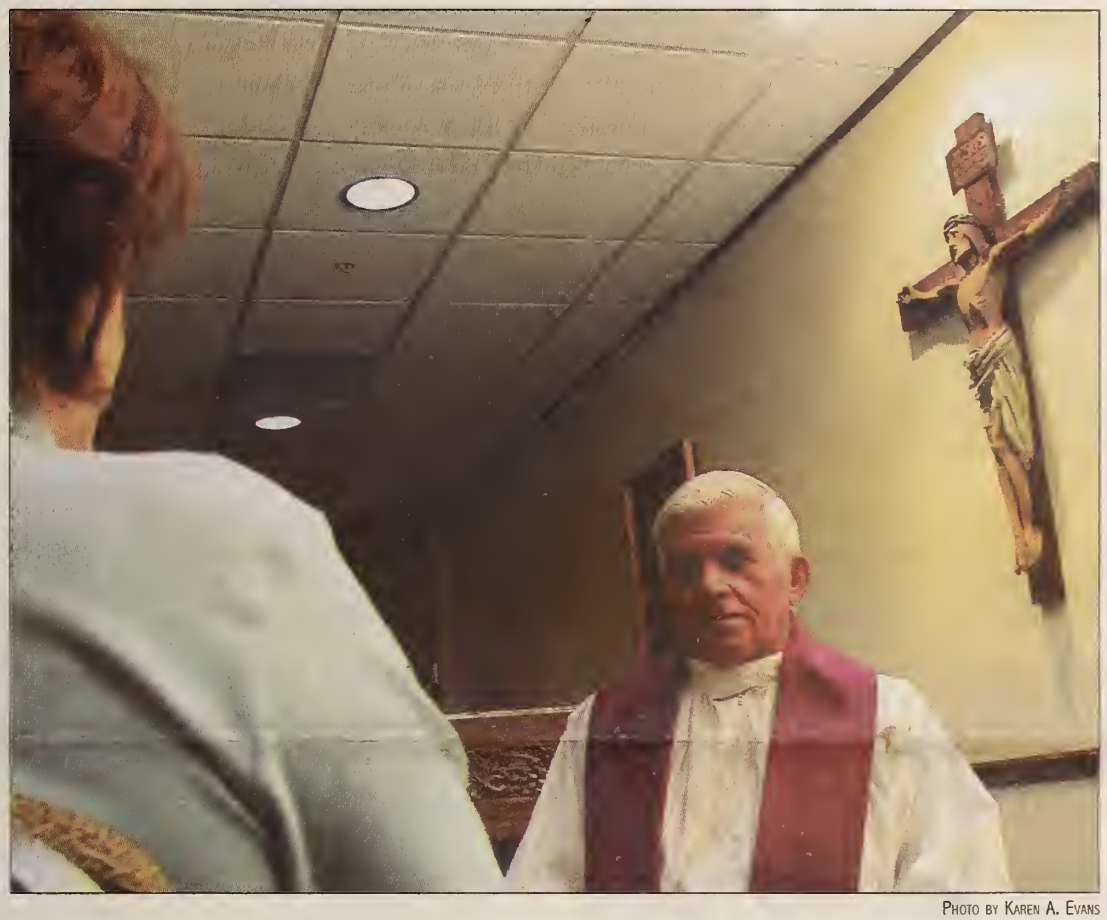

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father James Hawker offers the sacrament of reconciliation, one of two sacraments of healing. In his July 30, 2003 weekly audience, Pope John Paul II said, "I ask that God gives each of us true penitence and sincere confession of our sins every time we go to the sacrament of penance."

## Reconciliation: conversion, confession and celebration

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: This is the fifth story in a series on the seven sacraments.*

CHARLOTTE — "God really is like the merciful parent (in the Parable of the Prodigal Son): not out to catch us in our sin but intent on reaching out and hanging on to us in spite of our sin," wrote Servite Sister Sandra DeGidio in "The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Forgiveness."

"Reconciliation is not just a matter of getting rid of sin," she said. "The important point is what God does in, with and through us."

"If we recognize our own need for the forgiveness and mercy of God and turn to him with a contrite heart, he is ready to wash away our guilt and cleanse us from our sins," Pope John Paul II said at his weekly general audience July 30, 2003.

Reconciliation, often called penance or confession, is one of two sacraments of healing, along with the anointing of the sick. Penance and confession are just two of the parts of the sacrament as

See RECONCILIATION, page 7

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**Juvenile justice**
*Southern bishops issue third statement*
| PAGE 4

**Fighting for life**
*Annual march rallies support*
| PAGE 4

**Cultural Watch**
*Columns, Letters to the Editor*
| PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## RED PLANET 'SPIRIT'

CNS PHOTO FROM NASA VIA REUTERS

A panoramic view of terrain on the planet Mars is pictured in an image from NASA's robotic probe, Spirit, Jan. 3. The craft, which was to search for evidence of water and possible life, landed on its intended target in the Gusev Crater. The successful deployment of an antenna facilitated transmission of photographs and other data.

# Vatican astronomers thrilled at Spirit probe landing on Mars

ROME (CNS) - While NASA engineers celebrated the successful landing of the Spirit on Mars, Vatican astronomers were also overjoyed at the robot's safe touchdown Jan. 3.

Only three exploratory probes have made it successfully onto the red planet: the Viking 1 and 2, which both landed in 1976, and the Mars Pathfinder in 1997. The British-built Beagle 2 landed on Mars Dec. 25, but no radio signal had been received to indicate it survived.

The six-wheeled Spirit robot was to sniff out signs of life or conditions that support life.

"Previous orbital studies of Mars' surface show clearly that there may have been water on Mars," said U.S. Jesuit Father George Coyne, director of the Vatican Observatory. "Now with the Spirit on the ground, the probe will dig underneath the planet's dry surface looking for water or chemical evidence that there may have been water," Father Coyne said.

U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Brother Consolmagno, an astronomer, planetary scientist and curator of the Vatican meteorite collection, said NASA scientists aimed the probe to land in a large crater that may have been a lake. The robot, he said, will look and test for minerals that would suggest the presence of water, which is needed for life.

"Such a discovery would open up all new questions as to is there life there now or had there been once upon a time," said Brother Consolmagno.

In the early stages of the planets formation, material was exchanged between Mercury, Venus, Mars and Earth, said Father Coyne, so it is conceivable that life may have transported itself in these primordial exchanges.

But scientists may discover life on Mars that has nothing to do with DNA found on Earth,

"If life had two beginnings, one here on Earth and one on Mars, then statistically life could have emerged millions of times elsewhere beyond the solar system," said Father Coyne.

When asked what the theological impact of such a discovery would be, Brother Consolmagno said any discoveries made by the Spirit should augment, not necessarily change, one's religious beliefs.

"Science and religion teach you bits and pieces that are true, but as you learn later on, there is more going on than just that," Brother Consolmagno said.

"The challenge for both science and religion is to put the details into a broader picture, a deeper understanding of who we are and why we're here," he said.

# N.J. enacts much-criticized law allowing stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey signed into law Jan. 4 a bill the U.S. bishops' spokeswoman on pro-life issues said "is designed to encourage government-sanctioned 'human fetus farms.'"

The bill allows scientific research using stem cells from human embryos to continue in the state and authorizes a system by which people may donate unused human embryos for research.

It does not provide state funds for stem-cell research or legalize practices that previously were prohibited. It criminalizes what it defines as human cloning while permitting other types of embryonic stem-cell research.

But critics including the N.J. Catholic Conference oppose the law, saying it will allow cloned human embryos to develop through the late fetal stages as long as they are used for research purposes.

"We are deeply distressed that a bare majority of the Legislature has passed and Gov. McGreevey has signed the human embryonic stem-cell research bill into law," said the state Catholic conference's Jan. 5 statement. "We believe it is more important than ever to stand for the principle that government must not treat any living human being as research material, as a mere means for benefit to others."

"The only way to obtain embryonic stem cells ... is to kill the living human embryo," said a more detailed statement from the conference last fall. "Embryonic stem cells have not helped a single human patient, while adult stem cells and similar ethically acceptable alternatives have helped hundreds of thousands."

Opponents of the bill within the New Jersey Legislature argued that the bill would create a climate of demand for cloned baby parts and encourage medical abuse and exploitation of women and children.

# Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. Please call (336) 372-8846 for specific time.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a program to welcome back inactive Catholics and/or those who have left the Church but are interested in returning to the practice of the Catholic faith. The *Catholics Returning Home* series will meet Sundays, Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, call Sue Johnson at (704) 333-8028.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, will host a *Pro-Life Rosary and Benediction* Jan. 12 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited for a beautiful night of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the cathedral. For details, call (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church*, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Natural Family Planning* classes are being held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Room 200. Classes are taught by Dr. Matthew Harrison. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Call (704) 948-0231 for directions and more information.

CHARLOTTE - The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Provi

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican says 29 church workers were killed in mission lands in 2003

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Caught in situations of civil conflict, surprised during robberies or specifically targeted for death because of their work, at least 29 Catholic Church workers were killed in mission territories in 2003, the Vatican said.

Fides, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples' news agency, published its annual "martyrology" Dec. 30, listing Catholic clergy, religious and lay people who were killed while serving the church and their neighbors.

The most recent victim listed was Irish Archbishop Michael A. Courtney, the Vatican ambassador to Burundi who died Dec. 29 of gunshot wounds after the car he was riding in was fired on; it is still unclear if he was a target or simply caught in a crossfire.

Six of the 29 church workers who were killed died in Columbia, and another six victims died in Uganda, including three boys who were among a group of students from a minor seminary kidnapped by rebels in May.

Fides listed five victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo, two in El Salvador and one each in Kenya, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Pakistan, Brazil, Somalia, India and Guatemala.

Most of the church workers killed in mission territories were natives of the land where they died.

According to Fides, 25 church workers were killed in 2002 and 33 in 2001.

# Vatican says pope received more than 4,000 Christmas e-mail greetings

VATICAN CITY — As of noon in Rome Dec. 30, Pope John Paul II had received 4,273 Christmas e-mails sent to one of his six addresses — versions of his name in the six official languages of the Vatican Web site, said U.S. Sister Judith Zoebelein, director of the Vatican's Internet office.

Almost half the e-mails — 2,068 messages — were sent to the English address: john_paul_ii@vatican.va.

Spanish e-mailers were in second place, sending 1,274 messages to: juan_pablo_ii@vatican.va.

The address also exists in Italian, German, French and Portuguese.

Sister Zoebelein, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, said the address was activated Dec. 22 with little fanfare; a link was provided on the Christmas page of the Vatican Web site and removed Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

The week's cache of Christmas greetings is minimal compared to the approximately 55,000 messages sent by e-mail to the pope for his 25th anniversary in October.

"The number of messages was too massive to print," Sister Zoebelein said, "so we put them on a CD and sent them to the Holy Father."

Officials in the various language sections of the Vatican Secretariat of State read each message, summarizing the batch for the pope and printing out samples.

The Prefecture of the Papal Household said Dec. 30 that more than 2.6 million people saw Pope John Paul in person in 2003.

The prefecture published a month-by-month chart showing attendance at the pope's weekly general audiences, his liturgical celebrations, audiences for particular groups and attendance at the noon recitation of the Angelus on Sundays and feast days.

The biggest block — by far — in 2003 was October's entry for liturgical celebrations. With the Mass for the pope's 25th anniversary, the beatification of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the creation of new cardinals, 388,000 prayed with the pope that month.

April came in second with an estimated 145,000 people attending papal liturgies for Palm Sunday, the triduum and Easter.

# What you'll see in the Florida Keys

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Diver Spencer Slate dressed in a Santa Claus suit passes the Christ of the Deep statue in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Dec. 23. The 9-foot-tall bronze statue has rested in the waters about four miles off Key Largo since the mid-1960s.

dence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets the third Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with a potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-4986.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 11517 Spreading Oak Ln. Charlotte, NC 28226, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 541-5026.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd., will offer free basic and intermediate *Spanish classes* Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Classes begin Jan. 15 and end Feb. 19. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Faith Formation ministry of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will present *"A Tale of Faith and Medicine"* Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. A physician will share his journey of faith that led him to truly give the gift of life to a young woman. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will attend a prayer service at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St., Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the *Week of Christian Unity.* Members of area churches are also invited, and a light reception will follow the service. For more information, call the church office at (828) 464-9207.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will host a *Cursillo Weekend for Men* Feb. 12-15. For more information contact: www.charlottecursillo.org

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. A four-part series of classes will begin Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved which meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

**HAVING AN EVENT?**

*Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.*

# Bishops of the South issue third criminal justice pastoral statement

*Catholic leaders question juvenile justice in the South*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MARTIN, Ky. — The Catholic Bishops of the South issued a pastoral statement calling for improved juvenile justice in the South.

Approved by the 42 bishop-members of the Catholic Committee of the South, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, "Suffer the Little Children..." is the third of six such statements on the criminal justice process. The document revisits the November 2000 national statement by the U.S. bishops, "Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice."

"We bishops cannot support policies that treat young offenders as though they are adults," stated the bishops.

While violent youth should "be removed from society until they are no longer dangerous," the bishops said society "must never respond to children who have committed crimes as though they are somehow equal to adults, fully formed in conscience and fully aware of their actions. Placing children in adult jails is a sign of failure, not a solution."

The bishops were "disturbed by the trend" toward trying children under 18 as adults and placing juveniles in prisons with adults.

"We oppose allowing juvenile inmates to be in contact with adult inmates — such contacts have devastating consequences," said the bishops. "We also oppose efforts to give prosecutors, as opposed to courts, the authority to decide if juveniles should be tried as adults for serious crimes."

The bishops noted with "grave apprehension" the 2000 U.S. Department of Justice report that more than "100,000 children under the age of 18 are held in U.S. juvenile and adult correctional facilities on any given day."

Other reports indicate nearly three quarters of children in jail or prison are African American or Hispanic. African-American youth represent 15 percent of the population, 26 percent of juvenile arrests, 44 percent of youth who are detained, 46 percent who are judicially waived to criminal court and 58 percent admitted to state prisons.

"We must again stress that discrimination and racism are serious contributors to crime," said the bishops. "We join those asking our states to study why there is disproportionate racial prosecution and confinement of juveniles."

The bishops were concerned about child poverty — in Southern states, one out of every five children lives in poverty, according to Children's Defense Fund.

"We have consistently pointed out that extreme poverty is a serious contributor to crime," said the bishops. "Fighting poverty, educating children and supporting families are essential anti-crime strategies and we call on all people of good will to join in these efforts."

In many instances, said the bishops, children turn to crime due to "our own negligence in raising children with a respect for life, providing a nurturing and loving environment, or addressing serious mental or emotional illnesses."

"We encourage people to support programs in the community that engage young people and build their self-esteem," the bishops said.

Children's access to handguns was another concern.

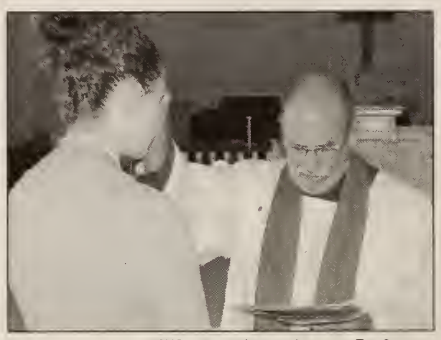
According to a 2002 Harvard School of Public Health study, the South had five states with the highest rate of gun ownership and "children in those states are at increased risk of dying from accidental and intentional firearm injuries."

"We support measures that control the sale and use of firearms and make them safer," said the bishops. "We especially support efforts that prevent the unsupervised use of firearms by children, and we reiterate our call for sensible regulation of handguns. ..."

The bishops believe society must "address the underlying problems that in turn attract people to crime — inadequate education, family disintegration, poverty, poor housing and powerlessness and greed."

The bishops called upon the U.S. government to redirect public resources away from prison construction and toward "better and more effective programs aimed at crime prevention, rehabilitation, education efforts, substance abuse treatment and ... probation, parole and reintegration."

"Young people are our greatest treasure and our hope for the future," said the bishops. "How we treat the children in our communities today will help shape the future for all of us tomorrow."



CNS PHOTO BY JENNIFER LINDBERG, THE CRITERION

**Msgr. Harold Knueven anoints a teenager during her baptism at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility in Indianapolis in early August. The girl said being imprisoned helped her grow closer to God and embrace the Catholic faith.**

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

## Annual march rallies support for life

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — North Carolina Catholics will join thousands of pro-life activists in Washington, D.C. Jan. 21-22 for the 2004 March for Life. The annual rally is held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions legalizing abortion.

"The March for Life is an opportunity to be a public witness for the sanctity of life. This allows our legislators to hear that we will not compromise when it comes to protecting human life," said Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life coordinator.

### WANT TO GO?

Representatives from the Diocese of Charlotte will participate in the following activities:

Jan. 21 — Mass at 8 p.m. at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Jan. 22 — Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis for North Carolinians at 10:30 a.m. at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Jan. 22 — Rally at the Ellipse near the White House at 12 p.m.

Spaces for the March for Life are still available. Bus tickets are $50 and a block of hotel rooms has been reserved. For more information, contact Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life coordinator, at (704) 370-3229.

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*"You Are a Better Parent Than You Think"*

**Annie Scheidler,** Generations for Life Director
*"Make a Difference for Life"*

**Dr. Richard Gildersleeve,** Graduate of International Theological Institute
*"An Invaluable Resource: The Catechism"*

**Dr. Robert Young,** NC State University Professor
*"The Catholic Mind in a Modern World"*

**Elizabeth and Mark Matthews,** Author of Precious Treasure: The Story of Patrick
*"To Love Without Counting the Cost"*

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# Camp Lejeune Catholics are getting a few good Knights

COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus present the charter for the new council at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina at a ceremony held Dec. 14, 2003. The council is named after Father Aloysius Schmidt, a Navy chaplain who died saving others at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

## *Council to assist, provide stability for parishioners*

BY JULIA LEDOUX
NC CATHOLIC

JACKSONVILLE — Catholics who worship at Camp Lejeune now have their own Knights of Columbus council.

The new council's charter was presented at a special Mass and ceremony at the Marine Corps base Dec. 14, 2003. The council was named after a Navy chaplain, Father Aloysius Schmidt, who died saving others at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Father Aidan Logan, a Navy lieutenant commander and chaplain, said the Knights have recently changed a requirement mandating each local council be connected to a civilian parish.

"They have amended their rules so we can have a council on a military base," said Father Logan.

The change is important for military personnel who serve in places like Okinawa, Japan, where civilian parishes do not exist, he said.

Father Logan has been working to bring a council to the base since he arrived in Onslow County 18 months ago. He contacted existing councils at Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville and St. Mildred Church in Swansboro, which assisted in getting the council at Camp Lejeune organized.

"We have many people who live on base who belong to those two councils," he said.

Twenty-nine men have already signed up for the Camp Lejeune council, according to Lenny Quemuel of the St. Mildred Knights of Columbus council.

"It brings a new perspective into Camp Lejeune and the religious community," said Quemuel. "Instead of just the young Marines, we have another organization on the base we can rely on. It is going to give Camp Lejeune and other Catholic faith organizations another means to prosper."

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882 to render financial aid to members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works.

Most of the Knights' 1.6 million members are in the United States, but it has councils in Canada, Mexico and several other countries.

Father Logan said the Camp Lejeune council would provide stability for parishioners who worship on the base. Civilian priests normally remain at a parish for six to 12 years while military priests are transferred every two to three years.

He also noted his parish is made up of mostly young families. Approximately 550 children are enrolled in Sunday school at Camp Lejeune. Father Logan said the Knights would be invaluable in assisting adults to have a fuller understanding of the faith.

*This story was reprinted with permission from the NC Catholic. Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to the story.*

## Celebrating a catechist

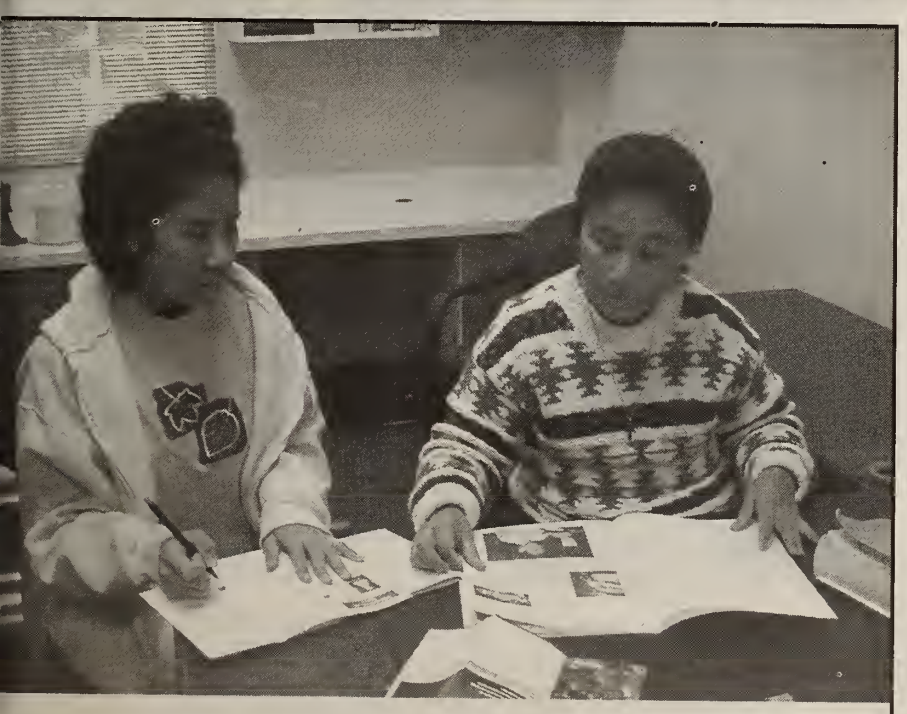
BREVARD — A celebration and recognition reception was given Dec. 7 for Mary Smith, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, for surpassing 25 years of service as a catechist.

Children and youth of the parish made a musical presentation for Smith, and Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan faith formation office, presented Smith with the National Catechist Pin, two volumes of the works of Pope John Paul II and a certificate of appreciation signed by Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

A plaque honoring Smith's catechetical service was presented by the Knights of Columbus Jack Driscoll Council and a stained glass cross was presented by the Ladies Guild of the parish.

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation; Myriam Gonzalez, director of Sacred Heart Church faith formation; Mary Smith, catechist; and Father Carl DelGiudice, pastor of Sacred Heart, at the celebration honoring Smith's 25 years as a catechist Dec. 7.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Shoes left outside the classrooms were filled with St. Nicholas prayer cards and candy canes at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte Dec. 5.

# Stealthy 'saint' slips treats in students' shoes

CHARLOTTE — St. Nick was making the rounds at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte.

The school celebrated St. Nicholas Day as students left their shoes outside their classrooms in anticipation of St. Nick's visit Dec. 5. Indeed, "St. Nick" filled the students' shoes with holiday treats.

St. Nicholas, born in Turkey, was a wealthy man who, at midnight, would leave gifts on poor people's doorsteps. This legend is the basis for placing gifts or gold coins in the shoes, stockings or baskets of children during the night before the feast of St. Nicholas celebrated early in the Advent season on Dec. 6.

His feast day is an important festival in many places and nearly universally associated with gift giving, but it is from the Dutch celebration that comes much of the Santa Claus tradition in the United States. Early European immigrants brought cherished St. Nicholas holiday traditions with gift giving and candy canes, which have become symbols of St. Nicholas. The candy canes resemble a bishop's staff, hooked at the top like a shepherd's crook, showing that he was a shepherd who cared for his people. St. Nicholas did his gift giving in secret under cover of darkness. He did not want to be seen and recognized, as he wanted those he helped to give thanks to God.

At St. Gabriel School, St. Nicholas Day reminded students and faculty to be good, be kind to each other, respect people and always try to be the best they can be. It was also a reminder that Christmas Day was coming soon.

# Caroling cubs convey Christmas cheer

CHARLOTTE — When the monthly theme called for learning about "good will," the Wolf Cub Scouts of St. Gabriel Church took the challenge to heart.

Den leaders Steve Lothspeich and Marc Settin had their hands full as the boys began their tasks in early December. They used carpenter tools to make a manger, painted a glass votive candleholder as a gift and pledged to complete three acts of good will.

The Scouts' first act was to sing Christmas carols to people shopping for Christmas trees in the lot sponsored by the parish Men's Club outside the church Dec. 7.

Scouts were then responsible for completing their pledged acts of good will on their own during the holidays.

COURTESY PHOT

Wolf Cub Scouts Alex Lothspeich, Zachary Sharp, Marc Settin Jr., Peyton Swancy Brett Heinz, Tyler Martino, Adam Walsh and Matthew McElhaney sing Christma carols to Christmas tree shoppers outside St. Gabriel Church Dec. 7 as fathers Blai McElhaney and Curt Heinz watch.

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# Reconciliation: a celebration

RECONCILIATION, *from page 1*

it is celebrated today. Catechism of the Catholic Church lists four key elements: contrition, confession, absolution and satisfaction (penance).

According to the catechism, contrition is "sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again." Confession, or disclosure of sins, "frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others." By the priest's sacramental absolution, God grants the penitent "pardon and peace." Finally, the satisfaction "must take into account the penitent's personal situation and must seek his spiritual good. It must correspond as far as possible with the gravity and nature of the sins committed."

### *Confession to a priest*

Often-asked questions are "Why do I have to confess to priest?" and "Can't I just tell my sins to God?"

The catechism says confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of penance: "All mortal sins of which penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in confession ... for these sins sometimes wound the soul more grievously and are more dangerous than those which are committed openly."

### *The ongoing conversion*

According to Sister DeGidio, conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence — it is a continuous, process that brings Christians ever closer to "the holiness and love of God."

"Moral conversion means making a personal, explicitly responsible decision to turn away from the evil that blinds us to God's love, and to turn toward God who gifts us with love in spite of our sinfulness," she said.

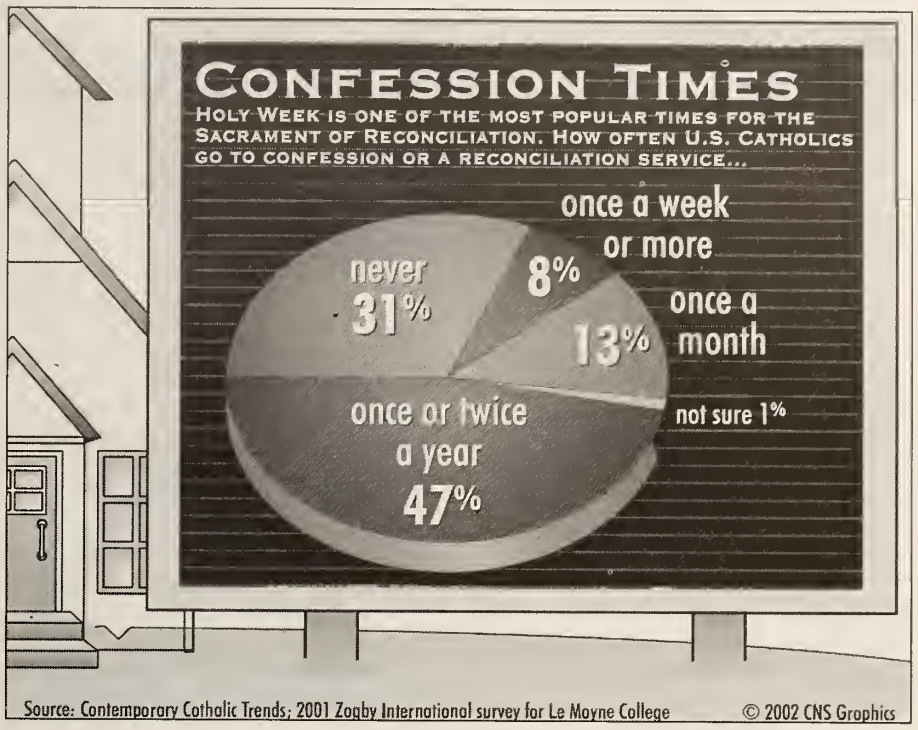
"The need for conversion does not extend only to those who have made a radical choice for evil," said Sister DeGidio. "Most often (conversion) means the small efforts all of us must continually make to respond to the call of God."

### *Repairing our relationship with God*

Many Catholics think of the penance element of reconciliation as punishment for their sins. According to Sister DeGidio, penance is not punishment, but rather repairing or correcting a sinful lifestyle.

"In the past we were told to do penance as temporal punishment for our sins," she said. "Now, however, we understand that our real 'punishment' is the continuing pattern of sin in our lives and the harmful attitudes and actions it creates in us."

"The purpose of doing penance is to help us change that pattern. Penance is for growth, not for punishment," said Sister DeGidio. "'Doing penance' means taking steps in the direction of living a changed life; it means making room for something new."




### *Foundation in the early church*

The origins of the sacrament of reconciliation are found in John 20:22-23: "And when (Jesus) had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'"

For the next two millennia, reconciliation underwent radical reformation to become the sacrament Catholics celebrate today. For the first 300 years of Christianity, penance was part of baptism. If a baptized person sinned seriously, he was excluded from the eucharistic community.

Toward the end of the third century, church leaders resolved that every sin is forgivable, based on teachings in the gospels and the importance Jesus gave to forgiveness. For the next 300 years, the sacrament was celebrated only once in a person's lifetime and the penance was often long in duration and severe in nature.

In the later Middle Ages, the practice of private reconciliation began to develop, supposedly through the influence of Irish monks. Reconciliation became a private ceremony administered by the priest and the absolution of sin was given before the penance was performed. In this order, Christians were able to receive the sacrament many times.

The 16th-century Council of Trent reemphasized the sacramental character of reconciliation. It also established the principle of yearly confession and allowed the individual priest to be the judge of the penance to be imposed.

### *A sacrament to celebrate*

When Catholics celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation, they should celebrate with joy and thanksgiving, Sister DeGidio said.

"The forgiveness of the Christian community and of God has brought us to this moment — and that is worth celebrating."

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# Audit results report

AUDITS, *from page 1*

employees and volunteers who work with minors (93 percent).

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops president, said the report indicates "the Catholic dioceses and eparchies (Eastern-rite dioceses) of the United States have put a tremendous effort into making the charter very much a part of the life of the church since the (June 2002) Dallas meeting."

He noted the audit process also uncovered areas not foreseen in Dallas.

"And so the report contains valuable general recommendations for further strengthening the church's response to the sexual abuse crisis in all its dimensions," he said.

The report is based on an independent compliance audit conducted by the Boston-based Gavin Group, headed by William Gavin, a former FBI official, and overseen by Kathleen McChesney, a former top FBI agent and head of the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection.

More than 50 auditors — mostly former FBI agents — conducted the onsite audits of dioceses and eparchies mostly between late June and November 2003.

Of the 191 audited dioceses, 52 dioceses were already in compliance with the charter. Auditors issued instructions — notices of noncompliance on one or more of the 17 articles — to 57 dioceses.

They issued recommendations — notices there was basic compliance but it was incomplete or could be improved in certain areas — to 125 dioceses. The report emphasized that even if dioceses have not fully implemented the recommendations given them, they "may still be compliant with the charter."

Of the 139 dioceses that received instructions and/or recommendations, 105 followed up before the end of the year with evidence they had made the changes to bring them into compliance or to improve their weaknesses.

The remaining 34 did not provide such evidence before the Dec. 12 deadline for inclusion in the first national report on the audit results.

*The Catholic News & Herald* reported Jan. 2 that the Diocese of Charlotte received two commendations.

The diocese was commended for its early proactive initiatives to ensure the protection of children and youths under its pastoral care. In 1994, the diocese adopted its "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel," which included the establishment of an advisory board, the majority of whom are laypersons and not diocesan employees.

The diocese also was commended for its comprehensive safe environment program, which includes training programs and background investigations for clergy, volunteers, teachers and contractors who have contact with minors.

Since June 2002, nearly 6,800 people in the Diocese of Charlotte completed training sessions for the awareness and prevention of the sexual abuse of children and young people.

The auditors also recommended the Diocese of Charlotte's policy for reporting allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy be clarified and made more readily available. The diocese complied through regular announcements in church bulletins, *The Catholic News & Herald* and its Web site: www.charlottediocese.org.

"Our diocese will continue to comply fully with all requirements of law and the charter promulgated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and we will respond without delay whenever there is an allegation of sexual abuse," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

In a letter mailed Jan. 6 to all registered households, the bishop pledged "the protection of our children and young people will always be a priority in the Diocese of Charlotte. I ask you to join me in prayer for all victims of sexual abuse."

A second study, also commissioned by the bishops, is scheduled to be released Feb. 27. Conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the study will report the nature and scope of clergy sexual abuse of minors over the last 50 years.

Gavin said the audit was initially a source of concern to many bishops, but it "turned out to be extremely helpful in demonstrating some deficiencies that were not yet known to them."

*Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

**Auditor William Gavin explains the results of a nationwide review of diocesan practices and policies mandated by the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." He was among those addressing the Jan. 6 press conference in Washington. Looking on is Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the bishops' Office for Child and Youth Protection.**

—This ad also ran in the national edition of The New York Times and USA Today on January 7, 2004.—

## Promise to Protect. Pledge to Heal.

"We can't give the victims of abuse back their innocence, but we can assure them that we will do all in our power to see to it that no child is so harmed again."

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

*On January 6, 2004, the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued its first report on the compliance of Catholic dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Churches) in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.*

*Adopted in June 2002, the Charter established the framework for preventing abuse of minors by clergy and protecting all children and young people in the Church's care.*

**Protecting young people.**
The Charter provides for creating "safe environments" in which young people are secure. It also provides for strict enforcement of codes of conduct for all those, including clergy, who come in contact with children and youth, whether they are full time employees or volunteers.

**Healing and reconciliation with victims of abuse.**
The Charter calls for dioceses to reach out to victims of sexual abuse, offering healing counsel and services and appointing victims' assistance coordinators.

**Effective response to allegations of sexual abuse.**
The Charter states that dioceses are to report allegations of abuse of minors, cooperate with civil authorities' investigations, and support the right of every victim to make a report to the authorities. The Catholic Church is fully committed to removing abusers from ministry.

**Ensuring bishops' and dioceses' accountability.**
The Bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection has made it possible for the first time to audit the performance of Catholic dioceses to ensure the safety of minors. The Bishops created a National Review Board of prominent lay Catholics to assist and monitor the Office to guarantee that the promise of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is realized.

*There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.*
**Pope John Paul II**

Please see the "Report on the Implementation of the 'Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People'" at www.usccb.org

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# Charlotte Diocese combats poverty

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Thanks to CSS's ABLE (Assets Building Long Equity) Matched Savings Program, available through the Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, Clay County farmer Todd Wood saved enough money to buy five heifers and start a business.**

**POVERTY, *from page 1***

meet by working part-time jobs that offer little or no benefits," said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

"We have this image of poor people as homeless or unemployed," said Purello, "and while certainly our nation has far too many homeless men, women and families given our immense wealth, we are far more likely to encounter a poor person ringing up our purchases at the store, providing childcare at a childcare center, or cleaning the hotel rooms in which we stay."

These nearly 35 million U.S. residents live in what the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty arm, calls "Poverty USA," the largest "state" in America. Yet a March 2000 Gallup poll revealed only 5 percent of Americans believe poverty and homelessness are important problems for the country.

"... Some Washington policy 'wonks' were quoted as saying that these statistics were a 'fairly predictable product of the slowing economy' and that 'results of the surveys have been consistent with what one would expect during a down economic period,'" said Father Robert Vitillo, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia in Lake Junaluska, N.C., Oct. 12.

"Contrast those bland, 'ho-hum' remarks with the concerns about increasing poverty raised by our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II," said Father Vitillo.

In April 2002, the pope said, "Precisely because people have been endowed by ... extraordinary [human] dignity, they should not be reduced to living in sub-human social, economic, cultural or political conditions."

Through a series of documents, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has called on others to help end poverty.

In "A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children," the U.S. bishops stated Catholics "must come together with a common conviction that we can no longer tolerate the moral scandal of poverty in our land. ..."

In "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee's 8,500-word blueprint for electoral decisions based on Catholic social teaching, it states "building peace, combating poverty and despair, and protecting freedom and human rights are not only moral imperatives; they are wise national priorities."

The CCHD sponsors "Poverty Awareness in America Month" each January to highlight the needs of poor Americans. Television and radio public service announcements have been distributed, and newspaper ads designed, to show the face of American poverty.

But in North Carolina, one doesn't have to look far to see the face of poverty.

### *Neighboring poverty*

According to the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center data for 2001-2002, North Carolina's poverty of 13.4 percent is significantly higher than the national rate of 11.7 percent.

"Poverty is much worse in the state's rural areas, and it especially hits children hard with nearly 17 percent of our state's children living in poverty," said Purello. "More than 20 school districts in rural counties reported poverty rates among school-age children over 25 percent."

"If one looks at how poverty is distributed on a map of the counties of North Carolina, one will find poverty concentrated in the far western counties, the low-lying eastern and southeastern counties and in the mountainous counties bordering Tennessee in the northwest," he said.

Yet in November, *The Catholic News & Herald* reported a significant increase in the number of first-time clients of the diocesan Catholic Social Services (CSS) Food Pantry.

More than 1,200 people in the Charlotte area turn to the Food Pantry each year to help feed their families. The increase in Food Pantry clients is a commentary on the state of the economy and the effects of Sept. 11, said Geri King, director of the Charlotte Regional Office of CSS.

"Many people have gone into debt, lost their homes," said King. "It's been a tough time for a lot of people."

King said CSS is seeing a wider margin of people who have been affected, including educated and professional people who have lost their jobs. Even though the economy is improving, there are still many families in need of assistance until economic progress affects them in a positive manner, she said.

### *Making a difference*

In 1997, then-Bishop William G. Curlin and Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman appealed to their dioceses "to reach out to those in dire economic need," and together the bishops issued the pastoral letter "Of One Heart and One Mind."

In 1999, CSS of the Diocese of Charlotte established the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to serve the far west Appalachian counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain "in response to the geographic imbalance of poverty in North Carolina and in desiring to follow concretely the call of the pastoral letter of Bishops Curlin and Gossman," said Purello.

In 1998 and 1999, Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Joanne Frazer, then-director of the Office of Justice and Peace, visited the far western counties to convene community meetings and learn of the region's most pressing needs.

"The establishment of the OEO really was a community-based effort," said Purello. "And its many successful works today have at their base the willingness of the diocesan staff — like Msgr. West and Joanne Frazer — to listen first to what the people of the region were saying. The power of partnership, collaboration, and community voice remain the key strength of OEO today."

"Far too many top-down economic development schemes in our country have failed, because the agenda of the designers did not match the needs and available resources of the people who were supposedly being helped," he said.

Each year, the OEO, located in the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development in Murphy, awards grants to local organizations.

The money for the grants comes from a special diocesan economic development fund established with proceeds from the sale in the mid-1990s of the Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hayesville.

"The decision to keep that money from the sale of Good Shepherd in a reserve fund as an ongoing generator of economic development in far western North Carolina was a wise decision by diocesan leadership," said Purello. "The money has been used by groups that are working at the frontlines of grassroots development."

"After tonight, we will have given out about $90,000 to 38 agencies since the year 2000," said Joan Furst, program director of the OEO at the November grant awards ceremony.

As a result, organizations in far western North Carolina are flourishing after receiving the start-up funds from OEO grants.

### *Families first*

To address the difficulties many people face on the road from welfare to work — such as lack of childcare and adequate education, low pay and few benefits — the OEO instituted in 2002 the Far West Families First (FWFF) Program. The ecumenical program supported by CSS, Glenmary Home Missioners, the Duke Endowment and Clay and Cherokee county Departments of Social Services, trains volunteers from various faith communities and teams them with families transitioning from receiving public assistance to financial independence.

Ecumenical faith teams consisting of Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians and other faiths — guided by principles of respect, compassion and family empowerment — support and counsel the families.

"OEO's first FWFF coordinator, Maureen Ripper, has skillfully brought together diverse teams that provide encouragement and hope to families in transition and in need," said Purello.

The support provided by the teams is often as varied as the families' situations. Teams have furnished bedding and furniture, shared garden produce, fixed computers, transported children to school, accompanied mothers to housing interviews and readied children for school with clothes and supplies.

One FWFF participant, a mother and full-time student, relies on her support team while working to obtain her computer science degree to become a skilled working mom.

"This group of wonderful, caring, loving people are very dear to me," she said. "When I feel life has gotten the best of me, I know I can make a call, and I will have someone there to talk to and cry on their shoulders. ..."

"The OEO, through its grants and community initiatives like Far West Families First and ABLE Matched Savings Program, seeks to strengthen the western communities of North Carolina by celebrating diversity and recognizing the tremendous resources diverse communities offer," said Furst.

"The bishops of Appalachia have been tireless in teaching about the need to build solidarity with those in need," said Father Vitillo.

"I doubt many of us here could enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner feast if we were aware that our own relatives were hovering outside our door with no food to eat," he said. "Yet many of us do tolerate this very injustice when we quietly ignore the plight of some 34.6 million of our brothers and sisters in the human family who are burdened each day by poverty in this, the richest of nations."

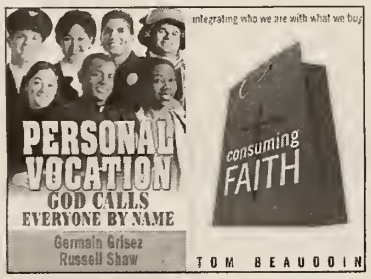
# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

# Questioning what to buy and what to be

In "Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are With What We Buy," Tom Beaudoin focuses on what he calls "economic spirituality."

Beaudoin, who explored "the irreverent spiritual quest of Generation X" in his previous book, "Virtual Faith," put off his doctoral dissertation in theology to embark on a self-reflective study of a branding economy. He wanted to examine how the goods we purchase have a personality all their own that we buy into. The result is a new perspective on a "consuming faith" — one that "integrates who we are with what we buy."




"Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are With What We Buy," by Tom Beaudoin. Sheed and Ward (Lanham, Md., and Chicago, 2004). 180 pp., $19.95.

"Personal Vocation: God Calls Everyone by Name," by Germain Grisez and Russell Shaw. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2003). 169 pp., $12.95.

Beaudoin says that we all make choices about the things we purchase — the sneakers we wear, the cars we drive. He asks: What do those choices reveal about us? What consequences do those choices have on others?

Beaudoin began his research by asking the producers of the goods he buys to tell him about how those goods are produced. He later writes, "I know that the materials that enable my comfort were forged under the fluorescent lights in a large room of young women half a world away. ... I must open myself to seeing my goods as part of 'one body,' and looking through my goods to their human producers." It is through this connectedness to others that we build up the body of Christ.

While calling people to greater sensitivity and a deeper and more revealing examination of conscience, Beaudoin asks a new and fundamental Catholic question: "What is it about us that cannot be bought, branded, traded away, drugged up or dieted off?" As usual, Beaudoin has captured the experience of young adults well. He brilliantly calls us to see, as St. Ignatius would say, "God in all things," even in a trip to the mall.

In their book, "Personal Vocation: God Calls Everyone by Name," authors Germain Grisez and Russell Shaw make the point that the idea of "vocation" encapsulates all that we choose. Marriage, children, political affiliation and even (like Beaudoin) economic choices are all matters of personal vocation. They are decisions that can reveal who you really are.

Grisez, a professor of Catholic moral theology, and Shaw, a prolific, Washington-based freelance writer on Catholic topics, have authored several books together. In "Personal Vocation" they correct the narrow Catholic view of vocation as simply "a calling to the priesthood or consecrated life." Instead, they say, a personal vocation is the "unique, unrepeatable role God calls each person to carry out the all-embracing divine plan."

The authors take a firm stand on calling young people to vocation, not just to employment. Often young people are pushed into careers that make good economic sense without regard to their own unique God-given talents. They urge individuals, educators, religious and parents to help form personal vocations in this new light.

A great practical section toward the end of the book and quotes and stories from all over the wide-ranging Catholic spectrum (St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, the founder of Opus Dei, is mentioned in the same breath as Dorothy Day) are just two of the book's strengths. This book is a must-read for all those who are caught at the crossroads of major decisions. At times, the book is rather dry (especially in the historical section) and also reeks of anti-intellectualism in parts, but it certainly speaks the truth about the vocation crisis in the world.

Both these books are gems. Reading them will certainly open your eyes to the wonders of discerning where God is calling you personally.

Hayes is the operations and marketing director of BustedHalo.com, the Paulist Fathers' young adult Internet outreach.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 18, 2004

## *Jan. 18, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Isaiah 62:1-5
   Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
3) Gospel: John 2:1-11

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I don't know too many mothers — Jewish or otherwise — who won't go out on a limb on their children's behalf. Sometimes this might consist of intervening when a child is being bullied. It might mean consulting with a teacher when a test is erroneously graded or a project deadline is unrealistic.

Last Christmas I overcame my usual reticence and bargained with boldness to get a better price on a significant gift for my 14-year-old son. In most cases these actions of confronting authority, persistently challenging the status quo or changing a timeline put the parent at risk of being considered "pushy." Nevertheless, the risk is often worth taking and even necessary to produce the fruit of justice and ensure the best interest of the child.

In the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana, the focus often has been on the miracle of Jesus' changing water to wine. But prior to the miracle, Jesus' "pushy" mother discerned a need, knew that her son was capable of meeting it and persisted until the desired result came to pass — all the while remaining in the background. It was this bold move on her part that set in motion Jesus' ministry.

While the gift of boldness is not one of those mentioned in the passage from 1 Corinthians, it is a gift that must be exercised from time to time so that the other gifts may be made manifest. May the disciples of Jesus follow the example of his persistent, "pushy" Jewish mother!

***Questions:***

In your experience, is there an injustice that requires more boldness and persistence from you? What step can you take to press for the desired resolution or blessing?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"His mother said to the servers, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (John 2:5).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11 - JANUARY 17**

**Sunday (The Baptism of the Lord),** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; **Monday,** 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday (St. Hilary),** 1 Samuel 1:9-20, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday,** 1 Samuel 4:1-11, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday,** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1, Mark 2:13-17;

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18 - JANUARY 24**

**Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-11; **Monday,** 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian),** 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday (St. Agnes),** 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday (St. Vincent),** 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday,** 1 Samuel 24:3-21, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday (St. Francis de Sales),** 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27, Mark 3:20-21

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# 'Cheaper,' but not short on laughs

CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt are surrounded by a young cast in their new family comedy film "Cheaper by the Dozen," a fitfully amusing comedy about a family with 12 children veering out of control as Dad tries to hold down the very rebellious fort. The family-first message follows the predictable parade of pranks, pratfalls and parenting problems, including dismay over their 22-year-old daughter moving in with her boyfriend. A discreetly implied affair, occasional toilet humor and brief slapstick violence. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.


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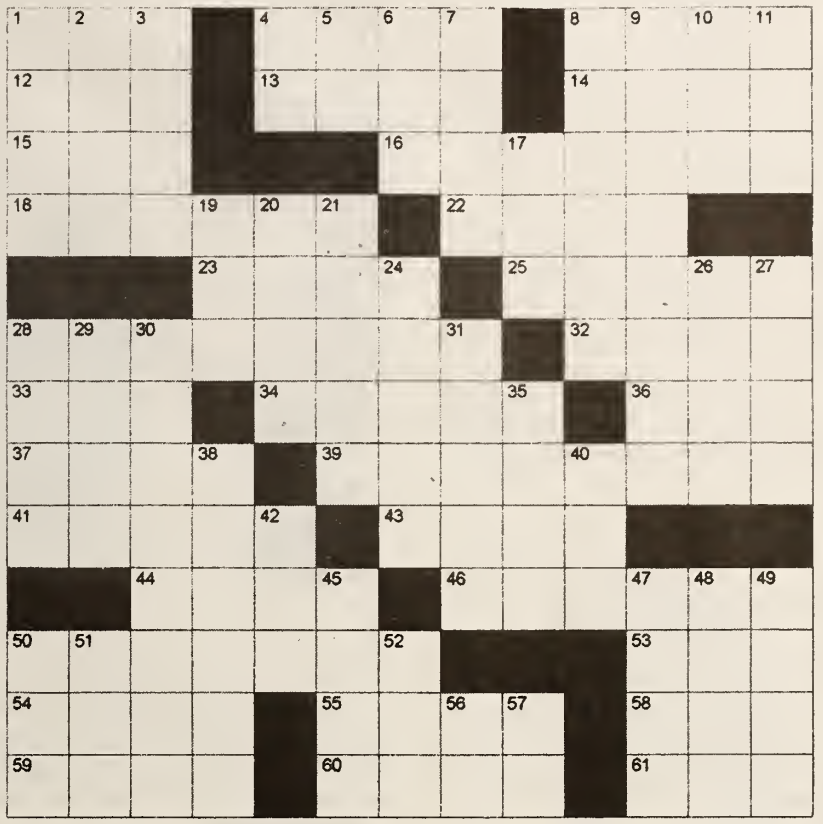

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15 Java
16 Sacrament
18 Biblical river
22 Glean
23 Olive genus
25 ___ Obstat
28 Follower
32 "Una Cosa ___" (Martin y Soler Opera)
33 Fuss
34 Enamel
36 Persona __ grata
37 Fruitcake containers
39 Auld ___
41 Era
43 Swim alternative
44 New year problem for many
46 Dreamworks animated movie
50 "With ___ host proclaim"
53 Greek measure
54 French fashion designer
55 Horse gear
58 Treebeard, for one
59 MASH actor
60 Bird of peace
61 Compass point

DOWN
1 Muslim pilgrimage
2 Melville novel
3 Spanish yesterday
4 Scotch initials
5 Mantra
6 Goblin type
7 Dogwood st.
8 Balloon filler
9 Manifestation
10 Latin thing
11 P-L connector
17 Cross, for one
19 Dwarf
20 "Um, that looks like ___" (Veggie Tales)
21 Asian country
24 ABC Series
26 Golf club
27 Kent's love
28 Mediterranean fruit
29 "____ my pen in the blackest ink..." Emerson
30 Jesus
31 Texas city
35 African Woman's Organization (abbr)
38 Eye part
40 Glide
42 Sci-fi computer
45 Last name in basketball
47 Deer types
48 Taverns
49 Bewitched boss
50 Medical grp.
51 Nothing
52 Corporate bigshot
56 Hospital instrument
57 State abbreviation

## THE DAY AFTER

# Kicking up help for others

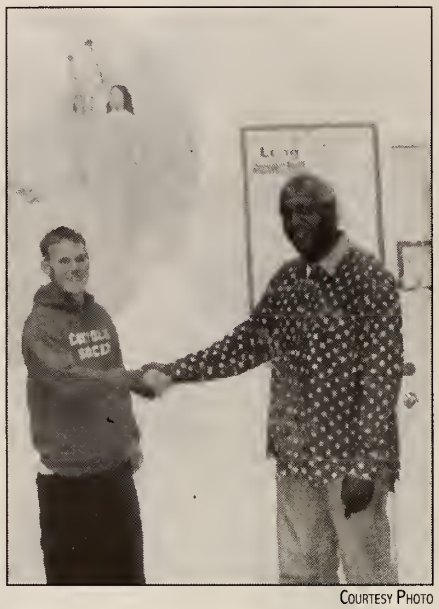
CHARLOTTE — While Charlotte Catholic High School's men's soccer team was on their way to winning the state championship, setting the state's shut-out record, they were also helping their community.

The team, prompted by senior captain Patrick Herford, initiated a project at the start of the season to collect clothes for the poor. Fans were asked to bring socks, gloves, mittens and winter hats to home soccer and football games.

These particular items were preferred by Charlotte Rescue Mission, to which Herford and teammates delivered eight bags worth during Christmas week.

Charlotte Rescue Mission provides food, shelter, clothing, counseling, educational classes, medical care and Christian teaching for individuals seeking help from a drug or alcohol addiction.

"It was truly spectacular to have such a great season and also give back to the community in this manner," said Herford. "I certainly feel that this reflects the character of the team and the spirit of the school."



COURTESY PHOTO

Patrick Herford, senior captain of Charlotte Catholic High School's men's soccer team, shakes hands with Thomas Strouse, a manager at Charlotte Rescue Mission. The team delivered eight bags of needed clothing to the facility Christmas week.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Born in Egypt around the year 229,St. Paul the Hermit went into hiding in the desert to escape the persecution of Christians and decided to live as a hermit for the next 90 years. St. Jerome visited an aged Paul and found him to be an exemplar of a holy man, and burried him when he died. He is called Paul the First Hermit to distinguish him from other hermits named Paul. His feast is Jan. 15.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**Principal**

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Raleigh has an opening for principal of its K-8 school. The search committee seeks a principal with a commitment to quality teaching, community service and excellence - as well as a demonstrated ability to lead and to collaborate with faculty, parents and parish staff.

The search committee seeks candidates who are practicing Catholics, hold a master's degree, have experience in teaching and 5 years in education management, and hold (or are capable of obtaining) NC principal certification. Please submit resume and a one-page statement of vision for Catholic education by Feb 15 to: Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 2718 Overbrook Dr., Raleigh NC 27608. Or email OLLSPRINCSRCH@aol.com.


## Classifieds

### EMPLOYMENT

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:** Experienced with master's in theology, religious education or related field. Send resume and statement of your vision of faith formation to: Faith Formation Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336)294-6149; email jmalmfelt@stpaulcc.org

**DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:** Holy Redeemer Catholic Community in the Outer Banks of North Carolina is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to be part of a collaborative pastoral team. Responsibilities will include working to enhance existing adult formation opportunities, including the development of small Christian communities; and working toward whole community catechesis. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic, with a combination of training and/or experience in adult formation. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949, Attn: Faith Formation Search Committee, or email herrityt@raldioc.org.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC seeks a full-time professional with at least a bachelor's degree in music, and an in-depth knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy. Must be fully competent in both organ and piano, and experienced in directing both adult and children's choirs. Responsible for all music activity in a church with over 2,300 families. Full benefits available. Applicants who meet these requirements should send a resume to: OLG Music Ministry, 201 South Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403, or fax it to (336) 274-7326.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Experienced with degree or certification in youth ministry, theology or related field. Send resume and statement of your vision of youth ministry to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336)294-6149; email jmalmfelt@stpaulcc.org.

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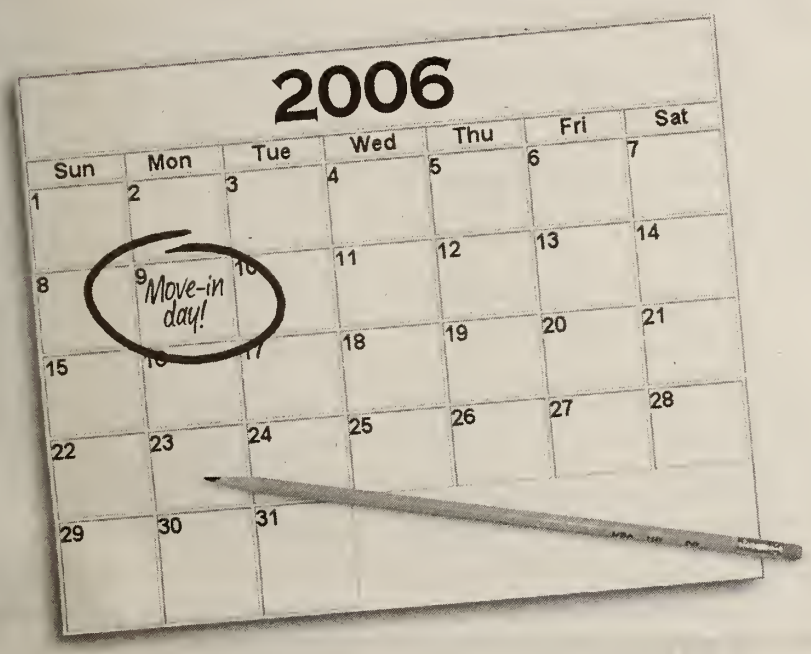


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# Franciscan Sister Miller dies at 95

## *Former teacher wrote history of Diocese of Charlotte*

TIFFIN, Ohio — Franciscan Sister Miriam Miller, who served in North Carolina and wrote the history of the Diocese of Charlotte, died at St. Francis Convent in Tiffin, Ohio Dec. 24. She was 95.

She was buried in St. Francis Convent Cemetery Dec. 29.

A native of Ohio, Sister Miriam was received into the Sisters of St. Francis in 1930, professed her first vows in 1932 and proclaimed her final profession of vows at the motherhouse in Tiffin in 1935.

She taught at schools in the Diocese of Toledo, in Peru and the order's motherhouse. Though most of her long teaching career was spent in secondary education, she had said her best years were her first four — teaching in one-room rural schools in Palmer Township in Ohio.

From 1955 until 1961, she served as superior general of her congregation. She also served as secretary general for three years. In 1964, she was assigned as principal to St. John School in Waynesville, N.C., and during her time the enrollment rose from around 60 students to over 130.

In 1973, Sister Miriam was in a serious automobile accident that left her with some handicaps. Nonetheless, she worked as a librarian in St. Francis High School and then later as director of the occupational activities program at St. Francis Home in Tiffin, a position she served until 1981.

Then, at the invite of then-Bishop Michael J. Begley, she traveled to

Franciscan Sister Miriam Miller

Charlotte to write "A History of the Early Years of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte" before returning to St. Francis Convent in 1983.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The ever-evolving job

**Our Turn**

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

I'm still not sure what I want to do when I grow up and neither are my friends. Some older generations may accuse Gen-Xers of flitting around from job to job, incapable of commitment, uninterested in hard work. But I think it has more to do with needing to love what we do and with finding meaning in our work. This is especially true for young women.

Last year, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church conducted focus groups in a cross-section of archdioceses and dioceses around the country. The common responses to questions regarding the relationship of faith, work and family don't surprise me.

First, the report asserted that many women have found "workable, creative ways to integrate family, work and spirituality." At times they struggle in balancing the three, but find it easier when they resist the temptation to compartmentalize these priorities.

Moreover, young women successfully bring their spirituality, religious beliefs and values to their workplace and family. Both become places of evangelization.

Second, women need their work to be valuable and fulfilling. They are satisfied when they feel as though they are contributing their gifts and skills to the world. They want to make a difference.

Nowhere was this more obvious than at my 10-year college reunion. Conversations at the tables in the social hall revolved around family and career. After showing off pictures of weddings and children, we moved on to questions of work or other responsibilities (like volunteering) that fulfilled us when the children were asleep or throwing tantrums.

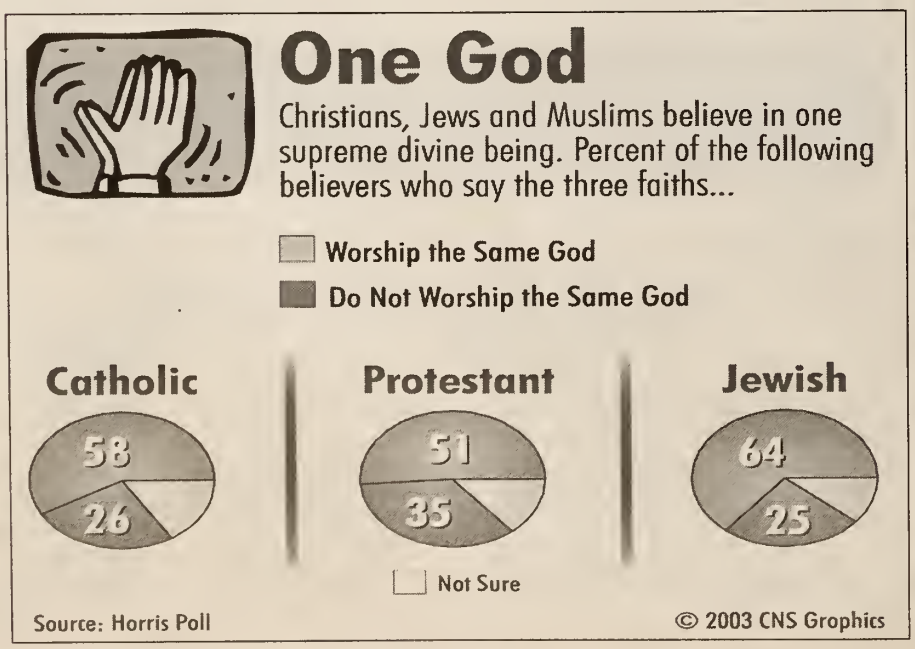
We were all still trying to figure out what we wanted to be when we grew up.

I was shocked to learn that the biggest hippy in our class, dressed right out of the '70s, obtained her MBA and was working for IBM. Another friend, who had had no doubts where she was headed — first toward grad school to get her doctorate in biology, and then to the lab and the classroom to research and teach — dropped out the first year, traveled to Nepal and was changed forever. Now she wants to explore new places for a living and is figuring out how to get paid for that job.

Perhaps peculiar to our generation, young adults haven't stopped asking themselves how they best can contribute to society. By the time we attend our 30th college reunion, we may well have been in school as many hours as in the office. Since we must be fulfilled and satisfied by what we do outside and inside the home, it makes sense that one set track just won't do. As we evolve, our careers evolve with us.

Sometimes I wish I could be content with one job responsibility for the rest of my life. Then I wouldn't have to ask myself so many questions and walk around in seemingly endless circles, but I might feel cheated out of becoming all that I could be and giving all I could give.

And that makes me wonder: If everyone generously shared his or her skills and gifts with the world, would any of us really have to grow up?




## U.S. clown performs after pope tells circus workers to live faith

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — To a thumping drumbeat and the steady rhythms of an electric guitar, an oddly dressed American responded to Pope John Paul II's admonition to "always live your faith in Christ with joy."

Andrew Philip, wearing a fair amount of face paint and a big red nose, juggled for the pope at the end of his Jan. 7 weekly general audience.

Philip is the star clown of the Italy-based American Circus; he and about 100 other circus performers, staff members and their children attended the audience and posed for a photograph with the pope at the end of the audience.

The performance was brief and did not include any of the American Circus' elephants, tigers or horses.

In his main audience talk, Pope John Paul focused on Christmas and the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The pope asked people to look at a Nativity scene and think about the attitude and role of Mary.

**The Pope Speaks**

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

"The same love, the same care which she had for her divine son, she has for us as well," he said. "Therefore, let her guide our steps in the new year that divine providence has given us to live."

The pope said his wish for everyone at the first general audience of 2004 was that "sustained and comforted by her maternal protection we may contemplate with renewed eyes the face of Christ and walk more swiftly on the paths of goodness."

Greeting Polish-speaking visitors, the pope prayed that Mary "would embrace each one of us with the same love with which she embraced the Son of God."

## Letters to the Editor

### Commending the commendations

It was with gratitude to God that I read of the commendations this diocese received concerning its compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" ("Bishops' child protection charter has numerous mandates for dioceses," Jan. 2). It is my prayer that as we make our way through the difficult task of facing this real-life nightmare — as it will appear when statistics are released in February — we will face it with the Christian virtues of hope and honesty.

We must be honest enough to realize that we as a whole people, religious and laity alike, allowed such an evil to foment within our midst, but remain hopeful that we are now all more aware of such behavior and will be vigilant in our respective capacities to protect one another, particularly the young. In this way, we can be a light to other congregations and denominations who will deal with this scenario.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis' letter read at Mass this past weekend (Jan. 4) mentioned that the diocese has had a policy in place for the last nine years. My exhortation would be to make sure all elements are in place to follow the policy correctly, expediently and with the utmost compassion. There's no sense in having one if it's not going to be followed.

I firmly believe that once we are through this turmoil, the Catholic Church will be all the stronger. For we do believe in the crucified and resurrected Christ — a God who can take the worst thing in the world and make it the best thing in the world.

— Martin Corts
Valle Crucis, N.C.

### Cold words in 'Cold Mountain' review

In regard to the review of "Cold Mountain" ("'Cold Mountain' is lukewarm epic," Jan. 2), this is yet another Southern slam with David DiCerto's wording of "Caught by the undertow of their Dixie delirium ..." Poor choice of words and there should have been no place for this in a Catholic publication.

— Joan Kiser
Boone

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# When a helping hand changes a life

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

From refugee to philanthropist in one generation — that's the amazing story of a New York City plastic surgeon who's making a major gift to a Catholic high school that came through for her in her hour of greatest need. The new beginning the school made possible enabled her to make a new beginning of her own, enriching the lives of countless others in the process.

I first read about Dr. Thuy Nguyen in a story written by Kevin Kelly for The Catholic Key, the newspaper of the Kansas City-St. Joseph Diocese in Missouri. It's all about one person making a difference, with a helping hand from some extra-kind folks along the way. Sharing it with you is a great way to start the new year.

Dr. Nguyen was a young girl when she was forced to flee Vietnam in a boat with her family in 1975, after the fall of Saigon. She spent a week on the open sea before a U.S. merchant ship came to the rescue, transporting the family to a camp in the Philippines. Then they came to this country, first to Fort Chaffee, Ark., and eventually to Kansas City.

Once there, they had to start from scratch. The family had been well-to-do in Vietnam, but in Kansas City they were penniless. A priest, Father James Flanagan, gave them some second-hand clothes and set them up in a public housing project, and the father of the family got a job as a night watchman. But school seemed out of the question until Father Flanagan got a commitment from St. Pius X High School. Administrators there agreed to waive the tuition fee — only $700 at the time, Dr. Nguyen would later recall — but it might as well have been a million.

Her education opened all kinds of doors, thanks in great measure to Charity Sister Mary Aquinas, who took a personal interest in the future doctor. She pressed her to do extra work, once she saw the student's potential, and worked with her to improve her English. She even filled out scholarship applications, and surprised the young woman with news that she had won a scholarship to Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kan.

Nguyen's academic achievements soared from that point on. She won a degree from the University of Missouri and eventually graduated from Columbia University Medical School in New York. As a plastic surgeon, she's now accredited to six New York hospitals and has a thriving private practice. But she also cares for the poor and the elderly, treating those whose wounds fail to heal properly.

"We fight for our patients," she said. "Whatever they need, we fight to get it."

In the midst of her success, though, she hasn't forgotten the first big break that came her way. This past fall, she announced she and her husband would donate $25,000 to St. Pius in gratitude for all that the school and Sister Mary Aquinas had done for her. Nguyen said she hopes the gift will make it possible for other students like her to afford a St. Pius education.

"For the small amount of money we donate now, I hope that students who are not as privileged as others will be given a chance in life, just as St. Pius gave to me," she said.

Someone made a true difference, years ago, in Nguyen's life. She's repaying the favor the best way she knows how — by making a difference for others.

To support your parish, Catholic school or Catholic agency in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact your pastor, principal or agency director. Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 from the diocese are available to assist you.

# A gluten-free Eucharist

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Several times in recent years your column has discussed letters from men and women who suffer from celiac sprue disease and therefore cannot tolerate the gluten in wheat Communion hosts. For some of us it is an extremely dangerous condition.*

*In previous comments you said there is no totally gluten-free host that the church approves for the Eucharist. However, a Catholic periodical one of our group receives reported recently that a new host is now available and approved. Can you tell us what they are and where our parish can obtain them? (Florida)*

A. As you note, Catholic authorities have ruled several times in the last two decades or so (most recently July 24, 2003) that totally gluten-free hosts are not valid matter for the Eucharist and thus may not be used at Mass or for Communion. That ruling continues.

However, as I mentioned occasionally in this column, work has continued in the United States and Europe to find a formula that can be received by those who cannot tolerate gluten. Surprisingly there are hundreds of thousands, in our own country alone.

I'm sure the periodical you mention is referring to a formula developed partially under the auspices of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Mo., longtime manufacturers of Communion hosts.

As Vatican authorities require, the hosts are not entirely without gluten, but the amount is exceedingly lower than any available in the past, about .01 percent, or one part in 10,000. In other ways also these hosts comply with requirements that they be composed of wheat and water only, with no other foreign materials, and no process that would alter the form of bread.

Obviously, only one's physician should determine whether or not a person with celiac sprue should attempt to tolerate even this small amount. From what I have learned, however, it seems that a large number of patients might find the new formula an acceptable alternative.

Local bishops may give permission to use the low-gluten hosts, so if your doctor approves them for you, talk with your pastor about obtaining these hosts for yourself and others who need them.

Of course, the other alternative remains of receiving the Eucharist only under the form of wine, though some patients are equally sensitive to ingredients of certain wines. Also, even the tiny quantity of wheat, which contaminates the wine when a piece of the host is dropped into the cup before Communion, may render the main chalice intolerable.

Most pastors readily try to accommodate these needs, even if it means having a separate small chalice with consecrated wine to be distributed to people with celiac sprue.

The Benedictine Sisters may be reached at 31970 State Highway P, Clyde, Mo. 64432. Phone 800-223-2772. Or e-mail: altarbreads@benedictine sisters.org.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the Holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# You are not alone

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

While sitting in the doctor's waiting room, I felt my blood pressure soar, and it had nothing to do with my health. It was due to the magazine articles I was reading that contained nothing but bad news.

Stories abounded on Iraq, the Middle East conflict, senseless killings, tribal divisions, poor governance; celebrities were being investigated for hideous crimes; concerns about global warming, endangered species and foods with high toxin levels also were discussed. I couldn't find an uplifting article.

I thought to myself most people not only read this news, but also live under a cloud of anxiety in their own back yards. Parents worry about children, and children worry about their aging parents; worries about security forever plague them.

Wouldn't it be great if we had one solid week a year to somehow naturally purify our minds of all our anxieties? Perhaps going to the mountains, sailing the ocean or escaping to some secret island would do the trick.

That's a soothing thought, but escaping our anxieties is not realistic. Very few of us have the luxury of dropping everything and sailing off into a place of bliss.

The news these days may leave us feeling concerned about the welfare of those close to us, about our country and our quality of life. When this happens, the first thing to do is to admit that we are caring individuals.

Caring expresses love and the desire for a better life. We wouldn't be anxious if we didn't love.

Most of us probably view anxiety as something solely negative. We don't get around to seeing it as a sign of love. As a consequence, we don't give our heart the opportunity to take heart. We need to do more than lament bad news. We need to seek opportunities to make life better.

Another step in coping with anxieties is to remember that we aren't the only ones experiencing them.

Often when we are confronted by bad news and the anxiety it generates, we feel alone. Husbands or wives, for example, may go into a shell, not communicating — forgetting that their spouse is as concerned as they are.

When they remember that others are as concerned as they are and share with them their concerns, they frequently begin to regain their power to cope.

The next time you feel your blood pressure rising because of bad news, remember that this is happening at least in part because you care and love. And don't forget, there are others around you who are just as anxious as you are — because they too care and love deeply.

# St. Aloysius Church stands as a monument to parish's enterprising spirit

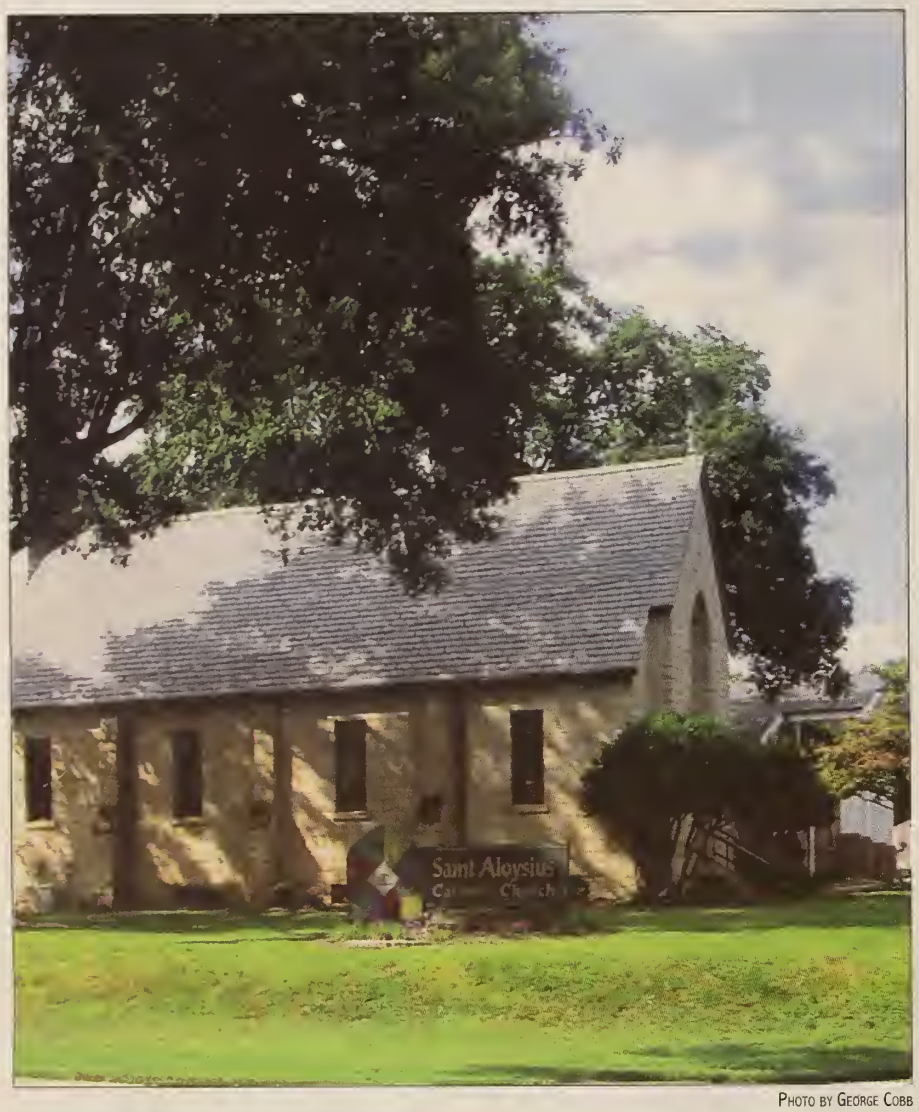


PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

The former St. Aloysius Church in Hickory (above) is now used as a chapel for daily Mass. A new complex housing a sanctuary for 750 people was dedicated in 1993.

HICKORY — Although there existed a small Catholic presence in Catawba County during the late 19th century, the first Mass was not celebrated in the area until 1913.

Bishop Leo Haid, abbot ordinary and vicar apostolic of North Carolina, assigned missionary priest Benedictine Father Celestine Bache to confirm the existence of a Catholic population in the region. Father Bach gathered a dozen or so Catholics together in a Hickory home, where Mass was celebrated for the first time Dec. 7, 1913, and celebrated there for almost two years.

On April 18, 1915, Bishop Haid came to Hickory and dedicated a former Seventh Day Adventist Church as the new St. Aloysius Catholic Church. The building and property had been purchased by the Catholic residents the year before. The $1,500 used to purchase and improve the property came from Dr. Joseph Kelly of Philadelphia, who made the grant for the purpose of furthering Catholicism in North Carolina. It was in memory of Dr. Kelly's deceased son, Aloysius Kelly, that St. Aloysius Church was dedicated.

Benedictines from Belmont Abbey visited Hickory to celebrate Mass from that point in time, although the liturgy was said only four times that year. Soon, Masses were said monthly and, in 1928, Benedictine Father Anthony Mayer began celebrating Mass on a weekly basis.

By that time, some 50 Catholics lived in the Hickory area. The congregation looked to expand its facilities, and property on the edge of Hickory city limits was purchased in April 1937. A year later, which marked the silver jubilee of the St. Aloysius community, a new brownstone church was dedicated by Abbot Vincent Taylor of Belmont Abbey Sept. 25, 1938.

The years during World War II saw Masses added for the Naval cadets who were stationed at Lenoir-Rhyne College. Parish growth continued through the next two decades; organizations and programs were developed and a newly constructed rectory enhanced parish life.

In 1944, Hickory was removed from the jurisdiction of Belmont Abbey and was welcomed into the Diocese of Raleigh. The first resident pastor of the new diocesan church, Father William McShea, also began celebrating Mass in Burke County and in Morganton, thereby establishing missions in those areas. In 1947, a rectory was added to the growing church complex.

By the early 1960s, parishioners again saw the need to build a larger church, thanks in part to an increased Catholic population due to expanded industrialization in the area. More than 400 people made up the congregation, and on May 10, 1963, then-Msgr. Michael J. Begley — later to become the founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte — preached the sermon at the dedication Mass of the new redbrick St. Aloysius Church.

The St. Aloysius parish continued to thrive. During the 1970s, the parish established a new church in Newton. That church, St. Joseph the Worker, was dedicated on Labor Day, 1978, and remained a mission of St. Aloysius Church until attaining parish status in 1980.

In 1986, Maryvale Sister Mary Norman joined the St. Aloysius Church staff as the faith formation director and confirmation catechist. The Maryvale Sisters, whose pastoral ministry is to assist diocesan priests at the parish level, helped St. Aloysius Church from their motherhouse located nearby in Vale.

In 1987, Father Wilbur Thomas was assigned as pastor, and continued expansion over the years has notably included a new multipurpose, three-story complex that houses a sanctuary with a capacity for 750 people. The complex, dedicated in 1993 by then-Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, also houses classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, a nursery, a music room and a parlor.

This fourth church to be occupied by St. Aloysius seats 520 and is designed for a parish of 800 families. The building was designed to interconnect with other buildings on the site. The old church, now renamed Sebastian Chapel, is being converted to a chapel for daily Mass. The red brick church is a multipurpose parish hall.

St. Aloysius Church proudly serves within Hickory's broader Christian and secular communities. The church provides financial and/or volunteer support to community outreach programs, including Adult Life, Alzheimer's Association, Cooperative Christian Ministry, Family Care Center of Catawba Valley, Habitat for Humanity, House of Mercy, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, Pregnancy Care Center, Rape Crisis Center, Right to Life, Southmountain Children's Home and Unique World Gifts.

Parish programs include the Christmas Giving Tree, clothing drives, Meals on Wheels, Harvest of Hope Walk, homebound visitation, Red Cross Bloodmobile, Respect Life and visitation of the sick.

Although the beginnings of St. Aloysius Church were meager back in the early years of the century, the parish family has grown to include 1,375 registered families. The church has weekly Masses in Spanish on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons, and monthly Masses for the Hmong and Lahu parishioners.

In addition to its former mission, St. Joseph Church, St. Aloysius is also the mother church to St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton, St. Francis in Lenoir and the Holy Trinity mission in Taylorsville.

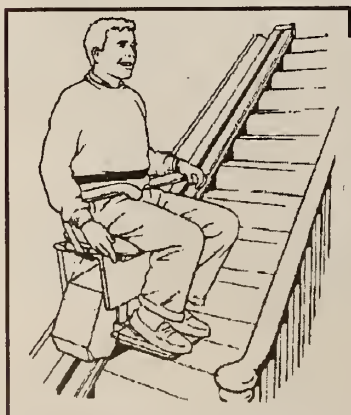
Father Edward Sullivan, now pastor for almost six years, is assisted by Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez, parochial vicar, and Rev. Messrs. Hugo May and Tom Rasmussen.

Much has occurred in Hickory since that group of 12 celebrated Mass for the first time in 1913, and St. Aloysius Church stands as a monument to the enterprising spirit of its parish community. Enriched by the leadership of dedicated priests and deacons, the assistance of faithful nuns and lay people, St. Aloysius Church prepares for a bountiful harvest of service in its future.

**SAINT ALOYSIUS CHURCH**
921 Second Street, NE
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 327-2341

**Vicariate:** Hickory
**Pastor:** Father Edward Sheridan
**Parochial Vicar:** Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez
**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Hugo May (retired); Rev. Mr. Thomas Rasmussen
**Number of Families:** 1,375

Father Edward Sheridan



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JANUARY 16, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 13 Nº 16

FC222 C36 3c.

Parish Profile: Good Shepherd Church
PAGE 16

# Snow much fun

COURTESY PHOTO

## Catholic students work in winter wonderland

While other Triad-area schools were closed due to bad weather Jan. 9, third-graders at St. Pius X School in Greensboro "study" the composition of snow crystals during their science class. Principal Mark Akerman reported that only a few students missed school that day.

# Despite Iraq war, ambassador says U.S.-Vatican cooperation flourishes

**'NEVER, EVER' DID POPE DESCRIBE U.S.-IRAQ WAR AS IMMORAL, SAYS AMBASSADOR**

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — With bombs dropping in Baghdad, Iraq, and words flying at the Vatican, 2003 was not an easy year for U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson.

The war in Iraq created a diplomatic minefield for Nicholson as he pressed Vatican officials for some level of support — or at least understanding — of the U.S. position: that it was time to use armed force against Saddam Hussein.

As the U.S.-led "war on terrorism" advanced in other ways, the Vatican raised questions about the wider legal and political implications. Sometimes it seemed like open season on the world's only superpower, with cardinals, Vatican experts and Catholics scholars weighing in with critical comments.

But despite the perception of tensions U.S.-Vatican rela-

See VATICAN, page 8

LIVING THE LEGACY

# Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. honored at memorial celebration

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Martin Luther King Jr.'s life may have ended nearly three decades ago, but his dream and spirit live on.

Almost 100 people gathered for the annual diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Jan. 10.

Themed "Empowering Ourselves for Leadership Within Our Church and Community," the event, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, featured workshops and focused on the life of Rev. King, who challenged and helped foster positive changes to segregation and racial discrimination in the United States in the 1950s and '60s.

After his assassination in 1968, Rev. King became a symbol of protest in the struggle for racial justice.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was not a Catholic, but he was a good Christian ... a speaker of the Gospel who found himself in a situation where he saw an injustice that we today consider to be outrageous," said Joseph Powell, chairman of the Commission for African American Catholic Ministry for the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J.

"He had the gumption and the will to stand up and say 'this is wrong' and 'we need to change this,' which is

See KING, page 7

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Joseph Powell of the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., discusses involvement in parish life during the annual diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Jan. 10.

**Serving Triad Hispanics**
*Hispanic Center welcomes first program director*
PAGE 4

**A Look Inside**
*The Catholic News & Herald*
PAGE 7

**Fighting for Life**
*'Life principles' theme of March for Life*
PAGE 9

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## TO SHARE THEIR HAIR

CNS PHOTO BY SHAWN D. ELLIS, MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Teacher Sandra Gonzales braids a student's cut hair before sending it off to Locks of Love. Several members of her class at Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School for Girls in Detroit agreed to donate their hair to the nonprofit organization that makes and donates wigs for children who have lost their hair due to diseases or accidents.

# Catholic school students find that haircuts can help others

DETROIT (CNS) — Seven students from Our Lady of Guadalupe Middle School for Girls have learned that, in order to give, sometimes you have to put your heads together.

Or, in this case, your hair.

In December, the students each donated at least 10 inches of their hair to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that makes and donates wigs for children who have lost their hair due to diseases or accidents.

"It's important because some kids don't have hair," said Lorena Galvan, a fifth-grader at the middle school, "and I just want to help out."

Locks of Love, based in Florida, takes hair donations by mail. The girls found the organization while trying to find a community service project on the Internet.

Following the directions on the Locks of Love Web site at www.locksoflove.org, the girls had their hair tied into ponytails, clipped and sent to the organization. Donated hair should be at least 10 inches long.

"That's actually how most of our volunteering takes place," said Amy Weeks, volunteer coordinator for Locks of Love. "We don't solicit for any money, salon participation or any ponytails," she told The Michigan Catholic, archdiocesan newspaper of Detroit.

Most of the hair that's donated to Locks of Love goes to help children who lost their hair from alopecia areata, a disease that affects more than 2.2 million children in the United States and causes the body to become allergic to its own hair.

Locks of Love also makes wigs for children who have lost their hair because of other diseases, burns or animal attacks.

Each wig the nonprofit company produces takes six months and costs about $1,000 — money raised through donations. The average hairpiece from a for-profit business costs between $3,500 and $5,000.

"What's really neat is that, once (the wigs are) on the child, it's like having real hair," said Weeks.

Locks of Love has helped 1,100 children since it was founded in 1997.

# Lawmakers who back abortion, euthanasia told not to receive Communion

LA CROSSE, Wis. (CNS) — Archbishop Raymond L. Burke formally notified Catholic lawmakers in the La Crosse Diocese they cannot receive Communion if they continue to support procured abortion or euthanasia.

The four-paragraph canonical notification, published in the Jan. 8 issue of the La Crosse diocesan newspaper, called upon Catholic legislators in the diocese "to uphold the natural and divine law regarding the inviolable dignity of all human life."

"To fail to do so is a grave public sin and gives scandal to all the faithful," it said.

Archbishop Burke, who is to be installed Jan. 26 as St. Louis' new archbishop, released the canonical notification along with a 10-page pastoral letter to Catholics in the La Crosse Diocese about their political responsibility to uphold the value of human life.

"Catholic legislators who are members of the faithful of the Diocese of La Crosse and who continue to support procured abortion or euthanasia may not present themselves to receive holy Communion ... until such time as they publicly renounce their support of these most unjust practices," the notification said.

The two documents followed December secular press reports that Archbishop Burke sent private letters to three Catholic legislators in the diocese, warning them of the spiritual dangers of their votes against human life. According to Archbishop Burke, none of the lawmakers accepted his invitation for a private meeting to discuss their voting records, and in letters to the bishop indicated they were not open to changing their positions.

"So the notification became a necessity in order that the faithful in the diocese not be scandalized, thinking that it is acceptable for a devout Catholic to also be pro-abortion," said the archbishop.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the *Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.* The local competition will be held Jan.19 at 1 p.m. at St. Mark School, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information contact either Dick Christian at (704) 948-7730 or John Bottoms at (704) 957-3915.

MINT HILL — Looking for a way to get closer to God this year? Put your new year's resolution into practice by taking the *Alpha Course.* Alpha is a video lecture series and supper club that meets Friday nights through March 19. Register by calling (704) 573-7021 or e-mail mcnuccie1@bellsout.net.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a program to welcome back inactive Catholics and/or those who have left the Church but are interested in returning to the practice of the Catholic faith. The *Catholics Returning Home* series will meet Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, call Sue Johnson at (704) 333-8028.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Tran*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope asks that Christ's baptism light the way for every Christian

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked that Christ's baptism illuminate the way for every Christian and offer fresh light and strength for their journey of faith.

Before praying his Sunday Angelus Jan. 11 from the window of his studio in the Apostolic Palace, the pope reminded the hundreds of people gathered below in St. Peter's Square that the day celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord — when John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River as a symbol of repentance from sin.

According to the Gospel of Luke, the pope said, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven was heard to say, "You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests."

The pope said this event marked the first public showing of Christ's messianic identity after the adoration of the Magi, who looked upon the newborn Jesus as a messianic king.

Thirty years later at his baptism, "We see him consecrated by the Father in the Holy Spirit," said the pope.

"Jesus comes as the 'lamb of God' to take away the sin of the world," he said. "And as we celebrated the Incarnation of God with Christmas, we are invited to continue contemplating the face of Jesus — the human face of God, the divine face of man."

*sition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Natural Family Planning* classes are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Room 200. Classes are taught by Dr. Matthew Harrison. All are welcome to attend, no registration required. Call (704) 948-0231 for directions and more information.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets the third Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with a potluck dinner with a guest speaker from the community. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-3986.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd., will offer free basic and intermediate *Spanish classes* Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. Classes begin Jan. 15 and end Feb. 19. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-9522.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Faith Formation ministry of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will present *"A Tale of Faith and Medicine"* Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. A physician will share his journey of faith that led him to truly give the gift of life to a young woman. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HICKORY VICARIATE

NEWTON — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will attend a prayer service at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St., Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the *Week of Christian Unity*. Members of area churches are also invited, and a light reception will follow the service. For more information, call the church office at (828) 464-9207.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. A four-part series of classes will begin Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Please submit notices of parish events for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope changes Ash Wednesday schedule due to declining health

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will skip a traditional Ash Wednesday liturgy this year in a historic Rome church, the latest schedule cutback caused by the pontiff's declining health.

The Vatican announced that instead of traveling across the city to place ashes on the foreheads of the faithful the pope will do so at the Vatican.

The liturgy in the Paul VI audience hall will take the place of the pope's regular general audience, the Vatican said Jan. 10.

In 1979, the pope revived the practice of leading an Ash Wednesday procession on the Aventine Hill, then distributing ashes to cardinals, bishops and religious at the Basilica of Santa Sabina.

He said he instituted the ceremony because he felt strongly that the Lenten season "cannot pass unnoticed."

The effects of arthritis and a thigh bone operation, along with symptoms of a neurological disease, have made it increasingly difficult for the pope to walk or stand. Several years ago, he gave up participation in the Ash Wednesday procession, but continued to bless and distribute ashes.

This year, the pope's health forced him to cancel two early January liturgies he had instituted at the start of his papacy: Masses featuring the ordination of bishops and the baptism of babies.

Despite his infirmities, Vatican officials said recently the pope has not ruled out future international travel. He reportedly has received invitations to visit Switzerland, Austria, France and Mexico this year.

# Heavy metal

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Residents carry scrap metal salvaged from the debris of a fire that gutted a squatter colony in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, Jan. 13. The seven-hour blaze destroyed the residences of more than 20,000 people, who were temporarily sheltered in government centers.

## THIS MONTH IN—1996

### COVENANT RENEWED

Calling the rift between their churches "a scandal of division," North Carolina's Roman Catholic and Lutheran bishops renewed the five-year-old covenant between the two churches Jan. 14, 1996. The three bishops — then-Bishop William G. Curlin, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh and Bishop Mark Menees of the Synod of North Carolina—Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — signed three copies of the Lutheran-Catholic covenant, originally signed in 1991 by Bishop Gossman, Archbishop John F. Donoghue and Bishop Michael C.D. McDaniel.

SERVING HISPANICS IN THE TRIAD

# Hispanic Center welcomes first program director

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — Tania Castillero has ambitious goals for the Triad area: she hopes to provide vital services to the growing Hispanic communities in High Point, Winston-Salem and Greensboro.

The Piedmont-Triad Office of Catholic Social Services recently hired Castillero as its first full-time program director of the Hispanic Center of Catholic Social Services.

As director, Castillero will supervise two part-time counselors and work with community and parish leaders, primarily addressing the needs of the Hispanic community.

David Harold, Piedmont-Triad Office director of Catholic Social Services, said Castillero will be an asset to the center for a number of reasons.

. "Tania has a combination of counseling and administrative experience," he said. Also, Castillero, a native of Panama City, Panama, is bilingual in English and Spanish, which is difficult to find in a counselor.

Since earning her master's degree in counseling from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, Castillero has been working part time as a counselor, primarily with Hispanic clients. She assisted them in a number of areas, including acculturational stress, or stress due to adjusting to the American culture; domestic violence; depression; and behavioral problems in schoolchildren.

As program director, Castillero has a daunting job ahead of her and some ambitious goals. She said she plans to establish stronger connections within the churches and communities of High Point and Greensboro. Her office will also provide referrals to bi-lingual counselors, who are in short supply in the Triad area.

Castillero named several crucial areas of need in the Hispanic community. Medical referrals, immigration services, tutoring and educational workshops are called for in the Triad, in addition to proficient bilingual counselors.

Harold said Castillero already knows the Greensboro and High Point areas well and she will be a part of a collaborative effort to serve Hispanics in those communities.

**Tania Castillero is the new program director of the Hispanic Center in High Point, serving Hispanics throughout the Triad area with a variety of services.**

In the High Point office, Castillero wants to develop a program for the Hispanic community encouraging Hispanic children to become more involved in school activities. The Hispanic Center will further provide translation services and establish strong connections with other organizations that provide services to Hispanics. She also plans educational workshops for both Anglos and Hispanics.

"As a Catholic, I believe there are so many ways members of the Catholic Church can come together as a community," said Castillero. "The community needs to support more Catholic education and parish involvement."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT TO VOLUNTEER?**

The Hispanic Center in High Point is looking for volunteers. For more information, call (336) 884-5858.

# 'FIRE' up your faith

## *Upcoming rally to transform lives, inspire faith*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

FORT MILL, S.C. — The Southeast FIRE Rally, a dynamic, one-day Catholic event for adults, will be held at the Charlotte Bobcats Training Center in Fort Mill March 13.

The event is designed to ignite participants' faith experiences through powerful, challenging talks on Faith, Intercession, Repentance and Evangelism. Speakers will be the nationally recognized FIRE team consisting of Franciscan Father Michael Scanlan, a Third Order Regular Franciscan; Sister Ann Shields, superior of the Servants of God's Love in the Diocese of Lansing, Mich.; Ralph Martin, founding president of Renewal Ministries and founding editor of New Covenant magazine; and Peter Herbeck, director of missions at Renewal Ministries.

"The rally will provide Catholics with an opportunity to surrender their lives more completely to the Lord Jesus, and to allow the living Lord to transform their lives personally," said Michael Coyle, associate coordinator of Good News Ministries, sponsor of the FIRE Rally.

According to Coyle, "Good News Ministries is committed to providing evangelistic events which foster personal conversion to our Lord Jesus Christ, celebrate the blessings of God's reign among us and build up the life of the Catholic Church in the Carolinas."

Coyle further explained that attendees will be impacted by God and empowered to live the Gospel mandate "Go and Tell."

"The FIRE Rally is definitely part of the new evangelization taking place within the Church," he said.

"Through a profound experience of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, the FIRE Rally will undoubtedly awaken an awareness of and instill a greater commitment to the person of Jesus and the mission of the Church," said Coyle.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C. will celebrate the FIRE Rally's closing liturgy. Bishop Baker will be the homilist of the closing liturgy.

The rally will include vibrant, inspiring music by Hearts of Fire from Durham, a bookstore and a ministry fair.

To welcome Spanish-speaking participants, a limited number of Spanish translation headsets will be available.

**WANT TO GO?**

The original Southeast FIRE Rally in 1999 sold out several weeks in advance. Register early for this event by calling Good News Ministries at (704) 521-9949 or visit www.fireministry.org/charlotte.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Remembering Rev. King

## *Annual celebration commemorates activist's life and legacy*

KING, *from page 1*

very consistent with Catholic social teaching," said Powell, who led a workshop on parish involvement.

"There is a lot more to being a good Catholic than just attending Mass on Sundays," he said. "(I tried to) get them thinking about how they can make their parish better, and how they can reach out to a wider community."

"There are a lot of issues around the world that the faithful should be involved in," said Ralph McCloud, director of the justice and peace ministry with the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. "The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, in their document 'Faithful Citizenship,' encourages people to get involved."

Leading the workshop on political involvement, McCloud hoped in this election year that "people see the connection between their political responsibility and their faith."

Because people are made in the image and likeness of God, "we are in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world," said McCloud. "When we hear of people dying in other places in the world, that should impact us."

"We have a responsibility to be active in the mission of Jesus Christ," said Powell. "Catholic social teaching demands respect and justice for all human beings."

"We have to embrace Catholic social teaching," said McCloud. "We can't be Catholic without it."

Rev. King's call to conversion is one of the great legacies of the civil rights leader, said speakers at a Jan. 17, 2003 prayer breakfast sponsored by the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for African American Catholics and Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Rev. King "spent, and even gave, his life for a call to conversion that's based on Christ," said Msgr. David Malloy, an associate general secretary of the USCCB.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Approximately 80 people learned about parish and political involvement at the annual diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church Jan. 10.**

Msgr. Malloy said the values Rev. King refers to in his 1964 "Recovering Lost Values" sermon were to "respect each other. Respect life. Respect and worship God."

Yet many of the injustices Rev. King fought against 40 years ago still exist today, said McCloud.

"Rev. King was very big against the war in Vietnam, and now we have similar conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "The whole notion of the United States policing the rest of the world was something he spoke out against, as well as the poverty and racism that we still see."

While in Memphis, Tenn., to support striking black workers in 1968, Rev. King was assassinated April 4 by James Earl Ray, an escaped white convict.

"We must realize that the struggle continues. It's not something that has ended with Rev. King's death," he said. "He left a legacy not just for any one individual leader or minister but a legacy for all of us."

"It's important for us to recognize that, to promulgate that and continue to foster his ideas and to pass that on to future generations," said Powell.

"Time has a way of letting us forget," he said. "Many of us have forgotten or don't want to remember how difficult it was for black people in this country, and what sacrifice Rev. King and others made in order for us to reap the benefits of being Americans. It didn't happen by magic. People suffered and some died in order for us to be where we are."

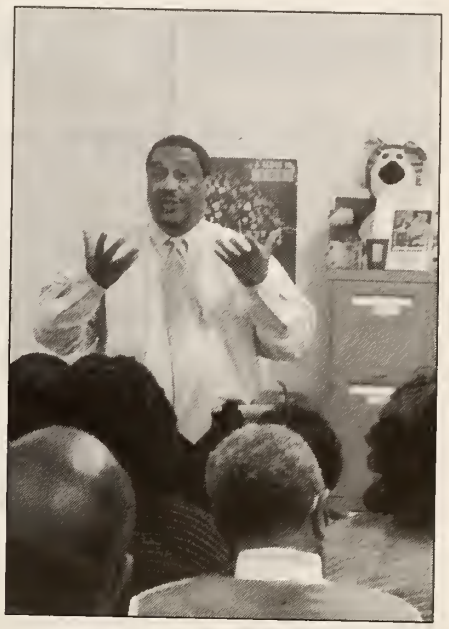

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Ralph McCloud of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, discusses involvement in political life at the annual diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church Jan. 10.**

"We have to be the ones to tell the story, for the generation that lives now knows nothing about the struggle," said McCloud. "We must tell them in a very personal way that is passionate and clear, or they will have no way of knowing the difference between George Washington and Martin Luther King."

McCloud encouraged people to get involved in the education of young people.

"Have a presence in the schools — volunteer, speak to classes. Hold the schools to a higher accountability," he said. "Plant seeds. We may never know what comes of planting those seeds, but we know what will happen if we don't — nothing."

Rev. King was born Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta. The federal holiday to mark his birthday comes on the third Monday of January, and this year falls on Jan. 19.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Charlotte Catholic bets on Panthers

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School and Father Judge Catholic High School in Philadelphia agreed to a friendly wager regarding Jan. 18's championship football game between the Panthers and the Eagles.

The wager: If Carolina wins, Father Joseph Campellone, Father Judge High School's president, will award Gerald Healy, Charlotte Catholic's principal, with an authentic Philadelphia cheese steak sandwich.

If the Eagles win, Healy will offer Father Campellone some legendary local Carolina barbeque, donated by the Ole Smokehouse in Charlotte.

To show their support for the Panthers, Charlotte Catholic students were permitted to break from dress code on Jan. 15 to wear Carolina Panthers attire.

"We wanted the students to be involved in the excitement and this gives them a chance to sport their favorite Panthers wear," said Jennifer Johnson, Charlotte Catholic's director of development. "It's a great way for us to support the Panthers as a school community."

# National honor society inducts Belmont Abbey students

*Delta Epsilon Sigma welcomes 22 new members*

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College's Gamma Iota chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma, the national scholastic honor society of Catholic colleges and universities, inducted 22 new members this fall.

To be eligible for membership, students must be full-time juniors or seniors and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.4. Rajive Tiwari, a Belmont Abbey associate professor, is the group's faculty advisor.

New inductees include:

— Linda Patrice Belk, Carol Doty Capps, Georgenia Lynne Luckey, Lisa D. Summers and Elizabeth A. Sweeney, all from Charlotte;

— Katherine F. Boswell, Timothy D. Bowling, Thomas S. Caldwell, Carol Horne Crouse, Carol Nicole Garver, Angela D. Sanford and Priscilla L. Smith, all from Gastonia;

— Jaimee D. Hanafin and Thomas Walter Plecnik, both from Belmont;

— Sherri Green of Lincolnton and Amber E. Nichols of Kings Mountain;

— Katherine Suzanne Bogie of Jupiter, Fla.; Emily Susan Charlton of Mount Pleasant, S.C.; Sean Patrick Dunne, of Lighthouse Point, Fla.; Jennifer Helene Gray of Virginia Beach, Va.; Sarah Katrina James of Austell, Ga.; and Matthew Louis Watkins of Longwood, Fla.

Belmont Abbey College, named one of the country's leading private liberal arts colleges by U.S. News and World Report, is located in Belmont, 15 miles west of Charlotte. The 650-acre campus consists of the college, the monastery and the Abbey Basilica.

Nearly a thousand students call the Abbey home. The students, with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, represent more than 18 countries and 34 states and pursue undergraduate degrees in a number of liberal arts course offerings.

Founded in 1876, the college celebrates its heritage and is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the college and Abbey basilica greet thousands of visitors each year.

# Providence Sister Kathleen Marie Cronin dies

*Former teacher taught in Winston-Salem*

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — Providence Sister Kathleen Marie Cronin died Saturday, Jan. 3 in Mother Theordore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in Indiana.

A Mass of Christian burial was held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and she was buried in the Cemetery of the Sisters of Providence in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sister Kathleen was born Mary Irene Cronin in Chelsea, Mass., on Dec. 6, 1916. She entered the Sisters of Providence on Sept. 10, 1936, professed first vows on March 11, 1939 and final vows on Jan. 23, 1945.

She was an educator and taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of Providence in California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and North Carolina, where she taught at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem and St. Therese School in Wilson.

Sister Kathleen is survived by sisters, nieces and nephews.

## CORRECTION

Father Edward Sheridan was misidentified in the Parish Profile in our last issue.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# Diocesan newspaper continues mission of evangelization

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a new series, "A Look Inside," that will explore the various departments and ministries of the Diocese of Charlotte.*

CHARLOTTE — "With this inaugural issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, the Diocese of Charlotte embarks on a new, exciting and challenging venture."

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue wrote those words in a column for the first *The Catholic News & Herald* Sept. 6, 1991. In the almost-13 years since that issue, the diocesan newspaper has progressed in style and presentation, yet has remained committed to its core mandate — "a voice for evangelization," as Bishop Donoghue wrote.

"It's an honor to be editing an award-winning diocesan newspaper," said Kevin E. Murray, editor. "The newspaper is a great way to unite the faithful in the words and deeds of God and his people across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte and beyond."

Pope John Paul II has described the Catholic press as a missionary in disseminating the truth and stated that the Catholic Church cannot accomplish its mission without a vigorous Catholic press.

"In a time when the Catholic Church has been under attack, especially in the secular press, the Catholic media — and a strong diocesan publication — are essential to spreading the truth and messages of the Church and diocesan authority, as well as the saving message of Jesus Christ," said Murray.

PHOTO BY TIM FARAGHER

**Kevin E. Murray, editor, and Karen A. Evans, staff writer, review proofs of the Jan. 16 issue before sending them to Mullen Publications, the newspaper's printer.**

### *Founding issues*

*The Catholic News & Herald*'s creation was the result of months of hard work by dedicated people — specifically, the task force that studied the feasibility of establishing a diocesan newspaper and the original staff who implemented the first issues.

*NC Catholic*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Raleigh, continued to serve the Diocese of Charlotte long after its founding in 1972.

But by 1991, Bishop Donoghue felt "the Church of Charlotte had grown to the point where it was large enough and mature enough to sever the strings that bound us to our Mother Church" and initiated a newspaper that "could address more directly the needs and concerns of all Catholics in the western part of our state."

"I am deeply indebted to Bishop (F. Joseph) Gossman and the staff of the *NC Catholic* for the many years of dedication and fruitful services it provided for all of us in the Diocese of Charlotte," he wrote.

As publisher, Bishop Donoghue — by default, a diocese's bishop becomes the publisher of its newspaper — intended *The Catholic News & Herald*'s mission to "share the good news with our brothers and sisters, especially those who have fallen away from the Church, and with the thousands of people who are unchurched and have never had the opportunity to learn about Christ."

Admitting it was a "large order," Bishop Donoghue wrote it was a "reasonable goal, if we all share the responsibility. ... I call upon all our people to support this new initiative in our diocese."

### *Spreading the news*

While some Church events on the national and international scale are important, Murray believes the diocesan newspaper should focus primarily on the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Many readers have indicated this opinion to me," said Murray. "It coincides with research by the Readership Institute at Northwestern University that reveals readers want 'intensely local, people-centered news.'"

The late Bob Gately, who served as the newspaper's first editor until 1995, wrote he intended "heavy emphasis on the activities of our parishes, missions and diocesan agencies and institutions."

"Some readers have felt *The Catholic News & Herald* strayed a bit from that emphasis in recent years, so we've been persistent in returning to the initial goals," said Murray. "Over the last year, we have doubled our local coverage and restructured the newspaper for a more reader-friendly presentation."

"But effectively covering a 46-county diocese is, as Bishop Donoghue said, a large order, especially for a small staff such as ours," he said.

The current newspaper staff consists of five people — an editor, staff writer, graphic designer, advertising representative and secretary.

"Our editorial staff consists of just two people, but we all work together as a team to put out a quality newspaper," said Murray.

"And as each parish and mission is abundant in stories of people living the life of Christ and making a difference in this world, the newspaper has taken — and continues to take — steps to include them among its pages," he said.

*The Catholic News & Herald* utilizes a "talented and dedicated group of correspondents who live around the diocese," said Murray. "They often cover the events which we can't attend."

Murray said the "Catholic angle" is the primary consideration in selecting news stories.

"We want to tell good stories that relate to people's lives, but those stories must have a Catholic angle," he said, "because the stories also have to relate to their faith. The stories — and sometimes the photographs — that have the most impact are what we aim to put on page one."

### *Point of contact*

In the past year, Murray has also attempted to establish contacts in each of the 91 parishes and missions across the diocese.

"Normally, the contact person is the pastor, but often pastors have a lot going on and delegate to others, sometimes the deacon, secretary or someone else in the parish," said Murray.

The contacts are people from which *The Catholic News & Herald* can learn about parish events, ministries, outreach programs, newsworthy parishioners "and anything else we might have missed in their parish bulletins," said Murray.

Many parishes and Catholic schools in the diocese submit news and photographs of their events on a regular basis, said Murray.

"These are the stories that often run without bylines, or photos that run with 'Courtesy Photo' credits," said Murray. "In my Nov. 21 column, I encouraged readers to send in more of these submissions. They often provide coverage of events in the various vicariates, or of parishioners accomplishing noteworthy things."

When taking a photograph for publication, Murray suggests avoiding the typical "grip-n-grins."

"Grip-n-grins are photos of people standing and staring at the camera. They make for the most uninteresting photos," said Karen A. Evans, staff writer. "I would suggest experimenting with different angles."

"I like to either get down on one knee and shoot up, or stand on something and shoot down — these make for more appealing photos," said Murray.

*The Catholic News & Herald* will also remain proactive in providing readers with the news from the pope and Vatican, the U.S. bishops and other items that relate to their lives and faith, said Murray. Reviewing and evaluating films and books in accordance with Catholic teaching, for example, will remain an important aspect of the newspaper because our readers look those these reviews for guidance.

### *Ads on stage*

The newspaper is currently funded through parish assessments and advertising.

"Parishes have collections and schools have tuition, but both often have fundraisers to help support their operations," said Murray. "Similarly, the newspaper relies on advertising to help support its operation."

"We advertise the 'good news' of many local companies in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Cindi Feerick, advertising representative. "It gives them a stage with credibility to reach their market effectively yet inexpensively."

With over 66 percent of readers reading every issue, it pays to advertise in a diocesan newspaper, according to research gathered by the Simmons Marketing Research. Ads in secular newspapers account for 65-75 percent of the publication's space and are often perceived as hype on the part of the advertiser; Catholic newspapers average only 20-40 percent advertising, making the ads stand out.

In addition, they offer the perception of credible advertisers because they are in "the Church paper," one that has different guidelines for the types of

See CN&H, page 13

# U.S.-Vatican relations flourish

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Jim Nicholson listens as Pope John Paul II gives his "state of the world" address to diplomats Jan. 12 at the Vatican. The pope urged the international community to help the Iraqis "retake the reins of their country." Despite the perception of tensions, U.S.-Vatican relations have weathered 2003 with remarkable resilience, said Nicholson.

VATICAN, *from page 1*

tions have weathered 2003 with remarkable resilience, Nicholson said in an end-of-the-year interview with Catholic News Service Dec. 30.

Cooperation between the U.S. government and the Vatican far outweighed areas of disagreement, the ambassador said, primarily because of a shared interest in promoting human dignity, religious freedom and other basic values around the world.

"U.S.-Vatican relations are very good. Ironically, they remained good throughout that imbroglio of Iraq because we're engaged in so many other ways. I call it our foundation of shared values," Nicholson said.

That context of cooperation is important to keep in mind, he said as the embassy gears up for events in 2004 to mark the 20th anniversary of full diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See.

To commemorate the anniversary and to give it added impact, Nicholson and his staff are organizing conferences in Rome on several key themes:

— Religious liberty, with Supreme Court Chief Justice Antonin Scalia expected to be a main speaker.

— Food, starvation and biotechnology — including genetically modified foods, a topic the U.S. Embassy has taken up repeatedly with Vatican officials as a moral issue for the new millennium.

— Slavery in the 21st century, following up an embassy-sponsored and Vatican-supported conference in 2002 on human trafficking.

— The need for "new legal instruments" to deal with stateless terrorist groups.

The last topic is a big one, and Nicholson said it's clearly a concern of Pope John Paul II, who raised it in his recent World Day of Peace message. The ambassador said that among the questions to be addressed would be the type of pre-emptive action that can legitimately be taken against terrorist organizations.

Nicholson, a 65-year-old former Republican National Committee chairman in his first diplomatic post, acknowledged that war and peace issues dominated his talks at the Vatican over the last 12 months.

But he thinks U.S.-Vatican differences over the war in Iraq have been exaggerated — in part, he said, because "peripheral voices" are sometimes taken as Vatican policy.

"Never, ever, did the pope say it would be immoral for the United States to go into Iraq, or that war is immoral," the ambassador said. He said the pope recognized that civil authorities have the ultimate responsibility to make decisions on those questions.

Nicholson said the Iraq war highlighted one of the big challenges of his job: "taking the measure of statements that emanate from different quarters of the Vatican."

A recent example was when Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, complained about televised images of Saddam Hussein after his capture and said U.S. forces had treated him "like a cow" by checking his teeth.

That prompted Nicholson to go straight to the Secretariat of State, where Cardinal Angelo Sodano assured him that Cardinal Martino was speaking for himself and not the Holy See, the ambassador said.

Does the Vatican send mixed signals when it allows cardinals, Roman Curia officials and other church experts to speak their minds on international issues?

"I think it's a problem for the Vatican, because when someone like Cardinal Martino speaks up as he did, it's often interpreted — including by people in my country — as the Vatican speaking," Nicholson said.

Nicholson believes there's more sympathy than generally believed for U.S. actions in Iraq, particularly among Iraqi Catholic leaders. He said that when he recently met with Iraq's newly elected Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel III, the patriarch's first words were: "Thank you for coming to my country and freeing my people."

Moreover, there's a constant current of collaboration between the United States and the Vatican that doesn't register on the headline news ticker, Nicholson said.

In the field of religious freedom, for example, the Vatican has at times requested that President George Bush apply some pressure in the international arena.

"Twice (the Vatican) has asked the president to intervene in Russia, and twice he has. Twice they've asked him to intervene in China, and twice he has," Nicholson said.

"The president is very well-liked and respected here by the pope and the Curia," he said.

The ambassador doesn't spend all his time meeting with Vatican officials. Recently, he's been lecturing in the motherhouses of some religious orders in Rome, promoting a U.S.-funded training program on human trafficking.

In January, the embassy is sponsoring a two-week course on recognizing and helping human trafficking victims. Most of the students are women religious, who will return to their home countries and train more workers in the field.

Nicholson also helped conceive a Jan. 17 concert at the Vatican by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The ambassador sees it as a "reconciliation event" because it features an American orchestra led by a Jewish conductor, accompanied by a Muslim choir from Istanbul, all playing for the pope and other Vatican dignitaries.

At the end of his second full year in what he calls a "fantastic" job, Nicholson said he is increasingly inspired by Pope John Paul's determination in the face of physical frailty. The pope shows an "undaunted spirit" and seems to thrive on the challenges presented by his declining health, the ambassador said.

"He keeps an awful lot of people busy. He continues to think big and strategically, he continues to try to be a force for reconciliation ... and he continues to have great resonance," he said.

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# 'Life principles' the thrust, theme of 2004 March for Life

## *Bishop Jugis to celebrate Mass day of rally*

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To observe the 31st anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion virtually on demand, sponsors of the annual March for Life have chosen "Build Unity on the Life Principles" as the theme for the Jan. 22 rally on the Ellipse and march to the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court buildings in Washington.

"Some people think unity is everybody holding hands, and we all be nice to one another," said Nellie Gray, who has directed each March for Life since the first one in 1974.

"We're not talking about that," she said. "We're talking about unity on the life principles — no exceptions, no compromises."

Gray defines possible exceptions and compromises as "life of the mother, health of the mother, rape, incest, a deformed child and all that."

The March for Life Education & Defense Fund states as the life principles:

— "The life of each human being shall be preserved and protected from that human being's biological beginning when the father's sperm fertilizes the mother's ovum."

— "The unalienable right to life endowed by our Creator vests in each human at fertilization."

— "There must be equal care and protection for each born and preborn human."

— "When in doubt opt for life."

— "When two or more humans are in a situation in which their lives are mutually endangered, all available ordinary means and reasonable efforts shall be used to preserve and to protect the life of each human so endangered."

CNS PHOTO BY DON BLAKE, THE DIALOG

**Participants in the 2003 March for Life head toward the U.S. Capitol on their way to the Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22. Hundreds of thousands of people are expected for the 31st annual march and accompanying activities this year, which mark the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade that legalized abortion on demand.**

Gray said the life principles also apply to euthanasia.

North Carolina Catholics, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will join the thousands of pro-life activists at the March for Life, the biggest event surrounding the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton anniversaries.

"The March for Life is an opportunity to be a public witness for the sanctity of life," said Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life coordinator. "This allows our legislators to hear that we will not compromise when it comes to protecting human life."

The March for Life Education & Defense Fund will sponsor a convention at a Capitol Hill hotel Jan. 20-21 that will include a session on problems facing the pro-life movement. Convention speakers include Gray, Priests for Life founder Father Frank Pavone, Human Life International president Father Thomas Euteneuer, journalist Russell Shaw and two Pennsylvania Republicans in the U.S. House, Reps. Melissa Hart and Patrick J. Toomey.

A capacity crowd is expected to jam the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for its annual National Prayer Vigil for Life, which begins with a Jan. 21 vigil Mass with Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore as principal celebrant and homilist.

Bishop Jugis will celebrate Mass for North Carolinians at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 22.

Marchers are invited to stay in the basilica's lower level to sleep overnight and participate in various services, including a rosary, confessions, hourly holy hours, night prayer and morning prayer, winding up with a morning Mass celebrated by Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York.

Before the march, a youth rally and Mass will take place at the MCI Center, downtown Washington's pro sports arena. The rally will feature musician Steve Angrisano and Franciscan Father Stan Fortuna, the "rapping priest," followed by Mass celebrated by Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick. Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., and other bishops will be concelebrants.

Also before the march, the National Pro-Life Religious Council will host the National Memorial for the Pre-Born and Their Mothers and Fathers at an undetermined Senate office building on Capitol Hill. The free ecumenical event will include prayer, praise, music and awards. Guests will include actress-singer Melba Moore and Alveda King Tookes, niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

After the march, Priests for Life will host a "Silent No More" vigil on the steps of the Supreme Court. Expected to participate are Moore, Tookes and actress Jennifer O'Neill.

The March for Life's annual Rose Dinner will be held Jan. 22, following the rally and march. The guest speaker will be Pepperdine University constitutional law professor Douglas Kmiec, talking on "Life and the Necessary Relationship Between Law and Morality." Kmiec had been dean of the law school at The Catholic University of America, Washington.

American Collegians for Life will conduct a weekend student leadership conference at Catholic University Jan. 23-25 to which high school juniors and seniors are welcome. The keynote speaker is Dr. Bernard Nathanson, the onetime abortionist who later became an ardent abortion foe and a Catholic.

*Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

### WANT TO GO?

Representatives from the Diocese of Charlotte will participate in the following activities:

Jan. 21 — Mass at 8 p.m. at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Jan. 22 — Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis for North Carolinians at 10:30 a.m. at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Jan. 22 — Rally at the Ellipse near the White House at 12 p.m.

For more information, contact Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life Coordinator, at (704) 370-3229.

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# Culture Watch

**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

## A Catholic leader in the struggle to end anti-Judaism

REVIEWED BY EUEGENE FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Like the name of its author, "In Search of the Sacred: Dr. Eva Fleischner, Pioneer Catholic Theologian" is Heavenrich. It chronicles the life and faith of a Catholic, lovingly written by a practicing Jew.

The author, Herbert S. Heavenrich, calls Eva Fleischner "a pioneer Catholic theologian" and a leader in "the ongoing process of ending Catholic-Christian anti-Judaism." He also describes her as "the most spiritually developed person I have ever known." I can only concur, having known and worked with Fleischner for the past three decades through the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

"In Search of the Sacred: Dr. Eva Fleischner, Pioneer Catholic Theologian," by Herbert S. Heavenrich. 1st Books (Bloomington, Ind., 2003). 147 pp., $12.50.

Born in Vienna in 1925 to a Catholic mother and a Jewish father who later converted to Catholicism, Fleischner was raised Catholic from birth. In 1938, her happy, upper middle-class childhood ended when Hitler annexed Austria. She was ostracized as a Jew by many of her classmates, including her best friend. The family left for England and, ultimately, America.

After graduating from college, Fleischner met the man she still calls "the love of my life." They became engaged. But while in France on a Fulbright scholarship she became involved in a circle of young Catholic women whose purpose was to attain a more authentic spiritual Christian life. The group was led by Father (later Cardinal) Jean Danielou. "It was only then," Fleischner told Heavenrich, "that I discovered the 'deep nature' of the church and fell in love with it" — and with God.

Calling off her engagement, Fleischner returned to America and joined the Grail, a group of Catholic lay women dedicated to "permeating the world with their joyous Christian spirit." With the Grail, Fleischner was an early leader in the catechetical and lay ministry movements at the time of the Second Vatican Council, work for which she is well remembered in both communities to this day. It is not surprising that in 1965, at the age of 40, she was one of the first laywomen to apply to the doctoral program in the theology department at Marquette University, nor is it surprising that she was accepted.

In her studies, she found "one theme kept cropping up" which shocked her — the theme of anti-Judaism. She found it in the writings of early church fathers as well as in medieval and even modern theologians. She wrote her dissertation on Judaism in German Christian theology since 1945. She has gone on to publish other groundbreaking books and numerous articles in the field of Catholic-Jewish relations and to serve as an adviser to the U.S. bishops and the Holy See.

This biography shows the great debt of gratitude the Catholic Church owes Fleischner for her life of love, self-sacrifice and joyful grace.

A moving autobiographical essay by Fleischner appears in the recently published "Faith Transformed: Christian Encounters With Jews and Judaism." In this collection of essays, edited by John Merkle and published by Liturgical Press, 11 Catholic and Protestant scholars write of how dialogue with Judaism has enriched their Christian faith. I have an essay in it myself, so I cannot presume to review it. But the Christians you will meet there have some marvelous stories to tell! Just ask Eva Fleischner!

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 25, 2004

*Jan. 25, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Nehemiah 8:2 4a, 5 6, 8 10
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15
2) 1 Corinthians 12:12 30
3) Luke 1:1 4; 4:14 21

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When the chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado was in the planning stages, I remember reading about the theological and design concerns that this particular building presented. The challenge of housing worship spaces for Jews, Protestants and Catholics in one magnificent building led to the creation of a chapel that is both an architectural and ecumenical masterpiece with the towering Rocky Mountains as its backdrop.

Since it opened in the 1960s, I have visited the chapel several times. On each of my visits some facet of this building reminds me that the love of God and the love of the word of God can provide a common ground where people from diverse backgrounds can meet and worship.

One of the most unforgettable spots for me resides in the outer wal of the Jewish chapel, a glassed in display space easily viewed by everyone There, behind the glass, rests a copy of the Torah that had been hidden in a wall during World War II and was discovered by a European demolition crew years after the war. As I stood before this sacred artifact, I wondered about faith and the fate of the person who hid it so well. I also wondered what I would hide if I were in the midst of terror and death.

In today's first reading, Ezra the priest reads the law to an assembly o people of all ages. The word of God i something the people need to hear Lives and relationships need mending. Ezra not only reads the word but he explains it in terms the men women, boys and girls can understand and apply to their own lives His message is a message assemblies of worshipers down through the ages have longed to hear: God loves us and wishes to strengthen us.

The truth of the word has the power to change us. It is truly a cause for celebration.

***Questions:***
How do you work to keep the word of God present in your family and the wider community? What threatens its continuing presence among us?

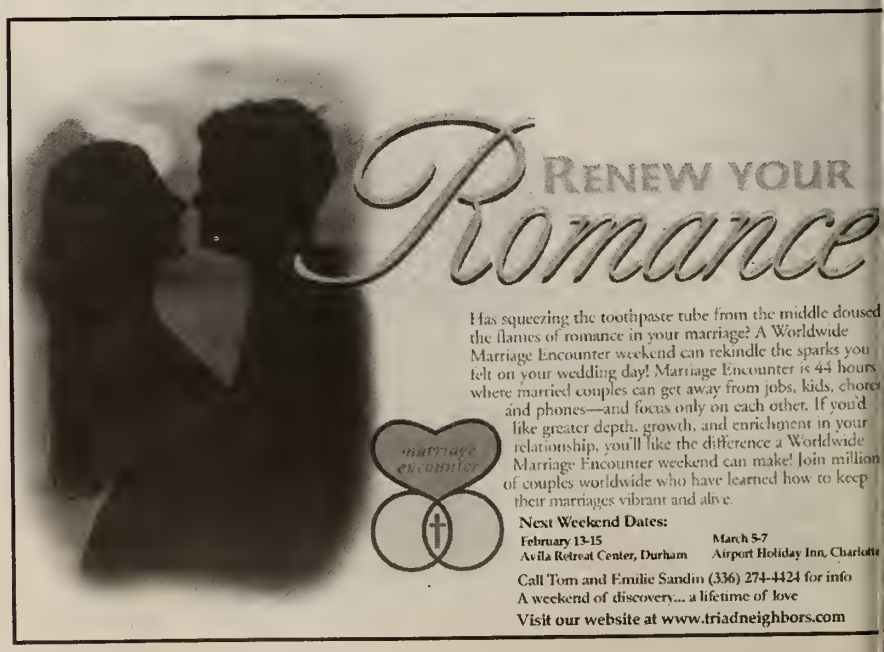
# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 18 - JANUARY 24**

**Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-1 **Monday,** 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian),** 1 Samuel 16: 13, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday (St. Agnes),** 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursda (St. Vincent),** 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday,** 1 Samuel 24:3-21, Mark 3:13-1 **Saturday (St. Francis de Sales),** 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27, Mark 3:20-21

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25 - JANUARY 31**

**Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1: 4; 4:14-21; **Monday (Sts. Titus and Timothy),** 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday (St. Ange Merici),** 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday (St. Thomas Aquinas),** 2 Samuel 7: 17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday,** 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday,** 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-1 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday (St. John Bosco),** 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17, Mark 4:35-41



# 'Pearl Earring' is colorful, yet unimpressionable

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Evocative colors and lighting turn director Peter Webber's "Girl With a Pearl Earring" (Lions Gate) into an atmospheric drama. But its slack narrative and slow pacing prevent this character-driven film from fully resonating with its audience.

Adapted from Tracy Chevalier's best-selling novel, "Girl With a Pearl Earring" provides a fictitious backdrop to the eponymous, famed painting by Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer, played with glowering intensity by Colin Firth. Cinematically, the film is a gem, imitating with keen strength the painter's chosen palette of blues, yellows and sepia-toned hues. Screenwriter Olivia Hetreed, who worked with Chevalier, understood the entrancing power that unconsummated love holds over an audience — and has kept the deeply felt passions simmering just below the boiling point.

Sixteen-year-old Griet (Scarlett Johansson), a good Protestant girl, is forced to support her family after her father, a textile painter, has a terrible accident that leaves him blind and maimed. She finds employment as a servant in the Catholic house of Vermeer (her mother warns her against the "bad influence" Catholicism could have on her), run under the severe eye of the painter's bourgeois mother-in-law, Maria (Judy Parfitt). Maria has what in today's world would be called a head for business, lobbying wealthy patrons such as Master van Ruijven (Tom Wilkinson) to buy Vermeer's work, and thereby keeping her perpetually pregnant daughter, Catharina (Essie Davis), in the luxuriant style to which she has grown accustomed.

When Vermeer forms an attachment to Griet, whose interest in the artist's work allows her entry into his world — carefully mixing colors and cleaning his studio — Catharina grows suspicious, then indignant. But Maria, concerned mainly with the bottom line, sees that Griet-as-muse means money and clandestinely encourages the alliance between painter and servant. Tensions are heightened by van Ruijven's lascivious manner as he senses the growing attraction and arranges to have Griet painted alone by Vermeer, hoping to cause trouble. Meanwhile, Griet entertains a marriage proposal from her lover, the local butcher boy (Cillian Murphy), even as she grapples with her growing feelings for Vermeer.

Despite the friction created, the actual story about a servant girl who inspires a famous portrait by the 17th-century master is less involving. Johansson looks every bit the part with porcelain skin, liquid eyes and full, ripe lips that seem to naturally be pouting. But her character's growing interest in artistic pursuits — despite her entrapment in a class that is destined to serve others — is left by the wayside.

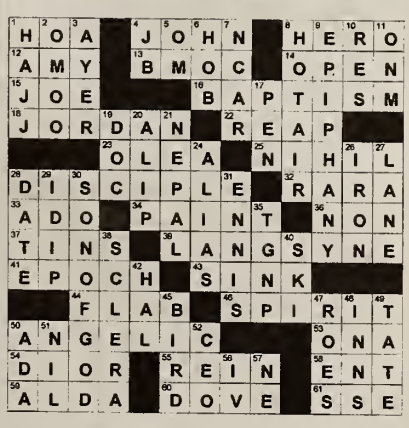
Firth's Vermeer is moody and distant, yet he is made almost laughable by a ridiculous, stringy, long-haired wig placed precariously upon his head. The story's villains are all too conventional with their behind-the-scenes machinations and selfish motives.

"Girl With a Pearl Earring" has moments of true beauty. But it takes more that fine cinematography to create a totally moving film.

Because of a sexual encounter and brief violence, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

SEASON'S END

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# Life meets Hollywood: Upcoming film on pope draws ire of biographer

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican usually braces itself when the life and times of notable religious figures gets ready to hit the screen. But a fresh maelstrom may be building over an upcoming made-for-TV movie about the life of Pope John Paul II.

This coming October, the film biopic "Karol" is scheduled to debut on Silvio Berlusconi's Channel 5 — one of the Italian prime minister's three channels in his Mediaset empire. The TV "fiction" was meant to be based on the Vatican-approved book, "Stories of Karol: The Unknown Life of John Paul II" written by Gian Franco Svidercoschi.

But Svidercoschi — after reading the film's first treatment — has denounced the direction the screenplay has taken, saying "it invents too much and doesn't present the man as he really was."

In an interview Jan. 8, Svidercoschi said he initially had faith in the endeavor to turn his 2001 book into a fictionalized TV serial. But the early film chapters have changed some details from the book.

Svidercoschi said one scene shows a 19-year-old Karol Wojtyla and his father running down the streets of Krakow trying to escape bullets from Nazi air gunners roaring overhead.

In reality, Svidercoschi said, Karol pushed his father off the road into a field in an attempt to keep the live rounds from hitting him. The screenplay version shows the fictional Karol throwing himself on top of his father in the middle of the street, ready to take the bullets himself.

Svidercoschi said, "Such an alteration tries to turn a 19-year-old young man into someone already pope-like and divine. Changing details that don't need to be changed for dramatic effect takes away from understanding the real boy, the real man that eventually became pope."

By selling the film rights of his book to Taodue production company, Svidercoschi admitted the film writers and producers could do whatever they want to the story.

"A little creativity, a little fantasy is not a bad thing, but it must be done intelligently. But so far, these changes misrepresent Karol Wojtyla and make him into someone he's not. If that's how it's going to be, I don't want to be involved," he said.

Svidercoschi said he would pull his name from the movie and not allow it to say it was based on his book if the film presents too-fictionalized a person from the one he feels is the real Karol Wojtyla.

"My book was read by the pope and read by the Vatican's secretary of state," Svidercoschi said.

"When they heard it may be made into a movie, I received a letter from the secretary saying they were pleased to learn about the prospects of a film version and they added they hoped it would adhere to the content and spirit of my book, 'Stories of Karol,'" he said.

Svidercoschi was vice director of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, in 1983-85. He collaborated with Pope John Paul on the pope's autobiography, "Gift and Mystery: On the 50th Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination."

Svidercoschi said his 30 to 40 years of journalistic experience have given him an accurate picture of Poland and its favorite son, Karol Wojtyla.

"I think movie writers are afraid of life," Svidercoschi said.

"Perhaps they think only fiction can be dramatic and captivating. But the pope's life is already so incredible and gripping, there is absolutely no need to invent a thing," he said.

But along with the criticism of trying to make Karol, as a young man, look "divine," Svidercoschi said the film is also trying to politicize Karol as a little boy.

"There's a tendency in the movie business to feel there always has to be an adversary, a nemesis testing the protagonist," Svidercoschi said.

"In this film, they've created a young schoolboy who hates Jews for a variety of reasons," Svidercoschi said.

"Well, we all know the story of Karol being best friends with Jerzy Kluger — a Jewish classmate who shared a classroom desk with Karol. They played soccer together, the two boys' families were good friends," he said.

"When young Karol defended his friend, Jerzy, from taunting school bullies in real life, he did it because Jerzy was his friend," Svidercoschi said.

But the film, he said, presents a Karol who is "politically correct" — protecting Jerzy from abuse solely because he is a Jewish boy in need of defense.

"To politicize the motives of a 9-year-old boy is to misunderstand the real process that happened later on in Karol's life that led him, as an adult, to stick up for and defend Jews in the face of anti-Semitism," Svidercoschi said.

But Svidercoschi's consultations and criticisms may have made a difference. Early attempts at turning a theater actress who worked with Karol from the time they were teens into a longing romantic admirer were scrapped when Svidercoschi insisted such a love story would be a lie.

"I just think these people don't know what they're doing," he said. "We can't fictionalize what has made Karol Wojtyla the man and pope he is now."

# 'Real World' of faith Catholic families, culture

## *Former MTV star urges college students to let faith shine*

BY JULIE GREENE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla. — At times energetic, slightly irreverent and comical and other times serious and contemplative, Matt Smith of "The Real World New Orleans" fame shared the highs and lows of keeping the faith as the closing keynote speaker at the National Catholic Student Coalition's 20th annual leadership conference in Orlando Dec. 31-Jan. 4.

In front of about 400 Catholic college students, alumni and campus ministers, the former cast member of MTV's hit reality show "Real World" and recent Georgia Tech graduate focused on the conference's theme of "Ask Me Why I'm Catholic!"

"I come from a big Catholic family. My dad was a convert. He was baptized Episcopal and met my hot Catholic mama at a Newman Center dance. Then they got married and had six kids," said Smith, who is also a national spokesman for Life Teen.

He described his family as Catholic hippie-types who helped launch a foster home community in North Carolina.

His parents and later he and his siblings were heavily involved in a local parish. "We were the family who always stayed after the church breakfast and put up the tables and chairs," he said.

He recalled awkward times at public school where few people knew he was Catholic. Even so, he maintained his faith.

Smith looks up to "Catholic heroes" and the "communion of saints" who have not been afraid to stand up for what they believe in, people like his campus minister at Georgia Tech, Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi.

He recalled visiting Assisi, Italy, during World Youth Day 2000 and the impact it had on him in the wake of his "Real World" experience.

"It was awesome to think that only a few hundred years ago, he was here, standing up for his faith," said Smith, reflecting on the life of St. Francis. The saint, whom he called Frank, had gone from riches to rags by choice.

"Frank was a cool dude for his day. He was in a band. He was a street fighter and a member of a gang who got beat up and was kidnapped by a rival gang but the one thing that he feared more than anything else was lepers," he said. "And after he had this vision — what does he do? He goes up and kisses a leper. He faced his greatest fear."

As a Life Teen spokesman, he takes every opportunity to share his faith with young people and encourage them to stand firm in their convictions.

Life Teen groups meet at about 800 Catholic parishes in the United States, Canada and 11 other countries. Following a teen Mass on Sunday evenings, the groups hold "life nights" offering discussion, education and social activities.

"When you live out your faith it does cause trouble," Smith said.

Such an opportunity presented itself recently when he signed on to be part of another MTV reality series called "The Gauntlet," which brought alumni from "The Real World" and "Road Rules" together to compete in 14 physical and mental challenges. Taping for the show was done last September.

In the first episode he spoke about chastity, criticized Playboy magazine, read the Bible and put a crucifix on the wall above his bed in the house "The Gauntlet" competitors shared in Telluride, Colo.

"I almost got voted off the first episode ... one girl said she considered herself a Christian but told the group, 'Matt is so Christian it makes me uncomfortable.' When I heard that, I was cheering, 'Vote me off, vote me off.'"

Instead he was given priest-like status in the house, often lending an ear to cast mates who confided in him, though not everyone liked the personable redhead. One girl challenged him about his promise to remain a virgin until marriage.

"She really put me on the spot — asking me if I dated a girl for three years would I get with her then," he said. "I told her if I dated a girl for three years I should probably be ready to get off the pot and marry her."

At least one cast mate defended him, and before the end of the show, cast members could be seen wearing Life Teen T-shirts. They even prayed over him before he tackled the challenge that eventually led to his elimination. "It was so powerful," he said. "I thought it was so cool that they would do that."

He urged the college students not to be afraid to stand up and cherish their faith. He ended his talk with a quote from St. Francis: "Who you are before Jesus is who you are, nothing more, nothing less."

CNS PHOTO BY GEORGE PUGH, CATHOLIC LIGHT

Matt Smith, former cast member of MTV's "The Real World," talks with teens at a late July youth rally in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa. Smith, a national spokesman for Life Teen ministry, recently shared the highs and lows of keeping the faith as the closing keynote speaker at the National Catholic Student Coalition's 20th annual leadership conference in Orlando.

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GIBSON SPEAKS

# EWTN to air second exclusive with director of 'The Passion of The Christ'

IRONDALE, Ala. — EWTN Global Catholic Network will air Raymond Arroyo's second exclusive interview with Academy Award-winning actor and director, Mel Gibson, as part of the international newsmagazine, The World Over Live.

Their complete conversation will air on Friday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. EDT; Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1 a.m. EDT; Sunday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. EDT; and Monday, Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. EDT and 11 p.m. EDT.

In the interview, Gibson breaks his silence, speaking for the first time about charges that his film, "The Passion of the Christ," is anti-Semitic. He talks about his bold vision for the project and his motivation for making the film.

Gibson tells Arroyo, "It reflects my beliefs — I've never done that before."

He also candidly comments on the controversy surrounding the movie, his resistance to altering the film and his personal commitment to press forward.

"I don't know if I will ever work again," says Gibson in the interview. "I've said that this is a career killer and it could well be, but that doesn't matter because I don't care."

Based on biblical accounts, the movie, "The Passion of the Christ," depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus' life on earth and will be released in the United States on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Arroyo, EWT news director, was on the film set in Italy during the filming of "The Passion of the Christ" last year, and is the only broadcast journalist to conduct an extended interview with Gibson about the project.

CNS PHOTO BY MARY KNIGHT

Mel Gibson met with USCCB general secretary Msgr. William Fay July 21 to discuss his upcoming movie, "The Passion of the Christ."

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CN&H, *from page 7*

ads that it will accept.

"Research also notes that readers of Catholic newspapers are more loyal and more educated than the average readers of the secular press," said Feerick. "They also finish higher in income, travel, banking, contributions, insurance and many other areas than readers of the secular press."

***New look, new attitude***

"The newspaper has been blessed with several great editors and a talented staff over the years, all of whom have done wonderful things for the paper," said Murray. "They have helped the newspaper earn many coveted Catholic Press Association awards."

Now, said Murray, the staff is trying to get readers excited again about *The Catholic News & Herald.*

On August 22, 2002, *The Catholic News & Herald* premiered its redesigned pages, including a new logo, format and features. Reader response to the new look has been "overwhelmingly positive," said Murray.

"The newspaper has come a long way, and it will continue to progress and evolve over time," said Murray. "I am grateful for the support and encouragement of Bishop Peter J. Jugis, our bishop; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, our chancellor; and Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, our vice chancellor."

"I am also grateful for the support and participation of our readers," added Murray. "If readers don't see their parishes in the newspaper often, they should send in submissions or contact their area's correspondent. This is the readers' newspaper and we want them to be a part of it."

"*The Catholic News & Herald* will continue to be a strong voice for evangelization in the diocese," said Bishop Jugis. "It will disseminate the message of Jesus Christ and I consider it an integral part of furthering the mission of the Church."

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Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Raleigh has an opening for principal of its K-8 school. The search committee seeks a principal with a commitment to quality teaching, community service and excellence - as well as a demonstrated ability to lead and to collaborate with faculty, parents and parish staff.

The search committee seeks candidates who are practicing Catholics, hold a master's degree, have experience in teaching and 5 years in education management, and hold (or are capable of obtaining) NC principal certification. Please submit resume and a one-page statement of vision for Catholic education by Feb 15 to: Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 2718 Overbrook Dr., Raleigh NC 27608. Or email OLLSPRINCSRCH@aol.com.

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Letters to the Editor

### Another solution to holiday madness

In response to Kevin Murray's Christmas column ("Jingle all the way to the mall," Dec. 19, 2003), one alternative to giving gifts to your relatives and friends at Christmastime would be to have Masses offered for them.

You could send them cards with notes explaining the Mass will be offered for them. The Catechism of the Catholic Church on page 356, 1414 states: "As sacrifice, the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God."

On a practical level, it is very cost efficient, it doesn't need to be wrapped, it doesn't need to be returned, you don't have to rack your brain figuring out what to get and you don't need to go to the mall. It doesn't even matter if they are male, female or even Catholic. All would benefit.

Even if they do not like or appreciate this gift, it has no bearing on the untold spiritual graces they will still receive, which is why Masses for the living and dead can be offered at any time of the year. And by having Masses offered, you will be supporting the many wonderful priests out there with your stipends. There are many religious orders as well as missions who have Christmas cards for Mass intentions.

Hopefully, this suggestion leads you to have a less stressful and more spiritual Christmas season, allowing you to focus all your time and energy on Our Lord, the Word made flesh.

— Donna Kelly
Rutherfordton, N.C.

# Pope says Christ's suffering frees believers from slavery to sin

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Through Christ's suffering and death, believers are freed from slavery to sin and can live in justice, righteousness and holiness, Pope John Paul II said.

At his weekly general audience Jan. 14, the pope said the feast of the baptism of Christ, celebrated Jan. 11, leads to reflection on the fact that, out of love for humanity, he became man and suffered and died for the salvation of all.

Continuing his audience talks about Bible readings used in the church's evening prayer, the pope looked at a brief account of Christ's suffering and death from the First Letter of Peter.

St. Peter, who defines himself as an eyewitness to Christ's suffering, said Christ was the just one who sacrificed himself for the unjust in order to lead them back to God, the pope said.

The passage describes "the attitude of Jesus" as he faced death, he said.

After affirming Christ's absolute innocence of any sin, it recounts his "exemplary behavior inspired by meekness and sweetness," the pope said.

"The patient silence of the Lord" in the face of the insults and suffering he faced "was not only an act of courage and generosity. It also was a gesture of trust in the Father," he said.

"His was a total and perfect trust in divine justice, which guides history toward the triumph of the innocent," the pope said.

Through Christ's suffering and death, he said, believers are freed from slavery to evil and misery and "can live for justice, that is, in holiness."

## The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

# No discount for fallen angels

## Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

As I was lounging in the diocesan hot tub the other day, I got a page about a visitor to see me. So I teleported down to the lobby of the pastoral center to see who it was.

To my horror and deep chagrin, the devil was waiting on me. He was perusing the latest issue of *The Catholic News & Herald.*

"Someone actually lets you print this stuff, Kevy-boy?" he asked with a grin.

"What can I do for you, Lu?" I asked. Lucifer often stands out in the parking lot and makes faces at our windows to pester us. By this point, he and I were on a first-name basis.

"I would like to run an ad," he stated.

"An ad?" I was skeptical. "For what?"

"Let's talk in your office, and I'll tell you all about it."

So we teleported back upstairs. The devil's arrival triggered the intruder alert system, and after I assured the diocesan SWAT team that Lu was my guest, we proceeded to my office.

He tossed a mockup of the ad on my desk.

"I can't let you run an ad for an abortion clinic!" I exclaimed.

"Why not?" he asked.

"Abortion is against church teaching," I reminded him. "It's murder."

"Baloney," he huffed. "It's simply the 'termination of pregnancy by the induced removal of an embryo or fetus (that is incapable of survival outside the body of the woman) which results in the death of the embryo/fetus.'"

"You don't actually expect me to believe that," I said.

"Of course not," he replied. "Heck, even I know abortion is murder. Why do you think I'm up here trying to place this ad. I've got to stoke the fires, so to speak. So, what kind of price are we looking at for the ad? Are there any discounts for fallen heavenly creatures?"

"Hold up," I said. "You admit that abortion is murder?"

"Do you think these horns make me stupid?" he asked. "If I recall correctly, it was I who came up with the word 'fetus.' Rather convenient, don't you think?"

"How so?" I asked.

"An unborn baby's heart begins to beat between 18 and 25 days after conception. Its brain begins to function as early as 40 days!" said the devil. "How can a human with a heart beat and brainwave activity not be considered a living being? So 'fetus' is a comfortable word to help people sleep at night."

"Some people say it's still a woman's choice because it's her body," I said.

"I've heard that one," laughed Lucifer. "But when did the government stop telling people what they can do with their bodies? People want to put drugs in their bodies, but lawmakers say no. People want tattoos on their bodies, but that's illegal in some states, especially for minors. I could go on."

"But, have you ever noticed it's only a 'fetus' when it's to be aborted?" he continued. "I mean, does anyone get invited to fetus showers? Does anyone ask a pregnant mother how the little fetus is doing? And, by golly, you'll never hear an expectant mother exclaim: 'I just felt the fetus kick!'"

He leaned back in the chair, plopped his hooves up on my desk and lit one of my cigars.

"What about abortions in cases of rape and incest?" I posed.

"Bah!" said the devil. "Pregnancy from rape is extremely rare. A study of 1,000 rape victims reported no pregnancies. Besides, the circumstance under which the baby was created has no bearing on its value — it's still a human being. The only ones who really benefit from keeping abortion legal are the ones who profit from it. Speaking of which, can we get back to my ad now?"

"So, if you know abortion is the murder of unborn children, how can you support it?" I asked.

He leaned forward. "What? Do I look like 'the Church Lady' to you?"

"No, but you're supposed to corrupt souls, not support the murder of unborn babies," I alleged.

"Four thousand abortions take place in the United States every day. As long it continues in this country, souls are being corrupted, morals are fading and good people are failing," said Lucifer.

"Abortion is barbaric, it's true, but the more people stand up for it, the further they move away from that goody-two-shoes upstairs," he said. "People don't know that, and that works out well in the end for me."

I was troubled. Before I could respond, the Gold Phone rang. It's my direct line to the Vatican.

"Murray!" shouted the pope. "Get that devil out of there! He'll stain the rug!"

Unbeknownst to many, the pope actually monitors all dioceses on view screens in a massive control room. Never one to disobey the Holy Father, I quickly grabbed the devil by the neck and dragged him to the window.

"Sorry, Lu, I've got to get thee behind me," I said, and tossed him out onto the street.

He was none too happy, and began to raise Hell — literally — when the bishop's helicopter swooped in over the horizon, back from a conference.

"We'll continue this another day, Kevy-boy," said Lucifer, waving his fist at me. "Besides, I'm late for brunch with Barbra Streisand."

As he scurried off, I glanced down at his ad, still on my desk. Sadly, abortion is still legal in this country, and 1.6 million women get abortions per year. How, I wondered, could the most advanced nation on Earth still condone the senseless killing of the most precious, the most innocent, especially when even the devil knows it's wrong?

There is no discount for fallen angels. But will there be salvation for a society that doesn't change its sinful ways?

Soaking again in the diocesan hot tub, I envied those who were rallying in Washington for the annual March for Life, for I knew God would be there with them, wearing his hi-tops, marching along, hoping to one day win the good fight.

# Resolutions of the spirit

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Some years are tougher than others. This past year was especially rough for a number of people I know. From financial and health problems to family and work issues, many folks struggled with troubles, large and small, in 2003.

It makes me think this is going to be a big year for New Year's resolutions. After all, it's when we feel most vulnerable that we try to exercise some control over our lives. I applaud people who make an effort to improve their health, whether by losing weight (a perennial resolution favorite) or exercising or quitting smoking or drinking. I respect those men and women with financial problems who want to change careers or start a business. And I particularly take off my hat to the resolution-makers who are trying to improve family or other personal relationships.

None of these goals are easy, though certainly worth the efforts it will take to succeed. The fact is, we do have great power over our lives. Not total power, of course, or the world would be populated by healthy, wealthy, slim and successful people who are respected and beloved by everybody else. The last time I looked, this wasn't the case.

Still, we do have choices to make each day that reflect what we do and who we are. We don't have to be rich to be generous, or healthy to use what strength of body and mind we have to help others. Our attitudes and our decisions shape our lives and our achievements. To that end, I believe we need to pay more attention to the aims of our hearts and the desires of our souls, and to commit ourselves to some spiritual resolutions.

I don't know that the New Year had anything to do with it, but Jonathan Edwards, the famed 18th century New England theologian and preacher, had some ideas on the subject of resolutions for the spirit. Here's how he put it:

"Resolved, to live with all my might while I do live.

"Resolved, never to do anything I should despise or think meanly of in another.

"Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge.

"Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life."

These ideas seem to me like a pretty good start. Yet, nurturing any worthwhile habit of the heart, from developing a prayer life to showing greater charity to neighbors, takes time and practice — and being willing to focus on small choices, rather than waiting for the big moment for us to prove ourselves.

Once, I saw a frail, elderly woman in a nursing home. She offered coffee to a guest, and although she was a bit slow and unsteady, the woman managed the courtesy, saying, "My mother used to tell me to look each day for something I could do for another to make that person's day a little easier. I've done it every day of my life."

Without simple, everyday actions, we will never succeed in any resolution. Here's hoping today's choices do good for body and soul — our own and those around us.

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

# Unsung heroes

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

There is an often overlooked group of unsung heroes whose praises need to be sung more often. They're the millions of people devoted to looking after people who no longer can take care of themselves.

They may be a wife or husband attending to a spouse, parents devoted to children with lifelong disabilities, children making a home for aging parents, parishioners providing hospice care or a loving person nursing a friend.

The word "hero" has Greek roots encompassing the notions of "warrior" and "service."

The battlefield of a caregiver may be very limited. They may spend their time in a restricted room with a patient confined to bed or within the four walls of a home. Their service may take the form of driving the same monotonous route daily to and from a closed-in person's residence.

The enemies caregivers encounter have many faces: fear, sorrow, suffocation, anger and self-reproach.

Some caregivers face the constant fear of not having the strength to continue giving ceaseless care. They worry about becoming depressed because of working in a disheartening situation. They fear the financial means needed to maintain quality care will run out. And there is the apprehension from constantly being reminded that they, too, could end up this way.

Our memory can turn into an enemy. Thoughts of when parents or friends were healthy can turn into haunting memories. Suddenly there is the realization that with sorrow comes a heavy heart.

Caregiving many seem noble, but time has a way of wearing down noble endeavors. The close proximity between caregiver and patient morning, noon and night can feel suffocating. Caregivers may literally sacrifice their lives.

In some cases, these restrictions, fears and sorrows play themselves out in anger. Down deep, caregivers realize such anger reflects the frustration of helplessly sitting by and watching a loved one suffer. With the anger, however, come self-reproach and the question: "What could I have done better to prevent this?"

This anatomy of caregiving might make us want to avoid it. But when we look more closely, we find caregiving epitomizes the essence of life, especially our life. Christ came to teach us God's greatest lesson: "No greater love does one have than to give one's life for another."

We don't have to look far to find Christ's love. Millions of the greatest warriors known to humankind live in our midst ennobling our culture with selfless love.

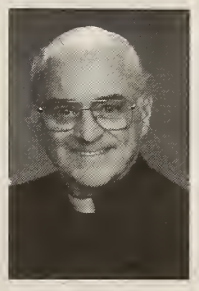
Caregivers, thanks for all you do, and may God give us the grace to imitate you!

# Fear of disapproval

*Only you should control your life*

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist



A woman once came to see me for advice. She was dressed strangely. Draped in neat layers of olive drab material, she looked like a high-class bag lady.

We talked for nearly an hour, and she kept putting herself down. I asked her why she chose to dress in that style, and she answered, "I guess it's because I don't want people to expect too much of me." Wow!

Her fear of disapproval had led her to overcompensate, thereby ensuring the very result she dreaded. Her fear of others' high expectations caused her to dress weirdly and be miserable.

Since no one can control the feelings or opinions of others, why do so many people give the power to control their lives to others?

Only you should control your life. The thoughts you think will in turn create your emotional state of being.

How does one get from fear to freedom? Control your thoughts by accepting yourself. Faith can help you find the inner freedom you need because faith teaches that God loves you, warts and all.

Think positive thoughts instead of fearful thoughts, and you gradually will be able to climb out of the rut. It can be done.

A friend wrote to me recently about how she was too hard on herself. She had read about an attorney who lived in fear of losing a case. If he did, he thought his peers would no longer respect him.

However, he soon discovered that his colleagues liked him better when he occasionally lost because then they saw him as a more human person.

It turns out that being perfect does not always win respect. Having personal integrity is more important. If you slip and fall, so be it. Get up, and begin again.

This same friend mentioned an article by Shel Silverstein called "The Missing Piece." It is a parable about a circle that had a broken section. There was a missing piece in its circumference, and because it was incomplete it could roll along only very slowly. As it did, it chatted with the worms and admired the beautiful flowers. Then one day it found the missing piece, and fit it back. Now the circle was perfect again.

It quickly began rolling along at a rapid speed. How different the world seemed when it went fast. But gradually the circle realized that by being perfect it went too fast and, in the process, lost the advantage of mingling with the beauty all around it.

The lesson is that, in some strange way, we are more whole when we are broken. Being acceptable to the world is not as important as being at peace with who you are.

God doesn't ask us to be perfect. We don't have to win everyone's approval to please him. All we have to do is accept ourselves just as we are and try to hold on to our integrity.

The Lord didn't order us never to make a mistake. What he said was, "Come to me you who are burdened, and I will refresh you."

The writer concluded her letter with these words: "And in the end, if we are brave enough to love, strong enough to forgive, generous enough to rejoice in another's happiness and wise enough to know there is enough love to go around for us all, then we have achieved a fulfillment that no other living creature ever will."

# Good Shepherd Church home to growing Catholic communtiy

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Dedicated in November 1989, Good Shepherd Church in King celebrated its expansion with a dedication ceremony April 28, 2003.

**Good Shepherd Church**
105 Good Shepherd Drive
King, NC 27021
(336) 725-9200

*A mission of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem*
**Vicariate:** Winston-Salem
**Pastor:** Jesuit Father Lawrence J. Hunt
**Number of Households:** 260

Jesuit Father Lawrence J. Hunt

KING — During the summer of 1981, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley established a Catholic mission in the small Stokes County town of King north of Winston-Salem.

Excited by the prospect of gathering for Masses in town, local Catholics met in the recreational center on Aug. 24, 1981, marking the first official assemblage of the community that would later become known as Good Shepherd Church.

Catholics in King met with Father Edward Sheridan, then pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, about the practical and spiritual benefits of initiating missionary activity in town. As a result, King became a mission of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Catholics began filling the pews of King Moravian Church on Sept. 19, 1981 for Father Sheridan's Saturday evening liturgies. Father Sheridan, now pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, served the King community with Our Lady of Mercy Church's parochial vicar, Father Francis Cancro, who now ministers to St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

In July 1982, Father Carl Del Giudice succeeded Father Cancro in Winston-Salem, and much of his priestly duties involved service to the King mission.

By then, the mission had begun to organize ministries and outreach programs serving the Catholic and local communities. The mission hosted a vacation Bible school that summer, an altar server program was established and a religious education program for children was underway by the fall.

In 1984, the James O'Connell family donated 10 acres from their homestead for the building of a church. The mission community became known as Good Shepherd Church, and the pastors of Our Lady of Mercy Church continued to serve both communities.

Parishioners in King began the formal process of building their church in 1986 by developing a parish mission statement and parish profile. In August 1987, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt was named pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, and Good Shepherd Church has been served by pastors from that parish since that time.

The Catholic community began the first construction phase in 1988, which led to the building of a church facility including reception and classroom areas. In November 1989, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the building that could accommodate 95 people.

Jesuit Father Lawrence J. Hunt was named pastor of Our Lady of Mercy and Good Shepherd churches in July 1990. A growing religious education program prompted the need for a small classroom building to be added to the property.

Good Shepherd Church celebrated the elimination of the church debt in November 1997, and in January 1998, the Diocese of Charlotte granted permission to initiate the next phase of development.

By 1998, the Catholic community in King was comprised of parishioners from Stokes, Forsyth, Surry and Yadkin counties. Promoting a hospitable family atmosphere with an emphasis on youth, Good Shepherd Church developed an active religious education program, youth group and participation by youth in the liturgies. Members of all ages became involved in a variety of community outreach programs.

A steady increase in the congregation over the years demanded a larger facility; during the holidays, the mission had to use the local elementary school gymnasium to accommodate everyone for Mass. The capital campaign to expand the church began in 2000 and construction began in 2002. To stay within budget, the church utilized available materials from other churches, such as Stations of the Cross from St. Benedict the Moor Church and pews from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville. The new altar was crafted from lumber of a fallen tree in a parishioner's yard.

Bad weather delayed the original December dedication ceremony, but on April 28, 2003, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin presided over the dedication of the expanded Good Shepherd Church.

The old church became the narthex for the new Good Shepherd Church which has four times the space and can accommodate more than 400 people. The facility features two large classrooms that can also function as crying rooms. A balcony area houses the electronic equipment.

Father Hunt, now pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Good Shepherd, said Good Shepherd Church now has a regular Sunday Spanish Mass for the Hispanic members of its community. He said the Good Shepherd's English-speaking members are extremely welcoming of the Hispanic members and are eager to get them more involved within the church.

In the future, the Good Shepherd congregation would like to build an education building and social hall. In the meantime, the mission continues to flourish, a testament to the dedication of its many members.

SOUTHEAST FIRE RALLY presented by Good News Ministries

EXPERIENCE THE 'NEW SPRINGTIME' OF THE THIRD CHRISTIAN MILLENNIUM

FAITH
—a challenge to Catholics to renew and deepen their relationship with the Lord.
RALPH MARTIN
Ralph is the founding President of Renewal Ministries, a Catholic mission organization, and hosts a popular weekly television series, *The Choices We Face*. Ralph is also the founding editor of *New Covenant* magazine and author of several books. He presently leads The Word of God, an ecumenical Christian community in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

INTERCESSION
—a call to united prayer as our most important spiritual weapon available for renewing the face of the earth.
SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL
Sr. Ann is the superior of the Servants of God's Love in Lansing, Michigan, and is a regular co-host on the television program, *The Choices We Face*. She also hosts a radio program, *Food for the Journey*. She is the author of several books, including *Fire in My Heart*, and is a frequent conference speaker.

REPENTANCE
—an exhortation to turn away from sin to a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled life.
FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN, TOR
Fr. Michael is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was ordained in 1964. In 1990, he was awarded the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John Paul II. He has authored several books including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.

EVANGELISM
—an invitation to spread the Good News of salvation and the gift of authentic Catholicism.
PETER HERBECK
Peter is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries and has served numerous retreats, conferences, rallies, and events around the world. Much of his work has been devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts. Peter and his wife Debbie have four children and live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CLOSING LITURGY
CELEBRANT & HOMILIST
MOST REV. ROBERT J. BAKER, STD
Bishop Baker is shepherd to Catholics throughout the state of South Carolina. He has served as a pastor, counselor, mentor, and professor during his priesthood and was appointed as the 12th Bishop of Charleston in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.

**"My hope and prayer is that all who attend the FIRE Rally will experience a deeper conversion, a greater desire for reconciliation, and a willingness to be more fully involved in the New Evangelization to which our Holy Father has called us in the new millennium."**
*—Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, STD*
*Bishop of Charleston*

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972 by Pope Paul VI

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JANUARY 23, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 13 Nº 17

**Parish Profile: Immaculate Conception Church**

| PAGE 12

# Victory roar

COURTESY PHOTO

To show support for the Carolina Panthers, Charlotte Catholic High School students were permitted to break from their dress code and wear Panthers attire Jan. 15.

## Charlotte Catholic wins wager with Philly school

CHARLOTTE — Panther fans at Charlotte Catholic High School are reveling in victory.

Not only did the Carolina Panthers beat the Philadelphia Eagles in the championship football game Jan. 18, but Charlotte Catholic won its friendly wager with Father Judge High School in Philadelphia.

Because the Panthers won 14-3, Father Joseph Campellone, Father Judge High School's president, must award Gerald Healy, Charlotte Catholic's principal, with an authentic Philadelphia cheese steak.

If the Eagles had won, Healy would have sent Father Campellone Carolina barbecue, donated by the Ole Smokehouse in Charlotte. However, Healy asked Jennifer Johnson, Charlotte Catholic's director of development, to send barbecue to Father Judge High School as a friendly gesture.

To show their support for the Panthers, Charlotte Catholic students broke from their dress code on Jan. 15 to wear Carolina Panthers attire.

"We wanted the students to be involved in the excitement and this gives them a chance to sport their favorite Panthers wear," said Johnson. "It's a great way for us to support the Panthers as a school community."

# Bush guest worker proposal raises hopes, leaves questions

## *Plan will not benefit North Carolina Hispanics, says Hispanic ministry director*

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush's new guest worker proposal may address some of the goals of Catholic and other immigrant advocates, but they say they are worried about his plan's lack of details.

Bush on Jan. 7 announced a proposal for allowing temporary workers from other countries to be admitted to the United States to take jobs that employers cannot fill with people already in the country. The plan would include giving at least some of the estimated 8 million or more illegal immigrants already in the United States permission to stay here temporarily, as long as employers demonstrate a need for their labor.

Advocates who work with immigrants raised doubts about whether Bush's proposals will turn into the legislation

See WORKER, page 4

# Knights of St. John take up call to serve

**FIRST N.C. COMMANDERY ESTABLISHED AT OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION**

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — New defenders of the faith have planted roots in North Carolina.

Twenty men of the Knights of St. John Commandery No. 586 and 20 women of the St. Agatha Ladies Auxiliary No. 497, Knights of St. John International were officially recognized by their fellow parishioners at Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Jan. 18.

The Mass culminated a weekend of preparation and initiation for the first Knights of St. John commandery in North Carolina. Their retreat,

See KNIGHTS, page 6

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

St. Agatha Ladies Auxiliary No. 497, Knights of St. John International lead the opening procession at the installation Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Jan. 18.

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**Pastoral councils**
*Good counsel stressed in Diocese of Charlotte*
| PAGE 5

**Culture Watch**
*Books explore Flannery O'Connor's works*
| PAGE 8

**Perspectives**
*Columns, Pope Speaks, Photo meditation*
| PAGES 10-11

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## RECONCILING FOR PEACE

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome greets Pope John Paul II following the "Concert of Reconciliation" at the Vatican Jan. 17. Looking on is Imam Abdulawahab Hussein Gomaa of Rome. The pontiff called on Jews, Muslims and Christians — "believers in the one God" — to work for "sincere reconciliation" and peace in the world.

## At reconciliation concert, pope urges all faiths to find peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians, Muslims and Jews "must find within ourselves the courage for peace," Pope John Paul II told religious leaders gathered at the Vatican for a "Concert of Reconciliation."

"Jews, Christians and Muslims cannot accept that the earth be afflicted by hatred, that humanity would remain involved in wars without end," the pope said at the Jan. 17 concert with performers and spectators from the three faiths.

The program began with the world premiere of "Abraham," a motet commissioned for the evening and written by U.S. composer John Harbison.

Pope John Paul said the Abraham motet and Gustav Mahler's "Second Symphony," also called the "Resurrection Symphony," remind people that Christians, Muslims and Jews recognize Abraham as their father in the faith and they believe they will be reunited with God at the end of time.

"The history of relations among Jews, Christians and Muslims is marked by lights and shadows and, unfortunately, it has known painful moments," the pope said. "Today one feels a pressing need for a sincere reconciliation among believers in the one God."

The pope said God's words are addressed to every person, who one day will be called to account for how he or she has lived.

"The hope that we express together is that people will be purified of the hatred and evil that continually threaten peace and that they will learn to reach out to each other with hands that know no violence but are ready to offer aid and comfort to those in need," Pope John Paul said.

Among those present at the concert were Rabbi Yona Metzger, chief Ashkenazi rabbi of Israel, and representatives of the Jewish community and Jewish organizations in Italy, Poland, France, Brazil and the United States.

The Muslim representatives included members of the Muslim community of Rome and representatives of Islamic organizations in Libya and Saudi Arabia.

Abdellah Redouane, general secretary of the Islamic Cultural Center of Italy, said the concert was a "great initiative" for bringing together members of the three monotheistic religions.

"This concert was an occasion to reflect not on that which divides us, but that which unites us, which is more important," Redouane said.

He also said the pope's constant appeals for peace and reconciliation "remind us of the road to follow."

Also attending the concert were Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant representatives and dozens of cardinals and bishops.

## Chaldean archbishop says Iraqis not ready for direct elections

ROME (CNS) — While the Iraqi people have a right to control their country's destiny, they are not ready for direct elections, said Chaldean Archbishop Louis Sako of Kirkuk, Iraq.

Thousands of Iraqis marched in Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 19 to show their support for a call by Shiite leader Ayatollah Ali Sistani for direct elections of a new Iraqi government by May.

The U.S.-appointed administration of Iraq has said direct elections could not be arranged that quickly; the current U.S. plan is for members of the U.S.-appointed governing council to choose members of a national assembly by May 30. The assembly would appoint a transitional government that would take power July 1.

In a Jan. 20 interview, Archbishop Sako said, "the Iraqi people are not yet ready" for direct elections. "They must be prepared; they need to assimilate democracy; they must learn to respect and accept others."

"The people, however, are tired of words," he said. "After 35 years of daily suffering and repression, they now want facts and are not content with promises."

The violence in the country, he said, is partially a sign of frustration.

"Behind these attacks there are some people who do not want to see Iraq progress, some who are against the American presence, foreign forces, the unemployed who have lost all hope, parasites who love to fish in troubled waters, and criminals released from prison," he said.

The archbishop appealed for international help, especially from Iraq's Arab neighbors, in rebuilding the country and creating jobs.

## Diocesan planner

### ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

ALBEMARLE — The *Forever Young Club* of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 N. 2nd St., meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Family Life Center at 10 a.m. For details, call Gerald Maiden (704) 982-5261.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit Ave., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 9 a.m. Mass with benediction at 4 p.m.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

MINT HILL — Looking for a way to get closer to God this year? Put your new year's resolution into practice by taking the *Alpha Course*. Alpha is a video lecture series and supper club that meets Friday nights through March 19. Register by calling (704) 573-7021 or e-mail mcnuccie1@bellsout.net.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a program to welcome back inactive Catholics and/or those who have left the Church but are interested in returning to the practice of the Catholic faith. The *Catholics Returning Home* series will meet Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. For more information, call Sue Johnson at (704) 333-8028.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Father Joe Zuschmidt and Dennis Teall-Fleming will host an *Evening of Conversation* on the past and present challenges of the sexual abuse crisis the Catholic Church is facing. Topics will include what impact the crises have had on the Catholic Church as a whole, Catholics themselves and how well the Catholic Church is responding to the crises. The conversation will take place Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Center of Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. For details, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600 ext. 26.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope says feminine genius needed in age of insecurity, confusion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mission of every woman is to recognize and live her vocation of feminine genius, especially in an age of insecurity and confusion, said Pope John Paul II.

"Humanity has noticed with growing intensity the need to offer meaning and purpose in a world in which every day new problems crop up that generate insecurity and confusion," said the pope in a speech to participants of a national congress sponsored by the Italian Women's Center.

Given the growing participation of women in civil, economic, religious and family life, the pope said, "This asks of you your constant attention to the problems that emerge and your generous foresight in confronting them."

Citing his 1999 apostolic letter on women, the pope said, "A woman's dignity is closely connected with the love which she receives by the very reason of her femininity; it is likewise connected with the love which she gives in return."

He said it was important women keep alive an awareness of this fundamental vocation of fulfilling oneself through the giving of love.

"This genius ensures a sensitivity for human beings in every circumstance, because they are humans," the pope said.

"The moral and spiritual strength of this vocation springs from the awareness that God entrusts, in a special way, the human being to women," the pope said.

# Vatican needs to add security, deal quickly with crime, judge says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican needs to consider ways to increase its security and deal more quickly with crimes committed on its territory, a Vatican judge said.

The Vatican's status as an independent geographic enclave surrounded by Italy that draws millions of foreign visitors — including a few criminals — means it should consider joining international structures aimed at promoting freedom of movement together with security, said Nicola Picardi, promoter of justice in the Tribunal of Vatican City State.

Picardi presented a summary of the Vatican civic court's activity in 2003 during a Jan. 16 meeting.

"The phenomenon of international terrorism seems, in fact, to require new forms of cooperation aimed at reconciling people's freedom to circulate with perfecting measures to safeguard security," Picardi said.

He suggested the Vatican join the Schengen convention, which not only eliminated the need for passports and visas between some European countries, "but also intensified the exchange of information, operational relationships as well as preventative and repressive initiatives aimed at safeguarding security."

The more information is shared and decisions are implemented quickly, he said, the better the Vatican can "face the question of security, even in times of increased tension."

The report said while Vatican City had 492 residents in 2003, it had some 18 million visitors, particularly drawn to St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican Museums.

The "vast majority" of the 125 penal cases handled by the court in 2003 involved theft, for which more than 90 percent involved unknown suspects, he said. The remaining penal cases involved "unauthorized appropriations, swindles and insulting a public official."

His report dealt only with the cases brought to the court, not all of those reported to the Vatican police.

The length of time needed to handle penal and civil cases is due largely to most parties involved not living in Vatican City, so notifications must go through Italian authorities or diplomatic channels, said Picardi.

Joining the Schengen convention, he said, could speed up the processing of cases because notifying the parties involved and collecting information would be easier.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — The Adult Faith Formation ministry of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will present *"A Tale of Faith and Medicine"* Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. A physician will share his journey of faith that led him to truly give the gift of life to a young woman. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians,* Guilford County, Division I, an Irish Catholic social, cultural and charitable inter-parish group will attend the 12:15 p.m. Mass at St. Benedict Church, 109 W. Smith St., in honor of St. Brigid Feb. 2. Lunch at Ganache will follow. All Catholic women of Irish birth or descent are welcome. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118. The regular LAOH meeting will be held Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd., will offer free basic and intermediate *Spanish classes* Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Classes begin Jan. 15 and end Feb. 19. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 W. Fulton St., celebrates a Charismatic *and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Newfound Rd., will conduct one-hour sessions for five weeks beginning Jan. 29 on *"The Precepts of the Catholic Church."* Sessions will start at noon — bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Discussions are open to anyone who wants to know more about church teachings or to review what you learned many years ago. For more information, call Dot and Chuck Luce at (828) 648-7369.

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great School, 333 Springdale Ave., will have an *Open House* Jan. 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For details call Laurie at (336) 748-8252.

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. A four-part series of classes will begin Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## THIS MONTH IN —1996

Five recent college graduates began working in diocesan schools through the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. ACE is a two-year service program offering college graduates the opportunity to serve as full-time teachers in under-staffed Catholic schools across the southern United States. ACE teachers live in community, which is considered a vital aspect of ACE. Research shows that one out of six first-year teachers leave teaching in their first year. In contrast, ACE boasts a 95 percent or higher retention rate every year, and one important reason for that success is the support ACE teachers receive in community.

Through three pillars — teaching, community and spirituality — ACE seeks to develop lifelong advocates and leaders in education.

"It's an opportunity for young Catholics to give back to their community in a service-type environment," said Jerry Healy, then-principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, when the ACE program first came to Charlotte. "It also exposes our kids to a unique set of young adults. ... It shows the kids that it's OK to be smart and you can be cool and be involved in education."

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# Guest worker program may prove inhospitable

WORKER, *from page 1*

necessary to make them happen, and whether anyone besides large employers and their workers would really benefit.

The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, Coadjutor Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., praised Bush's decision to bring up the issue of immigration again with his proposal and his plans to renew bilateral migration talks with the government of Mexico.

In a Jan. 8 statement, he commended the president for acknowledging the need for worker protections and his call for the government to issue more "green cards," or permanent resident visas.

Bush's proposal, however, "does not provide a solution to the serious problems we experience as the result of continued undocumented migration and an immigration system that is broken."

Bishop Wenski said, "What is needed ... is truly comprehensive immigration reform that will provide opportunities for legalization for the undocumented currently living in the United States, temporary worker programs with full worker protections and a path to permanency, as well as a reform of our family immigration system that will allow immigrant families to reunite in a timely fashion."

"For the majority of the Hispanics in our diocese, the proposed legislation will not be beneficial," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, directory of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"It will be a temporary boom to the agricultural workers who want to come to work in our pine trees and tobacco fields, but only temporary," she said.

Migrant workers, many from Mexico, cut Fraser fir trees in North Carolina during the November-December Christmas season. Agricultural workers make more money in North Carolina than in Mexico.

Migrant workers at Barr Evergreens tree farm in Jefferson were part of a government-sponsored guest-worker program and legally qualified to work in the United States.

Rusty Barr, owner of Barr Evergreens, told The Catholic News & Herald he would be out of business if it wasn't for the migrant workers, as there aren't many Americans willing to work the long days for a short time each year.

"We've advertised for workers," said Barr in a Dec. 6, 2002 story. "We've only had one person apply, and when he found out what he had to do, he wasn't interested."

Bush said in a White House speech, "Our laws should allow willing workers to enter our country and fill jobs that Americans are not filling." But current laws make it difficult for immigrants to come into the country, especially for low-wage jobs, he said.

"Instead we see many employers turning to the illegal labor market," Bush said. "We see millions of hard-working men and women condemned to fear and insecurity in a massive undocumented economy."

His proposal would allow immigrants to obtain three-year permits to work in the United States. They would be entitled to bring family members in with them, as long as they can support them. And the immigrants could legally leave the country for visits and return without liability.

Currently, many illegal immigrants hesitate to return to visit their families for fear they will be unable to get back to their homes and jobs in the United States.

Bush's plan would include temporarily legalizing the status of illegal immigrants already here, as long as they are employed, he said, thereby bringing undocumented workers "out of the shadows" and under the protection of labor laws. It also would help the Department of Homeland Security keep track of what immigrants are in the country and where, he said.

If the jobs end or if their three-year permits are not renewed, the immigrants would have to return to their home countries. But Bush said he also would work with immigrants' home countries to give them financial incentives to return when their temporary permits expire.

Ouisa Davis, director of Migration and Refugee Services for the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, praised Bush for reopening immigration dialogue but worried about implications for families of temporary workers, especially children being uprooted after a three-year work permit expires and forced to return to inferior education systems in their home countries.

Davis said major industries are most likely able to meet government requirements for hiring guest workers, while small employers won't want to go through the bureaucracy. Administration officials who further detailed the president's proposal said guest workers would have to have a U.S. job already lined up to receive permission to enter the country.

Davis said the proposal as laid out by Bush would not do much to stop illegal traffic across the U.S.-Mexican border.

"Employers aren't going to hire someone sight unseen," she said. "And there doesn't seem to be a way someone can enter the country legally unless they already have a job."

"I commend the president for attempting to address the immigration issue again, but to really be effective, he and his advisors and Congress need to understand the reasons why people immigrate to the United States, mainly because they cannot survive or support their families in their countries of origin," said Sister Inkrott.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Crews of workers, many from Mexico, cut Fraser trees in Jefferson and load them through a baler, which wraps them in nylon twine before they are shipped to markets throughout the country. President Bush on Jan. 7 announced a proposal for allowing temporary workers from other countries to be admitted to the United States to take jobs that employers cannot fill with people already in the country.**

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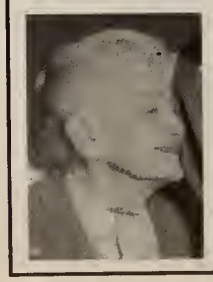

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# Pastoral councils should offer advice, not orders, pope says

## *Importance of good counsel stressed in Diocese of Charlotte*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Parish councils and diocesan pastoral councils are to offer advice, not orders, to the pastor and bishop, Pope John Paul II said.

"A balanced relationship between the role of the laity and that which properly belongs to the diocesan ordinary or pastor must be safeguarded," the pope told members of the Congregation for Clergy.

Meeting the congregation members Jan. 10, the pope said lay people must "take an active part in the mission of the church," offering their input and expertise, but without confusing their role with the role of the bishop or pastor.

"In exercising their office, legitimate pastors never are to be considered simply executors of decisions deriving from the majority opinions" of the parish or diocesan pastoral council, he said.

The hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church was willed by Christ, the pope said. While all members of the church have an equal dignity and a role to play, the roles are not the same for everyone.

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

**Dr. Mark Fischer presents "Establishing and Renewing Pastoral Councils in the Diocese of Charlotte" at Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville April 1, 2003.**

### *Good advice*

"The role of the pastoral council is to give the best advice possible," said Sister Brenda Hermann, a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity in Washington, D.C.

Sister Hermann, a consultant and facilitator to church organizations, led meetings at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle in 2003.

"I tried to get the pastoral council to look at what was hanging it up and why they couldn't get going," said Sister Hermann. "Once they were around the table and working together with the pastor, it became clear everyone was concerned about the parish, but they didn't know their roles or how to give counsel to the pastor."

Dr. Mark Fischer, noted expert in the pastoral council field, presented workshops to two gatherings of priests at St. Barnabas Church in Arden March 31, 2003 and at Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville April 1, 2003.

The presentations were designed to help priests re-acquaint themselves in the importance of pastoral councils and their value to their ministry as pastors.

"I clarified a lot of misconceptions of pastoral councils, and shared some of the thinking of experts in the field," said Fischer.

Pastoral councils and pastors, through their interactions with parishioners, both have a sense of what is going on in the lives of parishioners, said Sister Hermann. When the two groups are brought together, progress can be made.

### *Learning from experience*

"Wise leaders consult their wise followers, wise people consult with other wise people — they seek the wisdom of those who are knowledgeable. That goes back to ancient times," said Fischer.

"The whole concept of council as methodology is deep in Catholic tradition. In the New Testament, Peter would call together people for counsel," said Sister Hermann. "And councils are deep in American psyche as how we get consensus and direction."

Recommended by the Second Vatican Council of 1962-1965, the pastoral council is a new concept, said Fischer. Yet "the most recent statistics are that 82 percent of 19,000 Catholic parishes (in the United States) have pastoral councils," he said.

"In the church model, pastoral councils are only operatives of counsel when they are with the pastor, and when they are reflecting, dialoguing and planning the good of the whole," said Sister Hermann.

"I told the pastors having a pastoral council isn't a management trick to win people over, but rather should be motivated by a sincere desire to know the people so you can serve them better," said Fischer.

"The greatest expert in the world can't tell you how to preach to your people, because that expert doesn't know what your people need," he said. "The greatest catechist in the world can tell you about catechism in general, but can't tell you what particular issues face your church."

"People have a right and obligation to speak and pastors have an obligation and right to listen," said Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit, a congregation member, during the Vatican meeting.

"We all have a responsibility to contribute to the life of the church," he said, but the roles people play are distinct based on whether they are lay or ordained.

"I don't know how we can have good parishes without pastoral councils," said Sister Hermann. "They help pastors think through what needs to be done for the overall good of the parish."

When a pastoral council is operating properly, it is using the gifts of the Holy Spirit, she said.

"For me, the format is about people praying together to heard the wisdom of the people," said Sister Hermann. "When that wisdom is gathered, the council becomes operative in assisting the pastor in making prudent decisions."

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

**MORE INFORMATION**

Please see the commentary on pastoral councils on page 10.

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# St. John Knights at Our Lady of Consolation

KNIGHTS, *from page 1*

initiation and installation were guided by Knights of St. John International officers from Cincinnati; Washington, D.C.; and Maryland.

The international fraternal and charitable organization serves in the United States, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, among other countries.

"Organizations such as Knights of St. Paul, Knights of St. George and Knights of St. Louis decided they wanted to combine and form a stronger union," said Daniel Vaske, general and president of the Knights of St. John International. "So they met in Baltimore and Washington in 1884, and they formed the Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John, incorporated in 1886 in the state of New York."

Inspired by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John was to be a living tribute to the knights who defended the Catholic Church in the medieval era. On May 6, 1886, the Ancient and Noble Order of the Knights of St. John was established in the United States.

The Knights and Ladies Auxiliary promotes youth participation through the Cadets and Junior Auxiliary for children ages 8-16. The organizations involve entire families and serve the church financially and through charitable works within their parishes and communities.

"The Knights and the Auxiliary support parishes financially, spiritually, and with the youth and the elderly," said Sister Iris J. Turner, a supreme second vice president of the ladies auxiliary.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

**The new Knights of St. John International Commandery No. 586 are recognized during an installation Mass at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Jan 18.**

"We address the charities based on what the pastors ask us to do. We key on the needs of the church and the community around the church."

"Our international charity is St. Vincent de Paul Society," said Vaske. "We do a lot of work to raise funds, help them with providing service hours, and we help them by providing food drives and clothing drives."

Our Lady of Consolation Church's local commandery and ladies auxiliary will be part of the First Regiment of Maryland, reporting through the Baltimore-Washington Grand Commandery. There are seven Grand Commanderies within the United States: Baltimore-Washington Grand; Ohio Grand; Cincinnati Grand; Kentucky Grand; Indiana Grand; Michigan Grand; and Buffalo Grand.

During the installation Mass, the Knights and Ladies Auxiliary sat at the front of the church. The men were dressed in dark uniforms with gold sashes embroidered with Knights of St. John International emblems. The ladies wore white dresses with blue and gold sashes and white hats with the Knights emblems.

When the two groups stood to be recognized, the standing-room-only crowd from floor to balcony responded with resounding applause.

Father Jude Duffy, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation, was appointed spiritual director of the local commandery and ladies auxiliary. He said Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, granted permission to initiate the local commandery.

"They've been great defenders of the church. In some of those countries where there were attacks on the (Catholic) Church, they defended the local Catholic churches even with their lives," said Father Duffy. "They always work for the good of the Catholic Church."

Father Andrew Tulay from St. John the Baptist Church in Columbia, Md., was one of the concelebrants at Sunday's installation Mass. He is also spiritual director of the local Kizito parish in Monrovia, Liberia, and recalled how Knights of St. John rescued a church during civil war hostilities in 1992.

"The rebels saw the church as opposition and thought we were hiding some political prisoners," said Father Tulay. "The members of the Knights of St. John ran to defend the church, to stop looters and to stop the rebels from vandalizing. The valuables of the church (the tabernacle, chalice and records), they took into the homes for safekeeping."

During the attack on the church, rebels set fires and threw a grenade inside where people had taken refuge in the sacristy, explained Father Tulay.

"And one of our commanders (of the Knights of St. John) ran and threw the grenade out, and he lost his arm," he said. "And when they set fire to the school, (the Knights) came up with water to put it out."

"That is what the fraternity is all about — to be there for each other in true Christian solidarity ... and to defend the principles, doctrines and values of the church," said Father Tulay, "... to stand for human rights and justice through the teachings of Jesus Christ ... and to endure, not be complacent, but to serve freely with your heart and .to speak out."

*Contact Correspondent Stephen Uzzell, a parishioner at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, by calling (704) 545-1224 or e-mail hatz@infionline.net.*

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**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC seeks a full-time professional with at least a bachelor's degree in music, and an in-depth knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy. Must be fully competent in both organ and piano, and experienced in directing both adult and children's choirs. Responsible for all music activity in a church with over 2,300 families. Full benefits available. Applicants who meet these requirements should send a resume to: OLG Music Ministry, 201 South Chapman Street, Greensboro, NC 27403, or fax it to (336) 274-7326.

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# Keeping TRACS on track

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Volunteers (from right to left) Anna Rounds, Jean Lawing, Anna Fitch, Anne Tompkins and Catherine Costa help insert pledge cards for the annual Triad Regional Area Catholic Schools campaign at the pastoral center in Charlotte Jan. 15.

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# Culture Watch

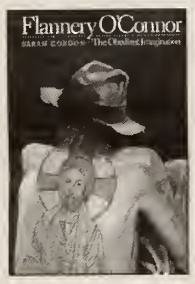
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two books explore Flannery O'Connor's works

REVIEWED BY MITCH FINLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Most Catholic readers are probably aware that Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) was a Catholic who wrote fiction, but many may not realize she was also sharp-as-a-tack in the spirituality department — which means, in the living-everyday-life-as-a-Catholic department.

To our great benefit, editor Robert Ellsberg in "Flannery O'Connor: Spiritual Writings" has gathered into one compact volume excerpts from O'Connor's fiction, letters and essays in which she wrote about religious and spiritual matters. Fordham University professor of English Richard Giannone has written the book's introductory es-




"Flannery O'Connor: Spiritual Writings," edited by Robert Ellsberg. Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2003). 173 pp., $15.00.

"Flannery O'Connor: The Obedient Imagination," by Sarah Gordon. University of Georgia Press (Athens, Ga., 2003). 296 pp., $19.95.

say, "Flannery O'Connor's Dialogue With the Age."

O'Connor would have smiled broadly, then laughed out loud, at the suggestion that she could serve as a spiritual adviser to anyone. But that only serves to put the stamp of authenticity on her words. I think one of the most important characteristics of a healthy Catholic spirituality is the ability and the inclination to laugh — especially at oneself. This is why a rigidly conservative spirituality, and a rigidly liberal spirituality, are both mere ideologies masquerading as piety.

An authentic Catholic spirituality is anything but narrow-minded or rigid. And so in O'Connor's words you will find liberation and joy, plus a no-nonsense honesty and clarity of thought that will sometimes knock your socks off and almost always delight you.

O'Connor avoided all pious platitudes. Reading her, you may find yourself blinking and saying, "What? What?" For example, writing to someone about to become Catholic, O'Connor said: "Having been a Protestant, you may have the feeling that you must feel you believe; perhaps feeling belief is not always an illusion but I imagine it is most of the time; but I can understand the feeling of pain on going to Communion and it seems a more reliable feeling than joy."

In other instances, O'Connor's words will seem like an honest dig in the ribs or a wake-up slap to the chops.

Thus, writing in 1962: "One of the effects of modern liberal Protestantism has been gradually to turn religion into poetry and therapy, to make truth vaguer and vaguer and more and more relative, to banish intellectual distinctions, to depend on feeling instead of thought, and gradually to come to believe that God has no power, that he cannot communicate with us, cannot reveal himself to us, indeed has not done so, and that religion is our own sweet invention." (We'll leave aside for now to what extent these words may apply to popular Catholicism in recent decades.)

"Flannery O'Connor: Spiritual Writings" is one volume that belongs in the hands of every thinking Catholic regardless of age or ideological inclinations. Her wisdom makes the leap from her mid-20th century era to our own with all its flags a-flying.

Meanwhile, "Flannery O'Connor: The Obedient Imagination" is written by Sarah Gordon, an English professor at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville, Ga., O'Connor's alma mater in her hometown. Gordon has chaired the university's renowned symposia on O'Connor and edited *The Flannery O'Connor Bulletin* since 1983.

Gordon's book is a fine biographical work of literary criticism. Gordon, who has been teaching courses on Flannery O'Connor for 30-plus years, asks what inner struggles led O'Connor to write fiction that was disturbing, ironic, haunting and sometimes brutal. Much of this, Gordon suggests, came from the natural resistance of O'Connor's imagination to the obedience that was expected by the male-centered church, society and literary background of her time.

Gordon believes O'Connor was a writer whose environment was saturated in male presumption regarding women and creativity. "The Obedient Imagination" offers many new insights into O'Connor's growing up years as a dutiful, upper-class Southern daughter.

She also examines how O'Connor was influenced by her reading of James Thurber, Edgar Allan Poe, T.S. Eliot and others who, Gordon thinks, were negative toward women.

Not all readers will agree with all of Gordon's conclusions, but her book is loaded with thought-provoking material that will be of great interest to anyone serious about a study of Flannery O'Connor.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 1, 2004

## *Feb. 1, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17
2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It's funny how people go "church shopping" on the premise that people should choose a church community that makes them feel comfortable.

The other day I happened to answer the parish phone after hours. The caller wondered if I could answer "some questions about your church." I thought maybe she was a publisher's representative or someone taking a survey, but it turned out she was a member of a neighboring parish, and there were some liturgical expressions in that church "I just don't like," she explained.

In another church I attended, it was the priest who caused people to go shopping. On numerous occasions, I heard the grousing expressed in almost these exact same words: "He makes me come out of church feeling like I'm a bad person. Going to church is supposed to make you feel good."

Not really. Since the beginning of humankind God's call to unselfishness and mercy has been roundly rejected by people who don't want to believe they aren't perfectly wonderful and who don't want to humble themselves to admit their sinfulness or do the hard work of changing their ways.

God knows this will happen when anyone carries his message into the world. He told Jeremiah as much: I'm appointing you a prophet so gird your loins. "They will fight against you."

Whether it's an individual or an entire faith community trying to insert into society the Christian call to justice and love, one can safely bet that a hew and cry will follow, and people will turn their backs. But for those willing to take on that task, there is good news in both the Old Testament reading and the Gospel for this week: God insists that his message will prevail. People can reject the message and the Christian life, and they can fuss and fight against the prophet, but Jesus remains unharmed as do those who hold to him.

***Questions:***

When do you recall witnessing rejection of someone speaking on behalf of Christian action? How can you bolster your courage to stand as a prophet of Jesus' message when the occasion presents itself?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"But do you gird your loins; stand up and tell them all that I command you Be not crushed on their account" (Jeremiah 1:17).

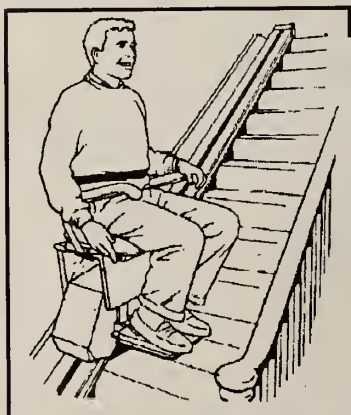
## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25 - JANUARY 31**

**Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21; **Monday (Sts. Titus and Timothy),** 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday (St. Angela Merici),** 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday (St. Thomas Aquinas),** 2 Samuel 7:4-17, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday,** 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday,** 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday (St. John Bosco),** 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17, Mark 4:35-41

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 7**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday (The Presentation of the Lord),** Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:2-40; **Tuesday (St. Blase, St. Ansgar),** 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30—19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday,** 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday (St. Agatha),** 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (St. Paul Miki and Companions),** Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34



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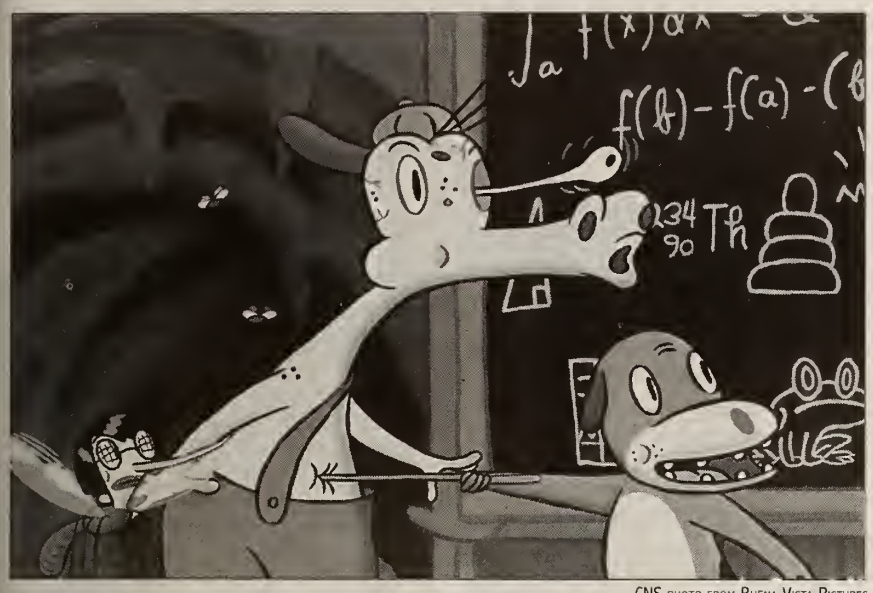
# 'Teacher's Pet' gets A-plus



CNS PHOTO FROM BUENA VISTA PICTURES

In a scene from "Teacher's Pet," produced by Walt Disney Television Animation, Spot points out the missing link in Dr. Krank's formula for transforming animals into humans. This wacky and witty animated musical, based on the popular TV series about a dog questing to become a real boy, offers something for everyone, peppering it throughout with zany sight gags, whip-smart zingers, classic film references and even an educational musical number, all while smuggling under the cover of laughter a message about friendship and the dangers of science overstepping its boundaries. Brief, mildly crude humor. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

# Screenwriting seminars for Christians slated for D.C., Hollywood

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HOLLYWOOD — March 1 is the application deadline for a new pair of Christianity-based screenwriting seminars sponsored by Act One.

One seminar, to be held in Washington, will run May 9-June 5. The other, in Hollywood, will run July 5-31.

Faculty for the seminars have written for such films as "Batman Forever" and "Urban Legends" and for such television series as "Matlock" and "The Father Dowling Mysteries."

The seminars will cover the full range of elements for successful scriptwriting, including story choice, script structure, character development, industry access, how to pitch a script, and ethics and spirituality for entertainment professionals.

Each seminar is limited to 30 students. Tuition is $1,195 for each seminar. A limited number of partial scholarships is available in cases of genuine need. Housing is available at an additional cost.

Act One describes itself as an organization that endeavors to create a community of Christian professionals in the entertainment industry who are committed to excellence, artistry and personal holiness.

Application forms are available online at: www.actoneprogram.com, or by e-mailing: actone@fpch.org. Completed forms may be mailed to: Act One, 1763 N. Gower St., Hollywood, CA 90028; or faxed to: (323) 462-2550. More information is available by phone at: (323) 462-1348.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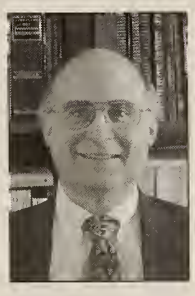
# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Working together: The role of pastoral councils

## Guest Column



GEORGE K. COBB
Guest Columnist

Recently the Holy Father has expressed his concern over the balance between the roles of the pastor and the laity at the parish level. Some people will point to his comments and declare we are going back before Vatican II, and the laity will have no say in matters concerning the Church.

In actuality, we must read the comments in the light of the Scriptures and the traditions of the Universal Church, not in light of our own experience in America.

It has never been the policy in the Diocese of Charlotte that the role of the pastoral council is to make decisions for the pastor. This is neither our history nor our tradition. It has always been the policy, as is echoed by the members of the diocesan synod of 1987, that the pastoral and finance councils have an advisory/consultative role.

It is very clear from the comments made at the Jan. 10 meeting of the Congregation for Clergy that the form of pastoral council used here in the United States is held up as a wonderful example of lay participation in decision making.

So what is the role of the pastoral council? To understand it, we must first understand the role of the pastor. The pastor is charged by the bishop with responsibilities outlined in canon law, which are: liturgy and worship; word; Christian community; and outward mission.

The pastor's charge is for the entire territory (parish) under his charge, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. The pastoral council advises the pastor concerning these pastoral matters just as the finance council advises the pastor concerning financial matters. The laity's role is to use their knowledge of the community to advise the pastor concerning pastoral matters. But it is important for the faithful to recognize that it is the pastor's responsibility alone to make the final decision.

This may sound strange to democratic Americans who feel that a vote is required for every issue. It is not strange in either the Scriptures or the Tradition of the Church. But because it is the pastor's ultimate responsibility to make the final decision, that does not mean the laity have no voice and no role. These same traditions and Scriptures hold that important decisions should not be made by one person alone.

When we look in the Acts of the Apostles, we can see that the Apostles did not make an important decision without going to the community for advice and then praying as a community for guidance. There was never any question on the part of the faithful as to who was to make the final decision. But also there was no question that the Apostles knew that they must also consult with the community of the faithful, since it is in the Church as a whole we best come to an understanding of what the Spirit is trying to do within our lives and our Church.

The Second Vatican Council and Pope Paul VI insisted on the importance of pastoral councils on the local, regional and diocesan level. Pope John Paul II has repeatedly emphasized the same, expanding their scope and importance within the Church. Catholics today live in a time of unprecedented opportunities to be involved in the life of the Church and help guide the Church into a new century.

We as Catholics must now take seriously our role to assist the pastor in his ministry of the entire parish for, as Christians, it is our ministry as well.

# Pope says peace of Christ will not be achieved through war

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Highlighting the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Pope John Paul II said the peace promised by Jesus will never be won through war.

"The world yearns for peace, it needs peace today as yesterday, but often it seeks peace with improper means, sometimes even with recourse to force or through the balance of opposing powers," the pope said at his general audience Jan. 21.

"In such situations, man lives with a heart disturbed by fear and uncertainty. The peace of Christ, instead, reconciles souls, purifies hearts and converts minds," he said.

The pope pronounced his talk in the Vatican's audience hall before several thousand people, including ecumenical delegations and a choir of Orthodox Christians from Moscow.

The pope, who looked alert as he sat on his mobile throne, presided over prayers for Christian unity in several languages at the end of the audience.

The pope noted that the theme of this year's Christian unity week, "My Peace I Give You," was chosen by an ecumenical group in Aleppo, Syria. He recalled his visit to Syria in 2001 and said his meetings with Orthodox leaders there represented another significant step along the path of ecumenism.

He said that along with gestures from church leaders, however, the movement toward unity needs commitment by all Christians, engaged in a "profound spirituality of peace and pacification."

He acknowledged ecumenical difficulties between various Christian churches, but said the overall picture includes many positive developments, including progress in theological dialogue.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

"Keeping in mind these positive signs, we shouldn't become discouraged in the face of old and new problems, but face them with patience and understanding, always counting on divine help," he said.

The prayers at the end of the audience were offered for the Christian churches in East and West, for the pope and other Christian and world leaders, for peace and for all those suffering from war and injustice in the world.

The brief prayer service had a pair of unusual guests: two lambs that were presented in baskets and blessed by the pope. The blessing is a traditional one that marks the Jan. 21 feast of St. Agnes, a Roman martyr who is often depicted with a lamb.

The lambs were carried up to the pope in separate baskets, their small heads peering over red and white garlands. One of them bleated after the papal blessing, prompting smiles in the audience hall.

The lambs are raised by Trappist monks who live near Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Their wool is shorn before Holy Week, and it is used to help make palliums, the circular bands of cloth presented to archbishops in an annual ceremony at the Vatican June 29.

# Along the Good Shepherd's Path

PHOTO AND MEDITATION BY STEPHEN UZZELL

*Not within these walls*

*But inside this heart,*

*Nor beneath this steeple*

*But where Jesus beckons.*

*— Christ-centered devotion*

# It still matters

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

National holidays are hard to dislike. But some of my friends have a difficulty with the one we celebrate this year on Jan. 19. That's Martin Luther King Day, set aside to remember the nonviolent contributions the Baptist minister and Nobel Peace Prize winner made to the battle for civil rights.

My friends acknowledge he was a great man who made a difference for the good. They are not callous to Rev. King's sacrifices, including his death at the hands of an avowed racist. They simply don't want to rehash history. They see the battle for civil rights as settled and Martin Luther King Day as superfluous. Said one fellow: "That's stuff from the 1960s with no particular meaning any more. Everyone enjoys equal rights today."

I know a man who begs to differ. His name is Gregory Allen Howard. He's a screenwriter and an African American. After winning a Christopher Award for his powerful movie "Remember the Titans," he agreed to be interviewed for our television series, Christopher Closeup.

I mentioned the scenes in the movie that highlighted racial bigotry and asked about his experiences. Howard said he had personally known the sting of prejudice many times. In particular, he recounted the humiliating incidents of being stopped while driving his car in Los Angeles. He'd done nothing wrong, wasn't speeding, hadn't rolled past a stop sign. But he was a black man driving through a wealthy white neighborhood, and that was enough for him to be interrogated. It's the reason he left L.A. and moved to Alexandria, Va., a city he sees as both integrated and harmonious.

It's important to mention that Howard didn't experience this racial harassment back in the '60s. The incidents are recent. Truth told, I had never, until that interview, imagined what it would be like to be stopped for having a different skin color. I've been stopped by police while driving, but it's usually for mistakes I made. Being singled out by race should be beyond imagining. Except that it isn't. It happens every day.

Yet few of us readily admit prejudices. One of my parishioners told me as much. Her name is Edna. She's 85 years old and is white. She was coming out of church recently and looked troubled. I asked her why.

"I saw your show with Gregory Allen Howard the other night."

"That's good," I answered.

"Well, it bothered me," she continued. "That story he told about the many times he was stopped by police officers. It made me uncomfortable and angry."

She went on to admit something she'd avoided saying for the first 85 years of her life: "I'd hate to be given a hard time for no good reason. And someone's color is just no good reason. For the first time, I tried to put myself in that man's place. And, Father Jim, it made me so mad to think that any person could be treated that way. It's just not worthy of us as Americans. It's just not something I imagine God would ever want."

This woman had finally understood that we are all entitled to be treated fairly and equally. And she found in her anger she didn't like an America that wasn't able to realize that. It's an anger she shared with Rev. King and Howard. It's an anger filled with justice. And it's the reason we need to set aside the third Monday in January, if only to remind us that we have not, as yet, truly overcome our bias, our prejudices, our bigotry and our fear of people just because they're different.

This year, let's ask ourselves: Am I a person who sees those of a different color as less significant? Or do I really see every person, equally, as a child of the Creator? Am I willing to uphold God's sense of justice?

Let's follow Edna's footsteps and place ourselves in the shoes of someone who has felt bigotry. That's the first step to purging our hearts of this sin that keeps us from being whole and holy.

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

# What makes for a good parish?

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"What makes for a good parish?"

This question comes up with greater frequency. But why?

First and foremost, many parishes no longer have the luxury of several resident priests, and many worry about not having even resident pastors. They are faced with maintaining their quality without one of its main ingredients.

The need today for well-defined religious values is another reason for desiring a good parish. It is the primary place people look to for moral guidance.

Yet another reason is that parish life is essential to the people it serves. Parents seek guidance on parenting. The divorced, separated and singles need the camaraderie and caring, as do the elderly and the sick. Youth, who are in the critical years of their formation, are especially in need of good spiritual formation. Immigrants look to the parish as a new home.

Without sounding simplistic, a good parish is one focusing on the works of mercy. These include: instructing, advising, consoling, forgiving, bearing wrongs patiently, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: It is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

When we reflect on the needs of parishioners, they boil down to the need for guidance, support and comfort. Families need guidance and support in keeping themselves together. Young people need spiritual guidance to handle the secular and often irreligious environment in which they live. Those whose marriages experience severe difficulties need advice and comfort. They also need to relearn the virtue of truly forgiving those who hurt them — and themselves.

The beauty of the works of corporal mercy is they point a parish toward the needs of its own members and toward the needs of others. The works of mercy encourage a parish to take a global view and not get locked into provincialism.

A parish practicing the works of mercy inspires its youth. Young people are idealistic and more service-oriented than are given credit. When a parish gives young people the opportunity to serve, it is amazing to witness their zest.

Today we have many wonderful parishes that are truly inspirational. When you look more closely at the reasons for this, you will find that they model the works of mercy in action.

# Mary Stewart's Prayer

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS Columnist

One of the most important jobs of the parish church is to be a "school of prayer." We teach people how to pray and what to pray for, both by word and by example. The liturgy is the principal school of prayer. There we make the Lord present in word and sacrament. But other "prayer clinics" include devotions such as eucharistic adoration, Stations of the Cross, novenas, retreats, rosary, and meditation and prayer groups. Nothing is more central to our life than prayer.

Among the first things Jesus did with his disciples was teach them to pray. He told them not to rattle on like the pagans who went into endless ecstatic prayer rituals. But he also told them to be persistent in prayer and to pray always without losing heart.

Most important, Jesus taught his followers the words of a prayer so we could pray when we could find no other words. His prayer is a kind of short course in prayer. It is a summation of all our prayers.

There have been many famous teachers of prayer in our Christian tradition — people like St. Teresa of Avila, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius of Loyola, who taught their followers to pray.

This past Christmas our parish distributed a little prayerbook from Liguori Press as a gift to everyone. It is called a "Treasury of Prayers." It contains all the basic Catholic prayers, plus a few unusual ones I had not seen before.

I particularly liked one prayer titled "Mary Stewart's Prayer." I'm not sure in this instance who Mary Stewart was, but she wrote a good prayer. I read it to our people at Mass a couple of weeks before Christmas, as a prayer for our families. It goes:

"Keep us, O God, from all pettiness.

"Let us be large in thought, word and deed.

"Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off all self-seeking.

"May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice.

"May we never be hasty in judgment and always be generous.

"Let us always take time for all things, and make us grow calm, serene and gentle.

"Teach us to put into action our better impulses, to be straightforward and unafraid.

"Grant that we may realize that it is the little things of life that create the differences, but in the big things of life we are as one.

"And Lord God, let us not forget to be kind! Amen."

When I read that prayer to our parish, I heard a little inward taking of breath at the end when she says, "Let us not forget to be kind." Every family has said unkind words.

Heartfelt prayer brings our real self before God. It expresses our needs, our thanks, our fears, our failings and hopes. Sometimes it even expresses our humor.

One of my favorite prayers makes me laugh. I have it taped to the mirror in my bedroom. It goes:

"Dear Lord, So far today I've done OK. Actually I've been rather good. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, pouty or whiney. Nor have I been selfish, unpleasant or overindulgent.

"Lord I would like to say that I am thankful for all that. But God, in a few minutes I'm going to get out of bed.... From then on, I'm going to need a lot more help. Amen."

Maybe some of our prayers not only make us laugh but make God laugh too.

# Immaculate Conception Church prospers in Hendersonville

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville was dedicated in December 1998 and can accommodate 800 people for Mass.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**
208 Seventh Avenue West
Hendersonville, N.C. 28791
(828) 693-6901

**Vicariate:** Asheville
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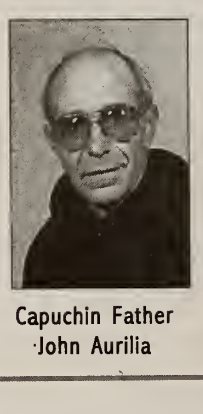
**Parochial Vicar:** Capuchin Father John Salvas
**Pastoral Associate:** Capuchin Brother Michael Molloy
**Hispanic Ministry:** Capuchin Brother Francisco Arredondo
**Number of Households:** 3,500



Capuchin Father John Aurilia

HENDERSONVILLE — Over the past 90 years, Immaculate Conception Church has been blessed with growth, faith and love. From a modest beginning of only 19 people, the church has grown into a thriving community of 3,500 families.

It wasn't until 1869 that a Catholic church appeared in the western North Carolina with the completion of St. Lawrence Church (now Basilica) in Asheville. Catholicism spread in the region and Masses were held in private homes in Hendersonville.

Hendersonville's first Catholic church was built in 1912. The Church of the Immaculate Conception, a small, white clapboard church, featured wooden pews that seated 50 people.

Under the guidance of Father Peter Marion, the first pastor, the small group of Catholics struggled to survive with modest collections. Often, parishioners donated food and other necessities for the rectory.

Immaculata School was built in Hendersonville in 1926 and enlarged in 1944 to accommodate 125 students. Today, the school has around 200 students.

Father Phillip O'Mara came to the congregation numbering less than 100 in 1931. However, summertime visitors gradually increased and in 1936 a new church made of stone was built to accommodate 200 people.

Father Howard Lane served the church as pastor from 1944 until his death in 1967. His management skills helped free Immaculate Conception from its debt by 1966. He also guided the church through the changes established by the Second Vatican Council. The first Mass in English was held at Immaculate Conception on Nov. 29, 1964.

Father Lane often vacationed in Italy and obtained a new altar stone for the church, and had it blessed by Pope Paul VI. This stone has now become a sacred part of Immaculate Conception, remaining in the church to this day.

After Father Lane's death, Father (now Msgr.) Joseph Showfety became pastor and oversaw repairs to the aging church and rectory. But the congregation had grown to 240 families and a larger church was needed

Under Msgr. Showfety's guidance, Immaculate Conception saw the beginning of a larger church and the completion of a new convent and a playground for Immaculata School. The new church, which would seat 520 people, was designed in a modern mountain-chalet style.

The Diocese of Charlotte was approved in 1972 and founding Bishop Michael J. Begley chose Msgr. Showfety as its first chancellor. Father (now Msgr.) William Pharr became pastor in January 1972, the same year the old church was torn down. In April 1974 the new Immaculate Conception Church, built to seat 520 people, was dedicated. In the late 1970s, Immaculate Conception Church was the largest Catholic parish in western North Carolina with more than 1,600 parishioners.

Since that time, Immaculate Conception has been blessed with several priests, including Father Thomas Walsh, Father Paul Wilderotter and Father Dennis Kuhn, a former Episcopalian priest who converted to Catholicism.

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia, the current pastor and frequent columnist for *The Catholic News & Herald*, was appointed in June 1995. On April 12, 1997 he oversaw the groundbreaking for a new Immaculate Conception. The two-level facility was designed to seat 800 people and features administrative offices, a family center and a chapel for 100 worshipers. Dedicated in December 1998, the church's exterior roof resembles the soaring rooflines of the 1974 church.

By 1997, parishioners were involved in Hispanic ministry, which provided aid for migrant workers in area camps. Today, parishioners are involved in more than 50 ministries.

Immaculate Conception Church continues to grow in numbers and faith. It is a strength that continues to develop in the face of changes that await in the years to come.

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

## Bishop Jugis, others join March for Life

RALLIES ROUSE MARCHERS FOR ANNUAL PRO-LIFE EVENT

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — Bishop Peter J. Jugis and others of the Diocese of Charlotte were among tens of thousands descending on Washington for the annual March for Life.

At rallies, prayer services and marches held in Washington on the 31st anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton decisions legalizing abortion, participants were encouraged to continue their fight against abortion.

See MARCH, page 7

## Catholic Schools Week 2004

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

*Diocesan Catholic schools celebrate 'Faith-Filled Future'*

Students at St. Michael School in Gastonia take notes during class in this photo taken in August 2003. Catholic Schools Week, this year themed "Catholic Schools: A Faith-Filled Future," runs Jan. 25-31. Look for Catholic Schools Week coverage in the next issue of *The Catholic News & Herald.*

DSA 2004

## 'And the Greatest of These is Love'

*Annual diocesan appeal to bring God's love to many*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — God is love.

And as the people of God, we are charged with bringing his love to those in need.

The annual Diocesan Support Appeal has helped plant and reap many seeds of hope across the Diocese of Charlotte. This year, contributions to the DSA will continue to support those in need through 36 ministries across the diocese, including Catholic Social Services, educational and multicultural ministries and the vocations program.

The goal of this year's DSA that kicksoff Feb. 1, themed "The Greatest of These is Love," is $3,775,000, and it can only be obtained with support from Catholics across the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Expressing the love of Jesus must involve some action," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of the diocesan development office. "The DSA is a concrete way to express that love in deeds beyond words and feeling. It is also a means of sharing what you have with others."

"Contributing to the DSA gives the Catholics of western North Carolina an opportunity to be a part of something bigger, and to help the church at large in its ministry throughout the western part of the state," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Charlotte.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM FARAGHER

**Above is the poster for the 2004 Diocesan Support Appeal, which kicks off Feb. 1 in the Diocese of Charlotte.**

The reach of the DSA is far and wide, said Gaddy, including: providing resources and workshops for parish and school catechists; funding seminarian education and diaconate formation; providing funds toward Catholic Social Service's ministries; and allowing Hispanic coordinators throughout the diocese to assist their pastors in serving Spanish-speaking parishioners.

"All of these diocesan ministries rely heavily on the DSA," said Weldon. "It's certainly important from a finan-

See DSA, page 9

**Growing adoration**
*Bishop dedicates St. Gabriel chapel*
PAGE 4

**Unified by diversity**
*Multicultural ministry helps communities*
PAGE 5

**DSA 2004**
*Parish targets, ministries budget*
PAGES 8-9

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## VP AND JP2

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II greets Vice President Dick Cheney during a private audience at the Vatican Jan. 27. It was the pontiff's highest-level audience with a U.S. official following the Iraqi war. The pope emphasized the need for international cooperation in resolving conflicts around the world.

# Pope-Cheney meeting comes as U.S. and Vatican rebuild relationship

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vice President Dick Cheney's first meeting with Pope John Paul II came at a time when U.S.-Vatican relations are in a rebuilding phase following the war in Iraq.

Cheney met privately with the pope Jan. 27 and later with the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. The discussions dealt primarily with the current situation in Iraq, the Middle East and international terrorism.

The pope and Vatican officials have argued against the U.S. decision to invade Iraq, but recently have focused on the need for cooperative reconstruction rather than on past differences.

The pope said the international community needs to help Iraqis "retake the reins" of Iraq and establish democracy, and emphasized the role of the United Nations in this process and in "collective security" throughout the world.

But differences remain between the Vatican and the United States over preemptive or "preventive" war as a tool against terrorism.

Vatican officials rejected the idea that nations could wage war without responding to a specific act of aggression and without the explicit backing of the United Nations or international treaties, in order to eliminate a potential threat of terrorism.

The Vatican recognizes use of force to prevent acts of terrorism can sometimes be legitimate, as an extension of the principle of self-defense, but the threat must be specific and well-defined.

Failure to find Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has bolstered the Vatican's conviction that this war did not have legitimacy.

The Vatican's reaction to the U.S. military's 2001 actions in Afghanistan was different — a Vatican spokesman and other church officials offered qualified support for U.S. attacks against al-Qaida strongholds in Afghanistan, saying use of force in that situation represented an extension of self-defense against a terrorist organization that could be expected to strike again.

But the same case could not be made for Iraq, and this was underscored by the lack of an international consensus in support of the war, Vatican officials said.

Vatican officials caution that in conducting the "war on terrorism," the United States seems to rely too heavily on short-term military solutions and not enough on political, social and educative steps.

"But there is also understanding that the United States is still probably under the influence of Sept. 11, and that this has resulted in a priority for military action," said one Vatican official.

# World community urged to examine failure to stop modern-day genocide

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, called Jan. 27 for the international community to examine why it has failed to prevent the new acts of genocide that have occurred in recent years.

Speaking to the fourth Stockholm International Forum, he said genocide remains "a constant menace," and the world is too interconnected to "plead ignorance" of "what is happening on the other side of the global village."

The nuncio's statement, released by the Vatican's U.N. mission in New York, said the international community had legal instruments to "nip genocides in the bud."

"What we need most now is a greater and more courageous will to implement them," he said.

"Among all forms of large-scale violence, genocide sets itself apart by the evil motivation behind it, namely, its specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a nation, a race, an ethnic or religious group, a defenseless or vulnerable group of human beings, simply for being such," he said.

The Stockholm forum was initiated in response to acts of anti-Semitism in Sweden and reports that many young people agreed with those who denied the Holocaust ever happened.

A forum on the Holocaust in 2000 was followed by one in 2001 on combating intolerance and in 2002 on truth, justice and reconciliation.

For this year's event, held Jan. 26-28, Sweden invited representatives of 58 countries and more than a dozen international organizations to address the theme "Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities."

# Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A four-part series, *"Understanding Your Late Life Choices,"* will be presented at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Thursdays Feb. 5-26, 10-11:30 a.m. Topics will include protecting your home and assets, housing and in-home care, Medicare/Medicaid and long-term care. For reservations, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid's Division, will celebrate the feast day of St. Brigid, patroness of their order, Feb. 8 at a luncheon following the 12:30 p.m. Mass at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further information, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — *"Just Second Fridays"* is a luncheon speaker series on social justice topics that meets the second Friday of each month, 1-2 p.m. in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Dr. Terry Armstrong, director of the Arrupe Program in Social Ethics for Business and Woodstock Business Conference, will present "Shareholder vs. Stakeholder Value" Feb. 13. Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. For details call (704) 370-3225.

MINT HILL — Looking for a way to get closer to God this year? Put your new year's resolution into practice by taking the *Alpha Course*. Alpha is a video lecture series and supper club that meets Friday nights through March 19. Register by calling (704) 573-7021 or e-mail mcnuccie1@bellsout.net.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Trish Wilson at (704) 543-8986.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Father Joe Zuschmidt and Dennis Teall-Fleming will host an *Evening of Conversation* on the past and present chal

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope urges international community to help eradicate leprosy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope ohn Paul II urged the world commuity to continue its work to wipe out eprosy while the head of the 'atican's office for health care empha-ized the church's need to address the piritual needs of the sick and medical rofessionals.

After praying the Sunday Angelus an. 25, World Day of Leprosy, the ope said his thoughts were "with all hose who still suffer from Hansen's isease," which is another name for eprosy, a chronic infectious disease hat attacks the skin, peripheral erves and mucous membranes of the yes and respiratory tract. Lesions and ensory loss in the affected areas usu-lly begin in the toes and fingertips.

In some advanced cases, gangrene ets in, causing parts of the body to ecome deformed.

"While I invite you to pray for them and the people who care for them, I encourage the international community's efforts to eradicate this disease," said the pope.

In a Jan. 25 message, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, called for the training of religious and lay workers to prepare them for the "spiritual trials not only of sick people but also of the professional men and women who are directly involved."

According to the Vatican, the church worldwide runs 678 leper hospitals, helping more than 817,000 people in 2002.

The World Health Organization reported more than 620,000 new cases of Hansen's disease across the globe in 2002, but warned the number of infected people was much higher.

enges of the sexual abuse crisis the Catholic hurch is facing. Topics will include what npact the crises have had on the Catholic hurch as a whole, Catholics themselves and ow well the Catholic Church is responding o the crises. The conversation will take lace Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Family Cen-er of Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. For details, call Dennis Teall-leming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

**REENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will neet Tuesdays in February. Speakers in-lude Sister Antonette Schmidt, Abbot Placid Solari, Bishop William Curlin nd Terry Aiken of IHM in High Point. Theology on Tap meets at "Anton's" on attleground Ave. 7 p.m. Contact reensborotot@yahoo.com for more nformation.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Johnson St. and Skeet Club d., will offer free basic and intermediate *panish classes* Thursdays. 7-8:30 p.m. lasses begin Jan. 15 and end Feb. 19. o register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-522.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Or-er of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, he oldest and largest order of Irish Catho-c men, is looking for more Irish Catholic nen to join them for meetings, educational eminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time nd location.

**ICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets he second and fourth Wednesday of each nonth at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Joysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For nore information, call the church office at 328) 327-2341.

**ALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age neets the second Monday of each month at p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley chool Rd. We draw strength from others' xperience of loss and grief. For more infor-nation, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

**MOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

CANTON and WAYNESVILLE — The nnual observance of *World Marriage Sun-day* will take place Feb. 8. There will be special liturgies at 8:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Newfound Rd. in Canton, and at 11 a.m. at St. John Church, 234 Church St. in Waynesville, during which couples will be able to renew their marriage vows. Following the liturgies, there will be receptions for couples in the respective church halls.

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Newfound Rd., will conduct one-hour sessions each Thursday through Feb. 26 on *"The Precepts of the Catholic Church."* Sessions will start at noon — bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Discussions are open to anyone who wants to know more about church teachings or to review what you learned many years ago. For more information, call Dot and Chuck Luce at (828) 648-7369.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. A four-part series of classes will begin Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, *335* Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Pope says media too often hostile to family values, urges changes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Modern mass media too often encourage negative family trends, uncritically depicting infidelity and giving "positive support" to divorce, abortion and homosexuality, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope called on parents, communicators and public authorities to fight what he termed an agenda "hostile" to family values — but without resorting to censorship.

The pope's message on the theme "The Media in the Family: A Risk and a Richness," released at the Vatican Jan. 24, was designed to prompt reflection ahead of World Communications Day, to be marked in most dioceses May 23.

The pope said today's global reach of mass media offers virtually unlimited opportunities for families in terms of education, cultural expansion and even spiritual growth, and he noted the media sometimes treats the family with intelligence and perception.

On the other hand, he said, "infidelity, sexual activity outside of marriage, and the absence of a moral and spiritual vision of the marriage covenant are depicted uncritically, while positive support is at times given to divorce, contraception, abortion and homosexuality. Such portrayals, by promoting causes inimical to marriage and the family, are detrimental to the common good of society."

The pope called for "practical initiatives" to offset this image of the family.

Professional communicators resist commercial pressures or demands of secular ideologies, he said, and civil authorities should, without resorting to censorship, "set in place regulatory policies and procedures to ensure that the media do not act against the good of the family."

The pope said parents, as their children's primary educators, should teach them not to uncritically accept or imitate is depicted in the media, and also need to regulate media use in the home, including scheduling and strictly limiting media use, putting some media entirely off limits and making media entertainment a family event.

All modern communication should be inspired by respect for the truth and human dignity, he said. Without that, he said, media have the capacity to do "grave harm" by presenting a deformed outlook on life, the family, religion and morality.

# Breaking for the pope

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II listens to a rap song as a Polish youngster break dances during an audience at the Vatican Jan. 25. Break dancers performed Jan. 25 before the pontiff in the Vatican's sumptuous Clementine Hall, with some spinning on their heads on the marble floor to the pope's apparent delight. They jumped and twisted to the sound of rhythmic music that blared through the hall from a boombox. The pope raised his hands in approval after each dancer finished, and told the group afterward: "I bless you from my heart for this creative and difficult work." He also told the youths that creativity was important in all art and that artistic talent was a gift of God that should be developed and not wasted. "Be faithful to beauty and be faithful to goodness," he said.

## CORRECTION

In the Jan. 16 issue, Tania Castillero was incorrectly identified as the Hispanic Center's first full-time program director. She is a full-time Catholic Social Services employee splitting her time between locations in High Point and Greensboro.

GROWING ADORATION

# Bishop Jugis dedicates adoration chapel at St. Gabriel Church

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicates the expanded eucharistic adoration chapel at St. Gabriel Church Jan. 25. The larger chapel was necessary to accommodate growth of the devotion, so the parish expanded the size and seating availability of the previous chapel.

BY KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners of St. Gabriel Church now have more room for eucharistic adoration.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated the expanded adoration chapel Jan. 25.

The larger chapel was necessary to accommodate growth of the devotion, so the parish expanded the size and seating availability of the previous chapel. Also added was a picture of the Annunciation, given to the church by an anonymous donor.

"In this chapel, the love of Christ will be present," said Bishop Jugis during the ceremony. "In this chapel, the sweet conversation with our Lord, which we begin in Mass, will continue in personal and private adoration."

Eucharistic adoration, also called perpetual adoration, is a practice in some Catholic parishes and religious communities of exposing the Eucharist 24 hours a day for adoration by members of the community. Communities that establish perpetual adoration are expected to assure there are always some members present in prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

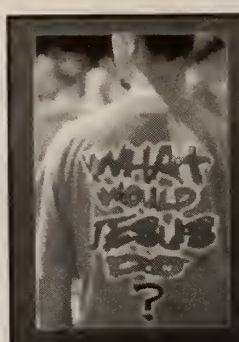
Bishop Jugis said eucharistic adoration assisted him in his discerning of his call to the priesthood. He recalled the times he spent as a young man before the Eucharist at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"It is there before the Blessed Sacrament that the Lord speaks to young men about the priesthood," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishop spoke of the relationship between the priesthood and the Eucharist, and said both were instituted at the Last Supper.

"The prayer that is offered here will build up our families in Christ, will build up our homes, will build up this parish and will build up this city," said Bishop Jugis.

"If people let Christ's love and peace abide with them, it will produce great fruit after they leave the chapel and go out into the world," he said.




## Young Adult Views

Catholics age 20-39 who consider the following 'essential' or 'very important' aspects of the faith.

| | |
|---|---|
| Following Conscience | 89% |
| Helping Needy | 87% |
| Passing on the Faith | 69% |
| Receiving Eucharist | 63% |
| Following Teachings | 51% |

*From a report using data from national random sample telephone surveys of U.S. Catholics 2000 to 2002.*

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Georgetown University
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# Unified by diversity in North Carolina

## Multicultural Ministry helps communities thrive in diocese

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

MORGANTON — Tucked away in the mountains of North Carolina, St. Charles Borromeo Church has become a welcoming haven for three diverse ethnic groups — Anglos; Guatemalans from Central America; and Hmong, refugees from the highlands of Vietnam and Laos.

Ministering to three populations separated by language, heritage and even spirituality can prove a challenge, but Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, and his staff have met that challenge by serving each group's individual needs while integrating them as one community.

St. Charles Borromeo offers three Masses each Sunday — in English, Spanish and Hmong. To bring the cultures together in worship, the church also offers a bilingual Mass. Fittingly, Pentecost is celebrated together by the entire parish community.

The church is aided by the Multicultural Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte, which encourages Spanish- and Hmong-language Masses and other ministries to reach out to growing populations. As a result, Catholicism is thriving in the Hmong, Hispanic and other communities.

North Carolina's Hmong population is the fourth largest in the United States. About 10 percent of Hmong living in the United States are Catholic, according to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Office of Migration & Refugee Services.

North Carolina also has one of the United States' fastest-growing Spanish-speaking populations, accounting for approximately one-half the Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Concurrently, a steady increase in the number of individuals from Southeast Asia over the years has led the Diocese of Charlotte to establish Korean and Vietnamese missions in Charlotte in the 1990s. There is a combined 1,000 registered individuals at the missions, St. John Lee Korean Church and St. Joseph Vietnamese Church.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis has expressed a willingness to learn Korean and Vietnamese in a continued effort to shepherd the immigration populations of the diocese.

"What is already beginning to happen in the parishes should be continued," he said. "That is, bilingual Masses and parish celebrations, so that the Catholic Church stays one and united and does not fall along parallel tracks according to diverse ethnic origins."

In "Instruction on the Pastoral Care of People Who Migrate," Pope Paul VI affirmed, "migrating people carry with them their own mentality, their own language, their own culture, and their own religion. All of these things are parts of a certain spiritual heritage of opinions, traditions and culture, which will (continue to exist) outside the homeland."

"The church is for the Catholics who are here now," Father Whittington said. "If tomorrow they are from Mars, then we would minister to them."

Although his parishioners are all Catholic, Father Whittington realizes there are important differences in their spirituality.

"Our Spanish-speaking parishioners are mostly Guatemalans of Mayan descent, and their style of worship is very different from that of other Hispanics," he said. "They are quietly spiritual and naturally contemplative."

In "Encuentro and Mission," the bishops of the United States said, "Because Hispanics are a blessing to the entire church in the United States, and because Hispanic ministry is integral to its mission, appreciating and embracing the contribution this community has made are important."

To encourage the catechesis of its Hmong population, St. Charles Borromeo is served by a full-time Hmong catechist, Pe Lis, who is currently studying to be a member of the permanent diaconate. The Hmong New Year is celebrated in conjunction with the parish's annual festival.

"If we look at people and say 'They're African-American or French or Hmong,' we're missing the most important thing — that they are foremost Catholic," said Sister Andrea Inkrott, director for diocesan Hispanic ministry. She also said the presence of Catholics from other cultures is "a gift that should be celebrated."

"It's more important to appreciate each other and value the gift the other culture has," Father Whittington said.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Vietnamese dancers helped celebrate the ordination of Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 24. The Vietnamese community is one of several served by the Multicultural Ministry of the diocese. Non-English speaking Catholics make up more than one-half of the total Catholic population in western North Carolina.**

*Multicultural Ministry is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

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# President says every person is 'a blessing'

## *Text of President Bush's remarks to March for Life*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Here is the text of President George W. Bush's remarks made via a telephone call from Roswell, N.M., to Nellie Gray, head of March for Life, and participants at the March for Life rally on the Ellipse Jan. 22 in Washington. The president was in Roswell to address law enforcement officials and others about the war on terrorism.

Well, thank you very much, Nellie. I appreciate your kind introduction, and thank you for including me in this celebration of life. I'm calling you today from Roswell, New Mexico. And it sounds like you've got some people who know where Roswell is here in the audience.

I know that good folks have gathered there on the Mall from every corner of America to take part in the 31st March for Life. And I want you to pass on my best to each one of them in person, please, and tell them how much I appreciate their devotion to such a noble cause.

You believe, as I do, that every person, however frail or vulnerable, is a blessing. Each of us has a special dignity, a place and purpose in this world. And in the Declaration of Independence, our founders stated this self-evident truth: The right to life does not come from government, it comes from the Creator of life.

During the past three years we've made real progress toward building a culture of life in America. As president, I've signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. I have signed legislation supporting maternity group homes. Working with the Congress, we have refused to spend taxpayers' money on international programs that promote abortion overseas. We're opposed to the destruction of embryos for stem-cell research. And last November it was my honor to sign into law a ban on the brutal procedure of partial-birth abortion.

Nellie, I want you to know that our administration is vigorously defending this law against those who would seek to overturn it in the courts. I also want you to know without your hard work and dedication to the cause of life, these achievements would not have been possible.

But we all know there is still more to do. Earlier this week, I proposed that we double federal funding for abstinence education programs. We will continue to support crisis pregnancy centers, adoption, parental notification laws and the vital work of faith-based groups.

I strongly support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which the House Judiciary Committee approved yesterday. And now the entire Congress should act on this bill so I can sign it into law.

We'll also work with Congress to pass without delay a comprehensive and effective ban on human cloning. We can push the limits of medical science while maintaining the highest of ethical standards. Human life is a creation, not a commodity, and should not be used as research material for reckless experiments.

Above all, we must continue with civility and respect to remind our fellow citizens that all life is sacred and worthy of protection. I know as you return to your communities you will redouble your efforts to change hearts and minds, one person at a time. And this is the way we will build a lasting culture of life, a compassionate society in which every child is born into a loving family and protected by law.

Gray: We pledge that to you, Mr. President.

Bush: Thank you, Nellie. I appreciate so very much the opportunity to speak to you and the assembled crowd. May God bless you all, and may he continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

PHOTO BY NANCY WIEC

PHOTO BY JOSEPH PURELLO

**Above: Maria Miller embraces daught Devin, 6, during the National Pray Vigil for Life Jan. 21 at the Basilica the National Shrine of the Immacula Conception in Washington. They travel to the nation's capital from Hicko N.C., where they are parishioners of S Aloysius Church.**

**Left: Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrat Mass at the Basilica of the Natior Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington Jan. 22. Hundreds of Nor Carolinians attended the Mass and t March for Life.**


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PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with youth from St. Barnabas Church in Arden prior to the start of the March for Life in Washington Jan. 22.

# Marching for life

MARCH, *from page 1*

Bishop Jugis celebrated Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception the morning of the march, Jan. 22. Sixteen priests concelebrated and four deacons from the Diocese of Charlotte assisted with the Mass at the basilica, which was filled almost to capacity.

"What was most moving for me was the size of the basilica, and a small diocese being able to fill the basilica almost to capacity," said Father Christopher Davis of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

"This show how seriously the Catholics of North Carolina take their faith and how strongly they feel about the abortion issue," he said.

At the end of the Mass, Bishop Jugis polled those present to determine how many were from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh — the majority of those in attendance raised their hands.

Concelebrants of the Mass included Father Christopher Roux, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville; Father Matthew Kauth, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin; Father Christopher Gober, administrator of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine; Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden; Father Matthew Buettner, parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte; and Father Kieran Neilson of Belmont Abbey.

Father Jeffrey Ingham and Father JaVan Saxon, both of the Diocese of Raleigh, also concelebrated.

The assisting deacons were Rev. Mr. Arthur Kingsley of St. Barnabas Church; Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro; Rev. Mr. Timothy Reid, newly ordained transitional deacon; and Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay of Holy Infant Church.

Father Jim Collins from St. Joseph Church in Newton, 33 parishioners from Holy Infant Church and 32 from St. Barnabas Church joined parishioners from Catholic churches in Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Hickory, Newton, Charlotte, Salisbury, Huntersville, Reidsville and other areas of the diocese in Washington.

Charlotte Catholic and Bishop McGuinness high schools also sent marchers to Washington.

"The Diocese of Charlotte was well represented in Washington for the March for Life," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life Office. "To see so many willing to make a personal sacrifice of their time to be a witness for life is a wonderful example of faith in action."

The diocesan Respect Life Office, which receives funding from the Diocesan Support Appeal, "is a ministry of Catholic Social Services, acting as a liaison with parishes to help build a culture of life," said Nadol. "Through education, sponsored events and resource material, DSA funding keeps the issues on the sanctity of life available for Catholics in western North Carolina."

Bishop Jugis said he was inspired by the number of North Carolinians who "made the sacrifice to come to Washington for the March for Life."

"When I first went to the March for Life with the diocesan Respect Life Office in 1984, we had one or two buses from Charlotte, but this year we were literally hundreds and hundreds of North Carolinians at the Mass and the march," said Bishop Jugis.

"Easily, the greatest numbers of people in attendance were the youth," he said. "This gives us great cause for hope for the future that our young people believe so strongly in this important issue of respecting the dignity of human life."

### *Executive support*

President George W. Bush addressed March for Life participants at a Jan. 22 rally at the Ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument, telling them by phone from Roswell, N.M., that they must continue "to remind our fellow citizens that all life is sacred and worthy of protection."

He spoke of the abortion-limiting legislation passed during his administration, including the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act; the ban on partial-birth abortion, which is facing a court challenge; and restrictions on use of tax money in international programs that encourage abortion.

He also listed several other pieces of legislation he would support, including increased federal funding for abstinence education and passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which would allow prosecution under homicide statutes for the death of fetuses killed during the commission of a crime.

The crowd gathered on the Ellipse for the March for Life rally resembled a high school pep rally complete with chaperones. People assembled in small groups to take pictures of themselves, eat a quick lunch or hold aloft banners before the speeches began, and they seemed more relaxed than in previous years, perhaps in part because of warmer temperatures.

After the rally speeches, participants walked along Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court and then many continued to visit members of Congress and lobby for pro-life legislation.

Before heading back to their buses, hundreds of marchers stopped at Catholic churches for drinks and snacks.

### *Speaking out*

At the end of the day, when most marchers began their trips home, a few hundred remained in front of the Supreme Court for a another rally where at least 50 women held signs that read "I regret my abortion."

The rally was part of the Silent No More Campaign co-sponsored by the Catholic organization Priests for Life and the National Organization of Episcopalians for Life (NOEL).

One of the first speakers was actress Jennifer O'Neill, who told the crowd that all speakers that night had different stories and different reasons for having their abortions, but one common thread was that they all regretted the procedure.

"You can't kill your own young and be well afterward," she said, adding that she had nine miscarriages after her abortion.

She also said that she suffered emotionally after the abortion, but pointed out that her faith in God enabled her to find "healing, hope and restoration."

Alveda King, the niece of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., told the crowd she too felt the emotional pain of having an abortion, but also came to experience God's forgiveness.

"Women who don't admit to the pain of abortion are numb," she said.

Rallies where women speak frankly about the impact of abortion on their lives have expanded the pro-life movement's emphasis, according to Georgette Fourney, executive director of NOEL and co-founder of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

During a Jan. 23 panel discussion on abortion and the American woman at The Catholic University of America in Washington, Fourney said that as women begin to speak more openly about the physical and emotional pain they suffered from their abortions they will begin a new grass-roots movement.

Panelist Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities agreed, stating that society as a whole is beginning to understand the concept that abortion kills babies but it "still embraces abortion saying it's good for women."

She described the women who are speaking out as "our new prophets who will bring us to the end of this. These women are the rest of the story."

In a Jan. 22 press conference by the National Right to Life Committee, Wanda Franz, the organization's president, said that "the days of Roe are numbered: The number of abortions is down and the support for abortion rights has eroded."

Across the country, dozens of Masses, pro-life rallies and prayer services took place to mark the Roe anniversary.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray and Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

*Respect Life Office is one of the 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

## DSA SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Catholic Social Services Ministries | (704) 370-3262 |
| Diocesan Ministries | (704) 370-3228 |
| Elder Ministries | (704) 370-3220 |
| Family Life | (704) 370-3250 |
| Marriage Preparation | (704) 370-3228 |
| Natural Family Planning | (704) 370-3230 |
| Refugee Resettlement | (704) 370-3277 |
| Respect Life | (704) 370-3229 |
| Office of Justice and Peace | (704) 370-3225 |
| Catholic Campaign for Human Development | (704) 370-3234 |
| Catholic Relief Services | (704) 370-3231 |
| Education - Issue Response | (704) 370-3225 |
| Office of Economic Opportunity | (828) 835-3535 |
| Catholics Social Services — Western Regional Office<br>Hispanic Social Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support | (828) 255-0146 |
| Catholic Social Services — Charlotte Regional Office<br>Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support, Programa Esperanza | (704) 370-3232 |
| Catholic Social Services — Piedmont-Triad Regional Office<br>Casa Guadalupe, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support | (336) 727-0705 |
| Hispanic Center, High Point | (336) 884-5858 |
| Housing Ministry | (704) 370-3250 |
| Multicultural Ministries | |
| African American Ministry | (704) 370-3399 |
| Hispanic Ministry | (704) 335-1281 |
| Hmong & Lahu Ministry | (704) 327-2341 |
| Educational Ministries | |
| Vicar for Education | (704) 370-3210 |
| Campus Ministry | (704) 370-3212 |
| Catholic Schools Administration | (704) 370-3270 |
| Evangelization & Ministry Formation | (704) 370-3274 |
| Faith Formation | (704) 370-3246 |
| Media Resources | (704) 370-3241 |
| RCIA | (704) 370-3246 |
| Young Adult Ministry | (704) 370-3212 |
| Youth Ministry | (704) 370-3211 |
| Vocations | |
| Permanent Diaconate | (704) 370-3344 |
| Prison Ministry | (704) 370-3344 |
| Seminarian Education | (704) 370-3353 |

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## 2004 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

**DIOCESAN MINISTRIES**

**Special Ministries $226,167**
Natural Family Planning — Respect Life
Elder Ministry
Family Life
Marriage Preparation

**Office of Justice and Peace $149,755**
Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Parish Social Ministry, Voices for Justice, Legislative Network

**Refugee Resettlement Program $36,704**

**Catholic Social Service Administration $158,415**

**REGIONAL SERVICES**

**Western Regional Office, Asheville $214,487**
Hispanic Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support

**Charlotte Regional Office $291,443**
Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support, Programa Esperanza

**Piedmont Triad Office, Winston-Salem $272,298**
Casa Guadalupe, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support

**HOUSING MINISTRY $80,000**

**MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES**

**African American $23,735**
**Hispanic Ministry $446,020**
**Hmong/Lahu Ministry $40,950**

**EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES**

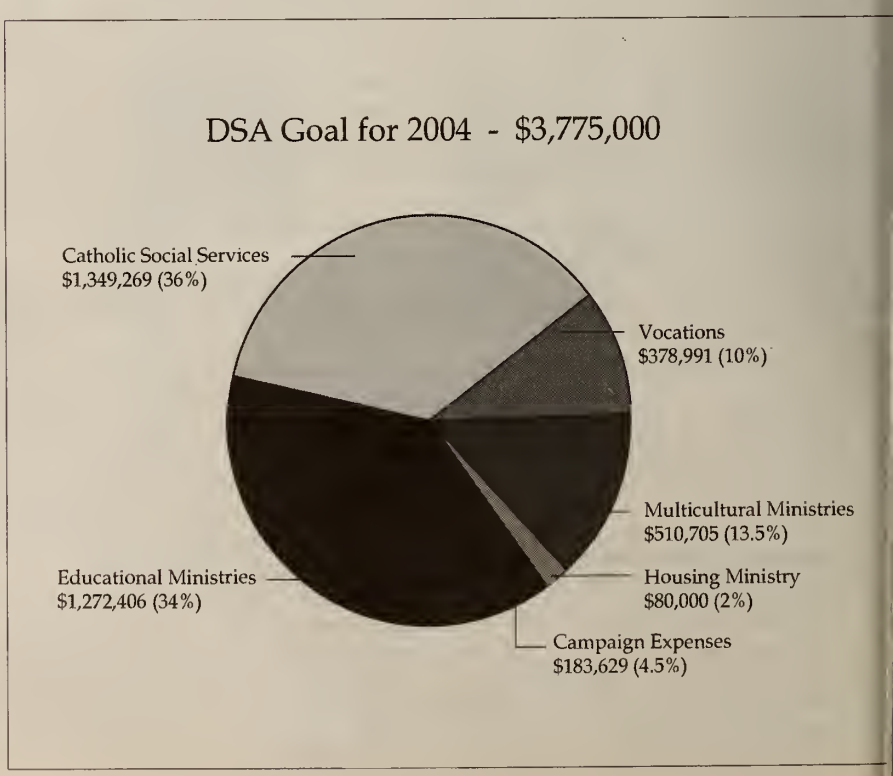
**Campus Ministry $369,532**
**Catholic Schools Administration $158,924**
**Education Office $30,535**
**Evangelization & Ministry Formation $72,848**
**Faith Formation $361,784**
**Media Resources $90,194**
**Young Adult Ministry $48,660**
**Youth Ministry $139,929**

**VOCATIONS**

**Permanent Diaconate $114,838**
**Seminarian Education $264,153**

**CAMPAIGN EXPENSES $183,629**

**TOTAL $3,775,000**



# Parish goals for DSA

| PARISH/MISSION | CITY | 2004 GOAL |
|---|---|---|
| Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish | Albemarle | $20,114 |
| Holy Redeemer Parish | Andrews | $4,253 |
| Prince of Peace Mission | Andrews | $2,706 |
| St. Barnabas Parish | Arden | $58,853 |
| St. Joseph Parish | Asheboro | $27,704 |
| Basilica of St. Lawrence Parish | Asheville | $45,817 |
| St. Eugene Parish | Asheville | $83,861 |
| St. Joan of Arc Parish | Asheville | $22,989 |
| Queen of the Apostles Parish | Belmont | $36,275 |
| Our Lady of the Americas Parish | Biscoe | $9,209 |
| St. Elizabeth Parish | Boone | $39,246 |
| Boonville Mission | Boonville | $3,182 |
| Sacred Heart Parish | Brevard | $45,418 |
| Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission | Bryson City | $2,068 |
| St. Joseph Parish | Bryson City | $4,763 |
| St. Jude Mission Parish | Cashiers | $17,573 |
| Our Lady of Consolation Parish | Charlotte | $38,464 |
| Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish | Charlotte | $24,902 |
| Our Lady of the Assumption Parish | Charlotte | $37,301 |
| St. Ann Parish | Charlotte | $63,971 |
| St. Gabriel Parish | Charlotte | $255,057 |
| St. Helen Mission | Charlotte | $3,701 |
| St. John Lee Korean Parish | Charlotte | $12,005 |
| St. John Neumann Parish | Charlotte | $86,124 |
| St. Joseph Vietnamese Parish | Charlotte | $12,692 |
| St. Luke Parish | Charlotte | $57,381 |
| St. Matthew Parish | Charlotte | $338,386 |
| St. Patrick Cathedral Parish | Charlotte | $81,936 |
| St. Peter Parish | Charlotte | $67,355 |
| St. Thomas Aquinas Parish | Charlotte | $107,346 |
| St. Vincent de Paul Parish | Charlotte | $115,016 |
| Holy Family Parish | Clemmons | $89,332 |
| St. James Parish | Concord | $61,305 |
| Holy Spirit Parish | Denver | $20,472 |
| St. Joseph of the Hills Parish | Eden | $8,566 |
| Immaculate Conception Parish | Forest City | $22,838 |
| St. Francis of Assisi Parish | Franklin | $23,220 |
| St. Michael Parish | Gastonia | $69,973 |
| Our Lady of Grace Parish | Greensboro | $105,663 |
| St. Benedict Parish | Greensboro | $22,634 |
| St. Mary Parish | Greensboro | $24,875 |
| St. Paul the Apostle Parish | Greensboro | $137,248 |
| St. Pius Tenth Parish | Greensboro | $94,128 |
| Sacred Heart Mission | Hamlet | $2,014 |
| St. James Parish | Hamlet | $12,008 |
| Immaculate Conception Parish | Hendersonville | $94,826 |
| St. Aloysius Parish | Hickory | $82,389 |
| Christ the King Parish | High Point | $16,720 |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish | High Point | $91,391 |
| Our Lady of the Mountains Parish | Highlands | $16,110 |
| St. Mark Parish | Huntersville | $129,897 |
| St. Francis of Assisi Parish | Jefferson | $10,897 |
| St. Joseph Parish | Kannapolis | $15,966 |
| Holy Cross Parish | Kernersville | $51,241 |
| St. Francis of Assisi Parish | Lenoir | $18,643 |
| Our Lady of the Rosary Parish | Lexington | $13,596 |
| St. Dorothy Parish | Lincolnton | $19,388 |
| St. Margaret Parish | Maggie Valley | $16,630 |
| Our Lady of the Angels Parish | Marion | $5,870 |
| Sacred Heart Mission | Mars Hill | $4,028 |
| St. Andrew the Apostle Parish | Mars Hill | $6,925 |
| St. Francis of Assisi Parish | Mocksville | $11,322 |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Parish | Monroe | $28,486 |
| St. Therese Parish | Mooresville | $97,689 |
| St. Charles Borromeo Parish | Morganton | $34,190 |
| Holy Angels Parish | Mount Airy | $13,952 |
| Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission | Murphy | $12,926 |
| St. William Parish | Murphy | $15,537 |
| St. Joseph Parish | Newton | $18,706 |
| St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish | North Wilkesboro | $12,052 |
| St. Stephen Mission | North Wilkesboro | $6,377 |
| Holy Infant Parish | Reidsville | $16,486 |
| Sacred Heart Parish | Salisbury | $60,541 |
| Christ the King Mission | Shelby | $5,561 |
| St. Mary Parish | Shelby | $27,094 |
| St. Frances of Rome Mission | Sparta | $7,197 |
| St. Bernadette Mission | Spruce Pine | $16,236 |
| St. Lucien Parish | Spruce Pine | $7,281 |
| St. Philip the Apostle Parish | Statesville | $39,969 |
| St. Margaret Mary Parish | Swannanoa | $21,634 |
| St. Mary Parish | Sylva | $15,028 |
| Holy Trinity Parish | Taylorsville | $7,629 |
| Our Lady of the Highways Parish | Thomasville | $11,757 |
| St. John the Baptist Parish | Tryon | $32,503 |
| Immaculate Conception Mission | Waynesville | $4,080 |
| St. John the Evangelist Parish | Waynesville | $17,857 |
| Good Shepherd Mission | Winston-Salem | $9,680 |
| Our Lady of Fatima Parish | Winston-Salem | $17,710 |
| Our Lady of Mercy Parish | Winston-Salem | $53,414 |
| St. Benedict the Moor Parish | Winston-Salem | $10,579 |
| St. Leo Parish | Winston-Salem | $127,015 |

# Annual appeal to bring God's love to many

DSA, *from page 1*

cial perspective, because although there is outside funding for almost all of our ministries, the DSA is the primary funding source for them, with the exception of Catholic Social Services."

"As the people of the diocese entrust us with their gifts, we are then accountable to them for the use of these resources," said Weldon. "We are very conscious of the sacrifices people make; we have a strong sense of responsibility to use the funds as prudently as possible to achieve the goals of the various ministries and agencies."

### *Dissecting the DSA*

"Most of the programs and services offered by the DSA-funded ministries are provided by staff of the diocese," said Weldon. "Consequently, the largest category of these expenses is personnel-related. However, the DSA only provides funding for direct program costs. There is no allocation of indirect costs."

"As an example, accounting and finance costs are general and administrative expenses, not direct program costs," he said. "Therefore, none of the expenses in this category are funded by the DSA."

Planning for this year's DSA began last fall as budgeting for the 2004-2005 fiscal year began. The goal represents an increase of $55,000, or 1.5 percent, over last year's goal, said Weldon.

"This increase is slightly more than the increase in diocesan-wide offertory of 1.3 percent, and less than the increase of 4 percent in our Catholic population," he said. "We have tried very hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services."

Establishing the current goal of $3,775,000 involved account-by-account budgets for each program and ministry that receives DSA funding, said Weldon. "Two components — program changes and cost increases — are examined when establishing the DSA budget. The amount budgeted for each ministry is published in this issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* (on pages 8-9)."

The diocese has established a monthly reporting process so each program's financial performance can be monitored throughout the year.

"We are committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability," said Weldon. "Every fall, we present a financial report in *The Catholic News & Herald* that presents the previous year's actual DSA funding by ministry."

### *People power*

"While we are grateful for the very large donations to the DSA, the vast majority of them are not large donations, so every contribution counts," said Weldon.

"But the financial picture only tells part of the story," he said. "The real story is told by the people who benefit from the DSA programs and ministries.

"While not the total picture, DSA funding is critical in facilitating our ministry to reach 30,000 children and adults last year," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the diocesan Faith Formation Office.

Guided by the cornerstones of prayer, wise planning and financial and human resources, Villapando said DSA funds helped the Faith Formation Office assist 13,934 catechists, 18,239 children in faith formation, 350 adults at the Fire in the Mountains event, 250 adults at the Lighting the Fires of Faith event, 700 adults in Small Christian Community and 700 catechumens and candidates in the RCIA.

With an increase of 4 percent in Catholic population within the Diocese of Charlotte, the 36 ministries funded by the DSA have more people to assist in the coming year.

"The program directors work very hard to stretch every dollar in funding so as to maximize the services rendered," said Weldon. "They also work very hard to generate additional funding for their programs and ministries."

For example, Catholic Social Services generates approximately three-fourths of its total funding from sources other than the DSA, said Weldon.

Each of the 91 parishes and missions within the Diocese of Charlotte is assigned a target — "their share of the overall goal of $3,775,000," said Weldon. "This is accomplished by using a formula established by a task force of lay people, pastors and finance council representatives."

Parish offertory from the last fiscal year is the starting point, said Weldon. Then, 25 percent of parish subsidy to Catholic schools is subtracted from the parish offertory. The resulting number is the basis for a mathematical computation that determines each parish's pro-rata share of the DSA goal.

"If, through parishioner contributions, a particular parish goes over its target, the excess is rebated to the parish," said Weldon. "If a parish falls short of its target, the parish is expected to make up the difference from its own budget."

### *Making the pledge*

In the coming week, registered parishioners will receive pledge cards and letters at their homes from Bishop Peter J. Jugis, asking for their support of the DSA. Parishioners may send in a donation with those cards for all or part of their pledges. Reminder cards will be sent out in May for the amount not yet paid, and that amount may be paid over a period of six months.

"I ask your special consideration for your support of the DSA again this year," said Bishop Jugis. "Each person's contribution makes a difference to the success of the DSA."

"We understand people make sacrifices to support the DSA, their parish and Catholic schools," he said. "We appreciate those sacrifices; it's not something we take for granted."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# Culture Watch

**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

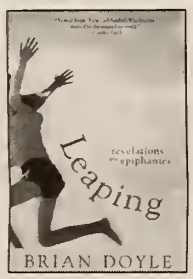
## Book of revelations, essays makes for 'nice handbook'

REVIEWED BY
ELIZABETH RACKOVER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Leaping: Revelations and Epiphanies" is an apt title for this selection of airy essays by Brian Doyle in which thoughts, ideas and memories spill out one after the other, arriving, as the subtitle says, at revelations and epiphanies.

His essays are connected loosely by a spiritual thread and a pleasing sense of humor. One might imagine many of the stories told over a Sunday brunch, those with the more colorful details coming after the second bottle of champagne is opened.

Doyle, editor of *Portland Magazine* at the University of Portland, Ore., associated with the Congregation of the Holy Cross, puts a lot of thought into his writings about daily life's mundane and constant proofs of God's hand touching this world. The reader will enjoy Doyle most, I think, if already inclined toward those proofs. This book is not "chicken soup" for a doubtful soul but rather a lovely icing for the choir.




"Leaping: Revelations and Epiphanies," by Brian Doyle. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2003). 194 pp., $13.95.

This choir member, for instance, was charmed by observations on the challenges and triumphs of teaching catechism. I was especially grateful for Doyle's authoritative assertion to his young students that "God forgives Hitler" (during a discussion involving God's infinite love and mercy).

Personally, I teach in constant fear of receiving "the phone call" from the irate parent whose child has said that "teacher says God loves Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein and would welcome their heartfelt repentance and remorse." Mr. Doyle, you have given me a vital reassurance! Now, if I get that phone call, I will send your book to that parent.

Doyle's essay "Leap," about victims at the World Trade Center, appears in this book in the section "Grace Under Duress." It is featured on the PBS Frontline Web site "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero." Doyle has written three earlier collections of essays: "Credo," "Saints Passionate and Peculiar," and, with his father, Jim Doyle, retired Catholic Press Association executive director, "Two Voices." His work has appeared in the best American essays anthologies of 1998, 1999 and 2003.

Doyle's subjects in "Leaping" include the colorful and sharply detailed territory of the pre-Vatican II Catholic childhood. Doyle recalls a church that towered over its young, robed in Latin and veiled in all that glorious incense. He recalls the privacy of the sacristy, the flickering prayerful votive candles, the stunning and sometimes moodily sainted stained-glass windows, and the rhythmic whap! whap! whap! of kneelers being pushed up after the Mass has ended and everyone has gone in peace to love and serve the Lord.

These are all living memories, and, as Doyle relates them, readers will relive their own.

Doyle invites readers to imagine Christ as a boy — a real boy "hauling lumber for his stepfather, and straining to curve planks for chair ... not to mention grumbling through the various physical tasks around the house." He exhorts us to look past the physical Christ of the Bible ("a travelin' man") and to imagine ourselves into the heart and soul of a boy growing up as normal as possible considering the circumstances!

"If we remember only the legend of this man ... we do him disservice and disrespect, for he was once one of us, which is to say he is us. That is his message and genius; that is the song he sings still."

"Leaping" ultimately proclaims that news of all news: Jesus lived, just exactly like us, for a while. He was divine, and he was human. And, as one of his catechism students said one day, "It doesn't matter what his name is really. It just matters that we can still talk to him and that he said love is the boss. Isn't that right?"

Yes. God is love, and love is the boss. And Doyle's essays make a nice handbook.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 8, 2004

## *Feb. 8, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
3) Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The shallows were safe. There, feet planted on the bottom and head well above water, it was easy to imagine yourself an aquatic creature and water a harmless, refreshing alternative to playgrounds.

But the appeal of the shallow end was short-lived. On hot summer days, shallow water grew bathtub warm. Only in the deep end was water cool all day. That's where the action was anyway. That's where you could entertain your friends with slapstick antics off the side, or impress girls with heroic dives from the high board, or indulge pirate fantasies, diving for quarters thrown in when the lifeguards weren't looking.

But the very depth that made it so attractive also made it scary. When a friend dunked you in the deep end, there was no instant pushing off from the bottom to break the surface, no walking to the side to catch your breath. If something went wrong — a side stitch, a foot cramp, water down your windpipe — the deep was unforgiving. It became frighteningly clear in such moments how illusory was our sense of mastery over the water.

In the end, the key to surviving the deep end was trust. For those inevitable moments of struggle, disorientation, panic, you had to trust the lifeguard to see you, to bear you up and bring you to safety.

The life of discipleship, of following a Master who calls us to "put out into the deep water," is full of adventure, but it is full of danger too. We find ourselves, all too often, in over our heads, struggling to stay afloat, in need of rescue.

Sunday's Gospel helps us remember that Jesus' invitation to join his work of transforming the world rests not on our virtue but on his promise to be with us always.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1 - FEBRUARY 7**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday (The Presentation of the Lord),** Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:2-40; **Tuesday (St. Blase, St. Ansgar),** 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30—19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday,** 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday (St. Agatha),** 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (St. Paul Miki and Companions),** Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8 - FEBRUARY 14**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11; **Monday,** 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Scholastica),** 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Lourdes),** 1 Kings 10:1-10, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday,** 1 Kings 11:4-13, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday,** 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius),** 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34, Mark 8:1-10

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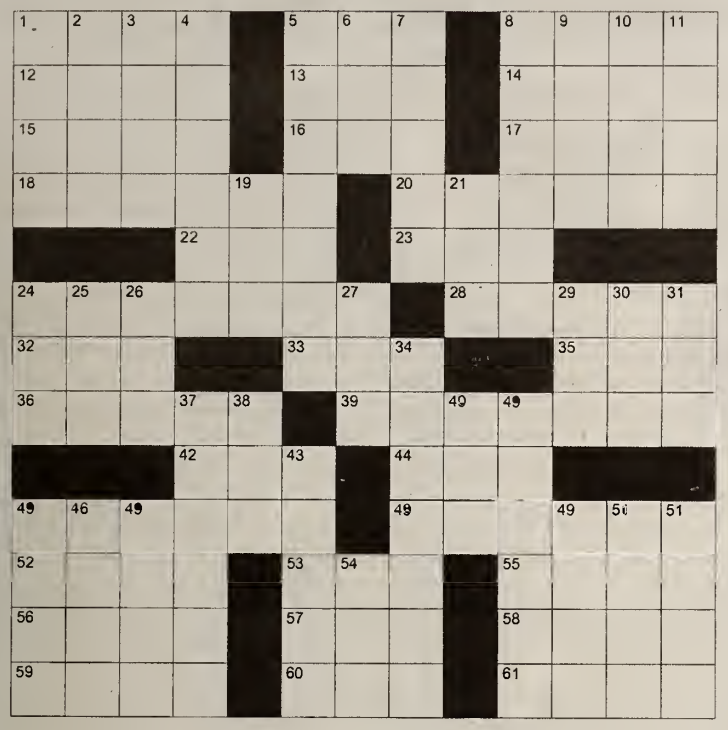
## ALL IN THE FAMILY



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16 Brother of 34 Down
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22 Olympic cheer
23 Fish eggs
24 "Guys and Dolls" composer
28 Type of orange
32 They exist
33 JFK follower
35 Sum
36 Abraham's wife
39 Moon of Saturn
42 Land east of Eden
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60 Cheerleader's exclamation
61 Cain's brother

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2 "Orinoco Flow" singer
3 Visible
4 Saul's birthplace
5 Abraham's son
6 Jamaican music
7 Indian Ocean sea
8 Jacob
9 Marksman
10 Cain's brother
11 French friend
19 Dutch city
21 Tennis stroke
24 Vegas opener
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37 Ayn Rand novel
38 Garden tool
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41 Beethoven symphony
43 Desolate
45 First name in Country Music
46 Glazed
47 Magician's exclamation
49 Egyptian measure
50 Tamarisk
51 Entrance room
54 By way of

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PASSIONATE PORTRAYAL

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON PRODUCTIONS

In a scene for Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion," Jesus (Jim Caviezel) is approached by his mother, Mary (Maia Morgenstern), as he carries his cross to the crucifixion.

# Pope never commented on film Anti-Defamation League calls 'painful to watch'

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — The Anti-Defamation League said Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," has the "potential to promote anti-Semitism" through its "painful" portrayal of Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus.

"We were saddened and pained to find that 'The Passion of the Christ' continues its unambiguous portrayal of Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus," said a statement released Jan. 22, a day after ADL officials attended a private screening of the film in Orlando, Fla.

"Its portrayal of Jews is painful to watch," the statement said.

The film is Gibson's interpretation of the last 12 hours of Christ's life and is set for release in the United States Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday.

League officials Abraham H. Foxman, national director, and Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, interfaith consultant, who attended the screening, said the film "reinforces the notion that the Jewish authorities and the Jewish mob are the ones ultimately responsible" for crucifying Christ.

The statement said the film portrays "the Jews and a group of sadistic Roman soldiers" as evil. But, while the soldiers eventually feel compassion for Jesus, the Jews "never feel compassion for Jesus and his suffering."

The statement said the ADL was concerned that the film could "fuel latent anti-Semitism" in those who hold the Jews responsible for Jesus' crucifixion.

Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope's longtime personal secretary, denied reports that Pope John Paul said "It is as it was" after watching Gibson's film.

"The Holy Father told no one his opinion of this film," the archbishop told Catholic News Service Jan. 18.

Archbishop Dziwisz watched the film in the pope's apartment with Pope John Paul and with the pope's second secretary in early December. The alleged papal quote has appeared in hundreds of newspapers around the world as an unequivocal endorsement of Gibson's controversial film even though papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls refused to confirm the pope said it.

The co-producer of the film, Steve McEveety, was in Rome in early December to host private screenings of a rough cut of the film for Vatican and other Catholic officials. After the pope and Archbishop Dziwisz watched the film, the archbishop met with McEveety and with Jan Michelini, an assistant director of the film.

According to published reports, McEveety and Michelini said Archbishop Dziwisz told them the pope reacted positively to the film and said, "It is as it was."

But, Archbishop Dziwisz told CNS, "That is not true."

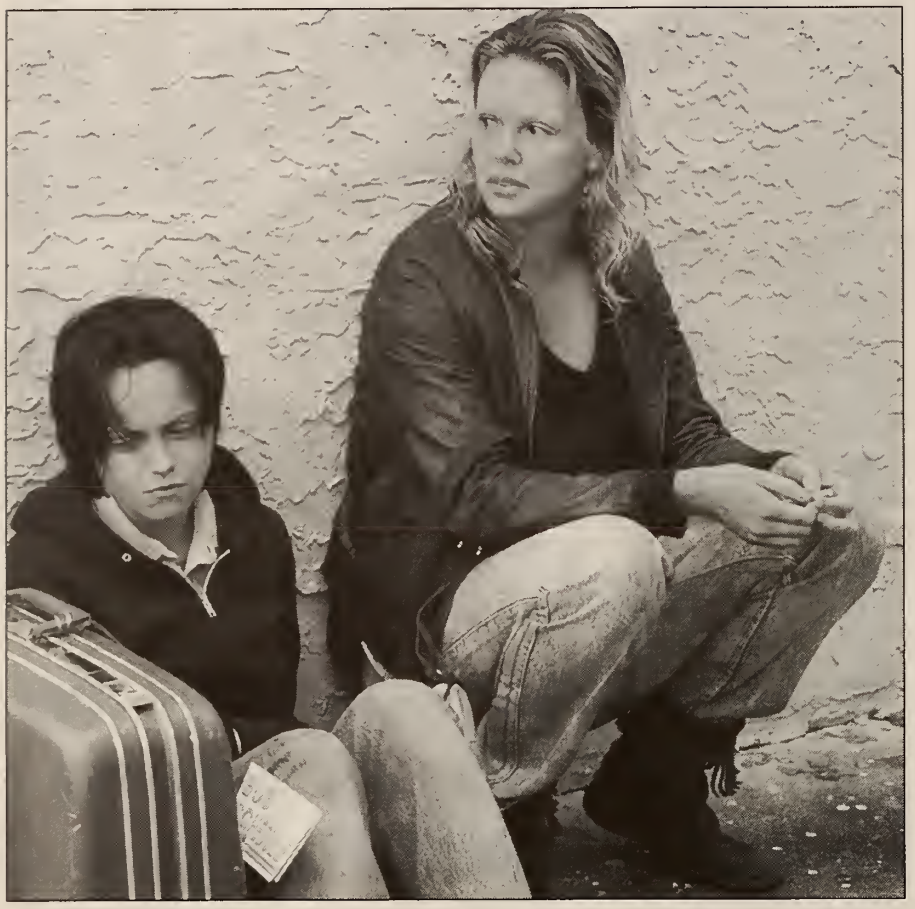
"I said clearly to McEveety and Michelini that the Holy Father made no declaration," the archbishop said.

In a Jan. 22 statement, Navarro-Valls, the papal spokesman, said he had spoken with Archbishop Dziwisz and confirmed that the pope "had the opportunity to watch the film, 'The Passion of the Christ.' The film is a cinematic version of the historic fact of the passion of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel account.

The Anti-Defamation League's statement said "Mel Gibson has every right to say that this is his personal religious vision. But when he says it is historically accurate, that gives us concern, as the film runs contrary to biblical scholarship and the teachings of Vatican II, which absolved the Jewish people of guilt in the death of Jesus."

"We are especially concerned that this telling of the crucifixion narrative is being hawked as a commercial crusade to the church community," the statement said.

'MONSTER' OF A MOVIE



CNS PHOTO FROM NEWMARKET FILMS

Christina Ricci (left) and Charlize Theron in a scene from the fact-based film, "Monster," about serial killer Aileen Wuornos, who was executed in Florida after her conviction in a 1989-90 killing spree.

# 'Monster' finds humanity among ugliness and depravity

*Exceptional performances highlight unexceptional film*

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — "Monster" (Newmarket) — a fictionalized, though fact-based, drama that chronicles the notorious 1989-90 killing spree of serial murderer Aileen Wuornos — is a good example of an exceptional performance wrapped in an unexceptional film.

In examining the woman labeled the "Damsel of Death," first-time writer-director Patty Jenkins walks a fine line, teetering precariously between humanizing Wuornos and justifying her heinous crimes to the point of painting her as a victim.

Charlize Theron plays Wuornos, a roadside prostitute turned killer, arrested and executed by the state of Florida for the murder of six men — only the second female to be put to death in the state's history. The film opens with a montage of dusty memories during which Theron's voiceover recounts Wuornos' bleak past. The painful soliloquy ends on a shot of Wuornos huddled against the rain under an interstate off-ramp cradling a gun in her hands as she contemplates suicide.

Deciding against it, she wanders into a gay bar and is approached by a companionship-starved young woman named Selby Wall (a composite character played by Christina Ricci), a native Midwesterner sent to live with conservative Christian relatives by her parents to "cure her homosexuality." Though Wuornos initially declares her heterosexuality, the two women soon become lovers.

Wall is mesmerized by the older woman's tough-talking bravura — which is really a smokescreen for her depleted sense of confidence and self-esteem. Likewise, Wuornos finds the youthful attention (which she confuses as love) intoxicating, clinging to the minor like a life preserver, afraid to let go lest she succumb to the undertow of utter despair and alienation. The two begin living together in fleabag motels, with Wuornos — after a failed attempt to enter the workforce — resorting again to selling herself as a means of support.

A brutal rape at the hands of a sadistic john — whom Wuornos shoots in self-defense — serves as a psychological trip cord, unleashing her pent-up rage. This sets in motion a murderous 13-month rampage that plays itself out against her ongoing dysfunctional relationship with Wall, culminating in Wuornos' arrest in January 1991.

While the film refrains from sensationalizing her crimes, it fails to shed light on their underlying motivations. Beyond the hurried opening sequence, little time is afforded to her formative years, when she was abandoned by her parents, raped before she was a teen and pregnant before she was old enough to drive. Though no argument can condone her ghastly deeds, a fuller picture of her tragic past would have fostered deeper understanding from viewers, if not sympathy. As a result, Wuornos comes across less as a wounded animal lashing out indiscriminately than as a misogynistic avenging angel.

The narrative also suffers from an absence the victims' families — some of whom were good Samaritans unlucky enough to have offered a ride to the wrong hitchhiker. This decision to focus solely on Wuornos denies viewers a balanced telling of the events and raises questions of the filmmaker's intent. By the midway point, the film loses steam, floundering between a gritty character study and a lesbian soap opera — saved only by Theron's gutsy performance.

Though Theron's portrayal is not without moments of apish mimicking, Theron's eerie metamorphosis is utterly convincing — a disappearing act owing as much to acting ability as to prosthetics.

As a whole, "Monster" attempts to find humanity even among ugliness and depravity and reminds us that — in the words of Florida bishops petitioning a stay of execution for Wuornos — "Aileen Wuornos may not be free of guilt, but her life remains sacred in the eyes of God."

Due to a few lesbian sexual encounters with partial nudity, recurring violence including a rape, stereotyping of conservative Christians, as well as pervasive rough and crude language, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.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# The sweet aroma of victory

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Joseph Campellone, president of Father Judge High School in Philadelphia, makes cheese steak for Charlotte Catholic High School. When the Carolina Panthers beat the Philadelphia Eagles in the championship football game Jan. 18, Father Judge High School lost its bet with Charlotte Catholic — as such, Father Campellone must award Gerald Healy, Charlotte Catholic's principal, with an authentic Philadelphia cheese steak. If the Eagles had won, Healy would have sent Father Campellone Carolina barbeque, donated by the Ole Smokehouse in Charlotte. However, Healy sent barbeque to Father Judge High School as a friendly gesture.

# Sister Justine Posey, former teacher in Greensboro, dies

## *Daughter of Charity taught twice at St. Mary School*

Daughter of Charity Sister Justice Posey

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Daughter of Charity Sister Justine Posey, who once taught in Greensboro, died at Villa St. Michael in Emmitsburg, where she had been a resident for the past six years. She was 92.

A native of Frederick, Md., she received a bachelor's degree in Latin in 1936 from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg and a master's degree in social work from Catholic University in 1951.

She entered the Daughters of Charity in 1930 and was a teacher for much of her community life, and taught at St. Mary School in Greensboro from 1941 until 1946, and then again from 1957 until 1961.

She also taught at schools in Albany and Canastota, N.Y.; Baltimore, Md., and Boston, Mass. She served as administrator at St. John's Home in Utica and House of Province in Syracuse, N.Y.

In the later years of her career, Sister Posey worked in health care ministries, serving at hospitals in New York and Pennsylvania.

She is survived by a sister, Daughter of Charity Sister Lauretta Posey, and numerous cousins.

Interment was in the cemetery on the grounds of St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg. Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Love calls for action

## Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY
GUEST COLUMNIST

In his "Contemplation on the Love of God," found in the fourth week of the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius of Loyola makes two important preliminary notes. The first is "love ought to show itself in deeds over and above words; the second is that love consists of a mutual sharing of goods." He goes on to explain "as a lover one gives and shares with the beloved something of one's own personal gifts ... So, too, the beloved shares in a similar way with the lover."

He continues with some specific examples. Someone who has knowledge should share it with someone who does not. If someone has honors or riches, that person should share with someone who has none.

This is really nothing new. St. Luke recalls the preaching of John the Baptist that "the person with two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food ought to do likewise." (Luke 3:11)

So what does all of this have to do with the 2004 Diocesan Support Appeal? As someone who directs both the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Diocesan Support Appeal, I found some striking similarities.

The theme of this year's appeal, "The Greatest of These is Love," ought to be a hint. Clearly, love calls for some type of action; it is more than just words or feelings. Newlyweds can't seem to do enough for each other. They send each other love notes, flowers and gifts. They are constantly doing little "acts of kindness" for one another. My love for Jesus must also involve some action. The DSA is one very concrete way to show my love in deeds over and above words or feelings. It is also a means of sharing what I have with others.

Our young people are hungry for knowledge of the faith. Our catechists gladly share their knowledge and understanding with them. The DSA provides resources and workshops for our parish and school catechists to grow in their faith and learn how to teach others. Our parishes need good and holy priests to shepherd them and hard-working deacons to assist. The DSA helps fund seminarian education and diaconate formation.

Throughout the diocese, there are those with no coats and no food, those who are elderly and lonely, families in need of crisis intervention. Catholic Social Services is there to help. The DSA provides funding for approximately one-fourth of the CSS budget. Thousands of Hispanics come to North Carolina each year looking to make a better life for themselves and their families. Once here, they seek a place to worship and pray. Thanks to DSA funding, Hispanic coordinators throughout the diocese are able to help the pastors serve the Spanish-speaking members of their faith communities.

These are just a few of the many ways the DSA is a catalyst for me to put love into action. My contribution to the DSA helps assure that 36 ministries will continue to reach out and bring God's love to others. Just as it is impossible to do something for someone else without being blessed in return. I, too, am blessed beyond measure with God's bountiful grace and love.

Ignatius concludes: "In love, one always wants to give to the other." How can I be a part of the body of Christ and not give to others out of love?

*Barbara Gaddy is the associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

# Fire, brimstone demonstrate God's power to defend good

*God is on the side of those who strive for good, pope says*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — God's symbolic arsenal of fire and brimstone is not primarily meant to sow fear, but to assure those striving for good that God is on their side, Pope John Paul II said.

"The Lord is not a remote king, closed in his gilded world, but a vigilant presence taking the side of the good and of justice," the pope said Jan. 28 at his weekly general audience.

"He sees and provides, intervening with his word and his action," the pope said.

Focusing his remarks on Psalm 11, the pope said believers draw hope from the psalm's assurance that "the Lord is just; he loves just deeds."

Used in the church's evening prayer, the psalm asserts that God actively takes the side of believers when they "feel alone or powerless in the face of evil," and that God is moved to action when "the just social order" is threatened.

## The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

The psalm speaks of God raining "upon the wicked fiery coals and brimstone," which the pope described as "symbols of the judgment of God who purifies history, condemning evil."

But the psalm "does not conclude with this tragic picture of punishment and condemnation," he said.

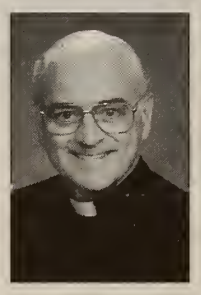
Rather it ends by promising that the upright will see the face of God, "an experience of joyful communion and peaceful trust in the God who frees us from evil," the pope said.

While the pope skipped about a third of his prepared text, his voice was strong, and he spent 25 minutes at the end of the audience greeting individuals, blessing newlyweds dressed in their wedding gowns and suits and posing for photographs with visiting groups.

# What is contemplation, and what good is it?

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist



1. What is contemplation? Contemplation is listening to silence.

2. What good is it to listen to silence? It immediately creates a stillness within you, which frees you from the drudgery of incessant thinking. Besides, the only language God speaks is silence.

3. How does silence equal God? Stillness frees your consciousness from needless worry and useless thought. God is in the silence.

4. Is this stillness a kind of vacuum? No, it is a presence. It is a level of consciousness above thought. It is a way of contacting the real you, the soul, as opposed to the false you, the egoistic self. It is a liberation of sorts.

5. If it is a kind of liberation why aren't more people drawn to it? They are. People are always trying to escape from themselves through sleep, sex, drugs, alcohol and the like. What they don't know is that there is a higher consciousness to which they can ascend. Contemplation enables people to rise above their incessant thinking. By putting yourself down and worrying about the future you become a slave to the tyranny of the mind. Everyone needs a break now and then. Contemplation is a way to escape the inner noise.

6. Contemplation is a form of prayer, isn't it? It is. Pure prayer is found in giving yourself to God. Contemplation is entering the stillness where God lives. At first you simply listen to your own breathing, and then when you are relaxed enough to sense God's presence you simply sit still and enjoy. I wrote a book on this, "Enjoy The Lord" (Alba House). The very act of visiting the Lover within is a way of offering the homage of your being and life to God. The joy of contemplation is prayer of the highest order.

7. How do I know I'm not just imagining God's presence? The indwelling Trinity is always present. You may wish to substitute the name of Jesus for the word presence. "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (St. Paul). By the grace of God you have become one with him. Even though he is in eternity and you are not, he commingles his life with yours. Even if you don't feel him, he is there.

8. Forgive me, but it feels like I'm just wasting my time when I sit still for too long! Perhaps so, but feelings are not facts. What you actually are doing is shedding your need to do something else. In order to keep up the mad pace of living, you constantly do mindless things. You push yourself endlessly. You don't even know how to stop. But once you let go of all these cravings, you will find peace at the core of your being.

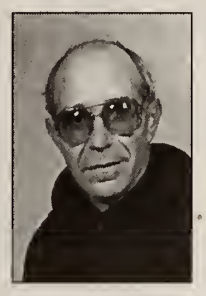
9. What do I really crave? You are seeking fulfillment in external things. You hunger for future fulfillment. But future fulfillment can never bring you joy in the present moment. Craving future happiness takes you immediately out of the present moment, and leaves you always unfulfilled. Give yourself a treat, and return to silence. In the process you will find your true self.

St. Benedict said, "Know yourself." To know yourself you must learn to stop identifying with your ceaseless thinking. You are not your thoughts. You are the observer of your thoughts. Contemplation enables you to observe yourself thinking. In the process you push aside your worries and become one with the Lover within.

# February: Month of love

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap



I really like the idea of February as the month of love, because of the Valentine's tradition. Love truly deserves more than a month. For now, let's get what we can!

We all know that life is love, after all, in whatever way it is lived on a day-to-day basis. Anyone can carry his burden, however heavy, till nightfall. Anyone can do his or her work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live sweetly, patiently, lovingly until the sun goes down. This is all that life really means.

Love is a commitment to reach our full potential today, using and not wasting our skills and talents. Great things happen when we build and shape, day after day, our loving and positive attitude.

Physical touch is one of the five love languages of children, including quality time, words of affirmation, gifts and acts of service. St. Matthew relates to us an event that shows the power of touch: "There was a leper ... Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying ... be made clean." (Mt. 8:1-3) That's the touch of love.

*The Mayo Clinic Health Letter* (June 1994) noted a small but growing group of researchers is finding that touch has the subtle power to calm, nurture and help heal. The letter noted that touch is the first of our senses to develop and usually the last to diminish.

Earlier in this century, pediatricians noticed babies in orphanages and hospitals who were not held and cuddled failed to grow and often died. Studies of long-term nursing home residents showed those who were frequently touched when given their medication, demonstrated a more positive attitude about themselves. Research has shown a caring touch can possibly subdue heart irregularities, relieve depression and lower blood pressure.

We can extend a loving touch through the words we speak. In the case of the leper, mentioned above, Jesus spoke the words, "Be made clean." In the case of the centurion, Jesus spoke the words, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith."

We too can touch people's lives through the affirming, uplifting, encouraging words that we speak. I often forget the potential power of the spoken word.

We can touch people's lives through love by the way we listen.

American history tells us Abraham Lincoln had a common touch with the stories of his gentle but penetrating wit; the simple and beautiful eloquence of his speeches has assured him a place in our hearts. While George Washington is called the father of our country, Lincoln is called the "savior" of our country. Adamant and unswerving in time of peril, he was a simple man who could find the time to stop and discuss with a small girl whether his appearance might be improved by a beard.

In the rush of affairs of the State, he found time to write to Mrs. Bixby, bereaved by the reported death of her five sons, a letter that is a masterpiece of simplicity, sincerity and sympathy. Lincoln once remarked God must have loved the common people because He made so many of them.

Dear Mr. President, you're right! God said, "Love as I loved you." (Jn. 13:34)

In a world filled with superficial, emotional, shallow, dysfunctional love, Jesus showered his love on us, even though we did not deserve it. We live in a performance-orientated society in which people come to a feeling of personal worth because of their performance. This makes it difficult for us to understand unmerited love. Jesus loved his disciples, not because they were lovely, but because he was loving.

Speaking about love, sometimes the appearance of lack of love or presence of love may be deceiving. The following story may be an example:

Mrs. Smith waited in the outer office while her husband was being seen by a doctor.

The doctor came out of the office and said to his secretary, "Get me a pair of pliers."

She went out of the office, came back with pliers and took them in to him.

Later, he came out asking for a screwdriver. She obtained one and took it in.

The doctor came out again, and Mrs. Smith approached him, "What in the world is wrong with my husband?"

"I don't know yet," said the doctor. "I can't get the door open to my examination room."

Yes, God gave us all the tools to open wide the examination room (our heart). Do not be afraid: today reach out and touch someone.

# 'The Greatest of These is Love'

## From the Bishop

MOST REV. PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

The theme of this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, "The Greatest of These is Love," echoes the motto I chose at the ordination last Oct. 24, "The Love of Christ Impels Us." The word that unites both themes is "love."

We are able to love God because God first loves us. God loves each one of us unconditionally — layperson, religious or clergy; single or married; young or young-at-heart. Our response to the love of Christ is shown in how we love and care for one another. Remember, Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me." We are able to serve our brothers and sisters because of the great love that Jesus has for us. He showed us the way; we are called to respond.

The ministries funded by the DSA give us the opportunity to respond.

I have had the privilege of experiencing the DSA from several vantage points.

First as a parishioner, I recognized the importance of supporting the ministries of the diocese. Then as a pastor, I saw the many ways DSA-funded ministries helped members of the parishes I had been called to serve.

The faith formation directors, catechists, youth ministers and RCIA team members found the Office of Faith Formation to be a valuable resource. I relied heavily on the help from Hispanic coordinators to serve the needs of the growing Hispanic communities. The seniors in my parishes looked forward to programs like the Spring Fling, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry program. Engaged couples planning for a lifetime of marriage found the CSS Marriage Preparation program helped them focus on life beyond the wedding day.

As a pastor, I certainly knew many parishioners who benefited from one or more of the DSA-funded ministries.

Now as your bishop, I realize that I must rely on the expertise of our diocesan ministry leaders to help me respond to the many and diverse needs of all of our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese. I must respond to the needs of all parishes — from the smallest to the largest — across the diocese. All the while, I am confident that it is the love of Christ that impels us to reach out in love to others.

Yes, as St. Paul said, "There are in the end three things that last; faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

I ask you to consider prayerfully the great love Jesus has for you and to respond with a gift to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

# Is cremation a serious sin?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. My aunt died recently at the age of 92. Her son, in charge of funeral arrangements, had his mother cremated after the funeral Mass and buried her ashes in the cemetery near her family.*

*Shortly afterward, the same was done for a deceased friend. Another friend told me that it is a serious sin for a Catholic to be cremated. What does the church or the Bible say about cremation? (New York)*

A. At one period during the past few hundred years, certain anti-Christian groups promoted cremation as a way of rejecting belief in the resurrection. The Catholic Church, and other Christians, prohibited it for that reason. It's been a long time, however, since that argument was raised, so cremation is no longer forbidden.

Traditional burial is still preferred, but economic, family or other factors sometimes make cremation an understandably practical choice. At present, more than one-fifth of American Catholics choose cremation, and the church's funeral ritual explicitly provides ceremonies for those who have been or will be cremated.

As in the funerals you describe, the body of the deceased person should, if possible, be present for all funeral liturgies — vigil service, Mass and prayers of commendation after Mass.

In this circumstance, cremation takes place later, and the ashes are buried in a cemetery or mausoleum. Ashes should not be scattered over water or land, or kept in one's house or closet, as some people apparently have done. In other words, cremated remains should be treated with the same dignity given to the deceased body.

Inhumation (traditional burial) was almost universal in ancient Jewish Near East culture, so there would be no reason for cremation to be discussed in the Bible. Not to be buried was considered such a great curse that even executed criminals received a decent burial.

Finally, it is good to be reminded that individuals considering cremation should carefully and thoroughly discuss their plans with their family. Many people still find accompanying the body to the grave, and later visiting the site of the burial, a significant part of grieving.

Thus, especially when children are involved, parents, grandparents and others should explain what will happen and be certain the children are psychologically and spiritually prepared.

# St. Charles Borromeo Church is tribute to diverse Catholicism

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton was constructed in 1961 to accommodate the growing needs of Catholics in the area.

**St. Charles Borromeo Church**
728 West Union Street
Morganton, N.C. 28655
(828) 437-3108

**Vicariate:** Hickory
**Pastor:** Father Kenneth Whittington
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. James R. Johnson
Number of Households: 600

Father Kenneth Whittington

MORGANTON — In his 19th-century book, "Catholicity in the Carolinas and Georgia," Father J.J. O'Connell writes about the missionary region of Burke County, where visiting priests and Bishop (later Cardinal) James Gibbons, vicar apostolic of North Carolina, preached at the close of the Civil War at the county courthouse, located in Morganton.

The description by Father O'Connell, the Benedictine missionary who offered the estate that Belmont Abbey was founded on, serves as an introductory report of the Catholic Church in Morganton, where St. Charles Borromeo Church now exists as a thriving community of faith.

By the end of the 1800s, the sacrament of confirmation had been conferred in Morganton, although there is no further recorded organized activity — beyond sporadic visits from priests — until the 1920s.

The first Mass in town was celebrated in a private residence in November 1929. Eight people attended. By the mid-1940s, Mass was being said on a weekly basis at the courthouse and in a private home.

St. Charles Borromeo Church was established in the fall of 1947, when the Diocese of Raleigh purchased a tract of land on West Union Street in Morganton that would provide the congregation a place to worship.

The first Mass was offered on the newly acquired property in October 1947. The clergy assigned to St. Aloysius Church in Hickory traveled to Morganton to celebrate weekend liturgies.

The parish community grew rapidly in the late 1940s and 1950s, and Father William T. McShea, who served at St. Aloysius Church, was appointed the first resident pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in October 1950.

As the number of families worshipping at St. Charles Borromeo Church continued to grow, the existing church space became inadequate. The present church, located at a different site along West Union Street, was constructed in 1961.

By 1980, about 200 families were registered as parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Thanks to the leadership of Father John Murray, pastor, the parish welcomed an addition to the existing church building in 1988.

Containing offices, faith formation classrooms, a community hall and a kitchen, the addition now known as Murray Hall — in memory of Father Murray, who died in 1997 — has facilitated new growth as well as spiritual and social life in the parish.

Multicultural ministry is strong at St. Charles Borromeo Church, with Masses being celebrated regularly in English, Spanish and Hmong.

On Nov. 14, 1996, the Hmong parishioners celebrated with a special Mass the Hmong New Year for the first time in the Diocese of Charlotte. They also celebrated the arrival of Pe Lis, the new Hmong catechist for the diocese. Part of Lis' job was to combine Hmong traditions with the traditions of the Catholic Church.

"I see our coming together today as a great gift from God," said Father Kenneth Whittington, the current pastor, at the celebration Mass. "We grow rich from each other's cultures even as we become brothers and sisters in God."

In August 1996, Father Whittington spoke outside the Burke County courthouse to support striking workers from Case Farms poultry processing plant, of whom were many Hispanic parishioners from St. Charles Borromeo Church.

The ethnically diverse parish in Morganton now comprises about 600 households. Father Whittington has served as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church since 1992.

Volunteerism is also a highlight of parish life, with many parishioners devoting time at various outreach centers in Morganton, from the local soup kitchen to a prison, a senior center to a health clinic.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

FEBRUARY 6, 2004

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 13 № 19

Parish Profile:
ST. JAMES CHURCH
| PAGE 16

# Fostering God's love

Photo by Karen A. Evans

se Ferri rocks her foster son in her home in north Charlotte. "There's no greater reward, other being a mother," Ferri said of her experiences as a foster mother.

*CSS entrusts precious souls to foster families*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Louise Ferri is a unique kind of mother, one who touches the lives of many different children.

"I love babies," said Ferri, a foster mother for Catholic Social Services (CSS) for more than 12 years. "When my husband passed away, I said 'What am I going to do with myself? I know — I'll be a foster mother.'"

Ferri is among those who, with the dedication of social workers, help children to be cared for in loving Catholic homes in the Diocese of Charlotte.

When people hear the

See FOSTER CARE, page 9

PEACE, JUSTICE, LUNCH

## Just Second Fridays asks purpose of business

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Can faith guide business decisions?

Dr. Terry Armstrong will address that and other business/faith-related concerns during "Shareholder vs. Stakeholder Value: Competing or Complementary Interests?" at the next Just Second Fridays, the educational luncheon speaker series of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, sponsored in partnership with St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

Armstrong, director of the Woodstock Business Conference (WBC) and of the Father Pedro Arrupe Program in Social Ethics for Business at Georgetown University in Washington, works with the WBC's 20 chapters in the United States to promote a sense of calling among business leaders, and develops materials to facilitate ethical reflection in business.

Armstrong will to address a number of ethical concerns, including how faith can be incorporated into business and how "shareholder" and "stakeholder" positions relate to beliefs, values, corporate action and social responsibility.

Just Second Fridays, held the second Friday of each month in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, are designed to cover a variety of topics on justice, peace and business ethics. Joan Rosenhauer of the U.S. Catho-

See JUSTICE, page 8

HOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2004

## ocesan schools participate in aith-Filled Future'

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — holic Schools: A Faith- d Future" was the theme ne 30th annual celebration atholic Schools Week Jan. 1.

The purpose of the week to build support and rec- tion for the more than 8,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide, including the 17 schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. Bad weather forced several schools to cancel or postpone scheduled events.

"While the weather certainly kept us from getting out

See SCHOOLS, page 6

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets a student after celebrating Mass with St. Leo the Great School students for Catholic Schools Week.

**Reaching out**
*Asheville students are God's hands, heart*
| PAGE 4

**Making a difference**
*TRACS Foundation helps schools*
| PAGE 7

**Beating bullying**
*Immaculata School initiates tolerance program*
| PAGE 13

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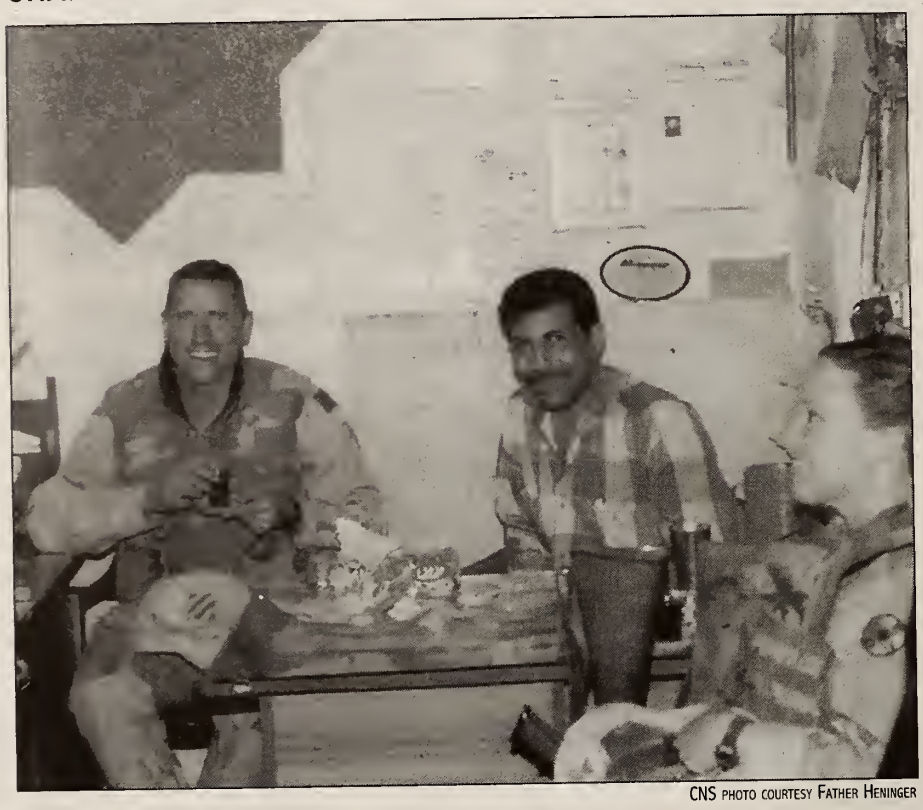
# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## CHAPLAIN AND COFFEE TO GO



CNS PHOTO COURTESY FATHER HENINGER

Military chaplain Father Michael Heninger and an unidentified soldier from his unit share coffee with an Iraqi man during the priest's tour in Iraq. Father Heninger, a priest of the Atlanta Archdiocese, told the Miami archdiocesan newspaper, *The Florida Catholic*, that Iraqis were "looking forward to a new Iraq, their Iraq."

# Chaplains, letters from home provide support for soldiers

MIAMI — Support for soldiers in the field comes from military chaplains, and two priests who recently returned from the Middle East talked about their experiences with The Florida Catholic, Miami archdiocesan newspaper, during a retreat in Fort Lauderdale.

Father Michael Heninger, a priest of the Atlanta Archdiocese who holds the rank of captain as an Army chaplain, said he adhered to a simple motto in Iraq: "Keep my spirits up and my head down."

Father Heninger, who entered the Iraqi capital of Baghdad with a support battalion of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, said the Iraqi people "were just very grateful to have the terror that had just been over their heads for so long be dissipated. They were looking forward to a new Iraq, their Iraq."

Father Patrick Ratigan, a priest of the Diocese of Odgensburg, N.Y., who holds the rank of major, spent last summer in Fallujah, Iraq, where U.S. soldiers have encountered most of the resistance.

"I never want to see so much violence again," he said. "It's all around you. You're surrounded by violence."

Father Ratigan stressed, however, that U.S. soldiers in Iraq are professionals who know the importance of their mission and are committed to it.

"Almost without exception, they believe in the mission," he said. "They realize they're bringing freedom to these people."

For Catholic Schools Week Jan. 25-31, students at St. Francis Xavier School in Lake Station, Ind., sent drawings and letters to military personnel who, for various reasons, have been forgotten or who are receiving little mail. The school's student council also collected items that soldiers have requested — coloring books, crayons and other treats for Iraqi children.

The project started when Staff Sgt. Brian Crissman, a St. Francis Xavier graduate, sent an e-mail to his former school before Christmas. He provided Carol Brendza, principal at the small school in northwest Indiana, with a list of soldiers serving in the Middle East and some information about each soldier's circumstances.

The principal assigned certain soldiers to different classes. Kindergarteners drew pictures. First-graders drew hearts. Starting with second grade, St. Francis students wrote messages.

# Sixteen named to U.S. bishops' National Advisory Council

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Adriana Vlasic of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., will serve for 2004 as chairwoman of the U.S. bishops' National Advisory Council, which recently added 16 new members.

The 63-member council meets semiannually to review documentation and offer recommendations concerning matters before the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Other new officers for 2004 are Mercy Sister Linda Werthman of Farmington Hills, Mich., chairwoman-elect; Rose Hogan of Anna, Ill., secretary; Juan Escobar of Pottstown, Pa., internal affairs; Father William D. Hammer, Louisville, Ky., reactive chairman; and Msgr. Richard Sniezyk, Springfield, Mass., proactive chairman.

Joining the council as a representative from the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious is Sister M. Maximilia Um, a member of the Siste of St. Francis of the Martyr St. Geor from Washington.

New diocesan priest represent tives, elected to four-year terms, are F ther Kenneth S. Van Haverbek Wichita, Kan.; Father Richard Veg Lompoc, Calif.; and Father James Wall of Phoenix.

New regional lay representativ who also serve four-year terms, i clude: John Deckro of Cape Elizabe Maine; Marie Hilliard of Cant Conn.; Shane Goettle of Woodbrid Va.; Lourdes Travieso-Parker Gloucester, Va.; Patrick Quinn Grand Rapids, Mich.; Leslie Young Columbus, Ohio; Johnnie Dorsey Sr. Austin, Texas; Alicia Alvarez of Lu bock, Texas; Douglas Rodrigues Loma Linda, Calif.; Gwendol Mitsui of Mililani, Hawaii; Freder M. Fisher Jr. of New Bern, N. Rebeca Boudreaux of Plymouth, N.

# Diocesan planner

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The next (Catholic Adult Faith Exploring (CAFE) will be Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in New Life Center, room 204, at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Father Duc Duong will be facilitating a roundtable discussion about socially responsible investing and consumerism, entitled "Where's Your Piggy Going to Market?" Click on http://home.Catholicweb.com/stmattewff/ for links to the Catholic articles for discussion. Call Sue VanderJeugdt, (704) 541-8362 ext. 4, with questions.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to *Lunch-N-Learn* as St. Matthew parishioner Barbara Gardner speaks about deepening prayer life on the journey into Lent, with some hands-on activities Feb. 11 at 12 p.m. in the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Call Sue VanderJeugdt, (704) 541-8362 ext. 4, to make a reservation for lunch.

CHARLOTTE — *"Just Second Fridays"* is a luncheon speaker series on social justice topics that meets the second Friday of each month, 1-2 p.m. in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Dr. Terry Armstrong, director of the Arrupe Program in Social Ethics for Business and Woodstock Business Conference, will present "Shareholder vs. Stakeholder Value" Feb. 13. Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. For details call (704) 370-3225.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte will be hosting a *Valentine's Day Social* Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. All single parishioners are welcome to attend. This is a free event, snacks and sodas will be served. Call Laure (704) 554-0188 for additional information.

CHARLOTTE — In an effort to offer comf hope, support and peace to couples who experiencing or have experienced the *Chall of Infertility*, the community of St. Matthe offering a special Mass Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m the Daily Mass Chapel of St Matthew Chu 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Those atte ing are invited to a reception that will follo the Narthex for fellowship and support. Pra and resource material will also be available. details, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8 Sponsored by the Family Enrichment Com tee and Elizabeth Ministry.

CHARLOTTE — The next *Women's Talk* take place at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. For n information, contact Peggy Pohlheber at ( 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — Totty Lee of Hospic Charlotte will present *"Children and Grief"* 18, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Ce 3016 Providence Rd. All are invited to learn death impacts children. Topics covered wi how children understand death at different how children grieve, what to say and not t to help children and how families can wor gether to heal after a loss. For details, cal Dengler at (704) 704-364-5431 ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, Providence Rd., is sponsoring a progra welcome back inactive Catholics and/or those have left the Church but are interested in re ing to the practice of the Catholic faith. *Catholics Returning Home* series will meet days through Feb. 15, 3:30-5 p.m. For information, call Sue Johnson at (704) 333-

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FROM THE VATICAN

# At Mass marking feast of Presentation, pope cites role of religious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The early 1 million members of Catholic eligious orders have a vital role to play modern evangelization, said Pope ohn Paul II.

The pope praised the work of reli- ious men and women at a Mass in St. eter's Basilica Feb. 2 marking the ast of the Presentation of the Lord and ie eighth annual World Day for Con- crated Life.

"In the intimacy of the monastic oister or working next to the poor and arginalized, among youths or inside clesial structures, in the various apos- lic activities or in mission lands, God ants you faithful to his love and com- etely dedicated to the good of others," the pope said in a sermon.

"Continue to dedicate yourselves with passion to announcing and pro- moting (God's) kingdom. This is your mission, necessary today as in the past," he said.

Thousands of religious priests, nuns and brothers held candles at the start of the Mass. The pope blessed the candles during the "liturgy of light," gave the sermon and led a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of consecrated life.

According to Vatican statistics, the number of men and women members of religious orders totaled about 986,000 at the end of 2001, with 792,300 nuns and 193,600 priests and brothers.

HARLOTTE — Learn why *saving sex for mar- ge* is loving, life and soul-saving advice in a ecial presentation for parents, pastors, coun- ors, teachers, youth directors and young ults. Jason Evert, Catholic apologist, will eak at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old id Rd., Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. For more informa- n, contact Diane Hoefling, St. Vincent de Paul spect Life coordinator/Catholic Schools pro- volunteer at (704) 541-3760 or email @ ef541@aol.com.

HARLOTTE — A four-part series, *"Under- nding Your Late Life Choices,"* will be pre- ted at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence ., Thursdays Feb. 5-26, 10-11:30 a.m. Topics l include protecting your home and assets, sing and in-home care, Medicare/Medicaid l long-term care. For reservations, call B.J. ngler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

### EENSBORO VICARIATE

REENSBORO, — St. Pius X Church will nmemorate *African American history in the tholic Church* Feb. 15 during the 11.30 am ss. Msgr. Mauricio West will be the guest ebrant with Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pas- Lunch will be served directly after Mass.

HEBORO — St Joseph Church welcomes nedictine Father David Draim and nedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton to present next program in our Spiritual Pathways se- , *"The Benedictines: Work and Prayer"* as y share practical monastic values for Chris- is living in the real everyday world. The gram will be held Feb.18 at 7 p.m. at The Salt , Randolph Senior Adults Center, 133 W. inman Ave. For details call the St. Joseph rch office at (336) 629-6221.

EENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will meet sdays in February at 7 p.m. at "Anton's" Battleground Ave. Contact ensborotot@yahoo.com for more informa- .

GH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary rch, Johnson St. and Skeet Club Rd., will r free basic and intermediate *Spanish classes* rsdays. 7-8:30 p.m. Classes through Feb. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884- 2.

### KORY VICARIATE

CKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the nd and fourth Wednesday of each month at p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, Second St. NE. For more information, call church office at (828) 327-2341.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a pot-luck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Newfound Rd., will conduct one-hour sessions each Thursday through Feb. 26 on *"The Precepts of the Catholic Church."* Sessions will start at noon — bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Discussions are open to anyone who wants to know more about church teachings or to review what you learned many years ago. For more information, call Dot and Chuck Luce at (828) 648-7369.

WAYNESVILLE — St. John Church, 234 Church St., will hold a *Valentine Party* Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the church hall. Music will be provided by Sound Explosion. For more information, call the church office at 456-6707.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — *Seekers*, an outreach ministry to inactive Catholics, will begin at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Join us for these informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith. Contact the church office at (336) 778-0600 x 0 to register. For more information, please contact Carmel Pittaway at (336) 766-0650.

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. A four-part series of classes will begin Feb. 15 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican official defends different roles for men, women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church's insistence that the differences between men and women are real is not the basis for discrimination but for recognizing the value of each person, said the president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko hosted a Jan. 30-31 seminar at the Vatican with about 50 men and women on "Men and Women: Diversity and Reciprocal Complementarity" to discuss changing cultural notions of male and female identity and to look at ways to promote church teaching on the subject.

"The culture of our time is questioning what it means to be human" and is doing so in a way "that goes so far as to contort the understanding of sexual identity and relations between the sexes," said Archbishop Rylko.

Pretending there are no differences between men and women "has repercussions for the future of humankind," he said.

Archbishop Rylko said Catholic Church teaching, particularly under Pope John Paul II, has emphasized the dignity and equality of men and women while upholding the truth about differences between them.

The differences, he said, are not simply physical, but stem from being born male or female, and if one ignores those differences, one is not recognizing the full dignity of each person.

Archbishop Rylko said challenges the church faces in promoting its teaching include:

— Finding ways to support "the role of the family in the difficult task of the formation of the sexual identity of children, which is particularly difficult today because of the profound and widespread crisis of the figure of the father."

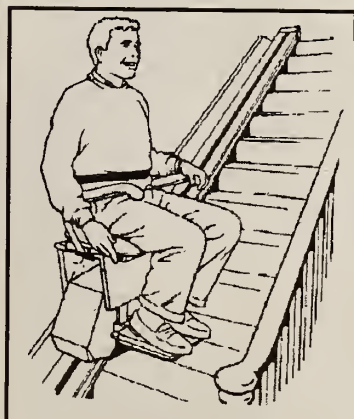
— Promoting real collaboration between men and women in the church, including giving more visibility to laymen to counter "the widespread cliche that religion is a 'woman's thing.'"

— Finding ways to communicate the church's teaching "on the dignity of the human person, on human love, marriage and the family."

## At all costs

CNS PHOTO BY DECLAN WALSH

Children pack the Rural Focus Uganda shelter in Gulu in December last year. Called "night commuters," the youngsters leave their rural homes in northern Uganda every night for Gulu, an army-protected area, in an effort to escape potential abduction by members of an armed rebel group.



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# Asheville students are hands, heart of God

## *Quilts, outreach ministry highlighted at ceremony*

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Although most Asheville-area schools were closed, Asheville Catholic School students didn't let snow flurries keep them from the opening ceremony for Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28, which had already been postponed two days due to inclement weather.

An assembly of students, faculty and guests in the auditorium emphasized the school's outreach ministry, in which each class focuses on a group or organization to help during the school year.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Principal Virginia Hutton and students stand by quilts made by students at Asheville Catholic School Jan. 28.

Three quilts made by students under the guidance of visiting artist Norma Bradley formed a colorful backdrop on stage at the gathering as attendees sang, "Be the hands, the heart of God."

Bradley taught sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders the technique for making quilt blocks. The students made the large blocks that form the center of each quilt, and then helped younger students make smaller blocks and trace their hands onto fabric that formed the borders of each quilt.

Sayings written by students form the outer bindings of the quilts.

In addition to making quilts, students brought in family quilts, as did members of the faculty and staff. One great-grandmother drove 105 miles from South Carolina to share her family quilts, some dating back to the 1700s.

Honored guests representing various community organizations received autographed pictures of the students who aided their organizations.

Principal Virginia Hutton accepted a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the school from John Lauderterbach, director of Caring for Children, which helps families in crisis. He said Asheville Catholic students collected hundreds of gifts and gave many children a Christmas they wouldn't have had otherwise.

Other outreach offerings included first-graders who wrote cards to elderly and shut-in parishioners of St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

Second- through fourth-graders visited elderly residents in care facilities — they entertained, made cards, helped with bingo cards and baked cookies for special occasions.

Fifth-graders learned to accept the differences of mentally and physically challenged children by reading, playing games and interacting with them at Estes Elementary School. This emphasis on the spiritual growth of each child continues through eighth grade as they become more involved each year.

Anita Lovejoy of the Emma School in Asheville spoke about the eighth-graders who help each week in the English as a Second Language program, helping younger students learn and i prove their English.

James Bowles of Manna Food Ba praised the sixth-graders who ha logged 800 hours of service in the p two years. Seventh-graders are also volved in food service, helping prep and serve lunch in homeless shelters.

In the afternoon, students enjoye movie and treats for Student Apprec tion Day. Luncheons honoring volu teers and faculty finished the week Thursday and Friday.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGR

Quilts made by students under the guidance of a visiting artist were display during a Jan. 28 Catholic Schools Week ceremony at Asheville Catholic School.

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# Triad Catholic schools weather winter storm

## *School Masses, events hindered by chilly climate*

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — A few riad-area Catholic schools scrambled celebrate Catholic Schools Week nidst snow days and delayed openings n. 26-30.

St. Leo the Great and Our Lady of ercy schools in Winston-Salem were en for only two days. Some schools, ch as Bishop McGuinness Catholic gh School in Kernersville, stayed osed the entire week.

Many events planned for Catholic hools Week at the schools had to be arranged.

A visit from Bishop Peter J. Jugis ghlighted events at St. Leo the Great hool during the shortened week. In his mily, the bishop said this was the only hool Mass not cancelled due to the ather.

"We are so fortunate to have the hop with us today. His presence is a ssing to all our children, and to the t of us," said Principal Georgette nraeder.

Bishop Jugis joined the teachers, ff and parish priests after the Mass in special luncheon prepared by the hool's parent volunteers.

One of the school Masses cancelled was at Bishop McGuinness.

"Our Catholic identity is a primary focus at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School," said Principal George Repass. "We were looking forward to having the bishop come and be with us. His presence would be truly inspirational and energizing for our high school students."

Repass said the school plans to have Bishop Jugis back in the near future.

Gestures of appreciation to the faculty and students were two activities the school was able to salvage, according to Repass. Parents provided homemade dishes for a teachers' luncheon and the school provided a free lunch for students the following Monday, which coincided with the school's "Spirit Week."

Important aspects of Catholic Schools Week are open house days. Parent volunteers Elen Polselli, Carolee Ronan, Julie McCabe and Scott Saffer were on hand at Our Lady of Mercy School Jan. 29 to provide tours for families interested in Catholic education.

"I am very pleased with our turnout today," said Principal Sandra McMonagle. "We gave about a dozen tours in just a few hours."

Although Our Lady of Mercy School missed its "Hats Off to the Teachers" event on Monday and Student Appreciation Day on Wednesday, McMonagle said the school got in a little something for everyone on Thursday and Friday.

Kindergarteners paraded through the school in their homemade penguin outfits (penguins being a subject of their studies) and all students had the chance to participate in "Silly Sock Day."

Students from both Our Lady of Mercy and St. Leo the Great School were treated to the entertainment of magicians.

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines' visit to St. Leo the Great School was also postponed. Students looked forward to telling the mayor about their community service project, in which the entire student body participated in filling almost 100 "Lift Your Spirit" bags with treats and Bible passages.

The bags will go to the police and firefighters in the community. The students look forward to a postponed date for the mayor's visit, making Catholic Schools Week last just a little bit longer than usual this year.

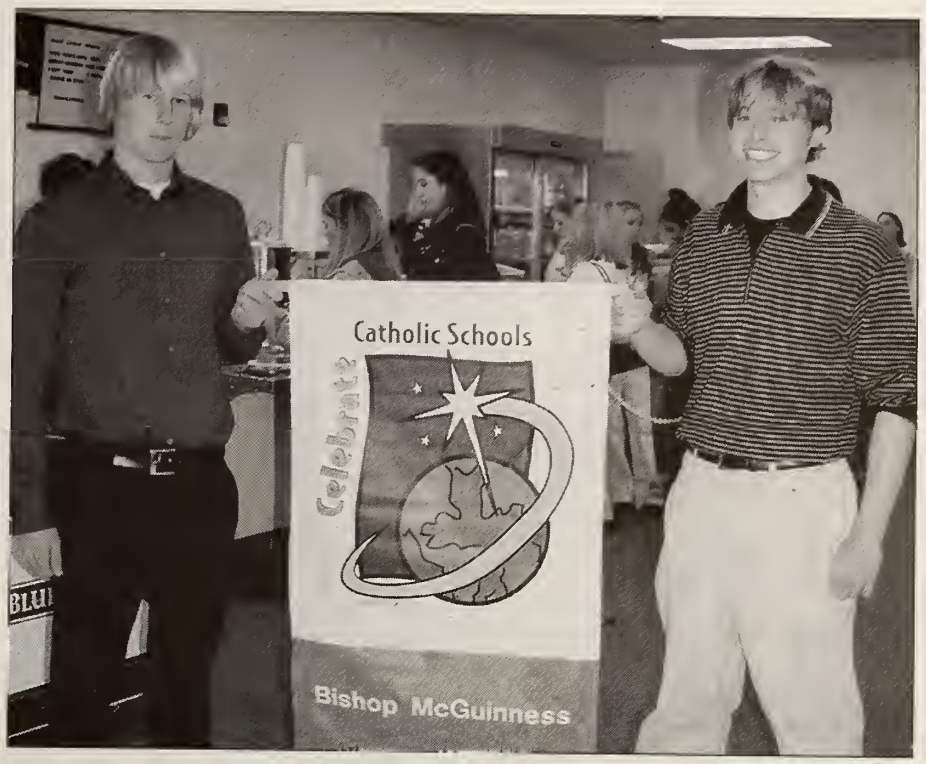


PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

**Juniors Kyle Barbour and Matt Pentz, student council vice president and president, respectively, display the Catholic Schools Week banner at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.**

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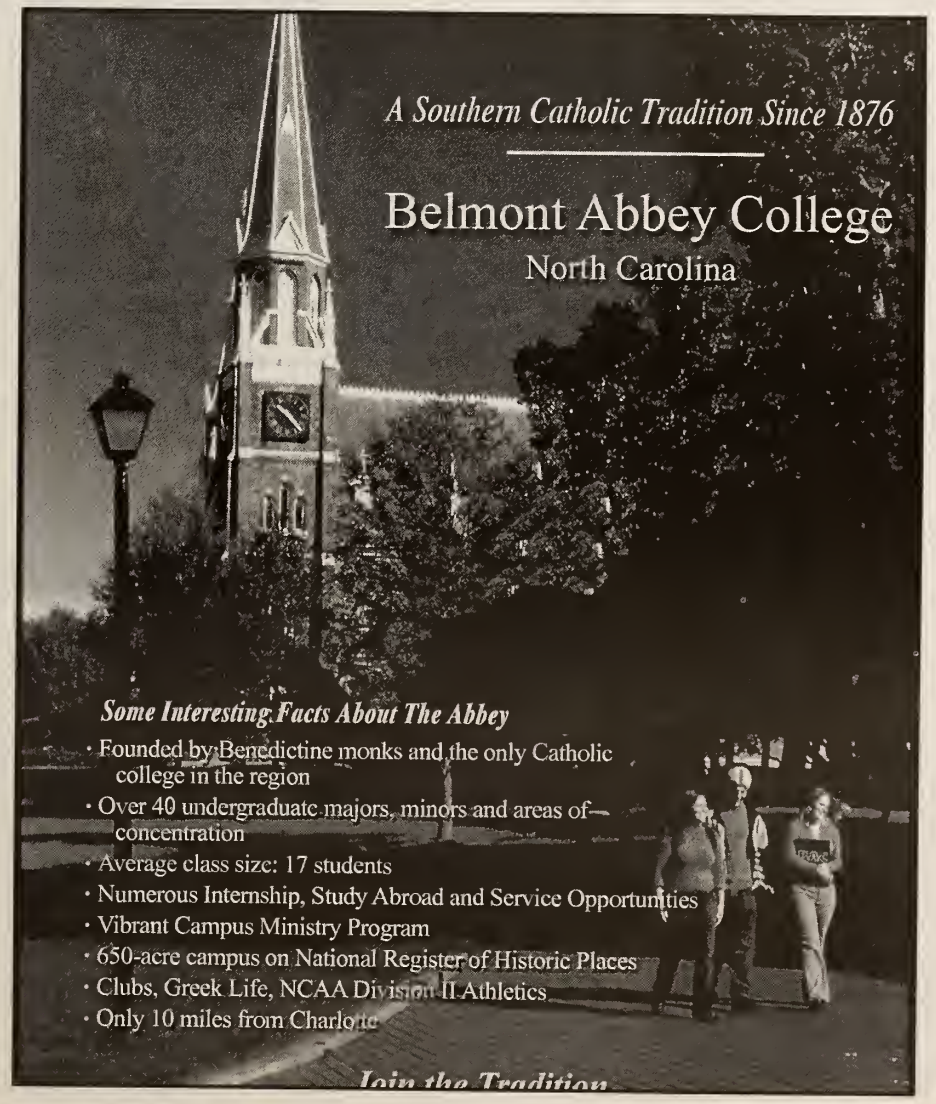

# Celebrating Catholic schools

COURTESY PHOTO

**Students from St. Patrick School in Charlotte help load the Goodwill truck during service day of Catholic Schools Week.**

SCHOOLS, *from page 1*

several days last week, the pride in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte can't be kept pent up inside," said Superintendent Linda Cherry. "In many of our schools, the canceled programs from last week were moved to this week."

Despite the school's closing Monday through Wednesday, Principal Patricia Murphy of Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte said Catholic Schools Week spirits were high. Students made posters depicting what they liked about the school, and then voted on the best posters.

"The importance of Catholic education comes out in those posters," said Murphy. "The students did well with them."

Dominican Sister Glenn Ann McPhee, secretary for education at the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), said this year's Catholic Schools Week theme underscores faith as an important value at the foundation of a Catholic school curriculum and also gives assurances that Catholic schools foresee a bright future.

"Catholic school leaders are committed to making a difference," said Sister McPhee. "Our goal is to graduate students who have strong moral standards and fine academic skills who will become good citizens and able members of the workforce."

"There are many fine educational programs around the world and in North Carolina, but there's that one feeling you get when you walk into a Catholic school," said Cherry. "In addition to strong academics, there's something that brings everyone together, Catholics and non-Catholics — everyone is treated with the same feeling, loving and caring as they should be."

"We are able to come into school and have the freedom to pray, model Gospel values and worship together," said Murphy.

On Feb. 3, the feast of St. Blase, Father Gregory Littleton, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, visited the school to bless students' throats.

"The children get to see our priests modeling Christ for them, and this is what we do every day," said Murphy.

Catholic Schools Week is "to display the attributes and faith of the Catholic schools, and unite Catholic schools across the country that have similar missions and promote solidarity among them," said Principal Joe Puceta of St. Michael School in Gastonia.

"It's good for recognition in our communities that Catholic schools are alive and well," he said.

During the week, schools celebrated the parish family, the community, the volunteers and the students, and many dioceses encouraged parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools by offering open houses.

Because of the weather, Sacred Heart School in Salisbury was also closed for three days and had to reschedule its open house and other events.

"It didn't go as well as we had hoped," said Principal Kathleen Miller. But, she said, the school still found ways to celebrate the significance of Catholic schools.

"We celebrated the Catholic history and tradition of our school — we celebrated our graduates and all the good work we do in preparing young people to live their faith here and later in life," said Miller. "We remember our past, celebrate the present and prepare for the future."

Parents visited St. Ann School in Charlotte Jan. 29 and spoke to students about their careers, and how their jobs and lives might change by 2025. On Jan. 30, fourth- and fifth-graders carried the altar gifts and performed an interpretive dance during Mass at St. Ann Church.

"In celebrating all who play a major role in making our schools places where a 'Faith-Filled Future' is the main reason for our existence, we take time to recognize several generations," said Cherry. "We celebrate those from the past, who built the schools and brought the Catholic faith to the diocese; those in the present who support the schools as parishioners and volunteers as well as parents, teachers and staff; and most importantly, we recognize those in the future — all of our students who will carry the Catholic faith into future genera tions."

The first annual Catholic School Week was in 1974, and became part c The National Marketing Campaign fo Catholic Schools in 1991, a joint effor by the National Catholic Educationa Association (NCEA) and the USCCB.

"Catholic education is one of th great and generous works of the churcl Our graduates have become leaders this country, teachers, religious men an women and business entrepreneurs said Michael Guerra, NCEA presiden "Without a doubt, our schools have ha a far-reaching impact on shaping th world."

A delegation of more than 15 Catholic school students, teachers ar parents visited Capitol Hill to meet wi congressional leaders to promote Cath lic schools Jan. 28.

The delegation hand-delivered le ters from chief administrators of Cath lic education to their representatives a provided a background package Catholic schools to every congressior office.

Daniel Curtin, executive director Chief Administrators of Catholic Educ tion at the NCEA, said distributing t letters gave Catholic leaders an opport nity to tell Congress about Catho schools in their localities.

"Many of our superintendents u this initiative as a timely reminder about our priorities for Catholic edu tion," said Curtin.

COURTESY

**The Dazzling DiMuzio Brothers, David and Paul, entertain students at Our Lad the Assumption School in Charlotte Jan. 30 as part of Catholic Schools Week.**

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# TRACS Foundation helps raise funds for Catholic schools

## *Students' lives enhanced through many contributions*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Triad Area Catholic Schools (TRACS) Education Foundation continues its success in raising funds in support of quality faith-based Catholic education in the Triad.

Since the Foundation's inception in 2001, contributions have increased by 230 percent and the Foundation's Annual Giving Campaign for the 2003-2004 school year raised $432,524.01 to date — 135 percent of the $320,000 goal. Two donations were received in late January — one for $15,000 and one for $13,000 — for a total of $28,000 received in one day.

"I am very grateful for the support and dedication of the members of the TRACS Education Foundation Board, contributors and friends of the Triad Area Catholic Schools," said Jen Smith, diocesan development director for Catholic schools.

"To go from zero to over $800,000 in three years is a testament to how important Catholic education is to people in the Triad," said Amy Wicker, vice chairperson for the TRACS Education Foundation.

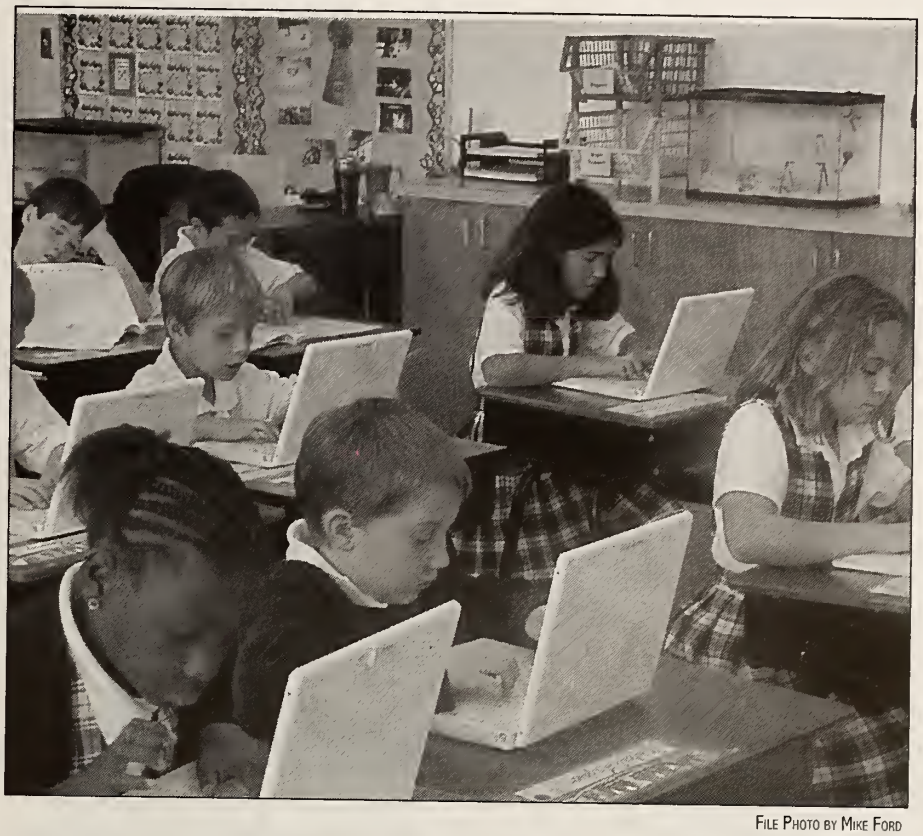
"It's the result of hard work of all the TRACS board members at the various schools in getting the needs out, and the hard work of the volunteers and families," said Wicker.

The Foundation's funded projects for the 2003-2004 school year included: faculty and staff bonuses; technology enhancements; professional development for faculty and staff; curriculum enrichment programs; and school renovations.

"Each school establishes its goals of critical needs and the funding is used to meet those needs," said Wicker.

Another focus of the Foundation is tuition assistance, which, along with individual school fundraising and the Piedmont Triad Scholarship Fund, provided more than $70,000 in the 2003-04 school year.

"Tuition assistance is vitally important to Our Lady of Mercy School families," said Principal Sandra McMonagle in 2003. "Most families plan their budgets to give up 'extras' so that their children can receive a Catholic education. We at OLM are so grateful to the Piedmont Triad Scholarship Fund and to the families at OLM who make tuition assistance possible."



FILE PHOTO BY MIKE FORD

**Students work on computers at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem in this file photo.**

This school year, 22 families at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem received tuition assistance -- 13 of them from the Piedmont Triad Scholarship Fund. The fund also helped 22 of the 27 families to receive tuition assistance at nearby St. Leo the Great School.

"The scholarship and TRACS funding enable these families to provide a Catholic education at a Catholic School," said Principal Georgette Schraeder in 2003. "The parents applied for the scholarship because they are convinced of the importance of Catholic education."

Shirley Kinlaw, assistant principal of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, said her school was "blessed" by "angels of grace" who have donated to the TRACS campaign.

"Proceeds from the TRACS funds have been used to enhance our language arts curriculum, to improve our technology, to assist families in need of tuition assistance and to provide much-needed professional development opportunities for our teachers," said Kinslaw.

"Two middle school teachers at Our Lady of Grace benefited directly from TRACS monies to attend conferences that will enable them to further impact our children and their faith lives," she said.

In October 2003, Chris Ostrom, a seventh-grade religion and social studies teacher, attended the University of Notre Dame's Excellence in Teaching Conference, in part due to TRACS donations and a grant from the local Notre Dame University Alumni Club.

"What a great opportunity to attend one of the most prestigious Catholic universities in the nation and learn how to improve the education for our children!" said Ostrom.

Professional development funds provided by TRACS donations enabled sixth-grade teacher Bobbie Gaski to attend the Holocaust Education Conference at Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania in November 2003.

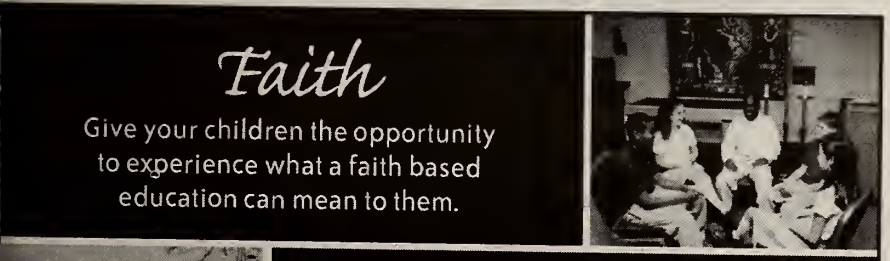
Gaski attended workshops with noted theologians, speakers and other educators who focused on Holocaust education in Catholic schools.

"I teach a unit on Anne Frank in my eighth-grade literature classes, and I plan to implement many of the approaches and ideas from this conference as the year progresses," said Gaski. "I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to attend this gathering."

"The support demonstrated during the Foundation's 2003-2004 Annual Giving Campaign gives strength to our belief in one Catholic community," said Smith. "The vision, dedication and enthusiasm of the board members, donors and friends of the Foundation have been critical to the success of the campaign."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information on the TRACS and MACS Education Foundations, contact Jennifer Smith at (704) 370-3303 or e-mail jjsmith@charlottediocese.org.

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# Peace, justice and lunch

JUSTICE, *from page 1*

lic Conference of Bishops Department of Social Development and World Peace, kicked off the first luncheon last month with a presentation on faithful citizenship.

Participation will hopefully lead to a greater advocacy on behalf of justice for those who lack justice, and new or renewed direct action and intervention in the lives of those who are marginalized and threatened in society, said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

"If a practice of being regularly engaged in matters of social justice is established, hopefully one will be better able to receive the grace of knowing God's presence in one's own life," said Purello.

Dr. Terry Armstrong

Just Second Fridays is designed to facilitate the attendance of people of all ages, said Purello.

"The Office of Justice and Peace has observed that the demographic group most often missing at justice and peace events held during evenings and weekends is young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s who often have non-business hour demands on their time associated with raising and nurturing children," he said.

But attendance at holy day and regular noon Masses at St. Peter Church demonstrates there is a large Catholic presence in uptown Charlotte during the business day who are interested in enriching their spiritual lives.

"Since the primary target audience for these presentations is the uptown working community of Charlotte, we will be recruiting speakers who can address topics related to business ethics, labor issues and economic justice," said Purello. "A variety of other social justice topics will also be offered."

**WANT TO GO?**

Just Second Fridays are held the second Friday of each month in the Annex Building on College Street behind St. Peter Church, 507 Tryon Street in Charlotte (in the lower level Atrium Room with entry from The Green). All events run 1-2 p.m. except Good Friday, April 9, which will be 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Limited free parking is available in the garage under The Green next to St. Peter Church.

Bring your own lunch to the programs. Cold drinks are provided. Arabica Coffee House and Mr. Hero, located in the Annex Building food court, offer 10 percent discounts to those attending Just Second Fridays.

For more information, go online at www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

**JUST SECOND FRIDAYS**

Here is a list of other upcoming Just Second Friday topics and speakers.

**March 12, 1 p.m.**

"Pope John Paul II's Gospel of Life"

Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski, professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, N.Y.C.

Maggi Nadol, director of Respect Life Office, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte

**April 9, 11 a.m. (special time)**

"Reflections on Death in a Civilized Society: Death Penalty in America"

James Cooney III of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice in Charlotte

**May 14, 1 p.m.**

"How Can Business Ensure All Have a 'Place at the Table' — Reflections on Poverty and Opportunity in Today's Economy"

Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator of the USCCB in Washington, D.C.

Speakers for June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 will be announced in May 2004.

# Candidates of the Christian kind

Courtesy Photo by Lee Stocker

Thirty-eight confirmation candidates from Holy Spirit Church in Denver, Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and St. Mary Church in Shelby participated in a retreat at Queen of the Apostles Jan. 24-25. The group focused on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are called to Christian service in the world. The retreat ended with a celebration during Mass, and a call to continued conversion for all involved.

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# Foster families nurture tender souls

FOSTER CARE, *from page 1*

words "foster care," they may think of physically abused, emotionally scarred adolescents and teenagers being moved from foster home to foster home, never finding a family of their own.

For the children placed by CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte, their stories are considerably brighter.

Most of the eight to 10 children in the CSS foster care program each year are newborns who are temporarily entrusted to foster families — usually four weeks or less — until they join their adoptive or biological families

During the foster care period, birth parents continue to receive counseling and support.

Foster families for CSS are carefully screened and go through an assessment process. Also, foster children are not permitted to be placed in daycare. The child must be in the care of a member of the family at all times.

"These foster families are so selfless," said Sharon Davis, a social worker in the Charlotte Regional Office of CSS. "It's a family affair, with everyone involved in the care and nurturing of the child."

"For anyone who needs to fill their life, this is a great way to do it," Ferri said, adding that she always prays for the mothers of the babies who have been in her care.

Ellie and John Collins are foster parents who have cared for seven infants in their Winston-Salem home.

Collins said she has been "tremendously impressed by CSS" employees regarding the care they provide to the birth mother before and after her pregnancy and also to the adoptive parents.

CSS has placed older children under unusual circumstances.

"These children are often frightened and mistrustful," Davis said. "Foster families have the challenge of developing a trusting and loving relationship with them."

Davis also praised the CSS families, who often go above and beyond the call of duty for the children in their care. One family was assigned to an infant born with severe medical problems. Members of the family visited the hospital every day, almost around the clock, to ensure that the infant felt loved and cared for.

There are currently six families in the foster care program, including one in Asheville and one in Winston-Salem.

"The foster families are an integral part of the ministry and commitment of CSS," said Jeannie Beall, supervisor of social work services. "We feel extremely blessed to have them as a part of our team."

"I felt that I wanted to offer these children a positive, nurturing atmosphere," said Ellie Collins. "We wanted to bring Jesus' love to these children."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

*Catholic Social Services is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Under the watchful eye of Louise Ferri, Sharon Davis, a social worker with the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services, holds Ferri's foster son. There are currently six families in the foster care program — four in Charlotte, one in Asheville and one in Winston-Salem.


The Diocese of Charlotte
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www.cssnc.org

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# Culture Watch

**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

## Singing a song of the saints (and near-saints) of God

REVIEWED BY GRAHAM G. YEARLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As a child, I loved the Anglican hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," especially its last line: "For the saints of God are folk just like me and, God willing, I'll be one, too."

But one lesson I learned from reading these three volumes on saints and near-saints is that these folks are not like you or me. These men and women are certainly more pious and God-directed than most of us, but also more driven, difficult and, at times, self-destructive.

The importance of saints for most people is the power of example they offer in Christian living. Leo Knowles in "Modern Heroes of the Church" has

"Modern Heroes of the Church," by Leo Knowles. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2003). 186 pp., $13.95.

"A Century of Catholic Converts," by Lorene Hanley Duquin. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2003). 233 pp., $14.95.

"American Saints: Five Centuries of Heroic Sanctity on the American Continents," by John F. Fink. Alba House (New York, 2001). 157 pp., $9.95.

many of the people one might expect to see: Archbishop Oscar Romero, Father Charles de Foucauld, St. Edith Stein, Pope John Paul I and Dr. Tom Dooley. But he also introduces less familiar figures: Franz Jagerstatter, who refused to serve the Nazis in any capacity and was hanged; John Bradburne, murdered by guerrillas, who lived and worked with African leprosy patients; and Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, who died administering last rites to a fireman at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

In several cases these heroes don't seem quite real because the author plays a biographical trick with us: He mentions an amusing sin (usually from childhood) while omitting or downplaying natural human faults to make his subjects appear more saintly. There is also a great deal of attention given to practices of mortification. In many cases, good spiritual disciplines are taken to grotesque lengths. "Modern Heroes of the Church" ends up being more disturbing than inspiring.

"A Century of Catholic Converts" by Lorene Hanley Duquin is a collection of profiles of converts to Catholicism, grouped by decade, through the 20th century. Many might be surprised to learn that G.K. Chesterton, Thomas Merton and Maria Von Trappe were converts; all three are so closely associated with Catholicism. For others, like Clare Booth Luce, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Avery Dulles and St. Edith Stein, their conversion is a part of their fame.

Although most people in the book made their conversion in young adulthood or middle age, John Wayne converted on his deathbed, spending only a few hours in his new faith. The collection ends with stories of abortion advocates who, in their conversion, became pro-lifers. Perhaps the most famous is Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff "Jane Roe" in the precedent-setting abortion case Roe vs. Wade.

Most converts report that conversion is a process, not a single event, continuing long after one's reception into the church. While reading about celebrities is a guilty pleasure, I longed to hear about anonymous men and women who made the same courageous journey and whose stories will never be told.

"American Saints: Five Centuries of Heroic Sanctity on the American Continents" by John F. Fink profiles many of the 137 men and women who lived in North or South America and who have been sanctified or beatified. It is instructive to learn that the world's only superpower has not proved to be fertile ground in producing saints. Only nine saints or "blesseds" have lived in the United States; by contrast, Mexico has 50 and Brazil 53.

Indeed, as of this book's publication, St. Katharine Drexel was the only native-born U.S. citizen to be canonized — all other U.S. saints were born before the country was formed or were born in other countries. Only nine of the book's 137 were canonized or beatified before the 20th century, among them were St. Rose of Lima and St. Peter Claver. Pope John Paul II is responsible for the recent increase; in his papacy he has canonized 28 men and women of the Americas and beatified 32.

"American Saints" is a quick and lively read, but some of the research is slipshod; I found two factual errors myself. Unintended humor abounds in the book. An alarming number of our saints and blesseds had "poor health," but went on to found orders, build hospitals, churches, schools and missions, and save souls in staggering numbers before collapsing from their labors. It makes one wonder what a healthy saint could do.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 15, 2004

## *Feb. 15, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
2) 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
3) Luke 6:17, 20-26

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Life is full of ironies, and I was reminded of a common irony the other day in a conversation with my daughter, a first-year college student.

She was telling me how anxious she was to finish college, get a job and earn her own money so that she could live a more independent lifestyle. I almost had to laugh, since I was thinking simultaneously that I, an independent, income-earning adult, would love to be back in college when my worries consisted mostly of 8 a.m. classes, cafeteria meals cooked by someone else and studying for exams. Obviously, both of us were failing to appreciate the benefits and challenges of our respective situations.

The Scriptures for this Sunday in Ordinary Time are reminiscent of another irony, or paradox, for Christians — the truth that the kingdom of God is both a future promise and a fulfilled reality. It seems that many believers, finding this paradox difficult to grasp, tend to focus on one or the other side of the equation almost exclusively. St. Paul's Corinthian community seemed to be negating the future resurrection of the dead, limiting their hopes in Christ to present circumstances. Yet many Christians also have taken the opposite approach, directing their gaze to heaven and the afterlife, and forgetting that the life of Christ in all its fullness is theirs today.

For these, salvation is "something that happens to my soul when I die" — a future consolation that has little bearing on one's day-to-day living.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus models the perfect balance of the "now-but-not-yet" nature of the kingdom of God. Even while he is preaching on future consolation to those who are suffering, he is healing them of their diseases, delivering them from unclean spirits and making his Father's love tangible to them in the present.

To those whose faith primarily is oriented to the afterlife, he says, "See, I am in your midst now!"

And to those whose sight is limited to their present circumstances, he holds out the promise of glories to come.

***Questions:***

In your faith, have you tended to see Christ's kingdom more as a future promise or a present reality? What is God doing in your midst right now that gives your reassurance for your future?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 21**

**Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** James 1:1-11, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday (Seven Founders of the Servite Order),** James 1:12-18, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday,** James 1:19-27, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** James 2:1-9, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** James 2:14-24, Mark 8:34—9:1; **Saturday (St. Peter Damian),** James 3:1-10, Mark 9:2-13


What's The Road Like Ahead?

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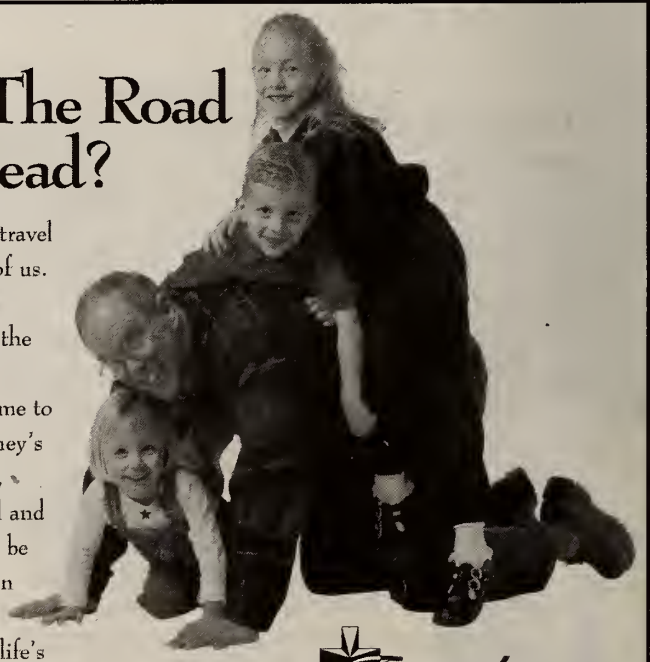

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COURTESY PHOTO

Richard Valitutto, a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, was one of three winners of the Winston-Salem Youth Symphony concerto competition in mid-January.

SCALING MUSICAL HEIGHTS

# Bishop McGuinness students showcase skills

KERNERSVILLE — The sounds of success are echoing from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

Richard Valitutto, a junior at Bishop McGuinness, was one of three winners of the Winston-Salem Youth Symphony concerto competition held at Wake Forest University in mid-January.

Valitutto was one of four Bishop McGuinness music students — Beth Hurley; and Konnstantin Heppner and David Wehner, both exchange students from Germany attending Bishop for the 2003-04 school year — and numerous other students from the Triad area to contend in the concerto competition.

As one of the winners, Valitutto now has the honor of performing as the soloist in the Mozart Piano D Minor concerto to be held at the Scales Fine Arts Center at Wake Forest University in December 2004.

In addition, four Bishop McGuinness music students participated in the Virginia Tech Honor Band in Blacksburg, Va., the weekend of Jan. 23. Participating students were Riley Morgan, Nate Osborne, Beth Hurley and Patrick Nolan.

MAKING MUSIC IN MACS

# Students selected for festivals, membership

CHARLOTTE — MACS band students are making their marks.

Nineteen MACS band members were accepted into membership of the South Central All-District Concert Band Festival held in Mooresville Jan. 29-30.

The students — nine from Charlotte Catholic High School and 10 from Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School — prepared designated solos and were judged by high school band directors for membership in this elite group of student musicians. Students from a six-county area comprising high school and middle school bands auditioned for membership, which is limited according to instrumentation and musical abilities.

Students have represented the MACS band program in the festival for the past four years. The number of students participating rose from two students in 2000 to 19 students in 2004, and the MACS band program has one of the highest student representations of any school in the six-county area.

New members from Charlotte Catholic are Deanna Becker, Jenna Harper, Emily Sharp, Kris Bahar, Mark Binetti, Alexandra Reinhart and Megan Hermance. Kaitlin Gilbride and Emily Freeman were designated as alternates for membership.

Students from Holy Trinity are Evan Peleaux, Hilary Sharp, John Luttrell, Ryan Brennan, Keagan Maryman, Eric Gleeson, Alexandra Boss, Carianne Schlie and Becca Mack. Maggie Luttrell was chosen as an alternate for membership.

In the All-District Jazz Band Festival's inaugural year, three students from Charlotte Catholic were chosen for membership through auditions. The students are Chelsey Conrad, Andrew Randazzo and Andrew Mack.

The students will rehearse and present a concert at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory on Feb. 28.


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SR. ANN SHIELDS, SGL
Sr. Ann is the superior of the Servants of God's Love in Lansing, Michigan, and is a regular co-host on the television program, *The Choices We Face*. She also hosts a radio program, *Food for the Journey*. She is the author of several books, including *Fire in My Heart*, and is a frequent conference speaker.

REPENTANCE
*– an exhortation to turn away from sin to a Christ-centered, Spirit-filled life*

FR. MICHAEL SCANLAN, TOR
Fr. Michael is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was ordained in 1964. In 1990, he was awarded the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John II. He has authored several books including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.

EVANGELISM
*– an invitation to spread the Good News of salvation and the gift of authentic Catholicism*

PETER HERBECK
Peter is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries and has served numerous retreats, conferences, rallies, and events around the world. Much of his work has been devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts.

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–Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte

MOST REV. ROBERT J. BAKER, STD
HOMILIST
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# Another step toward healing

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

David Hains, acting spokesman for the Diocese of Charlotte, responds to media questions regarding a letter delivered to the pastoral center Feb. 3 by David Fortwengler (right), head of the Charlotte-based chapter of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. Fortwengler, abused by a priest in Maryland, said his letter offered suggestions to the diocese on dealing with cases of child sexual abuse by clergy.

# The Abbey celebrates Black History Month

## *Community invited for Harambè Mass on campus*

BELMONT — In celebration of Black History Month, Belmont Abbey College will host a Harambè Mass in the Abbey Basilica Feb. 8. The public is invited to attend.

American slaves were forbidden to worship, so they practiced their Christian faith in secret by stealing away into the woods.

Harambè is an African word, meaning "togetherness" or "unity."

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Charlotte, will serve as celebrant. He will be joined by the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and the Kabaka Dancers for this special Mass.

**WANT TO GO?**

The Harambè Mass will take place in the Abbey Basilica 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8. Belmont Abbey College is located 15 miles west of Charlotte. For more information, call the Belmont Abbey Campus Ministry at (704) 829-7196.

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**PRINCIPAL:** St. Anthony of Padua Catholic grade school located in Southern Pines, NC, is now accepting curriculum vitae for the position of principal. The school's curriculum is faithful to the Magesterium of the Church. Applicants must have a Master's degree and be state certified in education. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Since the school is expanding, an applicant should be a visionary and have fund-raising capabilities. Curriculum vitae will be received through 3/31/04. The Very Reverend Jeffrey Ingham, V.F., St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 175 E. Connecticut Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

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# Beating bullying and teaching tolerance

*Immaculata School initiates peer power for peace*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HENDERSONVILLE — Students at Immaculata School spent the four days following Martin Luther King Jr. holiday learning how to live out the message of peace and tolerance King and Jesus Christ promoted.

"Peer Power for Peace" is a program designed by the school's counselor, Veronica Doty, and a volunteer co-chair, Diane Salkewicz. It consists of a variety of activities designed to help the students of Immaculata School recognize different types of bullying and learn how to prevent such incidents.

Bullying isn't a major problem in the pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade school, said Doty. Most of it comes during the middle-school years in subtle forms such as exclusion from social groups. In a school with only 190 students, feeling left out of a class of 15-20 peers can be upsetting, Doty said.

Doty's intention for Peer Power for Peace was to use a holistic approach — to teach teachers, parents and kids about tolerance. To prepare the teachers for the program, Doty arranged for a speaker on "bully prevention" to raise their awareness as to what bullying is and what it is not.

The eighth-graders took a survey of the third- through eighth-grade students about their own experiences, and almost half the students said they had experienced some form of being bullied.

Immaculata students then spent one period each day of the week of Jan. 20-23 learning about preventing bullying and focusing on all aspects of tolerance.

Each teacher was free to emphasize whatever aspect was most relevant to his or her class, using bulletin boards, writing assignments, poster contests and videos about cliques and bullying to teach the lessons of kindness and universal tolerance.

As part of the program, each class conceived its own plan for peace. During the Mass Jan. 23, which was celebrated as a children's Mass, a representative of each class read aloud their plan for peace.

Immaculata School asked a disadvantaged neighboring school to join in some of the week's activities. Every student at both schools received a T-shirt with the Peer Power for Peace logo as a keepsake.

Doty said she has already had positive feedback about the program from Immaculata parents.

"Hopefully, we gave the students some tools they can use," Doty said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

## Panther pride

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Conrad Hoover, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and parishioners Anna and Bebe Troppoli show their support of the Carolina Panthers after Mass Feb. 1. Father Hoover made sure everyone who drives along Park Road saw his Panther pride — the church's sign read "Go Panthers" and "Vamos Panteras." Following the Panthers' 32-29 loss to the New England Patriots, the sign was changed to "Thanks Panthers."

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## The guest-worker proposal

### Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Having written two columns about immigration, I realize that this is a hot-button topic. I have received more letters and e-mails on this than on any other topic.

In September 2003, I wrote about our society's schizophrenia on the issue of illegal workers. We employ them in large numbers, but we say we don't want them. This puts both illegal employees and employers in an impossible situation.

In October 2003, I ventured four suggestions on what might be done about the problem of illegal migrant workers. My first recommendation was for a "guest-worker" visa program to legalize the status of undocumented workers. This would allow millions of illegal workers to regularize their status in the United States and would allow employers to bring people here to work for an extended length of time.

In January 2004, President Bush proposed a guest-worker program. This shows the idea is in the wind. President Bush merely accepted economic and geographic reality.

Economically the reality is that there are about 7 million illegal immigrants in the United States. If they all were sent home tomorrow, some industries here would come to a halt.

Geographically, the reality is that most of the illegal workers in the United States come from Mexico. Our southern border is too long and too easily crossed to effectively seal it. As long as there is grinding poverty there and jobs here, people will migrate.

Under President Bush's program, guest workers could get a three-year visa if they have employment lined up before they come. If they are already here, workers could get a visa if they are employed and pay a fine. These visas could be renewed for a second three-year term. After that workers are supposed to go home, though it is anybody's guess how this could be enforced. Employers are permitted to bring in guest workers if they show that Americans could not be found for these jobs.

The president's plan solves some problems. It gives legal status to workers from Mexico. It makes them taxpayers and Social Security participants. It allows law enforcement to concentrate on real criminals at the border (like drug smugglers). It might end the illegal traffic in human beings. It would allow migrants to go home for visits. (Some of my parishioners have not been able to go home for funerals of parents.)

But the president's idea does not address the reason people want to leave Mexico and come here: poverty.

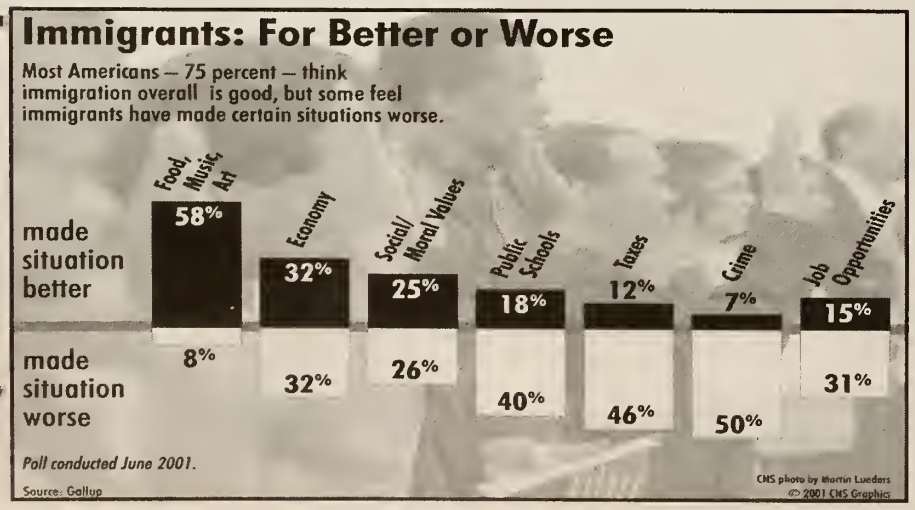
We need to do what the European Union did for its poor neighbors. We need a 20-year economic development program to build infrastructure and raise wages and living standards in Mexico. Then there would be less pressure to come here. A more prosperous Mexico is in our self-interest.

President Bush promotes globalization of the economy. But we need to "globalize" in ways conservatives never consider, especially in regard to fair-labor standards.

Every free-trade agreement should have basic labor standards. This should include a right to organize workers freely and to bargain collectively. Unions should be allowed to organize across borders so that employers could not move jobs from Michigan to Monterey to exploit vulnerable workers. There should also be a global push for a living wage.

If countries want to sell products in the United States, they should have fair-labor standards to put all workers on a more level playing field.

President Bush's guest-worker proposal is a good first step. But it chiefly answers the demands of large employers here for cheap labor. It does not address the long-term causes of this migration.




## Pope says Christians prepare for prayer through moral living

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

### The Pope Speaks

BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Preparations for prayer and liturgical celebrations in the Judeo-Christian tradition are not focused on special gestures and dress, but on moral integrity in one's personal life and in society, Pope John Paul II said.

"To be admitted into the presence of the divine, many religious cultures ask for exterior ritual purity with special ablutions, gestures and dress," he said Feb. 4 at his general audience.

But Psalm 15 explains that in the Judeo-Christian tradition ritual purity implies a clean conscience and "choices inspired by love for justice and for one's neighbor," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said the psalm, recited in the church's evening prayer, echoes the calls of the prophets "to join faith and life, prayer and commitment, adoration and social justice."

The psalm's requirements for entering the Lord's presence, the pope said, can serve as "the basis for a personal examination of conscience every time we prepare to confess our sins in order to be admitted into communion with the Lord in the liturgical celebration."

The first three requirements, he said, express a general ethical choice: to follow the path of moral integrity, practice justice and be sincere when speaking.

The pope said the believer is then called to a just relationship with others, marked by a commitment not to slander another or harm another, to defend those who are threatened, to avoid those who do evil and to honor those who fear the Lord.

The psalm also calls believers to keep promises they have made, even when it becomes difficult, he said.

Pope John Paul underscored the text's condemnation of usury, "a plague which is still an awful reality in our day and which can strangle the lives of many people," and of corruption in public life, also an ongoing problem.

## Letters to the Editor

### High praise for publication

You are doing a wonderful job with *The Catholic News & Herald*. It is more faith-filled than in the last 15 years I have lived in North Carolina.

It is a breath of fresh air to read the paper. In a part of the country where Catholics are the minority and so often misunderstood, it is a pleasure to pick up your newspaper and hear it like it is without the secular bias of a regional newspaper.

God bless you and your staff, and keep up the good work!

*— Grace Narus*
*Charlotte*

### 'Fallen angels' gets word out

I enjoyed Kevin Murray's "No discounts for fallen angels" column (Jan. 16). I hope more people read it. I will try to get the word out to my Knights of Columbus council at St. Matthew Church.

I am ashamed that so many "Catholics" support abortion and bend the Church's rules to suit their own wants and needs. I pray daily for the end to abortion and pray that Congress, the legislature and the judiciary realize that we need an end to this horrific epidemic.

*— Gene Fitzpatrick*
*Charlotte*

Kevin Murray's "No discount for fallen angels" column was just sensational. This anecdote should be read at every Mass.

*— Joe Massi*
*Charlotte*

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# A 'Faith-Filled Future'

## Guest Column

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

I remember so vividly celebrating Mass on one occasion with a fifth-grade class at Sacred Heart School in Quincy, Mass. Although that blessed event took place more than 20 years ago, the experience is etched in my memory.

The theme of the celebration was faith. In preparation for the gathering, the little ones had crafted a beautiful banner that they displayed proudly behind the altar. The multicolored mosaic, capturing in brilliant hues in the image of a rainbow, was accompanied by the simple statement, "I believe in God because of rainbows."

Time and again over the intervening years, I have reflected upon the significance of the picture and the accompanying message. I am convinced that the wisdom contained therein is worthy of every believer's consideration, regardless of his or her age or state in life.

It is essential for us to understand and appreciate that faith is a gift from God. Faith is neither inherited nor earned. However, as people who are the beneficiaries of the Lord's loving presence, each of us is invited again and again to respond to that gift by performing acts of faith.

During my enviable stint as a student at a Cathedral grammar and Cathedral high school in Boston, I was blessed beyond measure. Gradually, I came to realize that the Catholic school is primarily a faith-filled environment, within which the participant is formed in the vision and values of Jesus Christ. It is a setting in which the gift of faith is lived, exemplified, interpreted and shared. It is a place in which the primary curriculum is the atmosphere in which the person and message of Jesus are proclaimed and explained so that maturing believers might be enabled to respond personally and communally to the God-given gift of faith.

During my formative years, the Sisters of St. Joseph, who staffed the schools I attended, portrayed so powerfully the virtues proclaimed in the Gospel. They were a caring, compassionate and challenging community of women. They enabled us to cultivate our intellects, to sharpen our skills, to employ the values essential to maturing believers.

In addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, they taught the three Rs: religion, respect and responsibility. By their exemplary witness, they called us to be all that we could be as followers of Jesus. In truth, each Sister was a unique component of a rainbow-mosaic guiding us to respond to the gift of faith, to grow in faith.

As the vicar for education here in the Diocese of Charlotte since 1995, I have been and am impressed deeply by the care, commitment and competency of the educational leaders on the diocesan and local levels, by the devotion and dedication of the teachers in each of the 18 Catholic schools. It is abundantly clear that the children and youth who participate in these educational environments within the diocese are being informed and formed, instructed and inspired each and every day.

Good and generous parents who entrust their children to the custody and care of the Catholic schools are well aware that their sons or daughters will move today toward a faith-filled future, even as the youngsters believe in God because of rainbows.

*Father Hawker is vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*

# Two who make a difference

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

The name of Tom Franklin might not ring a bell with you, but I can all but guarantee you're familiar with his work. Thomas E. Franklin is senior photographer with *The Record*, a leading northern New Jersey daily newspaper, and on Sept. 11, 2001, he took the photo that became the iconographic symbol of that terrible day: three New York City firefighters raising an American flag amidst the devastation of the World Trade Center.

For Americans everywhere, it was a graphic reminder of this country's resolve in the face of tragedy. The year's most honored single photo, it was later reproduced on a U.S. postage stamp, and in that way still reminds us of the desolate day that nonetheless united us.

More recently, the first page of the second section of *The Record* each Monday has featured a single large Franklin photo and a short story, also written by him, which focuses, as often as not, on a man or woman doing something for the community in an outstanding or unique fashion.

And that's how I became acquainted with Paul Burns, an advocate for the homeless who was the subject of a Franklin profile last December. What caught my eye at first, in addition to Franklin's arresting photo, was a line in the story that noted Burns' reception, in 1998, of the Russ Berrie Making a Difference Award (named for a late North Jersey toy executive and philanthropist). As you know, The Christophers are all about "making a difference" and encouraging others to do the same, and I immediately wanted to find out more about this man.

I'm glad I did. Franklin's lead paragraph essentially tells the story: "Paul Burns calls himself an advocate for the homeless, the last line of defense for those who live on the streets of northern New Jersey. He brings them food and clothes, but most of all he gives them his love. And for those who have nothing, this is what Burns believes they need the most."

In somewhat sparing fashion, Franklin fills in some of the details. Burns is an ordained Pentecostal minister, but he has no church, no parish. The people on the streets are his congregation, and he goes to them every night in a van. He makes sure they have what they need: a bed in a shelter, a sleeping bag, a pair of socks.

"I have a special calling," Burns told Franklin. "God said, 'When you help the least of my people, that's when you help me'. There's so much helplessness in their life, prayer will allow them to sleep tonight."

He thinks he'll be at it for a long time to come, maybe forever, because, as he puts it, compassion is being downsized and merchandising has taken over for mercy.

Still, he does what he can, and that means the world to the people he helps. That's what "making a difference" is all about.

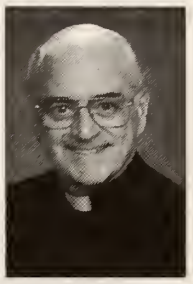
On one unforgettable day in September, 2001, Tom Franklin made a difference on his own, lifting the spirit of a wounded people. It's nice to see he's still doing the same thing.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "From Fear & Anxiety to Trust & Hope," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Is war useless?

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist



War is hell. We should strive for peace at all costs. However, to say that war is useless or that it accomplishes nothing is to raise some serious questions.

Here is a story by the late Father Vytautas Picturna, a Lithuanian priest who was a prisoner at Dachau during World War II, told in his own words.

The Nazi regime built concentration camps to instill fear in people and squeeze out their physical energy. In these camps, over 7 million people of all nationalities were killed, including the 6 million Jews. Some 3,500 priests of 14 nationalities passed through one camp alone at Dachau, north of Munich. Only 1,182 of us survived.

When we arrived at Dachau, they shaved our heads and gave us uniforms, which were too thin to protect against the cold. The head of the camp screamed at us, "Leave behind all dreams that someday you will be free." Pointing to the smokestack nearby he said, "There is the crematorium whose chimney will leave you as smoke, you bandits."

We had to stand in the cold rain until morning roll call. Those who fell down were beaten mercilessly.

In the mess hall, the beatings continued. An SS guard would yell at someone, "Did you wipe your bowl clean?" Finding a drop in it, he would start beating him.

Every day we were beaten. Years went by. How we survived was a miracle. How many times a guard would throw a piece of bread out of a prisoner's reach. The starving man would go after it, and the guard would shoot him, claiming the man was trying to escape.

How many times the SS, returning drunk at night, would wake us up, exhausted from work, and force us out into the cold. They would order us to fall to the ground, then to get up. Those who remained exhausted on the ground would have cold water poured on them. Many victims died of pneumonia.

As our hopes withered, we heard the Americans were coming. On April 29, 1945, we ran to see the white flag raised over our camp. It was a beautiful Sunday morning.

The Americans drove up and all eight SS guards came down with their arms raised. There was an outburst of unspeakable joy among the prisoners. Everyone was cheering for the Americans — our saviors. We were free at last.

In the real world, there are times when war is a necessary evil. There is such a thing as a war of liberation. The only thing necessary for evil to triumph worldwide is for good men to stand by and do nothing.

# St. James Church serves spiritual needs of Hamlet-area Catholics

HAMLET — In the early years of the 20th century, visiting priests from Southern Pines, Fayetteville and Wilmington ministered to the few Catholics in Richmond and Scotland counties in their homes. In 1910, one priest led the effort to build the church in Hamlet that came to be known as St. James Church, the parish that lies in the southeasternmost corner of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father William B. Hannon traveled north in search of donations for the Richmond County church. He was successful not only in attaining funds for construction, but he also helped acquire the stained glass windows that still adorn the present church.

Construction began, and in July 1910, Bishop Leo Haid, vicar apostolic of North Carolina and Benedictine abbot, dedicated the new church, placing it under the patronage of St. James.

By the mid-1910s, the church had already experienced its first major renovation — it was moved a half-block after the town of Hamlet decided to extend its Main Street. The church property lay directly in the path of the proposed extension, and thus the church building was relocated.

Father Paul Termer became Hamlet's first resident Catholic pastor in 1919, the same year a rectory was built alongside the church. His pastorate lasted for 12 years.

The parish grew through the years, albeit slowly, and the need for priests in the area became more widespread. Less than 20 miles to the northeast of Hamlet, Camp Mackall was established in the town of Hoffman during World War II. In addition to the regular Hamlet parishioners, priests celebrated Mass for the servicemen, not only in St. James Church but also in local movie houses and a funeral home chapel.

An increase in seating capacity and the addition of a choir loft highlighted remodeling work in later years. In 1967, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate arrived in Hamlet to begin a pastorate that extended into the 1980s.

Parish and community ministries have been established and developed during the past few decades, including volunteering at the local soup kitchen and assisting the elderly in the area.

**SAINT JAMES CHURCH**
1018 West Hamlet Avenue
Hamlet, N.C. 28345
(910) 582-0207

**Vicariate:** Albemarle
**Pastor:** Benedictine Right Rev. Patrick Shelton
**Parochial Vicar:** Benedictine Father David Draim
**Number of Households:** 110

Benedictine Right Rev. Patrick Shelton

In 1983, the parish purchased a house located behind the church and began utilizing it as a parish hall and for religious education classes. The hall was dedicated to Oblate Father Fred Gilbert, who served St. James Church from 1972 until 1986. Father Gilbert played a key role in establishing a building fund that would serve the St. James Church community in the years to come.

Another expansion for the parish came in 1985. With the help of Father Gilbert and the hope of building a new church, the parish purchased just over eight acres next to Richmond County Community College on Highway 74. Plans became reality in November 1989, when Bishop (later Archbishop) John F. Donoghue of Charlotte dedicated the newly constructed St. James Church during the pastorate of Father Myles Quail.

That same year, the original church building on Main Street was sold to a Hamlet area resident, who remodeled the sanctuary and rectory into a restaurant.

Father William Evans assumed the pastorate of St. James Church in July 1997, by which year the parish had established a Knights of Columbus council, Altar Society, Over 50 Club and choir, in addition to the parish and finance councils that assist the operations of the parish.

PHOTO BY GEORGE N. COBB

St. James Church in Hamlet was dedicated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue of Charlotte in November 1989.

Since July 1998, Benedictine Right Rev. Patrick Shelton has served as pastor, and Benedictine Father David Draim has served as parochial vicar.

Like so many churches throughout the diocese today, St. James has an ever-growing Hispanic population — the majority of whom came from Mexico. Under the leadership of Father Draim, Spanish-language Masses began in 1998 and continue to serve the more than 150 Hispanic households regularly attending St. James Church.

In September 2002, the parish celebrated Mexican Independence Day with a bilingual Mass and a fiesta.

With the generous donations and hard work of parishioners, the church's mortgage was burned in January 2003. In November 2003, more than 180 people attended St. James Church's annual fall education fundraiser, that year titled "Ancestral Festival" and designed to bring together all of the parish's nationalities.

Today, St. James Church is an active parish, with 110 households and approximately 100 children attending faith formation classes. The parish annual pork and chicken barbecue, held on Feb. 6 this year, has become a popular event enjoyed by both parishioners and the Richmond County community.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: St. Margaret Church
| PAGE 16

FEBRUARY 13, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 20

A MATTER OF MARRIAGE

## Archbishop of Boston finds expanded ruling on gay marriage 'troubling'

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON — Boston Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley said the Supreme Judicial Court's expanded ruling on gay marriage is "more troubling" than its initial decision.

The court's Nov. 18 decision struck down Massachusetts' opposite-sex-only marriage laws, but the new ruling, issued Feb. 4, declared that same-sex couples have the right to get married.

The 4-3 ruling, delivered in an advisory opinion sought by the state Senate, "clearly demonstrates the overly activist stance of the four-judge majority," said the archbishop in a Feb. 5 statement. He also said the justices who issued the opinion "seem determined to blur the constitutional separation of powers and to usurp the rightful role of the Legislature."

After the November ruling, the state Senate was considering a bill that would have given same-sex couples all the "protections, benefits and obligations of civil marriage" but would have called the unions something else. But, before voting on the measure, the Senate asked the court if the bill would comply with its Nov. 18 ruling. In its Feb. 4 opinion, the court said no.

"This court's majority answer deserves a commensurately strong response," added Archbishop O'Malley.

See MARRIAGE, page 13

KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE

## MACS trains staff to save lives

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For most children, a bee sting leads to a few tears and pain for an hour or so. But for some, insect bites or exposure to certain plants and foods can lead to an allergic reaction characterized by anxiety, hives, difficulty breathing, vomiting or worse.

For the past year, teachers and faculty members of Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) have been trained to be first responders in just such a case. Each school is required to have five trained adults, but most have seven or eight responders.

The first step in forming the MACS First Responder Team was to change state legislation, allowing non-medical personnel to treat people suffering an allergic reaction.

Paula Knish, a registered nurse for MACS and Kathie Holder, RN, MSN and MACS health director, worked with

See MACS, page 8

A CONVICTION TO SERVICE

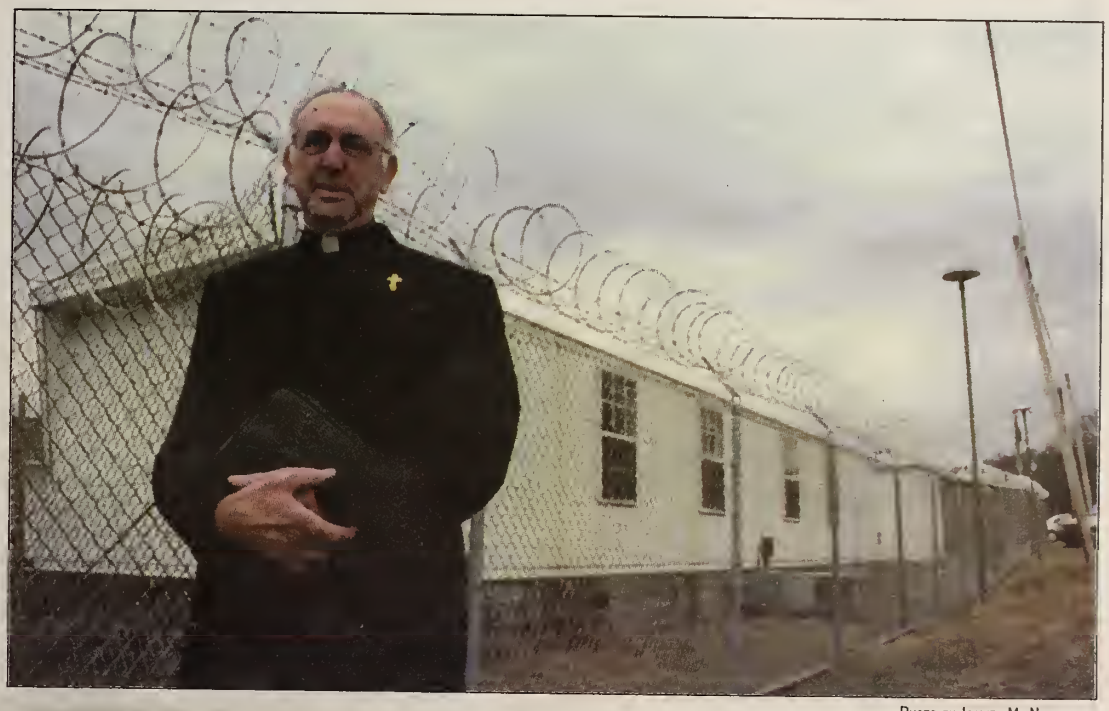

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe stands outside the Carolina Department of Correction's minimum-security facility in Waynesville. The permanent diaconate now spearheads the prison ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

## To be the hands of Christ

*Permanent deacons fill vital roles in parishes and diocese*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series, "A Look Inside," that explores the various departments and ministries of the Diocese of Charlotte.*

CHARLOTTE — For almost 20 years, permanent deacons have provided vital extra pairs of hands for churches in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The permanent diaconate is an 'enabling ministry,'" said Rev. Mr. Andrew Cilone, the permanent deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City and the Hickory region vicar for the permanent diaconate.

"Permanent deacons ease the burden of the parish priest by taking on some of the work he can't handle," he said.

These servants of the Catholic Church may be found performing baptisms, marriages, assisting at the altar at Mass, serving as RCIA and marriage preparation teachers, serving on parish councils and in various other parish and diocesan duties. The Diocese of Charlotte has 74 permanent deacons in service the Catholic Church.

Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, is also the coordinator of the diocesan permanent diaconate.

"I never looked at myself in a leadership role for the diaconate," he said. "However, the Holy Spirit had his way and that is why I am here now. I find it very rewarding."

A deacon is an ordained minister in the Catholic Church and is one of the three forms of the sacrament of Holy Orders, the origins of which can be found in the Acts of the Apostles.

Both permanent and transitional deacons are ordained into the one order of deacon. A transitional deacon is a man who is to be ordained a priest and is referred to as a transitional deacon, because he is in the

See DIACONATE, page 9

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**Cardiac care**
*Knights donate emergency equipment*
| PAGE 4

**Making strides**
*MACS students collect shoes*
| PAGE 5

**Culture Watch**
*'Passion' controversy continues to grow*
| PAGE 11

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## NOT JUST FOR THE BIRDS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A 2-year-old Vietnamese boy, suspected of having contracted bird flu, breathes through a respirator at the National Pediatric Hospital in Hanoi Feb. 5. Vietnam has seen the highest number of human deaths — 11 as of Feb. 5 — from one strain of bird flu. Millions of poultry in several Asian countries have caught the disease.

# Vatican official says human life, not profit, top goal of health care

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Modern medical crises like AIDS and a new strain of Asian bird flu challenge the health care community to set aside the profit motive and show new forms of solidarity with the suffering, a top Vatican cardinal said.

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers, said patent rights over anti-AIDS drugs, for example, may not be legitimate in places like Africa, where millions of people face death.

"Patents (on medicines) are legitimate, for reasons of scientific research and for a just profit margin. But, like all private property, there is a social mortgage on these patents," Cardinal Lozano said at a Vatican press conference Feb. 5.

"Where human life is at stake, the right of private property ends," he said.

Cardinal Lozano noted the annual cost of effective AIDS medicines already has gone down drastically, from some $15,000 to about $350 per patient. That is important progress, but it is still too high a price for many Africans to pay, he said.

The cardinal said governments should work with international commerce officials and others to find new solutions, so that in the worst situations AIDS medicines can be provided free of charge. In some African countries, he said, the rate of AIDS infection approaches 40 percent.

Commenting on the recent emergence of a deadly avian flu in Asia, Cardinal Lozano said it was another sign that modern globalization should include health care strategies and not simply economic agreements.

International cooperation and solidarity are needed because "microbes and viruses know no borders," he said.

"This avian flu demonstrates once again that we're all in the same boat, we're all in the same world, and what strikes in Vietnam can strike in Argentina, Mexico, Italy or Poland," he said.

That's all the more reason, he said, that the actions of the health and drug industry should be driven "not only by profits, but also by the real possibility of serving humanity."

He said the bird flu also illustrated the need for effective global health monitoring and, when needed, controls on human migration — but without eroding the natural right of people to migrate.

The Vatican press conference highlighted the program for the World Day of the Sick, celebrated in Lourdes, France, Feb. 9-11. Various church experts addressed topics related to European health care and bioethics issues.

# Catholic leaders say passage of foreign aid funding a victory

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' conference and Catholic Relief Services called the amount of foreign aid funding included in an omnibus appropriations bill signed into law Jan. 23 a significant victory.

The $328 billion measure to fund federal agencies included close to $17.6 billion for foreign aid. Of that, $2.4 billion was designated for programs to fight AIDS and other infectious diseases, and $1 billion was targeted for the Millennium Challenge Account, a new development program focused on helping poor countries fight poverty.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services had been pushing for higher levels of funding than were included in appropriations bills approved by the House. The final version passed by the Senate Jan. 22 and signed by President Bush the next day was closer to the higher amounts in the Senate's original bill than the lower amounts in the House version.

A statement issued by the two church entities said the foreign aid appropriation "marks a significant victory for our development assistance priorities and contains the largest increase in developmental and civilian foreign aid programs in four decades."

In a November letter to members of Congress, Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Policy, and Ken Hackett, CRS president, said "meeting these national commitments to the poor in our world is not just a matter of dollars, but one of moral responsibility."

The appropriations bill was finalized nearly four months after the start of the 2004 fiscal year.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A four-part series, *"Understanding Your Late Life Choices,"* will be presented at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Thursdays Feb. 5-26, 10-11:30 a.m. Topics will include protecting your home and assets, housing and in-home care, Medicare/Medicaid and long-term care. For reservations, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — Totty Lee of Hospice of Charlotte will present *"Children and Grief"* Feb. 18, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. All are invited to learn how death impacts children. Topics covered will be how children understand death at different ages, how children grieve, what to say and not to say to help children and how families can work together to heal after a loss. For more information, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 704-364-5431 ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — Learn why saving sex for marriage is loving, life- and soul-saving advice in a special presentation for parents, pastors, counselors, teachers, youth directors and young adults. Jason Evert, Catholic apologist, will present *"Romance without Regret"* at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Diane Hoefling, St. Vincent de Paul Respect Life coordinator/Catholic Schools pro-life volunteer at (704) 541-3760 or email @ rhoef541@aol.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Life Teen program of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will sponsor a free seminar, *"Let's Talk Money"* Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. The seminar will address what parents and teens need to know about financial stewardship, including establishing good credit, avoiding financial pitfalls and financial independence. For more information, contact Debra Lemmon at (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday Scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy the third Monday of each month at 7:3

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican sends draft of minicatechism to cardinals for review

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has completed a draft of a 150-page minicatechism and is sending the text to cardinals and bishops' conferences for review, a Vatican source said.

Pope John Paul II commissioned the shorter, simpler version of the 865-page "Catechism of the Catholic Church" last year, and a 10-member commission has been working on the text since March.

Over the next few months, the commission will consider the input of cardinals and bishops' conferences, and a final draft is expected later this year.

The minicatechism outlines church teachings in four parts, under the headings of profession of faith, sacraments, commandments and prayer, the source said.

The pope asked for the minicatechism at the suggestion of several bishops. One of them, Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, Austria, who helped write the longer catechism more than a decade ago, said the current volume of more than 2,800 articles of church teaching was too ponderous for many Catholics.

In constituting the commission last year, the pope said there seemed to be a widespread desire for "a brief compendium containing all the fundamental elements of Catholic faith and morals, formulated in a simple and clear manner."

The pope said the new, shorter text would "faithfully mirror" the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and would be "an authoritative, sure and complete synthesis."

p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians* Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 18 and March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will meet Tuesdays in February. Speakers include Sister Antonette Schmidt, Abbot Placid Solari, Bishop William Curlin and Terry Aiken of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. Theology on Tap meets at "Anton's" on Battleground Ave. 7 p.m. Contact greensborotot@yahoo.com for more information.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church, 42 Newfound Rd., will conduct one-hour sessions each Thursday through Feb. 26 on *"The Precepts of the Catholic Church."* Sessions will start at noon — bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Discussions are open to anyone who wants to know more about church teachings or to review what you learned many years ago. For more information, call Dot and Chuck Luce at (828) 648-7369.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. This four-part series will meet Sundays at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 15-March 7, at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican yearbook reflects appointments, statistics from 2003

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In addition to naming 30 new cardinals in 2003, Pope John Paul II named 175 new bishops around the world and created 19 new dioceses.

The new titles, names, addresses and local statistics are listed in the Vatican's 2004 yearbook, the Annuario Pontificio.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and personnel from the Vatican's Central Office of Church Statistics presented the first copy of the 2004 volume to Pope John Paul Feb. 3.

The book, which runs more than 2,000 pages, usually goes on sale in late February.

The names of the world's cardinals and bishops in the new volume reflect the situation as of Dec. 31, 2003, while the statistics on the number of Catholics, priests, religious, seminarians and parishes refer to data solicited Dec. 31, 2002, from every diocese in the world.

According to the Vatican, at the end of 2002 there were more than 1.07 billion Catholics in the world, an increase of 11 million over the previous year.

Out of a world population of more than 6.2 billion people, it said, Catholics account for 17.2 percent.

The Vatican said 50 percent of the world's Catholics live in the Americas; 26.1 percent are in Europe; 12.8 percent are in Africa; 10.3 percent live in Asia; and 0.8 percent live in Oceania.

Comparing the number of Catholics to the general population in each region, the Vatican said Catholics make up 62.4 percent of the population in the Americas, 40.5 percent of the European population, 26.8 percent of the population in Oceania, 16.5 percent of the African population and 3 percent of the Asian population.

At the end of 2002, there were 405,058 Catholics priests in the world, only nine fewer than at the end of 2001, the Vatican said.

The number of diocesan priests rose from 266,448 in 2001 to 267,334 in 2002, while the number of priests in religious orders declined from 138,619 in 2001 to 137,724 in 2002.

The Vatican also reported there were 4,695 Catholic bishops, 30,097 permanent deacons, 54,828 religious brothers and 782,932 religious women at the end of 2002.

The Vatican reported the number of major seminarians rose from 112,244 in 2001 to 112,982 in 2002. In the Americas, seminary enrollment increased by 1.4 percent.

# Together in faith

CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

**Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict pray at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, N.Y., on World Day for Consecrated Life Feb. 8. The observance celebrates the way of life chosen by religious priests, sisters and brothers working in parishes, schools, hospitals, shelters and other areas.**

## Corrections

Father Joseph Kelleher, who served Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, was unintentionally not included in the Jan. 23 Parish Profile of the church. We apologize for the oversight.

Principal Virginia Hutton of Asheville Catholic School was misidentified in Feb. 6 photo caption. The correct individual was artist Norma Bradley.

# Knights contribute cardiac care

## *Council donates emergency equipment to parish*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — The parishioner went as white as the proverbial sheet and keeled over. Was it a fainting spell or sudden cardiac death?

An emergency medical crew arrived within a few minutes and the person went home from the hospital the same day. It was one of several such incidents in the past few years, and parishioners at St. Margaret Church wondered if there was some way to help an unconscious person before an ambulance arrives.

Turns out that there is.

The church's Father William M. Murphy Council of the Knights of Columbus has donated $2,600 worth of emergency equipment — a Powerheart AED (automated external defibrillator) and an oxygen and suction kit.

"If we'd had this (during the fainting spell), I'd have made a beeline for it," said Jasay Ketchum, the council's deputy grand knight. "It could be anybody (who would need it). As a service organization of the church, we just decided to do it."

The knights hold fundraising events such as parish suppers throughout the year and are setting aside 40 percent of the proceeds to pay for the equipment. So, in effect, parishioners are helping to pay for equipment that might save their lives one day.

"If someone has an abnormal heart rhythm, if you can use this in the first couple of minutes, they have a much better chance of survival; this is better than CPR," said Dr. David Peterson, a cardiologist and St. Margaret parishioner.

The AED is used, he said, when a person collapses, is unresponsive, has no pulse and is not breathing.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Cardiologist Dr. David Peterson (second from left) points out features of the Powerheart AED to fellow parishioners Nick D'Anna (left), Joan Mulligan and dentist Dr. Joe Yurko.**

Sudden cardiac death (SCD), also known as sudden cardiac arrest, can happen to anyone. A February 2002 article from the Centers for Disease Control stated that in North Carolina in 1999, of the 19,299 people who died of cardiac disease, 117 were SCD-related for ages 0-34; 2,459 for ages 35-64; and 9,189 for those 65 and older.

"Coronary artery disease is the No. 1 killer of both men and women in this country; 40 percent of all deaths of men and women in this country are caused by cardiovascular disease," Peterson said. "That's why you'll be finding these AEDs. Some airlines have them."

Peterson explained the AED's features at a briefing in the church hall, but anyone, with or without medical training, can use the equipment.

The bright yellow AED weighs about 10 pounds. Open the lid and an automated voice instructs, "Place electrodes on patient's bare chest."

A picture inside the lid shows where the two electrodes should go: one on the right upper chest, the other on the left lower chest. The electrodes should not be placed over a pacemaker, but most pacemakers are in the upper left chest, away from the electrodes.

Even with those electrodes in place, the patient won't get the shock if he or she doesn't need it. The manufacturer says on its Web site that the AED "automatically monitors the patient's cardiac rhythm and determines if the patient requires a defibrillation shock. ... The noncommitted feature will not allow shock delivery if the rhythm changes to nonshockable."

If defibrillation is indicated, the AED leads the rescuer, step by step, through the procedure.

The unit is powered by a nonrechargeable battery that lasts about five years, tests itself daily and sounds an alarm if it needs to be replaced.

"When you have groups of people together, at some point you're going to need it," Peterson said. "It's your best chance of survival."

"I think it's an excellent idea that we have it," said parishioner Joan Mulligan, who attended the briefing. "All churches should have it. These things save lives, and sometimes you only have a few minutes to do that."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# Making strides, one foot at a time

## *MACS students kick off shoe drive to help needy families*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholic students are joining forces to bring soles to souls.

The eight Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) kicked off their "Shoe of Hope" collection drives Feb. 2. Samaritan's Feet is sponsoring the drives in the Catholic schools in celebration of Black History Month this month.

"We are very excited for the opportunity to help needy families through this shoe collection drive," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

"We often encourage our students to become involved in community service, and through Samaritan's Feet 'Shoe of Hope' collection drive, our students will not only participate by giving, but many of them will benefit from the experience of leading and organizing the shoe drive at their respective schools," she said.

Samaritan's Feet barrels have been set up in the MACS schools to receive donated shoes through Feb. 25.

"We are very excited about our partnership with the Mecklenburg Area Catholic School system and their willingness to help us put shoes on the feet of impoverished people," said Emmanuel Ohonme, founder and president of Samaritan's Feet. "Together, we can change lives right here in Charlotte as well as around the world."

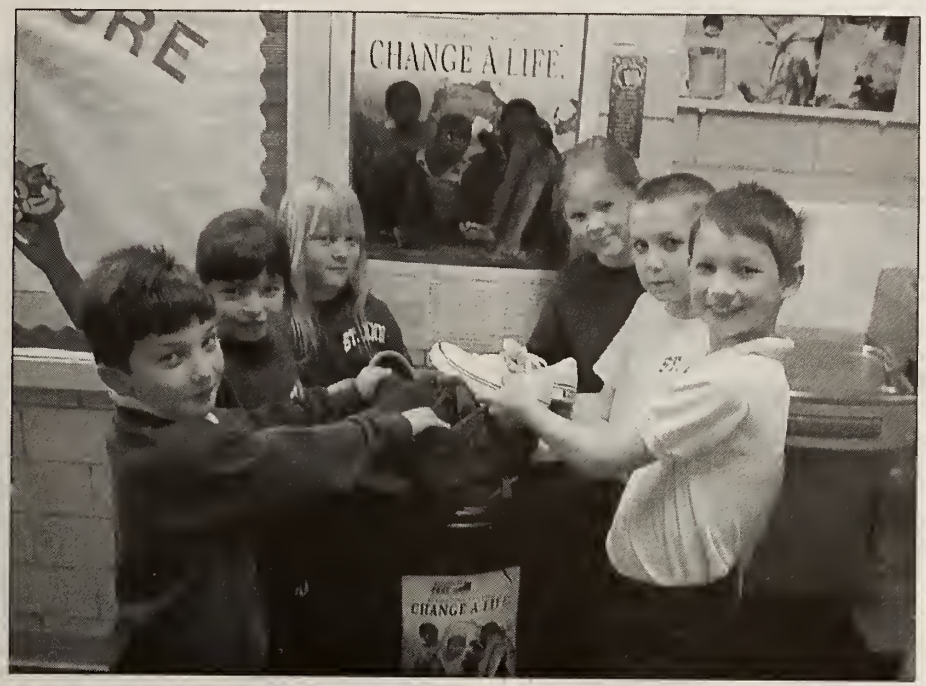


PHOTO BY MIKE FORD

**Students at St. Ann School sort shoes donated to the school's Samaritan's Feet "Shoe of Hope" collection drive.**

Samaritan's Feet is a Charlotte-based humanitarian and interfaith evangelical organization dedicated to providing shoes for the feet of impoverished families in the United States and the world.

"Many children around the world lack the basic necessities and conveniences we take for granted as part of growing up," said Ohonme. "Something as simple as a pair of shoes to us is a gift that will speak volumes to them and possibly change their lives forever."

Ohonme, a Nigerian native, conceived the idea for Samaritan's Feet more than four years ago. His life was changed when, at the age of nine, he received his first pair of shoes from a "Good Samaritan" from Wisconsin who visited Ohonme's hometown of Lagos. Ohonme went on to participate in sports and eventually earned a full sports scholarship to attend the University of North Dakota.

In November and December 2003, Samaritan's Feet shoe drives in Charlotte and Concord collected several hundred pairs of shoes that were sent to benefit needy families in Guyuna, South America and the Ukraine.

When the shoes reach the families, the missionaries wash the feet of the recipients, just as Jesus did with his disciples, and then pray with them.

"Our mission is to progressively touch the lives of people with a message of hope, while meeting their physical needs," said Ohonme. "Partnering with organizations like MACS will help us to accomplish that mission."

At St. Ann School in Charlotte, the two barrels filled up the first week and "they're almost full again," said Sister Helene Nagle, a Sister of St. Joseph and school principal. "And the shoes coming in are nice."

"Students are crawling around their closets for shoes to donate, and adults are bringing in shoes," she said. "There are as many adult pairs as there are children's."

When Ohonme visited St. Ann School to tell the students about Samaritan's Feet, he found that most students owned six to seven pairs of shoes, said Sister Nagle.

"There are thousands of children in Africa who have never owned shoes, and many adults who don't have them," she said. "That impacted the students."

In correlation with the shoe collection drives in Charlotte and Black History Month, a Harambee Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte Feb. 5, with Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, as celebrant. Ohonme and students from Our Lady of the Assumption School and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte attended the Mass.

In April, the Diocese of Charlotte will support the Samaritan's Mile run to begin at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte Easter Saturday, April 10.

**WANT TO DONATE?**

New or gently used shoes, sneakers or tennis shoes can be donated in Samaritan's Feet barrels available in all MACS schools until Feb. 25. For more information, call (704) 370-3361.

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# Volunteer honored for exceptional service

*Annual award named after St. Gabriel parishioner*

CHARLOTTE — Genevieve Keller was honored for making a difference.

Keller, an active parishioner at St. Gabriel Church, was named the 2003 recipient of the Mary Catherine Kearney Volunteer Emeritus Award by Crisis Assistance Ministry.

"Genevieve has single-handedly kept the file room at Crisis Assistance Ministry in tiptop shape for the past 12 years, and was responsible for recruiting many Crisis Assistance Ministry volunteers from St. Gabriel Church," said Melissa Raphael, congregation liaison for Crisis Assistance Ministry.

Established in 1975, Crisis Assistance Ministry is a nonprofit agency that provides eviction prevention, basic household necessities and counseling to individuals and families in Mecklenburg County. Its mission is to provide assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

"Her indomitable spirit, devotion to St. Gabriel and love of Crisis Assistance Ministry kept her coming every week until physical ailments prohibited her from making the trip uptown," said Raphael.

Keller, president of the St. Gabriel Women's Club, has taught Bible class for 14 years and is a past member of the parish Altar Society, the Church Mice and the Parish Evaluation Commission.

Crisis Assistance Ministry named the annual award for Mary Catherine Kearney after her death to honor volunteers for exemplary service and extraordinary commitment during their years as active volunteers.

Kearney, a St. Gabriel Church parishioner, volunteered at Crisis Assistance Ministry every week for 25 years. The agency estimates Kearney helped prevent home eviction and utility disconnection for more than 3,600 families.

"Mary Catherine Kearney was a great person," said Caroline Love Myers, past director and founder of Crisis Assistance Ministry. "Clients responded to her beautifully. She had a real feeling for the people she cared for."

An active member of many parish ministries, Kearney attended daily Mass at St. Gabriel Church and was treasurer of the St. Vincent de Paul Association for 15 years.

"These two women donated their time and passion for those less fortunate in uncountable ways," said Raphael. "Their devotion to God, their church and humankind is a testament to their basic goodness and to the many lives they have touched."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

More information about Crisis Assistance Ministry is available online at www.crisisassistance.org.

# 'Hearts for the Community'

*Parishioners raise fellowship, funds for others*

GREENSBORO — More than 260 parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro attended the "Hearts for the Community" dinner and auction at a local restaurant Feb. 7.

The fellowship event helped raise $25,000, with all proceeds going to area community agencies that were already receiving funds through regular parish budget allocations. Parishioners wanted to increase the parish donations due to concerns the economy was resulting in fewer financial donations to these agencies.

"A group of parishioners came together to accept the challenge and they in turn sought out other parishioners to help them attain their specific part of the challenge," said Joan Lauterbach, co-chairperson of the Hearts of the Community event.

"I am delighted at the tremendous response to this endeavor," said Oblate Father Tom Murphy, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church. "It enables St. Paul the Apostle to continue to be an active participant in the life of our civic community."

"In doing this, we live the Gospel imperative to give to others and also experience the Gospel reality of what an individual receives when he or she gives of themselves to others," he said.

Donated auction items included time at vacation homes; jewelry; artwork; professional services of accountants and financial planners; swimming lessons; a catered meal by a local chef; and an airplane flight over Greensboro.

"... Two hundred sixty-five parishioners came together to fulfill the mission statement of the event, which was 'to raise money for the needy of the community and to build community within the parish,'" said Lauterbach. "Everyone said that Hearts for the Community was St. Paul's (Church) at its best."

COURTESY PHOTO

Oblate Father Tom Murphy, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro chats with parishioners during the parish "Hearts for the Community" dinner and auction Feb. 7.

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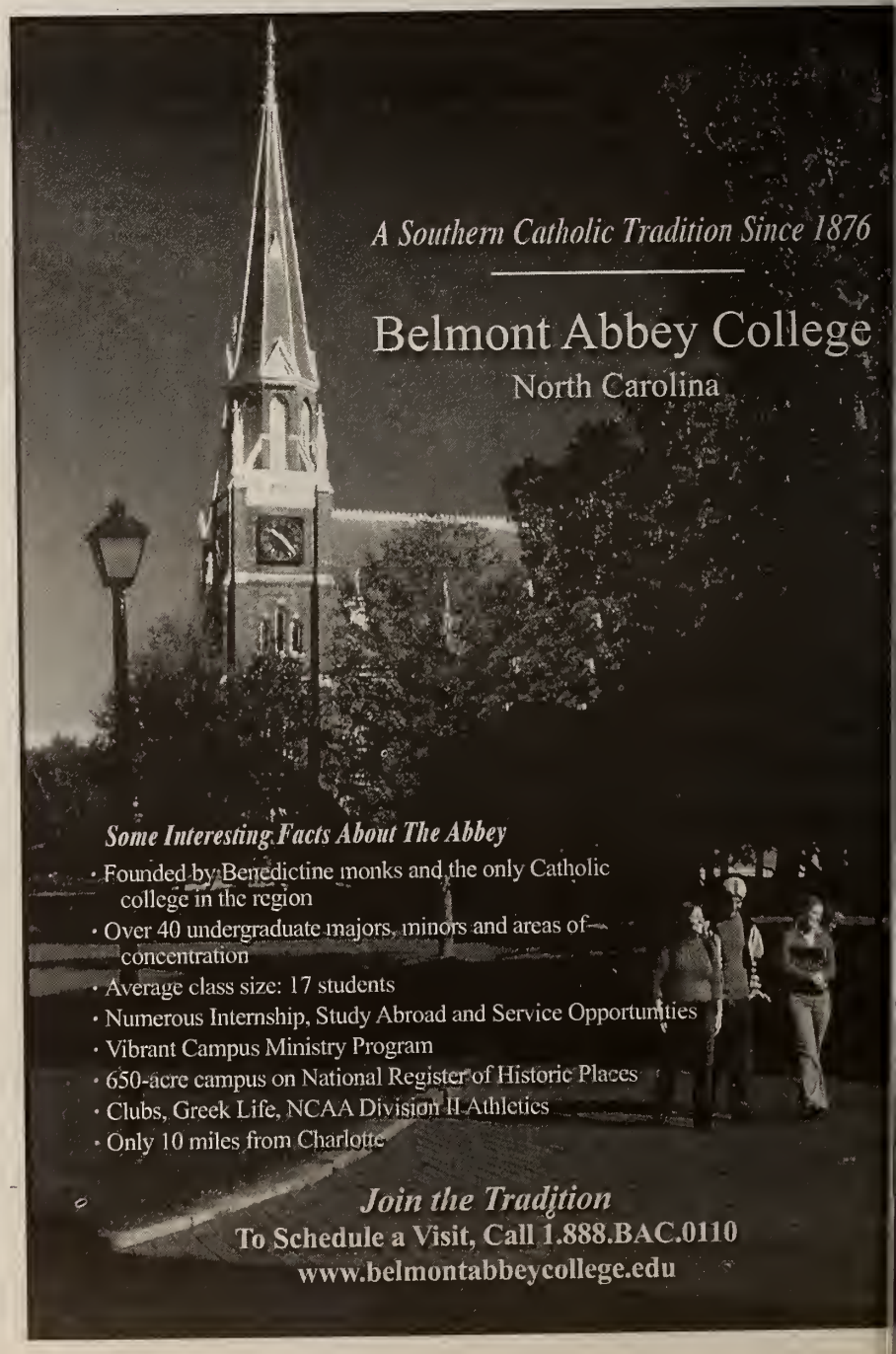

# A shepherd of the children

## *Bishop Jugis visits St. Gabriel School*

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis paid a special visit to St. Gabriel School Jan. 14.

The St. Gabriel Faith Advisory Committee sponsored the bishop's visit, which brought a spirit of celebration to the school in anticipation of Catholic Schools Week.

Gathering in the cafeteria, students and faculty welcomed the bishop with songs and tokens of admiration, including a St. Gabriel School rain jacket, a pottery platter painted by the students, various school logo items, cards made by students and a book written by second-graders.

After the reception, Bishop Jugis toured the school and visited each classroom.

"The coolest thing about it was that he came to our class and let every one of us shake his hand and introduce ourselves. We met him one by one," said fourth-grader Sydney Oakley.

"How often does one get to meet a bishop personally, much less shake his hand and be called by name?" asked Mary Jo Reding, a fourth-grade teacher.

Reding's religion class was working on a Second Commandment project during the bishop's visit. Bishop Jugis joined in the project, which required students to learn the meaning of their names and write it on a "Called by Name" poster in the classroom.

"He was nice and friendly and spiritual. I think he will be a good bishop," said fourth-grader Brian Doyle.

Fourth-grader Laura Rudnicki was most impressed when the bishop learned the meaning of his name — Peter: the rock — and listed it on the classroom's poster.

"When he was about to leave, he blessed us," said fourth-grader Alyssa Theysohn. "I hope he comes again soon."

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with students during his visit to St. Gabriel School in Charlotte Jan. 14.

HISTORIC JOURNEY

COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro perform a colonial-era dance during the school's Colonial Fair Jan. 23.

# Catholic school students experience colonial life

GREENSBORO — Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro recently went colonial.

Fourth- and fifth-graders, attired in period costumes, participated in a Colonial Fair Jan. 23, during which the students explored life during colonial times in the United States.

Volunteers from Greensboro's Tannenbaum Historic Park, which highlights life in North Carolina before, during and after the Revolutionary War's Battle of Guilford Courthouse, acted as tour guides on the students' journey into the past.

Harold Gunn, the park's programs coordinator, led the students in games including "Fox and Hound" and "Blind Man's Bluff." Other park volunteers led the students in a colonial-era dance and helped them weave through a "human loom."

Parents worked with the students pounding flower petals on muslin to produce dyed material that was then filled with potpourri. They also made their own "cup and ball" colonial toy, and competed to see who had the best aim.

A highlight of the afternoon was a snack of cornbread, gingersnaps and mulled cider, and students tasted the butter they had made the day before.


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Photo by Karen A. Evans

Ted Morgan, a fifth-grade teacher at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, demonstrates the administration of the EpiPen on second-grader Grace O'Brien.

# Staff saving lives

MACS, *from page 1*

North Carolina Rep. Martha Alexander to enact legislation HB 1508, "Bioterrorism Preparedness," which reads: "Establish standards and criteria for the education and credentialing of persons trained to administer lifesaving treatment to a person who suffers a severe adverse reaction to agents that might cause anaphylaxis."

Knish is motivated by her five children, all of whom have severe allergies. Although the Knish family is well prepared for emergencies, she realized that many families and staff members would be unprepared for an allergic crisis.

"For example, what if a child with no known allergies stumbled into a yellow jacket nest and develops hives and respiratory distress?" she said. "The MACS program trains staff to become competent and confident in just such a situation."

A *New England Journal of Medicine*, study said 10 of 13 fatal or near-fatal anaphylactic reactions in children occurred outside of the home.

Knish read an article citing the increase in the number of people who were subject to severe allergic reactions and she recognized the need for a change in the way Catholic schools were equipped to handle incidents of such reactions.

"There are two groups of people," said Knish. "Those who know they have allergies and know the response protocol, and everyone else."

That "everyone else" group is the concern for the medical community. According to *The Merck Manual*, if a person is not treated for an allergic reaction within a few minutes, they cango into anaphylactic shock, a severe and sometimes fatal reaction to a specific antigen, such as wasp venom or penicillin, after a previous reaction.

MACS First Responders are trained to react to such an emergency in the absence of the school nurse. They learn to recognize the causes and symptoms of allergic reactions and respond accordingly. Responders attend a "refresher class" each year to keep their training current.

The first step in treatment is the administration of epinephrine with an EpiPen, an auto-injector that administers epinephrine, the definitive emergency treatment for severe allergic reactions. Immediate treatment is critical, as children progress very quickly to a life-threatening situation, due to their small airways and small fluid volume.

After administering the EpiPen, responders then enlist other people, if available, to assist them by calling 911, notifying the student's parents and monitoring the child's breathing and pulse.

Once a responder is trained and credentialed by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to administer epinephrine, they can treat anyone, anywhere, in the absence of qualified medical personnel, said Knish.

Knish said there hasn't been an incidence of an allergic reaction since the protocol was instituted. Still, her goal is to train more people.

The program was developed in consultation with pediatricians, allergists, pulmonologists, emergency room physicians and the North Carolina Department of Emergency Medical Services and the North Carolina Office of Public Health. The program follows guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and Knish confers with individual physicians at the AAP to ensure that the program conforms to the latest standards of practice.

The MACS protocol is currently being expanded to include training in the use of Automated External Defibrillators at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The program has been nominated for a national award, the Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill, made by the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA).

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# Deacons fill vital church roles

DIACONATE, *from page 1*

process of transition to priesthood. Men who are ordained deacons and remain in that state for the rest of their lives are permanent deacons.

The diaconate flourished during the second and third centuries, but soon began to decline due to the growing tension between the Presbyteria and the diaconate, the various monasteries taking over some of the deacons' charitable responsibilities and other factors.

By the seventh century, deacons in the western church became a transitional step toward priesthood and the role of the deacon became primarily liturgical.

In 1964, the Second Vatican Council decreed that the diaconate could be restored as a permanent and separate rank in the Latin rite and that married men could be ordained to this rank. Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate in 1967.

The ordained deacon's call to service allows him to function as a minister of the Word (in preaching, catechetical instruction, retreat ministry and counseling); to be a visible reminder of the link between liturgy and the church's service to others in Jesus' name; and to serve the parish in those areas in which he is most adept.

### *A long journey*

Men who aspire to be deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte share many things, but perhaps none is more important than patience. In this diocese, candidates for the diaconate go through approximately six-and-a-half years of diaconate training.

"The church is always open to those who feel the Lord has given them a calling to ordained life," said Rev. Mr. Wenning. "The process needs to start with their pastor and discerning the call."

The application process is extensive, involving interviewing, collection of data, credentials and recommendations. After the application process is complete, candidates for the permanent diaconate enter aspirancy, the initial step in the diaconate process.

Elements of aspirancy include understanding and appreciation of the diaconate vocation; prayer and formation in Liturgy of the Hours, the official liturgical prayers sanctifying the part of each day; spiritual direction; introduction to the history, spirituality and ministry of the deacon; and introduction to the pastoral ministries of the diocesan church. For about six months, aspirants prayerfully reflect on their call to the ministry. The academic phase of the training begins soon after for those who are selected to continue.

Minimum requirements for aspirants include being a Catholic for at least five years, "over (age) 35 and under 60," and, Rev. Mr. Wenning added with a laugh, "tolerance for lots of study."

Once ordained, permanent deacons may perform many of the sacramental ministries of the church except consecration of the Eucharist, anointing of the sick and reconciliation.

The permanent deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married. However, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. If a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination. Of the 13,000 deacons in the United States, more than 85 percent are married and have families.

### *A liberating ministry*

In July 2003, the permanent deacons of the diocese expanded their duties considerably by taking over the prison ministry program full time. Along with parishes throughout the diocese, deacons visit prisons on a regular basis to offer communion services, Bible studies and counseling to the residents of 32 of the 80 prisons located within the diocese's borders.

Each Monday at 6 p.m., a loudspeaker at the North Carolina Department of Correction's minimum-security facility in Waynesville announces that inmates are welcome to attend the Catholic service in a small white building that serves as the facility's chapel.

After Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe gives communion to the Catholic inmates, non-Catholics join them in a discussion based on the previous Sunday's Scriptures.

Rev. Mr. LaPointe gets to spend only an hour a week, but that hour is always filled with lively discussion.

"They ask a lot of questions, and they listen very intently," he said.

Rev. Mr. LaPointe started his prison ministry about six months ago. He used to drive Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, formerly the priest in residence at St. Margaret Church, to the prison but would wait outside, because he didn't have permission from prison officials to visit inmates. That started him thinking about getting involved in prison ministry himself.

Rev. Mr. Cilone said the inmates' sincere desire for change is what makes prison ministry so attractive to him. These are "men who, once they are in prison, start leaning towards religion and spirituality. They start reading the Bible," he continued.

Rev. Mr. Cilone said the prison ministry is not designed to convert prisoners to Catholicism, but rather to help them develop their spiritual lives and "let it take them wherever it takes them."

As a permanent deacon, "you have the opportunity to put faith into action in spite of individual failings or infidelities of the past," Rev. Mr. Wenning said. "For you are a reminder of Christ's love, grace and healing to all whom you serve."

*Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach contributed to this story.*

*The permanent diaconate is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*


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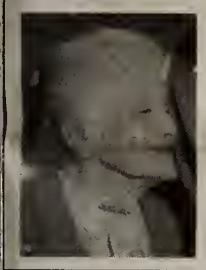

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two historical books paint dim pictures

REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. HAYES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Steps from the site of the World Trade Center is New York City's oldest Catholic parish, St. Peter's. The mother church of New York counts three parishioners who have had causes for their canonization made. Among these is Pierre Toussaint ,who was born a slave in Haiti in 1766 and died a free man in New York in 1807. His body now lies under the altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Toussaint is the subject of a new biography by Arthur Jones, an editor-at-large of the National Catholic Reporter. Apart from the formal biographical materials assembled for his

"Pierre Toussaint: A Biography," by Arthur Jones. Doubleday (New York, 2003). 342 pp., $24.95.

"The Habit: A History of the Clothing of Catholic Nuns," by Elizabeth Kuhns. Doubleday (New York, 2003). 228 pp., $23.95.

cause before the Congregation for Saints' Causes, it is the only book about Toussaint in the last 20 years.

One would think, then, that this work is to be welcomed, but its muddled style and inclusion of frankly banal stories from Toussaint's life makes the book both a difficult and tiresome read. The first third of the book is a highly speculative account of the Haiti of Toussaint's boyhood and hardly mentions him at all. Jones concentrates more on the family who "owned" the young man than on Toussaint himself. When he does emerge in the narrative, we get superficial details.

Jones may be too enamored of an earlier account of Toussaint, an 1854 memoir by Hannah F.S. Lee, who gushed over his virtues. Two hundred pages into this biography, I wondered if I learned anything about the substance of Toussaint's life.

While this is not a scholarly book, Jones makes some effort at reading over important documentation on Toussaint, principally several hundred surviving letters, though there is no citation or much cogent analysis. The remaining few chapters at last showed glimmers of promise. These focus on Toussaint's New York years, which included tragic familial and personal losses, as well as his own Herculean philanthropic endeavors, such as support for the first order of black nuns in America, the Oblate Sisters of Providence.

Meanwhile, it is sad to report that "The Habit: A History of the Clothing of Catholic Nuns," by Elizabeth Kuhns, is similarly a narrative that limps. She writes that the book is "a journalist's summary of an extremely complicated and far-reaching topic." With the possible exception of the first two chapters, I think the author has taken on more than she can handle.

Contrary to the title, this history rarely talks about their habits or goes into much depth about the meanings and origins of their apparel. In fact, there is so much extraneous clutter — from the story of the Greek chilton (hardly the progenitor of the nun's habit) to early male monastic rules to medieval knights to Cromwell's 17th-century campaign to subdue Catholic Ireland — that when we do find the author discussing the habit it is as if we are suddenly emerging from a fog. Add to this several tendentious historical details or outright inaccuracies, and the volume makes for a strange portrait of a highly variegated way of living the Christian calling.

As with the Jones volume, there are some redemptive qualities to Kuhns' work. First and foremost are 22 pages of photographs depicting the garb of several religious orders of women, including a contemporary snapshot of Franciscan School Sister Clare Korte of the biology department at St. Mary's University in Minnesota. She dons a lab coat. We also get some sense of the habit's symbolic transformation in the years leading up to and following the Second Vatican Council.

I cannot give either of these books unqualified endorsement. So it may be a rather unorthodox suggestion for a reviewer to ask the reader directly to consider taking the money that would have been used to purchase these items and, in the spirit of Pierre Toussaint himself, make a donation to the national Retirement Fund for Religious.

*More information is available on the Web site of the National Religious Retirement Office, http://www.usccb.org/nrro/index.htm.*

*Hayes teaches theology at Quincy University in Illinois.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 22, 2004

## *Feb. 22, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
3) Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Starting Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25), liturgical purple will shroud worship spaces around the world as we Christians begin our Lenten journey toward Easter once again. Yes, the major penitential season of the church year awaits us. Lent provides a time to ponder how we have missed the mark in our lives, but perhaps more important, it is a time to focus on the generosity of God's forgiveness and to compare our own attempts to forgive in the light of God's grace.

"Forgiveness," after all, is a common word in the English language. We know what it means — or do we? In Webster's New College Dictionary I went searching for "forgiveness," which means "to cease to feel resentment against an offender or to give up claim to requital for an insult."

In other words, for the dynamic of forgiveness to work, we have to let go of the pain in our hearts and quit carrying rage and anger that continually gnaw at the center of our being.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus challenges his disciples and us with his radical teaching of love and forgiveness. The good news, according to Jesus, is we do not have to do this sometimes incredibly difficult task of forgiving alone. God gives us the ultimate example of kindness, mercy and forgiveness in Jesus while at the same time Jesus himself reflects the amazing truths about God that assure us we are never alone in our struggles.

In fact, this God we experience as Father, Son and Holy Spirit — this God who created the universe yet knows each of us intimately — does not hold a grudge and does not want to zap us into oblivion for our sins. Jesus assures us that if we can return good for evil, if we can forgo being overly critical and condemning, if we can stop clinging to the pain of past injustices, if we can place all the baggage of our lives in his hands, we can know the peace of being forgiven and the certainty that God is truly with us.

The Lenten purple unfolds again this week, the sign of a penitential season. "Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you, in good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing." Jesus, the harbinger of joy, continually reminds us that it's all about grace.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 21**

**Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** James 1:1-11, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday (Seven Founders of the Servite Order)** James 1:12-18, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday,** James 1:19-27, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** James 2:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** James 2:14-24, Mark 8:34—9:1; **Saturday (St. Peter Damian),** James 3:1-12, Mark 9:2-13

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 28**

**Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday (St. Polycarp),** James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday After Ash Wednesday),** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Friday After Ash Wednesday),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday After Ash Wednesday),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

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# Interest in, controversy over 'Passion' movie continue to grow

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" nears its Feb. 25 release date, interest in the film grows, as well as the controversy surrounding it.

An unidentified source close to Gibson told *The New York Times* Feb. 4 that Gibson would pull the line "His blood be on us and on our children" from the final version of the movie. The line from Matthew's Gospel, also known as the "blood libel," has been used for centuries to legitimize violence against Jews.

The line had not been in a version of "The Passion of the Christ" screened in Washington in November, but it was inserted into a version shown Jan. 21 in Winter Park, Fla.

Inclusion of the line made the Jan. 21 screened version "worse than the first" version he had seen last August in Houston, said Rabbi A. James Rudin, senior interreligious adviser for the American Jewish Committee, in a Jan. 30 commentary published by Religion News Service.

Holy Names Sister Mary C. Boys, one of four Catholic scholars who reviewed a draft copy of the film script last year, told a Seattle University audience Feb. 1 that the scholars had never said Gibson or the film was anti-Semitic.

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON DISTRIBUTION

**Mel Gibson directs actor Jim Caviezel as Jesus during filming of "The Passion of the Christ."**

"We said the film could be used to promote anti-Semitism," Sister Boys said. "That distinction seems to have eluded them (critics of the scholars)."

Gibson has long insisted that neither he nor his movie is anti-Semitic.

In their statement last June, the scholars said, "In this era, when ancient Christian anti-Semitic motives are being circulated widely because of international conflict, any Christian producer of a dramatic presentation of the death of Jesus has a considerable moral responsibility."

Sister Boys said that large numbers of Christians persist in believing in the error that the Jews bear responsibility for Jesus' death despite statements to the contrary from many Christian denominations.

The Catholic Church's Second Vatican Council document on interreligious relations, "Nostra Aetate," declared, "Even though Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ, neither all Jews indiscriminately at that time, nor Jews today, can be charged with the crimes committed during his passion."

At the same time, she added, Jewish people lack an understanding of how deeply intertwined the stories of the Passion are in Christian identity.

"Jews and Christians talk past each other on a topic that has been a source of bitter division for centuries, led to violence against Jews and compromised the integrity of Christian proclamation of the Gospel," Sister Boys said.

Archbishop William J. Levada of San Francisco, in a column in the Jan. 30 issue of *Catholic San Francisco*, the archdiocesan newspaper, said that when he was the invited guest speaker at the local Anti-Defamation League's monthly luncheon "my Jewish dialogue partners expressed emotions of nervousness about any escalation of anti-Semitism as a result of this movie. They further placed before me a challenge: 'Archbishop, what are you going to do about this?'"

He said, "We ought to work together to ease the tensions that many feel over the prospect of 'The Passion.' We ought to do what we can to make sure that this movie does not contribute to anti-Semitic feelings, much less anti-Semitic actions."

Noting he had only seen a preview trailer for the film, Archbishop Levada said, "When I go to see it (the film), I hope it will be a spiritual experience. At the same time, I will try to see it through the eyes of my Jewish brothers and sisters as well. I hope that if they go to see the movie, they may try to see it through Christian eyes as well.

"And I hope that they will know that there are Christians committed to stand in solidarity with them against any resurgence of anti-Semitism in our own country or abroad."

Despite uncertainties over the movie's content and interpretation, many have rushed to embrace it.

The number of advance group tickets being ordered is said to be the biggest in the relatively short history of advance purchase of movie tickets. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, a supporter of Gibson and the movie, bought 1,200 tickets at $9.75 each and sold all of them at $5 each to its members.

Two members of a Texas Baptist church bought out an entire 20-screen movie theater to permit 6,000 people to see the movie after it opens.

Charles Robert Carner, a Catholic who directed the made-for-TV movie "Judas," which airs March 9 on ABC, told Catholic News Service he had been to a screening and called it "the best 'life of Christ' movie I've seen."

*Contributing to this story was Stephen Kent in Seattle.*

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# All dressed up at Our Lady of Mercy School

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Kindergarteners "disguised" as penguins and their teacher Debby Heaton and assistant Dianne Daniel during Catholic Schools Week in January at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem.

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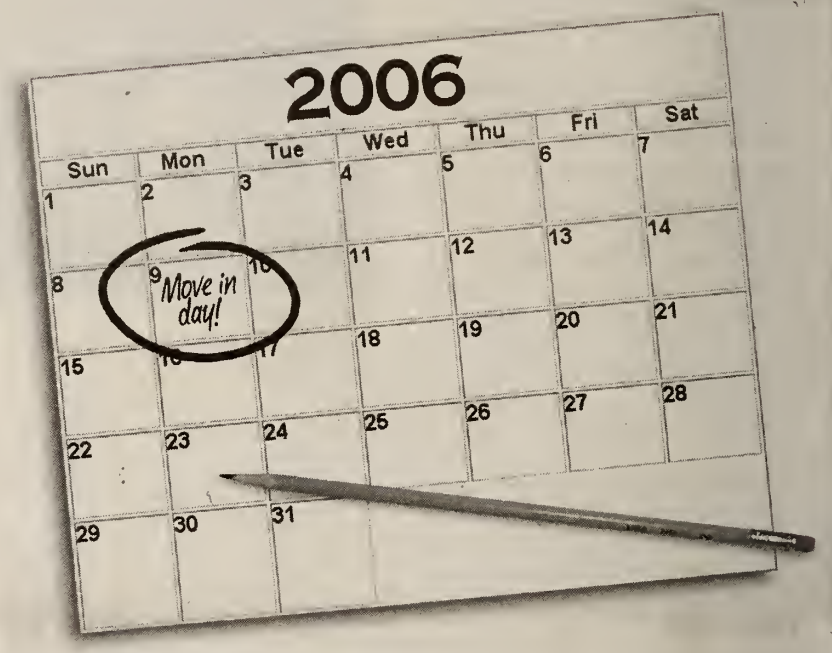


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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley addresses a rally of 3,000 people to defend traditional marriage Feb. 8 outside the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston.

# 'Troubling' marriage ruling

MARRIAGE, *from page 1*

He noted legislators "must reclaim their appropriate place in debating and enacting laws that address so fundamental a societal building block" as marriage, which "has been, is and always will be a union between a man and a woman."

The Boston archbishop urged Catholics and all those who value the "traditional, positive and forthright understanding of marriage" to take action against the ruling by contacting their state senators and representatives to point out their concern and urge them to support an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as an institution for a man and woman only.

The ruling, which takes effect this May, notes a bill that would sanction civil unions, such as the one Vermont now has, "maintains an unconstitutional, inferior and discriminatory status for same-sex couples."

In 2000, a Vermont law established same-sex civil unions as the legal equivalent of marriage after the Vermont Supreme Court ruled it was a violation of the state constitution to deny same-sex couples the benefits that married couples have.

Opponents of the Massachusetts ruling have started lobbying for the Marriage Affirmation and Protection Amendment, but even if this amendment is approved by the Legislature it won't appear on the ballot until 2006.

An initial vote by lawmakers on a marriage amendment was scheduled for Feb. 11. In Massachusetts, the amendment approval process requires two consecutive votes by lawmakers to approve it before it would be placed on the ballot to be voted on by residents.

Under the expanded ruling, the state will be required to issue marriage licenses to qualified same-sex couples beginning May 16.

Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., said in a Feb. 5 statement that he supports a bill currently before the U.S. House of Representatives that calls for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"I have supported that effort since its birth and I call on fellow Catholics and persons of good will to speak to their legislators, make their voices known on this critical debate, and defend the sanctity and dignity of marriage lest it be redefined by court rulings."

Among other opponents of the Massachusetts court ruling was Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, who called the decision "disappointing but not surprising."

Sekulow said the ramifications will "have reverberations throughout the country" and will not only put the issue of same-sex marriage "back on the radar screen of the American public" but will also be "certain to create additional constitutional questions about marriage — questions that will ultimately end up at the U.S. Supreme Court."

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Such shock and surprise

## *Super Bowl debacle stems from society*

## Guest Column

FATHER CHRISTOPHER ROUX
GUEST COLUMNIST

I am not sure why so many people have expressed shock, surprise and disbelief at the display of the "performers" during the halftime show of the recent Super Bowl. Put into the much larger context of today's society, this display is nothing that should have elicited scandal.

Our society is one in which the human body and the gift of our sexuality is demeaned and mocked in almost every form of entertainment. Be it movies, radio or television, sexual display and innuendo are the normal routines. The constant degrading of women by men and even by women themselves has taken on phenomenal proportions. Men also allow themselves to be similarly degraded.

Ours is a society that has taken the beautiful act of sexual self-giving rightly reserved to married spouses and degraded it to an opportunity to use another person as an instrument for the satisfaction of one's desires.

Pope Paul VI predicted just this situation in his 1968 encyclical, "Humanae Vitae":

"Responsible men can become more deeply convinced of the truth of the doctrine laid down by the Church on this issue if they reflect on the consequences of methods and plans for artificial birth control.

"Let them first consider how easily this course of action could open wide the way for marital infidelity and a general lowering of moral standards. Not much experience is needed to be fully aware of human weakness and to understand that human beings — and especially the young, who are so exposed to temptation — need incentives to keep the moral law, and it is an evil thing to make it easy for them to break that law.

"Another effect that gives cause for alarm is that a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection." (n.17)

Pope Paul VI predicted the use of contraceptives would result in the "general lowering of moral standards" as women become objectified through the contraceptive mentality. Treated as an object, they would lose the dignity and beauty they possess by virtue of being made by God in His image and likeness.

The "general lowering of moral standards" has also resulted in men being treated as objects. Thus, our society is dealing with widespread sexual abuse. In addition, since the contraceptive mentality places the emphasis on sexual fulfillment and excludes the openness to children, we now have as a result an average of 4,000 unborn children being destroyed daily through abortion.

In the words of the U.S. Supreme Court: "(Couples) for two decades of economic and social developments, have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail." (Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania et al v. Casey, Governor of Pennsylvania, et al)

The teaching of "Humanae Vitae" is definitive and unchangeable: any action which either before, at the moment of, or after the conjugal act, is specifically intended to prevent procreation, is intrinsically evil (n. 14). The use of contraceptives for the specific intent of preventing procreation is morally indefensible by anyone at anytime, and is very much at the heart of the continual downward spiral of morality in our country.

When I hear of the outrage so many had at the disgusting displays during the Super Bowl, I must ask: Are the parents allowing their children to listen to the music performed by these "artists"? Are the children watching the music video channels that promote the "artists"? Are the parents assisting their children in choosing clothing that is modest? Are the parents teaching their children the truths of the Catholic faith?

There are over 61.5 million Catholics in the United States, which is about 28 percent of the total population. What would happen if every Catholic knew and followed the faith as taught by Christ through his Church?

I suggest a major transformation of our society. The time has come to call on all Catholics to learn and practice their faith with the fervor of the earliest Christians. In the face of the opposition of the world, this may seem like a daunting task, but in the words of St. John Bosco: "The power of evil exists and lives on the cowardice of the timid and the good."

Let us courageously hold fast to the teachings of Jesus Christ and allow him to work through us in the reclaiming of our society.

*Father Roux is parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.*

# Pope says faith shown by sick, suffering is precious gift

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — The example of Catholics who, despite sickness and suffering, continue to express faith in the saving power of Christ is a precious gift for the church, Pope John Paul II said.

Marking the Feb. 11 celebration of the World Day of the Sick, the pope said: "Human existence is always a gift of God, even when it is marked by physical suffering of any kind. It is a gift which the church and the world must value."

The Catholic Church's main celebration of the day was being held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, which was connected by satellite with Pope John Paul for his weekly general audience from the Vatican.

In his audience talk, Pope John Paul said that from a human point of view "suffering and sickness can appear to be absurd realities."

But, he said, when suffering is seen in the light of the Gospel, "one is able to gather its deep salvific meaning."

The Gospel message is that Christ suffers for and with all people, taking their pain and making it part of the path to salvation and new life, the pope said.

"Those who suffer must never be left alone," the pope said, and he thanked family members, medical professionals and chaplains who dedicate their lives to caring for the sick.

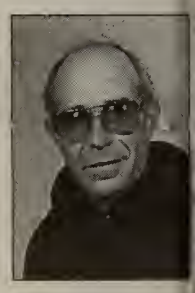
"It is a great act of love to take care of one who suffers," he said.

The pope prayed that Our Lady of Lourdes would watch over all who are sick, who are old or who are left alone.

"Soothe their suffering, dry their tears and obtain for each one of them the strength needed to accomplish God's will," the pope prayed.

# Write love in the ashes

## Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

While reflecting on the beautiful and challenging readings of Ash Wednesday, there is a verse not in those readings yet keeps coming to mind: "I have come to bring fire to the earth." (Lk.12:49) Why is this verse popping up on Ash Wednesday, when penance, repentance and fasting should be priorities? I don't know. I have learned not to discard thoughts that become stronger as soon as I try to get rid of them.

"I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already." St. Luke reminds us that we are commissioned to carry the torch. Each one of us is duty-bound to make the love of God burn brightly in the world. I like what our schoolchildren often sing: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!" Have you tried to imprison light or to make it disappear? Probably you did not succeed.

The marching order of every believer is to make the light shine and if your Ash Wednesday 2004 does not measure up with all the rules and regulations, as long as you let your light shine, you have accomplished your task.

Jesus did not recruit the apostles, disciples and us for his "secret service." He, instead, goes on with some startling statements that may shake our weak faith: "Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division ... the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (Lk.12:51-53).

I will say it is not difficult at all to bring division between the in-laws; the opposite is true! The statement of Jesus is perplexing to many Christians, therefore we simply gloss over. Does Jesus want to break up families? The answer is a resounding "no."

When Jesus speaks about divisions among family, he tells us in a powerful way to keep our priorities in order. God should be the first priority, even if we may shake our relationship with our loved ones.

Another idea of peace is acceptance of the status quo, unwillingness to change and enjoyment of a false security in money, career and pleasure. Jesus is not going to bring this kind of peace! So let's welcome war, which shakes our security and makes us aware that we are ashes powerful enough to ignite fire on earth by our way of living and loving.

A revolutionary way of living and loving can be the following: "Mend a quarrel, search out a forgotten friend, dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust, write a love letter, keep a promise, forego a grudge, forgive an enemy, apologize if you were wrong, express your gratitude."

Write love on the ashes and you will be surprised not only by the experience of light, but the experience of a powerhouse called love. Let us not forget love is freely given and freely received. Jesus was so trustworthy of you and me to the point of not forcing love on us, but inviting us to love, knowing that we would accept the invitation.

# Our best selves

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

I love the New York City tabloids. They're a colorful mix of news and entertainment. Maybe you shouldn't take everything they print too seriously, but they are hard to put down. I particularly enjoy the "Letters to the Editor." Here's where you find the unvarnished opinions of the man and woman in the street. A recent spate of letters recently caught my attention.

Bam is the city in Iran devastated by a horrific earthquake at the end of December. Iranian officials and international aid groups estimate 30,000-50,000 men, women and children perished. In the aftermath of this incredible loss of life, the United States did something it does very often. We put aside long-standing political differences with the government of Iran and jumped into the situation with millions of dollars of humanitarian assistance. Some of the first planeloads of help to arrive were from the United States of America.

To read many of the letters to the editor in those papers I mentioned, you'd think we'd committed a crime. After all, the letter writers say, these people are our sworn enemies. After seizing our embassy in 1979, they held dozens of American hostages for over a year. Today's Iranian government still shows few signs of relenting in its call for the destruction of the United States — called "*the* great Satan" by the Ayatollah Khomeini, their leader at the time of the hostage crisis. So, the letter writers ask, what are we doing helping a nation bent on our undoing?

Their frustration is neither hard to understand nor anything new. For all of our history, Americans have played to win. And that includes our dealings with other nations, even when it means war. But we also have an unusual habit of working to heal the wounds of conflict once it's over.

I mentioned this to my father when he was leaving for a business trip to Japan in the 1980s. How, I wondered, does he deal with folks he fought so vigorously back in the 1940s during World War II? His response is something I've heard echoed by many veterans. "Well, Jim, it's one of life's great truths that some of our best friends come from those who were once our enemies."

While that may be true, I think it takes a great people to make the first move toward reconciliation. That is, I'd suggest, being our very best selves.

So the same people who defeated Japan and Germany helped those nations rebuild economically and politically. This spirit is carrying us forward in our dealings with the people of Vietnam. And that reconciliation was, in some ways, the toughest of all. It's one thing to extend the hand of friendship to those we've defeated. It's quite another to swallow our national pride and re-establish relations with those who brought us to our most significant military failure.

But in victory and defeat, we have done what the world finds amazing. Have we done this in part for our own economic and political welfare? Of course. But we have also done it to acknowledge that we know we are truly part of the same human family.

That's what's happening now in Iran. We still have differences with the government of Iran. And since Iran is a theocracy, a government built around a particular religious perspective, our pluralism is, no doubt, hard for them to fathom. But thousands upon thousands of their people are homeless and badly hurt, and when people suffer, there is only need — and the willingness of those who can respond to do so.

So I must disagree with those letter-writers. I think that we as Americans can be proud when we care — not only for friends, but even more significantly, when we reach out help to those who aren't. Whether as a nation, or as individuals, when we love those who don't necessarily love us back, we show our very best selves.

# How the laity give support to priests

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

A layman asked me how the laity can help priests.

"Keep your faith," would be my first response. Studies on the priesthood report one of the greatest sources of strength for priests is the laity's faith.

It may come from a dying layperson at peace with God; a family that was hit hard but doesn't despair; or an elderly person who is selfless.

No two things inspire priests more than celebrating Mass and seeing Christ lived in the daily lives of laity they serve.

The next thing is Mother Teresa's admonition: "Do not wait for leaders, do it alone and person to person."

As a young priest, I experienced the work of the Catholic Family Movement, The Catholic Worker Movement, the Knights of Columbus -- just a few Catholic organizations in which the laity took the lead in drawing people closer to Christ and the church.

Today's church is confronted with a new breed of challenges calling for a new class of lay leaders. In the worlds of medicine and biological experimentation, it is they who must deal with the ethics and morality of their work. It is they who ultimately must enforce moral standards in ecology, government, the workplace and globalization.

The church more than ever needs lay thinkers, doers and movers such as Jacques Maritain, Cesar Chavez, Maisie Ward, Dorothy Day and Mothers Seton, Teresa and Drexel (although sisters are in religious communities, canonically they belong to the laity) whose leadership qualities were stellar. Often they worked side by side with bishops and priests. Sometimes they nudged and hounded them. But as any priest who understands history knows, such people gave life to the priesthood by giving concrete meaning to the church in action.

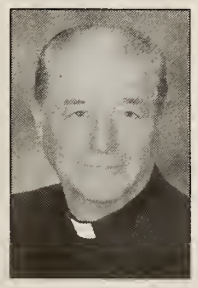
Another way the laity can help priests is to be professional -- avoiding pettiness, jumping to conclusions, letting resentments rule, losing respect and failing to strive for excellence.

Priests, like laypersons, are human and don't always act in an adult manner. The more that laity maintain professionalism and adhere to the principles of civility, the better they help priests.

Last, and most important, I hope the laity never cease praying for priests. Prayer turns us toward God and brings the best out of us. When lay people enter into this state of mind and heart, they will find ways never before imagined to help priests.

# The veneration of relics

## Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. What are relics? How are they obtained? And who determines what is done with them?*

*At times, even after they are buried, parts of the bodies of saints are sent to other locations to be kept or honored. In the past few years an apparent relic (leg bone, it was said) of St. Therese of Lisieux traveled to several cities in the United States, including a city near my home.*

*Surely bodies are not made to be in separate parts. Can you enlighten us? (Iowa)*

A. The veneration of relics is one of those areas of Christian belief and practice which in themselves can be solidly founded theologically and spiritually. Experience proves, however, that this devotion has an almost built-in temptation for misunderstanding and abuse.

Veneration of the bodies of martyrs and other saints goes back to the beginning of Christianity. Sometimes the blood of martyrs was collected on a cloth to be kept by the community as a reminder of that person's fidelity and courage in professing faith in Christ.

By the 800s and 900s, problems began to surface. Possession of relics of certain saints became a source of prestige for monasteries and churches. When St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274, for example, in the Cistercian monastery of Fossa Nuova, it is reported that the monks there decapitated his body to be sure of keeping his remains away from the Dominican friars, of which Thomas was a member.

The tug of war between Cistercians and Dominicans for his body continued for decades after his death.

Buying and selling, even stealing, bodies or parts of bodies of saints was common. Transferring relics gradually turned into an international business. To this day, Catholic law explicitly forbids "alienation" or permanent transfer of major relics from one place to another without the pope's permission (Canon 1190).

It is not surprising then that this bizarre dealing with bodies of saints should be reflected in popular piety of the Middle Ages and beyond. Veneration of relics gave rise to all manner of feasts, shrines and pilgrimages.

Possession of relics even became a sign of affluence and power. In 1393, at a royal feast, French King Charles VI distributed to guests ribs of his venerated ancestor St. Louis.

Some opposition to these practices was always heard, but even popes eventually became nearly powerless to do anything about them. Mishandling of relics, and their sale, eventually became one of the abuses in the church attacked by leaders of the Protestant Reformation.

In 1563 the Council of Trent offered three reasons for venerating the bodies of the saints. They were, and are, members of the body of Christ; they were temples of the Holy Spirit; and they are destined to be raised and glorified by the Spirit (Session XXV).

These motives are still valid, but experience understandably causes the church to be careful lest this less central aspect of Catholic devotion again grow out of proportion.

Apart from the canon mentioned above and conditions for placing relics in altars, veneration of relics is not even mentioned in the present Code of Canon Law. This may be due as much to the decline in enthusiasm for this sort of devotion as to any other reason.

Current norms for indulgences do not include any prayers or actions relating to relics of the saints. Honoring such relics can be a way of praising the goodness of God and seeking our own growth in holiness. It is necessary, and not always easy, to preserve that focus.

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# St. Margaret Church is testimony to dedication of founding priest, others

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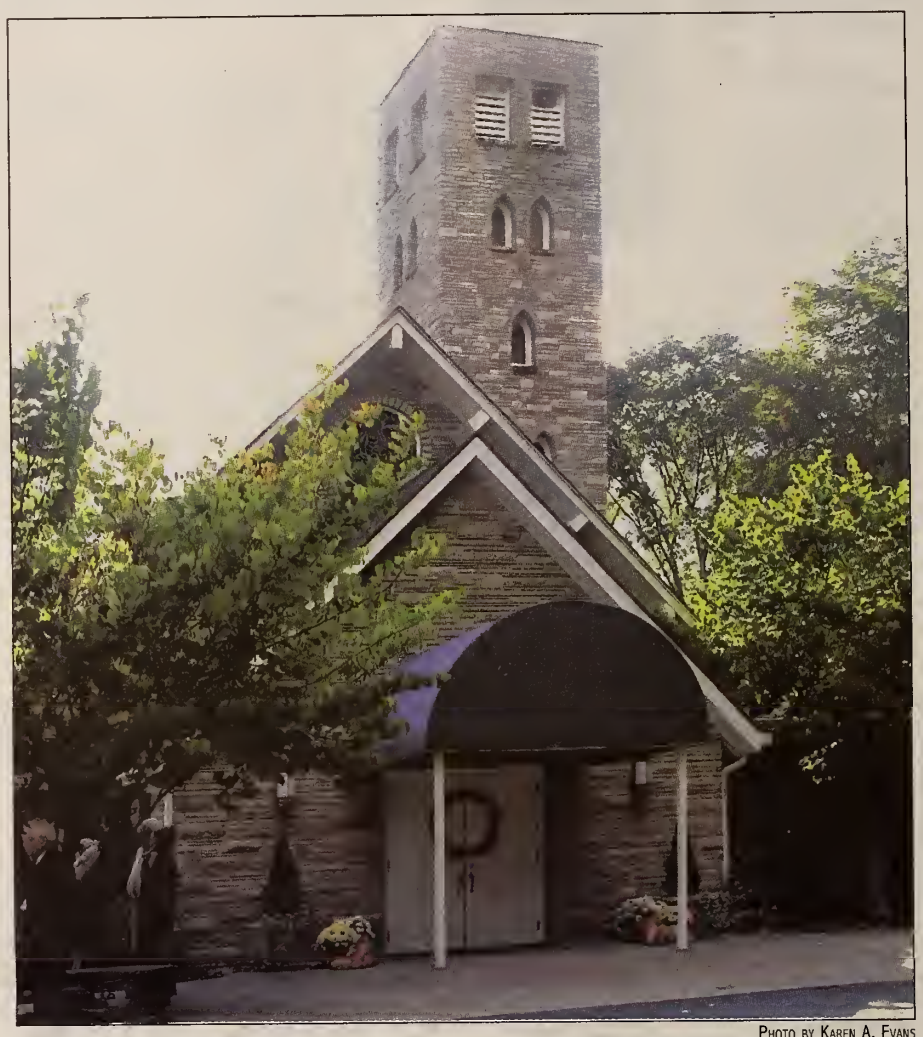

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley was dedicated in August 1969 on land purchased by Father Michael Murphy.

MAGGIE VALLEY — "It took me six years to build the church — three years to clear the land and three years to build the church."

With those words by the late Father Michael Murphy, founder of St. Margaret Church, comes a history filled with an evangelical fervor that built up the Catholic Church in western North Carolina.

Murphy, not yet a priest in 1950, arrived in North Carolina from Detroit in September of that year. Right away, he turned his attention to helping build churches in the mountain region of the state. He traveled to the town bearing his surname, where Father Lawrence Newman was trying to build a church with financial help from Murphy families throughout the country.

After visiting there, Murphy went on to Sylva and assisted in building St. Mary Church in memory of his late parents. The church was dedicated in August 1955.

Soon thereafter, he also aided in constructing the Newman Center for Catholic students at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

The lay missionary later bought 33 acres of land in Maggie Valley. A two-story building was converted for use as a chapel, where a Waynesville pastor celebrated Mass during tourist season. Murphy furnished the chapel with statues that had belonged to his mother.

The owner of a local restaurant suggested that Murphy purchase another property for sale in the area, owned by a retired Methodist minister. Murphy built a 25-unit motel on the site, naming it Falling Waters.

Later, Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh gave him permission to build a church on the land, and in August 1969, the new St. Margaret Church was dedicated.

Bishop Waters urged the zealous Murphy to ponder becoming a priest. After prayerful discernment, Murphy studied at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana and in May 1972, he was ordained into the priesthood by then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte. Father Murphy was 80 years old at the time of his ordination.

After serving for a year at a North Carolina coastal parish, Murphy returned to the church he had built in Maggie Valley. As pastor of St. Margaret Church, he built a house that later would serve as a convent and a retreat house. In February 1977, the retreat building burned to ruins, but the flame of evangelization that burned in Father Murphy's heart raged on.

Father Murphy continued to own and operate Falling Waters Motel. Under Bishop Begley's direction, the motel was renovated for use as the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, and today remains a popular retreat spot year-round. In 1981, the pastor also donated a building on the land to the diocese for use as a parish hall.

Father Murphy's presence remained a constant in the parish community until the priest's death at the age of 99 in 1990. A parish hall, built and dedicated in the early 1990s, was named Murphy-Garland Parish Hall in honor of the priest who gave so much to the community.

Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk, a friend of Father Murphy who operated Living Waters for over 20 years since the 1970s, wrote the biography of the priest. Entitled "Murphy: Apostle of the Smokies," the book is for sale at Living Waters.

The next resident pastor at St. Margaret Church, Father William Evans, continued the apostolic outreach to western North Carolina Catholics that Michael Murphy — as a layperson and priest — had begun.

That devoted enthusiasm still thrives in Maggie Valley, due to the succeeding priests at St. Margaret Church. In August 1996, Father Eric Houseknecht arrived as pastor and led a renovation crusade, yielding improvements to the church building, inner sanctuary, grounds, parish center, officers, rectory and elsewhere. Parishioners made the project a family undertaking, offering voluntary labor and donating a variety of items to their spiritual home.

In early April 1997, parishioners and visitors gathered for an open house to celebrate the enhancements.

By 1997, ministerial work at the parish existed for all ages; the youth group, for instance, began regularly serving their neighbors at a local soup kitchen. The parish also helps women and children who are victims of domestic violence at local shelters. Other ministries include faith formation, ministry to the sick, women's guild and the Father William M. Murphy Council of the Knights of Columbus, who donated $2,600 worth of emergency equipment to the parish in 2004.

In September 1998, Order of St. Augustine priests came to serve St. Margaret Church, including Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, who is the current pastor, and Augustinian Brother William C. Harkin, who is the current pastoral associate.

On June 8, 2003, Father Doyle blessed the recently installed cross near the church's columbarium, in use since August 20002. The cross was part of a bequest from the late Martha Knoesel, a seasonal parishioner.

With 175 registered households plus an additional 70 seasonal families and the retreatants at Living Waters St. Margaret Church stands in memory of Father Murphy's dedication to the Catholic Church while also testifying to the vitality of the faith in western North Carolina.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

FEBRUARY 20, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 21

Parish Profile:
**St. Elizabeth Church**
| PAGE 16

GROWING SPIRITS

# Youth garden receives national award

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte work in their award-winning garden Feb. 17.

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick School was selected from more than 500 youth gardening programs nationwide to receive a 2004 Youth Garden Grant from the National Gardening Association.

In recognition of this achievement, the school's youth gardening program will receive an assortment of garden products donated by leading companies in the lawn and garden industry.

"The students really take pride in coming out here," said Patty Dickson, a fifth-grade teacher. "They've worked hard to keep this alive. They're excited to see their project grow."

The garden is divided into sections and features plants and vegetables, a natural shelter area, an 18th-century herb garden, a biblical garden, an outdoor classroom area and a statue of Mary.

"It's a beautiful place for the students to gather and learn," said art teacher Bess Robinson.

Older students, who have been tending the garden for several years, are eager to help the younger students, said Dickson.

"We harvest the food and take it to the local soup kitchen or to Mother Teresa's nuns (the Missionaries of Charity, who have a convent in Charlotte)," said Robinson. "The students are able to plant, harvest and give back to the community."

"National Garden Association is proud to support this terrific kids' garden," said Joan White, education program director for the National Gardening Association. "This program was selected because of a demonstrated commitment to actively and creatively engaging youth in the gardening process and to improving the community."

The school is hoping to transform the garden into a national wildlife aviary, and add other sections in the future.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

## CSS, others work to help victims of human trafficking

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholic organizations such as Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte are working to bring the hidden problem of human trafficking out of the shadows.

An estimated 18,000 to 20,000 victims of human trafficking — most of them women and children — enter the United States each year. The number of people brought across international borders worldwide for the sex trade or other forced labor is placed at anywhere from 400,000 to a million or more annually.

See TRAFFICKING, page 7

## Bishop Jugis to address protection of children at Mass

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will deliver an Ash Wednesday message at St. Patrick Cathedral Feb. 25.

The bishop's pastoral message will call Catholics to prayer during Lent and will discuss sexual abuse of children by clergy. At the Mass, Bishop Jugis will distribute ashes.

The theme for this year's Lenten season as declared by Pope John Paul II is, "Whoever receives one child is my name receives me." (Mt. 18:15) It invites people to reflect on the condition of children, especially those abused at the hands of adults.

**WANT TO GO?**

The Mass will be at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road in Charlotte at 12:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

# Primetime passion

*Discussing the controversy*

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Broadcaster Diane Sawyer speaks with actor and filmmaker Mel Gibson during an exclusive interview for "Primetime" aired Feb. 16 on ABC television. Gibson's controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ," is set to open across the country on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. Look for expanded coverage on pages 8-9.

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**Human cloning**
*Criticizing South Korea's efforts*
| PAGE 4

**Answering the call**
*Lay ministry guides Catholics*
| PAGE 5

**Lenten Season**
*11 guidelines for Lent*
| PAGE 6

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## EXTENDING A HAND

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II extends his hand to a girl during Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica for World Day of the Sick Feb. 11. The pontiff said that the faith shown by those who are sick and suffering is a precious gift.

# Pope says faith shown by sick, suffering is precious gift

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The example of Catholics who, despite sickness and suffering, continue to express faith in the saving power of Christ is a precious gift for the church, Pope John Paul II said.

Marking the Feb. 11 celebration of the World Day of the Sick, the pope said: "Human existence is always a gift of God, even when it is marked by physical suffering of any kind. It is a gift which the church and the world must value."

The Catholic Church's main celebration of the day was held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, which was connected by satellite with Pope John Paul's weekly general audience from the Vatican.

In his talk, Pope John Paul said that from a human point of view, "suffering and sickness can appear to be absurd realities."

But, he said, when suffering is seen in the light of the Gospel, "one is able to gather its deep salvific meaning."

The Gospel message is that Christ suffers for and with all people, taking their pain and making it part of the path to salvation and new life, the pope said.

"Those who suffer must never be left alone," the pope said, and he thanked family members, medical professionals and chaplains who dedicate their lives to caring for the sick.

"It is a great act of love to take care of one who suffers," he said.

The pope prayed Our Lady of Lourdes would watch over all who are sick, who are old or who are left alone.

"Soothe their suffering, dry their tears and obtain for each one of them the strength needed to accomplish God's will," the pope prayed.

After an evening Mass Feb. 11, Pope John Paul joined hundreds of sick people and their caregivers in St. Peter's Basilica.

The pope thanked the sick "for the prayers and sacrifices you generously have offered for me" and promised they were in his prayers, too.

Pope John Paul said the 2004 World Day of the Sick not only focused on the healings and spiritual blessings thousands of people have found during a pilgrimage to Lourdes, but on the fact that Mary is honored at Lourdes under the title of "the Immaculate Conception."

Later this year, the church will mark the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX's proclamation of the dogma that Mary was conceived without sin.

# Bush uses visit to Catholic schools to promote voucher plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush visited a Washington Catholic high school Feb. 13 and praised the school's success in sending students to college. He held it up as an example of why he supports voucher programs.

In what the White House billed as a "conversation on parental options and school choice," the president and Education Secretary Rod Paige joined three Washington parents and the president of Archbishop Carroll High School in a panel setting to talk about a newly passed voucher program for Washington and other programs aimed at improving the nation's schools.

Bush praised Catholic schools in general for taking "the so-called hard-to-educate" and helping them to excel. Archbishop Carroll in particular deserves praise, the president said, for its record of sending 98 percent of its graduates on to college.

He said that level of success was "dashing false expectations" of how poorly schools in Washington do.

School president John T. Butler described the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarships as "a breath of fresh air" for D.C. students. The program, which had to be passed by Congress and signed by the president, will give eligible students up to $7,500 to use toward tuition, fees and transportation expenses to attend nonpublic schools beginning with the 2004-05 academic year.

No questions were taken from the audience of invited guests and Archbishop Carroll students, although several met briefly with Bush when he arrived. Instead, Bush guided a 40-minute discussion among the panelists.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — The Life Teen program of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will sponsor a free seminar, *"Let's Talk Money"* Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. The seminar will address what parent and teens need to know about financial stewardship, including establishing good credit, avoiding financial pitfalls and financial independence. For more information, contact Debra Lemmon at (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will host an *Ultreya* Feb. 29 at 1:30 p.m. School of Leaders and family potluck lunch will follow. Childcare is available. For more information, contact Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or visit www.charlottecursillo.org. To receive Cursillo information via, email bmayer@altell.net.

MINT HILL — Looking for a way to get closer to God this year? Put your new year's resolution into practice by taking the *Alpha Course.* Alpha is a video lecture series and supper club that meets Friday nights through March 19. Register by calling (704) 573-7021 or e-mail mcnuccie1@bellsout.net.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St., will have a *Lenten Supper-Study* Wednesday evenings during Lent — March 3, 10, 17 and 24. All are welcome. Community dinner is at 6 p.m., with Catechesis 6:45-7:30 p.m. Topic this year is "Vatican II: 40 Years Later." No pre-registration or fee required, no need to bring food, all is provided by the parish. For more information, please contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap* will meet Tuesdays in February at "Anton's" on Battleground Ave. 7 p.m. Contact greensborotot@yahoo.com for more information.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 66 9264 for time and location.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service will be held at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church March 5 at p.m. This bilingual service was written b

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican announces Eucharist as theme of 2005 Synod of Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The next world Synod of Bishops will meet in October 2005 to discuss the theme, "The Eucharist: Source and Culmination of the Life and Mission of the Church," the Vatican announced.

The theme was chosen by Pope John Paul II on the suggestions of bishops. The 2005 assembly will take place at the Vatican Oct. 2-29.

The announcement came the day after the pope named Archbishop Nikola Eterovic, a Croatian with long experience in Vatican diplomacy, as secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops.

The synod on the Eucharist will be the 11th general assembly of the synod since Pope Paul VI reinstituted the structure after the Second Vatican Council.

The worldwide meetings generally are held every three or four years. The last synod, focusing on the ministry of the bishop, was held at the Vatican in 2001.

The Eucharist was the topic of the pope's latest encyclical, issued in April 2003. It emphasized the importance of the Eucharist as the greatest gift God left to his church.

The encyclical also reaffirmed the traditional teaching of the church on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, on the need for validly ordained ministers for its celebration, and on the importance of following the church's liturgical norms.

# Pope calls for commitment to safeguarding human rights in Iran

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for the continued commitment to the protection of human rights in Iran as well as to promoting greater understanding between peoples of different religious and cultural identities.

The pope made his remarks Feb. 12 to Kamal Kharrazi, foreign minister of the Islamic republic of Iran. The visit came on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and the Holy See.

"Your presence here is a sign of the cooperation that, for more than 50 years now, has marked the official relations between the Holy See and your country," the pope said.

"I am confident that this spirit of collaboration will continue to grow ever stronger as we address issues of mutual concern to us," he said.

The pope highlighted the importance of working on "the ongoing commitment to safeguard the inalienable rights and dignity of the human person, especially in efforts aimed at promoting greater understanding among peoples of different religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds."

With a rapidly growing population of more than 68 million, Iran has about 120,000 Christians and, of those, around 16,000 people are Catholic. Eighty-nine percent of the population is Shiite Muslim and 10 percent are Sunni. The remaining minority includes people of Zoroastrian, Jewish and Bahai traditions.

Although Iran's official religion is Islam, the constitution has made provisions to respect the rights of religious minorities.

Several church and Vatican officials familiar with the situation of Christians in Iran have praised the country's recent efforts in securing greater religious freedoms for religious minorities.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said after meeting with the pope, Kharrazi met with the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, and Msgr. Pietro Parolin, undersecretary for relations with states.

Navarro-Valls said the leaders discussed the situation of the Catholic Church in Iran as well as collaborative efforts between the two countries concerning "interreligious dialogue, the promotion of peace and other international issues."

# Vatican doves sometimes turn chicken

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

VATICAN (CNS) — The noble white dove has come to symbolize peace, fidelity, fraternity and hope, but the Vatican seems to have seen more than its fair share of doves suffering from a fear of flying.

Some might even say those doves are really just chicken. What's meant to be an impressive launch from the fifth-story window of the pope's studio instead turns into a feathery fiasco.

In 1998, both doves recoiled from their release and turned tail back inside the apostolic palace. Delighted, Pope John Paul II said, "It is clear this is a house of peace, because the doves don't want to leave."

This scene of one or both doves diving for papal cover has been repeated over the years.

Most recently, on Jan. 25, call it stage-fright, call it premonition: One dove refused to leave the pope's windowsill while the more gutsy of the two flew off to a grisly fate.

One Italian newspaper reported the bird of peace was later found injured from a seagull attack.

Christian Women of Panama. The theme is *"In Faith, Women Shape the Future."* The guest speaker will be Xiomara Palma. A native of Nicaragua, she is active in lay ministry at St. Joseph Church in Newton. For more information, contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Dan Moran (828)-327-0487.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will host a *Cursillo School of Leaders*, 8-10:30 a.m., Feb. 28 followed by a Secretariat 10:30-12 p.m. For more information, contact Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or visit www.charlottecursillo.org. To receive Cursillo information via, email bmayer@altell.net.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is in the initial stage of forming a court of the *Catholic Daughters of America.* Women from neighboring parishes, ages 18 and older, are welcome to join. For more information, contact Angie Erst at (828) 488-3560 or Pat Pickering at (828) 497-4999.

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will celebrate a *Healing Mass* March 1 at 7:30 p.m. with Msgr. Mauricio W. West as celebrant. Reconciliation will be offered at 7 p.m. Sacramental laying on of hands will follow the Mass. Please join us for singing and hopeful expectancy. For more information, contact (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order invites you to a *Peace Meal for the Poor* March 7. The fraternity will serve a simple meal consisting of soup, bread and water. A love basket will be available during the meal and the proceeds will be used to stock the food pantry at Catholic Social Services. The meal will be served 12-1 p.m. in the cafeteria of Our Lady of Mercy School, 1730 Link Road. Please join us and help to feed the hungry in our area. For more information, contact Sharon Jackson, SFO Minister, at (336) 722-7001.

WINSTON-SALEM — Learn *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. This four-part series will meet Sundays at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 15-March 7, at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For registration and information, call Stephanie and Todd Brown at (336) 765-2909.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

Feb. 25 — 12:10 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Feb. 29 — 4 p.m.
Rite of Election
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

# Vatican official, U.S. cardinal criticize South Korean human cloning

## *Mining of stem cells "full of illicit acts"*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The first successful cloning of human embryos to provide stem cells marks a dangerous step toward the unregulated commercialization of human life, said a leading Vatican official.

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said Feb. 12 that the mining of stem cells from embryos, which are then discarded, was a procedure "full of illicit acts."

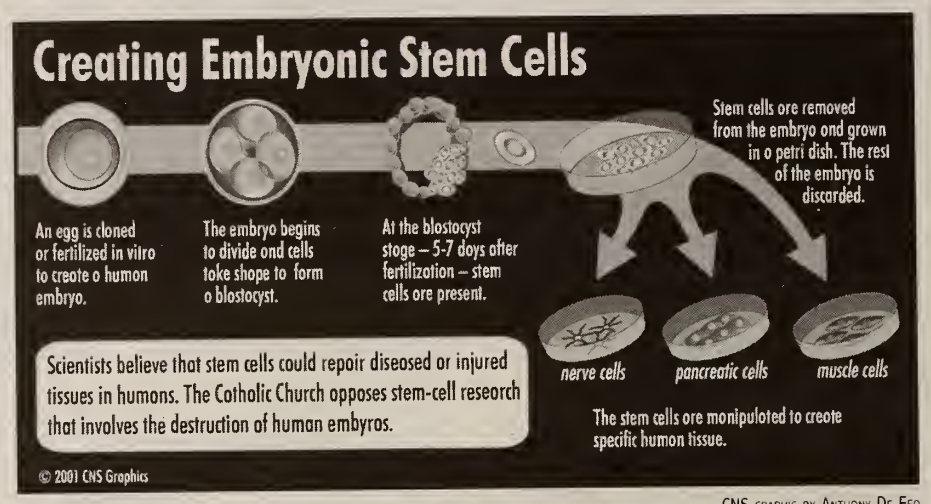
In the United States, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said the creation and destruction of human embryos "is a sign of moral regress."

"Seldom have researchers done so much harm to so many fellow humans, with so little justification," he said.

The church leaders were reacting to news that scientists in South Korea had cloned 30 human embryos and grown them to the stage where they produce stem cells. The stem cells, which have the ability to turn into any cell in the body, were then extracted and the embryos destroyed.

The scientists said they were trying to patent their technique and the stem cells produced. It was considered a major step toward so-called "therapeutic" cloning, which is undertaken not to create a human being but to produce stem cells that can be used to grow replacement tissue in treating disease.

The church teaches that human cloning is wrong and that any destruction of human embryos violates the right to life of the weakest human beings.




CNS GRAPHIC BY ANTHONY DE FEO

**Scientists believe that stem cells could repair diseased or injured tissues in humans.**

Bishop Sgreccia said that ethically, so-called therapeutic cloning is even worse than reproductive cloning at some levels because it involves the planned creation, exploitation and destruction of human life.

"From not only a Catholic point of view, this is a procedure full of illicit acts," he said.

"It's part of a much larger battle: whether economic profit should prevail absolutely over fundamental moral arguments, whether the survival of a human being should come first or the profits of the strongest — the industries and the multinationals that do business in this sector," he said.

Bishop Sgreccia said people should be asking whether the commercialization of a human embryo at the level of blastocyst — an early stage of about 100 cells — could help open the door to wider forms of exploitation, particularly in commercialization of organs from children and others in the Third World.

Bishop Sgreccia said the supposed therapeutic benefits of embryonic stem cells are far from proven. He said adult stem cells, taken from umbilical cords and other organs, have proven to be of equal or greater effectiveness in therapy.

"It has been fairly well shown that it is not necessary to extract embryonic stem cells to try to cure diseases like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's," he said.

"Our impression is that this is an effort to have human embryos at one's disposal and to remove every ban against their use, as if they were merely merchandise or material," he said.

Cardinal Keeler, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, said creating the embryos "solely to destroy them is the ultimate violation of research ethics."

He called for a worldwide effort to ban human cloning.

The cardinal also criticized the use of fertility drugs on the 16 Korean women who produced the 242 eggs used in the stem-cell experiment.

"These women were used as egg factories while their embryonic offspring were treated as nothing more than objects of research, their human dignity ignored in the process," he said.

*Contributing to this story was Stephen Steele in Washington.*

# Pro-life group takes on Georgetown University over aborted fetal cell lines

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Florida pro-life group has pledged to continue its efforts to stop research at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington that uses cell lines derived from aborted fetuses.

"It is an outrage and a scandal that any Catholic facility could condone the use of aborted fetal cell lines, regardless of how long ago the abortions occurred," says a petition addressed to Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington on the Web site www.cogforlife.org which is the site of the organization Children of God for Life.

The petition asks the cardinal to "use your authority and put an end to the unnecessary use of aborted fetal cell lines, which actually diverts important funding and hinders other noble and morally responsible research."

Debra Vinnedge, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Clearwater, Fla., who is president and executive director of Children of God for Life, said petition received 2,000 online signatures in less than a week.

Cardinal McCarrick had asked Jesuit-run Georgetown last summer to look into "the origin of cell lines used in some of our research," according to a statement from Amy DeMaria, executive director of communications for the medical center.

"Our review revealed that [illegible] GUMC researchers were conducting long-term research using four different cell lines that had been derived decades ago from tissue that came from terminated pregnancies," DeMaria said. "These cell lines were not created at Georgetown University."

Jesuit Father Kevin T. FitzGerald, who holds the David Lauer chair for Catholic health care ethics at Georgetown and serves as research associate professor in the oncology department at the medical center, said the potential benefits of the research outweighed any harm from using the cells since no abortions were performed specifically to provide cell lines for research.

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ANSWERING THE CALL

# Lay ministry guides Catholics to deeper spirituality

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "God pushed me into it," said Marie Cordero of the lay ministry program.

Now in her second year of the program in the Diocese of Charlotte, Cordero thought about enrolling for four years before she committed to it.

Cordero said the lay ministry program has increased her spiritual life tremendously.

"I have a thirst for more knowledge," she said. "There is not enough adult education — the more you get, the more you want."

"Lay ministry isn't just learning about your faith," said Frank Villaronga, director of the diocesan evangelization and ministry formation office. "It is a formational program, and the idea behind lay ministry is that participants are in the program in order to answer their baptismal call to ministry more fully."

Because the mission of the Catholic Church is one of evangelization, this answer includes not only learning about the Catholic faith, but also integrating that learning into one's personal life, because the faith response is one that requires action.

Janet and Jim Corrigan are in the second year of the program in Arden. She is a volunteer and substitute teacher at Immaculata School in Hendersonville; he is the secretary of the pastoral council at Immaculate Conception Church.

Lay ministry is a good program for converts to the Catholic faith, said Janet Corrigan. She said she feels more confident in discussing religious issues with students since enrolling in the lay ministry program.

"It's also good for anyone who thinks they know everything they need to know about the church," she said.

Most participants in the lay ministry program are trying to figure out what it means to be a minister, Villaronga said. The program is comprised of people who might already be involved in some kind of activity or formal ministry in their parish — prison ministry, catechesis, feeding the homeless — and those who are exploring various ministries.

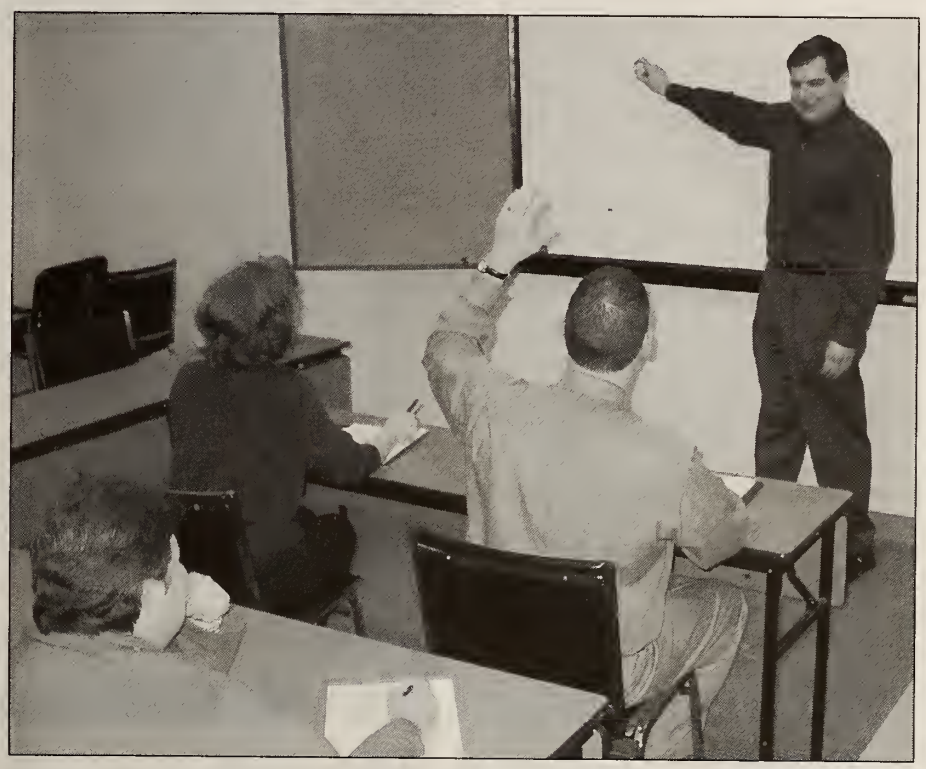

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Frank Villaronga, director of the diocesan evangelization and ministry formation office, teaches lay ministry at the pastoral center in Charlotte. Lay ministry teaches participants to answer their baptismal calls to ministry.

Villaronga tells participants in the first class of the program, "If you are in this program hoping to become lay ministers, I've got news for you: You already are ministers. By virtue of your baptism, you already are part of the mission of the church."

"The vision of Vatican II was that the laity are called to live out their faith in an active way in their own lives," he said.

Villaronga also pointed out the value of this "marketplace ministry" — the ministry that takes place in our day-to-day lives.

Secondarily, lay ministers contribute much-needed help to the sacramental ministers.

"Bishops, priests and deacons can't do it all," said Villaronga. Lay ministers can serve as counselors, spiritual companions, eucharistic ministers, catechists and in many other areas of the parish.

"It is important to empower the laity in many specific ministries in the name of the church," he said. "Primarily, people are called to live out their ministry in their everyday lives."

The office of evangelization and ministry formation is budgeted to receive $72,848 from the 2004 Diocesan Support Appeal, part of which assists participants in the lay ministry program by keeping tuition costs low.

Villaronga considers the lay ministry program an important prerequisite to the permanent diaconate program. The program provides diaconate candidates with primary formation and gives them an opportunity to explore their formation as laypeople.

Villaronga recommends the lay ministry program for all interested in learning more about their faith, growing in their faith, and learning how to live out their faith in a more active way.

The two-year program is comprised of 12 classes each year, covering such topics as Scripture, Christology, theology and history of the Catholic Church, Vatican II, liturgy and sacrament, morality, social ministry and the "nuts and bolts" of ministry. Classes meet in Charlotte, Greensboro and Arden.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

*Lay ministry is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

The lay ministry program is now accepting applications for 2004-05. For more information on the lay ministry program, please contact Frank Villaronga at (704) 370-3274 or e-mail

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# Guidelines for Lent

Lent is the season the Catholic Church gives us to take stock and review our lives, to root out all that is not good and true and replace it with the faithful and the holy. In these 40 days, the Catholic Church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in the year 2004 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forbearers.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God, which no worldly thing can satisfy. Almsgiving reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inextricably intertwined, and that we bear responsibility for each other. Prayer reminds us to center our lives on God who alone gives meaning to all we do.

Lent is a most special time. The liturgies and devotions of Lent call us to a kind of spiritual "spring cleaning," identifying relationships that are disordered and sins that imprison and then seeking forgiveness and healing. We root out the darkness of sin so as to enter the Easter mysteries with a clean heart bathed in the healing, life-giving light of Christ.

***Guidelines for Lent***

1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2) Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, and Good Friday, April 9, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3) The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4) Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5) The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6) Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7) Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

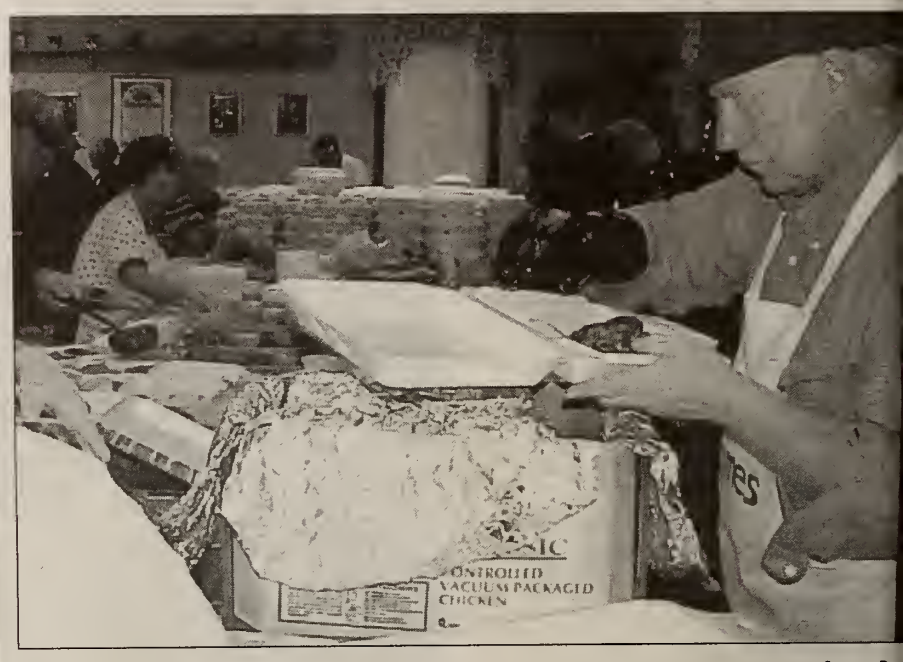
8) The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter. Group reconciliation services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group reconciliation service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9) The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

10) Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11) The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The Rite of Election is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

# Good food and friends




COURTESY PHO

Parishioners of St. James Church in Hamlet enjoy good food at the parish's 17t annual barbecue Jan. 6. Proceeds from the event went toward the parish buildin and maintenance fund. Previous earnings from the barbecue have helped pay o the church's mortgage.

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# CSS fights trafficking

TRAFFICKING, *from page 1*

"In almost all cases, language barriers, lack of contacts in the new land, beatings and fear of reprisals on family members left behind combine to keep the victims silent and unable to flee to safety," said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services.

In April, Catholic Social Services will conduct a staff training day in Hickory that will include a workshop on how to identify the signs and symptoms of human trafficking and how to assist victims. Leading this workshop with be Laurie Latuda, a grants and program administrator with the Office of Refugee Programs in the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services.

These victims "often believe they are coming here to find the American dream," said Latuda.

Instead, many victims find forced labor, sexual exploitation or other contemporary forms of slavery, she said.

Because of the lack of legal immigration options, they sometimes pay people to smuggle them into the United States "and sometimes (the smugglers) turn out to be traffickers who enslave them," she said.

"There are networks of people who traffic in people, just like there are networks of drug traffickers or arms traffickers," said Latuda.

But those who profit from the trade of human beings often keep their victims under such close watch that finding those who need assistance is a huge challenge. Attending weekly Mass might be the only activity that the trafficker allows them to do alone.

"Oftentimes the only contact that people who have been trafficked have with the outside world is through religious ministers," said Latuda.

### *Uniting forces*

Migration and Refugee Services provides administrative support to the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking, whose members meet four times a year to share information, educate themselves about particular aspects of the trafficking problem and have a dialogue with government leaders.

Coalition members gathered at the headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Jan. 29 for:

— A presentation by and discussion with Dan Bryant, assistant attorney general for legal policy in the U.S. Department of Justice.

— An update on reauthorization of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

— A look at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement's public awareness campaign on human trafficking, with an eye toward how coalition members can be involved.

"We need strong action today, at both the national and international level, to attack the evil of human trafficking," said Purello.

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, a U.S. law reauthorized in 2003, defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as "sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion" or involves a minor or "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion."

Purello said the passage of this law was a "start in the right direction toward tackling this menace."

"Under this law, nations that are shown to support or turn a blind eye to human trafficking are to be denied U.S. aid; convicted traffickers are to receive harsher sentences; and victims of trafficking can receive special immigration status," he said.

Purello said voters must "let our legislators know we want this law strictly enforced. Nations that tolerate the victimization of their own people through human trafficking should receive no assistance from the American people."

### *Identifying victims*

Coalition members each approach the problem from a different angle, according to Latuda.

The Catholic Health Association, for example, is offering posters for use in emergency rooms, doctors' offices or clinics to help health care providers identify those who have been subjected to trafficking. The poster also gives information on how to assist victims.

Patients who show signs of agitation, isolation, malnourishment, physical or sexual abuse and similar conditions and those who rely on "a companion" to tell their story may be victims of trafficking, the poster says.

If victims can be identified and certified by the federal government's Office of Refugee Resettlement, they become eligible under the law for the same benefits and services available to a refugee. The benefits may include food stamps, Medicaid, social services such as job preparation and English-language classes, and Social Security and welfare payments.

But in the three years since passage of the law, only 500 trafficking victims have been certified. Ninety percent of those were identified through Catholic ministers or social service agencies, said Latuda.

"We must do all we can to fight our culture's overwhelming trend to turn sexual activity into a commodity to be bought and sold," said Purello, adding that, "the trend to turn sex into a commodity (on TV, in movies, in popular music) often involves packaging sex with violence."

"We are also called to be much more conscious of the working conditions of laborers who make and provide the goods we buy," he said. "If a serious dent can be made in the demand side of the human trafficking business, then we will also see a significant fall in the numbers of people being trapped and exploited."

PHOTO BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**The Catholic Health Association is offering copies of this poster to hospitals, doctor's offices and clinics to help health care providers identify those who have been subjected to trafficking. It also gives information on how to assist victims.**

### *How to help*

Anyone who suspects a trafficking situation that has not yet been reported or investigated should start by calling the Justice Department's "trafficking in persons and worker exploitation task force complaint line" at (888) 428-7581, advised Latuda. That will initiate a federal investigation into the matter.

People also can help the trafficked person obtain free or low-cost legal services from an attorney familiar with the provisions of the federal law. Sometimes, traffickers will provide attorneys for victims to get them released back into the traffickers' custody.

Latuda and others like her at MRS, who can be reached at (202) 541-3385, can help the trafficked person connect with local social service agencies that will help them before and after they are certified as trafficking victims.

*Nancy Frazier O'Brien of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

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# Faith, hope — not blame — at 'Passion' core

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON

Actor Jim Caviezel portrays Jesus on the cross in a scene from "The Passion of the Christ."

## *Director addresses controversy of film*

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Blaming Jews for the death of Jesus is not the point of "The Passion of the Christ," said its director, Mel Gibson, in a Feb. 16 interview on ABC's "Primetime."

"It's not about pointing the fingers. It's not about playing the blame game," Gibson told Diane Sawyer. "It's about faith, hope, love and forgiveness. ... It is reality for me. ... I believe that."

When Sawyer asked him who killed Christ, Gibson replied: "The big answer is, we all did. I'll be first in the culpability stakes."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also interviewed, said he did not believe either Gibson or his film were anti-Semitic, but "this movie has the potential to fuel anti-Semitism, to reinforce it."

Gibson said to be anti-Semitic "goes against the tenets of my faith, to be racist in any form. To be anti-Semitic is a sin. It's been condemned by one papal council after another. There's encyclicals on it ... to be anti-Semitic is to be un-Christian, and I'm not."

In the interview, Gibson acknowledged his film was "very violent, and if you don't like it, don't go ... If you want to leave halfway through, go ahead. You know, there's nothing that says you have to stay there."

The Motion Picture Association of America gave the film an R rating for its sequences of graphic violence. The rating means "restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian."

Gibson added he wanted the violence to be "shocking" and "extreme."

"I wanted it to push the viewer over the edge," he said. "I think it pushes one over the edge ... so that they see the enormity of that sacrifice; to see that someone could endure that and still come back with love and forgiveness, even through extreme pain and suffering and ridicule."

"I wanted the full savagery of it to jump out of the screen and move people," he said. Still, "I've stopped way short of what I think happened."

"I don't think anybody under the age of 12 should go see it," he added.

Gibson said his film is "my version of what happened, according to the Gospels and ... the aspects of it I wanted to show."

"This is his vision, his faith," said Foxman. "He's a true believer, and I respect that. But there are times that there are unintended consequences."

"I hope that most people see it, Diane, as a passion of love," Foxman told Sawyer with regard to the movie's impact. "Maybe when it's all over, in a sobering manner, we'll be able to come back and look each other in the face and say, 'We have to deal with this hatred that's still out there.'"

Without specifically identifying anybody or anything, Gibson told EWTN, "There were dark forces that did not want us to make the film."

In the Feb. 12 *The A.D. Times*, his diocesan newspaper, Bishop Edward P. Cullen of Allentown, Pa., noted some of the "Passion" controversy "has been about just who crucified Jesus."

"This placing of blame is one of the oldest and most foolish of human games," going back to Genesis, when Adam and Eve started pointing fingers elsewhere when God confronted them with their sin, the bishop said.

"What caused the death of Jesus was sin," he said.

Bishop Cullen said, "It is ridiculous for any of us to think we can shift the blame to anyone else, whether past or present. If we use the crucifixion of Jesus as our excuse to look down on or to persecute others, we must also admit that in doing so we are not following the Lord, who forgave those who brought about his death. He forgave us!"

## Criteria for dramatization of Passion based on Vatican II principles

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A 1988 statement by the U.S. bishops containing criteria on how to treat dramatizations of Christ's passion follows Vatican principles enunciated since the Second Vatican Council.

Church teaching on how Jews should and should not be depicted in retelling the Passion story is a matter of "going back to the way the church interprets the Scriptures," said Eugene Fisher of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The bishops' "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion" said "any presentations that explicitly or implicitly seek to shift responsibility from human sin onto this or that historical group, such as the Jews, can only be said to obscure a core Gospel truth."

Mixing the four Gospel Passion accounts and "extrabiblical records," it says, "leaves the widest possible latitude for artistic creativity and insight, but also for abuses and prejudices."

The document lists many things to avoid when writing a dramatic account of the Passion. Among them:

— "Jesus must not be depicted as opposed to the law (Torah)."

— "Jesus and the disciples must not be set dramatically in opposition to his people, the Jews."

— "Jews should not be portrayed as avaricious (e.g., in Temple money-changer scenes); bloodthirsty (e.g., in certain depictions of Jesus' appearances before the Temple priesthood or before Pilate); or implacable enemies of Christ (e.g., by changing the small 'crowd' at the governor's palace into a teeming mob)."

The document was based in part on "Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration 'Nostra Aetate,' No. 4," issued in 1974 by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

In "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council said the church "deplores all hatreds, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism leveled at any time or from any source against the Jews."

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# In advancing nun's cause, Vatican ignores her writings on the Passion

## *Sister Emmerich's visions inspire Gibson film*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — When Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," opens Ash Wednesday, a spotlight will turn on a little known but influential figure in the movie's genesis: German Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich.

Sister Emmerich, a mystic and stigmatic who died in 1824, is drawing attention for several reasons.

Gibson said he was inspired to make the movie in part by her book of visions, "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," which added detailed episodes to the Gospel account of Christ's suffering and death. Whether she actually wrote the book, however, has been questioned by Vatican experts.

Other scholars, Jewish and Catholic, have said Sister Emmerich's writings reflect the anti-Semitism of her time, particularly in her depiction of the Jews' role in Christ's death.

Pope John Paul II, meanwhile, is said to take an intense interest in Sister Emmerich and her life. Under his papacy, her sainthood cause has advanced to the point where she is expected to be beatified, probably sometime early next year.

In an interview with *The New Yorker* last fall, Gibson said Sister Emmerich's writings supplied him with "amazing images" and "stuff I never would have thought of."

In prerelease screenings attended by church officials in Rome, one recognizable scene from Sister Emmerich stood out: After Christ is scourged, Pilate's wife takes towels to a grief-stricken Mary so she can wipe up the blood.

Sister Emmerich also envisioned Satan as physically present among the crowd as it called for Jesus' death and witnessed his suffering. Gibson ended up casting a woman as Satan, which raised questions at the Vatican.

"The introduction of the figure of the devil does not seem in accordance with what is in Scripture," said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, the Vatican's top communications official, who has praised Gibson's film.

Throughout Sister Emmerich's narratives on the Passion, Jews are portrayed negatively and repeatedly called "wicked," "cruel" and "hardhearted." Yet that is not seen as a big problem among the Vatican's saint makers, who have downplayed her writings.

In fact, the very thing that is catapulting Sister Emmerich to wider fame — her mystical account of the Passion — was ultimately given no weight by the Vatican experts who have prepared the way for her beatification.

One official explained Sister Emmerich was practically illiterate, and her visions were written down by a popular romantic poet of the time, Clemens Brentano. Brentano published them after her death, and there's no way to tell how much liberty he took.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY THE AUGUSTINIANS

**Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich is depicted in a holy card image from the Augustinian order. The German nun, a mystic and stigmatic, died in 1824 at age 49. Mel Gibson has said he was inspired to make his movie about Christ's passion in part by the book "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," which is attributed to Sister Emmerich.**

"Since it was impossible to distinguish what derives from Sister Emmerich and what is embroidery or additions, we could not take these writings as a criteria. Therefore, they were simply discarded completely from all the work for the cause," said Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who helped study the issue for the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes.

In fact, Vatican officials said a common misperception is that in approving a sainthood cause, the church is giving a stamp of approval to everything the person may have written.

"When writings are approved, it's in a negative sense: that there's nothing in them against faith and morals. That's not the same as a positive approval," said one official of the Vatican's sainthood congregation.

So what has promoted Sister Emmerich "venerable" and worthy of beatification?

"She's being judged ... not on the basis of what she's written but on the basis of her virtues," Father Gumpel said.

Anne Catherine Emmerich entered an Augustinian convent in 1802 at age 28 and became known for her ecstasies, visions of the supernatural and "conversations" with Jesus.

She became bedridden in 1813 and developed the stigmata — bleeding wounds corresponding to those of the crucified Christ. A church investigation pronounced the wounds genuine. Ill for years until her death at age 49, she offered up her suffering for the souls in purgatory.

With the release of Gibson's movie, Sister Emmerich's written works are being promoted with new energy. Web sites citing "the book that inspired Mel Gibson's 'Passion' project" offer her writings on the passion, as well as her other volumes on the life of Christ, on Mary and on biblical revelations.

Yet in spite pf all this new attention, the Vatican has not set a date for Sister Emmerich's beatification. The ceremony could occur any time, since last year the Vatican approved a miracle attributed to her intercession.

Is the Vatican trying to avoid the impression of a "tie-in" with Gibson's movie?

Ambrosi said the reason is something more practical. It seems Sister Emmerich's native Archdiocese of Munster would like her to be beatified along with Cardinal Clemens Van Galen, an outspoken opponent of Hitler, whose cause is still waiting approval of a miracle.

In promotional terms, the church's agenda is clearly not Hollywood's agenda.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Book collects Vatican II teaching on church's relationship to Jews

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs has published a compilation of Catholic teaching since the Second Vatican Council on the church's relationship with Jews and Judaism.

Titled "The Bible, the Jews, and the Death of Jesus: A Collection of Catholic Documents," the book includes excerpts from the Vatican II

document on relations with non-Christian religions, "Nostra Aetate," which condemned all forms of anti-Semitism and affirms the continuing validity of God's covenant with the Jews.

It also contains "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion," a 1988 document from the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The book, announced Feb. 11, was scheduled to be officially released Feb. 23, two days before the Ash Wednesday theatrical premiere of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," which some Catholic scholars and U.S. Jewish leaders have said could foster anti-Semitism.

Other documents in the book include "Notes on the Correct Way to Present the Jews and Judaism in the Preaching and Catechesis in the Roman Catholic Church," which was a 1985 document by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews, and "God's Mercy Endures Forever: Guidelines on the Presentation of Jews and Judaism in Catholic Preaching," a 1988 document by the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy.

"Behind all of these statements lies the determination of the church to oppose anti-Semitism and to understand more fully the salvation of all humanity in Christ while affirming the unique place of Jews and Judaism in the unfolding of the mysteries of salvation universally proclaimed by the church," said Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

He made the comments in a statement accompanying the announcement of the book's publication.

"The documents included develop Catholic teaching on the interpretation of Scripture, Catholic understanding and proper presentation of the passion and death of Christ, and the church's ongoing condemnation of the sin of anti-Semitism," he added.

Bishop Blaire credited Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, episcopal moderator for Catholic-Jewish relations, with the idea of publishing an anthology of Catholic teaching on Jews and Judaism.

In his statement, Bishop Blaire quoted Cardinal Keeler: "Any Christians involved in the presentation of the events of Jesus' death must hold, in the words of the 1974 guidelines of the Holy See to implement 'Nostra Aetate' No. 4, an 'overriding preoccupation' not only to avoid portrayals of Jews that might lead to collective guilt, but also to replace them with positive ones." These guidelines are also included in "The Bible, the Jews, and the Death of Jesus."

"Nostra Aetate" repudiated all forms of anti-Semitism and called on Catholics to build mutual respect and understanding with Jews.

*Editor's Note: "The Bible, the Jews, and the Death of Jesus: A Collection of Catholic Documents" can be ordered for $11.95 per copy by calling: (800) 235-8722.*


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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 29, 2004

## *Feb. 29, First Sunday of Lent*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10
   Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
2) Romans 10:8-13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Outmann, Maria and their six children, a Kurdish refugee family, have worked hard to make a life in the United States although struggling financially since coming here four years ago.

I visit Maria in their small apartment almost weekly, and I usually bring extra household items, clothing or a few groceries. At Thanksgiving each year, I take them a turkey.

But on my third Thanksgiving turkey delivery my conscience started nagging me: Why are you taking them a turkey? They can use the food, plus I want to let them in on our American tradition. Thanksgiving is about celebrating family and God's providence. Why don't you invite them to Thanksgiving dinner in your home? (Gasp!)

My brother and his family are coming.

So? Haven't you had more than one family before?

I want it to be just us, cozy and comfortable.

The nagging didn't let up.

When finally I invited Maria and her family for Thanksgiving dinner, she squealed and clapped her hands. (She never did that at the arrival of a frozen turkey.) The celebration itself was wild with dishes, food and people everywhere. Conversation spilled into every room of the house, loud, animated and punctuated with laughter. My sister-in-law said what we all thought: It was the best Thanksgiving ever!

That Thanksgiving story speaks to this weekend's Lenten readings that remind us: We are not God. What we have in this life is a result of our loving God's generosity, not something we somehow deserve.

For me, the temptation is to think it's all mine to be selfishly hoarded, consumed or parsimoniously doled out to whomever I deem worthy. (How good of me to pick up an extra $10 turkey.) But the Old Testament passage explains "first fruits," the concept that we give back to our generous God the first and best — not the leftovers or extra — of the gifts bestowed on us.

God has provided me a lifetime of security in a comfortable home with a loving family — all available to be shared. What are home, family and celebration for if not simply to show me the nature of God's love? If I'm going to return that love, it can be no less.

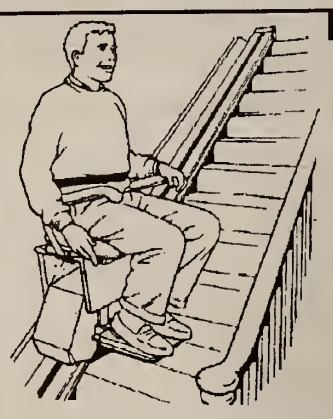
# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 28**

**Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday (St. Polycarp),** James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** James 4:1-10, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Thursday After Ash Wednesday),** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Friday After Ash Wednesday),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Saturday After Ash Wednesday),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 6**

**Sunday (First Sunday of Lent),** Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

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# The Little Tramp strikes again

CNS FILE PHOTO

Charlie Chaplin, with his familiar moustache and derby, is pictured in a scene from one of his classic comedies.

Richard Schickel's fascinating documentary, "Charlie. The Life and Art of Charles Chaplin," illuminates the genius of a man who, for an entire generation, entertained audiences the world over. And even today, actors, directors and Hollywood craftspeople try to imitate Chaplin's astonishing energy and brilliance in the hopes of achieving even a sliver of Chaplain's success in entertaining the masses.

Although Schickel's documentary will hold its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, the program will debut on the TCM cable channel Wednesday, March 3, 8-10 p.m. EST. In fact, TCM will feature Chaplin films and shorts each Wednesday night in March (check local listings for details).

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The film is not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

# Making 'Judas' TV film a 'personal responsibility,' director says

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Directing the ABC made-for-TV movie "Judas" was "not just a job, but a personal obligation, a personal responsibility to the faith I take very seriously," said Charles Robert Carner, a Catholic with a long line of successes in the made-for-TV movie genre.

"Obviously, as a Catholic, it was important to me" to be able to tell the story of the relationship between Jesus and Judas, the apostle who betrayed him, Carner told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

"Judas," which was originally titled "Judas & Jesus," will air Monday, March 8, 9-11 p.m. EST on ABC.

Carner got the directing job through his Catholic connections. "I know Father Frank," he said, referring to Father Frank Desiderio, head of Paulist Productions and one of the executive producers of the movie. "He was familiar with my work. We're both in Catholics in Media (Associates)," he said. "He asked me to make this, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

Although the Gospels focus on Jesus, there are many characters surrounding his life and ministry about whom much is unknown. Carner acknowledged the need to walk a fine line between the excesses of past filmed accounts of Jesus' life.

"If you look at 'The Greatest Story Ever Told,' it's respectful to the point of being tedious," Carner told CNS about the George Stevens' film that presented the traditional view of Christ as God incarnate.

"But 'The Last Temptation of Christ' was so self-conscious (about) shattering myths, it's like (director Martin) Scorsese was making a cold movie," Carner said. "And I don't want to trivialize people's religion, which is what screwed up Monty Python's 'Life of Brian.'"

Scorsese's film tried to present Christ as tempted by Satan to give up his role as Messiah for the life of an ordinary man. The Monty Python satire was about a contemporary of Jesus who is mistaken for him and eventually crucified by the Romans.

Carner believes he navigated those treacherous waters successfully, with the help of a solid cast.

Johnathon Schaech, who plays Judas, has "a marvelous intensity," he said. Jonathan Scarfe, who plays Jesus, projects "those intangible qualities of Jesus, a holistic sense of care and confidence and loving and values. I felt it was important the viewers get a sense of joy from him."

Fiona Glasscott, who plays Pontius Pilate's wife, Claudia, was "almost Machiavellian in the way she was able to influence Pilate."

He also lauded the script from Tom Fontana, best known for the series "Homicide: Life on the Street" and "Oz."

"You could make a whole other movie just on the interplay between Caiaphas and Pilate," Carner said. The movie features scenes between the Roman governor of Judea (Tim Matheson) and the Temple high priest (Bob Gunton) as they seek to maintain a fragile political equilibrium amid the growth of interest in Jesus.

"Judas" was filmed over 23 days in Morocco in 2001, according to Carner, a former member of the U.S. bishops' communications committee.

"We were in the mixing studio when Sept. 11 happened," Carner said, referring to the 2001 terror attacks that day in the United States.

"I went to work that day in a state of shock. Everyone was (in shock)," he added. "I called everyone together, and we said a prayer for the victims of these terrible attacks.

"People came up to me in tears and said, 'Thank you for making this move at this time.' It made them feel as if their work mattered," Carner said.

"Judas" stayed on the shelf for two years after it was completed.

"There have been reasons put forth at various times" for the delay in it being aired, Carner said. "ABC was waiting for the right moment. And, with the release of Mel Gibson's 'Passion' and all the attendant publicity, this was the right time. I can't say I blame them. If I were ABC, I'd try to find a good time to show this."

Since making "Judas," Carner directed "Red Water," the highest-rated original movie to be shown on basic cable, and "Crossfire Trail," the highest-rated Western feature to debut on basic cable, both on TNT.

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# Local band strikes chord with Abbey

## Gaston Symphonic Band, Hamilton perform in Guest Artist Series

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College continues its Guest Artist Series with a special concert by some of the best local artists in the Charlotte metro area.

The Gaston Symphonic Band will perform a free concert for the public in the Abbey Basilica at the college Feb. 22.

The concert will feature Suite No. 1 by Gustav Holst, Suite of Old American Dances by Bennett, Amparito Roca by Jaime Texidor, and Broadway one-step march and "Saint Thomas" by Sonny Rollins, arranged by Aubrey Winter.

The Gaston County Community Band was founded in 1993 by Seth Kirby, band director at Mount Holly Junior High. During Kirby's tenure, the Gaston County Community Band continued to grow into a full symphonic band of more than 60 members playing a variety of music.

To reflect this growth, the volunteer band eventually became known as the Gaston Symphonic Band.

Tim Hamilton was appointed interim director in 2000, when the group's founder became ill, and permanent director in 2001.

Hamilton is a graduate of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, where he performed as an orchestral trumpeter with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra. He began his music teaching career in South Carolina. In 1996, he was named director of bands at Ashbrook Senior High School.

Currently, Hamilton is the director of bands at Belmont Middle School in Belmont.

The Guest Artist Series at Belmont Abbey College is made possible in part by the Associated Foundation of Belmont, with additional assistance from Sam Stowe III, Benedictine Father Kenneth Geyer and Abbot Placid D. Solari. Karen Hite Jacob is the series' coordinator.

**WANT TO GO?**

The Gaston Symphonic Band performs in the Abbey Basilica at 3 p.m. Feb. 22. The concert is free and open to the public.

# Catholic students make top honors

## *Second quarter honor roll announced*

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace School announced its middle school students who have been named to the school's "All-A" or "A/B" honor rolls for the second quarter grading period.

The students earning recognition on the "All-A" honor roll:

— sixth-graders Olivia Campbell and Monika Chao;

— seventh-graders Tommy Saintsing and Elanor Shingledecker;

— eighth-graders Leslee Flores, Tyler Frankenberg, Heather Hofmann, Ben Kirby, Elle Merrill, Will Scott and Conner Sherwood.

The students earning recognition on the "A/B" honor roll:

— sixth-graders Emily Byerly, Nicole Curnes, Kevin DePopas, Jenny Hodgin, Ivy Kolosieke, Kate McMullen, Ellis Murray, Rose O'Shea, Teresa Pincus, Andrew Pratt, Hilding Reich, Garret Roth, Mark Sowinski, Aaron Toomey, Austin Tritt, Michael Ware and Mary Kate Young;

— seventh-graders Vanessa Abbott, Kim Anile, Kevin Englar, Jenna Macksood, Lauren Martiere, Helen McNamara, Josh Merrill, Cissy Nitz, Claire O'Keeffe and Logan Payne;

— eighth-graders Trey Cheek, Brenna Currie, Lauren Hill, Andrew Justice, Alle Leonard, Jonathan Leonard, Kelly Lynn McGee, Mary Margaret Mooney, Jordan Nunez, Rocky Pagliei, Jose Ruiz, Mariamme Sadri and Corinne Smith.


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# Father W. Robert Graves, former Hispanic minister, dies

BETHEL PARK, Pa. — Holy Ghost Father W. Robert Graves, a former director of Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, died in Florida of leukemia Feb. 4, 2004.

Father Graves was born in Worchester, Mass., on Nov. 20, 1923. He made his vows to the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on July 16, 1944 and was ordained to the priesthood in Norwalk, Conn., on Feb. 17, 1950.

Following his ordination, his first assignment took him to Puerto Rico where he worked in a number of missions for 42 years.

In August 1992, he was assigned to the Diocese of Charlotte as chaplain for the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry. He also worked with Hispanics at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe until 1996.

His retirement years found him at the Spiritans retirement home in Sarasota, Fla., where he continued to assist in replacement ministry until his death.

Burial took place in St. Mary's Cemetery in Pennsylvania.

In memory of Father Graves, donations may be made to the Spiritans, designated for retirement or for the education of future Holy Ghost priests, at 6230 Brush Run Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

# Brother of Msgr. Showfety dies

GREENSBORO — Michael Showfety, brother of Msgr. Joseph Showfety, died in Greensboro Feb. 15. He was 83 years old.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 19 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Msgr. Showfety at:

Msgr. Joseph S. Showfety
7-A Fountain Manor Drive
Greensboro, N.C. 27405

## CORRECTION

**Rev. Mr. Gerard LaPointe, permanent deacon at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, was unintentionally omitted from the staff box in the Parish Profile.**


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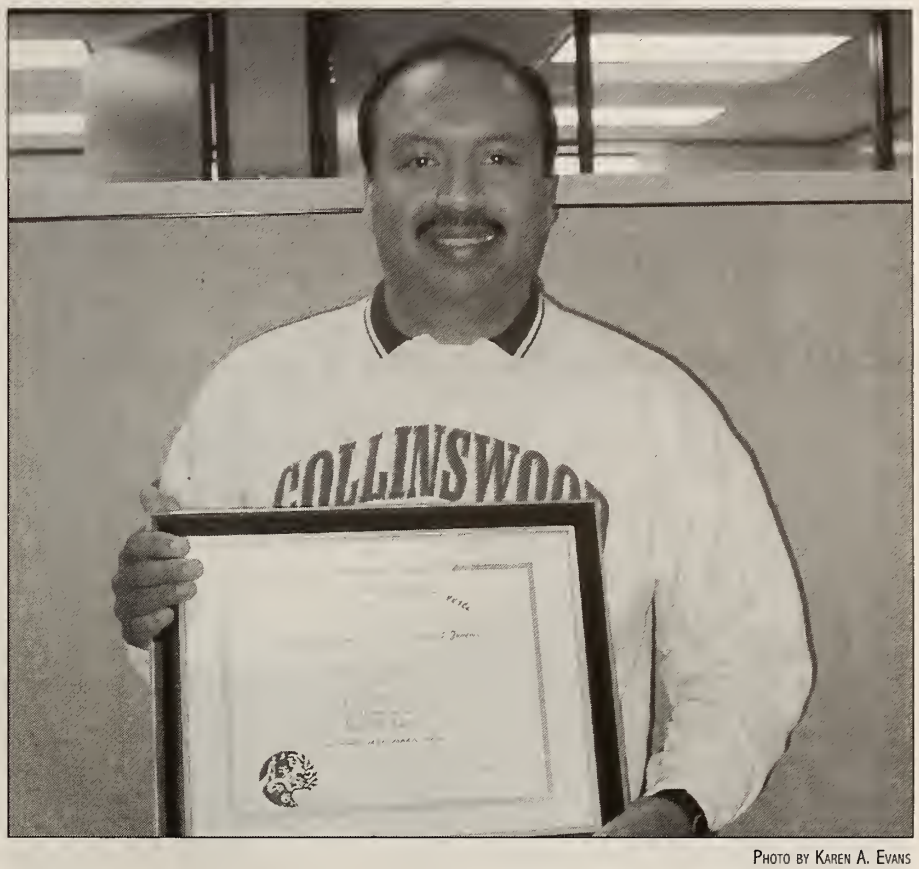

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Ricardo Veloz, diocesan director of Hispanic youth and young adult ministry, displays the certificate he received in recognition of his completion of the "Adult Counselors For Youth Ministry" course at the Southeast Pastoral Institute.

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Ricardo Veloz, director of diocesan Hispanic youth and young adult ministry, recently completed 150 hours of study, "Adult Counselors For Youth Ministry," at the Southeast Pastoral Institute in Miami, Fla.

Veloz considered the most important focus of the program to be psychology for adolescents, where he learned how to help young people cope with their problems. Other courses included methodology, Christology and sociology.

Adolescents may be the most important people in the Catholic Church today, he said. The sociology course taught him how society integrates adolescents into it.

"The courses helped me to better understand the realities youth and young adults, especially Hispanics, face everyday," he said. "And also to understand the Catholic Church's position on youth and young adults."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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## THIS MONTH IN —1992

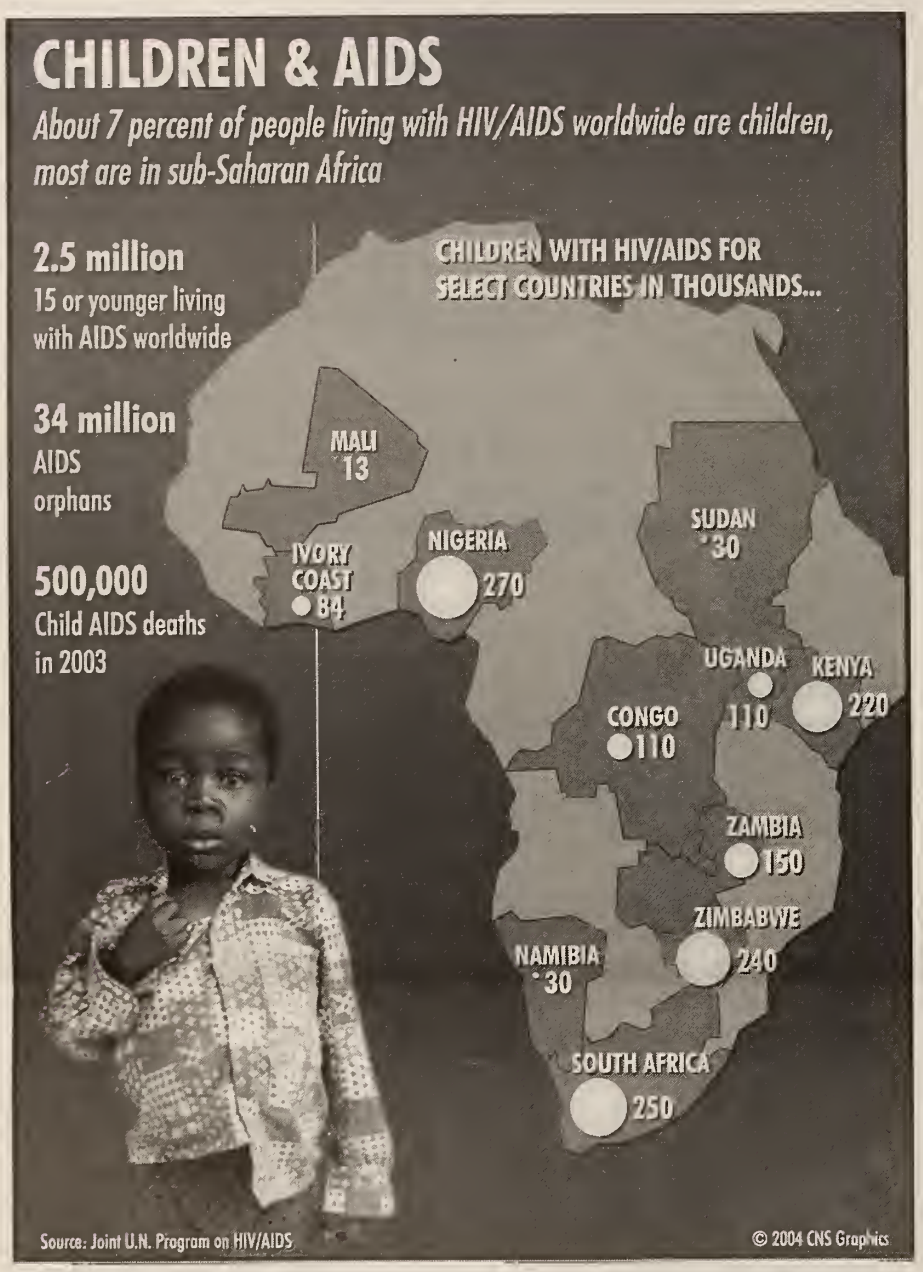
### QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES GETS NEW FACILITIES

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue blessed a new parish family center and education building at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont Feb. 16, 1992. The new facilities were built to encourage family life and social gatherings for the growing parish.

The 7,000-square-foot parish center features a spacious hall, a large kitchen, nursery, meeting room and storage space. A brick exterior matched the church and adjoining rectory. The educational building, a separate structure, featured six carpeted classrooms.

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints




# Pope says Letter to Ephesians tells of salvation plan, God's love

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II, continuing a series of talks on prayer, said St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians offers a powerful summary of God's plan for salvation and his love for humanity.

At the beginning of the letter, St. Paul's canticle — recited every Monday at evening prayer — touches upon the purpose of creation, the meaning of the sacrifice of Christ and the importance of the gift of grace, the pope said at his weekly general audience Feb. 18.

The pope, seated on his mobile throne on the stage of the Vatican's audience hall, read less than half his prepared talk, and his voice was weak.

He said St. Paul's meditation at the beginning of his Letter to the Ephesians reflects on the fullness of God's plan for humanity.

"The canticle is a hymn to the saving power of God revealed in Jesus Christ. In his infinite goodness God planned before the creation of the world to bring all things into one through his beloved Son," he said in the English summary of his talk.

"This mysterious plan of salvation culminates in the mystery of Christ and the church. Through Christ's blood shed on the cross we have received redemption and the forgiveness of our sins," he said.

"By grace we were predestined in love to become children of God and to share in the fullness of God's own life," he said.

The audience was enlivened by the songs and chants of groups of international visitors, who cheered as their names were read by papal aides. The pope was serenaded by choirs, small bands and a group of harmonica-playing pilgrims from Germany.

Near the end of the audience, the pope greeted some 100 bishops who sat behind him on the stage. They were attending a conference on holiness in modern society, sponsored by the worldwide Focolare movement, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Focolare, also called the Work of Mary, is a Catholic lay movement seeking world unity through the living witness of Christian love and holiness in the family and small community.

In brief remarks to the delegation, the pope said Mary was the "sublime model" of holiness for the whole church.

Among the bishops in the group was Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, whose brief marriage to a Korean follower of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon in 2001 caused the Vatican deep embarrassment. Archbishop Milingo reconciled with the pope and the Vatican and currently leads faith-healing prayer services at a spirituality center outside Rome.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Attractive concept of 'enough'

## Coming of Age

KAREN DIETLEIN
CNS COLUMNIST

"If only I were thin enough. Then I'd be happy."

Those words came to me out of nowhere as I twisted and twirled in front of a department store mirror last week. I was trying on a cocktail dress, watching as the material bunched and stretched in all the wrong places. I looked terrible.

In an instant I flashed back to high school and saw myself standing in the corner of the girls' locker room feeling that I just wasn't pretty enough, that I just wasn't smart enough, that I just wasn't thin enough and that I could never be really happy until I was.

Then something occurred to me as I readjusted that too-tight skirt. I'd never thought of it back in school when I was busy trying to avoid showing off my flabby arms after dodge ball.

"Enough," I muttered, picking at the dress with my left hand. How much weight loss was enough? At first I mused 10 pounds — but wouldn't 30 be better? Or 40? Was I looking to fit into this particular frock or was I trying to be as skinny as Gwyneth Paltrow? Did I actually ever have a weight-loss goal that I was going to stick to and be happy with or was I just trying to pour water into a bottomless cup, mistakenly expecting it to overflow with blessings?

"Enough" is an attractive concept. Society implies that once we get "enough" we can coast through life much as Gwyneth glides gently across the red carpet at the Oscars.

But without a clear, definitive goal "enough" becomes a lie — a false promise of happiness, an undefined and often unattainable high point. It becomes the carrot forever dangling just out of reach. It becomes the treat that's forever in the future, the Christmas morning that never comes.

At what point does "enough" become — well, enough?

I didn't want to sacrifice my own personal happiness on the altar of "never enough." I wanted to play the violin, feel the music flow through me and enjoy it. So what if I'm not as good as Itzhak Perlman? I wanted to write, to place words together in order and consonance. So what if I don't have a Pulitzer Prize yet?

Big dreams and great ambitions are necessary. I have quite a few myself. I try to keep them close — and in perspective. Because if there's one thing I've learned in my experience with the word "enough" it's that people don't have to wait for it to be truly happy.

Even if waited for "enough" and became richer than Midas, with the body of Helen of Troy and the writing talent of Shakespeare in my pinkie toe I still could wake up one morning, face myself in the mirror and say bleakly: "I'm not good enough. I'm not pretty enough. I'm not smart enough."

And I can't imagine how awful that would feel.

There is happiness in the future, in the things that we will all eventually see and do and experience. But there's also happiness right here — right now — even though we are imperfect people, even though we don't always win first prize, get the guy or look our best all the time.

And happiness starts with knowing what's "enough" for us right here, right now.

It took practice to eliminate "never enough" from my life, but I'm quite contented with the results so far. After all — "I am pretty," "I am smart," "I am good."

Don't they sound great?

# For Lent: Lessons in love

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

February is the time of year when it seems appropriate to talk about love.

Clearly, St. Valentine's Day has become associated with people expressing warm affection, even undying devotion. And if it makes folks feel closer and fonder of one another to send cards and flowers or share a box of chocolates, I say, more power to them. However, the occasion I'm really thinking of is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

Love is far more than an emotion: it is a force of heaven. God's love for his people is what propels us from the despair of death to the hope of eternity; from the mortality we contemplate on Ash Wednesday through the ultimate sacrifice of God's son on Good Friday to his glorious resurrection of Easter morning.

Whatever love we have for ourselves, for others and for God exists because God first loved us, not with simple sentiment, but with a miraculous power. I believe he expects our love to reflect his own, with words and actions that express our belief in the transforming potential of love.

So, this Lenten season I have a suggestion for what to give up. Give up apathy and ambivalence. Embrace God's love for your own. Think about ways to put love into practice in all the little and large moments of everyday life. Think about what love really means.

— Love is pleasant when it would be easy to be irritable;

— Love listens even when it's not convenient;

— Love speaks kindly of those whom others belittle;

— Love draws out the best from those who often fail;

— Love delights in giving attention rather than in attracting it;

— Love respects the other's point of view without necessarily accepting it;

— Love knows how to disagree without becoming disagreeable;

— Love rejoices at the success of others instead of being envious;

— Love puts up with others' idiosyncrasies without being self-righteous;

— Love strives to make a bad situation better instead of just complaining;

— Love avoids causing unnecessary pain even when it's difficult;

— Love helps those in trouble without expecting the favor to be returned;

Cardinal John Henry Newman said, "One little deed, done against natural inclinations for God's sake, though in itself of a passive character, to brook an insult, to face danger, or to resign an advantage, has in it power outbalancing all the dust and chaff of mere profession."

How small and insignificant love seems when put in these terms — until we try to live it. There's nothing easy about pouring out love through patient perseverance. Denying your own desires for the welfare of another and returning good for evil are considered weak by those who don't have the strength to do them.

So, when your thoughts this month turn to hearts, that's fine — as long as you treasure all love for the one heart pierced for love of you.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Works of Mercy, Gifts of Love," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# The Assumption of Mary

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. As a Catholic I believe what the church teaches about the Assumption of Mary. But I never learned any facts upon which this teaching is based. How can we have such an important feast and belief when there are no facts to back them up? Or have I missed something? (Indiana)*

A. I'm not sure what you mean by facts. For many of our Catholic and Christian beliefs there are no physical "facts," if that's what you mean, to support them. What such facts do we have to bolster our faith in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, for example? Or our belief that the Bible is the word of God?

These are mysteries in the formal religious sense; we cannot know or comprehend them with our human faculties alone, without some direct revelation from God.

What Pope Pius XII wrote when proclaiming the dogma of the assumption (1950) applies to all divine mysteries. The virgin Mary's bodily assumption into heaven, he said, is a truth "which surely no faculty of the human mind could know by its own natural powers" ("Munificentissimus Deus," No. 14).

We believe that some authentic facts, realities, are not certifiable by physical evidence or purely natural processes of logic. Among these is the promise of Jesus Christ that he would be with and guide his community of believers, his church, until the end of time (Mt 28:20).

He assured the disciples that the Father would send the Spirit of truth, who "will teach you everything and remind you of all I told you" and "will guide you to all truth" (Jn 14:26 and 16:13).

The Spirit of Jesus will keep it safe from any direction or teaching that could get it seriously off track and endanger its mission to be a sure instrument and channel of God's saving grace for the human family. This is an essential "fact" of Catholic, and indeed all Christian, faith.

This leads to the further fact that, while the church speaks sometimes through the pope or the collective body of bishops, the official teachers in the church, the Holy Spirit also inspires, and speaks to and in, the whole body of the faithful on earth, bringing about what is known in theology as the "sensus fidelium," the consensus of believers.

Pius XII's declaration of the doctrine of the assumption is a perfect example. Before the operative words proclaiming the dogma, he devotes pages to explaining carefully exactly what is being done and especially establishing the extensive, centuries-old belief of Catholics worldwide that this teaching regarding Mary was revealed by God.

He reviews evidence of this belief in devotions and liturgy, in the dedication of churches, religious orders and every sort of religious institution and activity to our Lady under the title of her assumption.

He explains how the teaching accords with Scripture and other great Christian traditions, and why, for more than 1,000 years, theologians, including St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas, witnessed in its favor. (If you want to read the whole document, Google search "Munifcentissimus Deus" on the Internet.)

Finally, four years before the declaration, he wrote to all bishops, inquiring whether the assumption could be proposed and defined as a dogma of faith. "Do you, with your clergy and people, desire that it should be (defined)?" he asked. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Perhaps, especially dealing with things of God, "facts" are where you find them. As with love, God, beauty and nearly all other truly important facts of life, we do not understand. We just know.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Parents aging

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

I hate seeing people age, especially parents. I want to color the gray out of their hair and buy them a lifetime prescription for aging cream so as to erase, along with their wrinkles, my fear of being left alone in this world.

Young adults are entering that chapter in their lives when they must decide what to do if their parents are no longer able to meet their own needs. The young adults remember with nostalgia when Dad didn't suffer from prostate cancer and when Mom's eyes were still good.

Each generation has had to care for the one before it, of course. But since many young adults are prolonging the decision to start a family of their own, a growing number of 30-somethings are faced with the double responsibility of changing diapers and Depends.

"I thought the grandparents were supposed to be of help to us when we were raising babies," a disgruntled and exhausted friend said the other night as he flung himself on our couch after a full day of work, grocery shopping and helping his mom with a water leak.

Some of our parents are 60 going on 90, with many physical ailments and complaints. Some are as active and as mentally alert as they were in their prime. They still swim or walk or play tennis every morning. Some work at their health; others live on cocktails and smokes.

"Old age and the passage of time teach us everything," writes the ancient Greek Sophocles. People either age gracefully or awkwardly; they embrace life and its seasons of joy and sorrow, or they defy it and resist the rhythm of its days, shutting down all vitality before its time.

We young adults can learn a great deal from our parents on how to age, which so often reflects how to live.

Research shows that those who stay physically and mentally active throughout their later years can successfully avert and overcome many diseases and cancers that plague their inactive friends.

I am inspired by those in their 70s, 80s and beyond who engage in life as fully as they did in their 20s and are uninhibited by their age to try new things. They have taught me to embrace life as a young lover, and to appreciate each and every day.

Eventually, however, there is no escaping death and aging and gray hair and wrinkles. I fear the day I won't be able to worry about my mom and to hear her voice on the other end of the phone. Until then, I try to learn as much as I can from her lived experience.

# St. Elizabeth Church serves parishioners, others in Boone area

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Elizabeth Church in Boone was dedicated in 1988 after a fire destroyed the original church building.

**ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**
259 Pilgrims Way
Boone, N.C. 28607
(828) 264-8338 or 264-6347

**Vicariate:** Boone
**Pastor:** Father John Schneider
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Alexander Lyerly
**Number of Households:** 465

Father John Schneider

BOONE — St. Elizabeth Church has its beginnings in the few Catholic families and several Catholic students at Appalachian State College (now University) who were present in Boone in the 1940s.

At that time, visiting priests from Lenoir and North Wilkesboro celebrated Mass in the homes of private residents or the movie theater in Blowing Rock. One of those priests was Father William Wellein, who in 1953 set up the "Madonna of the Highways Motor Chapel" in Boone. It was often parked beside the Carolina Pharmacy and served a largely tourist population.

Father Wellein later began celebrating weekly Masses at the old American Legion "hut" and was commissioned to purchase land for a new church. Fundraising began by 1957, and the first Mass was celebrated in the new church in November 1958.

St. Elizabeth Church had no resident pastor until the Glenmary Home Missioners assumed pastoral responsibility in 1963. Glenmary Father Edward Smith convinced a few Glenmary brothers to come and erect an adjacent Newman Center office complex and living quarters for the priest in 1965.

During the Glenmary administration of the parish, the Catholic population, both around Boone and at Appalachian State, continued to grow. The first parish advisory board was established in 1964. When Father Smith was assigned to South America in 1969, Glenmary Father Robert Cameron became acting pastor. He was followed by Glenmary Father Robert Bond, who helped St. Elizabeth to become financially stable and have a functioning parish council.

A Ladies Guild was soon organized, and in 1972, the Diocese of Charlotte was established and pastoral responsibilities were returned to the diocese with Father George Kloster as pastor. At the time, St. Elizabeth Church's rolls showed 303 members.

In 1974, Dominican Sister Ann Griggin arrived as Catholic campus minister and to serve the parish. In 1976 St. Elizabeth Church became covenanted with St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

In 1979, Father Frank Connolly became pastor. Outreach programs for the poor and disabled were accelerated, as well as efforts to reach Catholics not attending church. Birth Choice and Peace and Justice groups were organized also.

By 1982, there were 414 registered parishioners and weekend Mass attendance during the summer months averaged 600 people. The June-through-September staffing of the Church of the Epiphany in Blowing Rock was a response to the influx of vacationing Floridians escaping the summer heat.

By 1984, the parish family had outgrown the original 140-seat church building when a disastrous fire destroyed the structure. During the next four years, business was conducted at the rectory and Masses were celebrated in an Appalachian State auditorium and Boone United Methodist Church.

The office complex, which survived the fire, was moved across the street and rebuilt in 1985 as the Catholic Campus Ministry Center. Land was purchased for the new church building, complete with religious education space, socializing facilities and offices. The new structure opened in the spring of 1988 and was dedicated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue on July 17 of that year. Continued parish growth necessitated the addition of two education wings, which were completed in 1993 under Jesuit Father H. Cornell Bradley's pastorate.

Father Damion Lynch served as pastor from 1993 until 1995, when Father Anthony Marcaccio administered until Father Conrad Hoover became pastor in 1996. Father John Schneider, the current pastor, came to the church in July 2000.

In November 2002, St. Elizabeth Church became part of WeCAN, the Watauga Crisis Assitance Network, a faith-bases ministry of churches working together to help the Watauga County residents in need.

Ministry life within the parish continues to thrive, including active participation in the faith formation program, the Knights of Columbus and campus ministry at Appalachian State. The parish is also involved in Hispanic outreach and offers a weekly Spanish Mass.

In 1993, the parish received the Mustard Seed Award from the National Catholic Education Association in recognition of their high level of involvement and participation.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: St. Pius X Church

I PAGE 16

FEBRUARY 27, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 22

## The essence of ashes

*Bishop Jugis distributes ashes, Lenten message*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Lent is a holy season of repentance and conversion, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

The bishop delivered the Lenten message during his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. He called people to conversion, and to reflect on the condition of children during the Lenten season.

"Every year our Lord Jesus Christ invites us into this holy season of Lent, because he wants to work a miracle of repentance and conversion in our heart through his grace," said Bishop Jugis.

"It truly is a miracle, isn't it, when God's grace can move our hearts to repentance for our sins, and conversion to a more

See ASHES, page 8

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis distributes ashes during Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

## Bishop Jugis addresses clergy abuse issues

*Local, national abuse statistics released*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As part of its ongoing commitment to effectively deal with the sin of sexual abuse of minors by some clergy, the Diocese of Charlotte released information included in the national John Jay study Feb. 27.

The study, conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, was commissioned by the all-lay National Review Board under the mandate of the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The report, compiled by figures submitted by almost all of the 195 U.S. dioceses, presented data on the nature and scope of the sexual abuse of minors by some priests from 1950 through 2002.

Also on Feb. 27, the National Review Board released a companion study on the causes and context behind clerical abuse of minors, based on a series of interviews with church leaders and specialists. When the bishops formed the board in 2002, part of its mandate was to develop those studies.

The 46-county Diocese of Charlotte reported 13 priests had allegations of sexual misconduct made against them since the establishment of the diocese in 1972. Upon investigation, two priests were exonerated. The percentage of priests with allegations against them is 1.9 percent of the 677 active and retired priests in the dio-

See REPORT, page 8

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

son Evert recruits an student at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle chool for a demonstration to open his talk on chastity Feb. 20.

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY

## Charlotte students learn value of chastity

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's note: The following article contains material of an explicit nature that may not be appropriate for younger readers.*

CHARLOTTE — "It is only when a person takes sex out of a relationship that they can know the value of love," asserts Jason Evert.

For many teen-agers, this may seem like a difficult statement to agree with, but Evert believes it — and has said so to hundreds of thousands of teens across the United States.

Twenty-seven-year-old Evert is a Catholic apologist

See CHASTITY, page 7

**Weaving bright futures**
*ORB grant assists Montagnard refugees*
I PAGE 5

**Special report**
*Diocese combats sexual abuse of minors*
I PAGES 8-9

**Culture Watch**
*Movies, books, crossword puzzle*
I PAGES 10-12

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## COUNTRY IN CRISIS

CNS PHOTO BY WILLIAM B. PLOWMAN

A woman is led away from her damaged vehicle after it was hit by stones during clashes between supporters of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and opposition demonstrators Feb. 15 in Port-au-Prince. Haitian bishops appealed for calm amid a worsening crisis on the island-nation that has pitted supporters of the president against those wanting him ousted from office.

## CRS: delivery of humanitarian aid threatened by unrest in Haiti

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services said food supplies at its centers in Haiti are running low and deliveries of fresh supplies are threatened by current unrest.

CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, warned of a potential humanitarian crisis in Haiti if commercial and aid supply lines continued to be affected.

"The situation is critical," Dula James, CRS country representative in Haiti, said Feb. 18.

That day, CRS began delivering several thousand metric tons of food and cooking supplies. However, the volatile environment — including spontaneous street protests, roadblocks and general social unrest — could threaten the delivery's implementation, affecting hundreds of thousands who depend solely on CRS food aid for survival, the agency said.

CRS said roadblocks manned by gunmen have made it difficult for supplies and humanitarian assistance to reach these areas.

The agency's partners in northern Haiti have reported shortages in food and household supplies. CRS was organizing support for parishes in the area to distribute basic necessities.

Some 60 people have been killed since a rebellion against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide began in early February.

Rebels have chased police from more than a dozen towns and cut supply lines to northern Haiti from Port-au-Prince, the capital, and from the western Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

The threat of violence and lack of communication have left Haitian citizens at the mercy of each day's events, CRS said.

Hospitals and schools closed and the cost of food, medicine and cooking fuel skyrocketed. In Gonaives, the country's fourth-largest city with a population of 200,000, all commercial deliveries were discontinued, CRS said.

CRS and Caritas partners continued to work in the areas that remained accessible and lobbied for the establishment of a humanitarian corridor to alleviate the suffering of the North.

Aristide, a former Salesian priest, became Haiti's first elected leader in 1991. He was ousted in a military coup shortly after his election and was restored to power in a 1994 U.S. invasion. He was re-elected in 2000 and now faces accusations of corruption and political violence.

Auxiliary Bishop Pierre-Andre Dumas of Port-au-Prince told Vatican Radio Feb. 17 that Haiti was "on the verge of civil war, and anarchy reigns over the island."

He said it was time for the United States, which returned Aristide to power in 1994, to remind the president what democracy means.

# English-speaking bishops receive copies of draft of Mass prayers

ROME (CNS) — Bishops in English-speaking countries have been sent drafts of a new translation of the main prayers used at Mass, but one expert said the number of obviously modified texts would not be overwhelming.

Msgr. James P. Moroney, secretary of the U.S. bishops' liturgy committee, said "the only things that were changed were those things that needed to be changed for precision or proclamation."

The English draft of the "Ordo Missae," or Order of the Mass, was approved by the episcopal board of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy in January.

Copies were sent out Feb. 13 to every Latin-rite bishop in the United States, and other English-speaking bishops' conferences were expected to distribute the text about the same time.

Msgr. Moroney said he would not discuss specific suggested changes while the bishops were reviewing and offering their comments on the texts. He said the Order of the Mass contains "almost all of the changes" expected in the parts of the Mass recited by the congregation.

The Order of the Mass includes prayers that are used at every Mass. It does not include all of the prayers that change weekly during the liturgical year.

Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the draft in late February. In several instances, the new version of the Mass prayers includes more literal translations of the original Latin texts including the word order.

For example, the proposed Gloria begins: "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to people of good will."

The current English text says "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth."

In many instances, the proposed text uses more formal language than previously.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Why would an anti-Catholic Presbyterian minister become a full-time Catholic apologist?* Gerry Matatics will present a free, eye-opening talk addressing "How the Bible converted me to Catholicism." "Will 'faith alone' get you to heaven?" and "Is 'Scripture alone' taught in Scripture?" This free presentation will take place at Ballantyne Resort, 10000 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 14, 1:30-6 p.m. Bring your Bible, questions and friends. For more information, visit www.gerrymatatics.org.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. The March 10 program will feature a fashion show. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St., will have a *Lenten Supper-Study* Wednesday evenings during Lent — March 3, 10, 17 and 24. All are welcome. Community dinner is at 6 p.m. with Catechesis 6:45-7:30 p.m. Topic this year is "Vatican II: 40 Years Later." No pre-registration or fee required, no need to bring food, all is provided by the parish. For more information, please contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Many of us want to do "something extra" during Lent. The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host their annual *Lenten mini-retreat* each Wednesday in March at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass will be at 1 a.m. followed by refreshments. For information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope approves six sainthood causes; Vatican sets May 16 canonization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II formally paved the way for the canonization of four men and two women, the majority of whom are founders of religious congregations from the 19th century.

The six will be elevated to sainthood during a Mass May 16 in St. Peter's Square.

One of those to be canonized is Blessed Father Luigi Orione, founder of the Little Work of Divine Providence, a religious congregation and the Orione Family, made up of laity, religious and priests.

Blessed Gianna Beretta Molla, the only nonreligious of the group, was an Italian pediatrician who became known as the "pro-life saint."

She discovered she had a uterine tumor during the end of the second month of her pregnancy. In order to spare the life of the fetus, she decided to refuse an operation that might have saved her life.

Molla carried the girl to term in 1962, but died a week after giving birth.

The other causes set for canonization May 16 include:

— Blessed Jose Manyanet Vives, founder of the Sons of the Holy Family.

— Blessed Nimatullah Kassab al-Hardini, a Lebanese Maronite monk.

— Blessed Paola Busecchi-Tassis, founder of the Institute of the Holy Family and the Congregation of the Holy Family.

— Blessed Annibale Maria di Francia, founder of the Congregation of the Rogationist Fathers and the Daughters of Divine Zeal.

Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

ASHEBORO — Father Joseph Mack, pastor of St. Joseph Church, will introduce the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the prayer of the Catholic Church as it is prayed by priests, religious and a growing number of lay people throughout the world. Join us and become a part of this beautiful rhythm of prayer. This program will be held March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Salt Box, Randolph Senior Adult Center, 133 W. Wainman Ave. For more information call the St Joseph Church office at (336) 629-6221.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service will be held at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church March 5 at 7 p.m. This bilingual service was written by Christian Women of Panama. The theme is *"In Faith, Women Shape the Future."* The guest speaker will be Diomara Palma. A native of Nicaragua, she is active in lay ministry at St. Joseph Church in Newton. For more information, contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-956.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

LEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 8820 Kinnamon Rd., will celebrate a *Healing Mass* March 1 at 7:30 p.m. with Msgr. Mauricio West as celebrant. Reconciliation will be offered at 7 p.m. Sacramental laying on of hands will follow the Mass. Please join us for singing and hopeful expectancy. For more information, contact (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order invites you to a *Peace Meal for the Poor* March 7. The fraternity will serve a simple meal consisting of soup, bread and water. A love basket will be available during the meal and the proceeds will be used to stock the food pantry at Catholic Social Services. The meal will be served 12-1 p.m. in the cafeteria of Our Lady of Mercy School located at 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, N.C. Please join us and help to feed the hungry in our area. For more information, contact Sharon Jackson, SFO Minister, at (336) 722-7001.

KERNERSVILLE — The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Student Council will host the *American Red Cross Bloodmobile* March 11, 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. BMCHS recognizes the importance of helping the Red Cross maintain an adequate and safe blood supply, and everyone in the community who is able to donate blood is encouraged to attend. The Blood Drive will be held in the school's Krispy Kreme Athletic Center at 1725 NC Highway 66 South. The school is located a block south of I-40 on Route 66. An appointment is not necessary but can be made by contacting Linda Kennedy, Student Council moderator, at (336) 564-1010.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

March 6 — 10 a.m.
Mass with Permanent Deacons and Diaconate Candidates
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

March 6 — 2 p.m.
Rite of Election
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

March 7 — 2 p.m.
Rite of Election
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

March 13
F.I.R.E. Rally Mass
Fort Mill, S.C.

# Early public lobbying for World Youth Day prompts Vatican criticism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Germany prepares to welcome more than 100,000 young people for World Youth Day in 2005, some countries, like Australia, are already lining up to host World Youth Day 2007.

But one official at the Pontifical Council for the Laity — the Vatican office in charge of overseeing World Youth Day events — was not pleased with the early publicity of countries' intentions to host future youth celebrations.

On Feb. 19, an Italian Catholic youth Web site reported Australian Catholic bishops agreed to propose Sydney as the next city to host World Youth Day after Cologne, Germany.

Reports also circulated that bishops of South Africa and Bolivia wanted their countries to be considered the venue for World Youth Day 2007.

This publicity prompted criticism from the head of the Pontifical Council for the Laity's Youth Section, Father Francis Kohn. With preparations still under way for the World Youth Day event in Germany, Father Kohn said, it was inappropriate to be announcing intentions to host the 2007 event.

"This is not very professional; it's too soon to announce such a thing, and it wasn't very prudent of Korazym to send this out so quickly," he told Catholic News Service.

He said it was the responsibility of the Vatican to announce who would be the candidates for hosting the next round of World Youth Day events.

"It's fine for the bishops to talk among themselves about wanting their country to host it and to come to an agreement about it and then to send us a letter of formal request. But to publish one's intentions before even making the request ... they risk doing something that will work against their intention," Father Kohn said.

# Turning a new page

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, speaks with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II at the patriarch's residence in Moscow Feb. 22. Among other contentious issues, the Russian Orthodox object to Pope John Paul II's desire to appoint Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Lviv, Ukraine, as Catholic patriarch. Cardinal Kasper told reporters he hoped to "open a new page, a page of friendship" with the Orthodox.

## THIS MONTH IN —1996

### OUR LADY OF LOURDES JUBILEE WEEKEND

Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe celebrated its 50th anniversary Feb. 9-11, 1996. The jubilee weekend included a Mass and luncheon honoring parishioners who had been there since 1946 when the church was established; the blessing and dedication of an organ; a family celebration; and brunch with then-Bishop William G. Curlin.

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Matthew Kauth, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, chats with participants during "The Four Last Things" women's retreat at the church Feb. 13-15.

# The last four things

## *Retreat explores leading spiritual life*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

FRANKLIN — The women went to hell and back, sort of.

Approximately 100 women from around the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for a spiritual retreat entitled "The Last Four Things" at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin Feb. 13-15.

Father Matthew Kauth, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church, and Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva, spoke during the retreat about sin, purgatory, hell and heaven.

"It was a wonderful weekend," said Father Kauth. "My job was to take them through hell and sin."

Hell, he said, "is the inability to love. All sin is a disordered love. When we sin, we turn toward something we want more than God."

To be a saint, he said, takes much love. "Love is to give oneself away, to pour oneself out in sacrifice," he said.

Everything in life is a prelude to heaven, said Father Kauth, because everyone goes through purgatory either in this life or the next.

In 1999, Pope John Paul II described purgatory as "not a place" but a "condition."

Love, said Father Williams, "draws us through purgatory, which is actually a process we're going through now. I compared purgatory to a mountain we're climbing. This involves a struggle; it's not necessarily easy, but it can be adventurous."

Prayer isn't a struggle, said Father Williams, but the development of a relationship with God. By the grace of God, people can be saved.

"Self-love leads to a hellish existence," he said. "Loving God and neighbor is what saves us. Heaven is union with God and one another, and the glory to which we're called. I wanted them to take away real insight into that glory, and to be inspired by that."

Father Williams said the retreat participants left the retreat uplifted and with new ideas on how to approach the season of Lent.

Many of the women were inspired to strive for saintliness.

"It was real talk to help one become holy, to become a saint, which is what we should all be aiming for," said Bonny Dodge, a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q. Why is Ash Wednesday 40 days before Easter? What is the significance of the number 40? How do you determine the date of Ash Wednesday?*

A: Because the early Christians regarded Moses' parting of the sea as an Old Testament antecedent for Baptism and because Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai before encountering God, Christians used the number 40 as the length of the season to prepare catechumens for receiving the Sacrament of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

The date of Ash Wednesday is counted back from the date of Easter — count back six Sundays and then go to the previous Wednesday. That is Ash Wednesday; those six Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days.

# Lunch and language

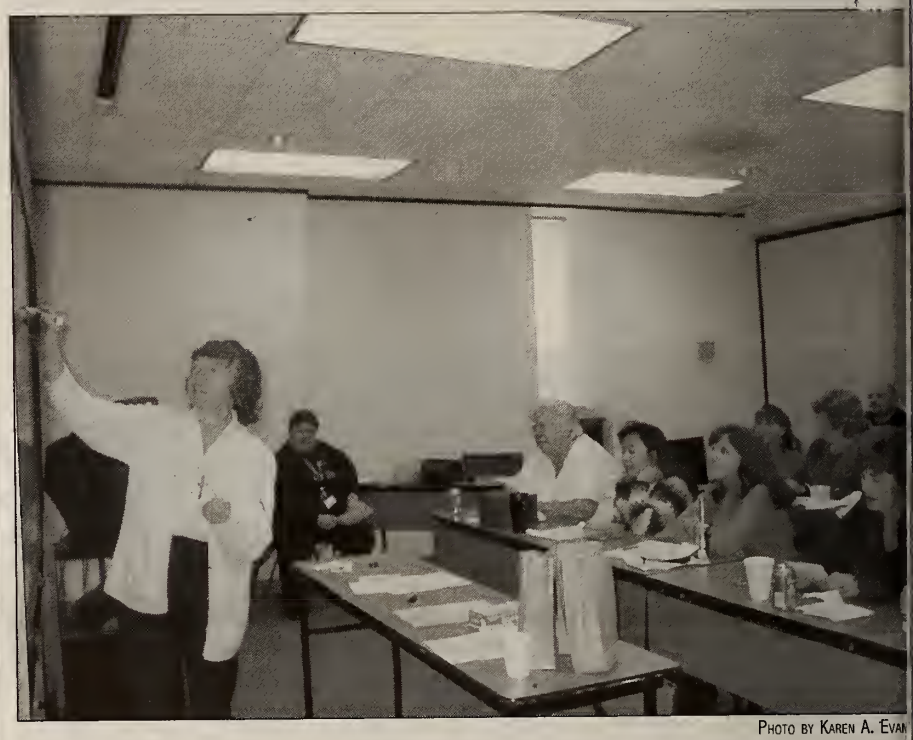

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVAN

Tiffin (Ohio) Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott teaches Spanish to diocesan employees at the Pastoral Center Feb. 24. The Diocesan Diversity Committee sponsors the weekly "Lunch and Language" program, which was developed out of the desire of many employees to learn Spanish as the Diocese of Charlotte welcomes Spanish-speaking newcomers to its churches.

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# Brighter futures looming in Greensboro

## *Operation Rice Bowl grant assists Montagnard refugees*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Montagnard refugees are weaving a brighter future in Greensboro.

Last summer, parishioners from various Greensboro-area churches helped more than 20 Montagnard women develop or improve existing weaving skills. The project was made possible through a one-time $1,000 grant from Operation Rice Bowl, the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, and donations from area businesses, according to Sister of St. Joseph Phyllis Tierney, pastoral associate at St. Pius X Church.

Meeting twice a week for three months, 15 volunteers from Greensboro churches taught the Montagnard women to use electric sewing machines to sew curtains, make skirts and repair clothes.

Though weaving looms were common the women's homeland, access to sewing machines was uncommon.

Christians from the Central Highlands of South Vietnam, the Montagnard (a French word for mountain dweller) men would hunt and fish while the women would take care of hearth and home. They practices a primitive form of weaving, utilizing six separate pieces of wood instead of a fixed loom.

The Montagnards aided U.S. Special Forces during the 1960s and many became prisoners in re-education camps after the Vietnam War ended. Due to cooperative resettlement efforts of the U.S. Special Forces and the Department of State, North Carolina is currently the largest Montagnard resettlement site in the Western Hemisphere.

The Diocese of Charlotte has helped resettle more than 600 Montagnards in the diocese since 1986. Many of the refugees are those who fled to Cambodia after the communist Vietnamese government quelled their protests over intrusion on traditional tribal lands and religious prosecution.

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

H Ngeo, a Montagnard refugee, weaves using a traditional loom from Vietnam.

The Montagnards came to North Carolina with a strong faith and limited skills.

Minhthu Lynagh, a Montagnard woman and St. Pius X parishioner active in the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees, helped organize the Greensboro Montagnard women into a weaver's guild.

Before relocating to Greensboro, Lynagh worked with refugees in Washington and Florida. One of her goals was to help her fellow Montagnards build unity and healthy relationships among the different tribes.

Lynagh enlisted the assistance of the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center and a local yarn company, which donated excess swatches of yarn. Using their six-piece looms, the women began making shoulder bags ordered by people in the Greensboro area.

Pete Williams, a St. Pius X parishioner and custom wood working business owner, built and donated 35 wooden looms to assist the Montagnard women in their work.

As the women continued to work together successfully, Lynagh encouraged fellow St. Pius X parishioner Amy Debruycker to apply for the Operation Rice Bowl grant through the Office of Justice and Peace.

Each Lent, parishes and schools in the Diocese of Charlotte participate in Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), the Catholic Relief Services program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. The majority of funds from the ORB collection help the national Catholic Relief Services office's worldwide anti-poverty programs. The remainder of funds stay in the Diocese of Charlotte, where the diocesan Catholic Relief Services committee sponsors a mini-grants program for local initiatives on international issues or projects.

The women received donated sewing notions, fabric and boxes of thread. In addition, eight donated sewing machines were repaired and given to the best students.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information on Catholic Relief Services programs and Operation Rice Bowl grants, contact Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234 or e-mail thjarina@charlottediocese.org.

*CCHD and CRS are part of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, which is one of the 36 ministries supported by the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

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# Lawyer discuses violence, religion in post-9/11 world

## *Renowned speaker latest headliner for Cuthbert Allen Lecture Series*

BELMONT — Gil Bailie, J.D., will present "Religious Violence in the 21st Century" as part of the Cuthbert Allen Lecture Series at Belmont Abbey College March 10.

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 shattered the way Americans perceive safety and security. The results have been long lines of screenings at airports, the deportation of thousands of immigrants with visa problems and the vigilant eye by nearly every American to thwart any future terrorist threat.

Many are still analyzing the events of Sept. 11 for its lasting impact on American culture.

As a teacher, lecturer and writer, Bailie believes the Judeo-Christian tradition offers a way out of violence. For years, he has explored the deeper spiritual and anthropological implications of the literary and scriptural traditions of Western culture.

Drawing heavily on the influence of French Catholic thinker Rene Girard, emeritus professor of French language, literature and civilization at Stanford University, Bailie's book, "Violence Unveiled: Humanity at the Crossroads," won the 1996 Pax Christi USA Book Award.

"We believe Gil Baillie's work, building on the thought of cultural anthropologist Rene Girard, opens up a unique, rarely-heard perspective on the origins and psychological functions of violence," says Sister Jane Russell, chair of the theology department at Belmont Abbey College and member of the Cuthbert Allen Lecture Committee.

"As The Other Side said of his book, 'Violence Unveiled,' Bailie's 'insight into the roots of violence, and final message of redemption and hope reflect a truly innovative Christian cultural critique,'" said Sister Russell. "This insight and message seem particularly worth listening to in light of the current resurgence of 'sacred violence' in our post-9/11 world."

Bailie joins a long list of noteworthy newsmakers in the series, including Ralph Nader, Rev. Jesse Jackson, William Bennett, Wendy Shalit, Sister Helen Prejean, James Kilpatrick, and last year's speaker, Boston Globe reporter Tom Oliphant.

Bailie is founder and president of the Florilegia Institute of Glen Ellen, Calif., a nonprofit educational institute emphasizing the anthropological uniqueness and historical significance of the Judeo-Christian tradition, especially the Gospels. The Florilegia Institute is concerned with today's cultural and spiritual crisis and with more accurately assessing its underlying dynamics, its perils and its promise.

The Father Cuthbert Allen Visiting Speakers Program is named after Father Cuthbert Allen who had an interest in stimulating the Belmont Abbey College community to thinking about provocative issues of the day. He provided a fund to be used to invite influential leaders and decision-makers from all walks of life, including politics, government, literature and the media.

**WANT TO GO?**

Bailie will speak in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College on Wednesday, March 10 at 8 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public.

# Are students customers, or not?

## *Philosophy professor debates higher ed issue at Bradley Institute*

BELMONT — For years, colleges and universities across the country have debated whether or not students should be treated, in a traditional sense, as customers. The answer depends on whom you ask.

Some students argue they are, in fact, paying customers who are in need of a college degree.

Others debate that the dangers of forcing academia into a corporatist mold would suffocate the notions of free inquiry, free expression, open discovery and dissent found on campuses. By doing so, they predict it would harm institutions and their students by devaluing faculty and lowering academic standards.

Methodist College's Michael Potts, Ph.D., will tackle the issue as he presents "Students Are Not Customers: A Critique of the Consumer Model of Higher Education" at Belmont Abbey College March 11.

The philosophy and religion professor's talk is part of the spring lecture series sponsored by The Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, and is free and open to the public.

Potts will speak about the practical issues of how colleges and universities market themselves.

Potts believes the relationship between an institution and its students should be a far different relationship than that of a commercial enterprise and its customers. He says if that difference is not observed, a corrupting element is introduced into the college campus.

Potts is currently an associate professor and chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Methodist College in Fayetteville. As the co-editor of the book, "Beyond Brain Death: The Case Against Brain Based Criteria for Human Death," Potts' area of academic specialization is in the field of bio-ethics.

He holds a bachelor's degree from David Lipscomb College, a master's in theology from Harding University Graduate School of Theology, a Master of Arts from Vanderbilt University and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Georgia.

Potts has published in journals including "The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly," "The Thomist,' "Perspectives in Biology and Medicine,' "Faith and Philosophy," "The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion," "The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy" and "The Journal of Near-Death Studies."

The Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, founded in 1996 provides opportunities for business executives, career professionals and clergy to examine relevant ethical, theological and philosophical topics within the context of their modern lives. Program topics range from business, legal and medical ethics to history and philosophy.

**WANT TO GO?**

Dr. Michael Potts will speak in the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey College on Thursday, March 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. To make a reservation, please call (704) 829-7231.

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# Saying 'yes' to love

CHASTITY, *from page 1*

and speaker for Catholic Answers, one of the nation's largest lay-run apostolates of Catholic apologetics and evangelization. He addressed the eighth-graders of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, the student body of Charlotte Catholic High School and parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Feb. 19 and 20.

"It's important to have someone who promotes the Catholic Church's message of chastity in a positive, engaging manner," said Father John Allen, chaplain at Charlotte Catholic High School and director of diocesan vocations.

The Catholic Church's call for chastity is the same for everyone, regardless of a person's age or stage in life, Father Allen said.

Evert explained he promotes chastity rather then abstinence.

"Abstinence is saying 'no' to sex," he said. "Chastity is saying 'yes' to love."

According to the Catholic Answers Web site, "some think that 'chastity' simply means 'not having sex.' But that's abstinence: what you can't do and can't have. Chastity is what you can do and can have . . . right now: a lifestyle that brings freedom, respect, peace and even romance — without regret. Chastity frees a couple from the selfish attitude of using each other as objects, and makes them capable of true love."

***Making a connection***

Evert began his presentation with an attention-getting demonstration. He asked a boy to volunteer, and one proudly hopped up on the stage and towered over Evert.

Evert asked the audience to imagine that he and the young man were on a date. To set the scene, Evert gave him a long blond wig to wear.

"Now imagine that we're at the Grand Canyon overlooking the edge," Evert said, picking up his "date" in his arms and stepping closer and closer to the edge of the "canyon."

Evert compared premarital sexual activity to carrying someone to the edge of a cliff and dropping him or her. He asked the audience if they would ever put someone they love in such danger.

***Romance without regret***

"All boys feel lust, but they've been lied to about what it means to be a man," Evert asserted. "Don't get your manhood by robbing a girl of her purity, but instead by protecting it."

Evert quoted Ephesians 5:25-26, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her, to sanctify her..."

According to Evert, studies show that the earlier a person engages in sexual activity, the more partners he or she is likely to have, leading to more breakups and more heartache. In turn, these people have higher rates of abortion and divorce.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Students at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School line up to sign a prayer book following Jason Evert's "Romance without regret" presentation at the school Feb. 20. Evert prays daily for each person who signs the book.**

Throughout his presentation, Evert stressed the importance of today's decisions on tomorrow's outcomes. He explained that a marriage between two virgins has a divorce rate 70 percent lower than the national average. Even two non-virgins who save intercourse for marriage are two-to-three times more likely to stay married.

"The things that you want to do with your girlfriend...would you want a guy to do that to your future wife?" he asked the young men.

According to Evert, respect is a key component in healthy, successful relationships. A feeling of being used never brings a person peace, Evert said.

"When you start having sex, you're not spending time with each other, but with each other's bodies," he said. A lack of respect and communication breeds distrust, which often leads to a breakup.

"Then you've given someone a precious gift who didn't deserve it, and you can't get it back," he said.

Evert also stressed the damage that pornography can do to young men and women, because it trains men to see women as objects. When men marry, they transfer their fantasies and lust to their wives, who cannot live up to these impossible standards of beauty and sexuality.

By rejecting pornography now, Evert said young men are being faithful to their future wives.

Evert also encouraged the young women at Holy Trinity to dress and act modestly.

"Girls will never convince guys to respect their modesty until they convince themselves of it," he said. "The way a woman dresses invites a man to treat her as a gentleman would or as a beast would."

Evert suggested girls ask themselves, "Am I a date or a soul mate? A for-now girl or a for-ever girl?"

"Ultimately, God wants us all to be happy," Father Allen said.

"The peace and joy that come from chastity are worth more than all the pleasure in the world," said Evert. "Love means doing what is best for your beloved."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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Sr. Ann is the superior of the Servants of God's Love in Lansing, Michigan, and is a regular co-host on the television program, *The Choices We Face*. She also hosts a radio program, *Food for the Journey*. She is the author of several books, including *Fire in My Heart*, and is a frequent conference speaker.

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Fr. Michael is the Chancellor and former President of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and was ordained in 1964. In 1990, he was awarded the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* by Pope John II. He has authored several books including his autobiography, *Let the Fire Fall*.

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Peter is Director of Missions at Renewal Ministries and has served numerous retreats, conferences, rallies, and events around the world. Much of his work has been devoted to helping equip Catholics for ministry through training in the exercise of spiritual gifts.

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# Local, national statistics

REPORT, *from page 1*

cese between 1972 and 2002.

During this same period of 30 years, 18 allegations of sexual misconduct were made against the 13 priests in the Diocese of Charlotte, and the diocese paid $704,439 for counseling and other services to victims, and for legal fees.

In 2003, an additional amount of $10,892 was paid for counseling. However, no new allegations regarding sexual abuse of minors by clergy were reported.

Diocesan insurance funds and the diocesan general fund were used for payment. No money from the Diocesan Support Appeal nor parish savings were used.

"The publication of this information affirms the pledge of the Diocese of Charlotte to root out the sinful crime of sex abuse and to do everything humanly possibly to make sure that it will not recur," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

The bishop addressed the sexual abuse of minors by some clergy during his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. He also called Catholics to prayer during this season of Lent.

"The theme for Lent this year as set forth by Pope John Paul II is, 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.' It is an invitation for all of us, Catholic or not, to reflect upon the condition of children and especially those children who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults," said Bishop Jugis.

"We are called to protect children and young people," he said.

***National perspective***

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops president Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., noted that "we don't have comparable statistics" from other organizations or professions that could be used to gauge the significance of the John Jay data on clerical abusers and their victims.

"I would like to believe that the Catholic Church is taking a bold step not only because of the seriousness of this issue for us, but the seriousness of this issue for all of society. ... I trust that what we are doing will advance the knowledge of this horrible crime in other venues," he said.

In the Feb. 27 report of national figures covering 1950-2002, the total number of priests with allegations of abuse is 4,932. The report said there were 109,694 active priests in this time period, and using this number, 4.0 percent of all priests active between 1950 and 2002 had allegations of abuse.

A total of 10,667 individuals made allegations of child sexual abuse by priests. Of those who alleged abuse, the study contained information that 17.2 percent of them had siblings who were also allegedly abused.

The report said the amount of money already paid as a result of allegations, to victims, for the treatment of priests and for legal expenses was $507,000,000 (including a highly publicized $85,000,000 settlement not included in the surveys from dioceses).

Thomas Plante, a psychology professorin California who treats clergy sex abusers and their victims, said the 4 percent figure is keeping with previous estimates and may not be far off from the general adult male population.

He said there is child sex abuse in other religions and in professions such as teaching and coaching.

"The bishops can't change history, but we can make sure that it is not repeated by determining the nature and scope of the problem," said Bishop Jugis. "With this information, the bishops can determine whether the steps we have taken are adequate to the problem."

***Protecting children***

The Diocese of Charlotte was among the nearly 90 percent of U.S. dioceses in compliance with the U.S. bishops' national policy to protect children and respond to clergy sexual abuse of minors, according to the first national audit report released Jan. 6.

The report was based on an independent compliance audit conducted by the Boston-based Gavin Group, headed by William Gavin, a former FBI official, and overseen by Kathleen McChesney, a former top FBI agent and head of the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The Diocese of Charlotte was commended for its early proactive initiatives to ensure the protection of children and youths under its pastoral care. In 1994, the diocese adopted its "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel," which included the establishment of a review board, a group of volunteers not employed by the diocese, with the exception of one priest.

The group includes a psychological counselor. Their role is to review allegations of abuse and to make recommendations to the bishop.

The diocese was also commended for its comprehensive Safe Environment Program, which includes training programs and background investigations for clergy, volunteers, teachers and contractors who have contact with minors.

Since June 2002, more than 7,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have completed the Protecting God's Children Training Program to help them recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of children.

Auditors also recommended the Diocese of Charlotte's policy for reporting allegations of sexual abuse of a minor by clergy be made more readily available. The diocese complied with the recommendation through regular announcements in church bulletins, *The Catholic News & Herald* and its Web site, www.charlottediocese.org.

"Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, we have policies, people, programs and, most importantly, prayer to address this problem," said Bishop Jugis. "Prayer is the primary response for the people of God when confronted with something as evil as sex abuse."

"I pray on a daily basis for all victims, and I ask the 140,000 Catholics in our diocese to do the same," he said.

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

# Lenten message

ASHES, *from page 1*

faithful following in Christ."

The bishop said it was a "very personal dialogue" that Christ initiates between him and his people, "where he speaks tenderly but insistently to the heart: Turn away from sin, and return to me with all your heart."

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, 46 days before Easter. Ashes are blessed and placed on the foreheads of Catholics to remind them of their sin and the joy that lies in repentance.

"Ashes, as an outward sign of penance, were already used in Old Testament times, and the Church has preserved this custom to the present day," said the bishop.

The ashes, said Bishop Jugis, express a desire for Christ to undertake an interior journey of conversion within his people.

"The journey of conversion is designed to lead us to the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation before Easter," said Bishop Jugis.

The Lord tells people to change and become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven, said the bishop.

"This is the conversion he asks of us all the time: Change, cultivate simplicity and trust in imitation of Christ, who identified himself with the little ones," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishop said Pope John Paul II has asked all people to reflect on the condition of children during Lent and be mindful of them, because welcoming children is a way of welcoming Christ.

"Jesus says, 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,'" said Bishop Jugis. "What greater source of grace could we ask for during Lent than receiving Christ himself?"

Too many children, unfortunately, have been "profoundly hurt by the violence and misconduct of adults," said Bishop Jugis. "Sadly, this has even happened to some children in the Church."

Bishop Jugis said the John Jay report released Feb. 27 would "help us bishops determine whether the steps we have already taken to address the issue have worked, or if additional steps are still needed."

"Hopefully, it will serve as a model for a larger community to follow in eradicating sexual abuse of minors from our society," he said.

The bishop expressed his "profound sorrow" to "victims of this crime."

"Some clergy did not live up to their calling to be an image of Christ, the Good Shepherd," said Bishop Jugis. "We are all suffering with those who have been victims of this immoral behavior."

The bishop asked that, during Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and sacrifice, people pray for "God's grace to bring healing to our brothers and sisters who are victims, and for God's grace to bring healing to the Church."

"This certainly is the intention of my heart," he said.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

K OF C

***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March:***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. John Huston* | *1976* |
| *Rev. Francis Gorham* | *1981* |
| *Rev. Robert A. Gibson* | *1987* |
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PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

# Charlotte priest removed from ministry

## *Bishop addresses parish, celebrates Masses*

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO
*THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD*

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis began his homilies at Our Lady of the Assumption Church by expressing that he would have preferred his first parish visit to be under different circumstances.

Bishop Jugis celebrated all Masses at the church Feb. 21-22 because Father Gregory Littleton was removed from active ministry and resigned his position as pastor Feb. 20. That action was a result of new information related to a violation of "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as reported by the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J.

In homilies that wove Scripture passages into his message regarding Father Littleton's situation, Bishop Jugis said, "The Lord is kind and merciful, do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." He offered prayers for the victims of sex abuse and Our Lady of the Assumption Church family.

Father Littleton was a priest in good standing in the Diocese of Metuchen when he transfered to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1997. No allegations of any wrongdoing were made against Father Littleton during his service in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In fall of 2002, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski of Metuchen ordered a review of priest personnel files in response to the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. As a result of the review, in October 2002 the Diocese of Metuchen sent portions of Father Littleton's psychological assessment to the prosecutor's office in Middlesex County, N.J.

At that time, the Diocese of Charlotte was made aware information was sent to the prosecutor, but Father Littleton's status as a priest in good standing was not changed because no other information was supplied to the Diocese of Charlotte.

Unlike the current diocesan policy, the policy in 2002 said the bishop needed a specific allegation in order to take action against a priest — something the Diocese of Charlotte felt it did not have in connection with Father Littleton. Today, an investigation would warrant the priest's removal from active ministry.

The Middlesex County prosecutor later declined to seek an indictment against Father Littleton in the matter.

In mid-February, 2004, Bishop Bootkoski relayed new information to Bishop Jugis regarding Father Littleton's case. Bishop Bootkoski also said he was including Father Littleton among Diocese of Metuchen clergy counted in the John Jay study.

After reviewing the new documents sent from New Jersey on Friday, Feb. 20, and considering the placement in the John Jay study, Bishop Jugis removed Father Littleton from ministry.

"This situation is difficult for the Our Lady of the Assumption parish and for me personally," said Bishop Jugis.

After the Masses, Bishop Jugis greeted parishioners, many of whom expressed sorrow over the situation. Others asked for additional details about the bishop's decision, but ethics and confidentiality rules regarding personnel matters prevented the bishop from elaborating beyond what was said in the homilies.

Bishop Jugis assured the parishioners that "God will take care of Father Littleton and God will take care of Our Lady of the Assumption parish."

*David Hains is acting spokesman for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets parishioners after Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church Feb. 22.

## Protecting God's Children

In the Diocese of Charlotte, policies, procedures, programs and people are in place to combat the sin of sexual abuse of minors. They are:

— A written policy to deal with the sin of sexual abuse that was put in place in 1994. This policy has been updated to reflect the values expressed in 2002 in the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

— Procedures that encourage people to come forward if they have witnessed or experienced sexual abuse. The procedures can be found on the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org. The diocese also encourages anyone who has been a victim to report the incident to civil authorities. The diocese will cooperate in any investigation.

— People who will act as advocates for victims of sexual abuse. Three victims' assistance advocates are located in diocesan offices in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Asheville.

— Training for clergy, staff and volunteers. Since June 2002, more than 7,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have completed the Protecting God's Children Training Program to help them recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of children.

— The Review Board. This group of volunteers, with the exception of one priest, is not employed by the diocese. The group includes a psychological counselor. Their role is to review allegations of abuse and to make recommendations to the bishop.

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# Culture Watch

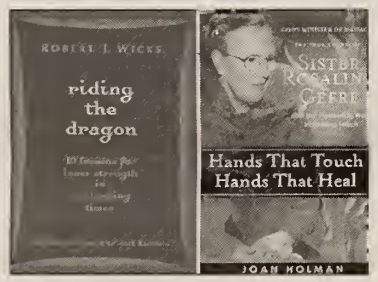
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two healers offer help for mind and body

REVIEWED BY EMILIE AST LEMMONS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Riding the Dragon: Ten Lessons for Inner Strength in Challenging Times" has been on the Catholic best-seller list since it hit the bookstores in September. In it, Robert Wicks offers wisdom for staying afloat during low times of depression, burnout and grief.

Wicks has been helping people develop the psychological and spiritual tools of inner work for more than three decades. He is no stranger to dark nights of the soul, both in himself and others. A psychologist and professor in the pastoral counseling department at Loyola College in Maryland, his clients often are other healers and helpers — ministers, doctors, counselors and relief workers.




"Riding the Dragon: Ten Lessons for Inner Strength in Challenging Times," by Robert Wicks. Sorin Books (Notre Dame, Ind., 2003). 160 pp., $15.95.

"Hands that Touch, Hands that Heal: The True Story of Sister Rosalind Gefre," by Joan Holman. Sister Rosalind Christian Ministries (St. Paul, Minn., 2003). 114 pp., $12.95.

While many people flock to therapists in an effort to run the "dragon" into its cave, Wicks says greater inner growth comes from staying with problems and, as the title suggests, "riding the dragon."

"Often we seek security by either running away from our feelings of discouragement or attempting to conquer them," he writes. "Instead, we need to stay with them."

Among the ideas Wicks offers: Simplify and "prune" your life if you often find yourself becoming exhausted. Find "renewal zones," such as quiet walks, cheerful friends, or relaxing hobbies. Use kindness along with clarity when you assess yourself. Find love in small deeds. And perhaps most important: Allow yourself to rest in your darkness instead of seeking a quick fix. Trust that life will provide a new way for you.

Wicks also realizes that there are psychological and spiritual dangers involved in "living a full life of involvement with others." Feelings of "futility, fear, vulnerability and hopelessness" can be contagious. To keep a hopeful but compassionate heart, Wicks suggests steps for a "spiritual review of the day," a process that combines the "countertransferential review" that mental health workers use after sessions with clients with the theological reflection and self-examination that ministers do in prayer at the end of the day. It is an affirming way of conducting an examination of conscience.

"Hands that Touch, Hands that Heal" is the story of another healer — St. Joseph Sister Rosalind Gefre and "her pioneering work in healing touch."

Back in the days when massage was associated with prostitution more than health care, Sister Rosalind opened her first massage parlor in St. Paul, Minn. She knew then what mainstream medicine now confirms — that the healing touch of massage can remove headaches and muscle tension, stress and toxins.

But at the time, Sister Rosalind, now 73, faced city regulations that shut down her business, as well as a religious order that asked her to move out because it wasn't comfortable with the idea of a nun doing massage.

Almost 30 years later, Sister Rosalind is regarded as a leader in changing legislation on massage. She has five schools and six massage clinics in two states. Author Joan Holman weaves the nun's words in with her own narrative in this light biography. Photographs and some of Sister Rosalind's poems are included.

*Lemmons is a staff writer at The Catholic Spirit, the St. Paul-Minneapolis archdiocesan paper.*

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH. 7, 2004

## *March 7, Second Sunday of Lent*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14
2) Philippians 3:17-4:1
3) Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Why on earth didn't they tell anyone about it? They'd had the mother of all mountaintop experiences. They had seen, with their own eyes, their master transfigured, his glory revealed in all its dazzling, awe-inspiring splendor. They had seen Moses and Elijah discussing with Jesus the things that would befall him on his journey to Jerusalem.

How could they not shout from the rooftops the incontrovertible proof that Jesus' claims to be Messiah were true?

They had been certain enough at first. Peter had been so riveted by the transcendence of the moment that when Moses and Elijah appeared to be leaving, he proposed building three tents so the heavenly visitors could stay and the golden moment could be preserved forever. Yet the Gospel for the second Sunday of Lent concludes with an emphatic note on the silence of the disciples when they returned from the mountain.

Perhaps what changed their mood from ecstatic enthusiasm to sober, even frightened silence, was the command they heard from the shadow that overtook them: "Listen to him."

Listening to him, after seeing his glory, they could no longer ignore what Jesus already had been saying — and what they had been objecting to — about the passion that awaited him. With dawning clarity they began to understand that the triumphant vindication of Jesus, for which they were so eager, could be reached only by a path of struggle and trial.

To listen to Jesus in the days ahead, as we travel the Lenten journey with the rest of the church, is to choose a path of repentance and renewal. It is to recognize that the conversion to which this season calls us cannot be embraced without cost.

May the prayer, fasting and almsgiving which make up the discipline of Lent strengthen us for the journey.

***Questions:***

What is one fear that gets in the way of my listening faithfully to Jesus? To what Lenten discipline will I commit myself as a way of sharpening my hearing for the words of Christ in my life?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen" (Luke 9:36).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 6**

**Sunday (First Sunday of Lent),** Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7 - MARCH 13**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent),** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17—4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

# Gibson's 'Passion' will be everything and then some to different people

## *Film should arouse opinions, deeper understanding*

BY GERRI PARE
AND DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — (CNS) "The Passion of the Christ" (Newmarket) is an uncompromising, interpretive dramatization of the final 12 hours of Jesus' earthly life.

Unflinching in its brutality and penetrating in its iconography of God's supreme love for humanity, the film will mean different things to people of diverse backgrounds. Co-writer, producer and director Mel Gibson has undoubtedly created one of the most anticipated and controversial films of recent times.

Like other films on Christ's life, "The Passion" does not simply translate a single Gospel narrative onto the screen. Rather it is a composite of the Passion narratives in the four Gospels embroidered with nonscriptural traditions as well as the imaginative inspiration of the filmmaker. The result is a deeply personal work of devotional art — a moving Stations of the Cross, so to speak.

However, by choosing to narrow his focus almost exclusively to the passion of Christ, Gibson has, perhaps, muted Christ's teachings, making it difficult for viewers unfamiliar with the New Testament and the era's historical milieu to contextualize the circumstances leading up to Jesus' arrest. And though, for Christians, the Passion is the central event in the history of salvation, the "how" of Christ's death is lingered on at the expense of the "why?"

The film opens with a distraught Jesus (Jim Caviezel) facing down evil, personified as an androgynous being (played by Rosalinda Celentano), in the mist shrouded garden of Gethsemane and progresses to his death on the cross, followed by a fleeting, but poetically economic, resurrection coda. Flashbacks of his public ministry and home life in Nazareth with his mother, Mary (Maia Morgenstern), pepper the action, filling in some of the narrative blanks.

CNS PHOTO FROM ICON PRODUCTIONS

*The weight of the world*

**Jim Caviezel portrays Christ with his cross in a scene from "The Passion of the Christ."**

Each flashback in the film is a welcome respite from the near-incessant bloodletting, but more importantly for how it conveys Jesus' core message of God's boundless love for humanity, a love that does not spare his son death on the cross so that we might have eternal life.

Concerning the issue of anti-Semitism, the Jewish people are at no time blamed collectively for Jesus' death; rather, Christ himself freely embraces his destiny, stating clearly "No one takes it (my life) from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18). By extension, Gibson's film suggests that all humanity shares culpability for the crucifixion, a theological stance established by the movie's opening quotation from the prophet Isaiah which explains that Christ was "crushed for our transgressions."

Catholics viewing the film should recall the teachings of the Second Vatican Council's decree, "Nostra Aetate," which affirms that, "though Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ, neither all Jews indiscriminately at that time, nor Jews today, can be charged with the crimes committed during his passion."

Overall, the film presents Jews in much the same way as any other group — a mix of vice and virtue, good and bad. Yet while the larger Jewish community is shown to hold diverse opinions concerning Christ's fate — exemplified by the cacophony of taunts and tears along the Via Dolorosa — it fails to reflect the wider political nuances of first-century Judea. The scene of the stock frenzied mob uniformly calling for Christ's crucifixion in Pilate's courtyard is problematic, though once Christ begins his laborious way of the cross Jewish individuals emerge from the crowd to extend kindness — including Veronica wiping his face and Simon of Cyrene helping carry the cross, as a chorus of weeping women lament from the sidelines.

However, the most visually distinctive representatives of Jewish authority — the high priest Caiphas (Matia Sbragia) and those in the Sanhedrin aligned with him — do come across as almost monolithically malevolent. Caiphas is portrayed as adamant and unmerciful and his influence on Pilate is exaggerated. Conversely, Pontius Pilate (Hristo Naumov Shopov) is almost gentle with Jesus, even offering his prisoner a drink.

This overly sympathetic portrayal of the procurator as a vacillating, conflicted and world-weary backwater bureaucrat, averse to unnecessary roughness and easily coerced by both his Jewish subjects and his conscience-burdened wife, does

See PASSION on next page


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REV. JOSEPH KOTERSKI, PH.D.
*Chair, Philosophy Department*
*Fordham University*

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. (Ph.D. St. Louis University; M.Div. and S.T.L., Weston School of Theology, Boston) is a priest of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. He chairs Fordham University's Department of Philosophy where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal International Philosophical Quarterly. Fr. Koterski has received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and the Graduate Teacher of the Year Award. He has authored and presented hundreds of publications and papers.

*Sponsored by Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace in partnership with St. Peter Catholic Church, St. Michael Catholic Church, and St. Eugene Catholic Church*

# Gibson's passion

PASSION, *from page 11*

not mesh with the Pilate of history remembered by the ancient historians as a ruthless and inflexible brute responsible for ordering the execution of hundreds of Jewish rabble-rousers without hesitation.

However the film is abundantly clear that it is the Romans who are Christ's executioners (a fact corroborated by both the Nicene Creed and the writings of Tacitus and Josephus).

The Roman soldiers are unimaginably — even gleefully— sadistic in flaying Jesus to within an inch of his life. "The Passion" is exceedingly graphic in its portrayal of the barbarities of Roman justice.

As depicted, the violence, while explicit and extreme, does not seem an end in itself. It is not the kind of violence made to look exciting, glamorized or without consequences. It attempts to convey the depths of salvific divine love. Nonetheless, viewers' justifiable reaction is to be repelled by such unremitting inhumanity.

In the end, such savagery may be self-defeating in trying to capture the imagination of the everyday moviegoer.

In contrast to Jesus' physical agony is the emotional desolation seen in the figure of the Virgin Mary. The viewer is pierced by the depth of Mary's understanding of Christ's divinity and her sublime acceptance of seeing her son suffer. It tears at one's heart to see Mary struggling to get close to Jesus as he walks through the winding, narrow streets carrying the cross. Seeing him suddenly fall, she is transported, along with the viewers, to Christ's childhood, to a time when she was able to scoop him up when he stumbled. When she finally reaches Jesus, and he is on the ground, crushed by the weight of the cross, it is he who comforts her with his words, "See, mother, I make all things new."

Morgenstern's portrayal of Mary is beautifully rendered, never more so than in the Pieta-like tableau when Christ's body is laid in her arms.

The juxtaposition of the wounded and bleeding body of Christ on the cross with scenes of the Last Supper compellingly underscores how the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ. Other indelible images include a derided Jesus faltering under the weight of the cross intercut with his earlier triumphant entry into Jerusalem and a single raindrop — a tear from heaven — heralding Christ's death.

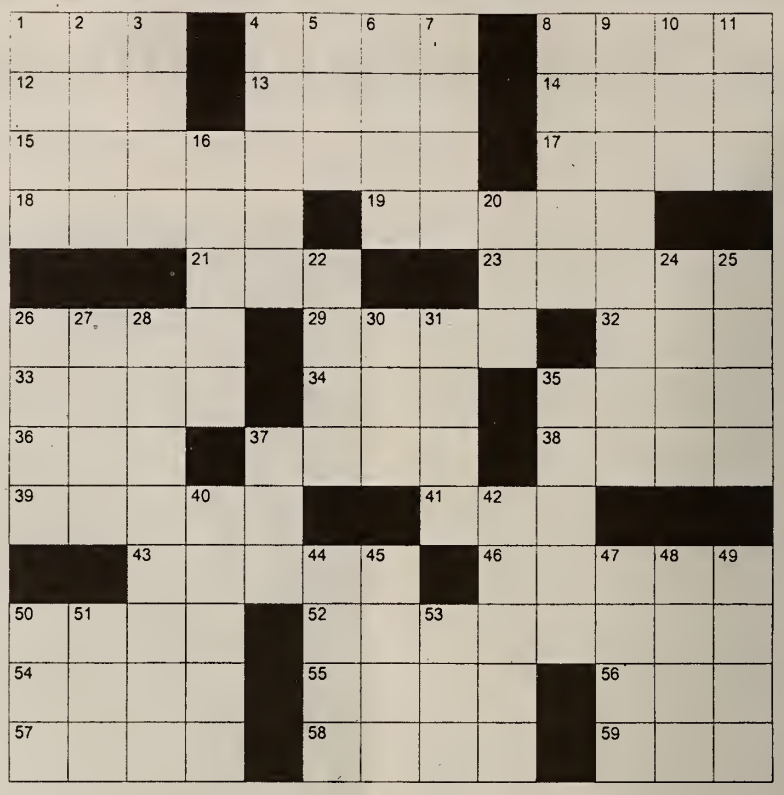
The power of the cross is also keenly conveyed. Jesus does not recoil from either the horrific scourging at the hands of the Roman soldiers or from carrying the burdensome cross. Instead, he declares his "heart is ready" and embraces the cross as if comforting a fallen sinner. These are truly moving and emotional points in the film.

Cinematically, there are flaws as well as triumphs in Gibson's film, such as a recurring tendency to slip into the horror-genre conventions, including a scene of a guilt-wracked Judas being taunted by little boys whose faces turn into those of grotesque, macabre ghouls. And close-ups of Christ's scarred and mutilated body are truly horrible.

For those coming to the film without a faith perspective it may have little resonance. But for Christians, "The Passion of the Christ" is likely to arouse not only passionate opinions, but hopefully a deeper understanding of the drama of salvation and the magnitude of God's love and forgiveness. It is not about what men did to God, but what God endured for humanity.

Because of gory scenes of scourging, torture and crucifixion, a suicide and some frightening images, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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43 Dancer Gregory
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50 So be it
52 Spendthrift
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56 Costa Rica peninsula
57 Cooking measure (abbr)
58 Arab prince
59 Q-U connector

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2 Jai ___
3 Raison d' _
4 Japanese city
5 City in Somalia
6 Biblical garden
7 El ___
8 City in Illinois
9 Papal Beatles?
10 "A long time ___"
11 Caviar
16 Pear
20 Scottish to
22 Adam's son
24 Late night last name
25 German one
26 Dutch fragment
27 CA School
28 Seers
30 Actress Zadora
31 Reclines
35 Japanese sauce
37 Education employment org.
40 Turkish seaport
42 Religious group
44 Fencing sword
45 Computer memory type (abbr)
47 Frankenstein's assistant (var.)
48 Catholic liturgy
49 Israeli seaport
50 May be red
51 Crowd
53 "Whisper Not" group

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# Super caring

COURTESY PHOTO

Senior youth group members Michelle Lindstrand and Jessica Hogan present a check to John Baker, president of the Richmond County mental health department in February.

## *St. James youth stir up funds*

HAMLET — Youth at St. James Church in Hamlet held their annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 1.

Inspired by Spring Valley Presbyterian Church's fundraiser in Columbia, S.C., the event involves parishioners each donating one dollar as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday. Money raised is donated to a local charity.

This year, the youth collected $384.06 for Crisis Ministries of Richmond County, which assists area soup kitchens, food banks and shelters.

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# Perspectives

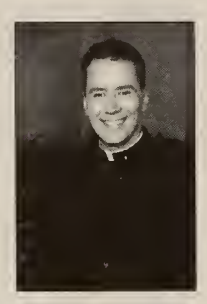
A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# What you never know

*With time, conversation and openness, a person feared is not so fearsome*

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST



My friend Jack is a priest in his 60s who enjoys frequent visits to New York City.

Father Jack frequents concert halls and museums like no one else I know. He's also practical. He realizes that driving into Manhattan means finding parking and additional expense. So public transportation is his usual means of getting around.

He told me recently of an experience he had on the New York City subway.

When Father Jack got on, he was one of about a dozen people in the subway car. Shortly thereafter, a man boarded the train who was completely unkempt and talking loudly to himself. He was young man, over six feet tall and, to the folks in the car, he looked intimidating.

Nervous looks were exchanged. At the next station, four passengers got off. At the following station, another five left. In short order, everyone left the car except Father Jack and the young man.

Jack was disturbed, chastising himself for not wearing his clerical collar, which he thought might have given him a little cushion of safety.

The stranger glanced his way. He mumbled a little, growled a little and finally spoke to Jack. "Hey, man, you know what?"

"What?" Father Jack nervously responded.

"Man, you look just like some actor in the movies. What the heck, you know him, but I can't think of his name — in that scary movie about the crazy doctor!"

To which Father Jack responded: "You mean the doctor who loved a little Chianti with his fava beans?"

Father Jack had described the Hannibal Lecter character played by Anthony Hopkins in "Silence of the Lambs."

"Yes, that's the guy. You look exactly like that crazy doc!"

And in that moment, the ice was broken.

A smile crossed the young man's face. A connection was made. And the unknown suddenly became less frightening.

They began to talk about movies. About the theater. About acting. About life and dreams for life. And when Father Jack got off the train, they shook hands and wished each other well. Father Jack recalls thinking as he walked up the subway stairs: "You just never know."

When Father Jack told me about that meeting with the ultimately delightful stranger, he admitted he'd actually had a number of similar experiences when he's made an immediate judgment about what someone was or was not, only to learn differently.

We all make these split-second decisions, filled with certainty that our opinion — or our prejudice — is 100 percent correct. And as often as not, we're absolutely wrong!

Judging people by external appearance is almost always risky. None of us is simply the sum of our looks, but rather the sum of our hearts, our minds and our souls. And those aren't quickly read.

I remember the time I had the chance to meet Mother Teresa.

I was excited for weeks in anticipation. Here was a living saint. Here was a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Here was a world-renowned advocate for the poor. She'd have to be overwhelming, bigger than life. Her insights were sure to be profound.

Yet nothing was what I expected.

She was tiny and cast her eyes down in humility. Her words were unpretentious and completely understandable. She wasn't larger than life at all. But she was something much better, the essence of a life lived well with love for others.

There was nothing complex about her, just goodness plain and simple. She was not what I had expected. But she was everything she should have been.

Father Jack learned that with time, conversation and openness, a person he feared wasn't so fearsome at all. Wouldn't it be great if we could meet everyone the same way? The world would be much more peaceful if we didn't form opinions about people until we knew something of them, of their souls.

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

# Pope says Christians must walk 'arduous path to holiness'

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II said every baptized Christian is called to walk "the arduous path to holiness" in order to be "authentic disciples of Christ."

At the start of the church's penitential season of Lent, the pope presided over a special Ash Wednesday liturgy Feb. 25 in St. Peter's Basilica.

The morning's weekly general audience was replaced by a solemn Liturgy of the Word celebration at the Vatican.

In previous years, the pope traditionally led an evening Ash Wednesday Mass in Rome's Basilica of Santa Sabina after holding a Wednesday morning audience. The Vatican had earlier announced a cutback in the day's events due to the pope's declining health.

But Ash Wednesday morning, the pope looked alert in royal blue vestments as he presided over the liturgy as well as blessed and distributed ashes among some of the faithful.

He also read out most portions of his homily but, as has become more common, skipped several sentences.

"This necessarily entails sacrifice and self-denial ... (and) the willingness to face every difficulty and overcome every obstacle to reach the appointed goal," the homily read.

The penitential act of administering the ashes, his sermon said, "underlines man's awareness of his sinful nature before the majesty and holiness of God."

"At the same time, it also shows one's willingness to accept the Gospel and turn (its message) into concrete action," the homily read.

The pope said the two formulas that accompany the placing of the ashes on the heads of the faithful remind man of his "transient and limited" nature ("For you are dust, and to dust you shall return") as well as issue an urgent appeal to change one's life ("Repent, and believe in the Gospel").

But the pope warned against ostentatious displays of penance during Lent.

"External gestures of penitence have value if they express an interior attitude, if they express the solid will to avoid evil and follow the path of goodness. This is the profound meaning of Christian asceticism," he said.

The pope emphasized the need for a "humble and meek acceptance of the will of God together with constant prayer."

Other typical penitential customs of Christian tradition include "abstinence, fasting, mortification and the giving up of goods," as well as "concrete gestures of welcoming our neighbor," he said.

"Lent represents a more intense time of spiritual training and generous service to our brothers and sisters," said the pope.

Specifically, he urged the faithful to engage in concrete acts of solidarity with needy children this Lenten season.

Referring to this year's Lenten message, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me," the pope said, "I wanted to draw attention, in particular, to the difficult conditions in which many of the world's children live."

He said he strongly hoped that "our small brothers and sisters, often abandoned, receive needed care, thanks in part to our solidarity" with them.

He added, "This is one concrete way of carrying out our Lenten resolutions."

During the prayers of the faithful, one petition asked God to look after those hit by violence and ethnic and religious divisions and to help guide nations toward reconciliation and peace.

Another asked that God help people "transform their consumerist behavior" into a lifestyle of "temperance that would allow our brothers and sisters to live with greater dignity."

# Priestless parishes in America

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. I understand that more than 3,000 of the nearly 29,300 parishes in the United States are now without a resident priest pastor. In many of them, instead of Sunday Mass there is only a Communion service.*

*Does our obligation to attend Sunday Mass apply also to these Communion services? (Maryland)*

A. What you say about priestless parishes is correct, and it seems that unless something major happens the replacement of Mass with Communion services will become more frequent as time goes by.

Church law on the subject is explicit; the faithful must participate in the Mass on Sundays (Canon 1247). When that is not possible, the obligation does not transfer to a Communion service or any other liturgy.

Of course, worshiping God in some way with our community of faith ought to be an integral part of keeping the Lord's Day holy. Participation in a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion together, when the opportunity is provided, is an appropriate way to meet that responsibility.

# The ugly side of political campaigns

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

It's already going on, the airing of political campaign ads that say or show ugly things about the opponent. Most disturbing so far was the ad picked up by the TV news commentators that showed the face of Adolph Hitler morphing into the face of President Bush.

The Republican National Committee said the ad came from MoveOn.org. That group issued a disclaimer. (The ad had not been released by MoveOn.org, but it had been submitted to a contest run by that organization. MoveOn is an Internet political group that wants to see Bush defeated in November.) In spite of the disclaimer, the Republican ranting went on about dirty campaign tactics. The anger was understandable, considering the awful implications of linking Bush to Hitler.

But then, surprise. The Democrats pulled out a TV ad that had been effectively used by the Republican campaign of Saxby Chambliss before the 2002 election to discredit Democratic Sen. Max Cleland of Georgia. That offensive ad showed the face of Osama bin Laden morphing into Max Cleland's face. I had not seen that before, and I went apoplectic.

Cleland is a longtime friend, and much more than that he is a Vietnam War veteran who lost both his legs and one arm in battle. How could anyone put out a TV commercial implying this man is not patriotic! Oh yes, Cleland lost that election.

I met Cleland many years ago when he was addressing a rehabilitation agency dedicated to helping people with disabilities gain independence. Cleland, who had been head of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under President Carter and was at that time secretary of state in Georgia, was so perfectly qualified for that task.

He talked openly about the day that changed his life — Vietnam, April 8, 1968 — when a grenade explosion left him a triple amputee, but "lucky to be alive."

"Not many people believed that a 25-year-old former Army captain, losing two legs and one arm, could do much after that," he told me.

He spoke honestly of the years after suffering those terrible wounds when he had to pull his life together. He would become so discouraged that he would think "doing the right thing is ending it all."

He realized then that people who have extraordinary setbacks "have to dig down deeper — to discover more courage" than normally is needed.

"Before Vietnam, I thought courage was the absence of fear," he said.

He learned instead, that courage is accepting fear and turning to prayer so that you can now "focus on opportunity in the face of danger to take disabilities and turn them into possibilities, to turn your scars into stars."

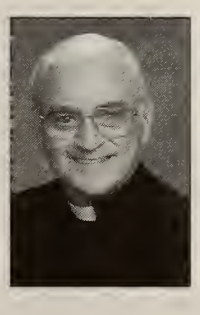
Cleland wrote a book about his journey back to life. Its title, "Strong at the Broken Places," is from a line in Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms": "The world breaks everyone and afterwards many are strong at the broken places." I remember being awed, even by the fact that Cleland had traveled by himself from Georgia to Connecticut. I vowed not to complain about my periodic bouts with sciatica!

I judge that linking this heroic soldier to the master terrorist was about the lowest a group could sink to. But it has had a good effect on me. I shall be ever on the alert for raw lies and hateful calumny in this election year of 2004. It is sad that we, through our political parties, have slipped into such shame.

# A prayer that makes real sense

*Surrendering to God's serenity is secret to recovering from darkness*

## Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Now that we are nearly two months into 2004, I think we should all pray for the grace to revisit our New Year's resolutions. God can help us to do the things we are not able to do on our own.

It has been a brutally cold winter, and some people have felt a little blue. Cabin fever sets in from being confined indoors too long. But cheer up. When the sun comes out the snow melts. Keep your courage high, and look forward to the warmth of spring.

There is one prayer in particular which has helped a lot of people. Miracles of conversion and transformation come from this prayer, which is called the "Serenity Prayer." You've heard it before I'm sure:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."

Everyone knows that opening, but there is more. Here is the prayer in its entirety:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference — living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that he will make all things right if I surrender to his will; that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever."

The reference "taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is" refers of course to Jesus Christ. Alcoholics Anonymous has adopted the first part of this prayer as its own, and all the other addiction programs, such as Narcotics Anonymous, Gambler's Anonymous, etc., have done so as well. They keep the concept of a higher power as neutral as possible, since some addicts don't even believe in God.

Somehow they find a higher power for themselves and sidestep the entire theological issue. Each one decides who or what that higher power is.

For the Christian the entire prayer brings to light the great wisdom of the Gospel message. Whether you have ever had a problem with drink or drugs it makes no difference. The prayer speaks to the heart of every human being.

At the heart of it there is the word "surrender." It is something all of us have trouble doing. This prayer presupposes a deep faith in God, who is a caring presence in our lives. We know that he will do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves. Without his grace given day by day, minute by minute, we are powerless.

This is more than faith; it is a profound level of trust. Those who hit bottom realize that all their intelligence, strength and will power is useless before the demon that holds them in bondage. Their lives have become unmanageable, and until they turn their lives and their wills over to a force greater than themselves they remain helpless.

For the Christian this force, this power, is Jesus Christ, who is Lord and who has dominion over the powers of darkness.

The secret of recovery is in the words Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done, not mine."

# Embracing reconciliation in its entirety

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Lent is upon us, urging us to pull ourselves together spiritually. A way to accomplish this is to utilize the sacrament of reconciliation more fully throughout this liturgical season and to reflect on reconciliation in all its dimensions.

Most of us see reconciliation as going to confession. But it can also encompass making retreats and pilgrimages, fasting, almsgiving and doing works of charity.

In a retreat, we set aside a special time to examine our lives and how well we are living according to God's plan for us. A retreat goes hand in hand with the sense that we are endeavoring to get our lives back in order. Retreats create the hope of changing our lives for the better.

Pilgrimages get us into the spirit of holiness by introducing us to holy places and past saints. I never will forget standing before the glass coffin of Blessed Pope John XXIII in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and thinking: "You tried to imitate a gentle, humble Christ and you so inspired us with your kindness. How I wish I could imitate you."

It was a special pilgrim moment; I felt touched by his sanctity. This same desire for holiness came over me when I visited the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi.

Fasting these days is not easy. Yet it is one of the best means for reducing our selfishness. When we fast, we deprive ourselves for the purpose of living according to a higher order in life, putting aside our needs in order to concern ourselves with those whose basic needs aren't being met.

Works of charity and almsgiving are a wonderful means of repaying God for the blessings he has showered on us. They promote gratitude, keeping us forever in the debt of God and making it difficult to turn our backs on him.

In Pope John Paul II's 1984 apostolic exhortation on reconciliation, we learn reconciliation is the best means of discovering where our hearts really are. The better we understand our internal disposition, the deeper at peace we are within ourselves.

Often subconscious guilt leaves us feeling downhearted, though we never quite know what the reason for this feeling is or take the time to bring it to the surface. The sacrament of reconciliation is an opportunity to surface the cause of our dejection and to put our hearts back in the right place.

When our conscience and God's voice within us are at one, we have a life. May your Lenten season be life — given for you!

# St. Pius X Church contributes to spiritual growth of Greensboro Catholics

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Pius X Church in Greensboro was dedicated in 1981 to accommodate the growing congregation.

GREENSBORO — Although St. Pius X Church was not founded until after the first Catholic parish was established in Greensboro, the two communities share an intertwined history.

The first Catholic church consecrated in the Guilford County seat was St. Agnes Church, dedicated in 1877. Benedictine monks assumed responsibility for the mission in 1888, and by century's end a new church was built and placed under the patronage of St. Benedict.

St. Benedict School was opened in 1926, and by the 1950s a larger facility was needed to accommodate growing numbers of students. Then-Bishop VincentWaters of Raleigh and Msgr. Hugh Dolan, pastor of St. Benedict Church, purchased a 14-acre site on which a school-chapel complex was built, along with a convent and rectory.

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**Pastor:** Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio
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**Number of Households:** 1,012

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio

The classroom section of the facility opened its doors in March 1955 to 176 students. The school and church were named in honor of the pope canonized in 1955, St. Pius X. Daughters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Md., staffed the school, and Msgr. Dolan became the first pastor of St. Pius X Church.

Msgr. Dolan remained at St. Pius X Church for 20 years until a reassignment took him to Charlotte. He was succeeded by Msgr. Lawrence Newman, who was known for his dedication to Catholic education.

In 1977, Msgr. William Pharr succeeded Msgr. Newman as pastor of St. Pius X Church. Through Msgr. Pharr's guidance, the parish looked into the possibility of constructing a new church for the growing congregation. The formal request was submitted to then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte in December 1978.

When Father George Kloster became pastor of St. Pius X Church in July 1979, planning and fundraising for the new church began. Ground was broken on March 2, 1980, and the new church was dedicated on March 29, 1981. About 400 registered families composed the congregation.

St. Pius X Church soon adopted a southern Peruvian mission that it continues to support. Also during Father Kloster's pastorate was the establishment of Dolan Manor in July 1979, a retirement center for low-income seniors located behind the church.

Father Frank Cintula succeeded Father Kloster in 1988, and Father Cintula's pastorate was followed by the arrival of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual — the Conventual Franciscans — in July 1990. They remained at St. Pius X Church until 1994, when Father Francis Connolly, a diocesan priest, was appointed to lead the parish.

In 1997, St. Pius X School underwent renovation and opened a new wing including classrooms, media center, computer lab, science lab and art room. At the time, the school had 411 students enrolled.

The same year, a new parish center was constructed to help meet the spiritual and social needs of a growing congregation. In 1999, the center was renamed the Kloster Center.

In October 1999, a new building with more than 20 units for Dolan Manor was dedicated. In July 2000, Father Connolly retired and a new permanent rectory was purchased. Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, former priest secretary to Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, became and still serves as pastor of St. Pius X Church.

In August 2000, a new gym/athletic complex was opened. The center was dedicated in November 2000 and named the Francis T. Connolly Athletic Center, in honor of the former pastor.

Since Msgr. Marcaccio's arrival, endowments for the parish and school were established and now total more than $750,000, and a new rectory was purchased.

In 2002, the Korean Catholic community of the Triad began worshiping at St. Pius X Church.

Today, St. Pius X Church consists of more than 1,000 households that actively embrace stewardship as a way of life through approximately 70 established ministries. Planning is under way for the fundraising and construction of a columbarium. Jubilee celebration plans are also in the works for the 50th anniversary of St. Pius X School in 2005.

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Parish Profile: St. Matthew Church
I PAGE 16

YOUNG AT HEART

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Mercy Sister Mary Louise Wiesenforth and Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins study their bingo cards during the 2003 Spring Fling. The annual event, sponsored by Elder Ministry of Catholic Social Services, brings seniors of the diocese together for recreational and enrichment activities.

# Elder Ministry reaches out to senior Catholics

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "The Diocese of Charlotte is gifted with the presence of many seniors who have an abundance of knowledge, talent and expertise to offer to ministry," said Sandra Breakfield, director of diocesan Elder Ministry. "Likewise, they benefit greatly from a ministry geared toward them."

According to Breakfield, the objective of Elder Ministry, a division of Catholic Social Services which is funded primarily by the Diocesan Support Appeal, is to encourage seniors to continue their intellectual, social and spiritual development throughout their lives.

The ministry utilizes a holistic approach that addresses each individual as a whole person and values each individual as a unique being.

The ministry also strives to enhance the well-being, positive quality of life and continued independence of senior adults. This is accomplished through facilitating the development of parish-based support systems and through connecting seniors with community resources.

See SENIORS, page 9

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

# House passes Unborn Victims of Violence Act

**GOVERNMENT ENABLED TO RECOGNIZE UNBORN CHILDREN AS VICTIMS**

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman called House passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act Feb. 26 "a vote for justice for women and their children."

Under the measure, approved in a 254-163 vote, those who injure or kill a pregnant woman and her unborn child could be charged with two separate crimes by federal prosecutors.

"Abortion activists recoil from any acknowledgment of a child's existence before birth," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"But their arguments are as ridiculous as they are offensive," she said in a statement. "This legislation explicitly exempts abortion."

The bill was passed after

See VICTIMS, page 8

# Letting good times roll

*Fat Tuesday at St. Ann School*

CHARLOTTE — The Mardi Gras spirit filled St. Ann School.

First-graders treated the school to its annual Mardi Gras parade Feb. 24. Students and faculty lined corridors as first-graders pulled their floats to New Orleans jazz music playing over intercom speakers.

The first-grade classes made their floats and masks for the parade. Before it began, first-graders ate their king cakes — students who found a baby Jesus inside got to wear the crowns and lead the parade.

This year, first-graders Isabelle Martella and Aiden Robidoux led the parade.

Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," refers to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday and to the parades and other festivities that take place during the days preceding Lent.

COURTESY PHOTO

First-grader Isabelle Martella finds a baby Jesus in a king cake Feb. 24.

**Good kids, good parents**
*Parenting expert imparts advice*
I PAGE 5

**Reflecting Christ**
*Elizabeth Ministry offers support*
I PAGE 7

**Perspectives**
*Bishop Jugis discusses sexual abuse issues*
I PAGES 14-15

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## HANDFUL OF FUN

CNS PHOTO BY TODD PLITT

Brother Ed Sheehy created this wide-eyed furry creature for a retreat session with eighth-grade students. The 70-year-old Jesuit of Jersey City, N.J., has made puppets for more than 30 years and travels nationally and internationally putting on shows for children in churches, hospitals and schools.

# Jesuit brother creates puppets that teach, entertain around world

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (CNS) — In Brother Ed Sheehy's office, a fiddler plays on the roof, a graceful rollerblader glides by and a trapeze artist performs to the tune of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

There's also a young Asian woman in traditional dress who is juggling a ball on her head as Blessed Mother Teresa counts her rosary beads.

These are just a few of the puppets Brother Sheehy has created over the years.

Once a baker of bread, shaping loaves, he now shapes wood and cloth into puppets that teach and entertain around the world, from Guyana to Jersey City.

"I haven't baked in 40 years," said Brother Sheehy, 70, whose hands come fully alive when they are animating a Ukrainian hand puppet or lovingly working the strings of a handcrafted marionette.

He saw his first puppet show in 1970; today, he has dozens of string, rod and hand puppets that take up all of his time.

"The rest of my life, I'm never going to have enough puppets," he said.

After cooking and coaching at schools in New York, he taught arts and crafts to children.

Four years ago, he moved to St. Peter's Prep School in Jersey City and a ground-floor studio crammed full of stuff: a sewing machine, traveling trunks, Styrofoam balls that will one day be marionette heads, swatches of fabric to make costumes, books on puppets and dolls.

There, and in places like Central Park where he can observe people, Brother Sheehy comes up with his ideas.

His puppets move like people move — walking, taking a rest, breathing, doing double takes, hiking up their pant legs before sitting.

"These are the things that make a puppet real," Brother Sheehy said.

The puppets have been around the world with Brother Sheehy, to Micronesia, Guyana, Indonesia and Nigeria, where they put on shows for local audiences. The trips have afforded him a unique chance not only to perform his ministry in other cultures, but also to learn about their puppetry traditions.

"It's like Broadway would come into this little village. It's quite an experience. They tell me people will be talking about this for months," said Brother Sheehy.

He visits schools, nursing homes and retired religious. Once a blind man came to a puppet show; Brother Sheehy let him handle all the puppets afterward.

"This is me, this is what I do and these are my puppets. It's not so much wood and glue anymore," he said.

# Muslim sues pope, cardinals for alleged remarks against Islam

ROME (CNS) — An Italian Muslim activist filed a civil suit against Pope John Paul II and two cardinals, claiming they have shown contempt for Islam in violation of Italian law.

Adel Smith, president of the Muslim Union of Italy, filed his suit in the town of Aquila Feb. 28. Smith's suit asked for a judge to condemn the defendants' allegedly anti-Islamic comments, but did not ask for any monetary damages.

The Vatican press office had no comment on the suit.

The Muslim activist, who in October filed an unsuccessful lawsuit to have crucifixes removed from public school classrooms, cited comments in Pope John Paul's 1994 book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," as an example of the pope's defamation of Islam.

Vittorio Messori, the journalist who worked on the book with the pope, also was named in the suit.

In the book, Pope John Paul said, "Whoever knows the Old and New Testaments and then reads the Quran clearly sees the process by which it completely reduces divine revelation. It is impossible not to note the movement away from what God said about himself."

The God revealed in Islam, the pope said, is "ultimately a God outside of the world, a God who is only majesty, never Emmanuel, God-with-us."

Smith's suit also named Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and retired Cardinal Giacomo Biffi of Bologna, Italy, for allegedly making anti-Islam comments.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Knights of Columbus Council #7184 will sponsor a *Pro-Life Ecumenical Gathering* March 20 at 1 p.m. in the Immaculata Catholic School Gymnasium, 711 N Buncombe St. Augustinian Father Walter J. Quinn will be encouraging all to stand up and be counted and be actively involved in the most important crusade of our time: To serve, protect, and defend all life from the innocent unborn to the oldest of the old among us. Father Quinn will also speak at these Masses: March 20 at 5 p.m., March 21 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church. For more information call church office at (828) 693-6901 or Mark Cordaro at (828) 697-2773.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Why would an anti-Catholic Presbyterian minister become a full-time Catholic apologist?* Gerry Matatics will present a free, eye-opening talk addressing "How the Bible converted me to Catholicism." "Will 'faith alone' get you to heaven?" and "Is 'Scripture alone' taught in Scripture?" This free presentation will take place at Ballantyne Resort, 10000 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 14, 1:30-6 p.m. Bring your Bible, questions and friends. For more information, visit www.gerrymatatics.org.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop emeritus William G. Curlin will speak about *"The Role of Jesus in Our Lives"* at the St. Gabriel annual parish Mission March 16-18. Mission topics include prayer on Tuesday, God's mercy on Wednesday and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist on Thursday. Bishop Curlin will preside at the 11 a.m. Mass each day followed by a light lunch in the Ministry Center. Evening services will begin at 7 p.m. All sessions will be in the church at 3016 Providence Rd. More information can be obtained by calling Susan Krasniewski at (704) 362-5047, ext. 271.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Ministry Center will present *"Dealing with the years that follow"* March 17, 7-9 p.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. While attention is usually focused on persons who are grieving in the first year after a death occurs, the needs of grieving persons go on. Spiritual friendship, care and concern are still needed, regardless of how much time has passed since the loss. We will explore some of these feelings and ways to cope, as well as signs that may point to the need for specific grief work. Presenter will be Larry Dawalt, Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

MINT HILL — Looking for a way to get closer to God this year? Put your new year's resolution into practice by taking the *Alpha Course.* Alpha is a video lecture series and supper club that meets Friday nights through March 19. Register by calling (704) 573-7021 or e-mail mcnuccie1@bellsout.net.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope says Catholic lawmakers must defend sanctity of life, marriage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lawmakers, especially if they are Catholic, must not advance measures that go against the basic values of life and marriage between a man and a woman, Pope John Paul II said.

"It is part of the church's mission to not give up inviting all men and women of good will to build a society based upon fundamental and irrevocable values" that respect human dignity, the pope said Feb 28.

"Legislators, especially Catholic legislators, cannot help draw up or pass laws that are contrary to the basic and essential norms that regulate moral life," the pope said.

He said "a national and world order that is appropriate for the human being" respects and protects every person's right to life, starting "from the moment of conception to one's natural end."

"No one can claim for himself the power of violating this right," he said.

He defined marriage as "the union between a man and a woman ... open to life" and "another pillar of society" with specific rights and duties that needed safeguarding.

The pope said public authorities must instead protect and favor the family based upon the marriage of a man and a woman "if they (authorities) are to promote a social development that is just, stable and promising."

Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

**GASTONIA VICARIATE**

MOUNT HOLLY — A *Lenten Pilgrimage* to the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Charlotte, St. Joseph Church, will be held March 14 beginning with a 12 p.m. Mass. The Mass will also celebrate Father John Vianney Hoover's 28th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. For details, call New Creation Monastery at (704) 541-5026.

BELMONT — Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St., will have a *Lenten Supper-Study* Wednesday evenings during Lent — March 10, 17 and 24. All are welcome. Community dinner is at 6 p.m., with Catechesis 6:45-7:30 p.m. Topic this year is "Vatican II: 40 Years Later." No pre-registration or fee required, no need to bring food, all is provided by the parish. For more information, please contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — A presentation on the *Catholic Church's position on the death penalty* in America will be held March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Pius X Church's Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Dr. James J. Megivern will speak on the Catholic Church's historic and theological approach to the death penalty. The event is sponsored by the St. Pius X Justice and Peace Ministry. For more information, contact Joe Bauer at Jlbauerx@aol.com or the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — Many of us want to do "something extra" during Lent. The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host their annual *Lenten mini-retreat* each Wednesday in March at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass will be at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments. For information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOCKSVILLE — Franciscan Father Joseph Michael Mary will offer a Lenten retreat at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd. Sessions will meet each evening at 7 p.m., March 27-31. The retreat will focus on *"The Last Four Things: Death Judgment, Heaven and Hell."* For more information, contact the church office at (336) 751-2973.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night,* featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is in the initial stage of forming a court of the *Catholic Daughters of America.* Women from neighboring parishes, ages 18 and older, are welcome to join. For more information, contact Angie Erst at (828) 488-6560 or Pat Pickering at (828) 497-4999.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

KERNERSVILLE — The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Student Council will host the *American Red Cross Bloodmobile* March 11, 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. BMCHS recognizes the importance of helping the Red Cross maintain an adequate and safe blood supply, and everyone in the community who is able to donate blood is encouraged to attend. The Blood Drive will be held in the school's Krispy Kreme Athletic Center at 1725 NC Highway 66 South. The school is located a block south of I-40 on Route 66. An appointment is not necessary but can be made by contacting Linda Kennedy, Student Council moderator, at (336) 564-1010.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican says by its count Pope John Paul surpasses Leo XIII March 14

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II approached the mark of having the third-longest pontificate in history, the Vatican press office moved into the numbers game.

Most people count pontificate length in total number of years, months and days. In that case, the pope would surpass Pope Leo XIII on March 17, after reigning for 25 years, five months and two days.

But the press office said that if calculated in total number of days served since election — taking into account the extra day in leap years and the different number of days in each month — Pope John Paul would move into third place three days earlier, on March 14.

It gets even more complicated if pontificate length is computed from the date of ceremonial inauguration, once called coronation, instead of election. It was 11 days before Pope Leo XIII celebrated his coronation Mass, while Pope John Paul celebrated his inaugural Mass only six days after election.

So if tallied this way, the pope would pick up another five days on Pope Leo and gain third place even earlier, on March 9.

Whichever method is used, Pope John Paul is nudging Pope Leo XIII out of third place.

Or is he? St. Peter's pontificate is traditionally considered the longest in history, but no one knows exactly how long he led the church. In view of that, some historians do not even place St. Peter on their "longest pontificate" list.

In modern times, the longest pontificate was that of Blessed Pope Pius IX, who served for more than 31 years.

The Vatican press office's math concluded: Pope Leo died July 20, 1903, which was 9,269 days after the March 3, 1878, ceremonial inauguration of his pontificate and 9,280 days after his Feb. 20, 1878, election.

Pope John Paul was elected Oct. 16, 1978, and solemnly began his pontificate Oct. 22, 1978. March 9 marks 9,270 days after the inauguration of his pontificate and March 14 marks 9,281 days after his election.

# Reflections of faith

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**A pedestrian and St. Peter's Basilica are reflected in a puddle in St. Peter's Square after a heavy rainfall March 1 in Rome.**

## THIS MONTH IN —1996

### HONORING DEDICATION

Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley was honored with a Spirit Award by Catholic Social Services March 13, 1996. The Spirit Award recognizes a special person or organization that has shared talent and treasure with those who come to Catholic Social Services seeking assistance. Bishop Begley received the award because of his contributions to the CSS mission of reaching out to persons seeking wholeness in their lives, relationships and spirits.

# Bishop McGuinness sweeps Harvard

KERNERSVILLE — Following a stellar performance at the 19th Session of the Harvard Model Congress, 13 students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School were recognized with awards of excellence, the highest number of awards given to any of the 81 high schools attending the conference held in Boston Feb. 26-29.

Over the four days, the Bishop McGuinness students drafted legislation in the House and Senate and argued three cases in the Supreme Court. Seniors Jim Russell and Chris Spinder took first place honors in the Supreme Court.

Winning awards in the House of Representatives were Nick Butler, Andy Ronan, Pat Nolan, Rachel Anemone and David Wehner.

In the Senate, awards went to Kyle Barbour, Greg Means, Meghan Witzke, Jennifer Williams, Matthew Pentz and Richard Valitutto.

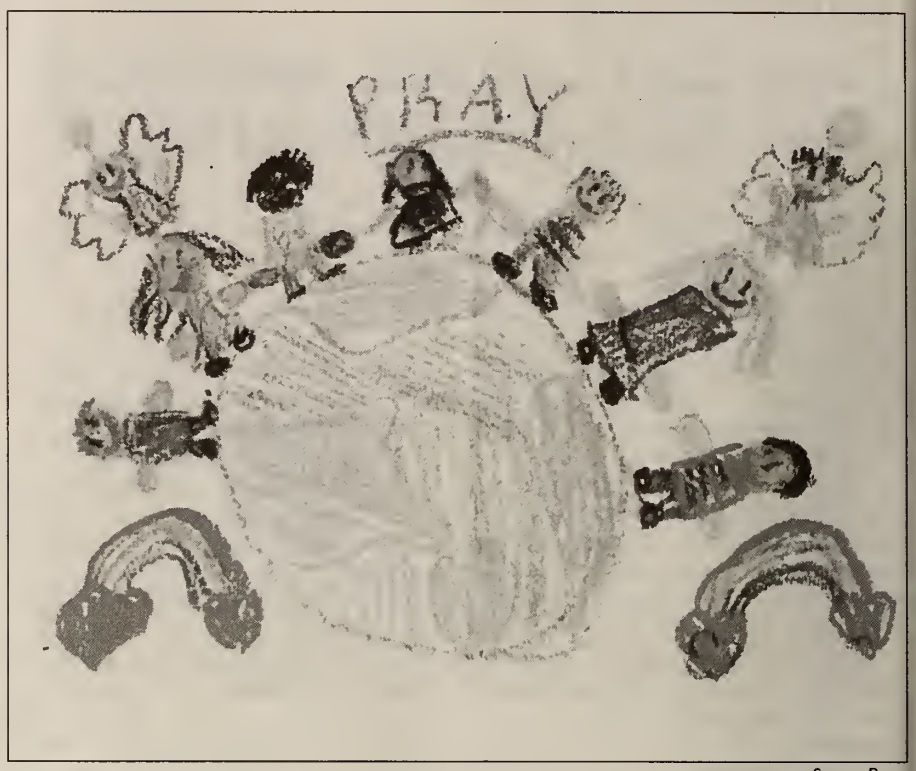
The Bishop McGuinness Supreme Court team was coached by Liz Arias, Joanne Waters and Stuart Brock of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice. Congressional delegates were coached by faculty advisor Michael Streich and Tara Porter.

# That winning feeling

COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gabriel School's fifth-grade boys gold basketball team finished 7-1 in their regular season, which tied them for first place. They won three games in the season's ending tournament, earning them a third-place finish and an overall record of 10-2. Pictured above: Coaches Keith Yarbrough and Dino Pacifici stand with players Hank LeFlore, Jamie Carter, John Nolan, Matthew Pacifici, Zach Reding, Matthew Norton, Clay Gaffey, Kyle Varner and Anthony Shinn.

INTERPRETING PRAYER




COURTESY PHOTO

Second-grader Moira Shepard provided the artwork for the St. Gabriel Catholic School prayer card for 2004.

# St. Gabriel School selects new student prayer card

CHARLOTTE — As part of Catholic Schools Week celebrations, St. Gabriel School's Faith Advisory Committee sponsored the third annual Prayer and Art exhibition Jan. 26-30.

All students wrote prayers and created works of art to represent St. Gabriel School. In the process, students considered their personal understanding of what it means to be Catholic and what St. Gabriel School means to them.

From the selections, one prayer and one work of art were selected to be the symbol of the school for 2004. A prayer card for all students and faculty members was made from the chosen entries.

The new St. Gabriel School prayer cards were blessed and distributed after the Ash Wednesday Mass Feb. 25, celebrated with all the students in preparation for Lent.

The winners of the St. Gabriel School contest were second-grader Moira Shepard for artwork and fifth-grader Michaela Reinhart for the prayer:

*"O Shepherd, Holy One:*

*Thank you for letting us, through our years at school, join together in thanks and praise for all of the blessings You have given us.*

*Throughout many years of teachings from Your house, we've learned that not just adults can be teachers, but the smallest child, can be a teacher.*

*And so, now we ask, in giving hearts, that we may always follow You, forever and ever. Amen."*

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# Good children come from good parents

## *Parenting authority imparts advice at high school*

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

KERNERSVILLE — Children imitate their parents, according to John Rosemond.

Rosemond, a family psychologist, author and syndicated columnist, spoke about raising children to more than 350 parents at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Feb. 19.

Entitled "Assuming the Power of Parenthood," Rosemond's presentation addressed childrearing in today's society and the need for reorganizing the focus of the family.

"I know I am going to insult some of you," he admitted at the start of his lecture.

Rosemond placed blame on mental health professionals, accusing them of diagnosing children with an array of behavioral disorders based upon theories that lack appropriate evidence.

"Today's mother has been seduced by 'psychobabble' when it comes to the rearing of children," said Rosemond.

Parents carry a "terrible burden" today — if their children misbehave, society considers it the parents' faults.

This is unlike society of long ago, he said.

Marriage was the focus of the family for thousands of years throughout Western culture, and even back to the days of Sarah and Abraham, said Rosemond.

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

John Rosemond speaks to more than 350 parents about raising children at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Feb. 19.

But in the 1960s, he explained, American culture took a turn against the establishment. From this turn, a progressive attitude was born where new ideas were better than old ideas and "Grandma's ideas were no longer desirable," he said.

Part of this attitude resulted in a shift to a child-centered family, which Rosemond finds is in direct contrast to this natural order of family life.

Rosemond recalled his parochial school years in the 1950s, when teachers did not have to deal with the current disciplinary problems. Children who misbehaved got punished at school, and maybe again at home.

Today, he said, parents try to figure out reasons for their children's misbehavior and let children explain their way out of punishment. This makes disciplining children confusing, difficult and ineffective.

Rosemond mapped out three stages of significant child-parent relationships.

The first stage is from birth through 2 years of age, the second is from 2 to 13 years old, and the last is from 13 to adulthood. In each of these stages, the parent-child role is different.

Rosemond believes that in our modern American society, many mothers are stuck in the first stage of parenting to children who have well outgrown it. Mothers feel a burden of responsibility and servitude from societal pressures to micromanage the lives of their children, not even realizing it is unnecessary and at the expense of themselves and their marital lives.

"If parents take good care of their marriages, they provide an inordinate amount of security to their children," said Rosemond.

He also explained that children need to see parents model marital life if they are to achieve it themselves.

One of Rosemond's 10 "Bill of Rights for Children" is: "Children have the right to find out early in their lives that their parents don't exist to make them happy, but to offer them the opportunity to learn the skills they — children — will need eventually to make themselves happy."

Rosemond is also the director for the Center for Affirmative Parenting located in Gastonia. He gives more than 200 presentations nationwide per year.

His books include "Parent Power," "Teen-Proofing," "Because I Said So," "A Family of Value," "Making the Terrible Twos Terrific!" and "Ending the Homework Hassle."

His visit to Bishop McGuinness was sponsored by the parent teacher organizations and five Triad-area Catholic schools — Blessed Sacrament School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Our Lady of Mercy School, Saint Pius X School, Our Lady of Grace School and Saint Leo the Great School.


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For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

# Author to speak on Catholic Church's stand against death penalty

GREENSBORO — The Catholic Church's position on the death penalty will be presented at St. Pius X Church March 16.

James J. Megivern, professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, will speak on the Church's historic and theological approach to the death penalty.

The event is sponsored by St. Pius X Church's Justice and Peace Ministry as part of its Lenten series.

Megivern, a nationally recognized expert on capital punishment, has given similar presentations on this topic numerous times in the past five years.

He is author of the book "The Death Penalty: An Historical & Theological Survey" and a member of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, a statewide, interfaith organization dedicated to educating and mobilizing faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in North Carolina.

**WANT TO GO?**

James Megivern will speak Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. in St. Pius X Church's Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St., Greensboro. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Joe Bauer at (336) 272-4681.

# Allegation cause of priest's removal

*Father Patrick Leonard accused of abuse in other diocese*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners of St. John Neumann Church recently learned why their former parochial vicar was removed from service.

A letter from the Order of St. Augustine's provincial office read at Masses Feb. 28-29 revealed that an allegation of sexual abuse involving a minor against Augustinian Father Patrick Leonard dictated his removal from the parish in September 2003.

"Father Leonard left St. John's for immediate evaluation and treatment following an allegation that was brought to the attention of our Augustinian provincial last fall concerning Father Pat's ministry many years ago in another diocese," stated the letter.

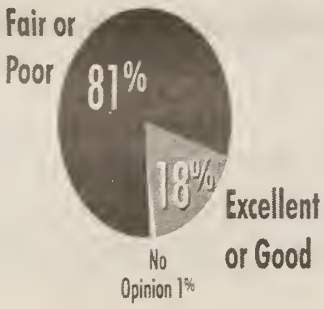
Father Leonard was a priest in good standing when he came to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1998. No allegations of any wrongdoing have been made against him during his service to the diocese.

"While the matter was under investigation, it was the judgment of our province not to disclose any information publicly that was false or potentially harmful to persons involved," said the letter. "Our struggle in these matters is to preserve the values of truth and safety with appropriate confidentiality."

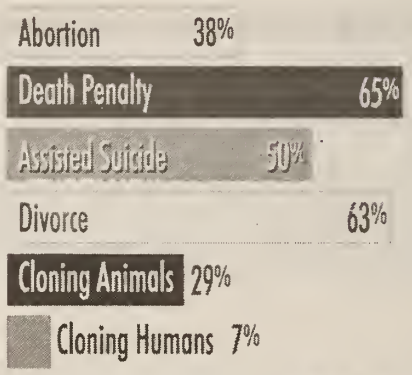
*Editor's Note: Please see Bishop Peter J. Jugis' column on page 14 of this issue.*

# Moral Standing

Percentage of Americans who rate the state of moral values in this country as




Percent who find the following morally acceptable




From May survey of 1,012 adults 18 or older.

Source: Gallup

© 2002 CNS Graphics

# Diocesan requirements for reporting ministry-related sexual abuse of a minor

**1.** Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

**2.** The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

**3.** This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12 — 1-2 pm
(part of Just Second Fridays series)
St. Peter Catholic Church Annex (Charlotte), Atrium Room (Annex located behind the church, off College Street. Doors open at 12:30 pm)
In addition to Fr. Koterski, you will hear Maggi Nadol, R.N., Diocesan Respect Life Director, speak on *Actions to Take in Support of the "Gospel of Life."*

FRIDAY, MARCH 12 — 7:30 pm
St. Michael Church, Gastonia
Parish Center/All Purpose Room, open 7 pm
In addition to Fr. Koterski, you will hear Maggi Nadol, R.N., Diocesan Respect Life Director, speak on *Actions to Take in Support of the "Gospel of Life."*

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 — 6:45 pm
(following 5:30 pm Mass in the social hall)
St. Eugene Church, 72 Culvern St., Asheville

For directions to churches, visit www.charlottediocese.org
For information, call Joseph Purello, Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services 704-370-3225

REV. JOSEPH KOTERSKI, PH.D.
*Chair, Philosophy Department*
*Fordham University*

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J. (Ph.D. St. Louis University; M.Div. and S.T.L., Weston School of Theology, Boston) is a priest of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. He chairs Fordham University's Department of Philosophy where he also serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal International Philosophical Quarterly. Fr. Koterski has received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching and the Graduate Teacher of the Year Award. He has authored and presented hundreds of publications and papers.

*Sponsored by Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace in partnership with St. Peter Catholic Church, St. Michael Catholic Church, and St. Eugene Catholic Church*

# Reflecting the face of Christ

**ELIZABETH MINISTRY OFFERS SUPPORT TO GRIEVING PARENTS**

BY MARY MARSHALL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Supporting mothers who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death is a faith-strengthening experience for Tracy Webb.

"As women, we bring our tears and grief to each other and, through simple acts of communication, reveal the loving presence of God," said Webb, coordinator of the Elizabeth Ministry at St. Matthew Church.

Referring to the biblical story of Mary visiting Elizabeth, Webb said, "We don't know a lot about how these women ministered to each other during their pregnancies, but we do know that they offered one another support."

Support, said Webb, is what Elizabeth Ministry at St. Matthew Church offers to those who have experienced perinatal complications — the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death.

"Peer support ministry is a lovely way for us to be the face of Christ for one another," said Webb. "Those whom have experienced loss suffer. They've had a tragic experience and have a need to bring some meaning to it."

"Through the various support levels of outward participation, e-mail correspondence or phone calls, we reiterate that someone remembers, someone cares," she said. "That's huge in itself."

PHOTO BY MARY MARSHALL

**Rita Brennan (back), Kim Walters, Tracy Webb and Theresa Moritz are Charlotte-area parishioners involved in Elizabeth Ministry.**

Webb became active in the ministry when she had a miscarriage 10 years ago while living in Florida. In 2002, Webb, whose family by then had moved to Charlotte, had another miscarriage.

"I felt called to begin the ministry here," said Webb. "I contacted Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate, and discovered that in our large parish, many families with perinatal losses were searching for the same peer support that exists in the Bereavement Ministry."

Elizabeth Ministry is under the umbrella of the Bereavement Ministry at St. Matthew.

"No matter where you are in your loss journey, Elizabeth Ministry peers meet your need and hold your hand as together you walk with Jesus," said Rita Brennan, co-coordinator of the parish Bereavement Ministry.

When Theresa Moritz, a parishioner and now a peer minister at St. Matthew Church, had a miscarriage she turned to the ministry.

"The ministers recognized my loss — that it was a part of me," said Moritz. "It's a powerful thing to be with people who truly understand."

Kim Walters is currently training to be a minister. A member of St. Patrick Cathedral, she was referred to the Elizabeth Ministry at St. Matthew Church following her second miscarriage.

"It's a very lonely feeling when you lose something you wanted so badly," said Walters. "Through the Elizabeth Ministry, I realized God was opening his arms to help me."

Ministers attend the same training sessions required for bereavement ministers. In addition, Webb conducts an additional class specifically relating to the Elizabeth Ministry.

Eight women currently serve as ministers at St. Matthew Church. Sandy Buck is coordinator of the newly formed ministry at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Since St. Matthew Church's ministry began in October 2002, they have reached out to nearly 30 women who have suffered losses. To meet the needs of the parish, the ministry recently expanded to include infertility and perinatal and postpartum complications.

"As I serve others, I become lifted, renewed and more with God," said Webb.

The ministers agree that through the process of ministering, they receive more than they give.

Elizabeth Ministry's roots trace back to St. Bernard Church in Appleton, Wis., and its founders Bruce and Jeannie Hannemann, and the late Capuchin Father Kurt Gessner. Bishop Robert Morneau, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis., now serves as the spiritual advisor.

The international movement was designed to support women and their families during the joys, trials and sorrows of the childbearing years.

An informal meeting is planned at St. Matthew Church's Ministry Building at 7 p.m. on April 1. Parents with a perinatal loss will have the opportunity to include their child's name in the "Book of the Innocent."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information on the Elizabeth Ministry, call Tracy Webb at (704) 543-4780.

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A choir sings during a memorial service for Laci Peterson at the First Baptist Church in Modesto, Calif., May 4. Peterson was eight months pregnant at the time of her death, and her husband, Scott, has been charged with double homicide. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act, proposed legislation to recognize unborn children as legal victims of violence, will be renamed Laci and Conner's Law.

# Victims of Violence Act

VICTIMS, *from page 1*

the House rejected an alternative measure that would have increased penalties for those who attacked a pregnant woman but would not have recognized her unborn child as a victim of the attack as well.

The approved measure would enable the federal government to recognize that, when a pregnant woman is assaulted or killed in the commission of federal crimes of violence — such as a kidnapping across state lines or an attack that takes place on federal property — and her unborn child is harmed or killed as a result, the crime has two victims — the woman and her child.

"The little unborn child is intrinsically precious and valuable and deserving of standing in the law and protection," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., in urging passage of the bill.

Those who supported the legislation said it reflected the opinion of the majority of Americans, while opponents expressed concern that it would erode current abortion laws because it gives victim rights to unborn children. The legislation must now be taken up by the Senate.

In a letter sent to Congress Feb. 19, Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler urged lawmakers to approve the Unborn Victims of Violence Act as drafted and to reject any substitute that would nullify the intent of the measure.

The cardinal, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, also noted that legislation explicitly excludes abortion and thus it was "all the more disappointing that some insist the bill should nonetheless be defeated to somehow preserve a 'right' to abortion."

"This bill simply ensures that both mother and child are protected from violent assault and murder," the cardinal wrote.

He had warned that opponents of the legislation might "try to nullify it by offering substitute language" that would recognize only the harm done to the woman but not to her child. But he called this type of "single-victim approach" unfair to mothers and families who grieve the loss of their unborn children.

The bill has been dubbed "Laci and Conner's Law" after California murder victims Laci Peterson and her unborn son, Conner, who disappeared in 2002 and were later found dead. Laci's husband, Scott, is charged with the murders.

The cardinal referred to Laci Peterson in his letter, saying: "As Sharon Rocha, mother of Laci Peterson and grandmother of Conner, reminds us: 'There were two bodies that washed up in San Francisco Bay, and the law should recognize that reality.'"

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, has 25 co-sponsors. The House version was sponsored by Rep. Melissa Hart, R-Pa., with 136 co-sponsors.

About 30 states have laws offering some form of protection to unborn victims in crimes against pregnant women.

The House previously passed such a bill twice, in 1999 and 2001, but the Senate took no action either time.

"We encourage people in the Diocese of Charlotte to contact our two U.S. Senators by fax, e-mail or phone," said Maggi Nadol, director of the diocesan Respect Life office.

Nadol suggested calling the Capitol's switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and leaving the following message:

"Please vote for the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, S.1019, and oppose any single-victim substitute amendment."

Nadol said people may also want to visit the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment's Web site for a list of co-sponsors at http://nchla.org/uvva.htm.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

# Bishops, pro-lifers oppose N.J. stem-cell research budget proposal

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — If New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's $6.5 million budget proposal to fund a stem-cell institute is approved, New Jersey will become the first state to use taxpayer money for this type of research.

News of the prospective stem-cell center was met with strong opposition from the New Jersey Catholic bishops and pro-life organizations. The governor unveiled his budget Feb. 24.

In a statement from the New Jersey Catholic Conference, the bishops reiterated their position that embryonic stem-cell research violates the sanctity of human life.

They warned that publicly funded research poses profound moral questions, and urged individuals to contact McGreevey and their legislative representatives and let them know that they oppose the use of their tax dollars to pay for research that destroys human life.

Marie Tasy, public and legislative affairs director for New Jersey Right to Life, called the governor's budget proposal "unconscionable."

"It is bad enough that Governor McGreevey sold out humanity and ignored the will of the people to do the bidding of the biotech industry, he is now trying to force this immoral research down the throats of the taxpayers," she said. "Taxpayers should not be forced to fund this radical ... grisly experimentation on human beings."

McGreevey has been outspoken in his efforts to promote embryonic stem-cell research in New Jersey since a bill authorizing it was signed into law in January. On Feb. 13, the governor sent a letter to the state's Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, requesting that he help encourage the research.

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# Ministering to elders

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Father Kieran Nielsen speaks to senior Catholics at the Fall Day of Reflection in October 2003. The annual event provides seniors an opportunity to gather and deepen their faith.**

**SENIORS, *from page 1***

Studies have shown that faith, love and happiness are important factors in living a longer, more fulfilling life.

According to the Web site SeniorWorld Online, University of California-Berkeley scientists studied 8,000 men and women and found death rates were two to three times lower for those who had social ties, such as healthy relationships and deep religious beliefs.

Elder Ministry sponsors yearly events including the Spring Fling and Fall Day of Reflection, which provide an opportunity for elders to gather for entertainment, camaraderie, education and spiritual enrichment. An annual health fair highlights safety and health issues unique to senior citizens.

The Spring Fling combines recreational and well-being activities. In addition to activities such as bingo and arts and crafts, participants can have their blood pressure checked or attend a demonstration of Healing Touch therapy, a group of non-invasive techniques that certified practitioners use to promote self-healing by their patients.

"Spring Fling is like a homecoming or a family reunion for many of the seniors, and it is a day where everyone can forget the demands of life and join others in the spirit of oneness and friendship," said Breakfield.

Unlike the games and enrichment activities offered at Spring Fling, the Senior Fall Day of Reflection is a time for seniors to come together to explore and challenge their faith, Breakfield said.

"Seniors are very spiritually grounded," she said. "They need, and want, a special day to increase their faith."

Elder Ministry also collaborates with parishes and vicariates through a series of classes and workshops to address the concerns associated with aging. Although many churches already have ministries established for seniors, Elder Ministry helps them by partnering parishes in order to enhance their programs.

Elder Ministry has established training models for a variety of services including: information and referrals, respite volunteers, "friendly visitors," errands and shopping, transportation, reading, telephone reassurance, chore service and housekeeping, handyperson and yard work, correspondence and financial tasks, and pastoral care training.

Recognizing that each individual is unique with specific needs, interests, abilities and life experiences is a key to successfully ministering to seniors, Breakfield said.

"We must have respect and dignity for those we serve," she said. "We need to realize that each person has the right to make decisions about his or her personal future."

According to Breakfield, Elder Ministry is blessed with volunteers who have many talents and gifts and who are willing to share these through support, training and more.

"Seniors are the backbone of our ministry," said Breakfield. "This growing population is full of individuals whom we look to for insight and wisdom."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more information about Elder Ministry, please contact Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or e-mail sabreakfield@charlottediocese.org.

*Elder Ministry is one of 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

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3 pm — **Will "Faith Alone" Get You to Heaven?** (what the Bible really teaches about salvation)

4:30 pm — **Is "Scripture Alone" Taught in Scripture?** (what the Bible really teaches about God's Word)

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# Culture Watch

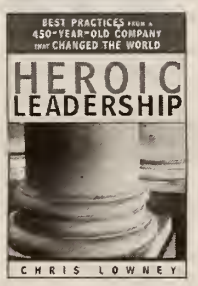
**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

# The Jesuits: corporate heroes?

REVIEWED BY MICHELLE MARTIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When St. Ignatius Loyola and his nine companions decided to formally organize themselves into a religious order, they called themselves the "Compania Jesus." Still, Loyola and the other founders of the Jesuits hardly saw themselves as an example of a business enterprise. Chris Lowney does.

Lowney spent seven years in the Jesuit novitiate in New York, leaving at age 25 to embark on a career in investment banking at J.P. Morgan. What he found in 16 years in the banking world was that many of the leadership principles and skills inculcated in Jesuit recruits translated well to the modern business environment. He makes his case in "Heroic Leadership: Best Practices From a 450-Year-Old Company That Changed the World."




"Heroic Leadership: Best Practices From a 450-Year-Old Company That Changed the World," by Chris Lowney. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2003). 330 pp., $24.95.

Lowney said the thought first occurred to him when Morgan started doing "360-degree feedback," meaning employees would have their performance evaluated not only by their supervisors, but also by their peers and those they supervised.

"I had this strong feeling of deja vu," said Lowney, who has since left Morgan to work with the Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York. "When we did it at Morgan, we rightly talked about ourselves being way ahead of the curve. But it was something I had already done with the Jesuits."

Lowney left the Jesuits but ended up in Asia — following in the footsteps of Jesuit missionaries — for J.P. Morgan, opening offices in Japan and Singapore. That led him to wonder whether St. Ignatius and other early Jesuits would have any other valuable insights for 21st-century business leaders.

After all, they lived and worked in a rapidly changing environment, not so different from today's. The invention of the printing press and the sudden availability of books and other written material created an information revolution similar to the one engendered by the recent development of instant, worldwide electronic communication, and established powers, such as the Catholic Church, found themselves challenges in ways they never imagined.

Loyola responded by forming a new kind of religious order: one that was mobile and adaptable, not tied to monastic lands or schedules, one that called for top-down control but individual initiative, where each individual member was encouraged to reach beyond his own attitudes and abilities to find the best way of fulfilling the Jesuit mission of "helping souls."

Loyola did it, Lowney writes, by establishing four core leadership values: self-awareness, ingenuity, love and heroism. Self-awareness was created by the mandatory Spiritual Exercises, which also taught recruits to look for novel solutions and to see the world with eyes of love. With those attitudes, heroic action followed: evangelizing in Asia, exploring uncharted territory around the world, and establishing the largest, most respected network of secondary schools in Europe over the course of a generation.

As examples, Lowney uses figures from early Jesuit history, from Loyola and St. Francis Xavier to those who aren't so well known, such as Matteo Ricci and Benedetto de Goes.

The book deliberately avoids exploring the role of God in all this, but Lowney readily admits that readers who take it seriously might find themselves contemplating the divine.

"When I talk about self-awareness, I talk about knowing who you are, what your core values are, how you relate to the world," he said. "For a religious person, that's going to lead right to God. For a shallow person, that's going to lead to trouble, because they won't know what they stand for."

And, Lowney said, he wouldn't be surprised if some people who don't consider themselves religious read the book and find themselves thinking about what inspired the Jesuits.

As for Lowney's Jesuit friends, he hopes they learn something also.

"It might give them a new perspective," he said. "Sometimes you have to be outside of something to look at it a new way."

Even St. Ignatius as a management guru?

"I was surprised," Lowney said, "when I started researching, at his enlightened attitude toward delegation. You see it in his letters: 'You are there and you will know best what is to be done and I will support your decision.' That's the kind of delegating people talk about now."

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAR. 14, 2004

## *March 14, Third Sunday of Lent*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
   Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-11
2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
3) Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

There's a saying that goes, "Life is what happens when you're making other plans."

I certainly have experienced the truth of that statement, as have several of my friends and acquaintances. Loved ones get cancer and die, cars get demolished in traffic accidents, children move away to college, jobs are gained and lost again, and possessions are stolen — and these just in my own family in the past year! Few of those events were anticipated, much less planned.

Thus, I can relate somewhat to the experience of Moses in the Exodus passage, for he was apparently minding his own business, watching his father-in-law's sheep, enjoying the scenery of Mt. Horeb when he encountered God speaking in a burning shrub.

It was enough of a shock to make him leave the family business of sheepherding and pursue the God business of bearing messages of liberation to his people while witnessing the unfolding of events he could not have predicted.

It is one thing to recognize a "theophany," or "God-appearance," in a mysteriously blazing bush — but quite another to discern God's message in the unanticipated events of our lives. There is a human tendency to view such events, especially the difficult ones that get our lives off track, as punishment rather than preparation for a higher calling.

Yet, the other Scripture readings this Sunday remind us of the enormity of God's love, mercy and patience. Faith gives one the ability to recognize in unexpected trials the cultivation that can break up the hardened soil of our hearts and bring us to fruitfulness.

The fire of God's love, experienced through suffering, may purify, but it does not consume.

***Questions:***

*What unexpected difficulty has thrown your life off track recently? How have such experiences taught you about the depth of God's love for you?*

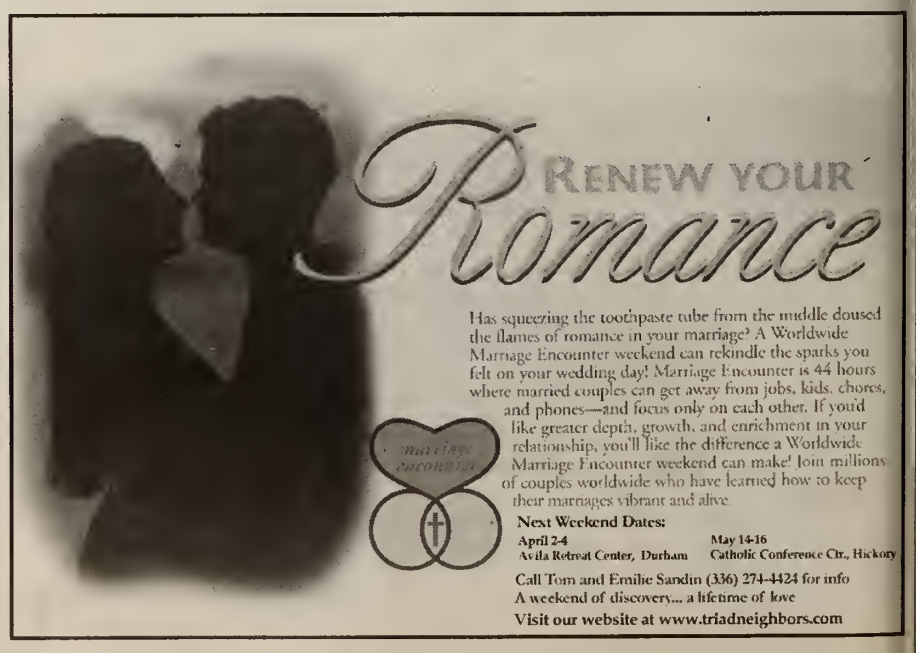
# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7 - MARCH 13**

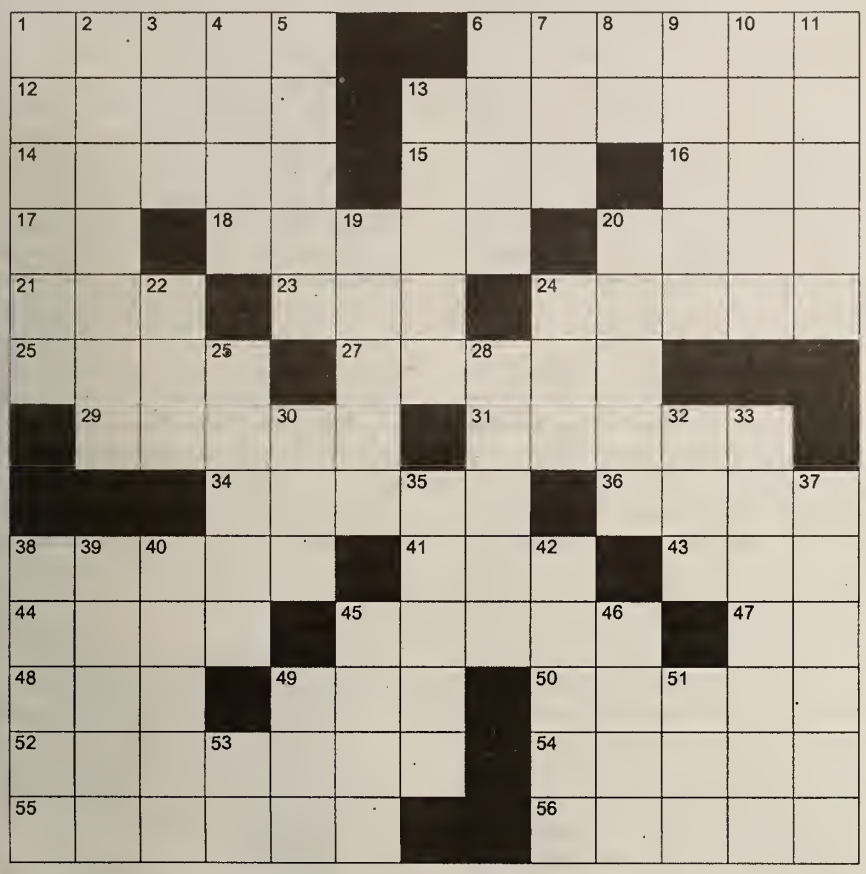
**Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent),** Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17—4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14 - MARCH 20**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent),** Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday, St. Patrick),** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday, St. Cyril),** Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Feast of St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14



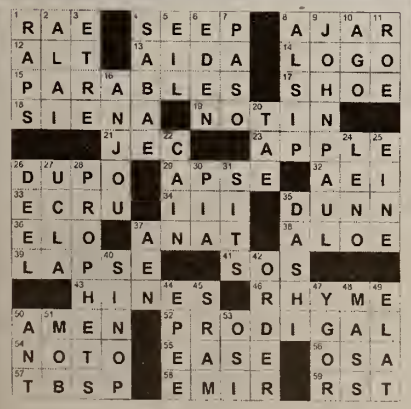
## BORROWED TIME



ACROSS
1 Dictator Hussein (var.)
6 Russian composer
12 Steak
13 Talking to God
14 Cinders
15 Tear
16 Gov't agcy
17 Hwy
18 Address on message for Dicken's character?
20 Bound
21 Saint Anthony's cross
23 Sellout
24 It's a Good Book
25 Sediment
27 Film director Welles
29 Hospital employee
31 "Carry me back ___ Virginny"
34 Transmission company
36 Greek porch
38 Twig
41 May be a good question
43 Living will directives
44 Jigsaw, for one
45 Take it easy
47 Silver in the table
48 Gore and Sharpton
49 Indian number
50 XL
52 Not eating
54 Banish
55 Foe's partner
56 "That I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will ___ them" (Isaiah)

DOWN
1 Begins
2 Refrain from
3 Homer's aphorism
4 Working without ___
5 So when you're near me, darling can't you hear ___ (ABBA song)
6 Grasp
7 Lick
8 Found in irony and piety
9 Babylonian god
10 Prayer posture, perhaps
11 Ancient Babylonian city
13 Previous
19 Prelude
20 Greek island
22 Alaskan knife
24 Derisive sound
26 Path
28 Chair
30 Droop
32 India Inc.
33 Gives
35 Chinese musical instrument
37 Diamond pattern
38 Shepherd's stick
39 Bear type
40 Italian physicist
42 Thin cake
45 "___ your hearts, not your garments." (Joel)
46 Hugs and kisses
49 Metallic element
51 Broadcasting frequency type
53 The __ of Piglet (Hoff book)

### LAST WEEKS ANSWERS



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TV WATCH

# 'Patrick' movie portrays historical tale

BY GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A saint who came back to the land where he had been enslaved, intent on spreading the Christian message of love andforgiveness, is recalled in docudrama style in "Patrick," to be shown Sunday, March 14, 10-11 p.m. EST on cable's Hallmark Channel.

The program corrects some common misconceptions: that Patrick was Irish and he drove the snakes out of Ireland (where they don't exist). Instead, he was born in Britain as the pampered, far-from-faith-filled son of a Roman nobleman. In his teens, his plush lifestyle and family were torn from him when slave traders kidnapped him and sold him into slavery to an Irish chieftain.

Serving as a shepherd, the distraught youth gradually turned to prayer and after six years made a daring escape and returned home. But memories haunted him and Patrick felt God wanted him to preach the Good News in pagan Ireland. Ordained to the priesthood, he sailed back to Ireland in 432 A.D. and in essence converted the entire populace. That this was accomplished without resorting to violence is a historical rarity.

Liam Neeson narrates the story of Patrick, mostly using the saint's own written words, which are spoken by Gabriel Byrne. Emmy-winning filmmaker Pamela Wagner weds a soulful Celtic music track to striking visuals of the Irish coastline and rugged landscapes. Violent images are discreetly blurred, making the program entirely family-friendly.

The viewer sees teen slave Patrick shivering on a barren hillside and can relate to his hopelessness and understand how he turned in his despair to God's mercy. Additional commentary to fill in historical context is provided by scholars and authors such as Frank McCourt. The program also addresses how the Irish monasteries Patrick founded were instrumental in preserving Western civilization's literary traditions through the Dark Ages.

A visually polished biography, it captures how the unfortunate youth matured spiritually and was able to return to Ireland not with vengeance in his heart but with a spirit of forgiveness and a desire to share God's abundant love.

*Pare is director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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UNEASY RIDERS

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson star in the lame comedy "Starsky & Hutch."

# 'Starsky & Hutch' catch familiar, tired script

BY DAVID DICERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Geographically situated amid rain-deprived southern California, Hollywood is no stranger to drought; it is, after all, a glorified desert.

Tinseltown's paucity of precipitation is mirrored by a creative drought of sorts, resulting in its trend of churning out pointless movies derived from old TV shows. In the past year alone there were supersized film versions of such TV series as "Charlie's Angels" and "I Spy."

The most recent victim of a dehydrated muse is Todd Phillips, the director and co-writer of "Starsky & Hutch" (Warner Bros.), a relentlessly unfunny comedy based on the 1970s' buddy-cop drama of the same name. Apparently, like barrels, recycling bins also have bottoms, which is where he must have found his script.

Set in the fictitious crime-ridden metropolis of Bay City, the film, as in the TV series, centers on two maverick cops: Brillo-haired Det. David Starsky (Ben Stiller), a short-fused bulldog with a badge, and his tow-headed partner Ken "Hutch" Hutchinson (Owen Wilson), a laid-back ladies' man.

Starsky's overzealous, run-through-a-brick-wall-to-catch-a-perp mentality has made him burn through partners faster than his flashy red Ford Gran Torino burns through tire treads. On the other hand, Hutch, who marches to his own Miranda Code, just wants to have fun and, unlike anger-management candidate Starsky, is not above fraternizing with shady characters like the pimpishly flamboyant informant Huggy Bear (Snoop Dogg).

This clash of personalities sets up the framework for much of what unfolds, making their investigation of crime kingpin Reese Feldman (Vince Vaughn), who has figured out a way to make cocaine undetectable to drug-sniffing dogs, a pro forma plot device.

While, in fairness, Stiller and Wilson work well together and generate some laughs (rare and guilty though they are), their chemistry does little to distract viewers from the inanity of the script. Full of forced humor and canned camp, the film's comedy gets stuck in a holding pattern of silly sight gags that never advance past spoofing '70s ambience. Most of the visual punch lines revolve around lampooning the era's comical coifs and retro couture.

Of course, there isn't much space for anything else since the filmmaker has crammed seemingly every song ever recorded that decade into the soundtrack, with just enough room left over for the prerequisite riffs of cheesy guitar wah-wah pedal music particular to shows of that period. Even the goofy outtakes during the closing credits are redundant; the whole film plays like one big blooper.

Fans of the 1975-79 series may not find much to applaud beyond the movie's faithful replication of Starsky's ubiquitous Torino and a late-in-the-game cameo by the original duo (David Soul and Paul Michael Glaser).

Part of the problem is Phillips never really decides what film he is making, vacillating awkwardly between outright parody and homage. However, with films like "Road Trip" (2000) and "Old School" (2003) under his directorial belt, it should come as no surprise that his ode to disco detective work has much the same sophomoric sleaziness as his previous forays into crudeville, including scenes involving perverted inmates (Will Ferrell), and oversexed cheerleaders (Carmen Electra and Amy Smart). The flick's lighthearted use of cocaine and the lax mores of the era as contrivances of comedy are also unwelcome.

In one of the film's lamer moments, Stiller and Wilson perform as mimes at a bat mitzvah for Feldman's daughter. Prompted by the boredom on the children's faces, the gangster briskly ushers them offstage — if only he could have as quickly ushered the whole movie off the screen.

Due to sexual situations involving partial nudity and same-sex kissing, recurring drug content, some violence and much crude language and humor, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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# 'A wonderfully effective missioner'

## *Glenmary Father Tom Field dies at 64*

CINCINNATI — Glenmary Father Tom Field, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte in the early 1990s, died Feb. 27, 2004 in Cincinnati. The native of Minneapolis, Minn., died following surgery on Feb. 23. He suffered from Parkinson's disease.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Mathias Church in Cincinnati March 4, with internment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

A member of the Cincinnati-based Glenmary Home Missioners for 29 years, Father Field entered Glenmary in 1974. His early assignments following his 1978 ordination included parishes in Alabama and Tennessee.

Glenmary Father Tom Field

In 1991, he assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, and in 1992, the church's mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Cherokee.

Over the next eight years, Father Field became well-known for his community involvement. Although he never liked to discuss his involvement, he proudly talked of the parish's involvement in a center for victims of domestic violence, Meals on Wheels, the local food pantry and many other outreach programs.

"Father Tom's personality and demeanor put people at ease," said Glenmary Father Dan Dorsey, president of Glenmary and a classmate of Father Field. "He had a wonderful gift of making people feel welcome in his presence, which made him a wonderfully effective missioner, especially to those with special needs."

Father Field's community involvement led to a death threat from the Ku Klux Klan while he served in Alabama.

After intervening to stop a Klansman from abusing his wife, Father Field received a note from the Klan saying they were going to shoot him.

"I backed off for a couple of days," said Father Field in 2000. "But then I said, 'I'm not going to let them scare me' and I went about my work."

A year later, he received another note saying the Klan had been observing him, and they thought he was doing OK. With his wry humor, Father Field said, "Gee, if the Klan likes me, I must be doing something wrong."

Those to whom he ministered would strongly disagree. To them, Father Field had a heart as large as the rural countryside he loved and in which he ministered.

When the advance of Parkinson's disease meant he could no longer serve as a mission pastor, in 2000 he moved to Glenmary's mission in Madisonville, Tenn., and served as its sacramental minister. Health issues forced him to move permanently to Cincinnati in 2001.

He is survived by his fellow missioners and many friends, including Mary Herr and Jim McCullough of Bryson City.

Father Field requested memorials be made to Glenmary Home Missioners, P.O. Box 465618, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-5618.

# Continuing catechesis

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARIE MARTINO

Fifteen of the 20 faith formation leaders and catechists of the Diocese of Charlotte enjoy dinner at a restaurant Feb. 6 during the annual East Coast Conference in Washington, D.C. Feb. 5-8. The conference, sponsored by the National Center for Pastoral Leadership, was themed "Whole Community Catechesis" and open to all pastoral leaders involved in catechesis, liturgy, music ministry, RCIA and other ministries.

## THIS MONTH IN — 1999

Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley celebrated his 90th birthday March 12, 1999. Bishop William G. Curlin was the principal celebrant of a Mass celebrated in Bishop Begley's honor in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point. Bishop Begley was the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte and served as such for 12 years.

"Bishop Begley has provided great comfort and encouragement to me and to so many people across the Diocese of Charlotte through the years," said Bishop Curlin. "His leadership and his kindness continue to be treasured."


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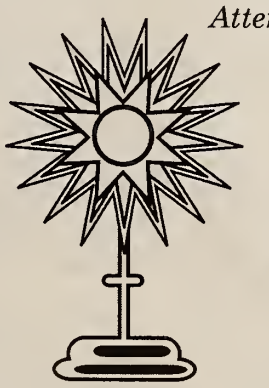

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Pope begins Lenten retreat, appeals for children in danger

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Before beginning a weeklong Lenten retreat, Pope John Paul II made a special appeal for children victimized by adults.

Children "are often the innocent victims of the wickedness of men," he said at his weekly Angelus blessing Feb. 29.

"The church dedicates to them special care because it is Christ himself who tells us: 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me,'" he said.

"May this period of the liturgical year transform itself into a generous contest of solidarity toward these little ones, especially those in serious danger and difficulty," he said.

The pope dedicated his Lenten message this year to children, including those harmed by sexual abuse, forced prostitution, drug abuse, forced labor and military combat and human trafficking.

The pontiff made his remarks from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square a few hours before the start of his week of spiritual exercises. All papal audiences and events were canceled for the retreat.

The retreat, also attended by many of the pope's top aides, was to feature the preaching of Italian Msgr. Bruno Forte, a professor of theology from Naples. The schedule also included daily prayers, recital of the rosary and adoration of the Eucharist.

Msgr. Forte was preaching on the theme, "Following you, the light of life," taken from Christ's words in St. John's Gospel: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness."

In an interview with the Italian newspaper Avvenire, Msgr. Forte said that, paradoxically, it is Christ's suffering on the cross that brings light to Christians in every age. He said, however, there were two risks for Christians who contemplate Christ's Passion.

"To be avoided on the one hand is 'dolorism' that would make Christianity almost exclusively about suffering and death, when in reality we are witnesses of the resurrection," he said.

"On the other hand, however, there is the opposite risk, naive optimism, which can end up ignoring what price was paid for our salvation," he said.

On Feb. 28, the pope met with members of four Roman parishes in the Vatican's audience hall, resuming a series of encounters suspended last year. The pope has visited 301 of the 336 parishes in the Diocese of Rome.

Last year, because the pope could no longer walk unaided, the Vatican began inviting the remaining parishes to come to the Vatican. The pontiff remarked in late February that ultimately he wanted to visit with the faithful of all the parishes of his diocese.

The Feb. 28 event was the first group encounter of several parishes in a single audience. The pope celebrated Mass and, in his sermon, spoke about the need for a "strong and decisive struggle against the devil" in modern times. He said Lent was the time when all Christians are, like Christ before them, called into the "desert" and asked to purify themselves through prayer and penitential practices.

## The sinful crime of sexual abuse of minors at the hands of clergy

*What the Diocese of Charlotte is doing about it*

From the Bishop

MOST REV. PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

As Lent 2004 begins, the Catholic Church in America and the Diocese of Charlotte are once again under intense scrutiny for sins of the past.

The information found among the statistics of the John Jay study and the qualitative analysis of the National Review Board report were both released on Feb. 27. They are a painful reminder that over the past 54 years, some Catholic clergy members committed the sinful crime of child sex abuse.

The study was conducted independently by the John Jay School of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York and paid for by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The National Review Board study was also conducted independently and paid for by the bishops.

The Diocese of Charlotte was founded in 1972. Since then, 677 men have served as priests. Based on a review of diocesan records, 13 priests had allegations of sexual misconduct made against them. Upon investigation, two priests were exonerated.

The percentage of priests in the diocese with allegations against them during this period is 1.9 percent. Of the 11 men for whom substantiated allegations were made, none are in ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During this same period of 30 years, 18 allegations of sexual misconduct were made against the 13 priests and the diocese paid $704,439 for counseling and other services to victims, and for legal fees.

During 2003, an additional amount of $10,892 was paid for counseling. However, no additional allegations were made.

Diocesan insurance funds and the diocesan general fund were used for payments. No money from the Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) and no parish savings were used.

The John Jay study has no real counterpart in any other profession. No institution has ever looked as deeply into its past in search of tragic information of this nature. But the bishops followed through on this study to make sure that this terrible problem will not recur.

The bishops of America undertook this study, knowing full well that it would put our church and this sinful crime in the spotlight. The bishops can't change history, but we can make sure that it is not repeated by determining the nature and the scope of the problem. With this information, the bishops can determine whether the steps we have taken are adequate to the problem.

Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, we have policies, procedures, people, programs and, most importantly, prayer to address this problem. Prayer is the priority response for the people of God when confronted with something as evil as sex abuse.

I pray on a daily basis for all victims of this crime, and I have asked the 140,000 Catholics in our 46-county diocese to do the same.

In addition to prayer, we have:

— A written policy to deal with the sin of sex abuse that was put in place in 1994. This policy has been updated to reflect the values expressed in 2002 in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

— Procedures that encourage people to come forward if they have witnessed or experienced sex abuse. The procedures can be found on our web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

We also encourage anyone who has been a victim to report the incident to civil authorities and we pledge our cooperation with any investigation.

— People who will act as advocates for the victims of sex abuse. Three victims' assistance advocates are located in diocesan offices in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Asheville.

— Training for clergy, staff and volunteers. Since 2002, more than 7,000 diocesan employees and volunteers have completed the Protecting God's Children Training Program to help them recognize and prevent the sexual abuse of children.

— The Review Board. This group of volunteers, with the exception of one priest, are not employed by the diocese. The group includes a psychological counselor. The board's role is to review allegations of abuse and to make recommendations to me.

The theme for Lent this year as set forth by Pope John Paul II is, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me." (Mt 18:5) It is an invitation for all of us, Catholic or not, to reflect upon the condition of children and especially those children who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults.

Along with them, we remember those adults who are now carrying the scars of sexual abuse they received as children from some clergy several decades ago.

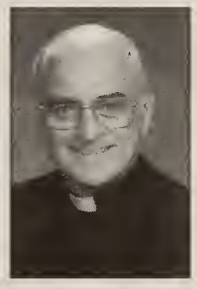
We are all called to protect children and young people. I am personally committed to the safety of children and proud that the Diocese of Charlotte is in full compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" that was adopted by the bishops in June of 2002.

Peace be with you.

# The faith of C.S. Lewis

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



C.S. Lewis died Nov. 22, 1963. He was a Christian writer who had no peer when it came to challenging skeptics. Though he was a brilliant defender of the faith, it may come as a surprise to learn that Clive Staples Lewis was an atheist most of his adult life.

His mysterious conversion from nonbelief to exemplary faith was a miracle of grace. Such miracles give hope to many Catholic parents who have seen their sons and daughters fall away from the church.

The number of lapsed Catholics is growing, and we need to invite them back. We also need to be mindful of the 100 million secular Americans who never had any connection with the Catholic Church. Our goal is to proclaim the reality of the kingdom of God's love and joy.

But how do we do this? The secular culture has lost its sense of God, its sense of sin and its sense of the sacredness of family life. Evangelization is more a matter of prayer and personal holiness than of making proclamations from a soapbox.

Lewis wrote in his book "Mere Christianity": "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most about the next."

The Lord's Prayer contains the words "deliver us from evil." Lewis believed that we should pray with conviction to be delivered from evil powers. The liberals dismissed Lewis' concept of diabolical influence as "medieval" superstition. But Lewis was realistic. He would not have blamed 9-11 on the devil. He believed that evil is man's doing, but he insisted that it is not man's destiny.

He said, "The power of choice makes evil possible, but choice is also the only thing that makes possible any love, goodness or joy worth having." He urged us to choose love and joy. Pray that your loved ones will be delivered from evil so they may come to the knowledge of God's love and joy.

Joseph Laconte, writing about Lewis in the New York Times, Nov. 22, 2003, had this to say:

"Unlike the cynic, Lewis refused to blame the faith itself for the shortcomings of the church. Instead his writings offer bright glimpses into the moral beauty of divine goodness, what Lewis called the weight of glory. It is the vision of the holy that has produced many of the masterpieces of art and music. This same vision motivates the faithful to risk everything to relieve the world's suffering: caring for plague victims, defending the rights of children, guiding slaves to freedom, breaching war zones to feed the poor."

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta comes to mind in this context. Unceremoniously, she did all of the above. I met her three times. When she asked me to give a retreat to her novices in New Jersey, I was thrilled. The thing I remember most about her was her joy.

"Joy is prayer," she wrote. "Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives joy. The best way to show gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen.

"I tell this to my sisters," she continued, "and I tell this to you."

# A personal memory of Captain Kangaroo

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

In late January when I heard that Captain Kangaroo, a man who brought positive teaching to our children for three decades, had died, I felt a personal sadness as I recalled a wonderful memory.

Bob Keeshan, the Captain, and his wife Jeanne invited me into their home on Long Island back in 1962. I was a brand new feature writer for a new Catholic newspaper, and they were willing to talk to inexperienced me. They were the first celebrities I ever interviewed, and they truly helped me get off to a good start.

The meeting came about through a coincidence. I met a woman who had been Jeanne Keeshan's classmate at the Catholic College of New Rochelle. She offered to suggest the interview to the famous couple. At the same time, I met a fellow member of St. Joseph's, the parish the Keeshans attended in Babylon, the Long Island town where they lived. She also suggested I interview this fine couple, so devoted to their faith and family.

I feared that people in important positions weren't exactly clamoring to be interviewed for my paper, The Long Island Catholic, which was then only a few months old. It had been started by Msgr. Richard Hanley, a charismatic priest, enthusiastic about Vatican Council II.

He believed the new Rockville Centre Diocese — just split off from the Brooklyn Diocese — should have its own Catholic paper. He believed the press, by presenting good reporting on the important work of the church, from parishes to the Vatican, could energize Catholics in their faith.

When I told him about the admiration I had for Captain Kangaroo, who was wholesomely entertaining and educating children every morning on his TV show, and that I thought I could get an interview, Msgr. Hanley said, "Go!"

I met with the Keeshans in their white colonial home, also meeting their three children, two parakeets, three cats and two dogs. I was surprised how young the Captain was, then 35, since he looked rather grandfatherly on television. "We decided upon a gray-haired, mustached Captain because there is a basic warm relationship that exists between an old person and a young child," he explained.

They talked about how important it is for parents to really connect with their children when their work requires them to be away from home a lot. They both also had a record of doing community service, saying they believed it is important for Catholics to bring their training into the community.

"The average non-Catholic will not approach a clergyman, but he will talk to a layman," Keeshan said. "On my school board work, I believe I did more good there as a Catholic than I could have done working for a church organization."

My own children always were a bit proud of me for having interviewed the Captain. Then my son Peter also had the privilege of meeting this television icon of his childhood memories. Bob Keeshan was the commencement speaker in 1988 when Peter graduated from Western Connecticut State University. Peter shook his hand, told him his mother once had interviewed him, and, to his surprise, the Captain said, "Oh yes, I remember."

To this day I remember the courtesy of the Keeshans, Jeanne, who died in 1990, and Bob, now with her, for trusting an untried young reporter to come into their home and probe their life story. They gave me affirmation and confidence and a lesson: that we never know the ways in which we affect another person.

# The real value of good conversation

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Nothing is more heavenly than feeling comfortable in a heartfelt conversation with another person who is welcoming and who can draw the best out of us.

What is the secret of good conversation?

Two great historical figures, Cicero, the great Roman statesman, and Pope Paul VI concurred that good conversation starts with clarity, which is more than enunciating words. It means making words precious and ensuring that the listener feels their preciousness.

When, for example, the word "entrepreneurial" is employed in the sense of being creative, the demands of clarity counsel us to restate it in different ways: being novel, thinking beyond the ordinary, being adventuresome and courageous. This makes clear what one is talking about and gives it flavor.

Kindness is part of good conversation — and it is an act of kindness to be clear. When we go out of our way to clearly define ourselves to another, it is a sign that we are well-disposed toward that person. We want to be on the same wavelength, to have an I-thou relation in which we not only share ideas but commit to the other out of respect.

Kindness sets aside egos and suspicion. It adopts the wholesome desire to be at one with the other person and as open as possible.

Cardinal John Henry Newman, who wrote a beautiful treatise on the nature of a gentleman, would remind us to take care to avoid saying anything that offends and always to try to make our listener feel that he or she is enriching us — not that we are enriching him or her.

Another excellent quality of good conversation is forgetting one's world and entering into the world of the person with whom we are speaking. There is a tendency when others are speaking to drift off into our own world of thoughts. Instead of listening, we springboard off their thoughts into our own ideas; we don't ever fully hear the other person. We don't fully enter into that person's world and remain there. (No wonder teachers often shout out in class, "Are you with me?")

If we could ever so little increase the art of good conversation today, I believe we would change the world. Wars, family breakups and endless court battles would be stemmed, while education would improve dramatically.

Best of all, we would experience an unimaginable harmony in our lives.

# St. Matthew Church blossoms as spiritual home to many Charlotte Catholics

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

St. Matthew Church in Charlotte is one of the largest Catholic churches in the Carolinas.

CHARLOTTE — Several hundred Catholics gathered for the first Masses celebrated at St. Matthew Church in south Charlotte almost 20 years ago. Today, the church is one of the largest in the Carolinas and its membership continues to thrive.

Father (now Msgr.) Joseph Kerin was chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte when then-Bishop John F. Donoghue appointed him as pastor of the new parish created on Sept. 21, 1986, the feast of St. Matthew. It was the 10th Catholic parish to be named in Mecklenburg County.

Father Kerin celebrated the parish's first two Sunday Masses in early November in a local cinema, and liturgies in a Lutheran church and Charlotte Latin School followed. The movie theater Masses continued until 1989.

As parish membership quickly grew to 600 families, a fund drive was begun to construct a parish center to allow space for faith formation and meetings. The 18,000-square foot facility was dedicated on July 22, 1989, and Bishop Donoghue, Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley and now-Msgr. Kerin celebrated the dedication Mass in the new building.

For seven years, the parish center's gymnasium served as a sanctuary, a classroom area and reception hall. With more than 1,500 people attending Masses, discussions ensued about the need to build a new sanctuary on the property.

After about 18 months of planning and a year of designing, groundbreaking for the new building took place in October 1994. Following another year and a half of construction, the new 36,000-square foot sanctuary was dedicated by then-Bishop William G. Curlin on March 17, 1996. Almost 2,150 families composed the congregation at the time.

The stadium-style sanctuary seats more than 2,000 people, making it the largest Catholic church building in the Diocese of Charlotte. A small eucharistic chapel is utilized for adoration and makes the Blessed Sacrament visible to the congregation in the main sanctuary. Above the altar is a stained glass depiction of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. The piece was designed and crafted in Statesville. The peak of the interior ceiling is 52 feet high, and the large baptismal font is located in the center aisle.

In addition to the eucharistic chapel, meeting rooms, offices, a library, a bridal room, a choir rehearsal hall, a sacristy and rooms for ushers and altar servers are also part of the complex.

In July 1996, the Capuchin Fathers from the Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis arrived at St. Matthew Church to assume the pastorate. Capuchin Father Edmund Walker was appointed as pastor.

On July 7, 1999, Bishop Curlin appointed Msgr. John J. McSweeney as the third pastor of St. Matthew Church. Under Msgr. McSweeney's guidance, the parishioners once again prepared for future expansion.

On Sept. 15-16, 2001, the parish celebrated its 15th anniversary with a "Family Fun Day Festival." The following day, the parish held a groundbreaking to add a ministry building, a 85-foot tall bell tower, a 3,500-square foot daily Mass chapel that seats 175 people, and a 25-classroom, 62,600-square foot education center to its existing sanctuary and parish center. The parking lot was expanded to accommodate 900 automobiles, and is regularly filled to capacity.

The two-story, 30,000-square foot ministry building, called the New Life Center, was also built adjacent to the church structure to support groups and adult activities.

In 2003, the K-5 student body of All Saints School in Charlotte relocated to the education center and became St. Matthew Elementary School.

One hundred and four ministries now continue to thrive at the parish, with more than 4,000 trained volunteers actively involved. Ministries include eucharistic adoration; family enrichment; Respect Life; Habitat for Humanity; Boy and Girl Scouts; missions to Jamaica, Haiti and Kentucky; and Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes. A faith formation program with more than 3,000 students — from 3-year-olds to high schoolers — is administered by 347 faith formation teachers.

The church has six weekend Masses, including a Saturday Life Teen Mass, and Catholic Social Services counselors operate out of the facility. The parish, which emphasizes lay participation, has an active pastoral and finance council, and a variety of parish organizations and commissions tend to parish and community needs through liturgical, family, social, athletic and other forms of outreach.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 12, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 24

Parish Profile: **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**

I PAGE 16

WELCOMING THE ELECT

## Bishop Jugis celebrates rite of election

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "It is spiritually rewarding to see how the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts and souls of people wanting to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

The bishop welcomed approximately 80 catechumens and 212 candidates to the Catholic Church at St. Matthew Church March 6. The rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Matthew was one of three such events that took place in the diocese, introducing several hundred soon-to-be Catholics to Bishop Jugis.

Parishes from the western counties gathered for the rite Feb. 29 at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. On March 7,

See ELECTION, page 9

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis greets candidates following the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Matthew Church March 6.

READY, SET, EXCEL

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

AJ Mills, a student at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, competes in the MACS Academic Games Tournament held at the school March 10-11.

# Academic Games challenge MACS students

**OLA SCHOOL FAMILY WORKS TO BENEFIT CHILDREN**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Spirits are high at Our Lady of the Assumption School.

The school hosted the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Academic Games Tournament March 10-11, with almost 50 students from various MACS schools participating in the event.

The culmination of year-long training, the competition is part of the preparation for the national tournament in Kissimmee, Fla., in April. MACS will send 36 students to the national tournament.

The Academic Games, introduced at Our Lady of the Assumption School in 1994, is part of the Academic Games League of America that sponsors the yearly tournament for participating schools and districts. The Academic Games enhance school curriculum by providing an arena in which students engage in intellectual play with ideas drawn from language, logic, mathematics and social life.

"It's pretty intense, a lot of hard work, but it's also a lot of fun," said Deborah Watson, a parent and coach of the 12 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders competing for Our Lady of the Assumption School.

This tournament featured three of the six games — Presi-

See OLA, page 7

'BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN'

## Bishops go on record in Senate in favor of traditional marriage

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Catholic bishops again joined their voices to those calling for a constitutional amendment to preserve the traditional concept of marriage as a Senate subcommittee held a hearing on "the judicial invalidation of traditional marriage laws" on Capitol Hill March 3.

Although no representative of the bishops spoke at the hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution, the chairman of the bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family submitted two 2003 statements on the topic and asked that they be included in the record for the hearing.

"We commend you for scheduling hearings ... on this vitally important issue," said Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga., in a letter to the subcommittee chairman, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

The two texts submitted by Bishop Boland were "Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-Sex Unions," approved by the full U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops last November, and a September document of the 47-member USCCB Administrative Committee titled "Promote, Preserve and Protect Marriage."

"We offer general support

See MARRIAGE, page 8

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**Shaping the future**
*Role of Mary, women highlighted at WDP*
I PAGE 4

**Recommitting the faith**
*Deacons renew vows, candidates move forward*
I PAGE 5

**Legacy of love**
*Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk dies at 86*
I PAGE 12

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## CARRIED AWAY WITH HATE

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Palestinians carry a youth who was wounded during an Israeli raid on Nusseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip March 7. Israeli forces killed 14 Palestinians in two raids, after militant Muslims staged an elaborate attack on Israeli soldiers at the border of Israel and Gaza. Pope John Paul II offered prayers for the "unacceptable" acts of violence and terrorism in Iraq, the Holy Land and Africa.

## Gaza violence increases danger faced by aid agency

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Recent violence in the Gaza Strip has made the work of aid agencies far more dangerous, a Catholic Relief Services official said.

Omar Shaban, project manager, said violence has made it difficult for his office to coordinate work with the agency's Jerusalem office.

"It does affect logistic issues such as going to the Jerusalem office or them coming to Gaza. It makes communication with Jerusalem more difficult. In general it has become more dangerous," Shaban said of the violence.

On March 6, Palestinian militants attacked Erez Crossing, the main crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip. Four Palestinian militants and two Palestinian policemen were killed in the attack.

Shaban noted how CRS workers were at the crossing two days before the attack.

"Nobody knows what to expect from day to day," he said.

Following the attack, Israel closed the crossing, and its forces entered Gaza to root out militants. Some 15 Palestinians — including nine militants and four children — were killed in the military incursion. The crossing was reopened March 9.

For those three days, however, Gaza was closed off from the world, Shaban said. The Erez Crossing is used by thousands of Palestinian day laborers who must cross from Gaza into Israel for their work.

"If you ask a worker, he will not be happy because it affects his ability to earn bread for his family," Shaban said.

He said no CRS projects were affected by the most recent Israeli incursion. However, a kindergarten the agency helped construct was partially destroyed six months ago in a military action.

Constantine Dabbagh, executive director of the Gaza Area Committee of the Department of Services of Palestinian Refugees, which is affiliated with the Middle East Council of Churches, said over the past two years "thousands of homes" have been demolished in Gaza.

He noted that the 2,500 Christians who live in Gaza City share the same fate as their Muslim neighbors, and the constant violence has led to an increase in psychological problems and cases of malnutrition.

On two separate occasions, he and a staff member have narrowly missed being hit by Israeli rockets fired on Palestinian militants, he said.

"We believe in God and still ... hope that one day the international community will understand that the violence is against all Muslims, Christians and Jews. If there is no occupation, there will be no incidents. We will find our way to a better way to live," he said.

# Increased role for women would benefit society, Vatican says at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — An increased role for women will benefit a society that is "organized solely according to the criteria of efficiency and productivity or of brute force," the Vatican said in a statement presented at United Nations headquarters in New York March 4.

It said women were "especially gifted" in showing the need to rise above self-interest and work for the betterment of all.

"Through feminine insight, women enrich the world's understanding, and help to make human relations between and amongst people more honest and authentic," it said.

The statement was presented to the Commission on the Status of Women by Marilyn A. Martone, who teaches in the department of theology and religious studies at St. John's University in New York's borough of Queens.

She told commission members, holding their annual meeting March 1-12, that the contribution of women to meeting the world's needs was made "at great sacrifice."

"This sacrifice mandates authentic equality in every area: equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advancements, equality of spouses with regard to family rights and the recognition of everything that is part of the rights and duties of all in a democratic society," she said.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will celebrate the *Feast of St. Joseph* on March 19 with a "Blessing of the Bread "at 6:30 p.m. followed by an Italian dinner. Each family is asked to bring a loaf of bread with them to share. When this feast is celebrated in some areas, a St. Joseph's altar is made and filled with food to be given to the poor in the area. The Stations of the Cross will follow at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 684-6098.

HENDERSONVILLE — Knights of Columbus Council #7184 will sponsor a *Pro-Life Ecumenical Gathering* March 20 at 1 p.m. in the Immaculata Catholic School Gymnasium, 711 N Buncombe St. Augustinian Father Walter J. Quinn will be encouraging all to stand up and be counted and be actively involved in the most important crusade of our time: To serve, protect, and defend all life from the innocent unborn to the oldest of the old among us. Father Quinn will also speak at these Masses: March 20 at 5 p.m., March 21 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church. For more information call church office at (828) 693-6901 or Mark Cordaro at (828) 697-2773.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will speak about *"The Role of Jesus in Our Lives"* at the St. Gabriel annual parish Mission March 16-18. Mission topics include prayer on Tuesday, God's mercy on Wednesday and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist on Thursday. Bishop Curlin will preside at the 11 a.m. Mass each day followed by a light lunch in the Ministry Center. Evening services will begin at 7 p.m. All sessions will be in the church at 3016 Providence Rd. More information can be obtained by calling Susan Krasniewski at (704) 362-5047, ext. 271.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Ministry Center will present *"Dealing with the years that follow"* March 17, 7-9 p.m., at St Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd While attention is usually focused on persons who are grieving in the first year after a death occurs, the needs of grieving persons go on. Spiritual friendship, care and concern are still needed, regardless of how much time has passed since the loss. We will explore some of these feelings and ways to cope, as well as signs that may point to the need for specific grief work. The presenter will be Larry Dawalt of Hospice of Charlotte. For more information, call B Dengler at (704) 364-5431, ext. 212.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic men are invited to participate in the newly formed *St. Joseph Society.* The SJS will be an ongoing series o men's talks and instruction specific to men The inaugural event will be a talk scheduled for the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19 Father Mark Lawlor will be the gues

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope urges business leaders to balance profits, good of workers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian business leaders must combine strategies for making a profit with strategies for promoting the good of their workers and eliminating "the scourge of poverty," Pope John Paul II said.

Christian corporate executives express their faith through "the promotion of creative economic initiatives with enormous potential to benefit others and to raise their material standard of living," the pope said.

Pope John Paul sent his message to more than 70 business executives from 27 nations who met March 5-6 at the Vatican to discuss social responsibility and business ethics.

Pope John Paul said the conference took place "at a time when the financial and commercial sector is becoming increasingly aware of the need for sound ethical practices, which ensure that business activity remains sensitive to its fundamentally human and social dimensions."

"Since the pursuit of profit is not the sole end of such activity," the pope said, the Gospel challenges business leaders to respect "the dignity and creativity of their employees and customers and the demands of the common good."

Pope John Paul urged the leaders to pay particular attention to "the impact of global marketing and advertising on the cultures and values" of other peoples and to ensuring that global trade promotes development and cooperation, not just more profits for employees and shareholders at home.

# Europe's Christian roots: Pope puts his stamp on the subject

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After dozens of speeches and a couple of book-length documents on Europe's Christian roots, Pope John Paul II is tailoring his message to fit a smaller medium: postage stamps.

In mid-March, the Vatican is issuing a new series of stamps dedicated to the pope's eight visits to Poland. Each block of stamps includes special seals with papal quotations designed to tweak consciences in Eastern and Western Europe.

"Europe should seek unity for its future and for the good of the whole human family by returning to its own Christian roots," reads one mini-message.

Others strike similar themes: "To a Europe that is reuniting, Poland should offer its attachment to the faith and to Christian roots"; "Europe cannot stop looking for its foundational unity by turning to Christianity"; and "Europe, open the doors to Christ."

There are 16 little quotes in all, each bearing the pope's signature. With verbal economy, they highlight a deep papal concern over the moral and spiritual direction of a unified Europe.

For months, the pope complained loudly about a draft European constitution and its failure to even mention Christianity's role in the formation of its culture.

What the Vatican sometimes refers to as the "de-Christianization" of Western Europe is reflected in the church's own numbers. From 1978 to 2001, Catholics in Western Europe declined from about 60 percent to about 54 percent. In the East European countries outside the former Soviet Union, Catholics increased from 43 percent to 51 percent.

Those are reasons the pope is counting on heavily Catholic countries of Eastern Europe, like Slovenia, Lithuania and his native Poland, to impact policies when they are admitted to the European Union May 1.

The pope is not giving up on Western Europe, however. In recent talks to bishops from France and Belgium — two countries that have experienced a real drop in the practice of the faith — he sketched out some pastoral strategies.

# On the move

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Clergy move around Pope John Paul II at the end of a Mass celebrated at the Vatican March 6 following the pontiff's weeklong Lenten retreat.

speaker. The talk will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., at 8 p.m. For more information contact Michael Kitson at paxetbonum@mindspring.com.

CHARLOTTE — All women of the diocese are invited to the annual women's day at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 20. *"How does your garden grow?"* will feature Susan Brady as facilitator. The day will open with Mass at 8 a.m. and the program will begin at 8:30 a.m. To register, please call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* March 20 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass celebrating the gifts of those with mental retardation* will be celebrated March 28 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Young people with varying degrees of mental retardation will serve as musicians, ushers and lectors. Members of the Allegro Foundation will perform a liturgical dance. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy, St. Gabriel Disability Ministry, at (704) 364-6964.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St., will continue the *Lenten Supper-Study* March 17 and 24. All are welcome. Community dinner is at 6 p.m., with Catechesis 6:45-7:30 p.m. Topic this year is "Vatican II: 40 Years Later." No pre-registration or fee required, no need to bring food, all is provided by the parish. For more information, please contact Denis Teall-Fleming, Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Many of us want to do "something extra" during Lent. The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host their annual *Lenten mini-retreat* each Wednesday in March at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass will be at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments. For information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

MARION — In preparation For Easter, Father Frank J. Seabo will lead a day of recollection at Our Lady of the Angels Church, 258 North Garden Street, March 20, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The theme will be *"Whatever you do to the least of your brothers you do to me."* Reconciliation will be offered at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (828) 652-8690.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOCKSVILLE — Franciscan Father Joseph Michael Mary will offer a Lenten retreat at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd. Sessions will meet each evening at 7 p.m., March 27-31. The retreat will focus on *"The Last Four Things: Death Judgment, Heaven and Hell."* For more information, contact the church office at (336) 751-2973.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., is offering a *Lenten Retreat* led by Augustinian Father Bob Terranova March 29-31. Dinner will be served each night at 5:30 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7 p.m. Father Terranova will celebrate morning Mass at 9 a.m. on retreat days. Reconciliation will be offered March 30. For details, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## CORRECTIONS

— Father Matthew Kauth was misquoted in a story regarding purgatory. The quote should have read: "The ascetical life initiates one's participation in the purgative process, which is essentially the purification of the heart."

— The correct number of registered households at St. Matthew Church is 5,662.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

# Role of Mary, women highlight World Day of Prayer service

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Women of today, like the Virgin Mary, help to shape the future, according to Xiomara Palma.

Palma, a native of Nicaragua and parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Newton, talked about the mother of Jesus as an example of faith for today's women during the World Day of Prayer service at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church March 5.

Palma spoke in Spanish and English during the service sponsored by the Hickory chapter of Church Women United. The service, entitled "In Faith, Women Shape the Future," was written by women of Panama.

"(Mary) is a wonderful example of a woman's faith because she did every little thing that a mother does for her children and she did everything that God told her to do," said Palma.

"She suffered the inclement weather and the poverty of the little town Bethlehem," said Palma. "I cannot imagine her sadness when she saw her baby lying on the place where the animals ate. Can you imagine that? I can't, because I have three little ones."

Palma compared Mary's situation to the situation of women trying to come into this country or living in Central America today.

"Many women of the world deliver their babies on the road while crossing the border of the United States, or in any poor place in other countries," she said. "I was a little girl when I saw terrible consequences of the civil war, but I saw the faith of women, too. Let me tell you that is a strong faith."

"Women are doing many things — taking care of our children, and teaching them with love and faith, because we are preparing good Christians for the world," said Palma. "In that way, women are shaping the future."

Near the end of the service, pieces of pottery were passed around to the participants as a reminder that, just as common materials can be shaped into useful containers, the Holy Spirit can shape lives, and men and women can become useful in God's hands.

PHOTO BY ELLEN SIGMON

Marilyn Dunphy and Yong Sun Thompson of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir look at a photo display of previous World Day of Prayer services during a reception at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory March 5.

Women from 18 Hickory-area churches were involved in the preparations for the worship service, including St. Joseph Church, St. Aloysius Church in Hickory and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir. The service was bilingual, with hymns sung and prayers spoken in both Spanish and English. More than 80 people from the community attended.

Carole Marmorato, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church, served as the service's program director. She and the other women on her committee coordinated refreshments from seven churches, found Spanish- and English-speaking Christian women in the community to help with the service, and even found a woman from Panama who was able to bring items from that country to use for an altar display.

After Palma delivered her talk in English, she repeated it in Spanish.

"It took a lot of courage to deliver a reflection in her second language," said Marmorato, "but her faith came through in both languages."

# Seminarian to be ordained in Washington

WASHINGTON — James Ebright, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, will be ordained a transitional deacon at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., March 20.

Ebright is a third-year seminarian at Theological College of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He is a native of Mocksville, N.C. and is the son of Mabel Ebright of Mocksville and Arthur Ebright of Glade Valley, N.C.

James Ebright

Ebright is a graduate of Wake Forest University and was employed as a systems engineer for Precision Concepts in Winston-Salem prior to entering the seminary.

As a seminarian, Ebright has been assigned to St. Gabriel and St. Vincent de Paul churches in Charlotte and Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will preside at the ordination.

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RECOMMITTING THE FAITH

# Deacons renew, candidates advance

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Deacons celebrate a covenantal relationship with God, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

The bishop's first official meeting with the deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte occurred March 6 at St. Gabriel Church during their annual recommitment Mass and the rite of candidacy, an annual gathering to recommit themselves to their holy orders and to the bishop.

"The recommitment was special for me because it was the first opportunity I had to meet with the deacons as a body," said Bishop Jugis. "It is also a special day for the candidates for whom the liturgical rite is the first step toward ordination, which is also exciting for me."

Sixteen candidates celebrated, with Bishop Jugis, the rite of Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Permanent Deacons.

"The day I have waited for has finally arrived when I have the opportunity to celebrate Mass with you, the deacons of the diocese; with the deacon candidates, with your wives and with your families," said Bishop Jugis during his homily at the Mass of celebration.

"We share the sacred ministry of the Church, so it is vital that we spend time together with the Lord," he said.

"Today, we also have the opportunity to renew our vows, knowing that we both have the responsibility to carry Christ," said Martha Medina, wife of Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. "It is also great to have all this spiritual support, standing next to my husband, because this ministry is for both of us."

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with the permanent deacons of the diocese during their annual recommitment Mass at St. Gabriel Church March 6.**

To those who are aspiring to receive holy orders, Bishop Jugis said, "I rejoice to declare my acceptance of their intention."

The event "helps us to reflect on our own rite of candidacy and inspires not only those coming in but those of us who have been (ordained)," said Rev. Mr. Andrew Cilone of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City.

The bishop told the deacons they were celebrating a covenantal relationship between themselves and God.

"In love he chooses you ... gives you the grace to respond and ... the sacramental grace to fulfill your ministry," said Bishop Jugis. "It is all a gift of God's love, to which you respond, 'Yes, Lord, here I am. Use me.'"

The bishop encouraged the deacons to freely share God's love with others through their sacred ministry. To this end, the deacons were encouraged to seek union with God through prayer.

Augustinian Brother William Harkin, a pastoral associate for St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, said it felt good to spend the day with other deacons.

"We are so spread out and the opportunity to get together is kind of rare," he said. "The recommitment is the perfect time to meet our new bishop, to renew our vows, our spirit, and our commitment to God."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

ONE STEP CLOSER

## Candidates move toward diaconate

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — As 16 men moved closer to fulfilling their goals, one took another step in following his father.

During a Mass with Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Gabriel Church March 6, Ed Konarski Jr. and fellow candidates took the rite of Admission to Candidacy for the Ordination as Deacons.

"I found myself full of joy in the presence of so many people who have dedicated themselves to the service of the Lord," said Konarski Jr., of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton. "I am excited and am looking forward towards the future. I feel good because this is an important step along my journey."

Konarski Jr. is not the first member of his family to enter the permanent diaconate. His father, Ed Konarski Sr., was ordained 11 years ago for the Diocese of Philadelphia.

"Growing up, my father gave me a very strong faith, and as I matured that faith was strengthened even more," said Konarski Jr. "I never thought about receiving the sacrament of holy orders until my father's ordination."

"As a father, I am very proud. To see my own family, my own son, involved is a blessing of the Holy Spirit," said Rev. Mr. Konarski Sr.

Other candidates are:

James Atkinson, St. Therese Church in Mooresville; David Boissey, Good Shepherd Church in King; Redemptorist Brother Darrell Cevasco, St. James Church in Concord; Mark Diener, St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte; Walter J. Haarsgaard, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point; Richard Hanners, St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte; John Kopfle, St. Vincent de Paul Church; Pe Lee, St. Charles Borromeo Church; Larry Lisk, St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro; John Martino, St. Charles Borromeo Church; Brian McNulty, St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte; Robert Murphy, St. Mark Church in Huntersville; Stephen Pickett, Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte; Michael Stout, St. Barnabas Church in Arden; and Kevin Williams, Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte.


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*Around the world in 90 minutes*

# Students celebrate global community, collect shoes for needy

CHARLOTTE — Students at St. Gabriel School celebrated their heritage as part of the St. Gabriel International Fair Feb. 3-4.

Each grade level attended the exhibition for a 90-minute voyage around the world, visiting Puerto Rico, France, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Nigeria and Antarctica — without leaving the school.

Parent volunteers served as ambassadors from the various countries and presented displays, artifacts and discussions of history, geography and their personal and cultural experiences.

Many students celebrated their heritage by dressing in international costumes for the fair.

As part of the fair this year, students participated in a global outreach ministry, including a shoe drive for Samaritan's Feet Ministry. Emmanual Ohonme, a native of Nigeria and president of Samaritan's Feet, inspired the students during an opening assembly for the fair.

St. Gabriel School achieved its goal of collecting 500 pairs of shoes for this ministry.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mudiare Sowho, a fifth-grader at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, wears clothing of his heritage during St. Gabriel School's International Fair Feb. 3-4.

## COLORFUL ASPIRATIONS

COURTESY PHOTO

Students stand with one of the murals they painted for Immaculate Heart of Mary School's media center. From left are (standing) Kenneth Kennedy, Jose Tomas Labra, Elise Bergman, Hope Griffin, Jennifer Lindh, Sarah Whicker; (kneeling) Tori Payne, Victoria Emory and Thomas Gooding.

# Students craft murals for school

HIGH POINT — The media center of Immaculate Heart of Mary School now has a lot more color.

Seven murals depicting scenes from classic children's books were dedicated in a Jan. 29 ceremony.

Sarah Whicker, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, conceived the mural project to earn her Gold Award, the highest award in the Girl Scouts. Whicker assembled a team of eight students, who met from August through October to choose the subjects of the murals and to paint them.

Bob Wehde, principal, and Janice Wood of the Girl Scouts Tar Heel Triad Council presided at the dedication ceremony.

Whicker is expecting to receive her Gold Award by April.

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# OLA benefits students

OLA, *from page 1*

dential Trivia, Propaganda and Equations. Students develop critical thinking and analyzing skills for these games, which teach and encourage students to be assertive, to ask questions and to substantiate their own positions.

"It gets students involved in another avenue to be competitive, and show off what makes them special," said Watson.

The tournament is only one way Our Lady of the Assumption School challenges its students to excel. The school utilizes special programs such as ESL (English as a Second Language), L.E.A.P. (an accelerated learning program) and others and integrates them into its curriculum.

"ESL and L.E.A.P. are unique to Our Lady of the Assumption School," said Principal Patricia Murphy. "The children are receiving instruction targeted to their needs, and teachers work with smaller groups and are able to help students to serve their needs."

Watson said her daughter has benefited from the L.E.A.P. program.

"When they start a new area of study, such as math, they give a pre-test to the students," said Watson. "Those who pass go to the L.E.A.P. program, where they are continually challenged."

"The school has been very successful in using these programs as development tools for all levels of students and for students with challenges of a non-English language background," said Mike Ford, public relations specialist for MACS.

***Bridging cultures***

Gladys Silva, Spanish teacher at Our Lady of the Assumption School, is happy to work with ESL students, who often need a little extra help understanding the American culture.

"I work with them on basic academic skills: writing, reading comprehension, vocabulary and phonetics," said Silva. "The program is wonderful, one that is vital as we familiarize these students with the American ways."

Silva, originally from Chile, incorporates her experience with her English-speaking students.

"I try to make class fun as I introduce words, sentences and concepts through art, songs, dance, reading and writing along with a few games and videos," said Silva. "No child is ever embarrassed in my classroom. We are all learning together."

Not only are Silva's Spanish classes fun, they are community oriented.

At Christmas time, students made Spanish cards with English translations on the back for Asbury and Epworth Place nursing home. Second graders visited the nursing home, giving the cards to residents and singing "Nanita Nana" and "Feliz Navidad."

"Silva is loved by our students, families and teachers," said Murphy. "Her kindness, gentleness and respect of each of us permeate her classroom. She integrates subject matter with Spanish as students learn language and culture interspersed with geography and the fine arts."

***Striding forward***

Our Lady of the Assumption School was the second parochial school in Charlotte. Trinitarian Sisters began accepting students after the establishment of the parish in 1948. The original school was located on Central Avenue, but relocated to the corner of Shenandoah Avenue and The Plaza and was dedicated in June 1954.

By 1992, 305 students filled Our Lady of the Assumption School. A new and larger facility allowed it to grow.

The new Our Lady of the Assumption Church parish center was constructed on Shamrock Drive and dedicated in 1990. In September 1992, approximately 450 students began another chapter of the school at its new location on adjacent property.

Today, students are focused on building another school — in Africa. After getting the idea from a Samaritan's Purse book, students have held bake sales and collections and made and sold pins to raise $3,500 to help build the school, which will also be named Our Lady of the Assumption.

"They've raised almost $1,000 so far," said Murphy. "The students are very excited and are optimistic to make their goal."

Students have a tradition of reaching out to others. In 2002, the school participated in Operation Valentine — each student sent a valentine to an anonymous soldier overseas. In April 2002, Jennifer Mitra's third-grade class also wrote letters of friendship and gratitude to specific soldiers who were part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"All of the students' letters were very touching and from the heart. They thanked the soldiers for keeping us safe and said they were praying for them," said Mitra.

While crafting their letters, the students put the names of the servicemen and women on their class prayer board.

"Parents were amazed at the work of the kids," said Mitra. "Many said they were praying ... from home."

The soldiers were quick to write back and send photographs to their newfound friends.

"When they got the responses, that boosted them higher than anything else could have," said Mitra. "They felt so special."

Spirits continued to soar at the school in 2003 as more than 60 third-, fourth- and fifth graders, along with 34 parents and faculty members, undertook the school's most ambitious field trip.

The group journeyed to the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills Dec. 10-12, 2003 to take part in the centennial celebration of the Wright brothers' historic first flight.

***More than a school***

Murphy said there is a great working relationship between the staff and parents, "who support the school very much."

She said the student council coined a phrase many years ago: "Not just a school, we're a family," and it still holds true today more than ever.

"Our Lady of the Assumption School is like a family. We all work together," agreed Silva. "The parents are very involved. The teachers and principal are so wonderful. Everyone helps — it's a great feeling to be here."

"All the teachers know every child," said Watson. "It's a wonderful place for my child to be, and she doesn't want to be anywhere else."

For Murphy, "watching the children learn and grow and do things is all so exciting and energizing."

In December 1998, Murphy was recognized for her work with the 1998 National Catholic Educational Association's Distinguished Principal Award.

Dr. Michael Skube, then-superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, believed Murphy was an "excellent choice, in terms of what she's contributed to our diocese and Our Lady of the Assumption."

The Diocese of Charlotte's principals' association had nominated Murphy to represent them in the awards competition. She competed against principals from 11 states and took top honors in the South Atlantic region. She was among 7,100 principals across the country considered by the NCEA for 12 regional awards.

What makes Murphy and her colleagues so special? An NCEA press release credits the winners with being leaders in their dioceses and making "a lasting imprint on their Catholic elementary schools."

"I am really grateful for the recognition," said Murphy, " and I feel that the parents, the students, the teachers are part of that. We are all being recognized. It's a joint venture here."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Fifty students from various MACS schools compete in the MACS Academic Games Tournament at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte March 10-11.**


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# Bishops favor traditional marriage

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Carol McKinley of Pembroke, Mass., holds up a crucifix as she prays in front of the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston Feb. 11. A defender of traditional marriage, McKinley was among demonstrators gathered outside as legislators convened for a constitutional convention to consider a proposed amendment that would outlaw same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

MARRIAGE, *from page 1*

for a federal marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution as we continue to work to protect marriage in state legislatures, the courts, the Congress and other appropriate forums," the latter document said.

At the hearing, two Protestant leaders said the debate over same-sex marriage should not focus on civil rights or "adult love," but on what's best for children.

The Rev. Richard W. Richardson, a minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston who is president and CEO of Children's Services in Roxbury, Mass., said the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston "strongly supports the traditional institution of marriage, as the union of one man and one woman."

"The institution plays a critical role in ensuring the progress and prosperity of the black family and the family community at large," he said.

"This discussion about marriage is not about adult love," Rev. Richardson added. "It is about finding the best arrangement for raising children, and as history, tradition, biology, sociology and just plain common sense tell us, children are raised best by their biological mother and father."

The Rev. Daniel de Leon, pastor of Templo Calvario in Santa Ana, Calif., the largest Hispanic evangelical church in the United States, concurred that the debate must focus on children.

"I fear that if we start to abolish marriage laws in our nation, we will go further down the path of teaching people that marriage does not matter for the well-being of children, it only matters for the pleasure of adults," he said.

Rev. de Leon said passage of a constitutional amendment to define marriage would "send a positive message to our children and their children. That we cared enough about the most basic institution of our society, marriage between a man and a woman, that we passed a constitutional amendment to preserve it for future generations."

"This is not, and must not be, about party politics," he added. "This must be seen as our struggle as a social family to bring stability to a divided house."

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington bureau, disagreed with the need for an amendment.

"This discriminatory constitutional amendment appears to be nothing more than a highly divisive political ploy to distract the country from focusing on our overabundance of real problems and our tremendous lack of creative and effective solutions," he said.

Other witnesses at the hearing approached the debate over same-sex marriage from other angles.

Chuck Muth, president of Citizen Outreach, which advocates limited government public policies, said he and others in his organization oppose a constitutional amendment on the topic because they are against "the notion of addressing this issue of social policy in our nation's governing document."

"If the Goodridge decision by the Massachusetts Supreme (Judicial) Court is in fact an example of unelected activist judges imposing their will on the people of Massachusetts, that's a problem for the people of Massachusetts to resolve, not the people of the United States," he said.

Jon Bruning, attorney general of Nebraska, said he was at the hearing "because of the reality that four judges in Massachusetts could eventually invalidate Nebraska's ban on same-sex marriage."

"This country is heading down a path that will allow the judiciary branch to create a national policy for same-sex marriages," Bruning said. "I am here because I believe such a national policy should be crafted by the states in the first instance, or at a minimum by Congress with the approval of the states."

But two Democratic senators — Sens. Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin — expressed strong opposition to any move to amend the Constitution on this matter.

"I believe a constitutional amendment on marriage is unnecessary, divisive and utterly inconsistent with our constitutional traditions, which this subcommittee has a special responsibility to protect," said Feingold.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, by a 4-3 vote, has ruled the state's ban on same-sex marriages unconstitutional and ordered the state to begin issuing marriage licenses for same-sex couples on May 17.

An amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring "that marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman" has been introduced in Congress, with 112 cosponsors.

President George W. Bush called for approval of that amendment Feb. 24, saying that same-sex marriages would sever the institution of marriage from its "cultural, religious and natural" roots.

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# Welcoming the elect

ELECTION, *from page 1*

catechumens and candidates from the eastern counties of the diocese participated in the rite at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro. The diocesan commission on the RCIA designed the liturgical celebrations for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the rite in which adults are baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist. RCIA was restored by the Second Vatican Council as the suitable way adults prepare for baptism. In 1974, the RCIA was formally approved for use in the United States.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the RCIA ministry is currently undertaken by the office of faith formation in lieu of an office of liturgy. The office of faith formation is supported by funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

"It is through the sacraments that Christ's saving grace is communicated to us," said Bishop Jugis in his homily March 6. "Salvation is not just an idea, but is accomplished in us now through real grace, which really makes us into new beings, and puts us on the sure path to eternal life."

"I was also grateful to be with all the sponsors and the RCIA teams that were present," he said. "To be able to recognize the hard work they have done in accompanying these candidates and catechumens on their spiritual journeys to the celebration of the sacraments."

Bishop Jugis said he believes the sponsors, team members and pastors were just as joyful as the candidates and catechumens.

In a continuing effort to reach out to the increasing Spanish-speaking population of the diocese, the rite of election was celebrated in both English and Spanish. The readings alternated between the two languages, and hymns were sung in both as well. Bishop Jugis completed his homily with a special welcome to the Hispanic participants in Spanish.

Bishop Jugis said he considered it a beautiful expression of the changing reality of the Diocese of Charlotte that Catholics are welcoming the new immigrants into the life of their parishes.

"These immigrants are desirous of completing their initiation into the full sacramental life of the Catholic Church and desirous of growing in Christ," he said. "That is very encouraging to me. I expect and want that to continue and grow."

Before formally beginning the RCIA process, a person considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and is interested in some way in the Catholic Church. This period is known as the period of evangelization and precatechumenate.

After discerning their desire to join the Catholic Church, the inquirers may decide to continue the process and enter the period of the catechumenate. This stage can last for a few months or for as long as several years.

The next step is the request for baptism and the celebration of the rite of election. This rite includes the official enrollment of the names of those catechumens seeking baptism at the Easter Vigil Mass. At this time, catechumens from throughout the diocese, together with their sponsors, assemble and request baptism from the bishop. Candidates are also introduced to the bishop at this time.

The third formal stage is the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, which occurs during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. During the Mass, catechumens receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, and candidates receive confirmation and Eucharist. At this time, they become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

Following initiation at the vigil Mass, a final period of formation and education continues in the stage known as mystagogy. During this period, which lasts until Pentecost or later, the newly baptized reflect on the events of the Easter Vigil and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Jugis said the rites of election were joyful celebrations and the joy of all the participants was apparent.

"I was delighted as bishop to see such evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese," said Bishop Jugis. "It was inspiring to see so many individuals wanting to celebrate the sacraments of initiation."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY MICHELLE KISER

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis presides over the rite of election and call to continuing conversion at St. Matthew Church March 6. Catechumens gathered on the altar along with their godparents to ask the bishop to be baptized this coming Easter.**

*Educational Ministries and Faith Formation are among 36 ministries funded by contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.*


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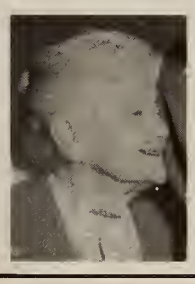

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# Culture Watch

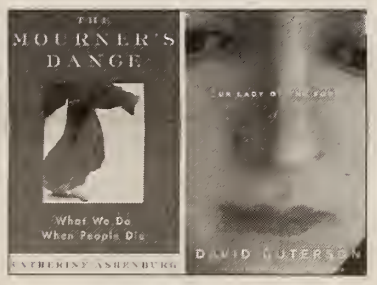
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Two books show grace at work

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Mourner's Dance: What We Do When People Die" is actually a book very full of life. Beautifully written and surprisingly hard to put down, it takes a wide-ranging look at death customs, showing peculiarity, individuality and universality in human responses to the loss of someone.

Although I enjoy a walk in a cemetery, I was surprised to find this book so compelling. Katherine Ashenburg caught my attention and held it. A former arts editor at the Toronto Globe and Mail, a college professor, author on architecture and Dickens, Ashenburg is one of the very skilled practitioners of




"The Mourner's Dance: What We Do When People Die," by Katherine Ashenburg. North Point Press/Farrar, Straus & Giroux (New York, 2003). 326 pp., $24.00.

"Our Lady of the Forest," by David Guterson. Knopf (New York, 2003). 326 pp., $25.95.

the literary movement called "creative nonfiction" or "literary journalism."

This way of reporting on things as they are, but with an author's voice, was called "new journalism" when Tom Wolfe did it 30 years ago. Lee Gutkind, editor of Creative Nonfiction magazine, says that the genre "allows a writer to employ the diligence of a reporter, the shifting voices and viewpoints of a novelist, the refined wordplay of a poet and the analytical modes of the essayist."

The style has also been called "immersion journalism." In Ashenburg's case, she was forcibly immersed in the world of mourning by the unexpected death of her daughter's 25-year-old fiance a short time before the scheduled wedding. Two families who had been about to unite in marriage found themselves planning a funeral together. The progress of Ashenburg's daughter, a young almost-widow, is the recurring focus of this book.

Drawing on cultures near at hand, Ashenburg produces what I think of as a typically Canadian multicultural mix — Inuit, English Victorian, Newfoundland Irish and Scottish, Italian, Greek, Macedonian, Czech, Polish, Jewish, Catholic, and several austere stripes of Protestant are stirred in with a New Age dash of Buddhism and an enthusiasm for the wide, cold outdoors.

But her research also took her to Japan, Mexico, Vietnam, Los Angeles and New England, and her reading ranged from Emily Dickinson to St. Gregory of Nyssa's account of his sister Macrina's death in 379. The list of books she consulted is entertaining reading in itself and the historical photographs are fascinating. Highly recommended.

Meanwhile, "Our Lady of the Forest" by David Guterson is a novel about an apparition of the Virgin Mary in a soggy, depressed logging town in the Pacific Northwest. Guterson is the best-selling author of "Snow Falling on Cedars," another very damp book set in a fictional fishing village on an island off the coast of Washington state.

The first printing of this new book was 350,000 copies, so it is no surprise that its arresting cover of a sweet woman's face with downcast, inward-looking eyes was in every bookstore in the last few months. Now the audio book is equally ubiquitous. The book may sell, but it will not be widely read or loved.

It has some strong points — the setting is so clearly evoked that it is like entering a new climate zone. Reading it made my hair frizz. Rain, mist, fog, mud, dripping leaves, wet feet, runny noses are in every scene. Guterson is also a sharp observer of society. He lets us listen in on the bitter views expressed in a working man's bar in a town with no jobs. He creates two teen characters who are not loved by their families and shows us what happens as a throw-away child begins to grow up. These portraits are compassionate and interesting.

But "Our Lady of the Forest" is mostly an unpleasant experience. For example, it has the saddest sex scenes I have ever read. There is nothing appealing in these loveless and lonely acts. It was surely a mistake to put one on the first page.

Guterson admits that he does not believe in apparitions or even in God, yet his book is not cynical or disparaging. Perhaps that is because Guterson, as a good novelist, is able to step into his characters, and he finds that some of them are sincere people who want hope and purpose in their lives.

In an interview at the time of publication Guterson said, "Whether the Virgin is literally present is irrelevant. What matters is that people believe she is, and because they believe, their lives are altered." And so, in spite of the author's unbelief, in the end, the book shows grace at work.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 21, 2004

## *March 21, Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Cycle C Readings:
1) Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
2) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
3) Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

From the time I was a little girl in southeastern Colorado, I yearned to travel. A sophisticated excursion to Denver, in my mind, was somewhere just short of heaven. Then, on special occasions traveling might come with extreme adventure tinged with danger.

As my father would negotiate the winding Rocky Mountain roads, I would glory in the mountain beauty of whatever season we were in; however, the winter ice and snow were the ultimate test for my courage.

Sitting in the exact center of the back seat of the car, I reasoned, would allow me to throw myself to the opposite side of the seat no matter if the car were plunging to the left or the right. My ingenious and secret plan was my only defense against getting squashed on the boulders thousands of feet below us should the car begin to skid.

In the age before in-car television, my dad would keep my mother and me entertained with stories of what it was like in those very mountains when he was a boy or when his father, now long dead, was a young man driving freight wagons up the mountains to Leadville. I tried to imagine the enormity of no pavement, no cars, no trucks, only men and animals in the incredible cold, struggling along mountain roads.

Scary though these journeys sometimes were, my father's stories helped to alleviate some of my own fear as I sat there in the exact center of the back seat.

In the Gospel for this fourth Sunday of Lent, Luke tells us that two groups of listeners surround Jesus. One group eager to hear Jesus teach is comprised of the dregs of society: tax collectors and sinners. The other group includes the ever-present religious scribes and Pharisees who wait to criticize and entrap Jesus for his presumed heresy of eating, drinking and being present to the "wrong crowd."

Jesus, master of story, tells the "Parable of the Prodigal Son," although some would call it the "Parable of the Loving Father." Jesus designs his story to alleviate fear for his immediate listeners and those of us living today. For no matter how far we fall into self-righteousness or lives of "dissipation," God always is looking down the road for us, ready to invite us into the safety that lies in his open arms.

***Questions:***

Where do you recognize an element of your own life in the "Parable of the Prodigal Son"? In that element, how does Jesus' representation of the merciful, loving Father bring comfort?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 - MARCH 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent),** Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

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# Storm riders

CNS PHOTO FROM DISNEY

Omar Sharif and Viggo Mortensen star in "Hidalgo," a fact-based crowd-pleaser set in the late 19th century about a guilt-ridden cowboy who enters a grueling 3,000-mile race across the Arabian Desert, during which he and his horse must endure sandstorms, brain-baking heat and desert raiders. Part old-fashioned boys' adventure yarn, part redemption parable, the film weds sweeping visuals and a strong narrative to craft a winning tale of friendship, fate, forgiveness and the indomitable spirit of man. Recurring adventure violence and some mild sexual innuendo. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

# 'Pill' justifications still hard to swallow

BY HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — How an oral contraceptive for women became available in 1960 and what its impact on society has been since then are recounted in the "American Experience" documentary, "The Pill," to be rerun Monday, March 22, 9-10 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings).

The idea for the pill came from a 1951 meeting between aging feminist crusader Margaret Sanger and struggling scientist Gregory Pincus, whose research was funded by Sanger's wealthy friend, Katharine McCormick.

Since scientists cannot conduct tests on humans, Pincus turned to respected gynecologist John Rock to do the field tests.

A devout Catholic, Rock was convinced the pill did not violate the church's condemnation of birth control but instead was a means of making the rhythm method completely reliable.

After being approved in 1960 as a prescription drug by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the pill was such a success that the supply could hardly keep up with the demand, as 6 million women went on the pill over the next five years.

Though there were protests, there was no call for a boycott and Rock focused his efforts on proving the pill did not contravene Catholic doctrine.

In 1968, when told of Pope Paul VI's condemnation of the pill in "Humanae Vitae," Rock responded, "The hierarchy has made a bad mistake."

By the time of his death in 1974, Rock had learned the grim news that the pill could kill, because his field studies in Puerto Rico had discounted side effects that could prove fatal.

After congressional hearings in 1970, the hormone levels in the pill were drastically reduced, though feminists used the hearings as a forum for women's rights that attracted a new generation of activists.

Produced, written and directed by Chana Gazit, the program succeeds best in its account of the pill's development and how readily it was accepted by a post-World War II generation of well-educated women who wanted to be more than housewives.

Though touching on the opposition of the Catholic Church and others who decried the pill as a license for promiscuity, the program focuses on the social rather than moral effects of this contraceptive drug.

The result favors the feminist view of the pill's liberating benefits for women, an attitude seemingly confirmed by a concluding statistical estimate that "80 percent of all American women have taken the pill."

Whatever the truth of this estimate, some viewers may be left pondering the program's impartiality.

"The Pill" is a documentary that provides a lot of information but leaves a lot of questions unanswered.


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# Legacy of love and dedication

## *Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk dies at 86*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

TIFFIN, Ohio — Sister Jane Schmenk of the Sisters of St. Francis died at St. Francis Convent in Tiffin, Ohio, March 8, the same date as her 70th jubilee. She was 86.

A funeral Mass was held in the St. Francis Convent Chapel, with burial following in the convent's cemetery.

Born Jan. 13, 1918 in New Cleveland, Ohio, Sister Schmenk taught and was principal at various elementary and secondary schools in Ohio. She came to the Diocese of Charlotte in 1973 to minister on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

In 1976, she became the first director of the newly opened diocesan facility, Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, in Maggie Valley.

"She was extremely dedicated to the reflection center," said Augustinian Father Frank Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley and staff member of Living Waters. "She worked tirelessly for many years to foster a spirit of retreat and reflection here."

E. Preston Rhyne III, parish financial liaison, said he first met Sister Schmenk in Maggie Valley when he was performing a financial review of Living Waters.

"I remember her giving me a very difficult time that day, during which I tried vainly to hold my own," said Rhyne. "We finally reached a point of mutual respect we both carried forward to her retirement. Most of all, I remember a rough, tough woman who turned out to be a very kind, loving teddy bear."

Upon retiring as director in 1998, she continued to reside in Maggie Valley for two years while she wrote a biography of Father Michael Murphy, a builder of churches in the Smoky Mountain area who donated his motel to become Living Waters.

She said the book, "Father Murphy, Apostle of the Smokies," was written "about a man ordained at 80 by a friend who was 80."

Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk

"She considered it her legacy to write his biography, and to let other people know about him," said Father Doyle.

"It was a blessing to still have her in the neighborhood," said Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, director of Living Waters.

She was well known for her devotion to Father Murphy, said Father Doyle.

"Sister Jane was a very down-to-earth person, whose Franciscan spirituality was evident to all she met," said Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt, diocesan director of young adult ministry. "Her hospitality was renowned as well as her dedication to growth of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of many."

"She was encouraging and invited religious and laypeople to consider developing skills for retreat direction and spiritual direction in the newly established Diocese of Charlotte," Sister Schmidt said. "She initiated training at Living Waters for this ministry."

According to her Franciscan sisters, Sister Schmenk enjoyed life and had a good sense of humor. She had recently commented, "I have come face to face with my physical (and mental) weakness and have accepted the fact that the old gray mare isn't what she used to be ... but [she] is enjoying to some extent the destabilizing environment of the stable."

Among the many activities Sister Schmenk enjoyed were playing cards, working crossword puzzles, cooking, creative writing, time with family and community members, reading and learning new ideas, especially about God's universe.

The Franciscan sisters said that when asked what her hopes and dreams were for the community she loved, Sister Schmenk responded, "... that we grow in wisdom and grace before God and share our gifts with the world. I also dream that our numbers will increase, that our lifestyle will attract vocations, and that we will always be a light in the darkness of greed and hostility."

"Sister Schmenk's passing marks the end of an era," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, diocesan vicar for women religious.

"She was a significant part of the history of the Diocese of Charlotte," Sister Warren said. "She was the heart and soul of Living Waters."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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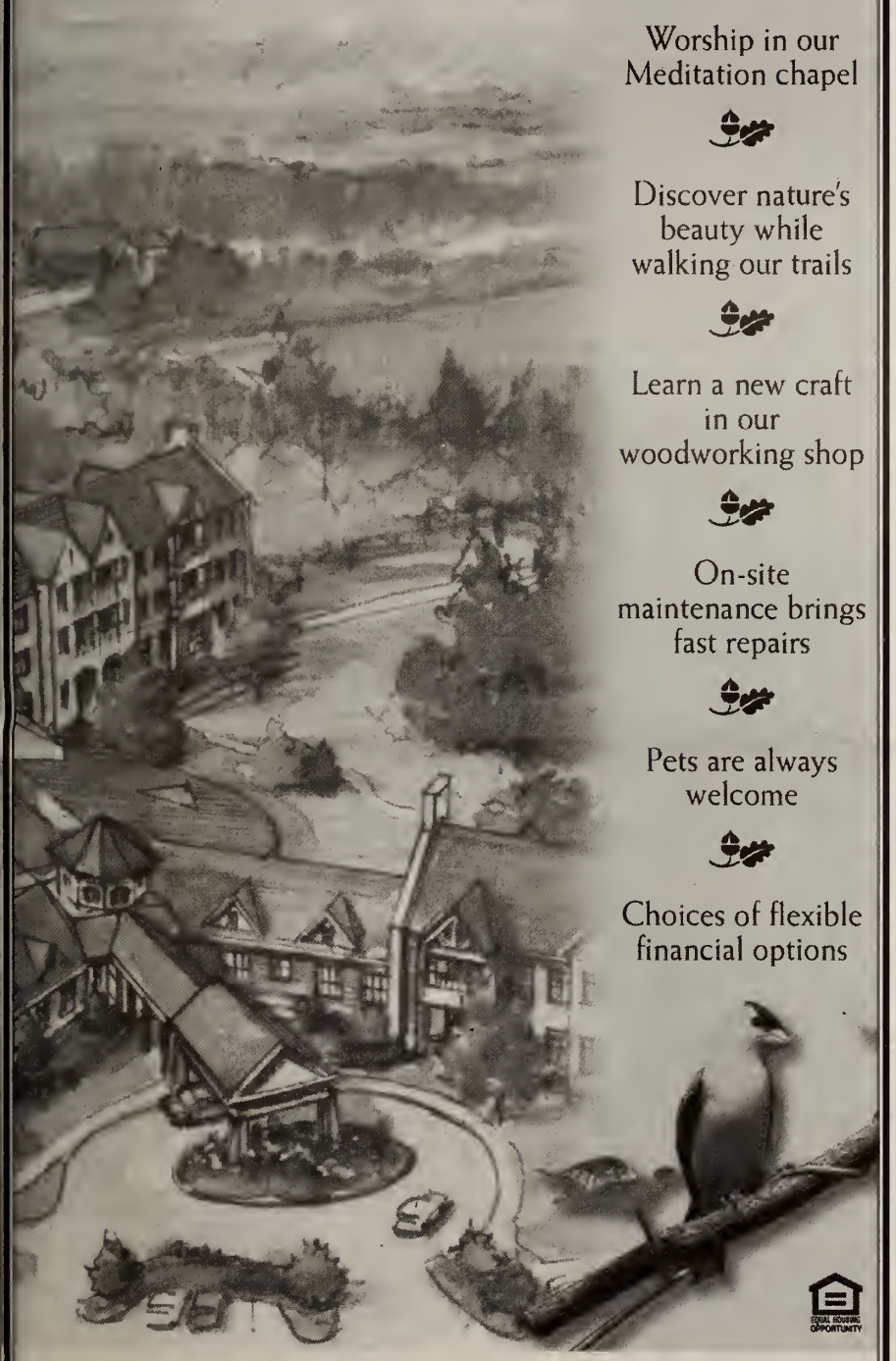

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# They shoot, they score

COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

**A Harlem Ambassador helps a child with her slam dunk during the basketball game fundraiser for Host Homes at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School March 6.**

## *Basketball event helps outreach ministry*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

KERNERSVILLE — Players recently took to the court to support a good cause.

Approximately 250 people came out for the "It's Better than your Grandfather's Basketball Show," where the Host Homes Challengers took on the Harlem Ambassadors at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School March 6.

The game's purpose was to raise awareness of and funds for Host Homes, an outreach of Catholic Social Services in Winston-Salem that serves young people between 10 and 17 years old and their families.

"It's Better than your Grandfather's Basketball Show" is the slogan for the Ambassadors.

"It means we offer a younger, fresher, livelier basketball show," said Dale Moss, Ambassadors' president.

The show features high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball handling and comedy routines led by Ladé Majic, the "Queen of Show Basketball" and only woman coach/player of an all men's professional team.

The Ambassadors do not travel with a pre-selected opponent or present a choreographed show.

"We like to be challenged by the best local players," said Ladé Majic.

The local players included a firefighter, a financial specialist, a bank vice president, a detective, a judge and a sports reporter, among others.

Host Homes, established in 1987 by Catholic Social Services, offers individual and family counseling, temporary foster care, mentoring and a 24-hour hotline. Host Homes also coordinates Teen Council, a service organization for high school students; and Project Safe Place in Forsyth County.

Launched in April 1997, Project Safe Place is a collaborative effort to help reach other children in need. More than 70 public facilities and buildings in Forsyth County have been designated Safe Places to assist youth who are lost, children running from a bully or gang, or youth escaping problems at home.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Pope says believers must react to evil with faith, forgiveness

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In the face of every threat of evil and violence, those who trust in God must react with faith, forgiveness and offers of peace, Pope John Paul II said.

Reflecting on Psalm 20 during his March 10 weekly general audience, the pope said the psalm, written when the ancient Israelites were threatened by war, "can become an invitation to never allow oneself to be captured by the attraction of violence."

"The just oppose every form of wickedness with faith, benevolence, pardon and the offer of peace," he said.

Pope John Paul said the first verses of Psalm 20 echo the fear of the Israelites on the eve of war and are full of pleas to God to save them and their king.

In the seventh verse, the tone changes, he said; the psalmist proclaims his total faith that God is with the Israelites and already has assured their victory.

The psalm, he said, expresses "a complete contrast between the position of the enemies, who count on the material strength of their chariots and horses, and the position of the Israelites, who put their trust in God and, therefore, are victorious."

The pope told an estimated 10,000 people crowded into the Vatican audience hall that the Christian tradition quickly identified Christ with the king prayed for in the psalm.

"He entered the world without an army but with the power of the Spirit and launched the definitive attack on evil and prevarication, against power and pride, against lies and selfishness," the pope said.

The Polish summary of the talk, read by an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State, said, "The psalm is a call that people who trust in God do not resort to violence to resolve difficult problems."

"Today's world needs to remember this: One can win with the weapons of goodness, forgiveness and benevolence," the Polish text said. "Let us pray that this messianic program of a victory through love would be welcomed by all peoples who desire peace in the world."

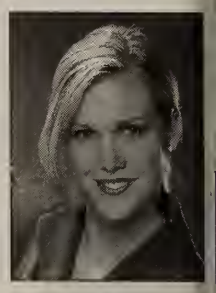
**The Pope Speaks**

POPE
JOHN PAUL II

# Holy Hollywood

**Our Turn**

THERESE J.
BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



Pop culture. It's the devil. Or is it?

Yes, I'm aware of the sex, violence and lack of morality written into the scripts of many movies and sitcoms these days. I remember when my mother used to ban me from watching "Three's Company" because of the sexual innuendoes sprinkled through the dialogue of the three roommates.

Compared to episodes of "Sex and the City," Jack looks like Ozzie in the good-old days of "Ozzie and Harriet."

But if you take a closer look at the morality picture on the screen, today's storylines also are filled with moments of redemption.

Example? Go back to Oscar night 2000. The five films nominated for best picture that year all contained a bit of the holy.

There was "American Beauty," which won the Academy Award, about a man trying to make sense of the dysfunction around him who learns to appreciate beauty in everyday things. On the surface, the plot told the story of an emotionally immature man seeking sexual pleasure from his daughter's friend. Yes, that's despicable. But if you go deeper, there is the transparent undercurrent of sacramentality.

Priest-sociologist Father Andrew Greeley described this Catholic imagination as "grace lurking everywhere."

The competing four films had their own subtle spirituality woven into the plots: "The Green Mile" told a story about the healing power of goodness and love found in the most unexpected places. "The Insider" portrayed a modern David and Goliath story about the courage of one man to uncover the manipulation and corruption of the tobacco industry. "The Sixth Sense" detailed the struggle of souls and spirits on earth trying to work through their pasts to gain eternal rest. And "The Cider House Rules" touched on some difficult issues inherent to the issue of abortion.

Am I stretching the story line a little to see spiritual themes where only profanity and violence lie? Maybe. But young adults spend enough time in front of movie screens, TV sets and stereos to take pop culture seriously and, if possible, to use it as a tool for evangelization.

In his book "Virtual Faith," author Tom Beaudoin says that young adults search for and often find spiritual meaning in today's pop-culture: in sitcoms such as "Friends" and "Frazier"; in movies such as "Good Will Hunting" and "Saving Private Ryan"; and in song lyrics such as U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" or the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love."

Studies show that teens spend three and one-half hours each day listening to music. That's almost 25 hours of song lyrics absorbed in a week, compared to an hour of Mass. But pop culture doesn't always have to compete with a priest's 15-minute sermon for the attention and direction of young minds. Movies, sitcoms and song lyrics can often complement and enrich the Christian message proclaimed by the church.

After viewing an inspiring film such as "Life Is Beautiful," which won its own Oscar, I emerge from the movie theater with the same uplifted spirit as when I walk out of Mass. I am encouraged to become a better person, to witness to the Gospel in my actions and to love more completely.

Young adults look for inspiration in everything that surrounds them, but especially in media. So it is in the best interests of religious educators to find ways to befriend the world of film, television and music.

# Missionary in China

**Parish Diary**

FATHER
PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Our parish has a mission in China. Well, not exactly a mission, but we do have one missionary.

We are helping to support a woman from our parish who has gone to China to teach English. She was placed there through a foreign-mission program.

Her story tells us something about the future of missionary work in repressive countries. It also tells us about a new role for laity in the church. In the future, it will be lay missionaries who will be able to enter these controlled societies where clergy cannot go.

China does not officially allow missionaries. Religion is closely regulated by the communist government. If you are not part of some officially sponsored group, you cannot get into China.

But China does allow teachers of English and other subjects. Indeed, the Chinese are very keen to learn English to do business with all the American firms arriving on their soil as they "out source" our jobs to China.

So our parishioner is at a university in a major city of China. She supports herself by her work at the university, living in a single room in housing for foreign faculty. She teaches English to students there. She also sponsors an "English circle" in which students come under the guise of reading English texts. The text she uses is the English Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Her "English circle" group is not large, no more than six to 10 enthusiastic students also interested in baptism and who desire to come into the church.

All our parish has paid is her roundtrip airfare each year, along with health insurance and a few other expenses; less than $2,000 per year. But the benefits are enormous, even eternal: the salvation of souls and the spread of the Gospel.

The program is not just helping the Chinese. It is helping her and helping us.

When our missionary was home this year she told our parish of the effect her mission is having on her life. She said: "This has saved my life. Literally saved my life."

Our missionary is a middle-aged woman who worked as a lobbyist. She is a convert to Catholicism herself. She went into business, but her business went bankrupt. Her love life hit a brick wall. She was losing hope.

One day she came to see me in some despair. I told her to do what Gideon did in the Bible, cast her "fleece before the Lord." In other words, take a risk in God's name.

After some weeks of discernment, I asked her, "What was your childhood dream?" She answered, "To go to China and be a missionary."

I said, "Well, do it. If it is the Lord's will, he will find a way to make it happen."

He did. She is now in her second year in China.

It is not often that a parish priest gets a sense of the meaning of salvation. We seldom know whether or not we make a difference. But our parish missionary's experience is making a difference in three sets of lives: It is bringing Christ to her students in China. It is saving her life from despair. And, it is giving us a lift by allowing us to share in her work.

Our words, our presence and our money are making a difference. My prayer now is for mission, for all of our parishioners.

# Military chaplains — a special ministry

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Many of us know that military chaplains have played a critical role in the nation's history, but probably few are aware that the chaplains' own history goes back right to the beginning.

Gen. George Washington wrote this on July 9, 1776, less than a week after the signing of the Declaration of Independence:

"The honorable Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a chaplain to each regiment, the colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure chaplains accordingly, persons of good character and exemplary lives, and to see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect. The blessings and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary, but especially so in times of public distress and danger."

And so the long and glorious story of American military chaplains began. They've been serving with distinction, and in many cases with heroism, ever since. Who can ever forget, for example, the stirring story of the World War II "Four Chaplains" — a priest, a rabbi and two ministers — who gave up their lifejackets to save others when their troop ship was torpedoed?

It would be good to report that the chaplains' corps is going as strong as ever, but the facts read otherwise. That's the message, certainly, from a man who should know: Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, who heads the U.S. Roman Catholic Military Archdiocese. In that capacity, he has the awesome responsibility of seeing to the spiritual needs of all Catholics in the U.S. armed forces through their chaplains (plus the spiritual care of those in V.A. hospitals and all U.S. diplomatic personnel, and their families, serving overseas).

That's a tall order, and it takes a lot of chaplains to get the job done. But sadly, there aren't enough to go around. That happens to be the case right now in Iraq — an area, one imagines, of "public distress and danger," in the words of Gen. Washington — where only 25 Catholic chaplains are presently on duty.

Archbishop O'Brien, who has made two recent inspection trips to Iraq, heard from more than one G.I. that he was the first chaplain they had seen in weeks.

That's not the chaplains' fault, he made clear in an interview with Mark Pattison of Catholic News Service. They're "working day in and day out" to minister to the troops, he said, and the demands on their time are intense. One reason is that interest in the faith among the troops is "skyrocketing," he said. "For no other reason, they are happy to be alive."

Trying to attract new chaplains is a task that goes on full time. Active recruiting takes place constantly in dioceses and seminaries across the country. Bishops have been sympathetic and cooperative, according to the archbishop, because they're aware of the need. But too often they're facing priest shortages of their own.

Wherever he goes, and his travels are extensive, Archbishop O'Brien asks for prayers for vocations to the priesthood and to the chaplain program.

"We tell people prayer is the basis of resolving the lack of vocations, both to the Military Archdiocese and the priesthood in general. I am not sure we are praying hard enough — and if we don't pray, we don't deserve vocations."

And, while we're praying, let's remember to ask God to look after every member of the armed services, including their dedicated chaplains of all faiths.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Citizenship 101: Awareness, Commitment, Action," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# How long was Jesus on the cross?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. I'm reminded each Lent of a question about Jesus' death. According to St. Mark's account of the passion, Jesus was crucified at 9 in the morning (the third hour) and died at the ninth hour.*

*This means he hung on the cross for six hours, rather than the three hours we usually assume and the other Gospels say. How is this explained? (New York)*

A. Some differences in the Gospels' chronology of Good Friday are traceable to the various themes and theologies of the evangelists who wrote them. But the problem you raise isn't that complicated.

All three synoptic Gospels note the "darkness" over the land from noon to the ninth hour, 3 in the afternoon, after which Jesus died. Neither Matthew nor Luke indicates a time for the crucifixion, but they describe several events after the crucifixion but before the darkness, implying that the time on the cross was somewhat more than three hours.

As he does so often, John makes the whole picture much less neat. The core of Hebrew faith through the centuries had been that God is their only king, a belief reaffirmed every Passover. Significantly then, John tells us (19:14-15) that, at the sixth hour, when Pilate presents Jesus to the Jewish leaders as king, the "chief priests" reject the ancient adherence to God as their only king by declaring, "We have no king but Caesar."

There seems little question that this chronology was adopted by John to connect that rejection of God and Jesus to the sixth hour, the hour when Passover regulations went into effect for the Jews.

John's timing of the crucifixion and death of Jesus would thus be quite different than in the synoptics, but he makes no attempt to provide any further chronology.

In any case, of course, Jesus would have remained on the cross a considerable time after his death while Joseph of Arimathea made arrangements with the authorities to assume responsibility for his body.

*A free brochure in English or Spanish answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# Left behind and illiterate

## Looking Around

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

"No Child Left Behind" is an expression that surely will be heard in political conversations between now and next November. President Bush signed into law a bill bearing that title Jan. 8, 2002.

Since then, I've been wondering about the children who were left behind by the nation's schools 20, 30 and 40 years ago and who show up now in the ranks of America's illiterate. I hope political debate will focus on them. It would be great if both major political party platforms could come up with a plank that addresses the enormous problem of adult illiteracy in the United States.

In 1998, the National Institute for Literacy published a report ("The State of Literacy in America") that documents state by state, locality by locality, the extent of adult America's inability to: (1) read prose, (2) interpret information in tables and graphs and (3) manage everyday arithmetic — all related to one's employability and sociability in meeting the demands of daily life.

Many of the children who were left behind years ago are now in jail, or unemployed, or unfulfilled and struggling in a fast-paced, communications-dependent, information economy. Now in their 20s, 30s, 40s and older, they are also falling farther and farther behind in terms of prose literacy, document literacy and quantitative literacy.

Research indicates that in addition to wanting to become employable, many of these people want to overcome illiteracy in order to be able to read the Bible and help their children with homework.

Here's a policy idea that might help.

In order to provide an incentive for individuals who need help to seek it and to compensate for the collective national failure that left them behind decades ago, a volunteer serving as tutor/mentor/enabler would be able to give his or her client at the end of a one-hour session a voucher or coupon in the amount of $10, redeemable at designated food stores in the community.

Regardless of employment status or participation in any public assistance program, the client's eligibility for this coupon would be based solely on participation in a session aimed at curing illiteracy. Five hours a week would put $50 worth of food on the table and move the beneficiary five hours closer to a more fulfilling and productive life.

Members of Congress interested in knowing the extent of the illiteracy problem in their home districts can consult the National Institute for Literacy (800 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006-2712). The NIL report makes clear that literacy is not something you either have or don't have. There is a literacy continuum that places people at different levels for different kinds of deficits (e.g. inability to find information in newspapers, or complete forms such as a Social Security card application or figure out a table of employee benefits).

Lots of people need help at the lowest of the several levels on this continuum. Of 191 million American adults (defined as age 16 or older), the survey found a total of between 21 percent and 23 percent, which translates to 40-44 million people, at the lowest literacy level.

It won't be hard to find them. The coupon will make it easier to get their attention. All we need is some White House enthusiasm and Congressional action to make it happen.

*E-mail: wbyron@loyno.edu.*

# Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is high point for Triad Catholics

HIGH POINT — The first Mass in High Point was celebrated in 1903, when Catholics gathered with a priest in a local's home.

When land was donated to build a church, the Benedictine priests of Belmont Abbey joined fundraising efforts to begin a construction project. Work began in 1907, and in September, Benedictine Abbot Leo Haid dedicated the new church, placing it under the patronage of St. Edward.

It was that small mission community that would later become Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

With the Diocese of Raleigh established in 1924, St. Edward Church was placed under diocesan administration. A home and property — the site of the future Immaculate Heart of Mary Church — were bought in 1928. Father John Manley lived in the home for a short period as St. Edward Church's first pastor.

Another building project began in 1942. Under the direction and with the support of Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh, a new church and school were constructed. Bishop Waters dedicated the new facilities in October 1947, placing them under the patronage of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Penn., staffed the school from its founding until 1987. The on-site home that had served as a rectory since the late 1920s was converted for use as a convent. Meanwhile, Father Robert MacMillan — the eighth pastor of St. Edward Church and founding pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church — took residence at a newly purchased home on Barbee Street.

The congregation has continued to grow steadily since the new parish came into existence. Periodic additions to and renovations of the church and school have been needed to accommodate the growth, including the construction of an eight-classroom educational wing for the school, and the removal of two meeting room walls to allow for more worship space in the church.

In June 1968, the rectory burned, forcing the move of the pastors to the convent. The Sisters relocated to nearby Maryfield Nursing Home's guesthouse. A new convent was dedicated in 1970, followed by a rectory in 1981.

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point was dedicated in Feb. 2, 2002 and can accommodate 800 people.**

Diocesan priests ministered to the parish until 1989, when Oblates of St. Francis de Sales priests arrived in High Point. Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt became pastor and Oblate Father Thomas Norris became parochial vicar.

In 1992, a demographic study of the parish and expected growth provided the foundation for a 20-year plan that called for the parish to build a new church on land more centrally located for the growing congregation.

A new sanctuary was the centerpiece of the plan, which also included several future buildings. In the spring of 1996, the parish purchased a tract of land on Johnston Street and Skeet Club Road, and a capital campaign was underway by October.

On Oct. 26, 1997, the congregation recognized its 50th anniversary as a parish with a special Mass and other celebrations.

Ground was broken for the new church in September 2000, and construction was completed in December 2001. Parishioners celebrated Mass for the first time in the new sanctuary on Dec. 24, and Bishop William G. Curlin formally dedicated the new sanctuary Feb. 2, 2002,

The new church, built to accommodate 800 worshippers, incorporates the "concept of life" through the stained glass windows, the altar and the tabernacle. Another unique feature of the church is the crucifix that can be closed to conceal the body of Christ, such as during Easter.

The church was designed so that it could be expanded to 1,200 people when needed. Currently, chairs are set up at some Masses to accommodate an extra 200 people.

Along with the new church, parishioners celebrate their community of faith. The parish's religious educational mission is a focal point, both at the church and the school, with programs serving hundreds of children and adults. Faith formation is run out of the old church facility.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
4145 Johnston Street
High Point, N.C. 27265
(336) 869-7739

**Vicariate:** Greensboro
**Pastor:** Oblate Father John J. Kelly
**Parochial Vicar:** Oblate Father Anthony J. Gilborges
**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Joseph Smith, Rev. Mr. Thomas Kak, Rev. Mr. Fred Scarletto
**Number of Households:** 1,200

Oblate Father John J. Kelly

A large number of ministries and outreach projects also enrich parish and community life, such as Scripture study groups, Knights of Columbus, Bethany Society, Mobile Meals, outreach to shelters, Guilford County Interfaith Hospitality Network, Habitat for Humanity and Boy and Girl Scouts.

In June 2002, Oblate Father John Kelly was appointed from parochial vicar to pastor, and Oblate Father Anthony Gilborges was appointed parochial vicar.

On March 9-10, the church celebrated its Parish Renewal, a "spiritual uplift" to motivate parishioners for the Lenten season.

The church is currently looking to become a sister parish with a church in Ecuador. Father Kelly also suspects the parish will again build to accommodate future growth.

The church continues toward the future, as conveyed in its mission statement, "to continue the work of the Lord Jesus by building up a community of faith in service in which every member is able to grow to the fullness of his or her Christian vocation."

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972 by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 19, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 25

Parish Profile: **Sacred Heart Church**

I PAGE 16

# Queen City green

PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Above, dancers from Rince na h'Eireann School of Traditional Irish Dance perform during the festival after Charlotte's eighth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade March 13. Below, an unidentified leprechaun marches in the parade.

## *St. Pat parade, festival overtake uptown Charlotte*

*CHARLOTTE — Catholic schools and other local Catholic organizations were among the 80 groups marching in the eighth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 13.*

*This year's parade, the largest ever, ran along Tryon Street past St. Peter Church and was followed by a daylong community festival featuring live entertainment.*

*St. Patrick's Day falls on March 17, but Charlotte events traditionally take place on the Saturday before the 17th.*

MORE COVERAGE ON PAGES 8-9.

# Near overturn of Roe vs. Wade revealed in Justice Blackmun's papers

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — With the recent release of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun's personal papers, many people have been looking closely at his observations on one specific case: the near overturn of legal abortion in a 1992 decision.

Blackmun's papers, all 1,585 boxes of them from his 24 years on the court, were made public March 4, exactly five years after his death. They provide a behind-the-scenes look at two decades of court decisions and shed particular light on just how closely the Planned Parenthood vs. Casey case in 1992 nearly went the other direction.

Within his files, stored at the Library of Congress, are several drafts of the Casey ruling with Blackmun's handwritten notes in the margins showing where he agreed with other justices or wanted to change their minds.

Particularly telling are notes about Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was initially voting in the Casey ruling to overturn the 1973 Roe vs.

See ABORTION, page 13

**BRINGING CHRIST'S LOVE**

## College students spend Valentine's Day serving others

BY WENDY E. MURRAY
CORRESPONDENT

BELMONT — Is it possible to fall in love in a day?

Thirty college students think so. They learned the deeper meaning of love as they used Valentine's Day weekend to lend their hands and hearts to various ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sponsored by the diocesan Campus Ministry office, the "Give Your Heart Away to Service" weekend was held at the Sisters of Mercy McCarthy Spirituality Center in Belmont Feb. 12-14.

Campus Ministry,

See COLLEGE, page 9

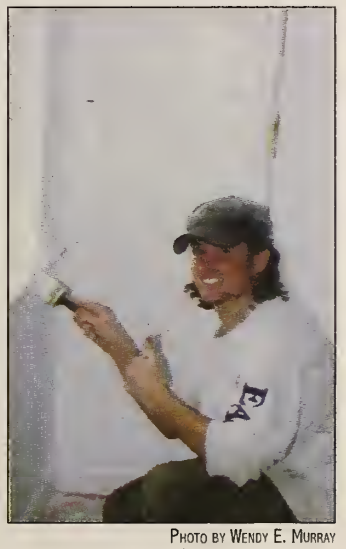

PHOTO BY WENDY E. MURRAY

Justin Schumacher was one of 30 college students attending the "Give Your Heart Away to Service" weekend Feb. 12-14.

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**Celebrating a saint**
*Marking St. Drexel's visit*
I PAGE 4

**FIREs of faith**
*Rally ignites the masses*
I PAGE 5

**Perspectives**
*Analyzing "The Passion"*
I PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MOURNING IN MADRID

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Nuns mourn the victims of the Madrid train bombings during a vigil in front of the Spanish Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, March 12. Several bomb blasts had ripped through four packed commuter trains in Spain's capital the day before.

# Ringing cell phones, twisted metal, last rites mark Madrid wreckage

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Witnesses who entered the wreckage of Madrid's terrorist train explosions spoke of the unceasing sound of cellular telephones ringing as victims' families tried to contact them.

Grim images dominated local television, with body parts and blood splattered on twisted metal, as priests administered last rites to victims.

At least 200 people died and more than 1,600 were injured as 10 bombs exploded on commuter trains in the Spanish capital March 11. The majority of the victims were workers or students commuting into the capital.

Among those who responded to the scene were Madrid's priests, who were instructed by Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela to make helping the victims their priority. Priests were sent to hospitals, morgues and the provisional morgue at Madrid's convention center.

At the convention center, priests found themselves praying and handing out crucifixes to anyone who wanted them. Among those at the convention center was Bishop Jesus Catala Ibanez of Alcala de Henares, whose diocese accounted for at least 40 of the victims.

Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes initially said the Basque separatist movement ETA was responsible for the bombins. Spanish forces recently foiled four potential ETA terrorist attacks, the most recent in early March as terrorists attempted to deliver more than 1,100 pounds of explosives into Madrid.

Spanish authorities also were investigating links to al-Qaida, because some security sources said the bombings departed from traditional ETA actions by using multiple, simultaneous explosions with no prior warning. The bombings also killed at least eight times more people than the ETA's previous most deadly attack.

At an evening Mass concelebrated by three bishops and 80 priests in Madrid's Our Lady of Almudena Cathedral, church leaders read a telegram from Pope John Paul II and an earlier statement from the Spanish bishops' conference.

Pope John Paul said the terrorist attacks "offend God, violate the fundamental right to life and suffocate the peaceful coexistence for which the church community and the noble Spanish nation deeply yearn."

"The Holy Father wants to reiterate his firm and absolute condemnation of such unjustifiable acts," Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said in the telegram to Cardinal Rouco.

ETA stands for Euskadi Ta Askatasuma, or Basque Homeland and Freedom; it seeks an independent Basque nation. Since being formed in the 1950s, the ETA has claimed responsibility for killing more than 800 people.

# Catholic-Methodist dialogue co-chairs say unity will happen someday

ROME (CNS) — The co-chairmen of the international Roman Catholic-Methodist dialogue said they believe someday the Christian churches will be one, but they are waiting to see how it finally happens.

"It is unfolding before my eyes," said Bishop Michael E. Putney of Townsville, Australia, the Catholic co-chair, March 11. "Where it is going and when it will end I do not know."

The Rev. Geoffrey Wainwright, the Methodist co-chair, said, "I do believe organic unity is on the horizon." But "I'm fairly sure it will not be in my lifetime."

The co-chairmen, in Rome for Vatican meetings, focused on how they became involved in ecumenism and how ecumenism has influenced their spirituality.

Both men said they were struck long ago by Christ's prayer that all his followers would be one "so that the world may believe."

Rev. Wainwright said that in his theological studies, he kept coming across powerful works by Catholic theologians that showed the truth presented about the Christian faith is more important than the author's denominational identity.

Asked why so much of ecumenism is focused on theological questions, rather than on working together to proclaim Jesus, he said churches need to know what they are proclaiming.

"Sometimes people say, 'Let's have a joint evangelization campaign.' But what church are you going to invite them to? And how can you explain to them that if they receive Communion in that church, they cannot receive it in another?" Rev. Wainwright said.

Bishop Putney said "you only discover who you are when you engage the other" and try to respond to someone who is exploring what you believe.

"Your articulation of your own faith becomes purer and purer," he said.

# Diocesan Planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., will host *Stations of the Cross* March 26 and April 2 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 684-6098.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to a *Women's Morning of Reflection* March 27 at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m., followed by an hour of reflection lead by Sister Helene Nagle. For details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will present a *Festival of Praise* March 27, 8-10 p.m. Please join us for an evening of praise music and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Music is provided by our Life Teen Band. For more information, please contact Laura Maclean, director of Music Ministry at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — A *Mass celebrating the gifts of those with mental retardation* will be celebrated March 28 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Young people with varying degrees of mental retardation will serve as musicians, ushers and lectors. Members of the Allegro Foundation will perform a liturgical dance. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy, St. Gabriel Disability Ministry, at (704) 364-6964.

CHARLOTTE — A Mass including *Anointing of the Sick* will be celebrated will be celebrated March 28 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. All those who are experiencing any mental, physical or emotional afflictions, are of an advanced age or face surgery are invited to receive this sacrament at a special Mass. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the service. For more information, call the church at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will host a *"Treasures from your Trunk"* sale April 3, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the church parking lot, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, contact Marjory Dury at (704) 846-6962 or Rita Brennan at (704) 849-7077.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* (AOH), Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men in the United States, will conduct an open membership meeting April 9 at 8 p.m. for those interested in joining. The meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Council 770 Hall, E. Kingston Ave. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncaoh@aol.com for further information.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Without fanfare, pope's pontificate becomes third-longest in history

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With zero fanfare, Pope John Paul II passed another milestone March 14, when his pontificate became the third-longest in church history.

If the pope noticed the event, he did not let on. He marked the day by praying the Angelus, as usual, with several thousand faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Throughout his reign of 25 years and five months, he's never commented as the duration of his papacy surpassed those of almost all his 263 predecessors. The pope had headed the church for 9,281 days March 14 — one more than Pope Leo XIII, who held the papacy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The 31-year, seven-month pontificate of Pope Pius IX is the longest to be verified by historians. St. Peter's papacy is traditionally considered the longest, but no one knows exactly how long he led the church.

Despite being slowed by neurological disease and arthritis, the pope, who turns 84 in May, continues to preside over a heavy schedule of meetings, liturgies and audiences.

The pope has a full slate of Easter activities planned in April. He starts a major round of "ad limina" visits with U.S. bishops this spring. Some at the Vatican are discussing papal trips later in the year — to Switzerland in June, France in September and possibly Mexico in October.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St., will conclude the *Lenten Supper-Study* March 24. All are welcome. Community dinner is at 6 p.m., with Catechesis 6:45-7:30 p.m. Topic this year is "Vatican II: 40 Years Later." No pre-registration or fee required, no need to bring food, all is provided by the parish. For more information, please contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, Director of Faith Formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-0600, ext. 26.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Many of us want to do "something extra" during Lent. The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will host their annual *Lenten mini-retreat* each Wednesday in March at St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St. Mass will be at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments. For information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 4210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. March 3-April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4621.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOCKSVILLE — Franciscan Father Joseph Michael Mary will offer a Lenten retreat at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd. Sessions will meet each evening at 7 p.m., March 27-31. The retreat will focus on *"The Last Four Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell."* For more information, contact the church office at (336) 751-2973.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., beginning April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., is offering a *Lenten Retreat* led by Augustinian Father Bob Terranova March 29-31. Dinner will be served each night at 5:30 p.m. and the talk will begin at 7 p.m. Father Terranova will celebrate morning Mass at 9 a.m. on retreat days. Reconciliation will be offered March 30. For details, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., will celebrate a *Seder meal* April 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# 'Vox Clara' begins studying proposed translation of Order of the Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As English-speaking bishops around the world began studying a proposed translation of the main prayers used at Mass, a Vatican congregation had its English advisers doing the same.

The "Vox Clara" Committee, which advises the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, met March 9-11 at the Vatican.

The committee, whose name is Latin for "clear voice," includes a dozen cardinals and bishops from eight countries.

A new English draft translation of the "Ordo Missae," or Order of the Mass, was approved by the episcopal board of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy in January. ICEL sent the draft to bishops in English-speaking countries and to the congregation for comment.

The book includes the prayers used at every Mass, such as the Gloria, the Nicene Creed and the eucharistic prayers. It does not include all of the prayers that change each week during the liturgical year.

Translating the Order of the Mass is the first step toward translating the entire third edition of the Roman Missal, released in Latin by the Vatican in 2002.

The Vatican congregation established "Vox Clara" in 2001 to provide advice about English translations of liturgical texts and "to strengthen effective cooperation with the conferences of bishops in this regard," said a March 11 statement.

The statement said the committee's assessment of the proposed Order of the Mass "was positive, with many sections exhibiting a fine grasp of the precision and memorability required of vernacular editions of Roman liturgical books."

"To ensure the development of a strong and contemporary English style," the statement said, "general suggestions for improvement of the text were offered to the congregation as an assistance and support" to ICEL, which will meet in July to consider suggestions for changes offered by bishops around the world.

Committee members also made observations and posed questions regarding the ways in which the proposed translation attempted to apply the new translation rules contained in the 2001 Vatican instruction, "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy").

# Faith among the fires

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A rosary hangs from the wrist of an armed Haitian policeman as he walks a patrol March 11 in Port-au-Prince. Gunfire was heard after police broke up a demonstration of supporters of Haiti's ousted president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

## THIS MONTH IN —1994

### KNIGHTS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

The St. Lawrence Council of the Knights of Columbus, No. 1695, celebrated the 112th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus' founding and the 80th anniversary of the St. Lawrence Council with a special Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville March 20, 1994. Msgr. John J. McSweeney, then-diocesan administrator, celebrated the Mass. The council was led at the time by Father Carl Kaltreider, pastor of the basilica.

CELEBRATING A SAINT

# BAC, monastery mark St. Katharine Drexel's centennial visit

BELMONT — She spent her life caring for the needs of Native and African Americans everywhere.

Her journey led her to the small town of Belmont. There, she would donate $4,000 toward the building of a new Catholic church at Belmont Abbey, one that would have pews available so that all races — especially African and Native Americans — could worship together.

Now 100 years later, Belmont Abbey College and the Abbey's monastery will celebrate the visit, contributions and life of St. Katharine Drexel with a Mass, dinner reception and special ceremony March 25.

"Belmont Abbey is filled with strong men and women who helped shape the Benedictine Order and the Church hundreds of years ago," says Ruth Payne, director of campus ministry at Belmont Abbey College. "St. Katharine Drexel was a very strong, positive role model from the 20th century, whose rapport with the monastic community here resulted in building not only a church, but a tradition."

"The importance of the event is that it makes us understand a little bit of our history and that her presence here has added to the spirit of Belmont Abbey College," said Payne.

Mother Katharine visited Belmont Abbey on March 20, 1904, attending first vespers for the feast of St. Benedict. Thereafter, she and Bishop Leo Haid continued to engage in an active correspondence.

Later, Father Michael McInerney, a Belmont Abbey monk and architect who designed some of the college buildings, also designed many churches, schools, convents and hospitals supported by Mother Katharine.

Invited guests for the event, hosted by the school's Office of Campus Ministry, include Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Sister Patricia Lynch, historian of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; representatives of the Sisters of Mercy, with whom St. Katharine first made vows; and members of St. Katharine's family who live in this region.

CNS FILE PHOTO

**Pope John Paul II canonized Mother Katharine Drexel, a U.S. heiress who dedicated her life to educating African Americans and Native Americans, Oct. 1, 2000. She lived from 1858-1955. Her canonization made her the second American-born saint.**

Representatives from student organizations, faculty, staff and local churches are also expected to attend the intimate affair.

"We've been aware for a long time of the significance of the relationship between St. Katharine and the Abbey," said Dr. Carol Brooks, director of corporate and foundation support. "Last year, we realized that we would soon be embarking on the 100-year anniversary of her visit here and we thought that we would like to mark that date with a celebration."

Payne said the event would affect not only the campus community of students, faculty and staff, but also the greater Catholic community, recognizing that St. Katharine also contributed to the building of Catholic churches in Gastonia and Charlotte.

"We are hoping that those who attend the event will glimpse the beauty of social justice as its seed was planted here 100 years ago," said Payne.

Pope Leo XIII, the author of the first social encyclical, "Rerum Novarum," launched St. Katharine on her path as a missionary among Native Americans and African Americans.

Born in 1858 to a family well known in banking and philanthropy, Katharine's travels through the northwest exposed her to the struggles of Native Americans. She became committed to relieving the suffering of Native Americans and African Americans.

In a visit to Rome, Katharine was advised by Pope Leo XIII to become a missionary to oppressed peoples. In 1891, after her novitiate at the convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh, Sister Katharine made vows as a religious, and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

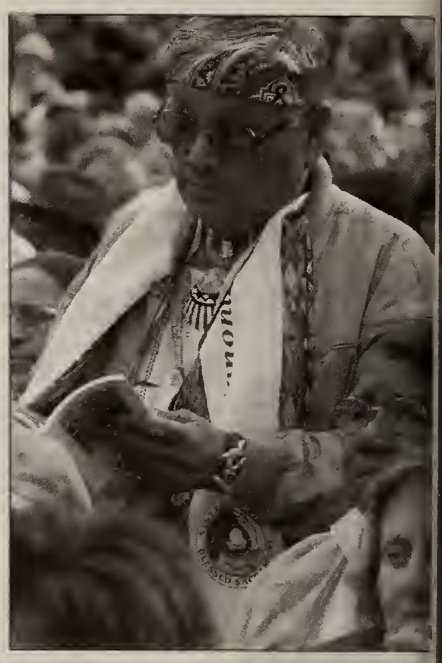
In 1893, Mother Katharine contributed $4,000 toward the building of the new Church of Maryhelp, the predecessor of Belmont Abbey's present basilica. She also contributed to St. Michael Church in Gastonia and St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

All of her philanthropy to churches rested on the condition that pews be made available for African Americans and Native Americans, bringing all races together for worship. Bishop Haid warmly embraced these conditions as a way to unite races for worship at the Abbey.

In her lifetime, Mother Katharine established many ministries and founded and staffed many schools for both African Americans and Native Americans, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the only predominantly black Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States.

In 1935, Mother Katharine suffered a severe heart attack and for the next 20 years lived her life in prayerful retirement until her death in 1955.

On Oct. 1, 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed Mother Katharine Drexel a "St. Katharine Drexel" at a solemn celebration of Mass in Saint Peter's Square in Rome.



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**A Native American man prays during the canonization ceremony of Mother Katharine Drexel in St. Peter's Square Oct. 1, 2000. American-born Drexel spent her fortune and life serving Native and African Americans.**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# FIRE Rally lights up Fort Mill

## *Speakers discuss sin, repentance, God's love*

BY KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

FORT MILL, S.C. — The fires of faith were set ablaze at the Southeast FIRE Rally.

People from the Diocese of Charlotte were among the 1,075 attendees at the one-day event designed to ignite participants' faith experiences through challenging talks on Faith, Intercession, Repentance and Evangelism.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston celebrated the closing liturgy of the rally, held at the Charlotte Bobcats Training Center in Fort Mill, S.C., March 13.

Presentations were offered by Sister Ann Shields, superior of the Servants of God's Love in the Diocese of Lansing, Mich.; Ralph Martin, founding president of Renewal Ministries and founding editor of *New Covenant* magazine; Peter Herbeck, director of missions at Renewal Ministries; and Franciscan Father Dave Pivonka, vice president of mission effectiveness at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and author of "Rocked by God."

Father Pivonka, who spoke on repentance, highlighted the history of sin, the need for sacrifice and, as Isaiah foretold, how the blood of the lamb would redeem the world. Christ's death, he said, was a part of God's plan to prove his love for humanity.

PHOTO BY KATHY SCHMUGGE

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers a blessing to a participant of the Southeast FIRE Rally in Fort Mill, S.C., March 13.**

"Christ's blood is on us and humanity is different because of that," said Father Pivonka. "He offered himself for my sake. He would be my substitute and take my place on that cross because of his passionate love for me, for all of us."

People can be freed from sin, said Father Pivonka.

"Don't tell me that sin is human. I don't buy that," said Father Pivonka. "Sin is dehumanizing because it takes me away from what God created me to be."

"Sin is always personal. We don't understand what our sin is doing if we think it is only breaking a law," he said. "Sin is always breaking a relationship."

Christ's blood was shed for everyone, and for the sins of the human race, said Father Pivonka.

"What is that sin you need that blood to free you from?" he asked the audience.

Unless people admit they are broken and need God's help, little can be accomplished in evangelization, according to Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of missions for Renewal Ministries.

PHOTO BY KATHY SCHMUGGE

**Two sisters from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte participate in the Southeast FIRE Rally held at the Charlotte Bobcats Training Center in Fort Mill, S.C., March 13.**

"Simply begin with a prayer," suggested Herbeck. "I confess that I am a big chicken but I want to be a part of the 'Great Rescue.'"

Herbeck described evangelization as an invitation, one soul to another. He said that one should communicate the faith in terms of a gift from God, not just a set of rules.

"Jesus wants you to have a passion for souls," he said.

Martin, who co-hosts Renewal Ministries "The Choices We Face" television and radio program with Herbeck, spoke on faith.

"Ralph Martin is a man on fire with the love of Jesus Christ," said Darlene Kerfien, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis. "I thank God for men and women who have been risen up by Christ to lift us to the calling that God has given each of us."

Sister Shields, author of several books including "Fire in my Heart" and host of the "Food for the Journey" radio program, spoke about intercession. She reminded the audience about the power of prayer and how "we can do nothing without God."

During his homily, Bishop Baker spoke about the power of the Holy Spirit, and he urged the participants not to be secure in anyone or anything but the Lord. To do this, he said, requires a full commitment of mind and heart.

"I hope this rally is a real shot in the arm and you will experience a deeper conversion, a need for reconciliation and a desire to share the Good News," said Bishop Baker.


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## A PRAYER FOR THE MAYOR

COURTESY PHOTO

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines is welcomed to St. Leo the Great School March 8 by (back row, from left) Georgette Schraeder, principal; Molly Riazzi, student council vice president; Father Johnathan Hanic, St. Leo the Great Church parochial vicar; and (front row, from left) Jennifer Musso and Riley Harwood, fifth-grade student council representatives.

# Winston-Salem mayor discusses community service

WINSTON-SALEM — Mayor Allen Joines visited St. Leo the Great School March 8 to pay tribute to the students' outreach efforts.

The mayor's visit was originally scheduled for Catholic Schools Week in January, but inclement weather postponed his arrival.

An assembly was held for Mayor Joines, with an opening prayer by Father Johnathan Hanic, parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church.

Molly Riazzi, student council vice president, gave Joines a summary of the students' contributions to the community, including outreach efforts at Christmas and Easter, Caring Friends letters, fundraisers for the poor, Jump Rope for Hearts and Hoops for Hearts.

After Joines spoke to students about the importance of community service, he was given a tour of the school, and Riazzi presented him with a book of prayers written by the students.

Eighth-grader Joanna Braeckel read her prayer to the mayor:

*"Dear God,*

*I am asking you to please bless Mayor Joines.*

*He does so much for our city*

*from building roads and keeping all of us safe.*

*He keeps on doing more and more for the citizens.*

*Help him make all the right decisions.*

*Help him to find peace in You when he is troubled.*

*He works very hard for all of us,*

*and he deserves to be thanked a lot.*

*Please bless him as he works with other officials.*

*Keep him safe and help him to do what is right for Winston-Salem.*

*In Your name we pray,*

*Amen."*

# 'Fishes' essay brings Italian dinner in NYC

COURTESY PHOTO

Nicolas Morlacci, a student at St. Ann School in Charlotte, won the grand prize in a writing contest sponsored by Olive Garden restaurants. Out of 10,000 entries, Morlacci's essay, "The Seven Fishes," was selected and the second-grader receives a $1,000 savings bond and a trip for four people to New York City to eat at the Olive Garden in Times Square and meet Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

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# Teaching the teachers

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Catholic school teachers from across the Diocese of Charlotte prepare for a workshop during the diocesan Catholic Schools Office's In-Service Day at Charlotte Catholic High School March 12. During the day, teachers attended the "SAT Update Workshop," an overview of the new Scholastic Aptitude Test; "The Heart of Multiculturalism," a daylong session on multiculturalism; and numerous breakout sessions run by fellow teachers and professionals in the community.


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## A HERO'S WELCOME

COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Walsh, a Navy reservist, visited his sons Adam and Christopher and their fellow students at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte March 5.

# Navy officer visits St. Gabriel students

CHARLOTTE — Students sat up a little straighter when the Navy SEAL entered their classrooms.

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Walsh, who has two children enrolled in St. Gabriel School, visited with students March 5 after returning from an overseas mission.

Kindergarten teacher Kerry Leasure, who instructs Walsh's son, invited the officer to speak to her class.

A 15-year veteran of the NAVY, Walsh spent 11 years in active duty as a SEAL (Sea, Air and Land), often on dangerous missions. It has been during his last four years as a reservist, however, that he said he experienced some of the most heartbreaking moments while working in East Africa and the Middle East.

Seven months after moving to Charlotte to work as an investment banker in August 2002, Walsh was called back to duty as a reservist. Twelve months later after completing his mission, he was reunited with his family in February.

Being a reservist is not for the weak at heart, said Walsh. Due to the volatile global environment and the United States' commitment to fighting the war on terrorism, his unit was sent to places with unspeakable poverty and the appalling aftereffects of war.

But Walsh is proud of the positive impact and contributions U.S. soldiers are making to better the lives of people in different parts of the world.

"We're building schools, roads, bridges, restoring water supplies, delivering food and building good will," he said. "We are accomplishing amazing things under very difficult circumstances."

Walsh also visited his elder son's second-grade class, where every student had written letters to him while he served overseas.

"It meant a lot to me to receive their letters. I was very excited," said Walsh.

For two years, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders have corresponded with their assigned military pen pals. The outreach ministry is sponsored by the St. Gabriel Church-School Liaison Committee, which is dedicated to enriching relationships between the church and school by helping students and parishioners become more involved with one another.

Each soldier listed with the parish has received Christmas letters and Valentine cards from St. Gabriel School students with messages of support and gratitude. Additionally, specific classes have supported family members of the student body who, like Walsh, are serving overseas.

In total, 12 classes have supported a number of different soldiers.


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IRISH SAINT NOT REALLY SO IRISH

# St. Patrick converts Ireland to Christianity

St. Patrick, Ireland's favorite saint, wasn't actually Irish. Nor did he drive the snakes out of Ireland (where they don't exist).

Rather, he was born in Britain as the pampered, far-from-faith-filled son of a Roman nobleman around 385 A.D. Patrick's real name is believed to have been Maewyn Succat, and his baptismal name was Patricius.

In his teens, his plush lifestyle ended and his family torn from him when his village was attacked and slave traders kidnapped him and sold him into slavery to an Irish chieftain. Serving as a shepherd on a lonesome hillside, the distraught youth gradually turned to prayer and after six years made a daring escape to Gaul (now France) and eventually returned home.

But memories of the Irish haunted him and Patrick felt God wanted him to preach the Good News in pagan Ireland. Ordained to the priesthood, he sailed back to Ireland in 432 A.D. and in essence converted the entire populace. That this was accomplished without resorting to violence is a historical rarity.

Patrick's success at winning converts upset the Celtic Druids. They arrested Patrick several times, but he escaped each time.

Patrick traveled throughout Ireland establishing monasteries across the country, which were instrumental in preserving Western civilization's literary traditions through the Dark Ages. He also set up schools and churches, which would help him in his conversion of Ireland to Christianity.

It is believed that Patrick raised people from the dead, though this cannot be substantiated. He is also said to have given a sermon from the hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Because no snakes were ever native to Ireland, many scholars believe this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans to Christianity.

Patrick's mission in Ireland lasted for 30 years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17, 461 A.D. The day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a secular holiday, often celebrated with parades and festivals.

*Diocesan Media Resources Director Mercy Sister Patricia Durbin contributed to this story.*


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Photos by Kevin E. Murray

# St. Pat's Parade

The Knights of Columbus led the eighth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 13, featuring several Catholic schools and organizations. Above: St. Patrick School. Below left: St. Matthew Columbiettes Auxiliary 10852. Below right: Belmont Abbey College Alumni Association. Bottom: St. Matthew School.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Uptown Charlotte was the largest ever, with 80 groups participating in the annual event. Top: Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Charlotte. Above left: Ancient Order of Hibernians Mecklenburg Division 1. Above right: St. Ann School. Below: Charlotte Catholic High School's marching band.

# Legend of the shamrock

The shamrock, a three-leafed clover, is the national emblem of Ireland. It is widely believed that St. Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Trinity, but the idea cannot be proven.

The shamrock, which is also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the 17th century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.

As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and practice of Catholicism, many Irish began wearing the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and displeasure with English rule.

# Students serve others

COLLEGE, *from page 1*

funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal and donations, helped the college students answer the call from the U.S. bishops to put Catholic social teaching into action — the students were invited to choose from five service opportunities with the hope of making a difference in other people's lives.

Some students painted houses for Habitat for Humanity, others ate lunch and visited with homeless persons at Urban Ministries in Charlotte. Other students chose to work in Belmont with women and children in transition at Catherine's House, with people living with AIDS at House of Mercy, or with children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation at Holy Angels.

"My group went to Urban Ministries," said Samantha Bennert, a student from Appalachian State University. "While we were making cookies there, someone I met starting singing gospel songs and, within minutes, there wasn't a dry eye in the room."

"It was a day of affirmation for me," said Molly Murtola, a junior at Western Carolina University who hopes to minister to the poor after graduation.

"I met a man at Urban Ministry who told me he thought God brought me here today. It made me realize that we are all part of each other."

At Catherine's House, students volunteered to paint, clean or organize the kitchen pantry.

"A lot of people my age have ended up staying at a place like this," said Matthew Bennett, a student at Appalachian State University. "I feel that by painting a room, I may be actually helping someone I know."

"Everyone was so grateful for our help," said Saul Burleson, a junior at Lee University. "The residents have hard lives, and what we did today made their lives a little easier."

"We can't always understand why people suffer, but we can accept it in the suffering of Christ and take an active role in this world to change the way we think and feel," he said.

At Holy Angels, students served a Valentine's Day cake to the residents.

"Watching their faces light up as we sang and danced with them was so meaningful to me," said Melissa Kelly, a student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who is studying to be a special education teacher.

"Seeing these children made me realize that my calling will be difficult, but I believe it is worth doing and I still want to pursue it."

After their various jobs were complete, students spent the remainder of the day in small groups. They discussed how Christ and the Gospels were revealed to them.

"Even if I never go back to Urban Ministries again, the next time I bake cookies or see a homeless person, I will always remember my experience," said Kaitlyn Ranney, a student at Wake Forest University.

"I know a lot of people my age are feeling unfulfilled. They seem to be searching for something deeper," she said. "It makes me wonder what is missing. I plan on serving after my graduation and I need to know I am here for a reason."

"This experience was the first time in my life when I was surrounded by people whom I could be afraid of, but I wasn't," she said. "There is nothing like walking in someone else's shoes."

Alaina Gross, a student at Western Carolina University, was impacted by her visit with residents of House of Mercy.

"These people are staring death in the face, yet they are so joyful," said Gross, who told her fellow students to live life for every single breath.

"My hope is that we don't sweat the small stuff," said Mandy Carroll, from Wake Forest University. "There are people out there who wish they could just sweat the small stuff, but every day they have to deal with AIDS."

The students ended their weekend with a celebration of unity and a deeper understanding of where God might be leading each of them.

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# Culture Watch

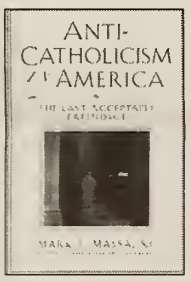
A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Exposing Anti-Catholicism roots in America

REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. HAYES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Anti-Catholicism in America," by Jesuit Father Mark S. Massa, is an eye-opening chronicle and analysis of this insidious prejudice. It takes a firm constitution to look evil in the face, and Father Massa's book does not flinch. It is a welcome addition to the growing historical record of this American scourge.

Since obtaining his doctorate from Harvard, Father Massa has been a probing student of American culture. Today he co-directs the Center for American Catholic Studies at Fordham University, one of the leading research organs on the church's national experience.




"Anti-Catholicism in America: The Last Acceptable Prejudice," by Jesuit Father Mark S. Massa. Crossroad Publishing (New York, 2003). 245 pp., $24.95.

Father Massa begins by reviewing three standard explanations for why anti-Catholicism still rears its ugly head: cultural, intellectual, and sociological. Culturally, it is embedded in the nation's history, beginning with the English Puritans who brought a distrust of Catholics to the New World. Their recollections of the reign of Queen Mary Tudor, battles with Catholic Spain and George Foxe's bloody tales of Catholic torturers in his "Book of Martyrs" were still fresh and influential. The Puritan settlers passed their biases on to future generations.

Intellectually, Catholicism posed a challenge to post-colonial America. The response was to portray Catholics as unsupportive of democracy, reason and individual freedom.

There are two sociological currents that have influenced anti-Catholicism in America. One is nativism, which Father Massa defines as "a fear of 'outsiders' by cultural 'insiders.'" Another is the secularization of America, the decline of the importance of religion that coincided in direct proportion to the rise in the nation's pluralism.

However one chooses to understand the problem, anti-Catholicism remains with us. Father Massa recounts a brief history of this scourge through three centuries and then looks at several public expressions of the idea.

He examines the work of Paul Blandshard, whose scurrilous books on American Catholicism sold hundreds of thousands of copies in the 1940s and 1950s. The election of John F. Kennedy is analyzed in light of attacks from the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale and his associates. Other popular Protestants come under fire, such as the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart, who in the course of his ministry (which was not without its own problems) tangled with the late Bishop Stanley J. Ott of Baton Rouge, La., over the televangelist's assertions that Catholicism was a false religion offering "a fraudulent path to salvation."

In one of the most provocative chapters, Father Massa examines the contents and effects of a notoriously anti-Catholic cartoon series produced by Jack Chick. These "Chicklets" have penetrated popular culture through an estimated distribution that tops 400 million. Father Massa's exposure of Chick's canard is as thorough as it is humorous as, for example, when he supplies "a short course in Chicklet theology, if only to illustrate its amazing consistency over time (in which it is later than you think)."

Father Massa brings his careful argument to a close by making a distinction between self-critique born of love for the church and Catholic bashing. He notes that recent crises within the church are not occasions for prejudicial venting against the hierarchy, but respectful calls for accountability are positively imperative. Amen!

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 28, 2004

## *March 28, Fifth Sunday of Lent*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126:1-6
2) Philippians 3:8-14
3) Gospel: John 8:1-11

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I got fired from my first professional job after only three months.

A new college grad, with my bachelor's degree and a mistaken notion that I was God's gift to journalism, I traveled across the country to take a position as a reporter for the local daily in a small town. At 21, I was brand new to the workplace but didn't take editors' correction well and lacked respect for the meaning of "business attire."

I appeared, no doubt, to have an attitude problem, but mostly I was just an immature, inexperienced kid.

When the editor told me he was letting me go because I just wasn't cutting it, I realized immediately the truth about my failure. It was a result of my own misplaced pride and childish behavior.

Once I walked out the door, my know-it-all attitude turned to shame. I became a much humbler job seeker, visiting every newspaper in that state. A few editors were interested in hiring me until they found out why I'd left my previous job. This happened over and over again.

My assurances that I'd learned my lesson weren't enough as I suddenly looked to them like a problem waiting to happen: "Sorry, no openings."

I left for home feeling hopelessly marked for life. But on the way, I stopped at a newspaper office to apply for a sports-writing position I'd heard about. As I interviewed with the sports editor, I took a breath when we came to the part where he asked about my previous job. I admitted what had happened.

"Do I need to worry about that happening here?" he asked.

"No, sir."

"Good. Then there's no problem. You can start Monday."

Freed of the expectations of failure, I became a new person — and a pretty good reporter — working hard, coming in early, asking veteran writers and editors for advice, and appreciating every assignment I got.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus shows his mercy in forgiving the accused woman's failings and then further frees her from her sins with a simple dismissal of them as "past history" that won't be repeated. Our loving Lord, always pulling for us, allows us to start over, knowing that with divine encouragement we can grow to be the righteous person God created us to be.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 - MARCH 27**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent),** Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 28 - APRIL 3**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent),** Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:12-20; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-56

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## 'Window' shows top-notch performances

CNS PHOTO FROM COLUMBIA PICTURES

Johnny Depp and John Turturro star in "Secret Window," an absorbing psychological thriller set in an isolated lakefront cabin about a successful novelist (Depp) who is terrorized by a stranger (Turturro) claiming the author plagiarized one of his short stories and demanding restitution, threatening the scribe with a brand of backwater justice that includes cold-blooded murder. Recurring gory violence, a discreet fleeting sexual encounter, some crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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# 'Eternal Sunshine' beams with originality, cleverness

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Despite a labyrinthine plot, artsy camerawork and a title that doesn't exactly lend itself to the marquee (swiped from a poem by Alexander Pope), Michel Gondry's bold new film, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," (Focus) is one of the most original, cleverly crafted and emotionally resonant movies to come down the pike in a long time.

Cast against type, Jim Carrey stars as Joel Barish, a scruffy, unlucky-at-love loner who impulsively plays hooky from his job on Valentine's Day and hops a train to the tip of Long Island. Wandering along a desolate Montauk beach, he meets Clementine (Kate Winslet), a bohemian free spirit with blue hair.

Her mercurial elan coaxes Joel out of his introverted shell so that by the end of the 17-minute pre-credit sequence, their offbeat opposites-attract relationship is firmly established.

It seems only natural, therefore, to share in Joel's post-credits confusion when he approaches Clementine with a gift — what seems like a few days later — and she acts like she has never seen him before. Neither Joel nor the viewers are left scratching their heads long, as it is quickly revealed that (for reasons left rather vague) Clementine has employed the services of an enigmatic company called Lacuna, and had all memories of Joel erased from her brain.

Devastated, Joel decides to undergo the same procedure in a depression-easing tit-for-tat. The erasure takes place in Joel's dingy apartment one night, with the unconscious patient's head placed in what looks like an industrial-strength colander that systematically zaps his memories of Clementine one by one.

The film wisely avoids the pratfall of being overly technical in explaining the process involved, which undoubtedly would have weighed down a more mainstream movie.

Overseeing the procedure is Stan (Mark Ruffalo), and Patrick (Elijah Wood). The operation is nearly botched when Patrick splits to make a move on the now-available Clementine and Stan takes a breather by getting stoned with Lacuna's pretty blonde receptionist (Kirsten Dunst), who is also present.

Most of the action, of course, actually takes place in Joel's head — more specifically in his memories. During the mnemonic erasure, snippets of recollections play out, filling in the blanks of their rollercoaster relationship.

From the depths of his psyche, Joel, conscious of what's going on in his head but unable to abort the procedure, realizes that he truly loves Clementine — despite the painful reminiscences. He begins to retreat with his memories of happier days into the recesses of his mind, "hiding" Clementine in childhood memories, desperately clinging to some trace of her, before she is deleted by the oblivion of forgetfulness.

Reining in his rubber-faced repertoire and manic energy, Carrey delivers his most subdued yet resonant performance to date, while Kate Winslet delivers a fittingly frenetic performance, donning the hat of hyperactivity usually worn by her uncharacteristically restrained costar. Tom Wilkinson also shines as Dr. Howard Mierzwiak, the head of Lacuna, whose marital infidelities have unforeseen consequences for the star-crossed lovers.

The screenplay by Charlie Kaufman echoes the self-conscious quirkiness of "Adaptation" and "Being John Malkovich" (both also penned by Kaufman), but is by far the most developed in terms of character and human drama. But for those who have not acquired a taste for Kaufman's unconventional brand of storytelling, the at-times intentionally convoluted, nonlinear narrative may prove a bit confusing.

Camerawork by Ellen Kurras supplies the film with an impressionistic stream of haunting images enhancing the overall surreal feel of being trapped inside the dreamscape of Joel's mind. As he loses his hold on Clementine (or his memories of her), the road through Joel's head takes on the darker tones of a nightmare. In one particularly heart-wrenching scene, Joel cries out in vain, begging Stan not to erase the memory of an exceptionally happy moment he shared with Clementine.

Despite some unnecessary crassness, the film makes some poignant reflections about the centrality of memories in defining our personalities. And while no one would argue the vital role memories — both positive and negative — play in making us who we are, viewers should be vigilant against rationalist assumptions that would reduce a person to the sum total of his or her mental processes. For Christians, man is more than memories.

The film also touchingly explores the mixed bag of interpersonal relationships and the vagaries of the human heart as it wrestles with regret and missed opportunities.

While movies dealing with memory loss are quickly evolving into a separate subgenre ("50 First Dates," "Paycheck" and "Memento," to name just a few), Gondry's film is, by far, the most ingenious, audacious and, if you'll excuse the pun, memorable of the lot.

Given the plethora of puerility and surplus of schlock set to glut multiplexes in the coming summer months, this modest but inspired piece of filmmaking is a warming ray of sunshine.

Due to implied sexual encounters, fleeting rear nudity, some drug content and recurring rough and crude sexual language, as well as profanity, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Pictures Association of America rating is R — restricted.

## BOY SCOUTS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY

COURTESY PHOTO

Adult leaders and Scouts from Troop 174 at St. Gabriel Church celebrated the 94th anniversary of Scouting in America Feb. 8.

# St. Gabriel's Troop 174 recognizes accomplishments

CHARLOTTE — The 94th anniversary of Scouting in America was Feb. 8, and Troop 174 from St. Gabriel Church had a lot to celebrate.

During a special Mass at the church that day, the Scouts celebrated their accomplishments during the past year, including the recognition of four adult leaders for their service and dedication to Scouting.

Mike Newy, Kris Knudsen and Don Bohlen received the St. George Award presented by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting recognizing "their outstanding service to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts of America."

In addition, adult leader Jack Hagopian received the Golden Pelican award for his commitment to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in Scouting.

The adult recognitions are evident in the Scouts' work in fulfilling the basic Scouting principles, such as duty to God, duty to country and duty to others.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are active in ministries within the parish, serving as altar servers, readers, eucharistic ministers, religious education instructors and participants in music ministry.

Many Eagle Scout projects have benefited Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, the Diocese of Charlotte's Cardinal John Newman House for Seminarians, the home of Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and the St. Gabriel Church rectory.

Scouting places importance to rank advancement, with the Eagle Scout being the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve. This rank has such high standards that universities and employers recognize it as an indication of the person's character and ability to achieve.

An equally important goal that Scouts can strive to achieve for their faith is represented by the Ad Altre Dei Award, and three young men in Troop 174 will soon complete work to receive this award.

Jeff Malondo, David Rue and Adisson Demallie have put in many hours of community service and study of the Catholic faith, learning the correlation between the teachings of the church and the Boy Scouts' principles.

# Courting a winner

## Wake Forest coach to speak at Catholic Social Services event

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — One of college basketball's best coaches will be sharing his secrets of success next month.

Skip Prosser, head basketball coach at Wake Forest University for the past three seasons, will speak on "Winning in Life, On and Off the Court" at the Partners in Hope Event April 15 benefiting Catholic Social Services Piedmont Triad Office.

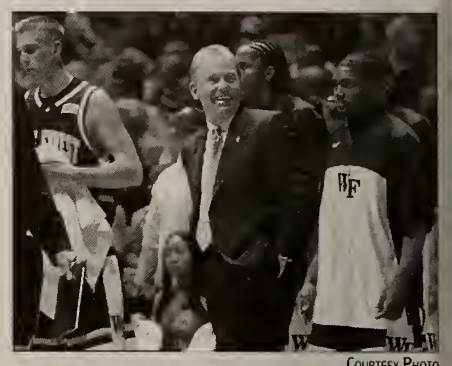
Prosser, who is a member of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, was asked to speak at the event because of his extensive work with young adults for the past 30 years.

"Prosser has been a mentor to young people for many years," said David Harold, director of the Piedmont Triad Office.

The Piedmont Triad Office offers several programs for young people, including Host Homes (an outreach program for troubled youth), Hand to Hand (services for teen parents) and Sisters/The Code, an after-school program promoting self-esteem, decision-making skills and abstinence.

Proceeds from the Partners in Hope event will benefit the various ministries of the Piedmont Triad Office, which include counseling, adoption and pregnancy services and limited emergency food and financial assistance, according to Harold.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and Sister Dennis Eileen Gamber, Sister of St. Joseph, will serve as honorary co-chairs of the evening.



COURTESY PHOTO

Skip Prosser, the head basketball coach at Wake Forest University, smiles on the court of Lawrence Joel Coliseum.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT TO GO?**

The Partners in Hope event will take place at Bridger Field House on the Wake Forest University campus April 15 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $75 per person and include dinner, drinks and address by Skip Prosser. Business attire is requested. Call for reservations by April 5; (336) 727-0705.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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# Near overturn revealed

ABORTION, *from page 1*

Wade decision written by Blackmun.

After writing the Roe majority opinion, Blackmun said he received more than 60,000 pieces of hate mail, a small sample of which is in the library collection of his papers.

The Casey case, which was upheld in a 5-4 vote, reaffirmed the "central holding" of the Roe decision but as a compromise position it also upheld four provisions of Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act that it said would not pose "undue burden" on pregnant women, including informed consent, a waiting period, parental notification and other recordkeeping prior to abortions.

According to reports in Blackmun's files, Chief Justice William Rehnquist initially led a five-justice majority in the Casey case and he had been set to write the majority opinion when Justice Kennedy suddenly changed his mind.

Kennedy wrote to Blackmun saying he needed to see him whenever he "had a free moment."

"I want to tell you about a new development in Planned Parenthood vs. Casey, and at least part of what I say should come as welcome news," he wrote.

When Blackmun received Kennedy's note, according to his papers, he wrote the words "Roe sound" on a pink memo pad.

Nothing in the papers reveals why Kennedy, who is Catholic, changed his mind in the decision and ended up voting with Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, John Paul Stevens and David Souter.

Mark Chopko, general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the details about Kennedy's change of mind in two 1992 cases is the most interesting part of Blackmun's papers.

"Certainly justices are allowed to reconsider their positions as the case develops and as their own thinking is aided by briefs and argument," he said in an e-mail to Catholic News Service. "It shows how close Roe was actually to being reversed. That reversal will have to wait for another day," he added.

Robert Destro, a professor at The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, said Blackmun's papers reveal just how "suggestible" Kennedy is.

He said the notes show that Kennedy "didn't apply the law, but instead considered how it would play out in the newspapers."

Destro also told CNS in a telephone interview that he wasn't surprised by Kennedy's change of mind because in the Casey case in particular, it was "obvious that someone had changed sides."

Blackmun's notes reveal that another case in which Kennedy had a sudden change of mind was Lee vs. Weisman, a 1992 case challenging the constitutionality of clergy-led prayers at graduations.

Kennedy, who was initially going to write the opinion for a 5-4 majority upholding the prayers, wrote to Blackmun after several months saying that his "draft looked quite wrong." Kennedy's revised draft then became the opinion of the 5-4 majority which called the clergy-led prayers unconstitutional.

In both cases where Kennedy's swing vote made a difference, the U.S. Catholic Conference, as it was then called, filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting what ended up being the minority opinion.

Blackmun's notes also reveal some of the struggle he personally faced with capital punishment decisions.

In a 1967 case in which the court upheld a conviction and death sentence, Blackmun, who was writing the majority opinion, added a concluding paragraph that showed his doubt about the sentence and the death penalty in general, adding that executive clemency might have been more appropriate.

After being criticized for this paragraph by two of the justices, he took it out, but his notes show that he regretted this decision.

"I continue to kick myself for withdrawing my comment about capital punishment," he wrote to then-Chief Justice Warren Burger. "In retrospect, I suppose it was expediency, namely to avoid a hoedown in court. Yet I was right about it and one never should compromise when one is right."


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# A reflection of "The Passion of the Christ"

## Guest Column

FATHER JOSEPH SOBIERAJSKI, SJ
Guest Columnist

Someone suggested the other day that I might share my reflections on seeing "The Passion of the Christ" since everyone seems to be talking about the movie in either very positive or very negative terms, and as a result, some people are confused about its biblical accuracy, its possible anti-Semitism and its violent brutality.

I'm not quite sure how well I can talk to these things, but I would begin, however, by reminding everyone that "The Passion" is a movie, and like every work of art, it is subjective. It is subjective in the sense that it is a personal interpretation of an event by the director, and it also is subjective in the effect it has on the viewer.

We need only look at the history of art to see how various events from the Passion have been portrayed in the West. Raphael's "Crucifixion with Mary and St. John" reveals the Christ of Renaissance perfection, in a scene which belies what a Roman crucifixion was all about; there is no blood, no wounds, no sense of suffering in the handsome Apollo-like Christ, and those at the foot of the cross reverently mourn in graceful tranquility.

Yet, the crucifixion of Christ from Matthias Grunewald's "Ishenheim Altarpiece," created within the same time period, presents a violently tortured Jesus — his skin a putrid green with every lash of the whip, every bruise, every gash, every wound vividly shown and exposed. When painting the same scene, these two artists had different intentions, and we react to the two versions of the same scene in very different ways.

My own response to Mr. Gibson's movie was, almost to my surprise, quite positive. It is a powerful film. It is a violent film — perhaps the most violent film that most of us will ever see. It touched me deeply.

Why? I've meditated many times on the Passion of Christ in my ordinary prayer and my yearly retreats, but I have never understood, indeed I have probably tried not to understand, the suffering — both physical and psychological — that Jesus endured for me, for us.

Some would say that could be done with far less violence. Yet I think that the point is this: Christ took on all of our sinfulness, the sinfulness of human kind from the beginning to the end, and no matter how violent and inhuman his suffering is made on the screen, it doesn't even come close to what he endured. I didn't like watching what was on the screen, and I did turn my face away, and yes, the tears did well up. But I don't believe that all of the violence was simply there to pull on my emotions. Will this movie change my life? Well, I hope that those images of Jesus scourged, beaten and crucified will remain vivid in my own mind whenever my own thoughts turn in any way violent toward my brothers and sisters.

Is this a perfect movie? Of course not. Countless critics have already pointed out its shortcomings. Is it anti-Semitic? If you want to see anti-Semitism in it, you will. Is it true to Scripture? Yes and no. It is like doing an Ignatian contemplation on the Passion: it starts with Scripture, but also makes use of the imagination.

Was it too violent? Yes, for some, but I don't see the violence as gratuitous. As I mentioned above, it has a purpose. Does it give us a full view of the Jesus who taught, healed, fed and forgave, and then became the Christ through his passion, death and resurrection? No.

Any story, movie, painting or sculpture that considers one part of Jesus' earthly life as discrete in itself is going to give less than an accurate picture of who he was and what he did. From the Incarnation to the Ascension, the totality of Christ's life, death and resurrection is a unity. To look at only part of it is to see with a distorted eye.

Yet, does that stop us from celebrating Christmas as a feast in itself?

Do I recommend it? Well, I can only say that as difficult as it was to watch, I am not sorry that I saw it, and I will probably see it again. That said, be warned. This is one of those movies, one of those experiences in which way you get out of it depends very much on what you bring to it.

*Jesuit Father Joseph Sobierajski is pastor of St. Peter Church in Charlotte. He was Undergraduate Dean of Arts and Sciences at Loyola College in Baltimore, Md., and taught art history and studio for many years before his assignment at St. Peter Church.*

# Pope at audience, asks St. Joseph to watch over families

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Anticipating the March 19 feast of St. Joseph, Pope John Paul II prayed for families, particularly those in his native Poland, and encouraged young people to follow God's plan for their lives as St. Joseph did.

The pope's remarks about the feast day came at the end of his March 17 general audience; his main talk was a continuation of his series of explanations of the psalms used for evening prayer.

The mid-March audience was the first of 2004 to be held outside in St. Peter's Square. For 10 minutes before the audience began, the pope rode in an open popemobile, waving to and blessing the crowd.

Speaking to Polish pilgrims at the audience, the pope said the feast of St. Joseph "calls on today's families, comforted by the example of Mary and Joseph, who cared for the Incarnate Word with love, to draw from their (the Holy Family's) lifestyle inspiration in making daily decisions and strength in overcoming difficulties."

"Only in an authentic family, loving and united for life, can children reach a healthy maturity, drawing upon the example of unconditional love, faithfulness, mutual dedication and respect for life," the pope said.

"I pray that Polish families will be like this," he said.

He also spoke about St. Joseph in his remarks to Italians present in the square under a sunny spring sky.

The pope prayed that St. Joseph would help young people "to follow each day the desires of the Lord," that he would give support to those who are suffering and that he would help newlyweds accept God's plans for their new families.

In his main talk, the 83-year-old pope spoke about Psalm 21, a hymn of thanksgiving to God for his blessings on the king.

The Jews came to view the psalm as a hymn to the hoped-for messiah, the pope said, and later Christians read it as referring to Christ.

At the center of the psalm, the pope said, is gratitude for God's blessings on the king, particularly the blessing of life and of "length of days forever and ever."

With the resurrection, God gave Jesus not only a long life, but eternal life, he said.

"On the basis of this certainty, each Christian cultivates hope for the gift of eternal life," Pope John Paul said.

# A funeral Mass on Ash Wednesday?

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

*Q. Two years ago, I was told we could not have a funeral Mass on Ash Wednesday. This year a funeral Mass was celebrated on that day. Has there been a change? (Texas)*

A. Some slight changes have occurred in the past few years. According to regulations in the present Sacramentary (Missal), funeral Masses may not be celebrated on holy days of obligation, Holy Thursday, the Easter Triduum, and the Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter. There is no prohibition for Ash Wednesday.

Similar rules govern Ritual Masses, connected with celebration of the sacraments or sacramentals (weddings, for example, and Masses with anointing of the sick or baptism). These are prohibited on Sundays of Advent, Lent and Easter, solemnities, days in the octave of Easter, All Souls Day, Ash Wednesday and during Holy Week (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 3372 and 3380).

Note that it is funeral or ritual Masses that are prohibited. Funeral ceremonies, weddings and other sacramental liturgies without Mass may be celebrated on these days, with due respect, of course, for their liturgical character.

*A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Message for Mel Gibson: A sequel to "The Passion"?

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

After months of publicity about Mel Gibson's film "The Passion of the Christ," I was anxious to see it — curious to see for myself how this film presents the truths of the Gospel. When I saw it, I must say honestly that I was deeply disappointed.

We see the torment, the torture and the death of Jesus. But I believe that unless one is very familiar with the Gospels, the violence on the screen, depicting the excruciating pain Jesus willingly accepted, cannot really be understood.

Many people I have talked to about this film agree and believe there should be a next step for Gibson. Cal Samra, the man who founded the Fellowship of Merry Christians, is one of them. He thinks the actor/director should do an even more challenging sequel titled "The Resurrection of Christ."

I spoke to Samra, and it struck me that he was onto something important.

Samra acted on his proposal by seeking out Gibson's company, Icon Productions, in Santa Monica, Calif., sending them a framed print of the painting "The Risen Christ by the Sea" and a letter that said:

"We think it is important that we not only experience the redemptive power and the suffering of the passion of Christ, but also God's great power, victory and eternal joy in an equally compelling movie production of his resurrection."

In our conversation, Samra was very clear in saying why he contacted Gibson.

"There's a major hole here. My thinking is that you can see what the Lord suffered and that really impacts you. But that's only half the story. I'm suggesting something extremely challenging: Do a sequel on the resurrection. There's so much more that goes on later. Can anyone ignore Christ's presence down the centuries?"

Samra told me that he has witnessed a new phenomenon that should be getting attention. Many modern churches are reviving the very old Christian tradition of resurrection celebrations. "One day is not enough to celebrate the resurrection," he explained.

He spoke of early Christians, naming the Greeks, Slavs and Italians, who had Easter celebrations that lasted a week, ending in "Bright Sunday," which was seen as the beginning of Christ's permanent presence in the world.

"These have died out over the last 1,000 years, but now a revival is happening," he repeated, mentioning several churches nationwide from Florida, Indiana and North Carolina to California.

At the First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Fla., Bright Sunday has been celebrated again for the past five years, Samra told me. "Butterflies, a Christian symbol for the resurrection, were adopted as a decorating motif," he said.

"People are invited to dress in their brightest colors for worship that Sunday. Last year fiber optic lights were strung throughout the church. Included in each bulletin was a bookmark in the shape of a cross, with a butterfly and these words imprinted on it: 'Because I live, you also will live.'"

Samra's mission began 19 years ago after a traumatic experience catapulted him into a new understanding of God's love and goodness for each of us, revealed in the life, death and resurrection of his son, Jesus.

The fellowship Samra began, with the help of his wife, Rose, was sorely needed for it focuses on the light, laughter and joy Jesus gave to the world. The name of their publication says it well: "The Joyful Noiseletter."

I hope to read in it one day that Gibson was inspired to act on Samra's suggestion with a sequel titled "The Resurrection of the Christ."

# A way of getting teens to Mass

## Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

As we struggle daily with pledges to go without something for the 40 days of Lent, we should take a serious look at the Adam-and-Eve Principle of the Universe: "Once you are told you may not do something, you want to do it all the more."

How come? Why would a nonbreakfast eater like myself, for example, develop an intense desire for International House of Pancakes after being told by a doctor not to eat before 9 a.m.?

Why will a 4-year-old circle the cookie jar for hours after being told to stay out of it? Yes, a 40-year-old will do the same thing.

We Catholics should use Lent to make this hands-off-the-apples thing work for us, not against us. Especially if Lent is a time to light a fire under our faith lives.

So maybe we should make it harder to go to church. Instead of using cattle prods to encourage our children to go to Mass, forbid it. Instead of paying your teen's car insurance as a bribe to attend confirmation classes, just tell the 16-year-old he or she may not attend church.

I can hear it now:

"My dear daughter, you may no longer attend confirmation classes. And we are thinking about making Mass off limits too."

"What?" asks daughter.

"You heard me. No confirmation. Probably no Mass."

"Is this a joke?"

"No joke. You just aren't mature enough to be confirmed. Stay away from St. All Saints for a while."

"But my friends are in that class."

"Tell someone who cares. Besides, that doesn't make you mature."

"Who says I'm not mature enough?"

Do not answer. Roll eyes.

"So, like, how do you measure maturity? I bet Msgr. O'Kneel thinks I'm mature enough."

"He doesn't live with you."

"We gotta talk about this."

"No we don't."

"I'm going to call Msgr. O'Kneel. And I can pay my own car insurance."

See? I think this will work. Of course, it could be a little tricky trying to persuade state and federal governments to pass laws making it difficult to attend church so that we will become fired up about attending church. Maybe we could tell our legislators there's no way they could do it. That might do it.

I think I hear voices in the cookie jar. I'd better go check.

# The jobs and vocations young adults want

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

Terry Johnson, 30, graduated from the University of Notre Dame with an M.A. in theology and was eager to change the world. She worked for a large Midwestern parish for a few years, but became frustrated with rigidity among church staff: lack of open-mindedness to her new ideas and an absence of innovative ideas.

She began losing her love for the church; the energy and creativity that she evidenced while in school dwindled. So she packed up her talents and skills, and decided to try her luck at corporate America.

She bought a few nice suits and nylons, moved to a growing urban area and worked an office job — an entry-level marketing position — until she grew restless there too. The paycheck was nice, and the health benefits were incredible — not a small matter today when good health care is increasingly more difficult and costly to come by. But she left work feeling a bit empty.

"Am I really contributing anything to society?" she wondered. She returned to the question so many young adults ask over and over: "What is my vocation?"

Renee LaReau, a young-adult writer, chronicles the struggles of many 20- and 30-somethings in her book "Getting a Life: How to Find Your True Vocation." Like Johnson, LaReau and friends want to use their full potential, to find jobs that give glory to God. On top of that, it would be nice to get paid.

For LaReau, me and tons of other young adults, the word "vocation" used to conjure up images of religious life.

I can vividly recall the knot in my stomach as I explained to Sister Marie in fourth grade that I thought I was "called." When Sister Marie explained to our class that God calls a few special children to serve him in religious life, I was convinced my future involved taking care of elderly nuns in a building that resembled a retirement home.

I wanted to serve God, but my convent visits did little to attract me to that life. The fact that I loved God meant one thing: cutting my hair short and tucking it behind a veil.

As I studied religion in college, my understanding of "vocation" widened. I was relieved to discover that I might be able to shop at the Gap and still serve God.

LaReau articulates a similar experience when she writes: "Something happened to me gradually in my 20s as I went through college and graduate school, developed friendships and entered the working world. I began to sense that this concept of 'vocation' wasn't nearly as narrow as I'd thought. I began to catch some 'glimpses of grace,' hints that God was at work in the lives of my friends and family, that each of us was being called by God in our own way."

She quotes the spiritual writer Father Henri Nouwen, who wrote, "My deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God I have been allowed to catch."

Indeed, vocation takes many forms in the lives of young adults today.

We know that no job is perfect and that no person, place, thing or career ever will fill the void that is simply part of being human. Only faith in a loving God and a few other things — like faithful friends, a caring family, a sense of humor — can help to satiate the thirst that keeps us searching, learning and wondering.

And when we grow exhausted, as we often do, it helps to know that we have the company of each other.

# Sacred Heart Church is foundation of Catholic faith in Rowan County

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury was dedicated in November 1940 and is now home to 830 Catholic families.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
128 North Fulton Street
Salisbury, N.C. 28144
(704) 633-0591

**Pastor:** Father John T. Putnam
**Parochial Vicar:** Father Julio Dominguez
**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Patrick Vallandingham, Rev. Dr. James Mazur
**Pastoral Associate:** Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams
**Number of Households:** 830

Father John T. Putnam

SALISBURY — Almost a century before a Catholic diocese was established in North Carolina, a small group of Rowan County Catholics gathered in Salisbury to celebrate their faith. That early presence led to the foundation of Sacred Heart Church, a parish rich in history and spirit.

The Roueche family, immigrants from Alsace, France, settled in Salisbury in the late 1830s. With the handful of Catholics living in the area attending, the Roueches hosted what was perhaps the first Mass celebrated in Salisbury. Father Timothy Cronin of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., celebrated, and periodically returned to the town until his death in 1842.

Missionary priests visited Salisbury from time to time to celebrate liturgies in private homes during the next few decades. The local congregation grew, thanks in part to a number of converts to the faith. Cardinal James Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore, Md., and vicar apostolic of North Carolina, occasionally celebrated Mass during his visits to Salisbury.

In 1881, Salisbury Catholics welcomed their first resident pastor, Father Patrick Moore, whose task it was to build a church in town. After a year of securing a site, fundraising and building, the completed church was dedicated by Bishop Henry Northrup of Charleston and named in honor of the Sacred Heart in 1882.

Benedictine monks assumed responsibility for Salisbury when Abbot Leo Haid became vicar apostolic of North Carolina in 1887. One of these monks, Benedictine Father Joseph Mueller, built the first rectory. The church was elevated to parish status in 1898, and the community again had a resident pastor to minister to its needs.

Sisters of Mercy from Belmont opened a private convent-school in 1910 near Sacred Heart Church. Through negotiations between the sisters and Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh, the school became a parish institution in the early 1940s.

As the congregation continued to grow, work began in 1940 to begin construction of a new church and rectory. In November, Bishop McGuinness, Abbot Vincent Taylor and monks from Belmont Abbey presided over the dedication ceremony.

Salisbury was incorporated into the Diocese of Raleigh in 1941, and Father Cletus Helfrich was appointed the first diocesan pastor to serve at Sacred Heart Church. He remained there until his death nearly 30 years later, overseeing church improvements and the elimination of the parish debt along the way.

A new Salisbury parish, Our Lady of Victories, was established in 1942 to serve black Catholics in the area. That community later merged with Sacred Heart Church.

During World War II, Sacred Heart Church served the pastoral and social needs of many Catholics stationed in the area. Saturday evening dances, Sunday morning breakfasts and other opportunities for fellowship were offered in the new church facility.

A new, split-level school was built in 1965 to accommodate the growing number of enrolled students.

Father Helfrich died in January 1971, the same year that Sacred Heart clergy's pastoral duties were extended to a newly built veterans' hospital in town.

The following year, the Diocese of Charlotte was formed and Father Thomas Clements was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church. Remodeling efforts during the 1970s and '80s included updating the layout of the church to conform to Vatican II standards, and refurbishing the basement and dedicating it to Father Helfrich's memory.

Father (now Msgr.) Anthony Kovacic, a native of Yugoslavia, was appointed to Sacred Heart Church in 1979. Through his guidance, a new diaconate program was established in the diocese.

In June 1982, Father Richard Allen was appointed to Sacred Heart Church. During his administration, a new entrance to the church was constructed and a colonnade built to connect the rectory and church.

By that year, the registered congregation was comprised of 435 families. The parish celebrated its 100th anniversary that year, and Msgr. John Roueche, a descendent of Richard Roueche, one of the Catholic pioneers in Salisbury, delivered the homily at the jubilee Mass. Msgr. Roueche was born, baptized, made his first communion, confirmed and ordained in Salisbury. He returned to the church in September 1993 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

A house located on the same block as the church was purchased for parish use in 1985. Named Marian House, it has been utilized as a preschool and for other parish functions. More classroom space has been added behind the house since then.

In August 1988, Father (now Bishop) Peter J. Jugis was appointed as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church. He served until the fall of 1989.

Father Clements also returned to Sacred Heart Church in 1988. Following a series of needs-targeting meetings, the parish kitchen was expanded and the parish hall refurbished.

On Oct. 11, 1992, priests and 300 parishioners of Sacred Heart Church gathered to honor three women who had given a total of 43 years to Sacred Heart Church. Arva Thomas retired after 10 years and Agnes Tompkins retired after 20 years as secretaries, and Mercy Sister Mary John Madden, principal, was honored for serving Sacred Heart School for 13 years during two assignments.

To welcome the growing number of Hispanic residents in Rowan County Sacred Heart Church began a full-time Hispanic ministry with a Spanish-language Mass in October 1995.

In April 2002, Mercy Sister Mary Robert Williams, pastoral associate since 1983, was honored with a Good Samaritan of the Year Award by the Civitan Club of Salisbury for her work in the parish and community.

A number of ministries thrive at Sacred Heart Church, including Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, prison ministry and youth ministry, and Elizabeth Ministry is in its beginning stages.

Father John Putnam, who became pastor in July 2000 and is now also vicar forane of the Salisbury Vicariate and judicial vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte, now ministers to 830 families.

"It's a very ethnically diverse parish and that brings together a nice blend of the community," said Father Putnam.

The congregation continues to grow, and in 2003, the parish purchased a 40-acre tract of land with plans to build a larger church and school in the near future.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: **St. Andrew the Apostle Church** | Page 16

MARCH 26, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 26

## Pope: Patients must get nutrition, hydration as long as possible

**'VEGETATIVE STATE' DOESN'T MAKE ONE LESS HUMAN, SAYS POPE**

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Patients who are in a persistent vegetative state, even for years, must be given nutrition and hydration as long as their bodies can absorb the nourishment, Pope John Paul II said.

"The administration of water and food, even when delivered using artificial means, always represents a natural method of preserving life and not a medical act," the pope told an international group of physicians and ethicists.

The pope met the group March 20 at the end of a four-day meeting on the ethical decisions surrounding life-sustaining treatments for patients in a persistent vegetative state.

The conference, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for

See LIFE, page 13

## Growing faith

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Beth McDuffie places a silk flower symbolizing God's nurturing love on the garden display during St. Matthew Church's Women's Day. The annual event brings women together for a day of reflection, bonding and socializing.

FOR FULL STORY, SEE PAGE 8.

**A VISIT TO THE VATICAN**

CNS FILE PHOTO

Pope John Paul II meets with a group of French bishops during their "ad limina" visit to the Vatican Feb. 27. U.S. bishops will begin to make their visits to Pope John Paul II in late March. The encounters, which occur every five years for heads of dioceses, combine prayer, pastoral planning and personal conversations with the pontiff.

## Not your ordinary CEO: U.S. bishops begin meetings with pope

**BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS LOOKS FORWARD TO VATICAN MEETINGS**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis is returning to the Vatican.

Bishop Jugis is among the first U.S. bishops making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican in late March, a series of encounters that combine prayer, pastoral planning and personal conversation with Pope John Paul II.

Bishop Jugis studied at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, and was ordained in 1983 by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica.

The bishop will be at the Vatican March 27-April 2, along with nearly two dozen other bishops from the southeastern United States. The Diocese of Charlotte is part of

See MEETING, page 7

**Annie in Asheville**
*Students perform major production*
| PAGE 5

**In Our Schools**
*Holy Trinity, St. Matthew, Immaculata*
| PAGE 6

**Perspectives**
*The pope, the pill, 'The Passion'*
| PAGES 14-15

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MEMORIES OF MOLDOVA

CNS PHOTO COURTESY JO ROGERS

Peace Corps volunteer Jo Rogers of Pacific City, Ore., is pictured with a family in Briceni, Moldova, in 2003. She spent two years working in the poverty-stricken former Soviet republic.

## Oregon Catholic woman spends two years in Moldova with Peace Corps

PACIFIC CITY, Ore. (CNS) — Jo Rogers, 71, spent two of her golden years working 5,000 miles from home in a poverty-stricken former Soviet republic strewn with pesticides and still polluted from the nuclear explosion at nearby Chernobyl, Ukraine.

She'd do it again, too.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova during 2001-2003, the member of St. Joseph Mission in Cloverdale, Ore., worked with elderly people who get almost no social support in the small nation.

Until recently, Moldova was a land without even a soup kitchen.

Rogers, a great-grandmother and veteran social worker, marshaled a network of Moldovan visiting nurses and linked them to older people in need. She paved the way for seniors to attend clinics and other service outlets. In the midst of it all, she also made friends and learned the value of a simple life.

A few years ago, Rogers met a former Peace Corps worker who told her that about 6 percent of the organization's volunteers are age 50 and older.

She did some research and decided to serve in Moldova, a country that is about the size of Maryland, sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine.

Despite the language barrier, Rogers was the only American living in the small regional hub of Edinet, where toilets are outdoors and schools and other buildings have no heat.

Rogers' small two-room apartment had a single electrical outlet. Her bed was hard, and she had to collect water from a nearby well.

She worked in clinics where patient rooms were unheated and the stained mattresses were filled with straw. Patients were required to bring their own linens. One day, she watched a man in his 50s die from a heart attack because the clinic had no working defibrillator and no oxygen.

In the north, a new Peace Corps-initiated soup kitchen served one meal a week, preventing the starvation deaths common in previous years.

For the very poor, the Russian and Romanian Orthodox churches operate church schools. The nation of 4.5 million has about 20,000 Catholics, but only three Catholic parishes.

"I missed contact with the church," Rogers said.

She read Scripture and prayed the Stations of the Cross in her apartment since it was two hours by bus to the nearest Catholic church.

Now at home, Rogers plans to visit many of the friends she made in the Peace Corps.

## New yearbook of churches shows membership, giving on rise

NEW YORK (CNS) — Christian church membership and giving rose in 2002, but the proportion of giving for benevolences fell to a new low, says the new *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.*

Prepared for and edited by the National Council of Churches, the 2004 edition of the yearbook lists U.S. and Canadian church bodies with a brief description of each.

Total U.S. Christian church membership for 2002 was nearly 161.2 million, about 2.2 million higher than in 2001, the yearbook says. The largest denomination was the Catholic Church, with 66.4 million. The Southern Baptist Convention ranked second with more than 16.2 million members.

Most major churches recorded membership increases in 2002, but losses were recorded by the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and United Church of Christ.

Among 59 U.S. denominations that reported total giving nationwide in 2002, church contributions per member grew to $658.63, about $36 higher than the year before. Those denominations had a combined membership of nearly 47.8 million, who contributed a total of nearly $31.5 billion.

The Catholic Church does not provide national figures on membership giving, so it was not included in the yearbook figures. However Joseph C. Harris, a longtime researcher on Catholic giving patterns, recently estimated the nation's 66 million Catholics gave their church about $9.15 billion — $8 billion to parishes and $1.15 billion to dioceses and other Catholic organizations.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave., will present a *Passion play* March 30 and April 2 at 7 p.m. and April 4 at 8 p.m. Admission in free. For details, call the church office at (828) 693-6901.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will host a *"Treasures from your Trunk"* sale April 3, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the church parking lot, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, contact Marjory Dury at (704) 846-6962 or Rita Brennan at (704) 849-7077.

CHARLOTTE — *Mass will be celebrated in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 4 at 3:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* (AOH), Mecklenburg County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men in the United States will conduct an open membership meeting April 9 at 8 p.m. for those interested in joining. The meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Council 770 Hall, E. Kingston Ave. Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-mail ncaoh@aol.com for further information.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* with a holy hour April 18 at 3 p.m., including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. For more information, call Gail Abraham (704) 786-0709.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes begin April 21 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 -11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican disapproves of killing of Hamas leader

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican spoke out against the killing of Hamas founder and spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin, assassinated March 22 by missiles from Israeli helicopters as he left a mosque in Gaza City.

"The Holy See joins the international community in expressing its disapproval of this act of violence, which is not justifiable in any state of law," said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, head of the Holy See's press office

In a statement released March 22, Navarro-Valls said, "The position and feelings of the Holy See are clearly expressed in the words of the Holy Father to the diplomatic corps on Jan.12."

Navarro-Falls highlighted a portion of Pope John Paul II's address earlier this year to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See, in which he addressed continued violence in the Holy Land.

"I will never tire of telling the leaders of these two peoples: The choice of violence, the recourse, on one side, to terrorism, and on the other side to reprisals, the humiliation of the adversary, hateful propaganda, all lead nowhere," said the pope.

"Only respect for the legitimate aspirations of both parties, a return to the negotiating table and the concrete commitment of the international community alone can be the first step toward a solution," he said.

Navarro-Valls said the pope had underlined in his speech that "true and lasting peace cannot come out of a simple show of force; 'it is the result of moral and juridical action.'"

# Pope tells seminarians no conflict in serving diocese, wider church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II reminded seminarians in the Neocatechumenal Way movement that there was no contradiction between serving the needs of their dioceses and fulfilling the church's universal mission of salvation.

In an address March 18 to some 120 members of Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Rome, the pope praised its success in forming "a great number of zealous priests."

But, he said, "You must avoid the false choice between pastoral service in the diocese to which you belong and the universal mission" to proclaim the Gospel "for which you are especially prepared through your experience with the Neocatechumenal Way."

Redemptoris Mater seminaries are run by the Neocatechumenal Way, an international movement in the church grounded in parish-based communities that provide religious instruction and fellowship.

The pope expressed his gratitude to the founders of the movement, Kiko Arguello and Carmen Hernandez, "who did so much to promote, within the Way, vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life." More than 30 Neocatechumenal Way seminaries have been set up around the world since the movement's founding in Spain in 1964.

The pope told the seminarians that upon their ordination, their bishop, not the movement, would be entrusted with deciding their "actual destination."

He said the bishop "has in his heart both the needs of the diocese and the needs of the universal mission. By entrusting yourselves to obey his decisions cordially and faithfully, you will find interior peace and serenity."

He added that whether they are called to serve the local diocese or be sent elsewhere to spread the Gospel "either way you will be able to express your missionary charism given that, even here in Rome, there is an ever-growing need for evangelization."

Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. The next meeting will be April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., will host a Lenten reflection series, *"The Purpose-Driven Life,"* Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m. through April 7. This series is based on Rick Warren's book, which is a journey to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" To register, call the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., beginning April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

April 6 — 11 a.m.
Chrism Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 8 — 7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 9 — 7:30 p.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 10 — 8:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 11 — 11 a.m.
Easter Sunday
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

# Top o' the morning, Bishop

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis visits with students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte after saying Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### THE CROSS — OFFICIAL SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY

The cross was a well-known symbol before the time of Christ. It was used as a special mark on clothes and buildings. However, when Christ was crucified, the cross became a symbol of suffering. With the resurrection of Christ, the Christians came to see the cross as Jesus' victory over death. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., Emperor Constantine issued a decree that the cross would be the official symbol of Christianity.

# On their way

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: LIMEX facilitators Clarence Fox and Peg Ruble stand with students Mary Sorel; Ann Miller; Carolyn Richards; Amy Blakley; Linda Cowart; Debbie Kovacich; (non-student) Father John Hanic, pastor of St. John Baptist de la Salle Church; Jay Mazaleski; and Chuck Lucas.

## *Eight to graduate from ministry extension program in May*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

NORTH WILKESBORO — A group from the Diocese of Charlotte recently took another step in their path towards ministry formation.

Eight people held their last LIMEX class together at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church March 18. The group turned in their papers for the final course, and was then highlighted at a Mass celebrated by Father John Hanic, pastor.

The LIMEX (Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension) program offers master's degrees and non-credit, continuing education certificates in religious education and pastoral studies from Loyola University of New Orleans.

The group from North Wilkesboro will be able to attend graduation ceremonies at Loyola University in May.

"They've worked hard and grown a lot in their faith as a result of their participation in the program," said Frank Villaronga, director of the diocesan office of Evangelization and Ministry Formation and the liaison between Loyola University and the Diocese of Charlotte.

The diocese began sponsoring the opportunity for higher education in 1998. Prior to that, the Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., was the sponsoring agency for students in the diocese.

Founded in 1983, the 36-hour program offers a total of 12 classes for the non-traditional student, a person who works a full-time job or has a family and cannot attend classes on a college campus. Since the diocese does not offer a master's level program in those areas, people who wish to continue their educations can take advantage of LIMEX.

Participants can acquire a master's degree or a certification in continuing education, said Villaronga.

The students gather with a Loyola-trained facilitator and discuss what they have read for the class and have videos and audiotapes as supplements to their own study. Each class can require from one to four papers with up to 20 hours of preparation per week.

The 10 core courses consist of subjects such as practical theology, pastoral leadership and organization, church, sacraments and ethics and other classes. The two focus classes include youth ministry, Hispanic ministry, religious education and other areas of concentration.

"The students meet in groups, so they are able to be challenged and challenge others as they focus on practical theology," said Villaronga. "They integrate the material into their lives and into the complex world around them."

Villaronga said LIMEX groups can be formed anywhere there is interest. Currently, additional groups are being formed in Charlotte, Greensboro and the Smoky Mountain area.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For further information about the LIMEX program, contact Frank Villaronga at (704) 370-3274.

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# The king of strings

COURTESY PHOTO

Keiran Campbell, a sixth-grader at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, recently won first place in the elementary/middle school division of the 5th Annual Cello Competition at the Music Academy of North Carolina March 13. Cellists from Virginia, Massachusetts and Maryland competed.

St. Patrick Cathedral
The Very Rev. Paul Gary, *Rector*
Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero, *Deacon*
Rev. Lawrence LoMonaco, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina, *Deacon*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Holy Tuesday, April 6, 11am**
Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Holy Thursday, April 8, 7:30 pm**
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Good Friday, April 9, 3pm**
Stations of the Cross

**Good Friday, April 9, 7:30 pm**
Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Holy Saturday, April 10, 8:30 pm**
Easter Vigil Mass
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Easter Sunday Masses**
8 am, 9:30 am
11 am, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant
12:30 pm

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Daddy Warbucks (Alex Swendsen), Annie (Taylor Ruff), President Roosevelt (Daniel Bradley) and orphans perform during "Annie Jr." at Asheville Catholic School March 18.

# 'Annie' in Asheville

## *Students perform school's first major production*

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — "It's the Hard-Knock Life" at Asheville Catholic School.

The first major production of the school's drama department, "Annie Jr.," played to a receptive and enthusiastic crowd opening night, March 18.

Based on "Annie," the popular Broadway musical, "Annie Jr." was directed by religion teacher Lisa Kennedy and involved more than 80 students — one third of the student body — either on stage or behind the scenes. The school's "junior" version, performed four times to more than 1,000 people March 18-21, featured shorter scenes and songs suitable for children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

**"It was the school's first major drama production and the students showed all of Asheville what talented children we have."**

**— Lisa Kennedy**

"It was amazing," said Kennedy. "It was the school's first major drama production and the students showed all of Asheville what talented children we have."

"The students produced the entire play, said Kennedy, from designing costumes to advertising. "They even baked the goodies sold at the concession stand," she said. "They made the play from A to Z."

When Kennedy came to Asheville Catholic School this year, she noted the school did not have a theater arts program, in which she has experience. She suggested an after-school program, which she said "snowballed" to dozens of students.

"Everyone — faculty, staff and parents — has been very supportive and encouraging," said Kennedy.

Before the March 18 show began, six "orphans" wowed the audience with their Irish step-dancing routine. The musical opened with the orphans, comprised of kindergarten through eighth-grade students, singing, "It's the Hard-Knock Life."

To get the various age groups to sing in unison and tune, Kennedy said they first practiced in small groups before coming together in the last three weeks.

Annie, played by third-grader Taylor Ruff, and Sandy, played by first-grader Emma Lenderman on opening night, had no trouble hitting the high notes of their duet, "Tomorrow."

Other cast members included eighth-grader Alex Swendsen as Daddy Warbucks and sixth-grader Daniel Bradley as President Franklin Roosevelt.

All four performances of "Annie Jr." were sold out before opening night. After the show, awards were presented to students who sold the most tickets and advertising, with recognition for the parents who assisted with the production.

Kennedy said there are plans to bring "The Sound of Music" to the school in February or March of next year.

"Our goal is to have 100 or more students in that show," she said.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

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# Making strides

## *Holy Trinity students succeed with shoe drive*

CHARLOTTE — Catholic middle school students are making a difference — feet first.

The sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School worked diligently to make the recent Samaritan's Feet shoe drive a success.

The eight Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) kicked off their "Shoe of Hope" collection drives Feb. 2. Samaritan's Feet sponsored the drives in the Catholic schools in celebration of Black History Month in February.

Samaritan's Feet barrels were set up in the MACS schools to receive donated shoes through Feb. 25.

Within the few short weeks of the drive's duration, shoes piled high in the thousands at Holy Trinity.

"The shoes just kept coming in," said Richard Roach, director of school campus ministry. "I've been teaching for over 24 years and have never seen this kind of response from students."

Local retailers joined the foot frenzy and anonymously kicked in up to 50 or 60 pairs a piece.

Roach credited the students' motivation to a message from Emmanuel Ohonme, founder and president of Samaritan's Feet, a Charlotte-based humanitarian and interfaith evangelical organization dedicated to providing shoes for the feet of impoverished families in the United States and the world.

Ohonme, a Nigerian native, conceived of the idea for Samaritan's Feet more than four years ago. His life was changed when, at the age of nine, he received his first pair of shoes from a "Good Samaritan" from Wisconsin who visited Ohonme's hometown of Lagos. Ohonme went on to participate in sports and eventually earned a full sports scholarship to attend the University of North Dakota.

Shoes collected from Samaritan's Feet drives have been sent to needy families in various parts of the world, often where shoes are a luxury. When the shoes reach the families, the missionaries wash the feet of the recipients, just as Christ did with his disciples, and they pray with them.

To hear the difference a single pair of shoes made in Ohonme's life was all the Holy Trinity students needed to get their feet moving, according to MaryAnn Jerrum, a member of the school's communications committee.

By March 22, the first truckload of shoes had been shipped out, and another truck was scheduled to pick up the overflow. The shoes would be sent to children in Africa and around the world.

"I can't believe he became a college basketball player all because of a pair of shoes," said one student.

As a result of the shoe drive, the Holy Trinity students were reminded of their ability to change a life and the additional gift of a renewed appreciation for the basics, starting feet first.

In April, the Diocese of Charlotte will support the Samaritan's Mile run to begin at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte, April 10.

# Court champions

Courtesy Photo

St. Matthew School's fifth-grade basketball team, coached by Tripp Roakes and Sean Kilmartin, went 13-0 and won the regular season and league tournament. Players pictured are Nick Frost, Patrick Gorman, Austin White, Michael Sardo, Alex Jensen, Alex Kilmartin, Jacob Favory, Blake Selland and Brendan Guthrie.

# Immaculata School sweeps chess championship

Courtesy Photo

Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker celebrates with Immaculata School's K-3 chess team, who took first place in the North Carolina State Championship in Raleigh March 6-7. Pictured (from left): Josh Horwitz; Tayler Jones; Clare Little; Charles Meeker, mayor of Raleigh; Adena Allen, Reid Motter, Devin Duque, and Landan Rimbault.

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculata School's K-3 chess team won first place in their category of the North Carolina State Chess Championship at North Carolina State University in Raleigh March 6-7.

This is the third time in four years the school's K-3 team has won the state championship.

The K-5 team placed third and the K-8 team placed fourth. More than 28 schools competed in the state championship.

Immaculata School, which has 40 students participating in its chess club, sponsors several tournaments throughout the year, including one for girls called "Girls Just Want to Play Chess" on April 17. The school also has a summer chess camp for K-6 students.

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|---|---|
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# Bishop meets pope

MEETING, *from page 1*

Region 14, which includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Conducted by regional groupings over the next 10 months, the "ad limina" visits will represent the most extensive review of church life in the United States since the sex abuse crisis erupted into a national scandal two years ago.

But while the pope is expected to speak about priestly sex abuse, the agenda for the "ad limina" visits is much broader than that. Diocese by diocese, the meetings will take the pulse of sacramental life, vocational trends, liturgical developments, religious education and a host of other areas.

Bishop Jugis, like other bishops, will get about 15 minutes alone with the pope to discuss the situation in his diocese.

"I am looking forward to meeting with the Holy Father in person and telling him about the vitality of our parishes and the spirit of generosity the people in the diocese show in welcoming newcomers," said the bishop.

Bishop Jugis also plans to discuss how the Diocese of Charlotte has responded to priestly sex abuse issues.

"I will share with him all our diocese has done before and since the compliancy audit to create safe environments in our churches for our young people, and the number of clergy, employees and volunteers who have been trained to recognize signs of sexual abuse," said Bishop Jugis.

"Also, I'll tell him that I have been praying daily for victims of sexual abuse and that I have been asking the people of the diocese to pray for them," he said, "I will also tell him how the diocese has been offering assistance to victims who have come forward through the victims' assistance coordinators."

The "ad limina" visits are made every five years, and their name comes from the Latin phrase "ad limina apostolorum" (to the thresholds of the apostles), a reference to the pilgrimage to the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul that the bishops are required to make.

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin made his first "ad limina" visit as ordinary of the Diocese of Charlotte in March 1998.

"I told the Holy Father of the wonderful generosity of our people, and that I bring with me their prayers and love for him," said Bishop Curlin after his visit.

Bishop Curlin's visit with the pope, which also lasted about 15 minutes, included dialogue about the increase of Catholics and development of multicultural ministries in western North Carolina; Catholic schools, youth ministry and faith formation programs; and vocations in the diocese.

From the outside, "ad limina" visits may look a lot like branch managers being called to the head office. The bishops say that's not the mood on the inside.

"We're actually looking at it as a spiritual pilgrimage," said Australian Bishop Michael Putney of Townsville, who was in Rome for his "ad limina" visit in mid-March.

"The first thing is visiting the tombs of the apostles, and the second is spending time with the pope. Those are the priorities, although visiting the Vatican congregations is an important exercise in communion," said the archbishop.

Because of his frailty, Pope John Paul's participation in the visits has lessened in recent years. Unlike previous visits, this time U.S. bishops cannot count on concelebrating Mass with the 83-year-old pontiff or having lunch with him in his private apartment.

The pope still greets the bishops as a group and either delivers a talk or hands them the text. He still takes the time to meet with each bishop individually, although these encounters often last less than the standard 15 minutes of previous years.

COURTESY PHOTO BY BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS

**Pope John Paul II embraces Bishop Peter J. Jugis at his priestly ordination at St. Peter's Basilica June 12, 1983. Bishop Jugis will return to the Vatican to meet with the pope for his "ad limina" visit in late March.**

Especially for bishops on their first "ad limina" visit, the papal audience is an important moment. Typically, the pope listens more than he talks, but intersperses enough detailed questions to amaze some of his guests.

Media attention on these visits frequently focuses on problem areas, and the pope is sometimes depicted as a tough CEO who dishes out criticism. In fact, the pope takes care to highlight the positive as well as the negative, and generally he's very encouraging to the bishops.

Bishop Jugis said he had no concerns or worries about meeting with the pope.

"I feel very confident that we are serving the people of God considering the growth we have," said the bishop. "Many of our parishes are growing and expanding, and many are undertaking pastoral planning or completing capital campaigns for building projects," he said.

Vatican sources said the pope's speeches to U.S. bishops are likely to cover a wide range of issues, including:

— Pastoral challenges in the wake of the clergy sex abuse crisis.

— The bishop's role as teacher and a figure of doctrinal unity.

— Formation and selection of priesthood candidates.

— Evangelizing in a pluralistic society.

— Pro-life issues like abortion, euthanasia and genetic experimentation.

— The importance of the Eucharist and proper liturgical celebration.

— The ongoing tensions between the clerical and lay roles, along with the decline in priestly vocations.

— Marriage and family life and pastoral outreach to young people.

The sources said the pope's words undoubtedly will strike some political nerves during an election year. Abortion, homosexual unions, the death penalty, economic justice and the U.S. role in the world are all likely campaign issues that will find an echo in some papal speeches.

But the pope will try to make sure his words cannot be seen as meddling in partisan politics.

"He will state the principles and let others draw the conclusions," said one Vatican official.

Preparation for the "ad limina" visits begins long before the bishops arrive in Rome. Based on a 25-page list of questions from the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, each local bishop prepares a five-year report detailing diocesan life under headings including family, education, doctrine and morals, clergy and religious.

The report goes to the Vatican, where a summary is prepared for the pope. In theory, the reports are due six months before the visits begin, but in practice they arrive much closer to the "ad limina" dates, according to several bishops. The Vatican also encourages a separate common report from each group of bishops, presenting issues that need to be taken up with Vatican offices during their visit.

When the bishops arrive in Rome, they typically go as a group to the major congregations — the Vatican departments dealing with bishops, doctrine, education and seminaries, and liturgy and sacraments. The bishops like to have quality time with the cardinal-prefect of the congregations, but that doesn't always happen.

"Since this is my first 'ad limina' visit, I will go to all of my meetings as a learner who is open to any questions the congregations may have about the Diocese of Charlotte," said Bishop Jugis.

On the third or fourth day of the visit, bishops usually split into subgroups or call individually on other Vatican departments, depending on personal interest or pending diocesan issues. They gather in the evening to share the results of their conversations.

All bishops say a spiritual highlight is concelebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, near the tomb of the first pope. They celebrate a similar liturgy in Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Both moments remind the bishops of how, in the earliest days of the church, St. Paul journeyed to Jerusalem and spent two weeks consulting with St. Peter about their respective ministries. In those days, the traveling was harder, the agenda was simpler, and St. Paul wasn't carrying a five-year report in his suitcase.

*John Thavis of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

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# Planting seeds in the garden of God

## *Women explore God's motherly love*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Each spring for the past five years, women have gathered at St. Matthew Church to celebrate Mary's Annunciation, when she consented to be the mother of Jesus Christ. They socialize, pray and reflect on this pivotal event in the life of Mary.

This year's Women's Day brought together more than 130 women to ponder the theme "How does YOUR garden grow?" March 20. The day's discussions revolved around God's parental love and how to cultivate a relationship with God.

"What keeps you from planting your seed in God's garden and allowing him to nurture you with his love?" was brought up by guest speaker Susan Brady, former southern regional director of faith formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Brady described God as loving and nurturing, like a parent who never abandons or stops loving her child. Throughout the day, she vividly related the many ways God reaches out to people and how they can respond to his love.

God did not remain in the Garden of Eden, but rather went with Adam and Eve after their expulsion, she said.

"God says to us, 'Here I am, where are you?'" Brady explained to her audience. "Our God is a God of second, third, fourth chances."

Brady described four types of soil in which a gardener plants seeds. First is the open ground, where the birds can come and eat the seed before it has a chance to take root.

The second type of soil is in thorns that choke the seed. Third is amongst the rocks, which prevent light and water from reaching the seed.

The fourth, ideal, soil is rich and fertile, which provides the seed with the nourishment it needs to thrive. Brady compared Mary and her obedience to God's will to the rich soil.

"Will you allow the shadow of the Lord to overpower you and give birth to the power of Christ?" Brady asked.

She said there are signs God knows his word "has taken root in you. You produce serenity, peace and understanding. In turn, a person with these qualities is difficult to battle or upset."

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Two participants at the St. Matthew Women's Day place flowers on the garden display. At the bottom of the display felt "stones" can be seen, which were removed from the garden and used to built the wall enclosing the garden.**

She also stressed the importance of gratitude, which "shows you're paying attention," as a way to improve one's relationship with God.

"Gratitude will produce in you humility," she said. "It's very difficult to give someone a gift who won't receive it."

"Constant thanksgiving will allow you to build a wonderful rapport with God," she said. "That rapport in turn breeds joy."

"So much of life is acceptance, especially your relationship with God and the human condition," Brady said.

Brady urged the women to contemplate what "stones need to be removed from your garden."

These "stones" symbolize what is lacking in a person, what is a barrier to loving God and allowing her to return to the security of the Garden of Eden. Such barriers are frustration and fear.

Brady illustrated how stones can also have positive connotations. In ancient times, women sat on stones while giving birth. Therefore rocks were not associated with foundations, but with bringing forth life.

According to Brady, in his Gospel John wrote that at the end of our lives, God will give each of us a stone and on it will be written a new name, symbolizing who we really are.

"We were aiming for an uplifting day, one that is inspiring for women," said Beth McDuffie, a member of the Women's Day steering committee. "We want the women to leave feeling better about themselves."

"God is our master gardener," said Emily Bowling one of the participants. "We are plants in his garden, each with our own strengths and weaknesses. God provides all that we need to grow in his love."

### ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD MARCH 25

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*Great Blacks in Wax Museum*

*St. Francis Xavier Church*

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*Inner Harbor of Baltimore - shopping, dining, touring*

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ITINERARY:

**Friday, April 30**

3 pm - leave Charlotte via deluxe motor coach

5 pm - leave Winston-Salem via deluxe motor coach overnight in Baltimore

**Saturday, May 1**

*Morning.* National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, largest Catholic Church in US and 6th largest in the world - 60 chapels and oratories representing the multi-ethnic community comprising the universal church

*Afternoon:* Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Baltimore - over 100 wax figures and scenes. Established 1983.

*Evening:* Inner Harbor, Baltimore - dining, shopping, touring.

**Sunday, May 2**

*Morning:* Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, Baltimore, oldest black parish in US, established 1793

*Afternoon:* Oblate Sisters of Providence Motherhouse and novitiate, oldest order of Black nuns in US

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

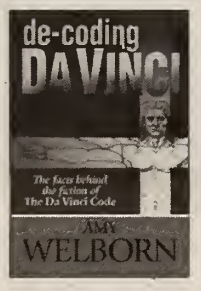
## New book examines issues raised in 'The Da Vinci Code'

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — "The Da Vinci Code," a best-selling book by Dan Brown, stirred up controversy with its assertions that the Gospels didn't tell the true story of Jesus and claims Jesus married Mary Magdalene and appointed her to lead a feminist spiritual movement.

"De-Coding Da Vinci: The Facts Behind the Fiction of 'The Da Vinci Code,'" a new book published by *Our Sunday Visitor*, examines these claims and countless others in the best seller and points out what it describes as factual and historical inaccuracies.

The best seller, published last




year, begins with the premise that Leonardo da Vinci used his art to communicate secret knowledge about the Holy Grail. It then claims early Christians did not see Jesus as divine and also criticizes the church for keeping secret thousands of texts that detail Christ's humanity.

"De-Coding Da Vinci," which will be in bookstores in April, was written by Amy Welborn, a columnist for *Our Sunday Visitor* and formerly for Catholic News Service. It asserts that Brown's novel contains a mixture of "a number of different strands of speculation, esoteric lore, and pseudo-history published in other books."

Welborn said there is simply no evidence to support the premise that Jesus wanted to begin a movement focusing on awareness of the "sacred feminine" which was eventually suppressed by Emperor Constantine.

She holds up many of Brown's claims to credible scholarly sources with the hope that readers will be able to distinguish fact from fiction.

In her introduction, Welborn finds fault with "The Da Vinci Code" for its claims to historical accuracy. She said the book's "imaginative detail and false historical assertions are presented as facts and the fruit of serious historical research, which they simply are not."

After Welborn takes a close look at Mary Magdalene, the Gospels, women in Christianity, da Vinci's art, Opus Dei, the Holy Grail and other topics, she concludes a positive outcome from the popularity of "The Da Vinci Code" is the interest it stirred in thinking about who Jesus really is, what Christianity was all about, and issues of gender and spirituality.

"What's unfortunate," she writes, "is that the reading public has embraced the historical assertions made in 'The Da Vinci Code' with such enthusiasm."

She notes the way people have been so taken up by the book shows a "failure of churches of all kinds to communicate these very basic facts of history and Christian theology" to their members. She suggests that readers set themselves straight by going back to a source they most likely already have on their bookshelves — the Bible.

*Editor's Note: "De-Coding Da Vinci: The Facts Behind the Fiction of 'The Da Vinci Code'" will be in bookstores this April.*

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 4, 2004

## *April 4, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion*

1) Luke 19:28-40
2) Isaiah 50:4-7
   Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
3) Philippians 2:6-11
4) Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Sorrow is one common reaction. Anger and grief and fear and puzzlement are others, often mixed together. Some will feel righteous indignation; others will be overwhelmed with gratitude. Many of us — our attention spans, sad to say, grown flaccid on a steady diet of overstimulation from television and video games and movies — will simply be bored.

There are many responses we may have then on hearing the solemn proclamation of the Lord's Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

One that offers us great hope for transformation is compassion. The word literally means "suffering with." It is different from pity, which looks on the suffering of others from afar. Compassion involves a deep connection with the one who suffers, a recognition of our fundamental kinship.

For followers of Jesus, the compassion arising from reflection on his suffering and death is a dangerous virtue. It breaks down the safe distance we often try to place between ourselves and the suffering of others. Compassion softens our hearts, not only to the pain Christ suffered on the torturous road to his execution, but also to the agony of Christ present in the suffering of his brothers and sisters living among us.

Where do we find the suffering Christ today? We find him in the deaths of children fallen before the onslaught of abortion; in the humiliation of people who are taunted and mocked for the sake of a laugh; in the ravages of malnutrition and disease visited upon the world's poorest people; in the oppression of those who confront economic and social injustice; in the devastating impact of addiction upon families and cultures.

In these final days of Lent, may we listen more carefully to the ancient story of Christ's suffering. May God grant us the gift of compassion and the courage to act on it.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 4 - APRIL 10**

**Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion),** Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11 Luke 22:14—23:56; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday),** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday),** Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16 5:7-9, John 18:1—19:42; **Saturday (Easter Vigil),** Exodus 14:15—15:1, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-23, Luk 24:1-12

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# 'Scooby' sequel is for the dogs

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Matthew Lillard and Scooby-Doo star in "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed," a stale sequel that finds the Scooby gang having to thwart a masked madman threatening to use a monster-making machine on their home town. Like its 2002 predecessor, the intentionally campy film stays true to its cartoon roots; however, it rarely progresses past the same sort of self-conscious parody of the first flick, resulting in a movie full of forced, retread humor and bloated special-effects sequences, lacking freshness — not to mention a coherent plot. Some mild crude language and puerile humor, as well as some scary action sequences. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

# Poll: Most Americans don't blame all Jews for Jesus' death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Less than 2 percent of Americans blame Jews and Jewish institutions of today for the death of Jesus, according to results of a poll taken within two weeks of the release of the movie "The Passion of the Christ."

By contrast, 24 percent of Americans familiar with the movie say Jews alive at the time were most responsible for Jesus' crucifixion.

Among those polled who had seen the film, 5 percent said "The Passion" made them more likely to hold Jews responsible, while 12 percent said it made them less likely to hold today's Jews responsible.

Nine percent said the movie made them less likely to hold Jews responsible, compared to 2 percent who said it made them more likely. Among both groups, at least 80 percent of those polled said the film made no impact on their attitude toward Jewish culpability.

The poll was commissioned by the San Francisco-based Institute for Jewish & Community Research.

"While the film may have a different impact elsewhere in the world, so far 'The Passion of the Christ' is not producing any significant anti-Jewish backlash" in the United States, said Gary Tobin, president of the Institute for Jewish & Community Research.

In a March 18 interview with Catholic News Service, Tobin said the polling results could differ over the long term and in other countries. After seeing the results from this survey, he said, "I think we'll have to do another poll."

Tobin said the results were "very good news that the teachings of Vatican II, and the teachings that have come from the Lutheran Church and other denominations, (are) what American Christians believe. In fact, they believe it to the tune of 98 percent. In all my life in polling, I've never seen 98 percent for or against anything."

He noted some Christian and Jewish leaders were "understandably worried" about anti-Jewish hostility as a result of the movie, adding their concern was "not unfounded given the rise of anti-Semitism around the world, and the central theme of Christ-killing in anti-Jewish prejudice."

In other survey findings, 62 percent said they were satisfied with "The Passion" the way it is, while 16 percent would have preferred more emphasis on Jesus' life and teachings; 64 percent said the movie provided an accurate and thorough portrayal of the meaning of Jesus' life, while 13 percent disagreed; and 62 percent said the film was true to the Gospels, while 19 percent said that director, producer and co-writer Mel Gibson imposed his own interpretation of events that may not be accurate.

The poll queried 1,003 adults, including 146 who had seen the movie, nine to 13 days after the film's Feb. 25 opening. The polling data is accurate within plus or minus 3.1 percentage points; the margin of error was 3.7 percentage points among respondents who had seen the film or were familiar with it.

# Without Gibson's star appeal, 'Therese' film has trouble finding niche

BY LELNA PENNINO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. — Absent the star power of Mel Gibson, who directed, produced and co-wrote "The Passion of the Christ," other privately funded Christian films are struggling to get into theaters.

One such movie is "Therese," the story of St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as the Little Flower, who lived a short life in a French Carmelite monastery doing little things with great love.

"Therese" had been scheduled for release last autumn, but it's been postponed until October to drum up public and monetary support.

"'Therese' is a different kind of film, filled with the innocence of simplicity and reveals the incredibly rich interior life of the human soul," said director Leonardo Defilippis, whose nonprofit firm, Luke Films, produced the film.

Although the 19th-century period production garnered a standing ovation from Catholic dignitaries associated with mission work at a private Vatican screening last May, it has not yet created a stir among the public.

"There have been difficulties," said Defilippis. He estimates the company still needs $2 million to open in select theaters. "This movie is a total work of charity. It has been done the 'Little Way' with all these little people scattered all over the world, trusting in this project."

"Therese" is relying heavily on publicity from a Web site called www.theresemovie.com and efforts from grass-roots religious volunteers to push the film into theaters.

"It's just how the Gospel started," Defilippis told The Long Island Catholic, Rockville Centre's diocesan newspaper. "Christ told the people around him and then the word just spread."

"Many miracles were needed to make this dream a reality," said Defilippis. Although St. Therese is a popular saint, Luke Films would need another miracle to drum up just a fraction of the attention "The Passion of the Christ" has achieved.

"Our movie, I have heard someone say, is like opening up a door and looking into a very private world. It's like looking into someone's soul," he said. St. Therese's adventures were mental, emotional and spiritual so "how do you go inside a young woman's heart and mind? That's the challenge. St. Therese is like the Blessed Mother, very hidden in the Gospel; there is not the drama of the Crucifixion."

St. Therese of Lisieux's story is a bittersweet one. She fell into depression after her mother died when Therese was 4. Her sister, who was like a second mother to her, left to join a Carmelite monastery a few years later. At 14, Therese fell in love with God, traveled to the Vatican and successfully petitioned the pope to allow her to enter a Carmelite religious order, although she technically wasn't old enough.

Although she died of tuberculosis when she was 24, Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a doctor of the church in 1997 — one of only three women to hold that honor — largely due to her philosophy of the Little Way. "What matters in life, is not great deeds, but great love," she wrote in her autobiography, "Story of a Soul," published after her death.

"She was not a Joan of Arc, not a Mother Teresa, she did not do dramatic things," said Defilippis. Yet the saint's Little Way resonates with many people including Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who took her religious name in honor of the Little Flower and borrowed the saint's philosophy, "Do small things with great love."

"A lot of us haven't done anything so dramatic that it will appear in the press and that's OK," said Defilippis. "You don't need to climb Mount Tabor or save a multitude. If you have love, help your mother, a stranger; you have given a great gift."

The director is hopeful that "The Passion of the Christ" will create a media path so other Catholic and Christian movie producers can follow in the wake of its success.

"'The Passion' is stirring up all kinds of things and awareness of Christ," he said.

"It's God's providence that the 'Passion' go first; Therese would want it no other way. The master should lead and the servant will follow," he said.

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# The rules of medicine

## *Bradley Institute, BAC explore ethics in research*

BELMONT — Missing cadavers at medical schools. Animal laboratory testing. Patient privacy and confidentiality. Experimental drug testing.

It seems everywhere you turn, medicine and research are making their way into newspaper headlines and on the news. More importantly, decisions made on these issues are beginning to come to light as some people are questioning the ethics involved.

The Bradley Institute and Belmont Abbey College will host a presentation by Dr. Edward Gabriele, "Within the Rules: The Limits of Integrity and Ethics in Medical Research," April 1. The event is free and open to the public.

Gabriele currently serves as director of Research Integrity and Ethics at the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and as special assistant to the Surgeon General of the Navy for Research Integrity and Ethics. He is responsible for overseeing a number of programs including human research, animal research, ethics faculty leadership and ethics publications programs.

He also holds an appointment as an adjunct assistant professor in the Development of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md., where he provides consultation in research ethics.

A former director for the Office of Research Administration and the Human Subjects Protection Program at the Naval Medical Research Center, Gabriele has earned numerous degrees. He holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees from Villanova University, a Master of Divinity from The Catholic Theological Union and a Doctor of Divinity from The Catholic University of America.

In addition to his work in research administration, Gabriele serves as an academic theologian for various communities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is the author of nine books of liturgical poetry and pastoral reflection.

The Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College, which is hosting Gabriele's visit, was founded in 1996 by its director, Dr. Robert A. Preston. Preston served Belmont Abbey College as its 13th president for six years until his retirement in 2001.

The Bradley Institute provides opportunities for business executives, career professionals and clergy to examine relevant ethical, theological and philosophical topics within the context of their modern lives. Program topics range from business, legal and medical ethics to history and philosophy.

The Institute is named for Rev. John P. Bradley, former president of Belmont Abbey College and former CEO and chairman of the board of Good Will Publishers of Charlotte.

**WANT TO GO?**

"Within the Rules: The Limits of Integrity and Ethics in Medical Research" will be held in Belmont Abbey College's Student Commons at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2004. Reservations are required for this free event; call (704) 829-7231 or go online at www.bradleyinstitute.org.

# Latin America in the 21st century

## *BAC hosts forum with local, international experts*

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College will hold a public forum, "Latin America in the 21st Century," April 3.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Latin America in recent years has not occupied a central stage in the American media," says Dr. Gabriela Tarazona-Sevillano, assistant professor and coordinator of International Programs at the college.

"There have been, however, a number of developments in the region which are important for academics, policy makers and the interested public," she said.

Tarazona-Sevillano said she hopes the forum will serve as a means to update students, academics, administrators and others on issues ranging from politics to economics and literature.

Other participants in the forum include: Dr. Alberto Hernandez, Spanish professor and department chair at Davidson College; Dr. Lyman Johnson, history professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Dr. Mario Mansilla, Latin American specialist from Washington, D.C., who will be the keynote speaker.

**WANT TO GO?**

"Latin America in the 21st Century" will be held in the Belmont Abbey College's Haid Ballroom, 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 3. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended for this free event. For details call (704) 825-6237 or e-mail gsevillano@bac.edu.

# New communications director for Diocese of Charlotte

## *Veteran journalist to develop communications plan*

CHARLOTTE — Veteran journalist and public relations executive David Hains has joined the Diocese of Charlotte as the director of communications.

David Hains

Hains will be responsible for the development of a communications plan for the diocese as well as media relations with the secular media.

Hains was acting spokesman for the diocese during January and February and worked to help the secular media understand the John Jay Study and the audit of diocesan conformance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

"I guess you could say that I had a baptism of fire in this job," Hains said.

Over the past 29 years, Hains has worked as a television reporter, news anchor and program host at five television stations in Charlotte. From 1993 to 1996, he was the spokesman for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

He has also operated his own video production and communications consulting company where he worked for the White House, IBM, Duke Energy and other corporate and public sector organizations.

Hains and his wife of 27 years, Deborah, have two children, Eleanor, 22 and Austin, 18. The family attends St. Mark Church in Huntersville where Hains serves as the chair of the parish's pastoral council.

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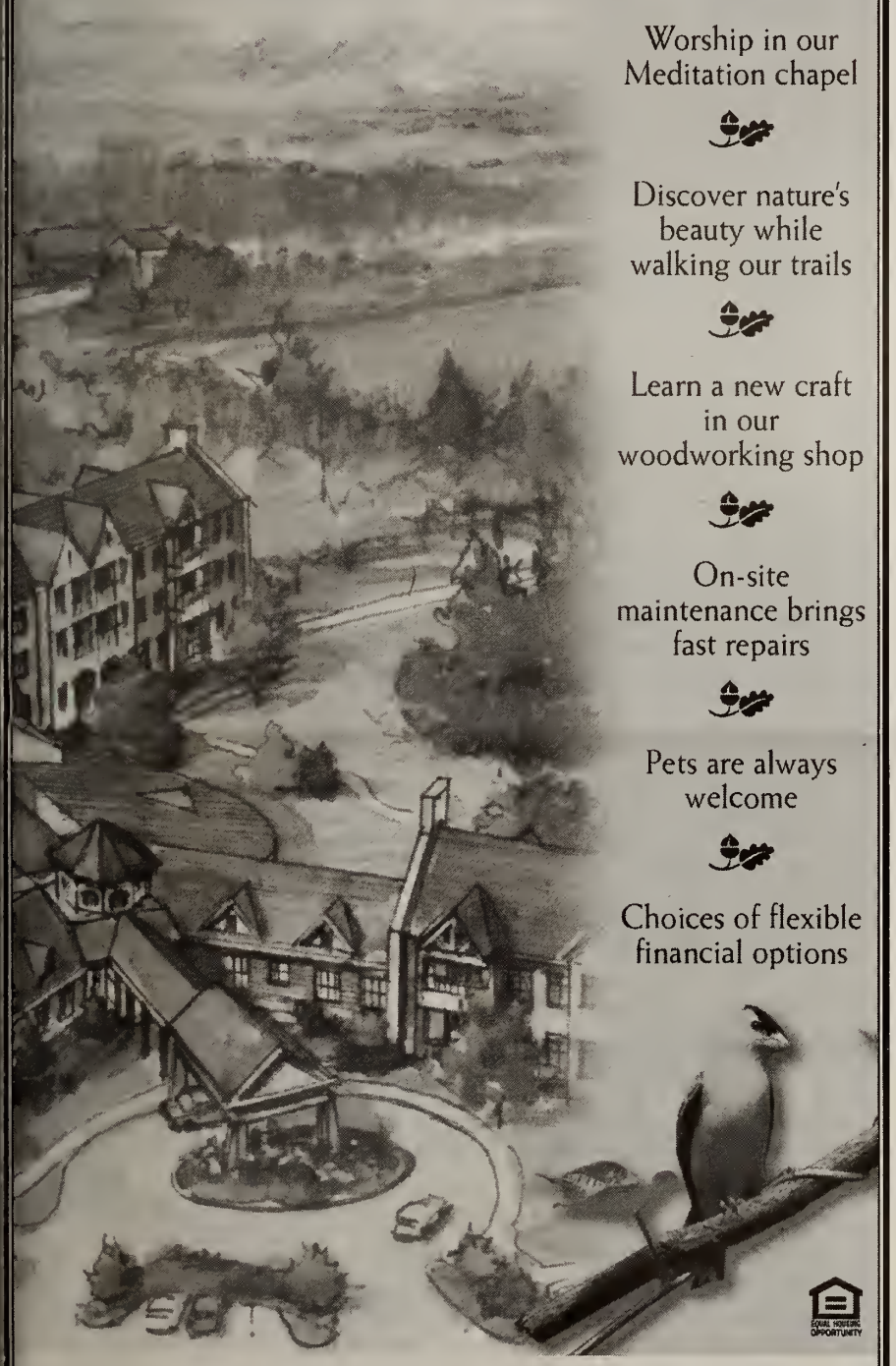

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# Life of patients must be sustained, says pope

LIFE, *from page 1*

Life and the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, brought together dozens of speakers with differing points of view, especially regarding the moment when providing artificial nutrition and hydration goes beyond an act of protecting human life and becomes a burdensome fight against death and the hope for eternal life.

Pope John Paul told them, while "vegetative state" has been accepted as a medical description of the clinical condition of patients who give no sign of consciousness or awareness of their environment, too many people think "vegetative" also describes the patients themselves, as if they were no longer human.

"I feel an obligation to reaffirm vigorously that the intrinsic value and the personal dignity of every human being does not change no matter what the concrete situation of his life," the pope said.

A human being "never becomes a 'vegetable' or an 'animal,'" he said.

"Even our brothers and sisters who are in the clinical condition of the 'vegetative state' maintain their human dignity in its entirety," he said. "The loving gaze of God the Father continues to watch over them, recognizing them as his children who are particularly in need of assistance."

Pope John Paul said that as long as the patient is not dying artificial nutrition and hydration must be considered "ordinary and proportionate and, as such, morally obligatory to the degree that — and as long as — they reach their aim, which consists in providing nourishment to the patient and easing suffering."

The pope said an evaluation of continuing care's monetary costs cannot outweigh the value of protecting human life.

Pope John Paul also urged doctors and parishes to do more to help the families of patients in a persistent vegetative state.

"They cannot be left alone with their heavy human, psychological and economic burden," he said.

Dr. Salvino Leone, a moral theology professor who works with the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God in Rome, said there is "a profound ethical and conceptual" distinction between causing death and letting someone die.

One must never hasten a patient's death, he told the conference March 20, and one always must provide pain relief, nutrition and hydration and take precautions so that bedsores and infections do not develop.

But a Christian, Leone said, also must recognize "letting die is a service to the gift of God, the humble consciousness of being a creature in the face of divine will and the acknowledgment of his absolute lordship over human destiny. In a single word: It is a true act of faith."

Determining the exact moment when it becomes ethical to let someone die is difficult to determine, conference speakers said, and some argued there even are instances when the artificial provision of nutrition and hydration is so burdensome to the patient and his or her family that it is not obligatory.

Dr. Gianluigi Gigli, president of the federation of medical associations, said the different positions presented at the conference reflected the complexity of the issues involved and the continuing search by Catholic ethicists and physicians to make decisions informed by the best medical opinions and the highest moral standards.

Ann Verlinde, president of the International Committee of Catholic Nurses, said that because nurses spend so much time with patients and their families their opinions should be given greater weight on hospital ethics boards and in discussions with individual families about continuing or withdrawing certain types of care.

In many situations, she said, "nurses find it easier than doctors to say, 'It is finished; let them go. We will be with them, caring for them as they die.'"

Msgr. Kevin T. McMahon of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia said that with patients in a persistent vegetative state artificially delivered nutrition and hydration are simply "the medically assisted supply of food and drink."

He said people should keep in mind that, while a return to consciousness is "highly improbable" after one year in a vegetative state, withholding nutrition and hydration always results in death.

Msgr. Marco Frisina, director of the Diocese of Rome's liturgy office, told the doctors March 17 that when medical treatment is useless the focus must turn toward helping the patient die a "good death" — not in the way proponents of euthanasia mean, but in the sense of dying with the sure hope of eternal life.


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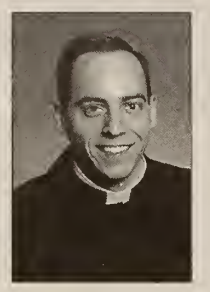
# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# A pastoral perspective on the pill

## Guest Column



FATHER MATHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST

The March 12, 2004 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* article entitled, "'Pill' justifications still hard to swallow," which featured a PBS documentary on the popularity of the oral contraceptive, could have left the reader in confusion regarding the Catholic Church's teaching on the birth control pill.

As a young priest, I have encountered a number of Catholics who seem to be confused on the Church's teaching regarding birth control. Some claim that they have never heard the Church officially condemn artificial birth control (contraception). Others may know what the Church teaches, but may not know why she teaches it. And others claim that the teachings concerning birth control are "gray matter" and therefore, the couple (or one's conscience) has the responsibility to decide whether contraception is right or wrong, acceptable or unacceptable.

This pastoral perspective on the pill seeks to bring clarity to a timely and controversial topic by briefly addressing the above concerns.

Sexuality and procreation can only be understood in the context of the marital covenant, as authored and defined by God and articulated by Divine Revelation. The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states, "Conjugal love involves a totality, in which all the elements of the person enter. ... It aims at a deeply personal unity, a unity that, beyond union in one flesh, leads to forming one heart and soul; it demands indissolubility and faithfulness in definitive mutual giving; and it is open to fertility." (No. 1643)

In other words, whenever spouses engage in expressing conjugal or nuptial love, their act of love involves totality, unity, indissolubility, fidelity and fruitfulness (fecundity) by its very nature. The act is designed to communicate the intimate and total giving of oneself to one's spouse, just as the reception of Holy Communion communicates the total self-donation of Christ to His bride, the Church.

Christ withholds nothing from the gift of himself to His Church, which is the fruit of His life-giving passion, death and resurrection. Likewise, nuptial love speaks the sacred words of Christ, "This is my body given for you." Therefore, each time husband and wife engage in conjugal love, they renew their wedding promises as they give themselves to one another totally, faithfully and fruitfully.

On the other hand, a contraceptive act, by its very nature, does not speak the language of nuptial love. Whether the contraceptive is chemical (like the pill) or physical (like the condom), a barrier is placed between the spouses who attempt to communicate love, resulting in the withholding of self, specifically one's fertility. Regardless if the couple willingly chooses to place a barrier between their union or intends to impede nuptial love, the frustrated act bespeaks a lie: "This is my body not given for you." It no longer communicates a love that is total or fruitful; it no longer truly expresses their wedding promises.

Consequently, the Church cannot ever accept contraception as a legitimate means of birth regulation. That is why the Church clearly teaches in paragraph 2370 (of the catechism) that:

"[E]very action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible" is intrinsically evil.

There is no ambiguity or "gray matter" in this particular teaching because there is no "gray matter" in an act which, by its very nature, impedes the natural ends of the marital act: union and procreation, love and life. Therefore, neither the couple nor the individual conscience have the capacity to define whether contraception is morally right or wrong, acceptable or unacceptable.

The couple does have a responsibility, however, to regulate procreation. The catechism maintains that, "For just reasons, spouses may wish to space the births of their children. It is their duty to make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but is in conformity with the generosity appropriate to responsible parenthood" (No. 2368).

That is why the Church supports and encourages couples to use natural methods of birth regulation (Natural Family Planning), since these methods utilize the natural periods of infertility designed by God. These natural methods respect God as the arbiter of life, as well as respect the natural rhythms created by God in the human person. Moreover, natural methods promote the goods of marriage and have none of the dangerous side effects to a woman's health clearly demonstrated by use of the pill.

As couples prayerfully discern the use of birth control in their families, I encourage them to research the issues (please consult the Couple to Couple League Web site for further information: www.ccli.org), speak candidly with a priest that they trust, and ultimately to discover the liberating truth offered by the Church, who faithfully speaks on behalf of Christ, her Bridegroom.

*Father Buettner is a parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.*

# Pope at audience, appeals for an end to violence

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II appealed for an end to "so much blood that continues to be spilled in many parts of the world."

"The world is still fearfully marked by hate, violence, terrorism and war," he said.

"The need for mankind to open up its heart and make a courageous effort toward mutual understanding remains urgent," the pope said during his March 24 weekly general audience.

The pope reminded the several thousand pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square that March 25 the church celebrates the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. The day recalls the angel Gabriel announcing God's plan to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she give birth to the Son of God.

The pope said Mary's acceptance to take part in the Incarnation "opened the doors to the fulfillment of God's salvific plan for the redemption of all men and women."

In a portion of his speech the pope did not read aloud, it said, "each one of us is called to join one's own 'yes' to the mysterious plans of providence" with Mary and Jesus' unconditional acceptance of God's plan for them.

"Only by fully following the divine will can that joy and true peace that we all ardently desire spring forth," it said.

Speaking with a clear voice, the pope said the Italian church sets aside March 24 as a day of remembrance and prayer for missionary martyrs.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

He said the missionary priests, consecrated people and lay faithful who were killed last year should not be forgotten.

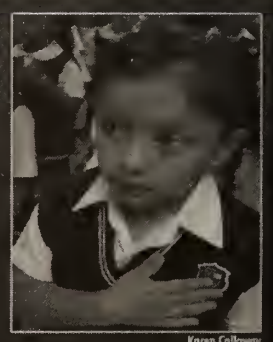
"Among the many victims that the news documents every day, there are many unarmed people who are hit (by violence) while ... carrying out their duties," the pope said.

According to the Italian Missionary Youth Movement, which sponsors the annual day of remembrance, 35 Catholic missionaries were killed in 2003. Of those, 22 missionaries lost their lives in Africa, 11 in the Americas and two in Asia.

Meanwhile, the pope said the time it takes "for justice and peace to reach every part of the world becomes a longer and longer wait. How else to respond to this thirst for hope and love if not by turning to Christ through Mary?"

The pope ended his address by calling on the Virgin Mary to help "stop evil, bring about a change of heart" in all people and "rekindle the light of hope for everyone."

## Pledge History



Karen Calloway

**1892** First appears in "The Youth's Companion." Credited to Baptist minister Froncis Bellamy, it was written for students to recite on Columbus Day: *"I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands; one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

**1924** "my flag" was replaced with "the flag of the United Stotes of America"

**1942** Congress officially recognizes the Pledge of Allegionce

**1943** Supreme Court rules in West Virginia State Boord of Educotion vs. Barnette that schoolchildren can not be forced to recite the pledge

**1954** Following a campoign supported by the Knights of Columbus, President Dwight D. Eisenhower opproves odding the words "under God"

**2002** The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rules that reciting the pledge in public schools wos unconstitutional because of the words "under God"

# An unexpected visitor

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Brian Barr, a priest who is one of my losest friends, recently lost his dad, ernie Barr. I wanted to help in any way could. Since the funeral home where his ther would be waked was located near y parish, I invited Brian to spend the ights after the wake in our rectory. He as glad for the hospitality and I ex-ected him at around 11 p.m.

I knew that Brian would arrive tired nd spent. His father was a real hero for im and the loss of this giant of a man as hard for him. So when the front door ell rang at precisely 11 that night, I ent quickly to open the door and invite y friend to get out of the bitter cold eather and come into a home where e'd find comfort and support. I had food repared and a bottle of wine opened for y friend. But when I threw the door pen, the surprise was mine.

Instead of Father Brian, the man tanding before me was a stranger. Haggard and bedraggled in a torn arka, he looked hurt. His hands were splints and his first words told his eed: "I'm cold and I'm hungry and I'm pain. Can you help me find shelter?"

Now I know all about the Golden ule and I've done my share of talks ased on the mantra, "What Would esus Do?" but this guy was clearly not who I wanted to see that frigid night. I on't know what my face communi-ated to him, but I do know what was my heart.

I wanted him to be anywhere but at my front door. I wanted to ask him, dripping with sarcasm, why he'd only realized that he was homeless at 11 p.m. I wanted to suggest the county had a Social Services Department he should check out. I wanted to tell him that I'd rather not get involved in bringing into the rectory someone I didn't know, who might well be a danger. In other words, my heart was anywhere but connected to a spirit of welcome and hospitality. Brian Barr was entitled to kindness. He was a known quantity. But this guy was a stranger and an unwelcome one at that.

No, I didn't say any of the things in my heart or mind to the man that night. Thank God, I did the right thing. I was able to give him something to eat, arrange for a place for him to stay and get him a ride to the shelter. There probably would be other hard nights for that man, but his visit to our parish would not be one of them.

As we chatted, the suspicious looking stranger became simply someone who had a painful life tale to tell. He was good and gentle. He was someone like all of us, just a man who'd seen better times and hoped they'd return one day. And he wasn't looking to hurt anyone. He just had nowhere else to go. He was Owen.

I'm happy the night ended that way. I'm glad a cold and tired and damaged soul found rest, shelter and nurture for an evening. But I also wrestle with what was in my heart. It made me realize something probably many of us grapple with.

Warmth and welcome don't come that easily. Oh, sure, we love people we know and trust. But where's the merit in that? Giving hospitality to someone like Brian, that's an easy pleasure. But making way for someone like homeless Owen, that's another matter entirely. I was struck that night by the chasm that existed in my heart. To the known friend: welcome, love and kindness. To the unknown but even needier stranger: suspicion, resentment and a struggle to be kind.

And yet, I suspect that when and if you and I get the chance to enter heaven, we won't only be welcomed by friends and family. The hospitality committee won't all look like Father Brian Barr. No, I suspect the gatekeepers to heaven might well look much more like the Owens of our world. I hope he lets us in.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Works of Mercy, Gifts of Love," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Good movie, great marketing

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Mel Gibson is going to make a for-ne from his film, "The Passion of the hrist." To what does he owe his suc-ess? The quality of his filmmaking? es, in part. His subject matter? No, he as, after all, telling a well-known story. is marketing plan? Yes, yes, yes.

The movie represents a unique ex-erience for the average American audi-nce at which it is aimed. It is uniquely rutal in depicting the suffering of our ord during the last 12 hours of his life. Many films have shown people being illed, some in grotesque ways. But no ainstream film has ever shown one erson enduring such savagery for vir-ually the entire length of the movie.

So how do you get so many people to o straight from church, encouraged by eir pastor, to a movie theatre to see this orrific story unfold? If you are Gibson, ou create a bold new marketing plan.

Gibson's plan to screen the movie religious audiences was born out of ecessity. He could find no major studio back what appeared to be an out-ndish proposal. Imagine the conver-ations he must have had with studio xecutives three or four years ago when he project was starting.

"I want to make a movie about the crucifixion of Jesus in which he is beaten like no one ever has been before and I want the characters to speak ancient Aramaic, Italian and Hebrew with no subtitles. Can you give me several million dollars?"

Not surprisingly he ended up using his own money and added the subtitles.

His budget may have been slim but his marketing goal was the same as any other movie. Get people to talk about his movie and then buy tickets to see it. His plan was to let religious groups screen the movie before the Ash Wednesday opening, but only if they signed a pledge agreeing not to write about the content before the opening.

Of course they were free to talk about the impression the movie made. The buzz that this approach created was spectacular. From the first of the year until Ash Wednesday the secular media carried almost daily stories about the movie; it was shown to the pope, to the president, to religious broadcasters, to Billy Graham. And everyone who saw it was saying the same thing; the movie was like nothing they had ever seen before.

Jewish groups screened the movie and expressed concerns about the depiction of the Jews, and presto, another round of news stories took off.

Word of mouth is the most convincing kind of advertising and generally can't be bought. Gibson had a priceless publicity machine at work for him and it looks like "The Passion" could be the highest grossing movie of all time.

So what can a Catholic discern from this experience?

First, that marketing was as important as the message of the film. Other religious movies, such as "The Gospel of John," were as well made, but were complete flops at the box office. And second, that by supporting this film we are sending a message to Hollywood that we are interested in more movies like it. Hollywood will crank out whatever it thinks will sell tickets.

The crucifixion, as we know, isn't the only story of violence, injustice and suffering to be found in the Bible. But we also know that the message of Scripture is one of love, not brutality. Future movies based on scripture should be judged on this basis, not on the amount of cruelty that we witness on the screen.

*David Hains is director of Communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# Catholic Church on UFOs

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. With all the theories today about UFOs and interspace travel, does the Catholic faith have anything to say about life on other planets? Could there be?*

*If there is intelligent life somewhere else, would that mean that Jesus Christ would need to die on every planet to save the people? (Wisconsin)*

A. There's no way the Catholic Church would know any more than anyone else whether intelligent life exists on other galaxies or universes. It hasn't attempted to speculate on the subject, and there's no reason it should.

The spiritual condition of any conscious, intelligent life that might flourish elsewhere is even more of a mystery. Beginning with the possibility of a race of beings that might still be in some sort of original innocence (to use terminology we're familiar with), there's a whole rainbow of conceivable circumstances in which such creatures might live.

About the only sure claim we can make in such matters is that God's creative imagination and power are certainly not exhausted by the humanity and other creatures on this earth. Countless other life forms might exist with the ability to know and love and relate to the Creator in a conscious way. What "salvation" might mean for these creatures we have no clue.

Considering the exuberant generosity with which God so lavishly showers life of all kinds on the world around us, one might suspect that this divine extravagance is not limited to our time and place. Any theory about whether or how that might happen, however, is pure speculation.

Specific teachings of the church about the saving grace of Jesus being necessary for salvation apply, as far as we can know, only to members of our human family. As I said, concerning the relationship God might have established between himself and creatures of another world, we cannot make even a respectable guess.

*A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# St. Andrew the Apostle Church is home to Mars Hill Catholics

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Father David Brzoska

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

**The multipurpose facility of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill was dedicated in November 1991. Seasonal visitors to the area regularly increase the attendance of the church and its mission, Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville.**

MARS HILL — One cannot fully know the history of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill without knowing the influence of a Jesuit priest who diligently served Catholic communities north of Asheville during the early decades of the 20th century.

Jesuit Father Andrew Graves, from the order's Maryland Province, arrived in Madison County in August 1937. He came to staff the little Catholic chapel in Revere called Church of the Little Flower. Now defunct, the chapel provided a home to one of the most notable missionary priests of the period and region.

Even today, the populations of Madison, Yancey and north Buncombe county towns are relatively small compared to such Tar Heel cities as Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston-Salem to the east. Back in the 1930s, people there were even more scattered, and the Catholic community in the area was quite sparse.

Although their numbers were few, the Catholics of the region did have a history dating back to the mid-1800s, as noted by Father Graves, who wrote a historical account of the Catholic Church in northwestern North Carolina.

Father Graves assumed a pastorate in a town where very few Catholics resided and questions about the faith abounded. With the population so scarce, no great numbers of converts were recorded during his priestly service, but Father Graves became known for leading a pioneering ministry of ecumenism in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council.

Father Graves was a man reputed and loved by Madison County folks, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, for his preaching, his generosity and his outreach to people of all faiths. His robust interest in sports is also well remembered by county residents, who recall that Father Graves often rode buses with area children to state competitions.

Health reasons soon brought Father Graves from Revere to Hot Springs in northwest Madison County. There, he helped build another Catholic church, Chapel of the Redeemer, and acquired the house that would later become the Jesuit House of Prayer retreat center.

Father Graves remained in northwestern North Carolina for decades to come, serving in ministry and later becoming known as a historical writer and researcher. He died in Philadelphia in September 1995.

Over time, the core of the Catholic community in Madison County began to center in Mars Hill, today a town of fewer than 2,000 residents and yet the largest in the county.

With Jesuit priests and Sisters of Mercy serving them, members of the Catholic community in Mars Hill became a mission of the Chapel of the Redeemer by 1981. The mission gathered for Masses in several storefront chapels and — perhaps in that ecumenical spirit of Father Graves — on the campus of Mars Hill College, a Baptist institution.

The Mars Hill mission became a parish under the patronage of St. Andrew in November 1985. The following year, the Yancey County Catholic community in Burnsville, Sacred Heart Church, was placed in the missionary care of St. Andrew the Apostle Church.

A multipurpose facility was constructed several years later in Mars Hill, and was dedicated in November 1991. Jesuit Father Francis Reese was pastor at the time.

The Jesuit tradition continued in Madison and Yancey counties, with the people of St. Andrew the Apostle Church and its mission served by Jesuit Father Edward Ifkovitz from September 1996 until July 2002; at that time, diocesan priest Father David Brzoska was appointed pastor.

The community of the church and mission continued to grow over the years, and parishioners have become involved in a number of ministries including Habitat for Humanity, feeding the homeless, county health care services, issues facing Appalachia and outreach and education to the growing Hispanic community in the area.

Father Reese, now retired, and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, who runs the Jesuit retreat house in Hot Springs, both assist with Hispanic ministry at St. Andrew the Apostle Church and Sacred Heart Church.

Summertime visitors increase attendance at both churches, and construction is beginning at Sacred Heart Church to expand and remodel the worship space. At St. Andrew the Apostle Church, small faith groups are being formed to study Scripture, religious books and more.

Father Brzoska said parishioners have a "real desire to grow in their love and understanding of God, and to look at how to integrate their faith and spirituality into their everyday lives and what we can do as individuals and a community to promote that experience in a practical way, inside and outside of the church community."

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**Conversion to Christ**
*Author discusses whole community catechesis*
| PAGE 5

# Bishop Jugis visits with Holy Father

*Bishop tells pope of ecumenical issues and growth in diocese*

By DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO *THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD*

VATICAN CITY — Bishop Peter J. Jugis awoke at 1 a.m. Monday, March 29. He was in Rome for his weeklong "ad limina" visit.

The time difference between Rome and Charlotte is seven hours and he had arrived only the day before. But it wasn't jet lag that kept him from sleeping; it was an appointment scheduled for 11 a.m. with Pope John Paul II.

"I couldn't sleep anymore and so I was praying and preparing to meet the Holy Father," said Bishop Jugis.

Bishop Jugis and 23 other bishops from the southeastern United States were the first group of American bishops to make their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. The highlight of the visit was a 15-minute, one-on-one meeting with the pope during which each bishop discussed his diocese and an-

See VISITS, page 8

COURTESY PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANA

**DISCUSSING A DIOCESE**

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis meets with Pope John Paul II as part of the bishop's "ad limina" visit to the Vatican March 29.**

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

**Judy Baylor of Columbia, Md., prays with those in support of keeping 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance outside the Supreme Court building in Washington March 24.**

## *Court weighs 'under God' in pledge, whether parent can sue*

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON —The crowds outside the Supreme Court March 24 waged shouting matches over whether the Pledge of Allegiance should mention God.

But inside the courtroom, the justices seemed most concerned with whether a California man even has the legal right to seek the change on the grounds that it harms his daughter to be exposed to the words "under God."

Arguing his own case against the Elk Grove Unified School District, California physician and lawyer Dr. Michael Newdow told the court that even though he does not have primary custody of his daughter he has a right not to have his atheist beliefs demeaned in her eyes

See PLEDGE, page 8

## U.S. Senate passes Unborn Victims of Violence Act

*Pro-life activists commend 'Laci and Conner's Law'*

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act by the U. S. Senate drew praise from pro-life groups and criticism from advocates of keeping abortion legal.

"We applaud the Senate for voting for justice for women and their children," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"No woman should ever be told she lost nothing when she loses her child to a brutal attacker," Ruse added.

The Senate approved the bill by a vote of 61-38 March 25. It had passed in the House Feb. 26 by a vote of 254-163.

President Bush said he looked forward to signing it into law. "Pregnant women who have been harmed by violence, and their families, know that there are two victims — the mother and the unborn child — and both victims should be protected by federal law," he said.

The Unborn Victims of Violence Act is also known as "Laci and Conner's Law" after Laci Peterson and her unborn son, Conner, whose disappearance and deaths drew national attention. The California woman was nearly eight months pregnant when she

See VICTIMS, page 13

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**In Our Schools**
*St. Ann School, Our Lady of Grace School*
| PAGES 6-7

**Perspectives**
*Columns, Letters to the Editor*
| PAGES 14-15

**Parish Profile**
*Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville*
| PAGE 16

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## HEAVENLY BODY

CNS PHOTO COURTESY NASA

The planet-like object Sedna is depicted in a conceptualized illustration. The bottom three panels show the first detection of the faint distant object on Nov. 14, 2003. Sedna was identified by the slight shift in position noted in the three pictures taken at different times. All that is known about its appearance is that it has a reddish hue.

# Vatican scientist named to panel to define new object in solar system

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of the Vatican's top planetary scientists has been chosen to be part of a five-man team of international astronomers to decide if Sedna — the most distant object yet seen orbiting the sun — is really a planet.

The new body currently lies some 8 billion miles away from the sun, "almost twice as far away as anything else in the solar system," said U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, an astronomer at the Vatican Observatory.

But, because it is such a recent discovery and because it is so far away, scientists are not yet sure how to classify the new world.

"There was no working group on planets because no new planet has been discovered for the past 70 years, and there is no working definition of what a planet is, either," Brother Consolmagno told Catholic News Service.

The International Astronomical Union — a world body made up of about 100 member nations, including the Vatican — set up the working group to decide on an official definition of a planet. The union also will decide whether Sedna — named after the Inuit goddess of the Arctic Sea — can join the solar system's planetary club.

Sedna is three times farther away from the sun than the farthest planet, Pluto, and it takes 10,000 earth years for it to make one trip around the sun; its days last about 40 hours. Surface temperatures on Sedna are thought to hover around minus 400 degrees Fahrenheit, Brother Consolmagno said.

If the International Astronomical Union decides Sedna is a planet, it will get the name of a Roman god, as is the tradition; otherwise, it will retain the name its discoverers gave it, Sedna.

Planet or not, many scientists still consider Sedna an exciting find because it is expanding notions of how the solar system was formed and what can be found in its outer reaches.

This ever-expanding universe can have two kinds of effects on someone's personal relationship with God, said Brother Consolmagno.

"A pessimist can say 'Oh the world is so big and I'm so small, how can God ever see me?' But an optimist can say 'The world is so big and God still notices me, that just shows how big God really is,'" he said.

# *Holy Saturday ceremonies to bring 150,000 new Catholics into church*

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 150,000 people will join the Catholic Church in the United States on Holy Saturday, April 10, according to figures compiled by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization.

Nearly 64,000 will join with their bishops in diocesewide celebrations, usually held at the cathedral, while another estimated 90,000 men and women will formally become members of the church in ceremonies at their new parishes.

Of the 63,891 participating in diocesan ceremonies, more than 26,000 will be completing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time on Holy Saturday. More than 37,000 others, already baptized as Christians, will become full members of the Catholic Church at those ceremonies.

Those who participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are called catechumens, while Christians who are already baptized are called candidates.

The 2004 numbers from the dioceses are slightly higher than the 62,261 who joined the church on Holy Saturday in 2003.

At least 17 U.S. dioceses will bring in groups larger than 1,000 people, with the largest groups of candidates and catechumens in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (3,070) and the Diocese of Galveston-Houston (1,797).

In the Diocese of Charlotte, more than 600 people are expected to join the Catholic Church.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Pl., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 18. Reconciliation will be offered at 2:30 p.m. and the chaplet will be recited at 3 p.m., followed by Mass. Everyone is invited to pray the chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 686-8833.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers of St. Ann Church* meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — Theology on Tap is a speaker series for young adults providing a casual forum for "straight talk, hard facts, and real answers" on the Catholic faith and how it applies to daily life. The theme April will be *"Exploring the Passion."* ToT will meet April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Pepperoni's at Park Road Shopping Center.

CHARLOTTE — Just Second Fridays is a luncheon speaker series on social justice topics that meets the second Friday of each month in the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Attendees are welcome to attend the good Friday service at St. Peter Church following the JSF presentation. The featured speaker for April 9, James P. Cooney III, will address *"Reflections on Death in a Civilized Society: The Death Penalty in America."* Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. For details call (704) 370-3225.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 18, with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information call Gail Abraham (704) 786-0709.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes begin April 21 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 -11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, will meet at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope meets members of American Jewish aid agency

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By loving and assisting others, Christians and Jews act on the knowledge that they are created in the image and likeness of God, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope met March 29 with members of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, an international organization providing aid to Jewish communities in need, as well as emergency disaster relief around the world.

Pope John Paul told committee members, "Your visit is yet another sign of the bonds of friendship between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church, bonds which we hope will grow ever stronger."

The pope told the members that the duty to assist and serve others flows from the fact that Jews and Christians believe they were created in God's image and endowed with an ability to love.

"It is through love that we fulfill our destiny to act in the likeness of God," he said.

The commandment in the Book of Leviticus to "love your neighbor as yourself," is a call "to serve those who need our help to live in security, justice and freedom," the pope said.

The Jewish distribution committee is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

# *Pope says path to holiness passes through confessional*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The path to holiness passes through the confessional, Pope John Paul II said.

Addressing participants of a Vatican-sponsored study seminar March 27, the pope said the sacrament of penance deserves rediscovery as a moment of purification and spiritual enlightenment. It's not something Catholics can do without, he said.

"It would be an illusion to want to become holy, which is the vocation everyone receives from God, without approaching with frequency and fervor this sacrament of conversion and sanctification," he said.

The pope said going to confession by its very nature brings purification, as the penitent bares his conscience and feels the deep need for forgiveness and spiritual regeneration.

"We will never be holy enough not to need this sacramental purification. A humble confession, carried out with love, induces an increasingly delicate purity in the service of God," he said.

He said confessors should act as spiritual guides to penitents, helping them to recognize their sins and commit themselves to avoiding sin in the future.

Penance is also necessary for priests, he said.

"Even if we are called to exercise the sacramental ministry, we have our own faults in need of remittance," he said.

The study seminar was sponsored by the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that deals with matters of conscience involving the sacrament of penance and procedural issues concerning indulgences. It is headed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford.

For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council 939 is sponsoring a *Divine Mercy holy hour* at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Smith and N. Elm St., April 18 at 3 p.m. A traveling icon depicting Christ's divine mercy, commissioned by Pope John Paul II, will be on display. There will be no reconciliation service or Mass. The prayer service is spreading word about divine mercy, one of the church's newest devotions, which is embraced by Pope John Paul II.

HIGH POINT— A special *Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday* will be celebrated April 18 at 3 p.m. at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 2:45 p.m. and the sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. preceding the Mass. For more information call (336) 886-2444.

GREENSBORO — Burke Balch, director of medical ethics at *National Right to Life,* will speak at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., April 23 at 7 p.m. He will be speaking on assisted suicide and euthanasia. Mr. Balch has served as chief counsel for the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled and worked at the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights on the federal Protection of Handicapped Infants project. This event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 p.m. Mass for *Senior Games Night,* featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., beginning April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., will celebrate a *Seder meal* April 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school having a free event open to the public? Please submit noticesfor the diocesan planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to kevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**April 8 — 7:30 p.m.**
Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**April 9 — 7:30 p.m.**
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**April 10 — 8:30 p.m.**
Easter Vigil
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**April 11 — 11 a.m.**
Easter Sunday
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**April 17 — 6 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation Mass
St. Joan of Arc, Asheville

**April 18 — 11 a.m.**
New church dedication
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

# *Waxing faith*

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A visitor passes wax figures of Jesus Christ and his Apostles at the Last Supper in a display at the Curtea Veche museum in Bucharest, Romania, March 31. It is part of a traveling show titled "Religion and Mystery" from the Historical Museum of Wax Figures in St. Petersburg, Russia.

## THIS MONTH IN—1998

## *Ancient order in Charlotte*

Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, were among the congregation that celebrated Palm Sunday Mass with then-Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 5. The order dates back to the first Crusades and the Knights established by Godfrey de Bouillon to guard the Sepulchre of our Lord immediately after the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099. The group's presence in Charlotte was growing in 1998, with four new members recently invested at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

## CORRECTION

Msgr. Richard Allen was not identified as a monsignor in the March 19 issue's parish profile.

FOLLOWING THE FAITH

Courtesy Photo by Joseph Mattera

From left: Seminarian Justin Grosnick; Auxiliary Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Philadelphia, rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary; Bishop Robert P. Maginnis, auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia; and Father Christopher Schreck, vice rector of the seminary, after Grosnick's rite of ministry of Acolyte March 20.

# Seminarian received into rite of Ministry of Acolyte

OVERBROOK, Pa. — Justin Grosnick, a seminarian studying to be a priest for the Diocese of Charlotte, was accepted into the rite of Ministry of Acolyte at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary March 20.

Grosnick was one of 16 seminarians from 11 archdioceses, dioceses and religious communities received by Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Maginnis of Philadelphia into the rite, which is celebrated during the seminarians' second year of graduate theological studies at the seminary and is required as part of the formation process.

"Although Justin is one of our many outstanding seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, we rejoice that his journey to the altar is being marked by the reception of this special ministry in which he will share more deeply the celebration of Mass," said Father John Allen, director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte.

# Fists of faith

Courtesy Pho

Students participate in the joust, one of the activities during the Extreme Fait retreat for middle school students held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden March 20 Approximately 120 youths spent the day engaged in prayer and workshops on ho to live out in love the 10 Commandments, and other fun activities.

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CONVERSION TO CHRIST

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bill Huebsch makes a point during his talks on "Whole Community Catechesis" at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton March 27.

# Catholic author discusses whole community catechesis

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MORGANTON — Conversion: falling in love — with Jesus. Imagine your parish so on fire with the love of Christ that it permeates everything everyone does.

Catholic author and catechist Bill Huebsch talked about conversion as the goal of "Whole Community Catechesis" at St. Charles Borromeo Church March 27. Some 84 people from 26 parishes attended the daylong program.

The 1997 edition of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" defines catechesis as, "education of children, young people, and adults in the faith of the Church through the teaching of Christian doctrine in an organic and systematic way to make them disciples of Jesus Christ."

"Oh, yes, we talk about Christ in our classes and pray in our prayer corners, and try to help our students understand how Christ is in the church," Huebsch said, "but knowing about Christ and actually meeting Christ are two very different things, according to the GDC."

Evangelization, he said, means falling in love with Christ and turning your heart to him.

Heubsch's books include, "The General Directory for Catechesis in Plain English: A Summary and Commentary" (2001), "Whole Community Catechesis in Plain English" (2002) and "Handbook for Success in Whole Family Catechesis" (2004).

The term "whole community catechesis" comes from GDC paragraph 254:

"The Christian community is the origin, locus and goal of catechesis. Proclamation of the Gospel always begins with the Christian community and invites man to conversion and the following of Christ. It is the same community that welcomes those who wish to know the Lord better and permeate themselves with a new life."

"Conversion precedes catechesis, " Huebsch said.

What is conversion?

"It's an encounter with Christ that leads to a deeper life in the Church," Huebsch said. "Being a Catholic is not joining a club. It's an ongoing process of being initiated into a community of Christ. Eucharist is a sacrament of initiation. You're initiated every week. Every time you receive Eucharist it's another conversion."

When you have that encounter with Christ, Huebsch said, "you have a supple sense of self: you let the Spirit take you a little more, you reach out more spontaneously to people, without embarrassment. You have flexibility with others. Love, rather than principles, is what matters. You have greater generosity toward others and endless patience with others as they sort out their lives."

He pointed out that, often, conversion doesn't happen, because American Catholic religious education frequently takes place in a "schoolhouse framework" in which attendees learn about Christ, but never become immersed in Christ. Confirmation is often seen as "graduation" from religious education.

"Confirmation becomes not a sacrament of initiation but a sacrament of termination," Huebsch said.

Whole community catechesis, however, is built on four "planks."

"The first plank ... is that, in whole community catechesis, the total parish is involved in learning and sharing the faith," Huebsch said. "Every Christian of every age in the parish is involved, not just children. ... Whole community catechesis provides a framework within which such parishwide faith sharing happens every week, year in and year out."

One way to do this, he said, is to have a weekly question based on the Sunday readings. For instance, "When you heard the beatitudes today, which one really touched you?"

Huebsch said the most profound way to "help yourself remain in a process of turning your heart to Christ over and over" and to "help others experience lasting Christian conversion" is through faith sharing "within our programs and throughout our parishes."

The second plank is the building of households of faith — 50 percent of catechetical activity should involve building such households.

"The household is the context in which whatever we teach in religious education class becomes the stuff of real, everyday life," Huebsch said.

Thus, Plank No. 3 — education — is for everyone.

Parents don't drop off their children for "CCD," they participate with them in "catechetical assemblies." Each child (first to eighth grade) has a sponsor, usually one or both parents, who attends religious education with the child. The sponsor does not have to be Catholic.

High school students have sponsors who are not their parents.

"The fourth plank of whole community catechesis is that it is more like a movement within the parish than a program," Huebsch said.

"It's a movement of the Spirit of Jesus in the world," he said. "It's a movement within our own hearts. ... To become a Christian, in short, is to join a movement, not a club. It's an unending process of announcing the Good News and assisting folks to live by it."

Whole community catechesis can radically change a parish, Huebsch said.

For the parishes that adopt a program of conversion and evangelization, Huebsch said, "there's a fire in those parishes and that fire is what the Holy Father is trying to light in the whole church."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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SPARK OF KNOWLEDGE

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 2004 Fire Bowl team from St. Ann School show off their first-place trophies. The fifth-graders competed in a seven-round, single-elimination quiz bowl answering questions about fire and life safety March 17.

# *St. Ann School students win Fire and Life Safety Bowl*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
*STAFF WRITER*

CHARLOTTE — What is the best way to put out an electrical fire? What three elements are needed to ignite a fire?

These are the types of questions St. Ann School students answered to win the first place prize in the 26th Annual Fire & Life Safety Bowl. The quiz contest is designed to educate students across Mecklenburg County about fire and life safety.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from 32 public and private schools in Mecklenburg County took part in the competition at the Oasis Shrine Temple in Charlotte March 17. St. Ann School has competed for the past five years. In three of the previous competitions, they won second place.

The team from St. Ann School consisted of Gina Federal, Nicole Eagle, Grace Cahill, Sloane Phillips and Tim Wahl, coached by Diane Troy. Cahill was named most valuable player.

Students had to buzz in, Jeopardy-style, to answer questions, said Sister Helene Nagle, a Sister of St. Joseph and principal of St. Ann School. This aspect made the competition more difficult than if they had taken a written test.

In addition, if a student said that a true-or-false statement was false, they had to explain what would make the statement true.

The competitors had studied about 400 questions incorporating chemistry, math and history, said Sister Nagle. They even devoted two Sunday afternoons to prepare for the bowl, practicing their response time and grammar.

"How they presented themselves was an important part of the bowl," she said. "This is our main academic competition."

When the team from St. Ann School reached the final round, they called the school to ask for prayers.

St. Ann School's first place win awarded them with $500 and the John W. Knowles Award, a silver bowl engraved with the school's name, along with individual trophies for each team member. The award is named in honor of Mecklenburg County's longtime fire marshal, who retired in 1998.

The 2004 Fire & Life Safety Bowl was presented by the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal's Office, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and other sponsors. In addition to teaching students about fire and life safety, the Fire Marshal's Office hopes they will share their knowledge with their friends, family and community and help make Mecklenburg County a safer place.

# Lunch and love

First-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte continued their Lenten good works by making lunches for homeless persons at the Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte March 16. The students made a total of 200 lunches, each containing two sandwiches, cookies, carrots and an apple. The first-graders are also collecting gently used books for the Thompson Child Development Center.

COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA HORTON

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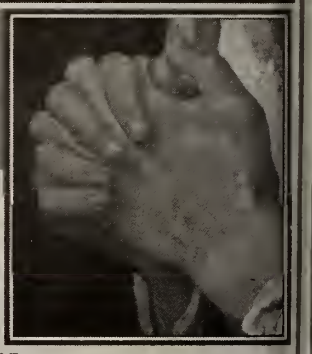

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SKIPPING TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Kinlaw (left), physical education teacher at Our Lady of Grace School, and representatives from each class present a $3,000 check to Jeff McPherson of the American Red Cross Feb. 25.

# OLG students jump rope for healthy hearts

GREENSBORO — Through their physical education classes, students at Our Lady of Grace School helped raise money for the American Heart Association by joining in with children from across the country in the annual Jump Rope for the Heart.

Jeff Kinlaw, physical education teacher at Our Lady of Grace School, coordinated the jump-roping fundraiser with a representative of the American Heart Association that was held during all gym classes the week of Feb. 16.

The students raised more than $3,000. A check was presented to Jeff McPherson of the American Red Cross Feb. 25.

THERE AND BACK AGAIN

# OLG students go multicultural

GREENSBORO — Kindergarten through eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Grace School "traveled" to many countries during the annual Multicultural Day March 11.

Each grade studied a specific country and its culture and prepared its classroom by making crafts and food native to the particular country of study.

Then the students packed brown paper bag "suitcases" and wore "passports" around their necks to visit each country. As they entered the doorway of a particular country, their passports were stamped to log their travels.

This year, kindergarten students learned about China and crafted Chinese dragons for their visitors. First-graders learned about Egypt, studying hieroglyphics, the Sphinx and camels. Visitors to Egypt sampled various fruits, two types of puddings and hummus on pita bread.

Second-graders focused on England, making kingly crowns for their heads and enjoying a British tea party, complete with special teacups and scones, as well as Beatles music.

Third-grades learned about Argentina, and many students came dressed as Argentine cowboys and cowgirls. They made gaucho belts and sampled an Argentinean peach drink.

COURTESY PHOTO

Kindergarteners at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro travel from "China" to "Egypt" during the school's annual Multicultural Day March 11.


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**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Holy Tuesday, April 6, 11am**
Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Holy Thursday, April 8, 7:30 pm**
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Good Friday, April 9, 3pm**
Stations of the Cross

**Good Friday, April 9, 7:30 pm**
Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Holy Saturday, April 10, 8:30 pm**
Easter Vigil Mass
Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant

**Easter Sunday Masses**
8 am, 9:30 am
11 am, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, celebrant
12:30 pm

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# Bishop meets pope

VISITS, *from page 1*

swered any questions the pope may have.

Bishop Jugis met with the pope in a library of the apostolic palace in the Vatican. Bishop Jugis said the room was very close to the familiar balcony room from which the pope often addresses crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The first thing the pope wanted to know about was the status of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated religious life of sisterhood.

"I was really proud to tell him that we have 16 seminarians studying for the priesthood and that we are getting ready to ordain three men from the transitional deaconate," said Bishop Jugis. "He was also very interested in vocations to the religious life including the sisterhood. I mentioned to him that our largest foundation is the Sisters of Mercy. He was nodding his head and smiling as I mentioned the Sisters of Mercy."

The pope then asked the bishop about the status of ecumenism in the Diocese of Charlotte. Bishop Jugis described his October ordination at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, which was attended by religious leaders from several denominations. In addition, the bishop cited the many interfaith meetings and prayer services that routinely take place in the diocese.

One topic of special interest to Bishop Jugis, which he had planned to talk about with the pope, was the warm reception Catholics in the diocese have given to the Hispanics now living in western North Carolina. When describing the situation, the pope expressed surprise that so many Mexicans had come to the diocese.

"I told him that there are many people moving into our area because of the job opportunities and the quality of life," said Bishop Jugis. "I also told him of the efforts of diocesan priests to minister to the Latino population."

During the conversation about Hispanic ministry, Pope John Paul and Bishop Jugis spoke in Spanish, in which both men are fluent. The other parts of their conversation were in English.

"Ad limina" visits are held once every five years. During 2004, all of the U.S. bishops will make the trip to Rome to visit with the pope and to deliver quinquennial reports — documents that describe the status of Catholic life in a diocese. The bishops also visit various offices of the Roman Curia for discussions about the different needs their dioceses may have.

In addition to the meeting with the pope, another highlight of the pilgrimage is a visit to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul.

According to Bishop Jugis, the frail physical condition of the 83-year-old pontiff — who suffers from a neurological disorder, believed to be Parkinson's disease — did not affect their conversation.

"He struck me as doing very well and was very attentive, following very carefully everything I was saying," said the bishop. "His physical weakness was not a hindrance to the conversation and his desire to know what was happening in the Diocese of Charlotte."

"I came away from the meeting awed and humbled. It was a very holy moment," said Bishop Jugis. "I spent the afternoon reflecting on our meeting."

Bishop Jugis also felt that the visit would have a long-term impact on his ministry.

"The thing that will affect me most is the continued realization of the mystery of the Church," said Bishop Jugis. "Christ established this church — it is a divine institution. The mystery of the church is the presence of Christ, alive in mere mortal instruments. The pope is human, yet his office, his election and vocation are willed by Christ, the head of the church."

At press time, Bishop Jugis and the other bishops were scheduled to meet with the pope as a group April 2. *The Catholic News & Herald* will carry an account of the meeting it its next issue.

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Hear Bishop Peter Jugis' reflections on his meeting with Pope John Paul II by visiting the Diocese of Charlotte Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

# Court weighs 'under God'

PLEDGE, *from page 1*

by a school exercise that refers positively to the existence of God.

Justice Anthony Kennedy in particular seemed to struggle with why Newdow thinks he has the right to bring the claim that the pledge violates the Constitution.

He asked Newdow if he had considered the common sense conclusion that his daughter would be the subject of a public outcry if "God" was removed from the pledge. And, he said, it is a dispute with which she "probably doesn't agree."

Newdow said he had addressed that by keeping his daughter's name off the case when he filed it and by subsequently rephrasing it as an infringement of his own civil rights. But, as Kennedy pointed out several times, Newdow's argument supporting his claim that he has legal standing to bring the case always began with a description of his daughter putting her hand on her heart and reciting the pledge.

Newdow said the words "under God" are tantamount to the kind of school-led prayer the court has ruled unconstitutional in previous cases.

"'Under God' is as religious as you can get," he said.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said "under God" is much less like a prayer than the first words of the patriotic song, "God Bless America," which children sometimes sing in school.

By comparison, the phrase in the pledge comes in the middle of something recited by rote "and the child doesn't have to say them," Ginsburg said.

"The issue is whether the government can put those words in her mouth" over her father's objections, Newdow said.

But, as the noncustodial parent, "you don't have the right" to make that claim, Ginsburg reminded him.

The girl's mother, Sandra Banning, said in a brief to the court that she and her daughter are practicing Christians who have no objection to the phrase "one nation under God" in the pledge.

"On the first day of third grade, she was the first in her class to volunteer to lead the pledge," Banning told reporters outside the court later.

Attorney Terence Cassidy, arguing on behalf of the school district, told the court that district policy requires the pledge to be recited daily in elementary school classrooms as a patriotic exercise. And neither Newdow's daughter nor any other student is required to say it. A 1948 Supreme Court ruling in a case brought by Jehovah's Witnesses, whose beliefs preclude taking oaths, said students nationwide may opt out of participating in the pledge.

Solicitor General Theodore Olson, arguing in support of the school district, said Newdow has no legal right to make the claim of damage on his daughter's behalf and that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals erred in saying he had legal standing to make the case.

If the justices do consider the merits of the claim about the pledge itself, Olson said, he has found opinions by 14 different Supreme Court justices saying there is a significant difference between the pledge and other government-sponsored religious acts.

"The Pledge of Allegiance is not a religious exercise," he said.

Justice Stephen Breyer told Newdow that while the pledge is not perfect it does a fair job of providing a unifying patriotic statement that encompasses the beliefs of a broad segment of the populace. "It seems the purpose of unification at the price of offending a small number of people like you" is a valid civic exercise, he said.

Only eight of the court's nine justices heard the case, which could complicate efforts to issue a decisive ruling.

A decision in the case is expected before the court adjourns for the summer.

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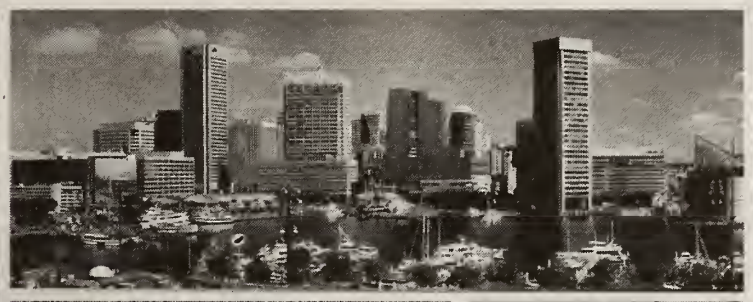
# Heritage Pilgrimage to Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD

## April 30 - May 2



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---

**ITINERARY:**

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5 pm - leave Winston-Salem via deluxe motor coach overnight in Baltimore

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*Afternoon:* Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Baltimore - over 100 wax figures and scenes. Established 1983.

*Evening:* Inner Harbor, Baltimore - dining, shopping, touring.

**Sunday, May 2**

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## In new book, pope describes confrontations with communist authorities

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — In a soon-to-be-published book about his 20 years as a bishop in Poland, Pope John Paul II tells of almost daily confrontations with communist authorities and describes his efforts to adopt a new and more open style of pastoral ministry.

The book, a 200-page personal reflection written last year, will be published in Italian May 18, the pope's 84th birthday. Its probable English title will be, "Get Up, Let Us Go," a phrase taken from the Gospel account of Christ's last encounter with his Apostles.

CNS FILE PHOTO

As bishop of Krakow in the 1960s, Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, was a prolific writer. In a soon-to-be-published book about his years as bishop, the pontiff describes his confrontations with Poland's communist government and his efforts to create a new style of ministry.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said the pope, in an introduction, describes the work as a collection of "memories and reflections" rather than a chronological account. It begins in 1958, when he learned about his episcopal appointment during a canoe trip in the Polish mountains, and covers the period up to his election as pope in 1978.

Navarro-Valls said the new book is sprinkled with personal details and humor. The revelations are sometimes simple: "I've always like to sing," the pontiff mentions at one point.

"I think the pope made a special effort to write in a way that could be understood by the greatest number of people," the papal spokesman said.

Gian Arturo Ferrari, director-general of Mondadori publishing house's book division, said the pope offers an inside look at some of his many conflicts with officials of the Polish regime.

"It's not an analysis of communism, but a description of a daily confrontation with the communist authorities. It was a very combative situation," Ferrari said.

The pope also describes his efforts to evangelize among Polish intellectuals, his friendships during those years, and his attempt to adopt an "open-door" policy at his episcopal residence, so that he would be accessible to people from all walks of life.

The pope completed the work in Polish between March and August of last year, dictating to an aide. The Italian version is completed; the Vatican is finishing the work on translations in English, French, German and Spanish.

Ferrari said it was uncertain whether the English edition would be ready by the May 18 Italian publication date. He said Mondadori had engaged an agent to find a U.S. publisher, and similar efforts were being made in other countries.

A portion of the earnings from the book was to go to a special fund to be used for charitable causes at the pope's discretion.

Navarro-Valls said he doubted this would be the pope's last big literary work.

He said that for years the pope had been thinking of a new autobiographical volume on his career as a bishop, but did not have time to write it until 2003. He also was prompted by two anniversaries that year — the 45th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop and the 25th anniversary of his election as pope.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 11, 2004

*April 11, Easter Sunday*
*Cycle C Readings:*

1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23
2) Colossians 3:1-4
3) Gospel: John 20:1-9

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Some of the best family vacations we've ever taken have been the van trips that started in the dark at 5 a.m. — the children still foggy with sleep, curled up on the back seats under their blankets while my husband and I greeted a clean windshield and the open road.

While the early departure time ostensibly gave us a jump-start on the many miles we needed to travel before nightfall, I always liked beginning the journey with a quiet van and the promise of sunrise. It always came — the misty gray horizon giving way, little by little, to purples, pinks and finally a sliver of pale yellow light — heralding the dawn of long-awaited relaxation and family adventures around the next bend of the road.

I think of Mary of Magdala rising from sleep on that first Easter morning, physically and emotionally drained from the events of the previous days, stumbling through dewy grass and dusty gravel to fulfill a practical mission. Setting out while it was still dark, she expected to find a dead body and was shocked to find an empty tomb.

In John's Gospel, she and the disciples were greeted by a resurrection sunrise that at first brought a mixture of dismay, puzzlement and, only gradually, the dawn of faith.

There is something about the slow, steady progress of daybreak that offers a wonderful metaphor for the discovery of the risen Lord in our lives. Many times we set out stumbling in the darkness, intent upon our goals and tasks, drained of hope, expecting to find something predictable and coming up empty.

Nevertheless, resurrection always comes — not in blinding flashes of light, but more often as a gradual unfolding of radiance that illuminates dark corners and creates hope.

Those sunrise experiences sustain us, but they also compel us to tell others about the life just around the bend that, as St. Paul writes, is "hidden with Christ in God."

***Questions:***

How has your observance of Lent prepared you for a "sunrise experience" at Easter? In what aspect of your life do you expect to find the resurrection light of Jesus unfolding?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 4 - APRIL 10**

**Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion),** Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11 Luke 22:14-23:56; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week),** Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday),** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday),** Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Saturday (Easter Vigil),** Exodus 14:15-15:1, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-23, Luke 24:1-12

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 - APRIL 17**

**Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord),** Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9 **Monday (Easter Monday),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday),** Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday),** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday),** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday),** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14 **Saturday (Easter Saturday),** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

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# College students invited to enter video contest

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To enter, students should interpret the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference." Past winners have used a variety of styles and genres including drama, comedy, documentary, news format, music video and animation.

"In these troubled times, it's important to listen to and encourage the idealism and enthusiasm of these students," said Dennis Heaney, president of The Christophers. "More than ever, the world will be shaped by their positive and creative vision."

Entries must be created using film or video; must be submitted only in NTSC format on standard, full-sized VHS tape; and must be five minutes or less in length. The contest is open to all currently enrolled college students, on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students may enter more than once, but an official entry form must accompany each video.

The deadline for entries is June 11, 2004.

**WANT AN ENTRY FORM?**

Official entry forms are available by writing to College Video Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; by calling (212) 759-4050; or by visiting www.christophers.org/contest.htm.

# *The cows are coming 'Home'*

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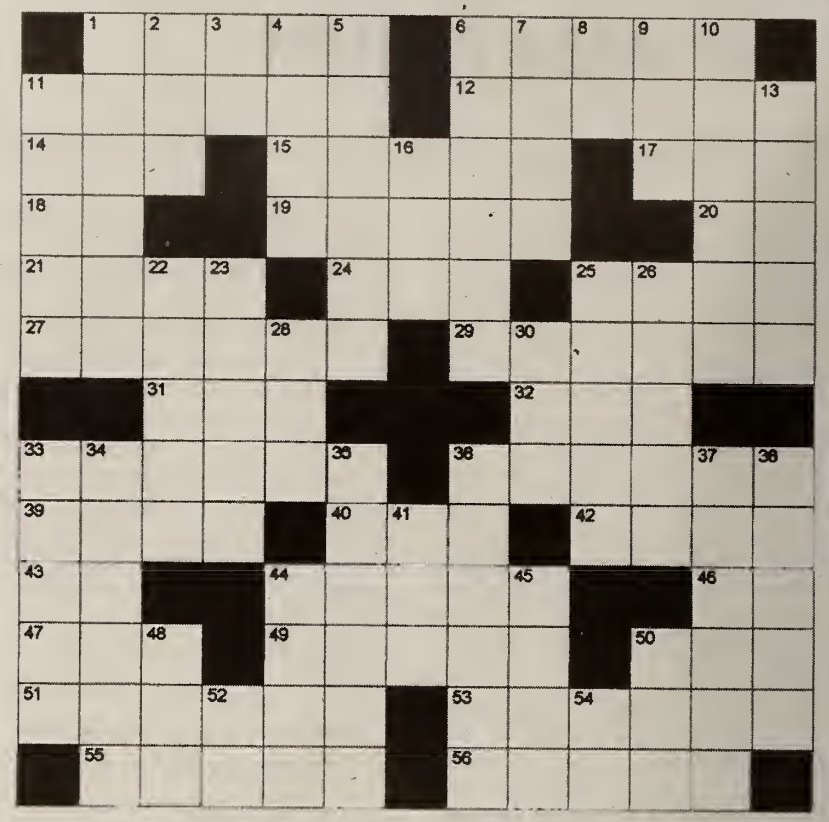
# *Exemplifying the hands of Christ*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Former North Carolina Governor James Martin watches as Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, accepts his humanitarian award during the 33rd Annual National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Awards dinner at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte March 30. Other honorees included Leon and Sandra Levine, founders of Family Dollar Stores, and Kike Aluko, a junior at Charlotte Latin School.

## The Passion



**ACROSS**
1 Concise
6 Hudson's Day
11 Seaport capital
12 Begin surgery
14 Shade tree
15 Rap artist
17 Simpson's character
18 Sunshine st.
19 Betrayer
20 ___ Barnum
21 Shakespearean villain
24 ___ of roses
25 Orchestra header term
27 Useless information
29 First attempt
31 Papal name
32 Mimic
33 Athens' last king
36 French province
39 Israel seaport
40 When he said to them, "___," they turned away and fell to the ground. (John 18:6)
42 Poem
43 Charles' ex
44 Son of Mary
46 Sun god
47 Latin greeting
49 Lively
50 Vietnamese New Year
51 Live
53 Flammable gas
55 Pittsburgh metal
56 "To ___ own self be true."

**DOWN**
1 Column
2 Belief
3 ___ Eliot
4 Muslim pilgrimage (var)
5 African ethnic group
6 Poe poem "El ___"
7 Unshuts (arch.)
8 A drop of golden sun?
9 "___ Gada Davida" (Iron Butterfly)
10 It may be Last
11 Belong
13 Silly ___
16 HST successor
22 Comedienne Radner
23 In the open
25 Cola company
26 Lieu
28 Promissory note
30 Loki's mother
33 Biblical tree
34 Mount of ___
35 "Dirty Harry" director
36 Talisman
37 Cross helper's nationality
38 Exalt
41 "___ Lay Dying" (Faulkner)
44 Green gem
45 Cain's brother
48 Great ending
50 Bronze
52 That is (abbr.)
54 Greeting

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# Senate passes Unborn Victims of Violence Act

VICTIMS, *from page 1*

disappeared in December 2002; Laci and Conner's bodies were found the following April.

Under the law, anyone who harms a woman's unborn child while committing a federal crime, such as assaulting the woman on federal property, commits a distinct crime against the child in addition to the crime against the woman.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., lost by a 50-49 vote on her attempt to replace the measure with a "single victim" substitute bill which would have eliminated language defining an unborn child as "a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb."

Her substitute proposal would have increased penalties for an attack on a pregnant woman by adding a second charge of harm to the pregnancy, avoiding any mention of a second victim.

Although the legislation adopted specifically excludes any application to voluntary abortion, Feinstein called it "the first strike against all abortion in the United States."

"It is encouraging that our federal legislators moved in a positive direction regarding the sanctity of life," said Maggi Nadol, director of the Diocese of Charlotte's Respect Life Office. "With the passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, unborn children are given a small voice that has been silenced for so long."

"I encourage all Catholics and all people of good will to continue to pray for even more legal safeguards for the protection of life of the unborn," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte.

The week before the Senate vote, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged passage of the bill.

"This bill simply ensures that both mother and child are protected from violent assault and murder," he said.

Ruse, responding to attacks on the legislation by supporters of legal abortion, said, "We are grateful to the Senate for ignoring the offensive claims of the abortion lobby and its allies in Congress. Abortion activists may recoil from the acknowledgment of a child's existence before birth, but their efforts to erase the child as a second victim in a violent crime are an insult to all women and families who have lost a loved one to violence."

Maggie Gray, president of the National Council of Catholic Women, said passage of the new legislation "closes a 'justice gap' for unborn children by recognizing their injuries and providing legal redress."

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said the Senate vote "is another sign that our legal system is experiencing a new moment of awareness in regard to the unborn child."

The American Life League said it was encouraged that 61 senators were "willing to publicly state that a preborn baby is a human being." But the league said it could not support the language of the new legislation because "this law has a clearly stated exception for abortion," perpetuating "the lie that some preborn babies' rights are worth defending and others are not."

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*


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**PLEDGES AND PRAYERS**

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Grensboro, explains the adoption pledge certificate that the St. Pius X School students signed as a reminder to pray over the next nine months for unborn children in danger of abortion.**

# Prayer cards let students spiritually adopt unborn children

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
*CORRESPONDENT*

GREENSBORO — The day was very special, said sixth-grader Matthew Bednar.

"Because this is the day (the angel) Gabriel came to Mary and said she would have a son," said Bednar, a student at St. Pius X School. "Yesterday, I adopted an unborn child named Joseph. Someday I hope to meet him on earth or in heaven."

That special day to which Bednar referred was celebration of the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrated March 25 this year. Msgr. Anthony J. Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, incorporated the feast with the celebration of life.

Msgr. Marcaccio wrote out a prayer pledge for the spiritual adoption of an unborn baby who is in danger of being aborted. Students wrote the names of unborn children they spiritually adopted on the card. They then signed a pledge saying that they would pray for that baby for the next nine months, in the hope that abortion would not be an option for the mothers.

The pledges were gathered and presented to Msgr. Marcaccio during the offertory at Mass March 25.

"The pledges will now be embossed with the church seal and will then be redistributed to the children to be placed (possibly in a frame) ... in a prominent location in their homes to remind them of their pledges to pray for the unborn children they had just agreed to adopt and pray for," said Mark Akerman, principal of Pius X school.

Akerman said many of the students used their own middle names in choosing the names of unborn children, which made the pledges more personal.

"I liked being able to choose a name for the baby. I think this was a good experience," said sixth-grader Tommy Flannery. "Yesterday, I adopted an unborn child. I named him Frank. I will be praying for him every night."

During his homily Msgr. Marcaccio reminded the students that nine months from that day would be Christmas Day, and that they pledged to pray for little babies to be born and see the light of day.

"Some people don't believe this," said Msgr. Marcaccio. "We know that the spirit of God is with that child. God loves that child."

During his March 24 weekly general audience, Pope John Paul II spoke of the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, and told several thousand pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square that Mary's acceptance to take part in the Incarnation "opened the doors to the fulfillment of God's salvific plan for the redemption of all men and women."

At St. Pius X Church, sixth-grader Melissa Medina said the Annunciation was special because "if Mary hadn't accepted the baby, Jesus would never have been born and we wouldn't have freedom today."

"That's kind of like me accepting the baby that I adopted just today," she said. "I will try to keep this unborn baby in all of my prayers."

At the end of Mass, Jennifer Spillane, a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, told of her participation in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 31, where thousands of youth gathered to celebrate life and protest the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that legalized abortion 31 years ago.

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## *Organizing for justice and social change*

### Looking Around

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

"Never, never do for others what they can do for themselves." This is the "Iron Rule" of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

The what foundation?

OK, it is not the greatest label that might have been chosen back in 1940 by Saul Alinsky to name his new Chicago-based organization working for change in neighborhoods affected by industrial growth.

Saul Alinsky?

Although his is no longer a household name, Alinsky earned a place in history as a famous agent of change and master community organizer.

A community organizer?

This is a practical, street-smart professional who believes and puts into action Alinsky's conviction that "change means movement; movement means friction; friction means heat; heat means controversy."

A community organizer's idea of a community organization is one that brings people together around an issue that calls for change and then mobilizes the power resident in those people to achieve the desired change.

"Organizing for Power, Action and Justice" is the subtitle of a new book, "Roots for Radicals" (Continuum), written with the assistance of Michael Cowan by Edward T. Chambers, Alinsky's successor as head of IAF. It is a memoir and a playbook meant to inform and inspire anyone willing to work, not just hope, for change.

"Organizers are agitators, catalysts and public-life coaches," says Chambers. "They make things happen. They are rooted in the holy books, democracy's founding documents, and the lives of public heroines and heroes. They are radicals in the best sense of the word.

"The 'why' question is important to the professional organizer, who needs a nagging curiosity about how it is that people, events and politics are this way or that way. They are generally feared and misunderstood for standing against the status quo. They are public people who seek collective power to act for justice.

"Being an organizer is not about being liked, but ... about being respected. Organizers march to a different drummer."

The title for this book, "Roots for Radicals," is the suggestion of the late Msgr. Jack Egan, who, as a young Chicago priest, worked with Alinsky to secure and protect the housing interests of otherwise powerless people on Chicago's South Side.

Before his death in 1972, Alinsky had written "Reveille for Radicals" and "Rules for Radicals." Msgr. Egan subsequently saw the need to complete the trilogy with a reflection on the roots — spiritual, historical, practical and strategic — needed to pit persistence against resistance in the struggle for justice.

Big Ed Chambers, Alinsky's faithful disciple, stepped up to the challenge.

This short book probably will have to be read twice by anyone considering a personal investment of time and energy in the struggle for community improvement in a context of just relationships. This is not to say that it is dull or difficult reading, not at all, but simply to make the point that it takes time to assimilate the strategic thinking that reflects the genius of Alinsky and his pragmatic, sometimes counterintuitive approach.

"There are all kinds of organizers," says Chambers, "mothers of families, labor agents, ministers, teachers, CEOs, managers, politicians and others." And he adds, "This profession is for the few, not the many."

Age is important. "It's best to begin a career in organizing from ages 24 to 26," says this veteran, who started organizing for Alinsky at age 26.

His book belongs in the hands of young people today who may be "turned off" by politics but could be "turned on" to the challenge of grass-roots organizing for social justice.

*E-mail: wbyron@loyno.edu.*

## IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

The diocesan Office of Justice and Peace seeks to assist Catholics and other people of good will to put their faith into action on behalf of justice. With so many threats to human dignity present in society, the Office of Justice and Peace offers educational resources that empower people to overcome such threats and actively address unjust social conditions.

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# Pope says Christ's suffering calls people to work for justice

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Christ's suffering and death not only frees individuals from sin, but calls them to bring justice and healing to the world, Pope John Paul II said.

Through baptism into Christ's passion, Christians are given a share in his kingship and priesthood in order "to build up and sanctify all creation," the pope said March 31 at his weekly general audience.

At the audience, the last before Holy Week, Pope John Paul focused his talk on a canticle from the Book of Revelation telling of a heavenly host singing hymns of praise to "the Lamb who was slain."

The canticle, used in the church's evening prayer, also speaks of a scroll with seven seals that could be opened only by Christ.

"That book contained the whole series of divine decrees that must be put into action in human history so that perfect justice will reign," the pope said.

### The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

"The basis of Christ's power over history," and, therefore, of his authority to open the scroll, "is nothing other than his paschal mystery," the pope said.

"Christ was slain, and with his blood he ransomed all humanity from the power of evil," he said.

"The redemption he offers does not have only the function of rescuing us from our evil past, healing our wounds and relieving our misery; Christ gives us a new interior being which makes us priests and kings, participants in his own dignity," the pope said.

## Letters to the Editor

### *Pill perspective appreciated*

We thank Father Matthew Buettner for giving us a glimpse into the beautiful depths of the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage ("A pastoral perspective on the pill," March 26).

We have studied contraception's damaging effects upon women's health, family life and society, and we are convinced that if couples were aware of the many dire consequences of this practice, they would never engage in it. Dr. Janet E. Smith's work on this issue (available at www.ccli.org) has helped hundreds of thousands of families choose a better way.

Since moving to Charlotte, we have met many young couples who have discovered the joy and freedom of God's plan for married life. The contentment that characterizes these families is remarkable. Natural Family Planning has been called "marriage insurance," because there is a near-zero divorce rate among those who use it.

Remaining open to the blessing of children is an invitation to the Lord to dwell in the very heart of the family. Where God dwells, love remains. And love is the source of all joy in this life.

How good to know that the Church has always proclaimed this truth, and that she always will.

—John and Elizabeth Buerkert
Charlotte

### *Bosco advice is unadvisable*

I just finished reading Antoinette Bosco's March 19 Bottom Line column ("Message for Mel Gibson: A sequel to 'The Passion'?"). I can't quite figure out what this column is doing in a Catholic paper.

She writes of the need to "revive resurrection celebrations." One day is not enough, she writes, to celebrate Christ's resurrection, and so she encourages us to celebrate "Bright Sunday" one week after Easter. As an example of this "very old Christian tradition," she holds up the First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Fla., where it is duly celebrated with butterflies and fiber optic lighting.

I would assume Mrs. Bosco is a Catholic, but how could she miss the fact that, for the Catholic Church, Easter (the principal celebration of Christ's resurrection) is not a day, but an entire season of the Church year, lasting a full six weeks? While those Presbyterians in Florida are hanging butterflies from the ceiling, we Catholics will be celebrating the Octave of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Catholics wanting a fuller celebration of the resurrection need only look into their own Catholic tradition and participate in what the Church has given us in her calendar — not to mainstream Protestantism and its reinterpretation of some supposed "ancient Church tradition."

Don't try to fix what is not broken. Don't try to find what's not been lost.

— Matthew Newsome
Sylva

# Inquiring minds want to know

## Murray's Musings

KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

As April Fool's Day was Thursday, April 1, I considered writing a humorous column in honor of the day.

But instead of taking the easy way out, I decided to use this space to answer some of the letters and questions I've received from readers over the last few months.

I dug deep into the mailbag and sorted through the stacks and stacks of envelopes to unearth your most pressing inquiries. I hope you find the questions and answers insightful and useful. Enjoy!

*Q. My wife and I are Catholic, but our relatives here in North Carolina are radical Protestants. They don't want to spend any time with us because of our Catholic faith, and when they do, it is only to try and convert us away from what they call a "sinful religion."*

*How can I make them accept us, without driving them away? (Nancy Steele, Sylva)*

A. Unfortunately, you're not alone, as I know of many Catholics who are being "persecuted" — often by loved ones — because of their faith. But, remain strong. Remember, Jesus died for all of us sinners, and you must pray for your Christian relatives that their eyes and hearts will be opened, and they will come to see that we are all sons and daughters of the good Lord above.

Or, next time they come around, you can poke them with a stick until they go away.

*Q. I often see you at various church events around the diocese, and you seem to be in fantastic shape. Your body is well toned, you always have a radiant tan and not one hair on your head is ever out of place. What's your secret? (Monica Allen, Charlotte)*

A. I floss. A lot.

*Q. OK, Mr. Smartypants, answer me this: Before Prohibition, who owned the most property in Chicago other than the Catholic Church? (Bonnie Wiechec, Highlands)*

A. P'shaw, that's easy! Schlitz Brewery actually owned more property, believe it or not. And, for what it's worth, Columbia University is the second largest landowner in New York City after the Catholic Church. How do ya like me now?

*Q. Are you a ninja? (Tom Pattison, Huntersville)*

A. Yes. Yes, I am.

*Q. 666 is the number of the Beast. What else can you tell me about him? (Jolené Nichols, Mooresville)*

A. Not much, really. Except that 660 is the approximate number of the Beast, DCLXVI is the Roman numeral of the Beast, 1010011010 is the binary of the Beast, $665.95 is the retail price of the Beast, $699.25 is the price of the Beast plus sales tax, $769.95 is the price of the Beast with accessories and replacement soul, $656.99 is the Target price of the Beast, Route 666 is the way of the Beast, 666F is the oven temperature of the Beast, 666I is the BMW of the Beast and 668 is the next-door neighbor of the Beast.

*Q. When I grow up, can I be just like you? (Peter Asher, Forest City)*

A. The life of a ninja is complex and full of peril. You will have to train rigorously, undergo a battery of physical and psychological difficulties, and often endure many hardships and sacrifices.

Plus, you will need to floss. A lot.

# More unsung heroes than we can count

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Recently, I wrote a column on caregivers as unsung heroes who sacrifice daily helping those unable to help themselves.

Several weeks after that column, I received a letter with a generous check from a woman who asked that I distribute the money to caregivers I knew. I did as she requested. Afterward, I received a beautiful letter from a caregiver who said she had enlisted a lawyer to help her save the little her parents had left and that the money I'd sent was the exact sum she needed to pay the lawyer.

As I read her letter, it occurred to me that when I wrote about caregivers I had focused solely on them and their sacrifices. It hadn't occurred to me that many of these caregivers are supported by people such as the caring woman who wrote to me. They, too, are unsung heroes we seldom — or never — hear about. In fact, if we counted them as caregivers, the number of caregivers we would find in one parish alone would be staggering.

Care-giving requires all the strength one has to perform it day after day. When people become disabled through physical illness or old age, they need constant care. Some must be fed, cleaned, moved and constantly reaffirmed.

You don't get used to these types of tasks, especially when the one you are caring for is your own flesh and blood. And too, when we love someone dearly, we hurt all the more in seeing them fail. This, more than taking care of their physical needs, leaves caregivers drained.

Equally wrenching is a dark cloud that forever hovers — the fear of losing a loved one. No matter how strong caregivers may be, they cannot go it alone for long. Sooner or later, the pressure may start to win out — unless, that is, there is someone to support them.

Without a doubt, prayer is a powerful support. But unless caregivers border on sainthood, they can use all the help they can get from those who personify the corporal works of mercy.

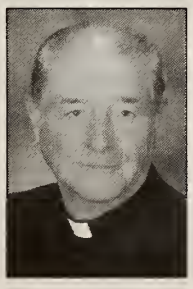
These people may be neighbors who bring meals or who take turns in helping caregivers so that they can have a break. These people may be parishioners who constantly check in to see if everything is OK, or lawyers and doctors lending their services pro bono.

In the eyes of society, this is not glamorous work, but it is a corporal work of mercy, and blessed is he or she who performs it!

# The feast of the Annunciation's importance today

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



*Q. I'm puzzled by the relative lack of importance attached the feast of the Annunciation (March 25) by the church. Dec. 8, the feast of Our Lady's conception, is a day of obligation, but the feast of Our Lord's conception is not.*

*The church teaches that life begins at conception, and the Annunciation marks the event when the Word became flesh. It would seem that promoting this feast would both honor our Lord and emphasize our commitment to the church's teaching about the origin of life.*

*Our Catholic paper not long ago had an article about a Catholic English martyr, Margaret Clitherow. Her feast, they said, is on the feast of the Annunciation. Can another saint be commemorated on that day? (Pennsylvania)*

A. Your question is a good and interesting one, particularly since the Annunciation is apparently the first event in Mary's life to be honored liturgically by Christian people.

In addition, it was widely believed in the early centuries of Christianity that March 25 was the day of Christ's death. St. Augustine (died 430) echoed a long tradition when he declared that Jesus was put to death March 25, the same day of the year on which he was conceived ("De Trinitate," Book 4).

By that time, a church had been built in Nazareth to commemorate the Annunciation, which would seem to indicate some liturgical celebration of that feast already.

Probably the feast of the Annunciation would have developed into a more solemn celebration except for one fact. For centuries, in both Eastern and Western parts of Christianity, the widely accepted practice was that no eucharistic liturgy could be celebrated during Lent except on Sunday. In fact, no feast at all was to be observed during what then was called the "great fast."

Since March 25 usually occurs during Lent, often on the days of the Sunday "scrutinies" for catechumens, and even during the solemn celebrations of Holy Week, this would bar the celebration of any feast in March, even the Annunciation.

To avoid the problem, some Christian churches tried to move the feast to the week before Christmas, Dec. 18, or during January, but these alternatives never became popular. Eventually, about the year 700, despite Lent, the feast finally was established on March 25.

Even today, of course, March 25 often falls in the final days of Lent or during Holy Week, in which case the feast may be observed later, during the Easter season.

The pro-life implications of this feast are not overlooked. Increasingly today, parishes and dioceses give special attention, liturgically and in other ways, to the fact that since we honor the presence of the Word in the womb of his mother from the beginning of her pregnancy, so we should respect the sacredness of other human beings from the moment of their conception.

Finally, as with March 25, feasts of several saints are observed every day of the year, though most of them are not on the calendar for celebration by the universal church. Even Dec. 25 has at least half a dozen saints whose feast day occurs along with the birth of Christ.

*A free brochure in English or Spanish answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Sacred Heart Church serves spiritual needs of Burnsville Catholics

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

**Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville, dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh in June 1962, is now home to more than 80 families.**

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**Father David Brzoska**

BURNSVILLE — The history of Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville is intertwined with that of Catholic churches in neighboring Mitchell and Madison counties, including St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill.

Jesuit Father Andrew Graves came to Madison County in 1937 to serve as pastor of the now-defunct Chapel of the Little Flower in Revere. Barely a handful of Catholics lived in the mountain region at the time, but the small mountain chapel would prove to serve a missionary role in decades to come.

Father Graves eventually relocated to Hot Springs, where a Catholic mission had existed since the 1880s. The Jesuit priest was instrumental in establishing the Chapel of the Redeemer in Hot Springs, where he also acquired a home that his later successors would model into the Jesuit House of Prayer, a retreat center.

By the early 1980s, the majority of Madison County Catholics had centered in and around Mars Hill, and the community there became a mission of Revere. In November 1985, the mission attained parish status and was placed under the patronage of St. Andrew the Apostle. The Chapel of the Redeemer, for a time, became a mission of St. Andrew the Apostle Church.

Meanwhile, in the Yancey County town of Burnsville, a small Catholic population was slowly growing.

In the early 1930s, Jesuit Father Louis Toups, Father Graves' predecessor who had also served the Catholic populations in Revere and other towns in Madison, Mitchell and Yancey counties, occasionally visited Burnsville from Hot Springs to celebrate Mass. The celebration of Mass in Burnsville continued intermittently in private homes, an American Legion hall and a building on the town square until the mid-1950s.

At that point, Glenmary Missioners were appointed to the Mitchell County pastorate of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and its mission, St. Patricia Church in Linville, which is no longer in diocesan use. Father Francis Schenk served as the first Glenmary pastor of the three churches.

In August 1959, then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh acquired two acres on Summit Street in Burnsville, and Father Schenk began directing the construction of a multipurpose church facility, complete with a rectory and parish hall.

Bishop Waters dedicated the new building, called Sacred Heart Church, in June 1962. The local Catholic population numbered 28.

Diocesan priests began serving St. Lucien Church and its mission in 1968, the first being Father (now Msgr.) Felix Kelaher.

By the early 1980s, about 50 families were worshipping at Sacred Heart Church, and Father John M. Pagel, pastor, oversaw an expansion. By removing a rectory living room wall, seating capacity in the church was increased from 110 to 140. Adult education and CCD (faith formation) programs were introduced and cultivated at that time.

Sacred Heart Church was placed under the ministerial care of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill in 1986. With the addition of the Yancey County church to its parish region, St. Andrew the Apostle Church's territory expanded to more than 1,000 square miles over Madison, Yancey and north Buncombe counties.

Jesuit Father Edward Ifkovitz served as pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church and Sacred Heart Church from September 1996 until July 2002, when diocesan priest Father David Brzoska became pastor.

In recent years, the ministerial outreach of Sacred Heart Church has expanded further to include Mexican migrants working in Yancey County's tobacco and lumber industries. With more than 200 members, the Hispanic community gathered in December 1997 for the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. The festival at the church continues to remain a popular celebration for Hispanic parishioners.

Jesuit Father Francis Reese, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle in the early 1990s and now retired, and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstage, who runs the Jesuit retreat house in Hot Springs, both assist with Hispanic ministry at Sacred Heart Church and St. Andrew the Apostle Church.

Each year in October, the parish's St. Francis of Assisi celebration draws more than 300 local Hispanics to the event.

Summertime visitors increase attendance at both churches, and construction is beginning at Sacred Heart Church to expand and remodel the worship space to increase seating capacity from 110 to 160 people.

Ministries and outreach are an important aspect of parish life at Sacred Heart Church, with a number of parishioners actively involved in the local hospice, Reconciliation House for needy persons, the local animal shelter, as well as the Knights of Columbus and the Women's Guild, which is starting an Angel program to visit people who are homebound or in hospitals or nursing homes.

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APRIL 9, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 28

'Ad limina' visit Vatican meetings benefit bishops

| PAGE 17

FAITHFULLY GATHERED

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Priests of the Diocese of Charlotte stand and recommit themselves to priestly ministry during the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral April 6.

# Bishop, priests celebrate annual chrism Mass

**HOLY OILS BLESSED FOR USE THROUGHOUT DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Priests must conform to Christ in holiness and constant conversion, and nurture this union by daily prayer, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

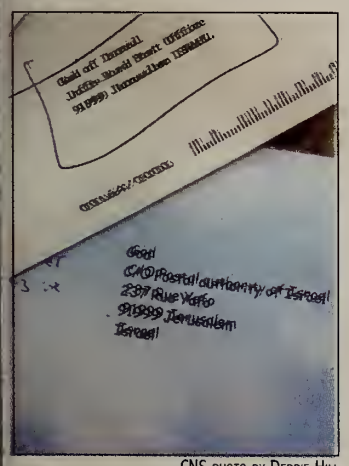
"I say that it is important for us to take these words to heart, because conforming our lives to Christ in holiness and in constant conversion is essential to the life and ministry of priests," said Bishop Jugis.

The bishop offered these words during the chrism Mass, one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses, at St. Patrick Cathedral April 6. During the annual Mass, priests rededicate themselves to their mission as shepherds within their parishes, and the bishop blesses the oils to be used throughout the diocese in the upcoming year.

Bishop Jugis, along with concelebrants Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin; Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, ab-

See CHRISM, page 20

## Dear God ...




CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

A letter postmarked in Canada and addressed to God ends up at a post office in Jerusalem. See story page 7.

# Holy Saturday ceremonies to bring 150,000 new Catholics into church

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic faith is spreading in North Carolina, and around the country.

More than 580 people will join the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Charlotte at Easter Vigil services April 10. They are among the 150,000 people who will join the Catholic Church across the United States that day, according to figures compiled by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization.

Nearly 64,000 joined with their bishops for the diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the beginning of Lent. Another estimated 90,000 men and women celebrated those rites at the parish level.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, 506 people from various parishes participated in the

See RCIA, page 11

## Christ is risen

CNS PHOTO BY CHASE BECKER, SOUTHERN NEBRASKA REGISTER

*A cross is pictured at sunset at the Monastic Cemetery of Christ the King Priory near Schuyler, Neb. The New Testament cross is a symbol of redemption and the imitation of Christ.*

For Easter coverage, please see pages 10-11.

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**A different beat**
*Residency brings African culture to Asheville school*
| PAGE 5

**Leading the way**
*St. Mark students raise funds for diabetes*
| PAGE 8

**Culture Watch**
*'Da Vinci Code' prequel, Shroud interest*
| PAGES 12-13

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## A SIGN OF GOD'S LOVE

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Thousands of pilgrims fill St. Peter's Square for a Palm Sunday Mass led by Pope John Paul II April 4. Passion Sunday, popularly known as Palm Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week, the solemn celebrations of the passion and resurrection of Christ.

# Pope, at Palm Sunday Mass, says cross is sign of Christ's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The cross of Christ is a sign of pain and glory, of Christ's love for humanity and of his victory over death, Pope John Paul II said on Palm Sunday.

"On the cross, Jesus died for each one of us," he said in his homily April 4 during the Mass in St. Peter's Square.

To the singing of "Hosanna," priests carrying olive branches and young people carrying tall, leafy green palm branches processed to the altar where Pope John Paul sat holding a braided palm.

The Mass also marked World Youth Day, and thousands of young people from around the world joined the pope for the celebration.

Pope John Paul told the youths not to be afraid to proclaim the Gospel of the cross in every circumstance.

"Certainly, the message the cross communicates is not easy to understand in our epoch when material well-being and comforts are proposed and sought after as priority values," he said. "Do not be afraid to go against the current."

The cross, he said, has two aspects that cannot be separated: "It is painful and glorious at the same time. The suffering and humiliation of the death of Christ are intimately tied to the exaltation and glory of the resurrection, he added.

"Dear brothers and sisters, dear young people, never forget this consoling truth," he told them. "The passion and resurrection of Christ constitute the center of our faith and sustain us in our inevitable daily trials."

At the end of the Mass, those in St. Peter's Square watched by satellite as young people in Berlin welcomed the World Youth Day cross to Germany after it had traveled throughout Europe.

The cross will be carried to each of Germany's dioceses before being taken to Cologne, where the next international celebration of World Youth Day is scheduled for August 2005.

The pope, speaking from the Vatican, encouraged "the whole church in Germany to mobilize itself for this great event."

# Vatican official tells U.N. of growing religious discrimination

GENEVA (CNS) — A growing, subtle form of religious discrimination can be seen in attempts to exclude anyone from speaking out on social issues from the perspective of their faith, a Vatican diplomat told a U.N. agency.

"While respecting a healthy sense of the state's secular nature, the positive role of believers in public life should be recognized," Archbishop Silvano Tomasi told the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

The archbishop, the Vatican's representative to U.N. offices based in Geneva, spoke to the commission April 1 about religious freedom.

"The place of religions in society and their desire to participate in public life at the service of the people have been part of recent debates that have been provoked by political events and increased pluralism in many countries of the world," the archbishop said.

Religion is an important part of people's lives and it is natural that they bring their values to bear on public discussions, he said.

Archbishop Tomasi said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledges not only the right of an individual to believe what he or she wants, but also the right for believers to form communities and for those communities to express the faith they hold in common.

Instead of banning faith from public discussions, he said, promoting religious freedom means encouraging people to get to know each other's faith, to respect differences and to work together for peace and justice.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Pl., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 18. Reconciliation will be offered at 2:30 p.m. and the chaplet will be recited at 3 p.m., followed by Mass. Everyone is invited to pray the chaplet beginning on Good Friday and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 686-8833.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. For more information, call Marie at (336) 657-8013.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Theology on Tap is a speaker series for young adults providing a casual forum for "straight talk, hard facts, and real answers" on the Catholic faith and how it applies to daily life. The theme April will be *"Exploring the Passion."* ToT will meet each Monday in April, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Pepperoni's at Park Road Shopping Center.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 18, with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information call Gail Abraham (704) 786-0709.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes begin April 21 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 -11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council 939 is sponsoring a *Divine Mercy holy hour* at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Smith and N. Elm St., April 18 at 3 p.m. A traveling icon depicting Christ's divine mercy, commis-

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope urges end to 'infernal cycle of mutual violence' in Holy Land

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the international community to take necessary steps to end the "infernal cycle of mutual violence" in the Holy Land.

The pope also said the increase in global terrorism underscored the need for reform of the United Nations, in order to strengthen its peacekeeping role around the globe.

He made the remarks April 2 in accepting the new Lebanese ambassador to the Holy See, Naji Abi Assi.

The pope said that in the face of more than half a century of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the international community "must not flee from its own responsibilities under the pretext of dealing with other pressing situations."

He said Palestinians and Israelis must be pressured to undertake a real dialogue and show political courage in negotiating a solution that respects the rights of all sides.

The pope said it would take mutual forgiveness in order to heal the wounds inflicted by so many decades of violence in the Holy Land.

He said he was concerned about the wider effects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a world that is already politically unstable in many areas.

The "unjustifiable and worrisome outbreaks of international terrorism" point to the need for changes in the way the United Nations functions, he said. The organization should be "strengthened in the way it makes decisions and takes action, with the aim of reducing the sources of tension and of guaranteeing peace," he added.

# Vatican official welcomes U.S. Unborn Victims of Violence Act

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new U.S. Unborn Victims of Violence Act is a "juridically and ethically" important law that finally recognizes the fact that a fetus is a human being, said Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

"I would say this is a law that has come a bit late," Bishop Sgreccia told Vatican Radio April 2, the day after President George W. Bush signed the law recognizing an unborn child as the second victim when a violent federal crime is perpetrated against a pregnant woman.

Bishop Sgreccia said that until the new measure was enacted U.S. law gave so much emphasis to a "woman's freedom" when pregnant that no room was left to offer any legal recognition of the life of a fetus.

The new law, he said, recognizes "the other priority principle, which is that the fetus represents a human being who has juridical relevance and who must be respected as a human being."

"This should be recognized unanimously within (the framework of) human rights," Bishop Sgreccia said.

Under the law, anyone who harms a woman's unborn child while committing a federal crime, such as assaulting the woman on federal property, commits a distinct federal crime against the child in addition to the crime against the woman.

Bishop Sgreccia was asked why he thought it was so difficult to get the rights of a fetus legally recognized.

"I think it is because it goes against a principle of so-called 'autonomy,' a libertarian principle that wants to give adults the power of life or death over a fetus," the bishop said.

Such a position, he said, "is anti-human because it goes against the equality of all people, of all human beings. The human being does not begin at birth; it begins earlier."

sioned by Pope John Paul II, will be on display. There will be no reconciliation service or Mass. The prayer service is spreading word about divine mercy, one of the church's newest devotions, which is embraced by Pope John Paul II.

HIGH POINT— A special *Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday* will be celebrated April 18 at 3 p.m. at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited at 2:45 p.m. and the sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at 2 p.m. preceding the Mass. For more information call (336) 886-2444.

GREENSBORO — Burke Balch, director of medical ethics at *National Right to Life*, will speak at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., April 23 at 7 p.m. He will be speaking on assisted suicide and euthanasia. Mr. Balch has served as chief counsel for the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled and worked at the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights on the federal Protection of Handicapped Infants project. This event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact the parish office at (336) 272-4681.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., beginning April 13 at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

MAGGIE VALLEY — Everyone involved in liturgical ministry and greeters, ushers, musicians and catechists are invited to *"Making Room at the Table"* Liturgical Commission workshop featuring Liz Dudas, Ministry Consultant with Glenmary Department of Pastoral Services from Nashville, TN April 17 at Living Waters Reflection Center, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and drinks will be provided. There is no cost for the workshop but registration is requested by calling Father Frank Doyle at (828) 926-0106 or Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or emailing maryherr@dnet.net.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 18, 3 - 4 p.m. Plan now to celebrate the Lord's extraordinary gift of forgiveness. We will have a program of prayer, song and silence to immerse ourselves in God's abundant mercy.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school having a free event open to the public? Please submit notices for the diocesan planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to kevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**April 17 — 6 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation Mass
St. Joan of Arc, Asheville

**April 18- 11 a.m.**
New church dedication
Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

# Sunset silhouette

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**A statue of Christ is silhouetted against the sunset as a Holy Week procession passes by a church in the city of San Roque in southern Spain April 5. Hundreds of public religious processions take place in Spain during Holy Week and draw thousands of spectators.**

## THIS MONTH IN —1994

BISHOP CURLIN BECOMES THIRD BISHOP

Bishop William G. Curlin began his ministry as the third bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte amid stately splendor at an installation Mass at St. Gabriel Church April 13. Approximately 1,600 dignitaries from across the country, friends and well-wishers from the Diocese of Charlotte and the Archdiocese of Washington attended the ceremony.

## DID YOU KNOW?

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

In addition to being used by John Steinbeck as the title of a novel and occurring in the "Battle Hymn of the Republic"; the Grapes of Wrath are an allusion to the winepress image of Revelation 14:19-20 that teaches about the harvest of the earth and the impending doom of the ungodly.

Courtesy Photos

Above: Rev. Mr. Guy Piche and Capuchin Father Stanley Kobel at the blessing of a St. Helen statue at St. Helen Church in Spencer Mountain Jan. 4.

Right: Father Mark Lawlor blesses a statue of St. Joseph and the infant Jesus at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charotte March 19.

# Churches dedicate statues on feast days

CHARLOTTE — Two parishes recently gained new additions to their sanctuaries.

St. Helen Church in Spencer Mountain and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte both received and blessed statues in separate ceremonies.

Capuchin Father Stanley Kobel, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, blessed a statue of St. Helen on her feast day, Jan. 4, at St. Helen Church. The Capuchin Franciscan order, which staffs St. Thomas Aquinas and Our Lady of Consolation churches in Charlotte, also helps staff the small Spencer Mountain church.

The statue was donated by Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, and the church community.

Father Mark Lawlor, administrator of St. Vincent de Paul Church, blessed a statue of St. Joseph with an infant Jesus at Mass on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19.

Hand-carved in Italy, the statue completes the Holy Family in the church.

# Sacred Heart parishioner receives humanitarian award

SALISBURY — Elizabeth "Libby" Duncan Koontz didn't wait for doors to open for her — she did it herself.

The Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council she helped found honored local residents recently who keep opening those doors, such as Sonia Marie Trutie Fisher, a member of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Fisher received a 2004 Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Award March 23.

Fisher is a native of Cuba who came to Salisbury in 1957 after marrying a U.S. serviceman. She's been active at Sacred Heart Church, coordinated Meals on Wheels for 11 years, given more than 100 volunteer hours at the W.G. "Bill" Hefner V.A. Medical Center, sits on the board of the Rowan County Literacy Council and serves as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients at Rowan Regional Medical Center.

"I'm honored," she said. "I must return, in some way, what this country, this community, has done for me."

The 2004 Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Awards are named for a Salisbury woman who fought for racial equality and women's rights. A 1938 graduate of Livingstone College and a school teacher, Koontz led the movement to integrate the N.C. Teacher's Association and was the first black and first female president of the National Education Association.

Sonia Marie Trutie Fisher

In 1964, she was one of 16 Americans who visited the Soviet Union at the request of the *Saturday Review*. In 1965, she was president of the President's Advisory Council on Education of Disadvantaged Children. She headed the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor under President Richard Nixon, was a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 1970 and chaired the National Commission on Working Women for seven years.

She retired as assistant superintendent for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and died in 1989.

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DANCING TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

# Unique residency brings African culture to Catholic school

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students in Asheville recently got a taste of Africa.

Asheville Catholic School spent a week immersed in African culture March 29-April 2. The experience, part of the school's yearlong Artists in Residence program, involved "The Magic of African Rhythm," a cultural arts group working in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina.

The Shabu family, originally from West Africa, is the core of the Magic of African Rhythm, which specializes in various forms of cultural artistic expression. A grant from the Asheville Area Arts Council, and additional assistance from the school fund, brought members of the Shabu family and their "Ngoma for Children" residency to the students.

"Ngoma" is the "rhythmic thread that links drumming, singing, dancing, dramatic and visual artistic expression together," according to information supplied by the Shabu family.

Third-, fifth- and seventh-graders rotated through various aspects of the residency, which emphasizes "ways in which the community plays a role in other countries as well as our own," said Chris Lenderman, a school parent who applied for the grant.

Maisha "Mama" Shabu and her husband Baba spent 20 years living and developing their art in Africa.

Maishu told the students African folktales relating to the importance of community. One tale was about Jeli, a storyteller who tells a folktale but adds a bit of personal flavor while keeping constant the basic story.

Third- and fifth-graders retold the story in groups while seventh-graders retold the story adding personal embellishments. The students then discussed the differences and similarities in each version.

Baba, a textile designer in both East and West Africa, taught the students the Adinkra system of textile design, which uses symbols that correspond to the character development traits emphasized in schools.

The Adinkra cloth, which had its origin in Ghana, Africa, gets its name from the person to whom the first cloth was presented. Each student chose a symbol that was meaningful to him or her and stamped that symbol on the cloth.

One of the cloths will be auctioned in May at a school fundraising dinner.

Maishu and Baba's children were also involved in the residency. Their son, Teli, taught the students how to play African drums while their daughter, MaBinti, taught African dance routines. The students practiced traditional African rhythms throughout the week, including the Cou-Cou from West Africa and the Samba, which originated in the Congo.

Kuumba Zuwena, school receptionist, taught the students several Swahili phrases, morning greetings and how to sing "Happy Birthday," which they sang to surprise one of their teachers on his birthday.

Zuwena said she helped the students develop their "singing ears," opening them up to different sounds in West African chants.

Before the Friday morning Mass, fifth-graders played African rhythms on the drums. Afterward, the three participating grades gathered for a traditional African meal eaten in native African style — with their fingers. Bowls carried by the youngest child in the group were used to wash the hands before and after the meal.

Emilia Ricci, a school parent who once worked in Nigeria, prepared the meal that featured foods from all over Africa.

The residency ended with an assembly for the remaining student body, faculty, staff and guests. With an Adinkra cloth made by the third-, fifth- and seventh-graders as a backdrop on the stage, fifth-graders opened the event with a drum call inviting everyone to join them for the program.

"This is done in every African ceremony," said Maisha Shabu.

Third-graders incorporated songs into their retelling of the African folktale of Bali, a boy who comes to realize that he needs his community and it needs him. Fifth-graders danced to seventh-graders' drumming showing what different animals look like. Then the seventh-grade performed a warrior dance.

"The children really enjoyed this," said Donna Gilson, a third-grade teacher. "The seventh-grade asked whether we could do this again next year."

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

**Teli Shabu teaches Asheville Catholic School students how to play African drums during the weeklong "Ngoma for Children" residency March 29-April 2.**

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SPARKING LEADERSHIP

# Workshop to motivate leaders, volunteers

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Lay leaders and volunteers within the Diocese of Charlotte will have a unique opportunity to enhance their leadership skills at an upcoming workshop.

"Keeping the Spark Alive," a one-day workshop sponsored by the diocesan Education Vicariate, will be held at St. Paul the Apostle Church Saturday May 1.

"This workshop is recommended for anyone involved in lay ministry — catechists, parish staff and parish volunteers," said Frank Villaronga, director for diocesan evangelization and ministry formation.

"The topics that will be addressed are pertinent not only to church ministry, but also to day-to-day ministry within our families, neighbors and coworkers," he said.

The workshop will be divided into two parts, each beginning with a keynote speaker and followed by four breakout sessions. Part I, "Keeping the Spark Alive," will feature breakout sessions addressing motivating volunteers, avoiding burnout, time management and pastoral collaboration. Part II, "Unity in Diversity," will focus on communicating with compassion, collaborating with consideration, dealing with differences, Christian conflict resolution and the cultural challenge.

The 2004 leadership training workshop will be unique from years' past in one important aspect, as it will conducted in both Spanish and English.

Participants will attend the opening prayer, lunch and the closing together, Villaronga said. They will separate for parts of the workshop that will be presented in each language.

"The Spanish sessions will be similar to the English, but not identical," said Villaronga. "The Spanish morning session will focus on the implementation of the Hispanic pastoral plan."

Also, the Spanish and English sessions will mirror each other in the way they address unity in diversity topics, Villaronga said.

"The English sessions will focus on how to be welcoming and open to the immigrant cultures," he said. "As the dominant culture, we also need to understand how to empower these immigrants, because they are Catholic Christians."

"The Spanish sessions will reflect the English-speaking sessions," Villaronga explained. "As people who are being welcomed into a different culture, how do they learn to adapt to the culture? What are some of the important cultural differences? What do they need to be aware of?"

It becomes a give-and-take, Villaronga said. The dominant culture learns that it needs to be welcoming, while the immigrants learn they will be welcomed, but they also need to learn to adapt to a new culture.

"It's vitally important that we start recognizing that we are not two dioceses — one English-speaking and one Spanish-speaking," said Villaronga.

In 2000, the Education Vicariate began offering the leadership training workshop to enable the participants to become more effective parish and community leaders. Topics have included: communication and collaboration, evangelization and enculturation, developing advocacy skills, providing human services in the parish, civil law and legal concerns, facilitating faith experiences, issues of enculturation and canon law.

Villaronga will be the keynote speaker for the morning session May 1. Terry Aiken, director of youth ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, will be the afternoon keynote speaker. Breakout session presenters will include Christine Richards, an instructor of business communications at Belmont Abbey College; Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt, diocesan director of young adult ministry; and Paul Kotlowski director of diocesan youth ministry.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT TO GO?**

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# Golfing for a good cause

PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Golfers participate in Catholic Social Services Charlotte Regional Office's Golf Tournament at Carolina Golf and Country Club March 29. The fundraiser tournament was inspired by Sister Eileen McLoughlin, a Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity and avid golfer who spent 20 years as a counseling supervisor for CSS. The winners had their names engraved on the Sister Eileen McLoughlin Champions Cup.

MANY VOICES LIFTED IN SONG

# Charlotte Catholic choir performs at Carnegie Hall

CHARLOTTE — Fifty-one members of the Honors Ensemble at Charlotte Catholic High School took part in the National Youth Choir concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City March 20.

The students were part of a 477-voice choir consisting of high school students from across the United States to perform at the Isaac Stern Auditorium, the largest of Carnegie Hall's three performance halls with an audience capacity of 2,804.

The students learned seven pieces of choral music written by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Clausen and Mulholland. The clinician who prepared these students in two days was Dr. Andre Thomas, a world-renowned conductor, arranger and composer and director of choral music at Florida State University.

Two of the pieces performed were written by Thomas.

The students earned money from several fundraisers to help pay for their four-day trip. Eight parents accompanied the group, along with Dottie Tippett, the school's choral director.

In addition to performing in one of the world's most prestigious venues, the Charlotte Catholic students were able to see "The Lion King" on Broadway; visit Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island; and eat lunch in Little Italy.

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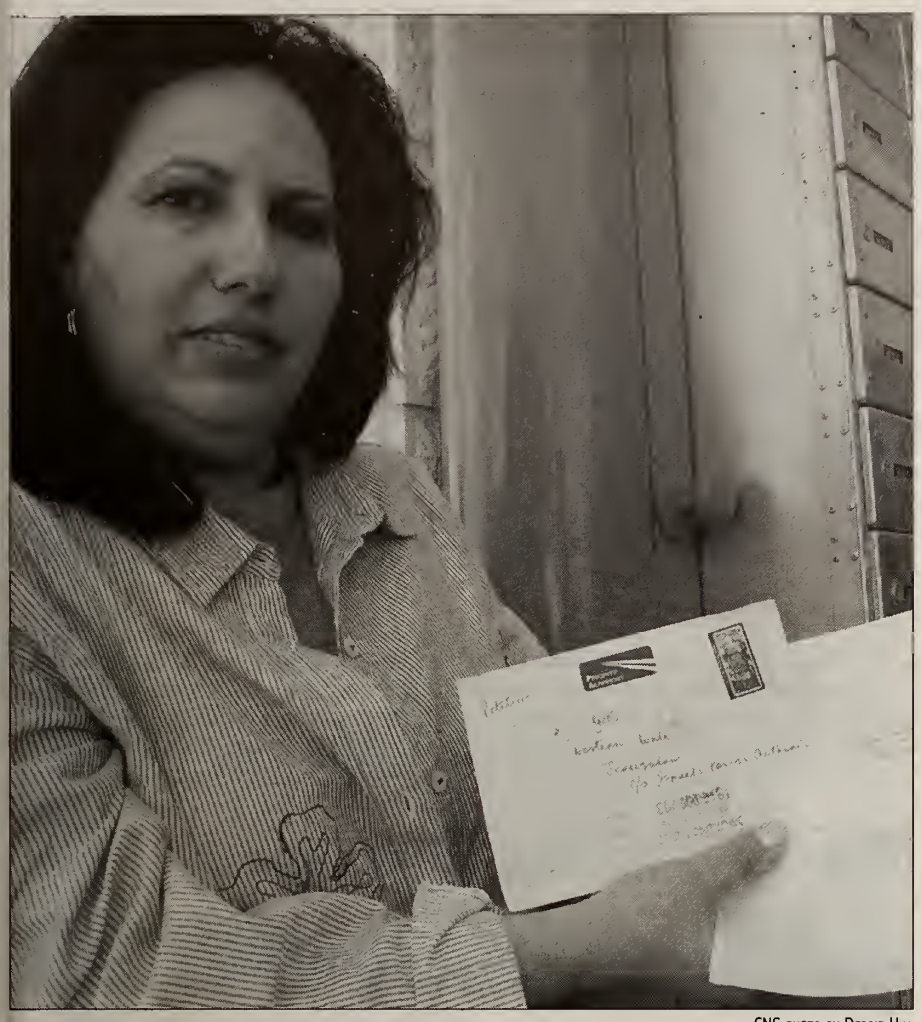

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Tsiona Shay of the Israeli Postal Authority displays letters to God at a post office in Jerusalem March 31. Letters addressed to God are among the undeliverable mail collected by the service on a regular basis.

# Letters to God often find final destination in Jerusalem post office

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — In the gray, florescent-lit office of the undelivered letters department of the Israel Postal Authority the letters gather.

They are the letters people send to God and are addressed in a variety of ways: "God, Israel"; "The Almighty God, Jerusalem"; "Jesus Christ, Jerusalem"; "To Good Jerusalem"; "Angels of Heaven."

"People who feel lonely, people in despair send letters to God," said Yitzhak Rabihiya, spokesman for the Israel Postal Authority. "These are very private letters."

This is also the place where letters to Santa Claus are sent — a far cry from his legendary workshop in the North Pole.

Most of the letters arrive in waves around Christmas and New Year's and the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, Rabihiya said.

The letters are written by people of all ages, in every language — including Arabic — and come from all over the world. They ask for love, health, peace, money, help with studies — and many ask for forgiveness, said Avi Yaniv, director of the department.

"There was a letter from one girl who had stolen a few things and asked God to help her stop stealing," Yaniv said. "Other people who stole things even send the money covering the cost of the item."

The money is sent to charity, he said.

Because the department deals with all letters with insufficient or undeliverable addresses, certain employees are permitted by law to open the letters to try to determine where they were meant to be sent. Not all the letters to God are read, and as with all the letters that reach the postal authority employees strictly protect the confidentiality of the writers, Yaniv said.

According to Israeli law, the contents of the letters can be published only 15 years after they were written, Yaniv said.

Sample letters show that most letters are handwritten; some are written with awe and a tone of great respect, while others are much more relaxed and familiar in style.

"Dear God, How are you doing today? I hope and pray you are doing fine and feeling great," wrote one person from the United States.

Another person from an undisclosed country wrote seeking help for some financial difficulty: "Please God, help me. I am entrusting you with my fears."

One man from Spain wrote asking for peace for Israel and the entire world. A woman from an undisclosed country asked for forgiveness for forging dates on a prescription, while another woman from an undisclosed country asked God to help her with her addiction to pistachios.

"My God! A lot of time has passed partly because of lack of courage and partly because of lack of faith. ...Today I am gathering courage and asking to stay away from pistachios for the rest of my life. ... I ask to be rid of pistachios and fruit and dried fruit and all the other drugs which damage me. ... I am now in a stage of gaining weight. Allow me to accept myself as I am and to forgive myself," she wrote.

The letter that stands out in Yaniv's mind is the letter his department received from a widow who asked God to allow her husband to appear in her dreams so she could see him again.

"She loved her husband so much. It touched me," Yaniv said.

Several times a year the letters are taken to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, and there the rabbi of the Western Wall deposits them in the cracks of the wall, following an ancient Jewish tradition, Yaniv said.

Jews believe that the Holy Land is the center of the world, that Jerusalem is the center of the Holy Land and that the Western Wall is the holiest place in Jerusalem, "closest to God," Yaniv said.

"Our only role is to get the letters to whom they were addressed. When it is addressed in this case to God, there is no place to send it, so we take it to the rabbi at the Western Wall," Rabihiya said.

"We see it as an important role. We feel that by doing this we are fulfilling the mission asked of us by the people who wrote these letters trying to get to God. We don't have an address for God, but we try to do our best," he said.

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LEADING THE WAY

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Sherri Petrilli, nurse at St. Mark School in Huntersville, checks off completed laps by students participating in the School Walk for Diabetes April 1.

# St. Mark students walk, raise funds for diabetics

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

HUNTERSVILLE — Students at St. Mark School are leading the march against diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, St. Mark School has raised the most money of all schools participating in the School Walk for Diabetes. Walking in shifts throughout the day April 1, the kindergarten through sixth-grade students helped raise more than $16,200.

St. Mark School is currently first among the participating schools in North Carolina and the Southeast, said Suzanne Fulcher, the ADA's state coordinator for School Walk for Diabetes. When all the numbers are calculated, St. Mark School may be first in the entire nation, she said.

"It's a major accomplishment, especially in our first year," said Sherri Petrilli, school nurse who organized the walk. "I'm so overwhelmed with it all."

Fifth-grader Katie Wackerman, one of two St. Mark School students diagnosed with diabetes, was happy to see her fellow classmates making laps around the school parking lot.

"I think it's cool," said Wackerman, "that they would come out here and walk for all the diabetics and make a difference."

The students crafted a "Wall of Honor" — a poster in the school lobby that contains the names of friends and family with diabetes, for whom the students were walking.

Petrilli also helped organize a number of other diabetes-related activities, including a pep rally and "Penny Wars" among the classes, which raised more than $1,600.

The fifth- and sixth-graders also learned what it was like to have diabetes by following the routines and schedule of a diabetic for a day. Classes also learned about the importance of exercise and nutrition.

The cause of diabetes continues to be a mystery, although both genetics and environmental factors such as obesity and lack of exercise appear to play roles, according to the American Diabetes Association's Web site.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life.

There are 18.2 million people in the United States, or 6.3 percent of the population, who have diabetes. While an estimated 13 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, unfortunately, 5.2 million people (or nearly one-third) are unaware that they have the disease.

All of the credit for St. Mark School's successful event went to Petrilli and the students, said Dr. Walt Pryzgocki, principal.

"This program joins a list of student services that include financial support for Holy Angels (in Belmont), St. Mark Church's Angel Tree, the American Red Cross' Disaster Relief, Samaritan's Feet and others," he said.

"This school has existed for only eight months," said Przygocki. "This 'culture of service' is due to the students, teachers and parents of St. Mark Catholic School."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# School announces Principal's List, Honor Roll students

GASTONIA — Joe Puceta, principal of St. Michael School in Gastonia, proudly announced the names of students on the Principal's List and Honor Roll for the school's third quarter.

Principal's List: Sixth-grader Nicole Florack; Seventh-graders Annie Hess and Catherine Maier; and eighth-grader Bobby Stover.

Honor Roll: Sixth-graders Elizabeth Black and Janell Carr; seventh-graders Jack Collier, Thomas Hauer, Richard Hovis, Jason Kleiner, Ben Messer, Emma Nelli, Clare Pressimone, Sonia Sayani and Desiri Sido; and eighth-graders Rebecca Black, Sarah Geyer and Melissa Sherrill.

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Marie Bernarde Soubirous was born at Lourdes, France, Jan. 7, 1844. Called Bernadette as a child, she lived in poverty and on Feb. 11, 1858, she saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. Daily visions followed and on Feb. 28, a spring flowed where none had been before, and on March 25, a vision directed her to build a chapel on the site. In 1866, Bernadette became a nun; she died in 1879. Lourdes soon became one of the great pilgrimage centers of modern Christianity where many miracles have been reported. Sister Bernadette was canonized in 1933. Her feast day is April 16.

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Monday May 3 at 7:00 PM to Sunday May 9 after breakfast
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**SUPREME BLESSEDNESS: SALESIAN PERSPECTIVES ON LIVING THE BEATITUDES** Fr. Michael S. Murray, O.S.F.S
Monday May 17 at 7:00 PM to Friday May 21 after breakfast
This retreat will focus on the down-to-earth spirituality of St. Francis DeSales with special emphasis on the qualities or characteristics most often associated with the pursuit of happy, healthy and holy lives. $250

**MAY NATURE RETREAT** Sr. Fran Grady, S.C.L. and Freeman Owle
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**CREATIVE MYSTERY** Sr. Fran Grady, S.C.L.
Monday May 31 at 7:00 PM to Friday June 4 after breakfast
Inviting all artists (poets, writers, visual artists, musicians, dancers, etc.) to share and rejoice in the Divine Gift of creative and artistic energy. Rejoicing in creative and mysterious expression, we allow God's creative power to transform us into wholeness and holiness. $250

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## PAGES OF VICTORY

COURTESY PHOTO

Middle schoolers from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro took first place in recent N.C. State Battle of the Books competitions. First row (from left): Keiran Campbell, Olivia Campbell, Christiane Ruggiero and Elanor Shingledecker; Second row (from left): Lauren Martiere, Mark Sowinski, Helen McNamara, Monika Chao and Elizabeth Garcia; Third row (from left): Logan Payne, Tommy Saintsing and Will Scott.

# OLG students sweep Battle of the Books

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace School students know their books.

The Middle School Battle of the Books team took first place in the system-level competitions of the N.C. State Battle of the Books in Concord March 8, and first place in the regional competition at Providence Day School in Charlotte March 29.

The Battle of the Books program is for middle school students who read from a list of books established by the state Battle of the Books committee, and then compete in quiz-bowl-style tournaments to test their knowledge of the books.

The Our Lady of Grace School team now advances to the state level of the competition, representing the Independent School District (private/parochial/home schools) in North Carolina. The competition will take place at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro April 30.

The purpose of the Battle of the Books program is to encourage reading by all students at the middle school level. Students, regardless of ability, are exposed to quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints by prominent authors in the area of young adult literature. The game format creates interest and excitement in reading.

The North Carolina Association of School Librarians assumed sponsorship of Battle of the Books in 1991. In 2000, the North Carolina School Library Media Association became a co-sponsor of Battle of the Books, and independent schools became a region for competition.

## REAPING REWARDS

COURTESY PHOTO

Harry the Happy Dragon and a representative of Harris Teeter brought ice cream and a check for $2,700 to Our Lady of Grace School March 17.

# Supermarket treats OLG students to ice cream

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace School students were recently treated for their "Together in Education" efforts.

Harry the Happy Dragon and representatives from Harris Teeter, who sponsors the Together in Education program, brought ice cream to the students March 17 to recognize the school family's support of the program, which runs August to May of every school year.

When specific products are purchased using a Harris Teeter VIP card, the supermarket gives a portion of the sales back to the school of the customer's choice.

Roberta Hutchcraft, principal, accepted a $2,700 check from Harris Teeter on behalf of Our Lady of Grace School.


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- Motivating older teens
- Keeping teens out of trouble
- Creative alternatives to the dating scene
Fathering during the fourth quarter:
- How to help your daughter avoid a big mistake in choosing a husband
- How to prepare your son to be a great husband and father

# The Legend of the Easter Egg

Simon of Cyrene was on his way to the marketplace carrying a basket of eggs, when he came upon a crowd of people. A Roman soldier came over to Simon and said. "Follow me." Simon was told to help a man named Jesus carry a heavy cross that Jesus would be crucified on later that day. Simon set his basket of eggs aside and went to help Jesus.

Along the difficult way, Simon became friends with the man who was going to die. Jesus shared with Simon some of his teachings. Before the solders nailed Jesus to the cross Jesus thanked Simon and whispered in his ear, " I will give you a sign that I have spoken the truth and you will know that I have risen from the dead."

Later that day, Simon was saddened by the death of Jesus. He was hoping the promise that Jesus had made would come true, but he received no sign. After two days, Simon suddenly remembered his basket of eggs. He ran to the marketplace to find them. When he looked in the basket, he saw the sign Jesus had promised. Each of the eggs had changed. Some were brightly colored and other had beautiful designs on them.

Simon knew that Jesus was alive! As he ran to tell his friends, shouts of "Alleluia" were heard all over Jerusalem.

COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Ostrom's seventh-grade homeroom class at Our Lady of Grace School performed living Stations of the Cross for the student body in Our Lady of Grace Church March 24.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Spring sunshine illuminates the statue of St. Gabriel outside St. Gabriel School in Charlotte April 6.

COURTESY PHOTO

The fourth-grade faith formation class at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte performs a living Stations of the Cross during a special Lenten prayer service for all faith formation classes and the parish March 8-9.

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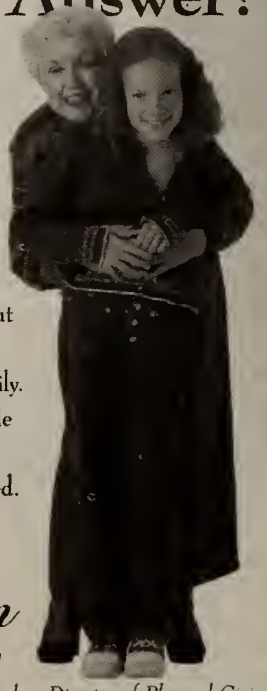

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EASTER

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Flowering Crabapple trees begin to blossom outside the diocesan Pastoral Center in early April.

# Many join Catholic Church on Holy Saturday

RCIA, *from page 1*

Rite of Election with Bishop Peter J. Jugis at three locations — Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Feb. 29, St. Matthew Church in Charlotte March 6 and St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro March 7.

"I was delighted as bishop to see such evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese," said Bishop Jugis. "It was inspiring to see so many individuals wanting to celebrate the sacraments of initiation."

Of the 63,891 who participated in diocesan ceremonies in the United States, more than 26,000 will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time on Holy Saturday. The other 37,000-plus, already baptized as Christians, will enter full communion with the Catholic Church at those ceremonies.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, 137 will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time, while 369 will enter full communion with the church.

"It is spiritually rewarding to see how the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts and souls of people wanting to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church," said Bishop Jugis.

The numbers from the diocesan ceremonies in early Lent of 2004 are slightly higher than the 62,261 recorded in diocesan ceremonies in 2003. About three-quarters of the dioceses responded to the Secretariat for Evangelization's survey.

"The common denominator seems to be a discovery of a more meaningful and religiously satisfying faith," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of the Office of Faith Formation in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"All of the incoming people have in some way undergone a conversion," he said.

At least 17 U.S. dioceses will bring in groups larger than 1,000 people, with the largest groups of candidates and catechumens in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (3,070) and the Diocese of Galveston-Houston (1,797).

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an ancient rite that was reinstituted in the church following the Second Vatican Council. It is the usual means for adults to come into the church.

Those who are not yet baptized are called catechumens, while Christians who are already baptized are called candidates.

"The approach in RCIA is based on the ritual text RCIA No. 75, which is really strategies for conversion therapy," said Villapando.

Infant baptisms take place in parishes throughout the year, and it is estimated that there will be more than 1 million performed in 2004.

In the Holy Saturday ceremonies, adults will enter the church in every diocese of the country and in virtually every one of the nation's nearly 19,000 parishes.

"In the end, this journey (of conversion) is Christocentric and enables the people to focus fundamentally on Christ and not the imperfections of pastoral agents," said Villapando.

*Contributing to this story were Jane Harriman in Wilmington, Ann M. Augherton in Arlington and Ed Langlois in Portland.*


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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Prequel of 'Da Vinci Code' is more of the same — with one difference

BY JOSEPH R. THOMAS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The resurrection of Dan Brown's moribund "Angels & Demons" is something of a literary miracle.

The book, on merit, succumbed quietly enough when it was first published four years ago. But then, last spring, came Brown's "The Da Vinci Code," a water-into-wine Doubleday phenomenon that is still on the best-seller list with more than 6 million copies celebrating the physical and intellectual derring-do of Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon.

"Da Vinci," then, is the reason "Angels & Demons" was rescued from the Simon & Schuster morgue (Atria is a Simon & Schuster imprint), being reissued in paperback as a prequel to "Da Vinci." Because it showed remarkable strength we now have the hardcover version.

The similarities between "Angels" and "Da Vinci" are many, but space prevents us from examining them at length. Let it simply be noted that both open with a murder in unusual circumstances, the victim in "Da Vinci" being a curator in the Louvre, whereas in "Angels" it is a priest-scientist who has created anti-matter in a bottle while working for a Swiss research firm that considers the God of tradition to be but a stand-in for science as the Almighty.

In both instances, a phone call to Langdon initiates a swirl of literally artful sleuthing. In "Da Vinci," the summons pairs him with a leggy cryptologist who is the slain curator's granddaughter. In "Angels" he finds himself working with the victim-priest's leggy daughter by adoption.

A "bio-entanglement physicist," she is thought to be the only other person privy to the anti-matter secret. But of course she isn't. Otherwise we wouldn't have had a corpse with his eye plucked out, and Langdon would still be home in bed.

If you are familiar with "Da Vinci," you know that in it the church is demonized. That continued the pattern Brown established in "Angels," where the demonization is aimed mostly at structure and practice, whereas in "Da Vinci" the target is dogma and belief. Although the reader of one book is likely to feel a sense of deja vu in reading the other, there is a monumental difference.

On the copyright page of "Angels" you will find this notice: "This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. ..." Indeed, as soon as Langdon boards a strange-looking plane that will whisk him from Boston to Geneva in an hour we know we are in the realm of fantasy.

Not so in "Da Vinci." There Brown asserts, "All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate." Thereafter he weaves fact and fiction together deceptively, imparting an aura of authenticity to the whole while shredding core beliefs and giving Jesus both a wife and a child. The charade, which finds Langdon pursuing clues secretly hidden in Da Vinci's art, argues that the church has murderously sought to suppress its "feminine side."

In "Angels," Bernini and his works are the source of the clues, with the plot hinging on the placement of anti-matter of unbelievable force under St. Peter's Basilica. The anti-matter is due to explode at midnight in the midst of a conclave to choose a successor to the pope who himself has been murdered.

But first, a long-dormant secret brotherhood of scientists, The Illuminati, must be reinvigorated to set up the science-religion conflict. And for maximum effect, St. Peter's Square must be filled with people enticed there by the grotesque hourly murders of four cardinals kidnapped from the conclave.

There is, of course, a surprise ending, although the anti-matter does explode and the display, live and on TV, is indeed spectacular. Nevertheless the basilica and Vatican City are saved thanks to Langdon and an unlikely cohort.

In the end, bodies lie scattered all over Rome's liturgical landscape, the new god, Science, reigns supreme and Langdon, after a long and tiring day, finds himself in bed with the bio-entanglement physicist who earlier disproved a favorite Einstein theory by using "atomically synchronized cameras to observe a school of tuna fish."

Thanks to "Da Vinci," this heretofore sow's ear of a book has become a silk purse.

*Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.*

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 18, 2004

## *April 18, Second Sunday of Easter Cycle C Readings:*

1) Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
2) Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
3) Gospel: John 20:19-31

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Much as the disciples were gathered, in this weekend's Gospel passage, the 18 young people were gathered in a room. Only these youths were not fearful, and the door was not locked or even closed. They were in the final hour of a weekend fast in solidarity with poor people throughout the world.

During the fast they grew increasingly aware of the magnitude of the suffering, the causes of hunger and their own responsibility to work to alleviate it. They collected money for Catholic Relief Services and food for a local food pantry. They listened as a pantry client told her life story, then emptied their pockets to give her gas money. They became more and more fervent in their prayer as they came to understand Jesus' compassion for the poor. By the closing session, each made a personal commitment to continue fighting against hunger.

Thomas, too, was already a committed disciple of Jesus, but he had trouble believing something incredible that he had not witnessed. Jesus seemed more than happy to oblige his faithful followers with the gift of a personal appearance. He did the same thing for those youths at the end of their fast.

They had just finished stating their commitments when an elderly man and his grown son appeared in the doorway. The older man had long gray hair, was missing some teeth and used a cane. Both were disheveled.

Now, I have experienced meeting Jesus in someone in need on more than one occasion. But my first thought this time was that these young people would think I had set this up.

They told me the father was ill, that they were passing through on their way from Alabama to New York and had run out of gas and money. I gave them some dollars to get farther down the road and thanked them for coming.

As they left, one of the youths grinned, "What just happened?" she asked. As I explained, they smiled and nodded. No doubters there.

***Questions:***

When have you experienced the presence of Jesus after believing? What tempts you to unbelief?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 - APRIL 17**

**Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord),** Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-**Monday (Easter Monday),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday),** Ac 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday),** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursd (Easter Thursday),** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday),** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-1 **Saturday (Easter Saturday),** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 18 - APRIL 24**

**Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday),** Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 1 19, John 20:19-31; **Monday,** Acts 4:23-31, John 3:1-8; **Tuesday,** Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wedne day (St. Anselm),** Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday,** Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday (S George, St. Adalbert),** Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Fidelis),** Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-

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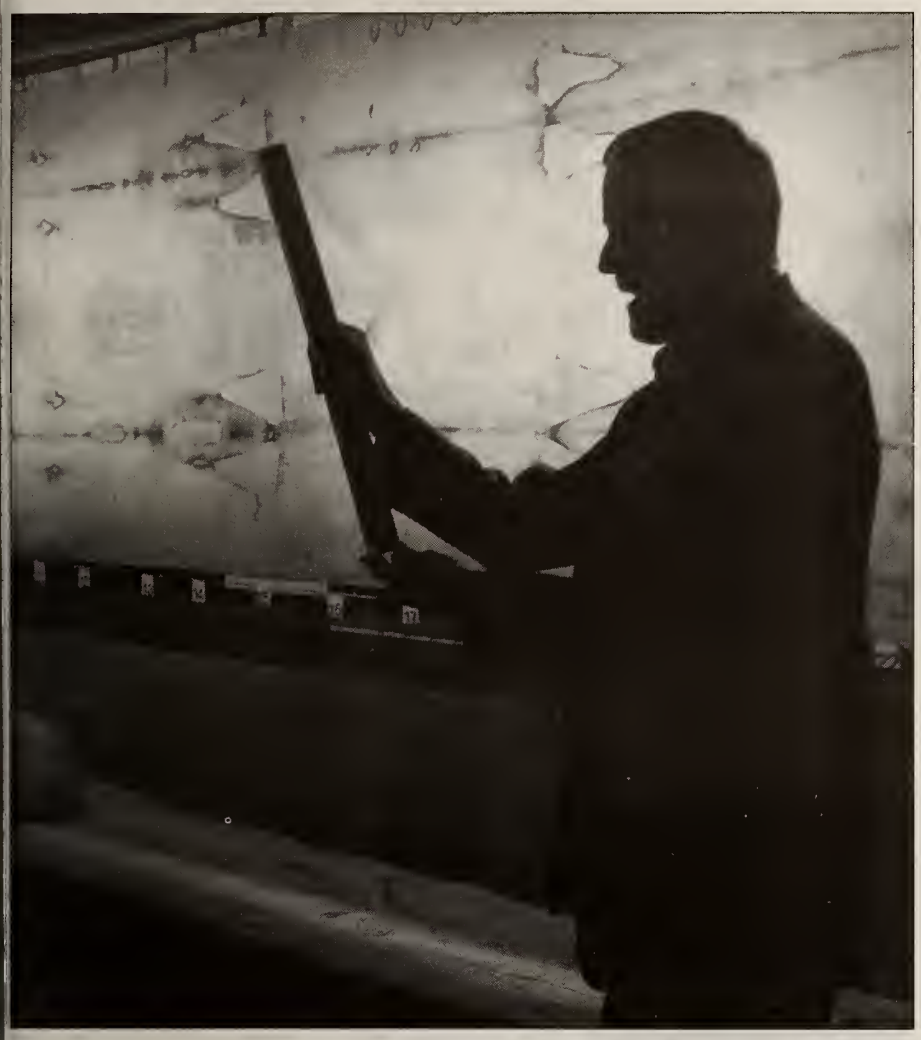

CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

John P. Jackson, a member of the 1978 American team that first examined the Shroud of Turin, demonstrates to visitors at the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado how dimensions of the reputed burial cloth of Christ correspond with the standard unit of measure in early Palestine.

# Shroud of Turin experts say Gibson film sparks new interest in cloth

## *Experts see '40 percent increase' in inquiries about shroud*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The wide publicity and controversy surrounding "The Passion of the Christ" have brought a spike of new interest in the Shroud of Turin.

John P. and Rebecca S. Jackson, who run the Turin Shroud Center of Colorado in Colorado Springs, and Barrie Schwortz, who runs the Web site www.shroud.com, reported a recent increase in calls or visits.

"This is normally a busy time of the year for us, but there's been about a 40 percent increase" in phone calls, said Rebecca Jackson, associate director of the center. A daughter of Orthodox Jews who is now Catholic, she has written and lectured on Jewish aspects of the shroud.

John Jackson, a Catholic, doesn't see belief in the shroud's authenticity as simply a matter of faith.

"Are we trying to replace science with faith? No, not at all," he said. "But this would all be pointless if it doesn't lead us to faith."

Schwortz said that while science may never reach clear knowledge as to how the image was imprinted on the shroud he has his own conclusion. "The only logical answer or explanation for the Shroud of Turin is that it wrapped the body of Jesus after he was crucified," he said.

Schwortz, a former imaging consultant at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said he was a Jew when he started studying the shroud and remains a Jew today.

He sees his constant Jewish faith as a way to remain unbiased in his shroud research, however.

Belief that the shroud was the one that covered Jesus' body does not require belief that Jesus rose from the dead, he said, although many Christians believe the resurrection may explain how the image came to appear on the shroud.

Schwortz contended there is clear evidence that casts a serious shadow on the carbon-14 dating tests performed in 1988 at three separate laboratories, all of which concluded that the cloth dated from around the 13th or 14th century. Those tests led many to conclude the shroud is a fake.

"There is empirical, scientific evidence now in existence that shows that that section of the cloth was, in fact, a reweaving," he said.

Jackson, too, is unconvinced by the carbon-14 tests.

"They would still have to explain the image with all of its characteristics," he said. "I just couldn't see how a forger could have done it."

*Contributing to this story was Ed Lopez in Colorado Springs and Brandon Evans in Indianapolis.*


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**- 2 pm**
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SIX-STRING SUCCESS

# Bishop McGuinness students perform at guitar festival

KERNERSVILLE — The Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School Honors Guitar Ensemble performed in the All-Regional Guitar Festival at Guilford College in Greensboro March 27-28.

The ensemble was invited to perform as the opening act for the guitar orchestra, made up of selected high school students from around the Triad area. Two Bishop McGuinness students, Matthew Ostler and Beth Hurley, were selected.

Bishop McGuinness students who performed in the ensemble included Sandy and Paul Gerlach, David Laux, Greg Means, Katie Goodman, Alex Frye, Andrew Mealin, Michael Sage and Charlie Smith.

"It went very well," said Dr. Alan Hirsh, music director at Bishop McGuinness. "It was an honor for us to be asked to do that."

The group performed a number of selections during their 20 minute act, including arrangements by Hirsh and "The Shire" from the recent "Lord of the Rings" movies.

Hirsh, who is also adjunct guitar instructor at Wake Forest University and Guilford College, founded and directs the Piedmont Guitar Orchestra, now in its eighth year.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

# High school students to visit, work in Mexico

KERNERSVILLE — Students from both Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh will travel to Mexico for a special mission trip April 7-17.

The trip is designed to heighten students' awareness of conditions in a nation and culture that are quite different from their daily experience at home. The students will also participate in a building and painting project while there.

Traveling to San Luis de Posoti during Holy Week, the students will spend Easter weekend experiencing the special worship activities for that feast in a small-town setting.

This will be followed by a bus excursion to the village of El Realejo, where the students will work with children in the local church and school environments, teaching them English and reinforcing their own facility with Spanish.

On Wednesday of Easter week, students will travel by bus to Mexico City, stopping in the city San Miguel de Allende. While visiting there, they will stop at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Zocalo and the Museo de Anthropologia.

Participatants in the trip are being asked to keep journals of their experiences.

To prepare for the trip, the Bishop McGuinness and Cardinal Gibbons students have held numerous fundraisers to offset the cost of their participation. The Bishop McGuinness campus minister and members of the Spanish faculty will accompany them.

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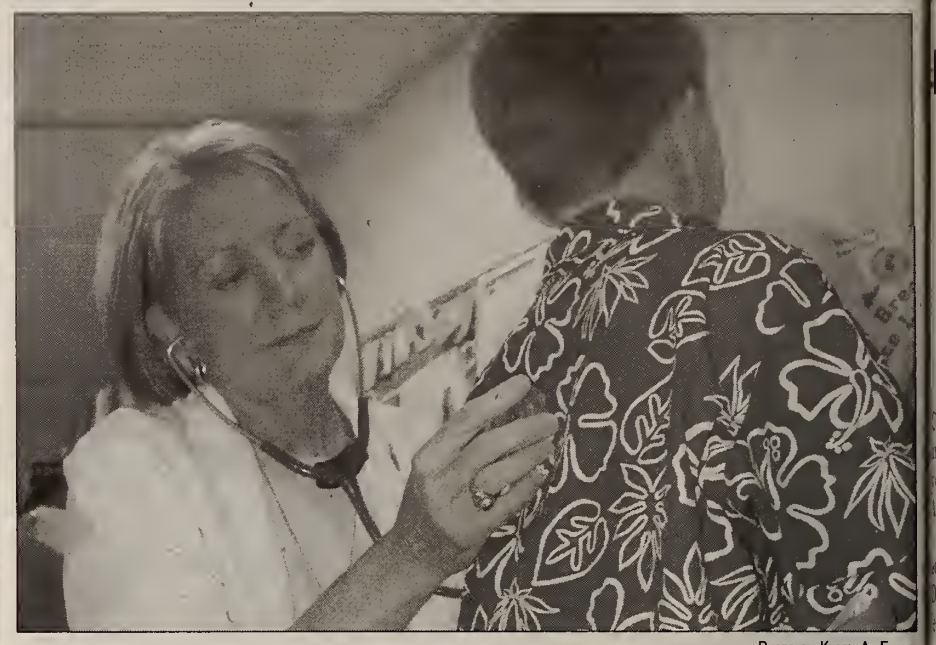

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Paula Knish, a registered nurse for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, examines a young student at St. Gabriel School April 6. Knish was recently awarded the Capitol Hill 2004 Sunny Award in recognition of her efforts in changing state legislation regarding treatment of allergic emergencies resulting in anaphylaxis.

# MACS Nurse recognized for life-saving work

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Paula Knish, a registered nurse for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), has been named a winner of the Capitol Hill 2004 Sunny Award.

"I am not particularly comfortable getting recognition," Knish said. "However, I welcome the opportunity to get the program further revised and put it online or in print, as it could help folks."

The award is given annually by the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics Organization (AANMA) to recognize "an individual, coalition, or organization whose accomplishments at the local or state level resulted in changed laws, policies, or procedures affecting students with asthma or allergies in the school setting."

Knish was recognized in the national competition for making a difference on the state level. She worked with North Carolina Rep. Martha Alexander to enact legislation HB 1508, "Bioterrorism preparedness," which reads: "Establish standards and criteria for the education and credentialing of persons trained to administer lifesaving treatment to a person who suffers a severe adverse reaction to agents that might cause anaphylaxis."

Knish then coordinated a program to educate teachers and coaches on how to respond with epinephrine for allergic emergencies resulting in anaphylaxis. This program has been used as a model in other school systems as well. *The Catholic News & Herald* reported Knish's work in developing the First Responder protocol in the Feb. 13 issue.

Kathie Holder, MACS Health Director, nominated Knish for the award.

"I want to emphasize that I merely coordinated the project, and there are many kind-hearted health care professionals who volunteered their expertise to make the program a success," said Knish.

Knish said she and Dr. Glen Errington, an allergist with the Carolina Asthma and Allergy Center in Charlotte, plan to co-author a paper on the topic of allergic emergencies.

"Dr. Errington will work with the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Allergy and Immunology to make sure we have the 'gold standard' of practice for the protocol," said Knish.

Knish said she was motivated to initiate the program by her five children, all of whom have severe allergies. She also thanked her husband, Dr. Edward Knish, "whose patience and love sustain me."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Abbey biology professor to receive Adrian Award

FACULTY AWARDS BANQUET SPOTLIGHTS REILLY'S, STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College celebrated some of the best and brightest achievements of the year during the Annual Faculty Awards Banquet.

In addition to celebrating the achievements of members of the Dean's and President's Lists, the college also named the recipients of outstanding student achievement within each area of study during the special ceremony April 2.

The college will present Dr. Sheila Reilly with this year's Adrian Faculty Excellence Award, which recognizes teachers who have had pronounced beneficial influences on their students — teachers who successfully inspire students to work toward reaching their full potential.

Reilly, a professor of biology and chair of the Biology Department, earned her doctorate at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Carolinas Medical Center and spent seven years as a staff biologist in renal pharmacology at the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research.

When she's not teaching or researching, she volunteers with

Dr. Sheila Reilly

Carolina Raptor Center, rehabilitating injured birds of prey.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert M. Adrian Jr. established the Adrian Faculty Excellence Program at Belmont Abbey College in 1984 to recognize and reward outstanding performance by faculty members at the college.

# The A-B-Cs of college life

COURTESY PHOTO

**Students from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, St. Michael School in Gastonia, Immaculata School in Hendersonville, Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro and St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem were among 600 students treated to a day of tours, athletics, a cookout and questions and answers at Belmont Abbey College's Third Annual Catholic Schools Day April 1.**

## *Catholic middle schoolers experience BAC's Catholic Schools Day*

BELMONT — They may be too young to drive. They can't register to vote yet. And alcohol is definite out of the question.

But college is what they can begin to plan for — that's something more than 600 middle school students are found out.

Students from across North and South Carolina attended Belmont Abbey College's Third Annual Catholic Schools Day Celebration April 1. The middle schoolers got a taste of what college life is like at one of the only private, Catholic liberal arts college in the southeast.

Students from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, St. Michael School in Gastonia, Immaculata School in Hendersonville, Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro and St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem were among the schools treated to a day of tours, athletics, a cookout and questions and answers.

"Each year we really look forward to celebrating our Catholic heritage and reaching out to the younger members of the community with this event," said Rebecca Hethcox, the college's assistant director of admission.

"Ideally, this is a great way to transition students and prepare them to ultimately attend Belmont Abbey College, but we're also very happy to get them in the mindset of going to college in general," she said.

Hethcox, who organized the event, said students got a glimpse into the wide range of benefits and activities Belmont Abbey College offers its students and the Catholic community.

The visit included Mass in the basilica; a brief history of the college with President Abbot Placid Solari, OSB; a discussion on student life with Karen Van Norman, dean of student life; and a talk about Abbey athletics with Eliane Kebbe, athletic director.

The day also includes a cookout at lunch where students can mingle and talk about their experiences.

Belmont Abbey College, named one of the country's leading, private liberal arts colleges by U.S. News and World Report, was founded in 1876 and celebrates its heritage and is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the College and Abbey Basilica greet thousands of visitors each year.


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## RAISING THE ROOF

COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Georgette Schraeder dons a student uniform and attends class at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem March 30. Two students became principals for the day as the result of the school's silent auction March 13.

# Students, principal switch roles for a day

WINSTON-SALEM — Principal Georgette Schraeder did her best not to show up late for class at St. Leo the Great School.

She wasn't teaching the class. She was attending it as a student.

Wearing a school uniform, Schraeder became a student for a day — and even took a few tests — while fourth-grader George Freiberger and sixth-grader Lucy Freiberger shared principal duties March 30.

"It was very interesting," said Schraeder. "And the (sixth-grade) science test was hard."

The swap was the result of a fundraising event staged by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

To help offset the debt for repairing and replacing roofs at St. Leo the Great Church and School, the PTO put on an elaborate event at the NC School of the Arts in Winston-Salem March 13. Funds raised exceeded $30,000.

Part of the event included a silent auction, with items including golf lessons, dinner parties hosted by teachers, trips to the beach, platters decorated by students, book shelves decorated to represent a special theme for each of the school grades, and a chance to be principal for a day.

George and Lucy started their day as principals by leading the student body in prayer in the gym. The siblings spent the day visiting and observing classrooms, overseeing tornado and fire drills, checking uniforms and having special visitors in the office.

Schraeder said the acting principals enjoyed their duties for the day, but "they really enjoyed me taking their tests."

COURTESY PHOTO

Fourth-grader George Freiberger and sixth-grader Lucy Freiberger wore professional attire for their turns as principal at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem March 30. Principal Georgette Schraeder became a student for the day as the result of the school's silent auction March 13.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

NO POPE PETER

The tradition of popes changing their names upon election traditionally dates from Sergius IV (1009-1012). The story retold is that his name was Peter di Porca and he changed it, deferring to St. Peter, considering it unseemly to style himself Peter II. Actually, prior to this, some popes had changed their names to drop a name of pagan origin. The tradition allows pontiffs to show esteem for a predecessor, signal a vision or style and demonstrate a total commitment to the office.

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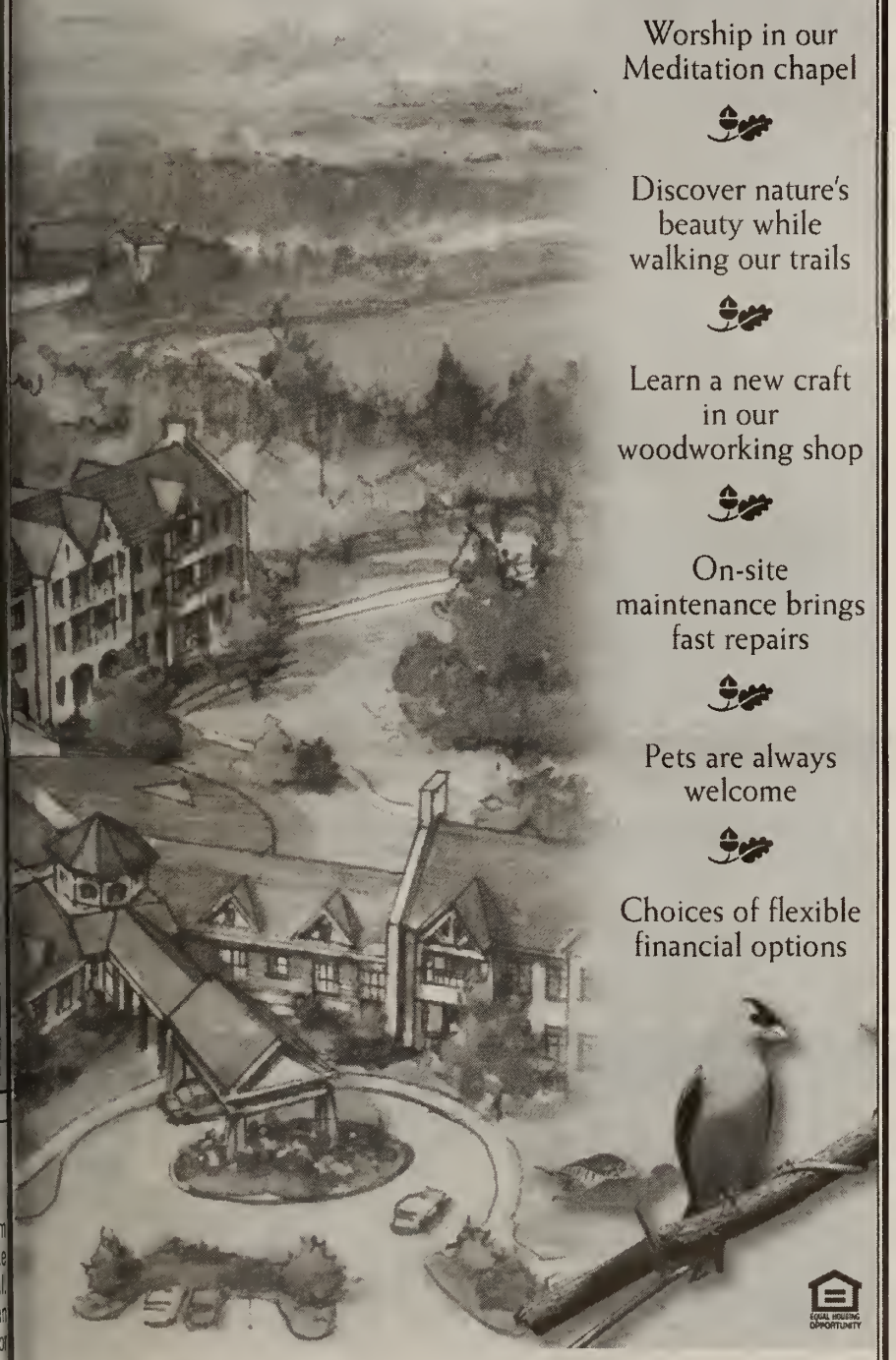

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# Pope, liturgies set the mood when bishops visit Rome

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II poses with U.S. bishops at the Vatican April 2. Bishops from the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and the Military Archdiocese were wrapping up a week of activities at the Vatican for their "ad limina" visit. Seated are Military Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, left, and Miami Archbishop John C. Favalora. Standing from left are Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte, N.C.; Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla.; F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, N.C.; Robert J. Baker o f Charleston, S.C.; Victor B. Galeone of St. Augustine, Fla.; Thomas J. Wenski, coadjutor of Orlando, Fla.; J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga.; and Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach, Fla.

## *Bishop Jugis calls meeting good exercise in 'communio'*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — While bishops making their "ad limina" visits to Rome spend more time meeting than praying, the mood of the visits is set by concelebrated Masses and individual time with Pope John Paul II, several U.S. bishops said.

Whether ordained a bishop 20 years ago or five months ago, the bishops agreed that the visits they are required to make to Rome every five years underscore the fact that they are "brother bishops" and not branch managers of a global corporation.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte said the others helped him relax before his March 29 private audience with the pope.

"I wasn't intimated because the other bishops put me at ease," he said. "They told me it is not a quizzing (about the diocesan report), but that it is a friendly conversation."

The 47-year-old bishop said he was "very much in awe" at being alone with Pope John Paul, but the pope set the tone by commenting on his age.

"He asked when I was ordained," Bishop Jugis said, and the pope explained how he became a bishop in Poland at the age of 38.

"It was a tender moment of sharing," Bishop Jugis said.

The bishop also told the pope that the pontiff had ordained him to the priesthood in 1983.

"It was a very human exchange and conversation," Bishop Jugis said.

At the same time, he said, the Masses and prayers, the meetings with the pope and Vatican officials also make it clear that "the church is a divine institution and that Christ is the head of the body."

The "ad limina" visit, he said, "is a good exercise in 'communio' — it underlines the communion of the pope, the Vatican officials and the bishops. We are all drawn together under the power of the Holy Spirit to further the mission of the church."

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, a former bishop of Charlotte, was making his fourth "ad limina" visit.

"All of the bishops would tell you the same thing: The Masses create a sense of community and of supporting each other," he said.

He presided and gave the homily at the March 31 Mass, concelebrated by the bishops from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services.

In his homily, Archbishop Donoghue spoke of the apostle Paul's courage in preaching the Gospel and living his faith even in the face of martyrdom.

"Christ is the only one who can free us to be brave, to be courageous for his sake and to make us worthy to teach and defend the church and the souls who shelter in her care," the archbishop said.

"We bishops want to have that kind of courage, and we want our people and all the people in the church to pray to the Holy Spirit to send this courage into our hearts because there is so much in this world which rises against our faith," he said.

*Contributing to this story was John Thavis at the Vatican.*

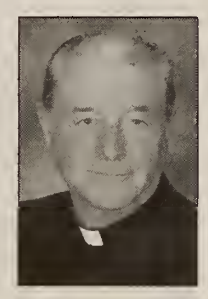
# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Easter duty

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



*Q. I am in my 70s and go to Mass whenever I'm able. I want to make my Easter duty by going to Communion, but can I do that without going to private confession? I know I have not committed any serious sins, but I still don't go to Communion as often as I'd like because I cannot go to confession easily; sometimes it's months or years. (Florida)*

A. First let's clear up your "Easter duty" obligations. According to Catholic Church laws, all the faithful who have received first Communion should receive Holy Communion at least once a year. Unless something serious stands in the way, that should be done during the Easter time, which lasts from the beginning of Lent to Pentecost (Canon 920).

The obligation for sacrament of penance during this period is binding only if it is necessary for an individual to receive the Eucharist. The Code of Canon Law (989) states that all who have reached the age of reason are obliged to confess any serious sins once a year.

In this law, as in past similar rules, the church does not intend to impose a new obligation for confession, but merely prescribes a time within which mortal sins should be confessed so that, if for no other reasons, the Eucharist might be received. Thus the law about annual confession does not apply to someone who is not aware of an unconfessed mortal sin.

I realize many Catholics are under the same misconception as you seem to be about yearly confession being an Easter duty for all Catholics. The present regulations that I just quoted, however, are nothing new. They go back at least to the Fourth Lateran Council (1215; Chapter 21), which makes clear it is speaking of mortal sin.

The Baltimore Catechism (official revised edition No. 2), from which many older Catholics studied their faith, asks what is meant by the church commandment to confess our sins once a year. This commandment, it responds, means that we should make a good confession each year "if we have a mortal sin to confess" (Question 293).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to Canon 989 in its explanation of the obligation for annual confession (No. 2042).

You realize, I hope, that this is not what the church recommends; it is simply the bare minimum required. Any Catholic who understands that the sacrament of reconciliation does much more than forgive serious sin, how it helps us repair our sinfulness and other weaknesses, and how it reconciles us to God and our fellow members of the human family will normally receive this sacrament more than once a year, mortal sin or not.

Please reconsider and start receiving the Eucharist whenever you go to Mass. From what you told me, nothing prevents you from doing that right now, even if some time goes by between your opportunities to go to confession.

Meaning of crucifix letters

Q. What do the letters INRI stand for at the top of the crucifix? Sometimes the letters are IHS. I've been told that means "I have suffered". Is this true? (Ohio)

A. The Gospel of John (19:19) tells us Pilate placed an inscription on the cross of Jesus which read "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The first letters you mention are an abbreviation of those words in Latin, "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum."

The symbol IHS (I've never seen them on a crucifix, incidentally) are the first three letters of the name Jesus in Greek. The symbol was in Christian use long before the English language developed, so it could not have an English meaning.

# Easter triduum provides time to turn heart to Christ, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Easter triduum is an opportunity for Christians to relive the mystery of their salvation and to turn their hearts toward Christ, said Pope John Paul II.

The three days before Easter — Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday — mark a time of "preparation to relive the great mystery of our salvation" and "make more alive the turning of our heart toward the one who died for us out of love," he said April 7 at his weekly general audience.

Before his address, the pope was driven in his open-air jeep through the square. The pope seemed tired and his speech was badly slurred, causing him to skip many portions of his prepared text.

Quoting a passage from the Letter to the Philippians, the pope said, Jesus Christ "humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him."

"These words succinctly show us the mystery of the passion and death of Christ as well as let us catch a glimpse of the glory of the Easter of resurrection," he said.

The pope underlined some of the Easter triduum traditions the church celebrates every year.

The pope said on the morning of Holy Thursday every diocese celebrates the chrism Mass during which th bishop blesses the oils used throughou the year for the sacraments of baptism confirmation, ordination and the anoint ing of the sick.

"That evening the Last Supper i remembered with the institution of th Eucharist and the priesthood," he said.

"On Good Friday, the church recall the passion and death of Christ . marked by penitential processions an the pious practice of the Stations of th Cross, which help internalize the mys tery of the cross," he said.

"The evening of Holy Saturda marks the start of the solemn Easte Vigil," he said.

In a portion of his speech not rea aloud, the pope said this event entails th lighting of the paschal candle that sym bolizes "Christ who illuminates ever person."

By meditating upon the word c God, "the ecclesial community reflect upon the great promise of definitive fre dom from the slavery of sin and fro death," said the pope's written address.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# The Easter challenge

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap

To identify Easter with beautiful lilies and colored eggs may not be the best way of capturing the wonder of Easter. I'd rather look at Easter as a challenge for greatness and a gigantic leap of faith.

There is no doubt that Easter is connected to happiness, which is not a one-day event, but a lifetime event. You've heard the Chinese proverb: "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap; if you want happiness for a day, go fishing; if you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune; if you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone."

Jesus' promise of happiness rests on you. If you want heaven on earth, you can have it. You can also make hell out of the daily hardships, conflicts and disappointments.

Did you know that Niagara Falls is called "the parable of a beautifying disaster"? Here is why:

Niagara River is not one of the great rivers of the world. Running from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, it is only a few miles long. But what makes the river significant is that at Niagara Falls there is a tragedy in the channel — a break in the even flow of the stream, so the waters make a stupendous leap into the gorge below. As they are shattered and bruised on the rocks beneath the falls, however, there is cast up into the sunlight the exquisite rainbow of the Niagara, which is one of the best wonders of the world.

Life is like that. The challenges of Easter are making a blind leap of faith into an overwhelming abyss of suffering, believing in life when we experience death, knowing that defeat will be victory. The sunlight of God's love makes a rainbow out of the rain.

To say that Jesus beautified disaster is not completely wrong. To live a great life, we need a great cause to which we can connect the meaning of our struggles, a cause to live by or, if needed, to die by. At Easter, we hear the familiar story of Christ's triumph, his death and resurrection, and we feel in part of the story, however, there is a difference between the conviction of the historical event of the resurrection and the faith in the risen Christ.

The famous tightrope walker, Blondin, on one occasion carried a man across a tightrope stretched perilously above an admiring crowd. In the forefront of the crowd was a boy, gazing in wonderment with his open mouth. Blondin noticed the lad and said: "Do you believe that I could carry you across that tightrope?"

The boy replied, "I'm sure you could."

"Well, then," said Blondin, "jump up and I will do so."

The boy promptly reacted: "I said 'I believe.' I didn't say 'I would do it.'"

Poor boy, he never experienced the thrill of being carried by a star!

The challenge of Easter is that it is not enough to believe Jesus has risen and is alive today. Faith involves taking a further step and translating our faith into action.

An empty tomb, so says the cynic, is a poor foundation on which to establish a world religion. It may be so, but our faith has gone beyond that event; it has left the empty tomb 20 centuries ago. The message of Easter is not written in the past tense; it is indeed written as we go about our daily activities and encounter Christ where we least expect.

The Easter story is simple and powerful, and we should not forget that Jesus' victory came after Jesus' tragedy. Lilies and Easter eggs are indeed part of our Easter legend; life and love are the real challenges of the Christian Easter.

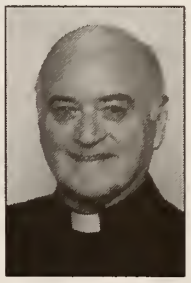
Stay tuned — more to come: He came singing love, he lived singing love, he died singing love. If the song is to continue, we must do the singing!

*Father Aurilia is the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

# What do Muslims believe?

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR CNS Columnist



Jesus broke from tradition in the Sermon on the Mount and thereafter was considered an outcast. Presenting a higher standard, he said, "You've heard it said, love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I say unto you, love your enemy" (Mt 5: 43, 44).

How is it possible to love an enemy in today's world?

Keep this in mind: Muslim terrorists who want to kill us are a tiny faction of Islam. They are to Islam what the Ku Klux Klan was to Christianity. We shouldn't paint all Muslims with the same brush. The Islam religion teaches people to live in peace and to worship the one true God, Allah.

Muhammad was born in Saudi Arabia in 570 A.D. He become a traveling merchant but he was haunted by God's presence. With the help of a rich patroness, he retired to pursue spiritual goals. Going daily to Mount Hera, he prayed alone for hours.

He said God spoke to him through an angel and the Koran, the bible of Islam, was dictated to him on that mountain by the angel Gabriel.

As a traveling merchant, he become familiar with the Jewish Bible and the New Testament, and was well aware of Mary, Jesus' mother. In fact, Mary is mentioned with reverence in the Koran.

In 622 A.D., when Muhammad emerged from his retreat, he began preaching his new religion. Mecca's people rejected him violently. Escaping cruel beatings, he fled to Medina, a city 270 miles north of Mecca, and continued preaching: "There is only one God, his name is Allah, and Muhammad is his greatest prophet."

During his first three years in Medina he only managed to attract about 40 followers, but then things turned around. He eventually was able to return to Mecca with an army large enough to destroy all the pagan shrines and establish Allah as the one, true God.

Muhammad died in 632 A.D., leaving a monumental legacy.

There are now nearly 1 billion devout Muslims in the world. The Five Pillars of Islam give an insight into the spirituality of Islam: faith, pray, fast, give alsm, make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your lifetime.

Our Muslim neighbors in America are good people. They are our fellow citizens. The activities of the terrorists frighten them. They fear reprisals, even though they are innocent. They are not our enemies.

Let us love them. They deserve it — not to mention the fact that Jesus commanded us to love them.

# New way to read an old book

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS Guest Columnist

Did you ever have one of those experiences where a question sends you hurling through time and space back to a childhood memory? I was recently in a conference room at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte when I took one of these involuntary time trips.

The occasion was a meeting with the Education Vicariate, which coordinates the functions of seven diocesan agencies that educate the faithful. It includes campus ministry, schools, evangelization, faith formation and youth and young adult ministry. As the newly appointed director of communications, I was getting oriented to the offices and agencies of the diocese.

After explaining some of my communication goals in the meeting, Mercy Sister Patricia Durbin of the diocesan Media Center asked me if I was studying the catechism. The question took me back more than 40 years to Holy Family School in New Rochelle, N.Y., where I was asked that question many times by my fifth-grade teacher, Sister Paula Marie. As I recall, I wasn't the best of students and her question was meant to get me to spend more time on my schoolwork and a little less on daydreaming, baseball and recess, which were my priorities.

Sister Durbin's question, although asked in a much more kindly way, got to the core of what my job for the diocese is all about.

A big part of what I do is to respond to calls from the news media. During the first two months of the year — as the diocese's compliancy audit was released in January and the John Jay Study of clergy sex abuse in February — dozens of reporters called with questions about everything from sex abuse data in our diocese to the Catholic Church's view on celibacy.

They also asked about the ordination of women, homosexuality and the church, the crucifixion and the proper pronunciation of Bishop Peter J. Jugis' last name. (It's "jew-gis," not Jungis, Junkin or Jurgis as some reporters have called him.)

In a typical public relations setting, a person in my position often gets answers to complex questions from a CEO or some other leader. Business conditions often dictate rapid changes in direction that often aren't recorded in writing. Sister Durbin was trying to tell me it's different in the Catholic Church. Answers to complex questions from reporters can often be found in the catechism.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is far different than the old "Baltimore Catechism" that I studied under Sister Paula Marie's guidance. You may remember the first question and answer in that book: "Who made us?" "God made us." The current edition of the catechism was published in 1997 and is a systematic presentation of the faith and of Catholic doctrine. But at more than 900 pages, it can be a little daunting for the layperson and even more so for reporters who are working on deadline.

Fortunately we have the Internet. One Web site in particular, www.scborromeo.org, has a very useful search engine that allows you to get answers easily to your questions. The Web site belongs to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Picayune, Miss. Webmaster John Meyer went through the painstaking chore of breaking down the entire catechism into separate paragraphs, allowing the search engine utility to quickly zero in on a topic.

Let's say that you have been seeing and reading news stories about same-sex unions and you are wondering what the church has to say. If you enter the word "homosexual" into the search engine, you come up with four matches that will explain church teaching on the subject. Enter the word "marriage" and you come up with 73 hits.

In an age when media accounts gloss over complex subjects or present arguments that make you wonder where your faith stands on the issue, you can now get answers. Church teaching has never been so easy to access; it is literally at our fingertips.

Sister Paula Marie, wherever you may be, I am finally reading my catechism.

*David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# Bishop, priests celebrate chrism Mass

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Priests of the diocese join Bishop Peter J. Jugis on the altar during the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 6.

CHRISM, *from page 1*

bot of Belmont Abbey; Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor of St. James Church in Hamlet; and other clergy of the diocese, gathered with about 100 priests and many of the permanent deacons who minister in the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith whom they serve.

Bishop Jugis said the sacrament of Holy Orders "already conforms our lives to Christ in holiness. The sacrament marks us with a special character and indefectibly unites us to Christ, the high priest."

This union is a "sacramental identification with Christ, which Christ has willed," said Bishop Jugis. "It makes it possible for his priesthood to continue personally in the church."

"We are blessed by his consecration of us into his sacred priesthood," he said.

The bishop said priests must "nurture this union with Christ in a practical way by prayer every day."

"It's an intentional choice that we make to seek union with Christ in holiness and in constant conversion," said Bishop Jugis. "Our priestly ministry of sanctifying, reconciling, preaching, teaching and shepherding draws all of its power and its meaning from him."

"We have got to be familiar with him, and always strive for personal friendship with him," he said.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours into the chrism oil the fragrant balsam, a naturally derived aromatic essence, which was then consecrated.

Bishop Jugis discussed his recent visit with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

"... In his address to the bishops of Region 14 making the 'ad limina' visit to Rome, the Holy Father touched on a theme that is appropriate for us to take to heart as we renew our priestly promises today," said Bishop Jugis. "The Holy Father addressed the topic of renewal that is needed now in the church in the United States."

The Catholic Church is undergoing a "purification," said the bishop, "and is now in need of healing, rebuilding and reconciliation."

"All of this, the Holy Father says, will lead to a 'holier priesthood, a holier episcopate and a holier church,'" said Bishop Jugis.

Bishop Jugis said the pope also discussed "a disturbing loss of the sense of the transcendent and an affirmation of a culture of the material" in American society.

"But we know Christ is transcendent and ever present," said Bishop Jugis to the priests. "Our pastoral ministry makes the grace of Christ present in the lives of his holy people. Our pastoral ministry makes the love of Christ present in our society."

"Let this chrism Mass be a true renewal of our love for the sacred ministry and our love for Jesus Christ.

The recommitment ceremony which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of dedication as ministers of Christ striving to be more like Christ and being faithful to the sacred mysteries and sacramental life of the church.

Also during the Mass, Bishop Jugis blessed three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices for all of the faithful throughout the coming year.

The oil of the sick, used to anoint the ill and dying, was blessed first. Next came the blessing of the oil of catechumens, which is used during the rite of baptism. The consecration of the chrism — a duty that belongs to the bishop alone — took place near the close of the Mass. Chrism — perfumed with balsam, an aromatic oil derived from trees — is an oil of consecration used after baptism and during confirmation, the ordaining of bishops and priests, and the blessing of churches and altars.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests returned to their parishes rededicated in spiritual union with the diocesan faithful.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

APRIL 23, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 29

**One table, many cultures**
*Catholic responsibility to welcome others*
| PAGE 5

**FIGHTING FOR LIFE**

## Trial testimony said to show truth behind abortion support

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This story contains some graphic descriptions of abortion procedures.*

WASHINGTON — The graphic and often disturbing testimony about abortion at trials in San Francisco, New York and Lincoln, Neb., "provides a telling backdrop" to the scheduled April 25 demonstration in Washington in support of legal abortion and other issues affecting women, according to the U.S. bishops' chief pro-life spokeswoman.

"This demonstration is not for some abstract notion of 'choice,'" said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information in the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

"As the testimony shows, it is for a very real, very cruel and very painful way of killing

See ABORTION, page 9

**MINISTERING TO THE MASSES**

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez and Rev. Mr. Jesus Reyes, followed by Father Christopher Roux and Bishop Peter J. Jugis, lead the recessional following the dedication of the Our Lady of Lourdes Church April 18. The new church features seating for more than 700 worshippers, providing much-needed space for the 1,200-family Monroe parish.

## Our Lady of Lourdes Church dedicates new worship space

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

MONROE — One would think that a brand-new sanctuary would provide some growing room, but Our Lady of Lourdes Church's new sanctuary was overflowing on the day of its dedication.

Enthusiastic worshippers filled the pews, aisles and an additional seating area in the vestibule for the dedication of the new church building, celebrated by former pastor Bishop Peter J. Jugis April 18.

Four years of fundraising and planning, which had begun under previous pastors, continued during the two-year tenure of then-Father Jugis and concluded under the administration of Father James Cassidy, culminated with the dedication on Divine Mercy Sunday.

The parish has quadrupled in size over the last dozen years, said Austin Doherty, chairman of the parish council.

"Ten or 12 years ago, there were 300 registered families," he said. "Now there are about 1,200." About 840 of these families are Hispanic.

For the past few years, Mass has been celebrated four times each weekend, including twice in Spanish, in the activ-

See DEDICATION, page 17

## Living the faith

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry, works with Lourdes Toribio, who lives at the Franciscan Discernment House in Charlotte. The house allows women to reside with and experience the lives of the Sisters of St. Francis while considering a vocation to the religious life.

SEE COVERAGE ON PAGES 10-11.

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**In Our Schools**
*Students win awards, explore ancient cultures*
| PAGES 6-7

**Equal in dignity**
*Parishioners with autistic children seek inclusion*
| PAGE 8

**Culture Watch**
*"Left Behind" series; "Passion" media coverage*
| PAGES 12-13

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## NEW LIFE FOR KNEELERS

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Damian Bondi adds a piece of wood to a stack gleaned from old kneelers at St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting, Ind., in late March. Volunteers were fashioning the salvaged wood into shelves and coatracks to be sold to raise money for the parish school.

# Indiana parish finds inventive use for old kneelers

WHITING, Ind. (CNS) — St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting is undergoing a major facelift. So are the 73-year-old church's kneelers.

As the church undergoes a restoration, its old kneelers are undergoing a transformation to become shelves and coatracks by parishioners Tom Dabertin and Damian Bondi.

Last December, Precious Blood Father John Kalicky, pastor at St. John, offered a kneeler to Dabertin, who took it home and made it into a shelf. When Dabertin returned with the shelf, several parish workers said they would like one. That led to an idea to raise money for the church.

Dabertin and Bondi have begun transforming the 300 kneelers. Bondi dismantles them, removing screws and nails. Dabertin then picks up the pieces and runs the boards through a planer, removing the old finish and any scratches. He guides the pieces through a shaper that produces curved edges and then he assembles the main section and the side legs into shelves.

Left behind were the kneelers' metal hinges, but the restoration crews recommended Dabertin and Bondi attach the hinges to leftover wood to make coatracks.

Dabertin figures he has enough material for 250 shelves and 50 coat racks. He and Bondi have already received orders for 50 shelves. They plan to continue working until the orders or materials run out.

Each man averages six hours a week on the project.

The two volunteers are also pressure-stamping the back of each product with this message: "St. John the Baptist Catholic Church 1931-2003."

Each shelf costs $25; a coatrack costs $10. Length ranges from three to four feet, depending upon the size of the original kneeler and the condition of the wood. In some cases, the wood is chipped or has suffered salt damage. In other cases, nails have prevented cracks from spreading. All proceeds benefit the parish school, where Dabertin and Bondi each have two children.

"It's an opportunity to make a few bucks for the parish," said Bondi, a retired steelworker. "Some of the older people might like a memento. Other people have had kids at the school."

Father Kalicky, himself a carpenter, said the shelves and racks are a "nice reminder, a nice souvenir of the church."

# Study: Hundreds of U.S. parishes help poorer sister parishes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 1,350 U.S. parishes say they support a poor parish in the United States or abroad, said a Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) report.

Of the parishes supported abroad, 83 percent are in Latin America. Parishes in 55 foreign countries receive support from U.S. parishes.

The report was based on responses from a survey of 5,831 parishes across the United States conducted in 2001 by CARA, which specializes in social science research for Catholic organizations.

Of the parishes CARA surveyed, 4,670 responded to questions about supporting another parish. Of that number a total of 1,350, or about 30 percent, reported such partnerships.

There are about 19,000 parishes in the United States.

U.S. parishes involved in "sister" relationships are larger and more affluent than those parishes without such a relationship, said the CARA report.

Those parishes that support other U.S. parishes average 1,400 registered households and average $470,000 annually in weekend Mass collections, said the report.

U.S. parishes that support foreign parishes average more than 1,000 registered households and $380,000 annually in weekend Mass collections, it said.

In contrast, parishes with no sister relationships average about 800 registered households and $260,000 annually in weekend Mass collections, it said. U.S. parishes also provided food, clothing, educational materials and religious supplies, said the report.

An area that gets the least support is sponsorship of immigrants to the United States, it said. "Fewer than a tenth of partnering parishes ever do this."

The survey was commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Church in Latin America.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Theology on Tap is a speaker series for young adults providing a casual forum for "straight talk, hard facts, and real answers" on the Catholic faith and how it applies to daily life. The final meeting will be April 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Pepperoni's at Park Road Shopping Center.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes will meet through June 23 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 -11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope appeals for release of hostages in Iraq, decries violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed to radical groups in Iraq to show "feelings of humanity" and release the hostages they are holding.

At the same time, the pope deplored the "inhuman" violence in the Holy Land, the day after the leader of the Palestinian militant organization Hamas was assassinated in an Israeli missile attack.

"I am following with great sadness the tragic news coming out of the Holy Land and Iraq," the pope said April 18. "May the bloodshed among brothers end. Such inhuman acts are contrary to the will of God."

The pope said he joined in the prayers of families "who are fearful for their loved ones, especially those who have been taken as hostages."

"I invite the kidnappers to have feelings of humanity. I implore them to return to the families the persons who are in their hands, while I pray to the merciful God for the population of the Holy Land and Iraq, and for all those working for reconciliation and peace in those regions," he said.

Armed groups have held civilians from several countries, including the United States, Japan, the Czech Republic, Australia and Denmark; some have been released.

Four armed Italians working for private security operations in Iraq were abducted and one was killed execution-style, an act that shocked many in Italy. Negotiations were continuing for the release of the remaining three.

The groups also were holding at least one U.S. soldier and apparently wanted to trade him for prisoners being held by U.S. forces.

# Papal calling: daily message now available for U.S. cell phones

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The words of Pope John Paul II — if not his voice — are now available on most U.S. cell phones.

Through a service called "The Pope's Thought of the Day," an Italian firm is making the pope's message available to cell phone users.

The service began April 7 to Cingular and Verizon Wireless customers. After a test was conducted April 14 on AT&T Wireless' system, the papal message service became available to AT&T Wireless customers and is to be made available to other wireless service providers soon.

In all, the estimated 105 million cell phones that have text-messaging technology, or about 70 percent of all U.S. cell phones currently in use, will eventually be able to access the service.

"The Pope's Thought of the Day" is selected by the Vatican press office, according to Acotel USA, the U.S. branch of the Italian company Acotel. The messages are culled from his speeches, homilies and writings.

The service began a year ago in Italy, and subsequently expanded to Ireland, England and Malta. Tarantino said Acotel is working with the Vatican to provide Spanish-language messages.

The messages are available at noon Eastern time each day.

The texts aren't long, given the somewhat confined screen of cell phones.

For example, the April 5 message read: "May Christ, the way, the truth and the life renew you so that you will be his friends and witnesses in the world." The message from the day before that read: "Mary teaches us that to pray we must enter our own room and, after closing the door, speak to the Father in secret."

There is a 30-cent fee charged for each message.

To subscribe, cell phone users can send a text message saying "Pope on" to the number 24444. To unsubscribe, callers use the same number to send the text message "Pope off."

# Decrees of sainthood

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II meets with members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes in Clementine Hall at the Vatican April 19. The pope issued decrees relating to the causes of 15 individuals, including U.S. Mother Marianne Cope of Molokai. Mother Cope, now considered venerable, can be beatified once a miracle is attributed to her intercession. The Franciscan nun, who lived from 1838 to 1918, ministered to patients with Hansen's disease in the Hawaiian Islands.

with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to tujo94@aol.com.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**April 27 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mary Church, Shelby

**April 29 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

**May 2 — 12 p.m.**
Dedication of new church
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

**May 3 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville

**May 5 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon

**May 6 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Jude Church, Sapphire Valley

## NOTICE TO READERS

Nope, your paper is not late. We did not publish on April 16 due to Easter. We apologize for any inconvenience.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Twelve priests celebrated anniversaries of priestly ordination and two retired priests were honored during the annual chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral April 6. Pictured are (from left): Abbot Placid Solari, OSB; Msgr. Joseph Kerin; Father Michael Buttner; Msgr. Thomas Walsh; Father C. Morris Boyd; Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Father Andrew Latsko; Msgr. Mauricio W. West; Father James Hawker; Father Edward Sheridan; and Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

# Priest anniversaries, retirements honored at chrism Mass

CHARLOTTE — Several priests celebrated anniversaries of their ordination during the annual chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral April 6.

Celebrating 50 years of service were Msgr. Thomas Walsh, retired; Father Joseph Kelleher, retired; and Father Patrick Gavigan, retired.

Celebrating 40 years of service were Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory; and Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill and vicar of the diocesan Education Vicariate.

Celebrating 25 years of service were Father C. Morris Boyd, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson and St. Frances of Rome Church in Sparta; Father Michael Buttner, pastor of Holy Family Church in Clemmons; Father Conrad Kimbrough, retired; Father Michael Klepacki, Father Carl Kaltreider and Father William Farrell, all working outside the diocese; and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor.

Priests who retired in 2003 were also honored. They were Father Andrew Latsko and Msgr. Joseph Kerin.

# Discussing refugees

## *Officials meet with Charlotte-area refugees, explore resettlement issues*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRA

*Marlene Myers, N.C. State refugee coordinator, and Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement for the U.S. Department of Health an Human Services, chats with Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Socia Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, and Cira Ponce, director of CSS's Refuge Resettlement Office.*

*While in Charlotte for the national Hmong conference, Myers, Van Hanh and othe officials toured Hmong and Montagnard refugee communities around the Diocese Charlotte.*

*During the Vietnam War, Hmong were used as secret forces by the Centr Intelligance Agency. They fled persecution in their home country of Laos to Thailan and thousands have been living there since. Thailand no longer wants to keep them, an the U.S. government agreed to resettle them here, with as many as many as 500 Hmon refugees expected to resettle this year to parts of the Charlotte region, including th Catawba Valley.*

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**ONE TABLE, MANY CULTURES**

# Catholic responsibility to welcome others, speaker says

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — "There's only one table and that's God's table," Elizabeth Dudas said, "and the symbol of that is the eucharistic table."

Dudas, ministry consultant with Glenmary's Department of Pastoral Services in Nashville, Tenn., presented "Making Room at the Table," April 17 at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. The Smoky Mountain Vicariate sponsored the program.

"There's a lot of pain out there in our communities, and it's our responsibility as Catholics to welcome everyone God sends to us," Dudas said. "God has always used immigration to bring about his kingdom."

Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, saw another dimension.

"This is a pro-life issue, yet this is never addressed," he said. "We have to bring the same passion of respect for those already here as for the life coming into the world."

The program looked at immigration and described ways to provide hospitality to immigrants, migrants, visitors, tourists and seasonal parishioners. That includes making efforts to welcome everyone, learning about other cultures, welcoming people not just to the parish but to the wider community and avoiding assumptions about others.

For instance, some immigrants rarely had access to the sacraments in their own countries because a priest may have visited their villages only once or twice a year. Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, said immigrants with that background often don't understand the importance of sacraments and attending Mass.

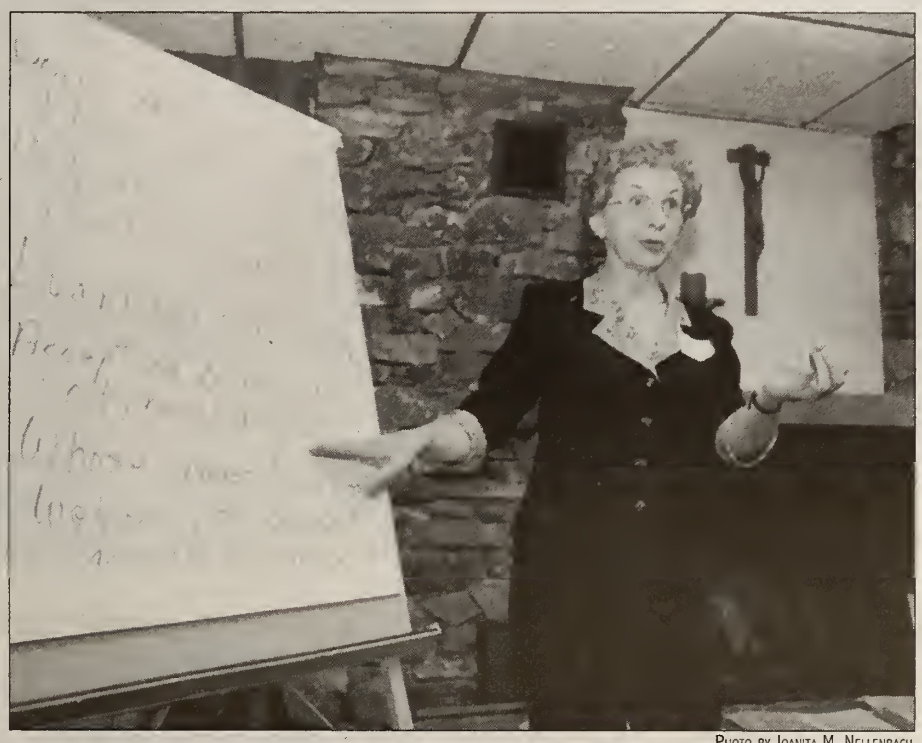

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Elizabeth Dudas explains ways to welcome people during "Making Room at the Table" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley April 17.**

"Don't assume that people who come from other countries live the faith the same way you do," he said. "Get to know them first, and then help them adjust to the new reality."

Welcoming immigrants is not optional for Catholics, said Dudas.

"Our bishops say that as a Catholic Church, we have a moral obligation to do all we can to help immigrants, reminding us that we were once immigrants, too," Dudas said.

This help, Dudas suggests, applies to everyone and includes greeting others, inviting them to be part of the parish's regular community-building, encouraging seasonal visitors to take part in parish activities, and "sensitively considering visiting migrants in their camps and temporary homes."

It also means, Dudas said, becoming aware of the plight of migrants through educational programs, creating opportunities for immigrants to tell their stories, being host for a program with an immigration attorney on immigration rights, and celebrating National Migration Week, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in January each year.

According to the USCCB Web site: "National Migration Week, as envisioned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, presents the entire Church with an opportunity to 'open wide the doors' to welcome newcomers, to educate others about the harsh realities faced by immigrants, migrants, and refugees, and to motivate each community to act in solidarity with people on the move."

Although the week following the feast of the Epiphany is designated National Migration Week, the USCCB Web site says dioceses are "free to choose the specific date on which to mark their own observance."

Parishes and individuals can help immigrants, migrants and refugees feel at home, Dudas said, by collecting and distributing items they need such as school supplies, warm clothing and household items; and supporting youth activities that promote acceptance and understanding among young people.

"God wouldn't give us this challenge if he didn't think we were up to it," Dudas said. "God's time is always the right time."


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$ 150 room and board

# Loose change helps Angels

COURTESY PHOTO

Principal Walt Przygocki (right) joins Darren Sorrels and his fourth-grade class, the winners of St. Mark School's Loose Change Drive to benefit Holy Angels, a nonprofit ministry that provides services for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation. The students presented a check for $1,800 to Holy Angels in mid-February.

## THIS MONTH IN —2000

### OLG STUDENTS PLACE FIRST IN NASA COMPETITION

- An eighth-grade science class at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro was awarded first place in the NASA Student Involvement Program's (NSIP) 1999-2000 competition. NSIP is a national program that stimulates math, science, technology and geography excellence through five competition categories designed for students in grades three through 12. More than 360 students submitted more than 1,200 entries to be judged at NASA Centers by teams of scientists, engineers, educators, journalists and other professionals.

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TIMELESS JOURNEY

COURTESY PHOTO

Second-graders at St. Matthew School in Charlotte display their projects for Communities in Civilization April 5.

# Second-graders at St. Matthew School explore ancient, present-day communities

CHARLOTTE — Second-grade students at St. Matthew School recently took a stroll through time.

Teacher Elaine Giglio's class completed their projects on Communities in Civilization April 5. Under Giglio's guidance, the students researched, wrote and presented projects ranging from ancient Egypt to present-day communities.

Some students built castles, model airplanes and volcanoes, and they even learned how to make perfume.

Giglio said the assignment helped the children understand how civilization has progressed in areas such as education, home life, work life and religious life.

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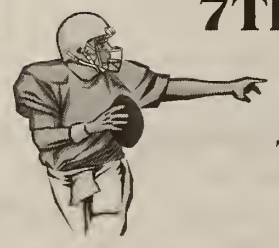

MEN'S CONFERENCE

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**What:** Men's Conference
**Who:** Steve Wood
**When:** Thursday, May 13 7-9:30 pm
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109 Crescent Hill Dr.
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**Price: $20**
**Info: Randy Warrick**
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- How discipline works

**Fathering during the second quarter:**
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- Successful fathering of daughters

**Fathering during the third quarter:**
- Motivating older teens
- Keeping teens out of trouble
- Creative alternatives to the dating scene

**Fathering during the fourth quarter:**
- How to help your daughter avoid a big mistake in choosing a husband
- How to prepare your son to be a great husband and father

# Washington winner

COURTESY PHOTO

Holy Trinity Middle School eighth-grader Kristen Keane stands with Jerry Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School. Keane was recently named the winner of the 9th Annual Megan Healy Washington Scholarship at Holy Trinity. The scholarship, named after Healy's daughter, was presented by Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent of diocesan schools, and Holy Trinity Principal Carole Breerwood and will be used by Keane for her class trip to Washington, D.C. this spring.

SONS OF ERIN

COURTESY PHOTO

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division, donated books on Irish history and culture to Charlotte Catholic High School March 17. Pictured are Linda Meckes, school librarian; John Eury, Sons of Erin project chairman; Jerry Healy, school principal; and Tim Lawson, Sons of Erin president.

# AOH donates books, funds on St. Patrick's Day

CHARLOTTE — A local division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians spent St. Patrick's Day celebrating Irish culture and following a tradition of helping others.

The AOH Sons of Erin Division donated books on Irish history and culture to the Charlotte Catholic High School library March 17. This is the second year the Sons of Erin Division has donated books to the high school's library on the Irish saint's feast day.

The Sons of Erin Division plans to continue donating similar books eventually to merit a library shelf called the Hibernian Collection.

They also presented a check in support of seminarians to Father John Allen, director of the diocesan vocations department. The AOH hopes to make the support an annual event on St. Patrick's Day.

The Sons of Erin upheld another St. Patrick's Day tradition by attending Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral March 17, with AOH brother and Ceol na Gael Pipe Major Mike Holian playing the bagpipes outside the cathedral before and after Mass.

The Sons of Erin Division also participated in the annual Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade March 13 with its marching unit and Ceol na Gael Pipe Band Parade. The group has served corned beef sandwiches at the accompanying festival for the past two years. Funds raised support the group's Hiberian charities and division projects throughout the year.

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'EQUAL IN DIGNITY IN THE SIGHT OF GOD'

# Parishioners with autistic children seek inclusive worship atmosphere

BY IRENE VOTCH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BERTHA, Minn. — Most parents who bring their children to Mass can tell at least one story of when their child's behavior became disruptive: The baby suddenly cried inconsolably, the toddler threw a tantrum, the preschooler loudly insisted on a bathroom break or refused to leave her sister alone.

For most parents, it is the story of an isolated incident or two. But for parents of autistic children, like John and Carol Race, their stories are of ongoing disruptive behavior by their children and of rejection and chastisement by those around them at Mass.

Among the Races' five children is an autistic son. They are members of St. Joseph Parish in Bertha.

One Saturday evening, they attended Mass in St. Paul at the Cathedral of St. Paul and received a negative reaction from a person seated nearby who asked them to move.

At another parish, the pastor chastised Carol Race after Mass for her son's behavior.

"People at first think it's a discipline problem and assume that a good spanking would clear everything up," she told the St. Cloud Visitor, newspaper of the St. Cloud Diocese.

While a "good spanking" might be the worst treatment for a child with disruptive behavior, it is especially inappropriate for autistic children.

Autism is a lifelong, complex condition in which a child has problems to varying degrees with language, socialization and learning. Those with severe problems are referred to as "low-functioning." Those with less severe problems are referred to as "high-functioning." Many are somewhere in between.

The Autism Society of America estimates that 1.5 million — or one in every 200 — people in the United States have some degree of autism.

Adam Race has been determined to be low-functioning. He is now 9 years old and large for his age, requiring the Races to take specific measures so that the whole family can participate in Mass together. They sit in the last pew, reserved for them, and use a tether that keeps Adam close to his mother or father.

CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

**Carol Race offers an encouraging smile to her 9-year-old son, Adam, during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Bertha, Minn. Adam, who has been diagnosed with autism, requires much of his parent's attention during Sunday services.**

The Races provide Adam with a supply of wrapped candy with which he busies himself during Mass. But none of this guarantees Adam will not be disruptive.

He generally hums during each hymn while picking up and dropping his candy on the pew. Sometimes he throws the candy. Sometimes he throws himself.

To their credit, St. Joseph's parishioners do not frown or whisper at the situation in the back pew. In fact, one 12-year-old parishioner offers her help each Sunday, often taking the other Race children into her pew so Adam's parents can more easily respond to his needs.

Some might think the family should not insist on bringing a child who is persistently disruptive to Mass. But Carol Race thinks it is important that the family worships together.

The U.S. bishops have said that children with persistently disruptive behaviors have a right to be at Mass.

In their 1995 document on "Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities," the bishops wrote: "By reason of their baptism, all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God and have the same divine calling." They also wrote, "Catholics with disabilities have a right to participate in the sacraments as fully functioning members of the local ecclesial community."

"It's more than a right," said Father Ron Damico, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. In his 2002 book, "The Joy of Worshiping Together," Father Damico wrote that every member of a Catholic parish has a duty to be present to the other members in parish liturgies.

"Everybody has something to contribute," he said when he learned of the Race family's efforts to include Adam in their family and parish worship.

"I see all kinds of ways that this person is a gift to the community," he said, adding that Adam may have the responsibility "of teaching people how to love."

"We're often self-focused so we don't see people like this as gifts," he said. "We think they're keeping us from getting anything out of Mass. But we have to find ways. We have to get used to one another."

Father Tom Knoblach, pastor of the Bertha parish and St. Edward's Parish in Henning, said he believes people with disruptive disabilities present "important lessons for us to learn. They reveal to us something of the brokenness of the human condition."

Describing their inclusion as "a kind of countercultural sign in the life of the church," Father Knoblach said people with disabilities are a reminder that it is "human imperfection that is the mark of membership in the kingdom of God."

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# Abortion testimonies provide 'telling backdrop' for pro-life supporters

ABORTION, *from page 1*

nearly viable and even post-viable unborn children," said Ruse.

The "March for Women's Lives" is sponsored by groups that include Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the plaintiff in the San Francisco trial.

U.S. District Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton heard closing arguments April 16 in Planned Parenthood vs. Ashcroft, the San Francisco challenge to Congress' ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure. But similar trials aimed at overturning the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act continued in Lincoln and New York.

Hamilton gave no indication on when she might rule. But she told attorneys in the case that she would not issue an injunction with nationwide effect.

"I would have some hesitance to do that" while the other two cases were pending, she said.

The U.S. District Court judges in the other two cases are Judge Richard Conway Casey, who is hearing National Abortion Federation vs. Ashcroft in New York, and Judge Richard G. Kopf, who is presiding at Leroy Carhart vs. Ashcroft in Lincoln. Both of them issued nationwide injunctions against enforcement of the partial-birth abortion ban when they agreed to hear the cases, but Hamilton issued a preliminary injunction that applied only locally.

No matter what the outcome in each case, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is likely to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The law bars a type of abortion that is usually performed in the second or third trimester. In it, a live fetus is partially delivered, then the skull is punctured to sever the brain stem before the whole body is delivered.

Under the law, doctors who perform such abortions, which are also known to physicians as "intact dilation and extraction," are subject to up to two years in prison.

Testimony at the three trials covered not only the partial-birth procedure but other abortion methods.

The testimony has come mostly from medical professionals and has covered such issues as what women are told before their abortions, whether the partial-birth procedure is ever medically necessary and whether unborn children can feel pain.

In New York, Dr. Gerson Weiss, chairman of the department of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, spoke in graphic detail about the difficulty of counting the fetal parts after a dilation and extraction abortion involving dismemberment.

"You can count there is a limb here, I can see feet and hands, I can see skull fragments, I can see trunk," he said April 7. "But when you see little pieces, if there are little pieces left behind that are torn off, you can't fully reconstruct and you cannot fully count the small pieces."

In San Francisco, Dr. Katharine Sheehan, medical director of Planned Parenthood in San Diego and Riverside Counties, testified about the use of Digoxin "to cause fetal demise" before an abortion.

""We like to prevent an eventuality of a live birth, and because it seems to make the procedure move along a little bit easier on the day of the procedure," she said.

Testifying in New York, Dr. Carolyn Westhoff, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University in New York and attending physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital, said she did not tell women undergoing dilation and extraction abortions that the child's skull would be crushed and his or her brain suctioned out.

"Those are details that would be distressing to my patients and ... information about that is not directly relevant to their safety," she said.

Westhoff also talked about how stabbing the head with scissors or her finger causes it to look "a little wrinkly and collapsed, but the facial structures are not disturbed at all by that procedure." She said there are "small coffins" and "little hats" available to parents who wish to see, photograph or bury their child.

Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand, a University of Arkansas pediatrician, testified in Lincoln that his research on pain in infants and children had convinced him that there would be "severe and excruciating pain caused to the fetus" by the partial-birth abortion procedure.

But some of the testimony provided information about the humanity of the unborn child.

Anand talked about studies that looked at the senses of taste and smell experienced by unborn children.

"For example, if you put a sweet substance, say saccharine, into the amniotic fluid, ultrasound studies showed that the fetus starts swallowing the amniotic fluid much faster than before this sweet substance was introduced," he said. "And if you introduce a bitter-tasting oil into the amniotic fluid, the swallowing stops. So from early on, the fetus seems to have a sweet tooth."

Ruse said the trial transcripts "should be required reading for every politician who voted" to keep partial-birth abortion legal and will provide "a permanent public record" in the words of abortion providers themselves.

"From this day forward, Americans will judge abortion by its chief proponents — in their own words," she said.

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DISCERNING THE CALL

# Women contemplate religious life in discernment houses

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Hush. Listen. God may be calling you.

"Many people miss God's call — either they're too busy or they misinterpret it," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry. "Sometimes they hear the call but say 'that's asking too much.'"

But when people determine to what God is calling them, "that's their sure way of being happy," said Sister Inkrott.

Everyone has a vocation, "a call from God to respond in some way," said Sister Inkrott. "And there are many different ways — we have vocations to religious life, to priestly life, to the single life and to the married life."

To help women discern a call to the religious life, Sister Inkrott's order — the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio — have established a discernment house in Charlotte, staffed by Sister Inkrott and Franciscan Sister Joan Ann Gilsdorf.

"There are a lot of people who don't have contact with sisters," said Sister Inkrott. "So a house of discernment would be one way that women could ask questions, see firsthand what a vocation to the religious life is and ask, 'Is this for me?'"

A discernment house is not a first step, but a way to investigate a calling, said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott.

COURTESY PHOTOS

**Above: Lourdes Toribio and Franciscan Sister Joan Ann Gilsdorf help with the cooking at the Franciscan Discernment House in Charlotte.**

**Left: Discernment houses aren't all work and prayer. Toribio takes a break from her studies to help a friend clean her car.**

### *Life in discernment*

Going to a discernment house is not necessarily a first step toward becoming a nun, said Sister Inkrott.

"It's not becoming a candidate or novitiate, but it's something to help a person discern whether or not God is calling them to this life."

"It's been very helpful and I'm enjoying it," said Lourdes Toribio, the Franciscan Discernment House's first resident. "It's a lot different than what I thought."

The Sisters of St. Francis consider Toribio to be an "associate," someone who shares the journey and dream of St. Francis of Assisi. Toribio's residency is one of three associate options offered by the order — to live at a discernment house for a year or more and be involved in the ministry of the sisters.

Other associate options include one of a spiritual nature, with prayer, faith-sharing and reflective opportunities; and another characterized by a deeper involvement in the life and ministries of the sisters, but without living in residence at a local house.

Toribio, 22, originally from Mexico, has been living at the discernment house since September 2003. When she's not cooking or praying with the sisters, Toribio assists Sister Inkrott with Hispanic ministry and tutors at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte.

She also is starting a sacramental preparation class for Spanish-speaking parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, said Sister Inkrott, "with dreams of doing even more."

Toribio was among the Hispanic youth, ages 16-27, to participate in the second session of Taller Pascua (Easter Workshop) 2004 at Immaculate Conception Church and Immaculata School in Hendersonville in November 2003. The group finalized chapters for the book, "A Life Project Towards Happiness: Your Calling," published by the Southeast Pastoral Institute this year to help Hispanic youth discern vocations.

"I'm learning a lot about the different cultures — both Anglo and Hispanic," said Toribio. "I'm looking to learn more, and continue to follow the call I have received."

If Toribio decides to pursue her interest in becoming a Sister of St. Francis, her next step is to become a pre-candidate and then candidate, when she becomes a canonical member of the order. This is followed by two years as a novitiate, with one year spent in prayer and spiritual study and one year in ministry and preparation.

After the novitiate, the next step is to make a temporary profession for a number of years, followed by final profession with permanent vows.

"If people don't try it, don't make any steps toward investigating a calling, they'll have that hanging over their heads all their lives," said Sister Inkrott. "I've heard people say they've had a drawing toward religious life, and for whatever reason they didn't follow it."

### *Inspirations of Mercy*

The Franciscan Discernment House in Charlotte, which can accommodate up to four associates, has been in the "idea stage" for several years, said Sister Inkrott. While conceptualizing the house, Sister Inkrott met with the Sisters of Mercy who run the McAuley discernment house in downtown Belmont.

There are currently three women — college students from Charlotte, Asheville and South Carolina — at the inquiry level with the Sisters of Mercy.

"The inquiry level is the first time a woman contacts us — either by phone, letter or e-mail — with an interest in the religious life," said Mercy Sister Mary Cabrini Taitano, vocations minister for the Sisters of Mercy in North Carolina.

"The discernment begins there, with informal conversations to get to know each other ... to form a relationship and introduce her to religious life," she said.

If a woman chooses to pursue a life as a Sister of Mercy, the next step is pre-candidacy, said Sister Taitano. This includes providing an autobiography, recommendations, sacramental documents, work history and submitting to a background check.

The idea, said Sister Taitano, is to determine the candidate's values — does she have a sense of calling? A pattern of personal prayer? An active sacramental life in church? An idea of community and the personal responsibility of living in community?

Mercy Sister Virginia, a 24-year-old novice from the island of Tamatam in the Federated States of Micronesia, is currently in her second-year novitiate at the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. She is preparing to make her first vows in Guam in September.

"The discernment continues until she makes final vows," said Sister Taitano. "It's a long engagement."

See HOUSE, next page

**WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE**

Religious orders represented by sisters in the Diocese of Charlotte:

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Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Communities of N.C.
— Dallas, Pennsylvania
— Watchung, N.J.
— Detroit, Mich.
— Cincinnati, Ohio

School Sisters of St. Francis

Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna

Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Minneapolis, Minn.

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Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, Minn.

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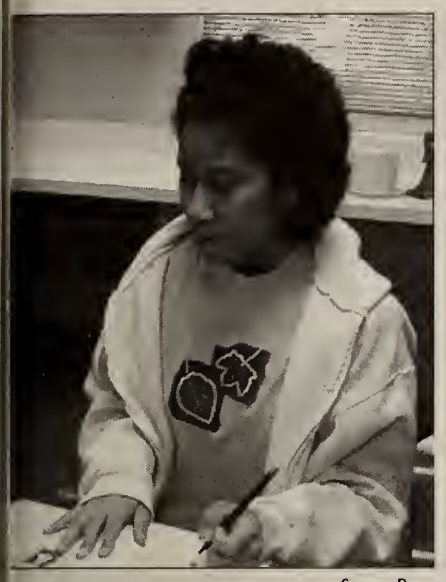
**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

Anyone interested in contacting any of the above communities may call the Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for the diocesan Office of Women Religious, at (704) 370-3213.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Virginia Raymond is in her second year novitiate at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse in Belmont.**

**HOUSE,** ***from previous page***

***Religious life***

During Bishop Peter J. Jugis' "ad limina" visit to the Vatican March 29, Pope John Paul II asked him about vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"He also was interested in vocations to the religious life, especially to the sisterhood," said Bishop Jugis. "He asked me on two different occasions, 'Are there any women interested in joining the religious life?'" So I did say, 'Well, yes.'"

"Persons seeking to follow God's call to become a member of a religious community have many opportunities in the Diocese of Charlotte to experience the life and works of several orders of women religious," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for the diocesan Office of Women Religious.

There are currently 17 orders of women religious working in various capacities throughout the Diocese of Charlotte.

"These women are engaged in ministries of pastoral care, medical fields, social outreach, catechetics, education, Hispanic outreach, administration, visitation to the sick, bereavement counseling and hospital chaplaincy," said Sister Warren.

Although many religious orders have age limits for consideration, there are a variety of women entering discernment houses.

"We're trying to meet the people where they are," said Sister Inkrott. "We have people coming in who are older, some have been working for a long time. Some communities are seeing grandmothers coming in."

"One of our sisters is a grandmother," said Sister Taitano. "We have accepted women who are divorced with annulled marriages, and women who are widowed."

"We can have a variety of careers — teachers, nurses, pastoral associates, cooks," said Franciscan Sister Margaret Slowick, director of diocesan campus ministry for the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. "It's not a career that defines us, it's the call to be a sister."

"It's a life choice, like the married or single life," said Franciscan Sister Leanne Kerschner, vocations director for the Sisters of St. Francis at Tiffin. "What I do, I can do anywhere."

But the religious life isn't always an easy one, the sisters agreed.

"There are some sisters in our community who had to work hard and give up a lot in order to follow what they felt their calling was," said Sister Inkrott.

"It's a continuing challenge," said Sister Taitano. "It's a journey that's never really done. For example, people make marriage vows and then have to live them out."

Some women explore the religious life for the wrong reasons, such as to escape childhood or abuse issues.

"The convent is not an escape from the problems of the world," said Sister Slowick. "Women in religious life are often more aware of what's going on in the world; we're involved in a lot of social justice issues."

Vocations directors help interested women sort out their calling before they join, said Sister Kerschner.

"Somehow you know where God is calling you, if you take the time to listen," said Sister Slowick.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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**FAITHFUL ASKED TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

# It's not a vocations crisis but a commitment crisis, priest says

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Church throughout the world will celebrate the 41st World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, May 2, the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

The purpose of the day is for "all of the faithful join in fervent prayer for vocations to the priesthood, to the consecrated life and to missionary service," said Pope John Paul II.

"Indeed, our primary duty is to pray to the 'Lord of the harvest' for those who already follow Christ very closely in the priesthood and religious life, and for those whom he in his mercy continues to call to such important ecclesial service," said the pope.

The day will "provide an opportunity for the local church to mobilize the many people in the diocese dedicated to vocation efforts — vocation personnel, priests, religious, teachers, parents, as well as all the faithful in the diocese — to discuss the need for vocations, to pray for an increase in vocations and to consider participating in creating a positive atmosphere surrounding church vocations," says Father Edward J. Burns, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation.

"A lot of people say that religious are dying out. I don't think that's necessarily true," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte. "We're fewer, but not dying out."

Sister Inkrott resides at the Sisters of St. Francis' new discernment house in Charlotte. The home was established to help women discern a possible vocation to the order by observing and living with the sisters.

Father Burns said the church in the United States is not suffering from a vocations crisis. Rather, he said, modern culture is suffering from a commitment crisis.

"It's not easy to make a commitment these days," said Father Burns, keynote speaker at the 2004 Evening with the Bishop event to benefit the Vocations Investment Partnership for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Mo.

"But that is exactly what we are called to do," he said.

All of the faithful must "rally around those who do make commitments to the church, to live a holy life," said Father Burns. "We need to support all vocations in all ways and in all seasons. It's so vital for us as church, in order to express the mission of Christ."

All the church must help create what he called a "vocation culture" — "a culture whereby young men and women may courageously respond to God's call, and to live out a life of commitment — commitment to the Gospel message, to a life of service, and life in the church."

Recent polls in the United States have indicated this generation of young people is "more spiritual than ever," said Father Burns.

"Compared to the generation of World War II, the spirituality they possess is one that needs further nurturing and further formation," he said. "It is a spirituality of young people so dedicated to their relationship to God, and so hungry for the truth and the Gospel message — the truth that is proclaimed in the church."

He talked about how important it is for every Catholic to stand in solidarity with people who are engaged in ministry and mission. "We do have the capacity and ability to support one another in all of our ministries, in our vocations, in all that we give to the church and one another," he said.

He urged his listeners to stand up to the mass media when reporters or comedians only talk about the church in terms of priests who have sexually abused children. Such references, he said, ignore the breadth of the Catholic Church's many ministries.

Father Burns said everyone in the church must be clear about his or her mission. Religious communities must be clear about their unique charisms, and diocesan priests must be clear about their priestly identity.

Parents, he said, have a responsibility to create an environment in the home that enables the entire family to pray for vocations. Parents and grandparents must ask themselves whether they discuss vocations at home and encourage their children to pray for them. Teachers must be aware of how vocations to ordained ministry and the consecrated life are presented in textbooks and in the classroom.

Religious sisters and brothers, Father Burns said, must be asked whether the way they live out the charism of their community makes young women and men want to inquire about religious life.

Priests, he said, must ask themselves whether their prayer life and personal example and the way they preach and celebrate the Eucharist properly nourish and nurture young people, so that they might also reflect on a call to vocation.

"All of us," he said, "are called to nurture, to mentor, to teach and to invite, to create this vocation culture."

"Ultimately, as we look at the tasks that lie ahead of us, we come before the Lord, repeating the words of the psalmist in all that we do in vocation ministry and all we do in inviting young men and women to respond to priesthood and religious life: 'Lord, bless our endeavors' and 'give success to the work of our hands.'"

*Jay Nies of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## 'Left Behind' series called 'overtly anti-Catholic'

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The popular "Left Behind" series of Christian apocalyptic novels denies a number of Catholic teachings and "is both subtly and overtly anti-Catholic," says an article in *The Living Light*, a quarterly publication of the U.S. bishops' Department of Education.

The quarterly's winter 2003 issue devoted articles to "Left Behind," the fundamentalist "rapture doctrine" behind it, a Catholic understanding of the end times when Christ will come again, and the large gap religious educators see between what Catholics know and what they should know about church teaching in that area.

The articles' authors warned Catholics could easily be drawn into such fundamentalist teachings if they have not received solid formation in Catholic teaching about the last things — death, judgment, heaven and hell.

The issue appeared before the 12th and final novel in the series, "Glorious Appearing," hit bookstores March 30.

Since authors Tim LaHayes and Jerry Jenkins began the series in 1995, its first 11 novels have sold more than 40 million copies, with a spinoff youth series kicking the number of copies to around 60 million.

"While they appear to be based on the Bible, the 'Left Behind' books actually promote a nonbiblical fear in opposition to Catholic teaching about a hope-filled end time," wrote religious educator Joyce Donahue in an article analyzing the theology of the series in relation to Catholic teaching.

She gave a synopsis of the first 11 books, starting with the first, when "mysteriously, all over the world, all small children and 'good' adults suddenly disappear." The central characters learn those who disappeared were taken up to heaven in the "rapture" before the seven years of global tribulation that — according to rapture belief — will precede Christ's second coming.

Donahue cited key conflicts between theories propounded by LaHaye and Jenkins in the novels and Catholic teaching, including their approach to the Book of Revelation and other apocalyptic passages of Scripture.

"Any fundamentalist reading of apocalyptic Scripture is not Catholic teaching," she said. "A seven-year tribulation between the 'rapture' and the return of Christ is not biblical. Scripture teaches that Christ will come after a period of tribulation and that all believers will at that time be taken up to heaven to be with him."

Rapture theology relies on St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians where he says when Christ comes a second time, "the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

The word "rapture" comes from the Latin verb "rapere," used in St. Jerome's Latin translation of that passage to express the notion of the just being "caught up" with the Lord.

But as Donahue and the author of another article, theologian Paul Thigpen, pointed out, rapture theology teaches about a third coming of Christ — first in his birth in Bethlehem, second in his secret coming to snatch away the just before the tribulations of the end time, and third at the end of the world to reign in glory.

Catholic and mainstream Christian teaching holds that when Christ comes in glory at the end of this age, it will be his second coming, not his third.

Donahue commented, "A 'second chance' at salvation (for those not taken up in the second coming) is not biblical. ... We will all, at the same time, receive the final judgment — Mt 13:37-43. The postrapture, prejudgment scenario in the 'Left Behind' books borders on Pelagianism because characters seem to be working to redeem themselves."

An early heresy in Christianity, Pelagianism held that grace depended on human initiative, not on God's initiative.

The "Left Behind" books also present a "harsh and judgmental" image of God, offer a theology of suffering that is not Catholic — the rapture saves the good from the trials of the end time — and "deny the efficaciousness of baptism," wrote Donahue.

On the nonbaptismal approach to salvation, "people in the series are saved at a specific moment by saying a verbal formula," and in the children's series "a minister describes this to the kids as a 'transaction ... a deal,'" she wrote. "Salvation takes place only when a person tells Jesus Christ that he or she accepts salvation."

"In contrast," she wrote, "the Catholic Church teaches that salvation is a process effected and celebrated in the sacraments of initiation and continuing through Christian life."

She described ways in which the series is anti-Catholic, including the portrayal of "a self-centered, obese American cardinal" becoming pope in an election rigged by the Antichrist and then leading "the Antichrist's new one-world religion."

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 2, 2004

## *May 2, Fourth Sunday of Easter*

***Cycle C. Readings:***
1) Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
2) Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
3) John 10:27-30

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Tears flow in many forms, sprung from a thousand different causes.

They come as fat, salty droplets running down the face of a child stung by the unfairness of life; streaks in the makeup of a woman showing friends the quilt her recently deceased mother made for her 50th birthday; wet smears on the blotchy, wrathful face of a man whose job has been exported to another country in order to punch up the share prices of company directors; glittering pools flooding the eyes of a heartbroken young couple making their long goodbyes at the airport.

Sometimes they are hidden, perceptible only in the crushing headache, the dark mood, the angry words of those who hide their tears from fear of vulnerability.

Tears come to mind on hearing the promises made to us in Sunday's reading from the Book of Revelation. When we shine the light of that passage on our experience of all the different kinds of tears arising from the human condition two truths stand out.

The first is that God's commitment to vindicate all those who remain faithful to him does not eliminate the fact that tears are part of the human story. Discipleship in Christ cannot be lived without compassion, and compassion opens us up to all the sadness of the world from the shallow and momentary to the deep and lasting. To attempt a life without tears is to condemn ourselves to live only on the surface.

The second truth here is that God's compassion and fidelity are so great that every tear — from the most fleeting and inconsequential to the longest flowing and most deeply felt — will be wiped away by God's tender and loving hand.

Loss, anger, disappointment, fear, desolation, physical pain — in the end they are all provisional. Nothing can outlast the love and mercy of God.

***Questions:***

What is one time someone helped you to experience God's consolation? Is there someone in your life whose tears might need to be acknowledged and wiped away?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"For the lamb ... will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 25 - MAY 1**

**Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter),** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19; **Monday** Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday,** Acts 7:51—8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Peter Chanel St. Louis de Montfort),** Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday (St. Catherine of Siena),** Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51; **Friday (St. Pius V),** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday (St. Joseph the Worker)** Genesis 1:26—2:3, Matthew 13:54-58

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2 - MAY 8**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30 **Monday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24—13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday,** Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20 **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

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# Marquette University studies newspaper coverage of 'Passion' film

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — An analysis of newspaper coverage of the movie "The Passion of the Christ" conducted by Jesuit-run Marquette University in Milwaukee showed there was more positive than negative coverage in news stories, although news stories with neutral coverage outnumbered the positive and negative coverage.

William Elliott, dean of Marquette's College of Communication, said level of coverage extraordinary and that the study's results, released April 8, confirmed his own instincts of what he saw in the press.

The first phase of the Marquette study covered the 10 highest-circulation U.S. newspapers. The second phase will cover at least one newspaper in each of the 50 states.

Under analysis were stories published between Jan. 1 and March 20; the film was released Feb. 25. The 10 newspapers averaged 35 stories each over that time period, or close to one story every other day.

Other movies, Elliott said, may generate newspaper coverage, but in the case of a series such as "The Lord of the Rings," it would be "directed to a small group of Tolkien readers, and appears a lot on the entertainment pages."

News articles made up 42.1 percent of all newspaper coverage of "The Passion." Of the 146 articles, 50 were judged to be positive and 21 negative, but 75 were considered neutral.

Letters to the editor accounted for 23.3 percent of the coverage of the film, making them the next largest portion of "Passion" newspaper coverage. Of 81 letters, 31 were judged to be negative, 27 positive and 23 neutral.

Of the 47 feature stories, which accounted for 13.5 percent of all newspaper coverage, 29 of the stories were neutral, 11 were negative and seven were positive.

Reviews of "The Passion of the Christ" were almost evenly split, with 11 being neutral, 10 positive and 10 negative. Of editorials about the movie, 13 were negative, 13 were neutral, and only four were positive.

The Marquette study also examined what the newspaper articles discussed about the movie. The religious nature of the film was the most prevalent topic, with 197 stories referencing it. The other subject touched upon in a majority of the articles that were studied was whether the film could be seen as anti-Semitic.

"While anti-Semitism was frequently discussed, it was considered a major issue in only 30.4 percent of the articles," the study's executive summary said. "The most frequent interpretation was that the issue was a minor part of the story and one side of the issue was presented."

Other topics found in the coverage were, in descending order: the film's violence, its historical accuracy, the movie's production and promotion efforts, and the quest of director Mel Gibson.

Regarding stories about the film's violence, the study said, "violence was not only a significant theme of the coverage, the results ... show that the issues surrounding violence often come in the form of negative articles."

# 'Bill' sequel still bad

CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

**Uma Thurman stars "Kill Bill — Vol. 2." While not as bloody as its predecessor, the superficiality of its highly stylized savagery promotes a video-game attitude toward violence and is fueled by a revenge-driven theme incompatible with the Christian understanding of forgiveness. Recurring gratuitous scenes of violence, much rough and crude language and drug content. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

Scott Hahn

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***Friday, June 11, 2004***

6:00pm Registration (For anyone not pre-registered)
7:00pm Vespers
7:15pm General Introduction to Conference - Fr. M. Kauth
7:30pm Opening Address - Dr. Alice von Hildebrand

***Saturday, June 12, 2004***

8:00am *Holy Mass*—Fr. R. Amsparger, Celebrant
9:30am *Art & Our Lady* - Fr. M. Kauth
*The Holy Eucharist*—Fr. P.J. Winslow
*The Roman Liturgy* - Fr. W.R. Williams
10:30am *Reformation History* - David Dorando, D.Phil.
*Ecclesiastical Architecture* - Duncan Stroik, LLC
*Priest Panel Q&A* - The Friends of St. John Vianney*
11:30am *Repeat of all 9:30 am talks*
12:30pm *Lunch*
1:30pm *Rosary and Benediction*—Fr. C. Gober
2:15pm *Swear to God, The Bible & The Sacraments*- Dr. Scott Hahn
3:15pm *The Eucharist as Life-Giving Love* - Kimberly Hahn
4:30pm *The Holy Mass*- Fr. P.J. Winslow, Celebrant
5:30pm *Dinner Break*
7:30pm *Lord Have Mercy* - Dr. Scott Hahn
8:30pm *Q&A Session*- Scott & Kimberly Hahn
9:30pm *General Conclusion of Conference*

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**EASTER S.T.A.R.S**

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Carmen Malacari, members of S.T.A.R., the Easter Bunny and Msgr. John McSweeney gather during an Easter luncheon at St. Matthew Church April 7. Kindergarten students from St. Matthew School gave cards and sang songs for the S.T.A.R. members.

# Kindergarteners, senior citizens celebrate Easter

CHARLOTTE — Kids and adults at St. Matthew Church and School proved Easter is fun for any age.

Approximately 115 kindergarten students and 160 members of the parish's S.T.A.R. group (Seniors That Are Retired) enjoyed an Easter luncheon at the church's New Life Center April 7.

The students made Easter cards for the seniors, who baked cupcakes and provided Easter candy for the children. The students then sang for the seniors after lunch.

The Easter Bunny and helpers from Charlotte Catholic High School also joined the festivities. Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church, and Father Duc Duong and Father Carmen Malacari, parochial vicars, judged the seniors' Easter bonnet contest.

# Celebrating Seder

COURTESY PHOTO

Benedictine Father David Draim, parochial vicar; Claudio Carrizosa, parishioner; Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor; and Veronica Netwono, parishioner, take part in the parish's annual Seder dinner at St. James Catholic Church in Hamlet April 6. The Seder is a meal and prayer service in Jewish homes on the eve of the first day of Passover. Some Christian parishes hold modified Seder observances because the Last Supper, at which Jesus instituted the Eucharist the night before his death, is traditionally believed to have been a Seder meal.

# Portraying passion

COURTESY PHOTO BY DAVID RAMSEY

Hispanic Ministry members portray Jesus and Roman soldiers during a living Stations of the Cross performance at St. Mary Church in Sylva on Good Friday, April 9. The Stations of the Cross, a traditional Lenten devotion also known as the Way of the Cross, reenact Christ's passion and crucifixion. In brief remarks at the end of the Vatican's torch-lit Way of the Cross service in Rome's Colosseum April 9, Pope John Paul II prayed, "May the mystery of the Way of the Cross of the Son of God be for all of us a source of unending hope. May it comfort and strengthen us even when our hour of death arrives."

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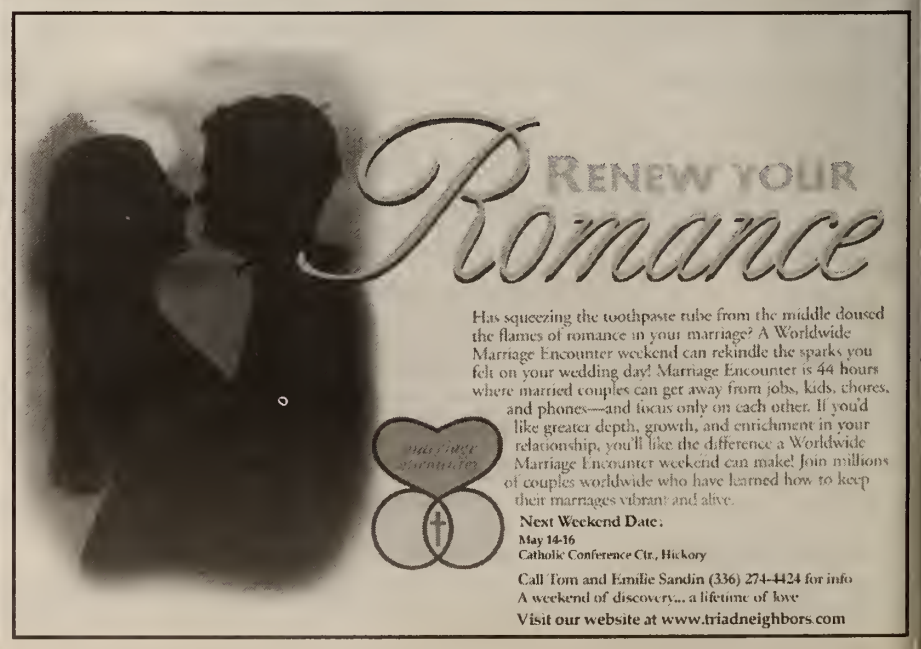

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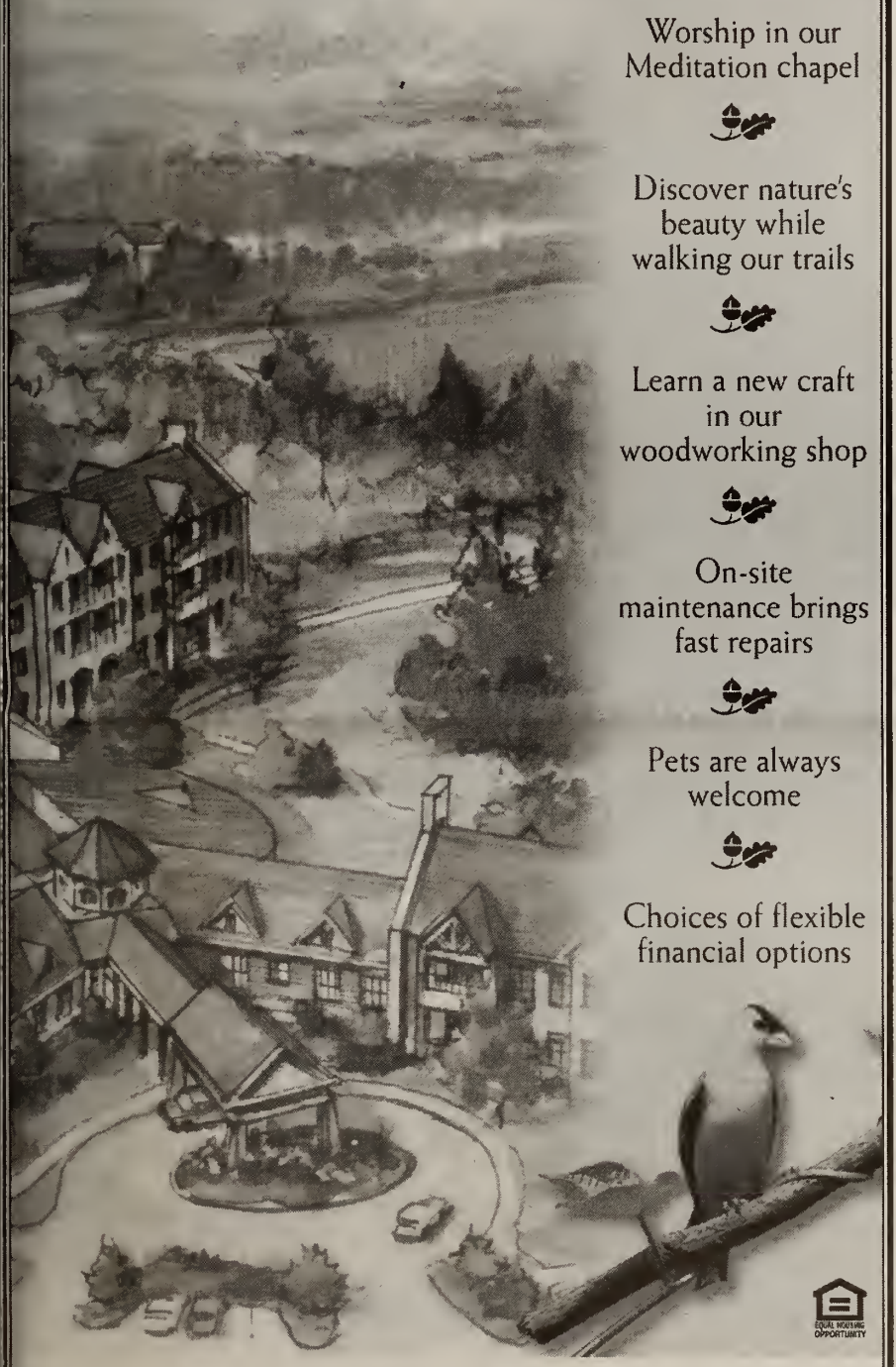

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# Abbey's alumni magazine wins awards

BELMONT — He wore a green flight suit, dark shades and had a dazzling smile.

At first glance, you could have easily mistaken the attractive flight surgeon who graced the Winter 2003 cover of *CROSSROADS*, Belmont Abbey College's alumni magazine, with a famous actor from the movie "Top Gun."

The similarities, of course, were all coincidental.

But it certainly couldn't have hurt when judges for the Communicator Awards read about 1968 graduate Ed Antosek's journey from Belmont Abbey College to Iraq. They also got to know others such as NBC Television personality and 1967 graduate Dr. Kevin Soden; they experienced Abbey events firsthand through photos such as Homecoming 2003 and New Jersey Day at the Races; and learned about exciting news and discoveries like Father Abram Ryan, and La Casa's grand opening on campus.

It was this that judges based their decision to award Belmont Abbey College's alumni magazine, *CROSSROADS*, with five Communicator Awards in its 2004 Print Media competition. The College won Awards of Distinction for its Winter 2003 issue in the following categories; Writing/Magazine; Magazine/Educational Institution; and Most Improved Magazine. Belmont Abbey also won Honorable Mention in the following categories; Photography/Magazine; and Design/Magazine Interior.

"We're all very proud of this achievement," said Teresa Sowers McKinney, director of public relations at Belmont Abbey College and the magazine's editor-in-chief. "But I think we all feel the magazine's impact would not have been possible had it not been for the amazing stories the Abbey's alumni bring to the table."

The Communicator Awards is an international awards competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communications field with entries judged by industry professionals. Belmont Abbey College was chosen from among 3,743 in this year's competition from advertising agencies, corporate communications departments, educational institutions, government entities, designers, writers, video production professionals, broadcast and cable operations and other businesses throughout the country.

"There's no better reward than seeing everyone's hard work — from someone in the office taking time to write an extra article to a student taking some extra time out of his or her day to pose for a picture — every little bit adds something special to the magazine," said McKinney.

*CROSSROADS* is published biannually by the Office of Public Relations with assistance from the Alumni Office and the Development Office. The magazine features success stories of alumni and current students of the Abbey and includes news, sports, arts, calendar events, alumni news and open letters from the abbot and alumni president.

"I think no matter what, whether it's events or publications, as an institution — we need to bring them to the next level and make sure the alumni feel welcome," said 1999 graduate Fran Kirk Piñeros. "We need to continue to reinforce that connection alumni have with the Abbey."

Belmont Abbey College, named one of the country's leading, private liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*, is home to nearly a thousand students with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds who represent more than 18 countries and 34 states.


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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

ONE STEP CLOSER

# Hundreds walk to fight AIDS

BELMONT — An estimated 250 walkers participated in the 11th Annual Walk for AIDS April 4.

The three-mile jaunt through historic Belmont raised awareness of the HIV/AIDS problem in the region and funds to cover operating expenses of the House of Mercy, a nonprofit residential living facility serving persons with advanced AIDS.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, the House of Mercy is the region's only facility providing 24-hour compassionate care for persons living with advanced AIDS. More than 200 men and women have resided at House of Mercy, which is in its 13th year of operation.

"Some view House of Mercy as a somber, sad place. Yes, there is death here, but there is also good fellowship, laughter and joy between the residents and staff," said Stan Patterson, president of the House of Mercy. "In some cases, they come from dysfunctional relationships. Here, there is an opportunity for families to reconcile."

After the walk, The South Fork Boys, a local bluegrass band comprised of three Belmont teens, performed for the walkers at a picnic reception at House of Mercy.

Worldwide, 20 million persons have died from AIDS and more than 40 million are estimated to be living with HIV. Southern states, with a third of the U.S. population, account for approximately 46 percent of all new HIV/AIDS cases, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Twenty-one hundred cases of HIV disease were reported to the N.C. Division of Public Health in 2003.

The N.C. Division of Health & Human Services estimates at least 21,000 North Carolinians are living with HIV/AIDS, with one-quarter to one-third of this number unaware of their status.

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARJORIE STORCH

**An estimated 250 people participate in the 11th Annual Walk for AIDS to benefit House of Mercy in Belmont April 4.**

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# Monroe church dedicated

PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis prepares to anoint the new altar of Our Lady of Lourdes Church with the sacred chrism. Below: The bishop anoints the candleholder above the entrance of an alcove with chrism as part of the anointing of the church.

DEDICATION, *from page 1*

ity hall, the parish having outgrown the 120-seat church.

This growth necessitated the construction of a new 11,955 square-foot church adjacent to the original structure, where Mass had been celebrated for much of the past 60 years in Monroe.

The new church will seat 719 people for Mass, six times that of the old building, which will continue to serve the parish as a space for baptisms, funerals, weddings and daily Mass.

The centerpiece of the new sanctuary is the 6-foot corpus of Christ, which hangs on a 10-foot cross over the altar. Eventually, statues will fill two alcoves in the front of the church and Stations of the Cross will adorn the walls, said Lucille Jackman, a member of the building committee.

"It is with a sense of overflowing joy and profound gratitude to God that we celebrate this Mass of dedication of the new church of Our Lady of Lourdes parish," said Bishop Jugis in his homily.

The bishop gave his homily in both English and Spanish, out of respect for the large number of Hispanics in attendance.

The bishop thanked the priests and deacons in attendance: Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, of Belmont Abbey; Augustinian Father Cassidy, pastor; Msgr. William Pharr, pastor from 1965-69; Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; Father Christopher Roux, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville; and Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez and Rev. Mr. Jesus Reyes, deacons for Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

During the nearly three-hour Mass, more than 700 parishioners and special guests watched as Bishop Jugis blessed the church with holy water, holy chrism oil and incense, "to signify the superabundant grace and holiness of the sacrifice of Christ."

"But the anointing with sacred chrism and incense only symbolically represents what is the real consecration of this place by Christ himself — the presence of the eucharistic sacrifice, the sacred banquet with Christ our king," he said.

At the conclusion of the Mass, parish council chairman Doherty presented a visibly moved Bishop Jugis with the crucifix that had hung in the church's rectory. The bishop selected this same crucifix as the model for the cross on his episcopal coat of arms when he was ordained in October 2003.

Remarkably, the new church was completed both under budget and early, said Jackman. Thanks to a relatively mild winter, construction proceeded quickly from its groundbreaking until completion in late March. The building was first used for the Palm Sunday Masses.

According to Doherty, the majority of the capital needed for the new church was raised over the past four years. He expects the balance to be paid off by the end of 2005.

"Today salvation has come to this house," said Bishop Jugis. "May Christ fill up our hearts and fill out this place with his divine presence."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

For more on the history of Our Lady of Lourdes, please see the Parish Profile on page 20.

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# The best place to find the bishop

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

A recent editorial in the *Winston-Salem Journal* criticized Bishop Peter J. Jugis for not making himself available to news reporters for interviews.

The editorial, entitled, "A Bishop's Silence," said it was time for the bishop to talk. But, as most Catholics know, the bishop has been talking regularly and often since his installment in October. In addition, when he speaks, he invites the news media to cover what he has to say.

Bishop Jugis is the pastoral leader of our diocese and, as such, the most appropriate way for him to speak is from the pulpit, which he does in churches throughout the diocese every Sunday. The editorial writer from the *Winston-Salem Journal*, and any other reporter, is welcome to listen and learn at any one of these Masses.

The bishop understands that news organizations have an interest in some topics more than others and has accommodated those needs. For example, on Ash Wednesday at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, the bishop addressed a topic that the secular news media has a great deal of interest in: the sinful crime of clergy sex abuse. The news media was given advance notice of the homily, written copies of it were distributed to reporters and a video and audio feed of the service was available. Audio of the homily can still be found on the diocesan web site, www.charlottediocese.org.

Coverage was widespread with radio, television and newspapers all carrying stories. The bishop also spoke out about sex abuse in a lengthy op-ed piece that editors of *The Charlotte Observer*, the *Asheville Citizen-Times* and the *Winston-Salem Journal*, found worth publishing.

Most importantly, the bishop's messages to the faithful are covered in *The Catholic News & Herald*. The bishop publishes this newspaper; it is first to report his official comments and has the authoritative and most thorough coverage of his activities.

Granted, the audience for *The Catholic News & Herald* is not as large as some newspapers in the diocese, but there is a trade-off for anyone who is quoted in the secular news media. In return for the notoriety that comes with being quoted, you have to be willing to have your words and ideas filtered and condensed. Filtering occurs because everything from the bias of a reporter to the point of view of a given publication affects how a story is portrayed.

Condensing is the squeezing of ten pounds of information into a five-pound bag. There is rarely enough room in a newspaper or time on television to give a subject a complete airing. News stories are abridged versions of reality.

Most people who are quoted by news organizations, such as politicians, don't have much choice: either they work with reporters or they fall off the public's radar. It's different for the bishop. He can connect with Catholics via this newspaper or the Internet. But more importantly, he has the pulpit, a place where he can comment on our spiritual welfare, God's plan for our salvation and topics such as community justice.

These topics and others should be far more important for Catholics and non-Catholics than the fast-changing and often whimsical agenda of the news media.

*David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# God offers faithful a safe haven from evil and chaos, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

## The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — God offers the faithful a safe haven from chaos and evil, said Pope John Paul II.

"The Lord surrounds the faithful with a horizon of peace that keeps out the uproar of evil. Communion with God is a source of serenity, joy, tranquillity; it is like entering an oasis of light and love," he said at his weekly general audience.

Looking refreshed and happy in the warm Rome sunshine, the pope read brief passages from an otherwise long audience address. He spoke slowly and deliberately though his speech was slurred. He also gave short greetings in 10 different languages to the some 40,000 pilgrims gathered April 21 in St Peter's Square.

In his catechesis, the pope focused on the image of the house or temple of God as a refuge that offers peace and serenity to those who place their trust in him.

He said those who are faithful to God may become isolated or be confronted by hostile forces because of their faith.

They know their belief "creates isolation and provokes even contempt and hostility in a society that often chooses personal advancement, outward success, wealth and unhindered pleasure as its standard," he said.

He said those who believe in God are never alone and a "surprising peace is kept in their heart because ... the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?"

In a portion of the speech he did not read aloud, the pope wrote, "inner calm, fortitude of the soul and peace are gifts that are obtained while finding refuge in the temple, while resorting to personal and community prayer."

In his greeting to Polish pilgrims, the pope made mention of the importance of Christianity for a united Europe.

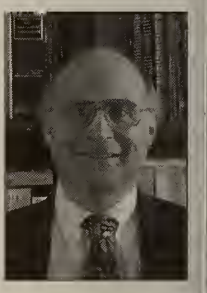
April 23 marks the feast day of St. Adalbert, one of Poland's patron saints, whose life and death "became the foundation of the nation and Polish identity," the pope said.

St. Adalbert "reminds us once again that only with Christ is it possible to build a solid, common, European home," he said.

Predominantly Catholic Poland will be the largest nation to join the European Union May 1 together with nine other Central European and Mediterranean countries.

# The structure of pastoral councils

## Guest Column



GEORGE K. COBB
GUEST COLUMNIST

*Editor's note: This is the second of a series of columns on pastoral councils.*

While the parish pastoral council is the thinking, planning and reflection group for the parish, the commissions are made up of the people who actually help to make the plans become realities.

The members of the commissions are individuals in the parish commissioned by the pastor to carry out a particular ministry in the parish that is particular to his role as pastor. They are spiritually called to this ministry. It falls to the pastor, pastoral council and the commission to imitate the Twelve Apostles, prayerfully discerning those persons in the faith community who may have a calling to a particular ministry. This same discernment should occur every time there is a need to fill positions in the faith community, including the pastoral council.

Existing organizations or committees relate to the pastoral council through the appropriate commissions. It is common in parishes across the Diocese of Charlotte to delegate commissions to the level of another committee. This is contrary to the intent of the diocesan policy.

Commission members are called and are the principal body responsible for overseeing the proper carrying out of the ministry in accord with the pastoral plan. The pastor, pastoral council and the faith community should recognize this calling. Commission members should be installed in their ministry during Sunday liturgy.

Commissions are established within every parish with size and membership dependent upon the size of the parish. Each commission is responsible for establishing a working plan, including a mission statement, goals and objectives, the recommendation to the pastor of policies concerning matters pertaining to the commission, evaluating programs and policies, and approval of its budget.

The commissions should endeavor to become the experts in the parish concerning the ministry that they carry out. For example, the Community Life Commission should be trained in all pertinent aspects of social justice and commission members should take their obligation to be educated in the subject seriously.

Canon law specifically requires that individuals in a particular ministry be trained in that ministry (Canon 229 §1). The pastor and pastoral council must also take seriously this obligation that all engaged in ministry must be trained and insure that opportunities are provided for proper formation. Money must be budgeted annually to insure that the laity are properly trained.

The commission structure is: Liturgy, Community Life, Family Life, Ecumenism/Evangelization, Education, Administration/Communication.

With the completion of the strategic plan of the diocese, "Crossing the Threshold with Christ," it was recommended Ecumenism to be a separate commission with Communication being added to Evangelization. In this way, the commissions better reflect the nature of Evangelization and Ecumenism as understood in the Catholic Church today.

*George Cobb is the director of the diocesan Office of Planning.*

# David Robinson — Beyond the image

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Stories on the sports pages these days are as likely to be about sex, drugs and money as they are about who won and who lost, so it's a pleasure to read about an athlete who's as much a hero in real life as he's been in a gym. Meet David Robinson, basketball star — who may one day be better remembered as David Robinson, humanitarian.

Robinson, 38, retired last year after a glittering career with the San Antonio Spurs, where he helped win two NBA titles and once reigned as the league's Most Valuable Player. Already named one of the 50 top players of all time, he's a sure bet for the Hall of Fame. And what has he been up to since retiring?

Starting a school, for one thing — and putting $9 million of his own money into it. The Carver Academy — named for George Washington Carver, African-American scientist and social leader (and Robinson's personal hero) — is not just any school. Faith-based, with a 15-1 student-teacher ratio and a schedule that begins with chapel each day, the academy stresses integrity, service, leadership and discipline.

I read about the Carver Academy, and about the incredible generosity of the man who started it, in a New York Daily News story written by Wayne Coffey. And quite a story it is. Robinson and his wife, Valerie, decided to launch the school as the kind of place they wanted their own boys to attend. Robinson's good friend Red McCombs, former owner of the Spurs, tried to talk him out of the idea, warning him of all the problems he'd face and pointing to the scholarships he'd established through the David Robinson Foundation.

"I told him he was already doing a lot," McCombs explained.

But McCombs was hardly surprised when Robinson persisted in going ahead with his plans. After all, he knew the man.

"People from coast to coast ask me, 'Is this guy really as good as his image'?" McCombs says. "My response is, 'No, he's better.'"

Academics has always been a prime concern for Robinson, who majored in math during his undergraduate days at the U.S. Naval Academy. But so is excellence in general, not to mention the development of solid values. Robinson serves as a minister at large for the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, where he leads a weekly Bible study session. He tries to pass his ideas on faith along to the students at Carver, because to him they're what matter most in life.

"Everything in life is not dictated by money," Robinson told Wayne Coffey. "It's dictated by what kind of legacy you're going to leave, and what kind of man you are going to be."

Robinson's academy, now two years old, has brightened up a once run-down neighborhood in San Antonio. Set in a modest building on a six-acre site, it houses 83 children up to grade 4. Each year a grade will be added, and a $6-million expansion plan is already in the works.

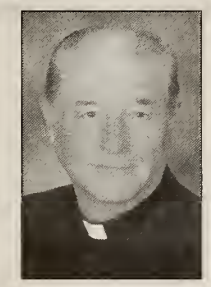
"The kids are happy here," he said. "They love coming here. You know you're impacting young lives, and that's the best part of it."

Parents of Carver Academy students couldn't agree more. "David Robinson is a phenomenal man," said one mother. "I feel blessed every day that my son goes to this school."

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

# Do Catholics believe in the Eucharist?

## Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Several times I have heard speakers tell us that most Catholics don't believe in the Eucharist anymore. They say it is because priests do not urge old and young parishioners to be reverent and especially because Catholic education classes do not teach true doctrine.*

*One priest gave the same ideas in a talk just the other night, quoting surveys that he says show Catholics do not accept the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Is that true? Do surveys really prove that? (Pennsylvania)*

A. I've heard the same claims, though it seems to me they were more vocal several years ago than they are now. I too find such accusations hard to accept. In my 50 years as a priest, I have certainly experienced nothing to support them.

Schools in every parish I have worked with or known of are clear and thoroughly Catholic in their teaching about the Eucharist. There is always unevenness and need for improvement in education, including religious education. These broad accusations, however, undermining and defaming Catholic schools around the country, contribute nothing helpful to the faith and life of Catholic people.

As for the surveys, I'm not at all sure they indicate a decline in eucharistic faith. For one thing, there were no such surveys in earlier times to measure against.

Second, I have read a few of these studies. They prove that, no matter how fair their authors may think them to be, it is impossible to capsulize our beliefs about the Eucharist in a few brief questions that people could answer without leaving room for serious confusions.

It took the church centuries to develop satisfactory eucharistic language. The 16th-century Council of Trent (Session 13) summarized that development in describing the true and substantial eucharistic presence of our Lord. Yet even that language is being refined and clarified to this day, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, demonstrates.

Our belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ — "body and blood, soul and divinity," as the older catechisms put it — needs to be carefully understood. It can be, and often has been, misinterpreted. From former times even to the present, people not of our faith sometimes mistook what we mean by eating the body of Christ, seeing it as implying some sort of cannibalism.

Thoughtful Catholics may not know all the technical theological terminology, but they know what they believe. They tend to be cautious of language that could be open to a caricature of our faith. We are, after all, as the church teaches, dealing here with a profound mystery that no human words will ever adequately express.

Finally, it is simple reality that some Catholics feel an urgent need to deplore what they see as a crisis of faith so they can lay the blame on whatever it is they currently dislike in the church: English liturgy, women lectors, Latin Masses, lay eucharistic ministers, celibate priesthood and so on.

Various factors always affect the quality of people's faith — in the Eucharist as in everything else. Fortunately, the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass express plainly what the Eucharist is and why. From the words of institution (consecration) to the calling down of the Holy Spirit and the many expressions of thanksgiving, when these are proclaimed clearly and listened to carefully the true faith is present and alive.

When the faithful make their act of faith at Communion time by saying "Amen" — I affirm it — after being offered "the body of Christ," they declare quite well what they believe. It is worth remembering that for centuries, when the Mass was once before in the language people understood, the Mass — the word and the Eucharist — was the primary place where faith was planted and nourished.

Maybe we need to look there a little more closely.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# One nation 'Under God'

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

A carnival-like atmosphere developed as reporters, protesters and onlookers descended upon the U.S. Supreme Court March 24 to hear the atheist Michael A. Newdow's case that his daughter should not be subjected to reciting the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

How should Catholics and others steeped in the Judeo-Christian tradition react when such an effort is undertaken by someone like Newdow? Do we start a a religious war against atheists?

Not with soldiers or bombs, obviously. Of course, there's always the possibility of letter-writing, an e-mail blitz, phone calls and other efforts to support the nation's Judeo-Christian heritage.

But do we undertake a relentless battle to destroy the illogical and destructive thinking of such people? Following the same line of thought, do we resort to character assassination? The aging Newdow is undoubtedly beyond his prime. Is he going through a mid-life crisis and making this his last hurrah?

Do we respond to Newdow on his own terms and argue that there is no such thing as an atheist because if you say you don't believe in God, you are admitting there is a God? You can't disbelieve what doesn't exist in your mind.

Or do we just dismiss the whole affair as one more carnival to which the Supreme Court has opened itself? Will it, like most carnivals in the past, quickly pass and be forgotten? Is no reaction the better course?

As Christians, we have the responsibility to evangelize others. Should we react to an effort such as Newdow's with evangelization, trying harder to share the good news and bring about a change of heart in people like him?

I believe that the best way to deal with atheists is to imitate par excellence the God they deny. There is an evening prayer that priests in particular recite that captures God's attitude beautifully: "Grant Lord, that we may see in each person the dignity of one redeemed by your Son's blood so that we may respect the freedom and the conscience of all."

No matter how deeply we feel about making war, promoting character assassination, making people eat their words or sending them to oblivion, God's way encourages us always to maintain respect of the person's conscience and freedom.

God never forces us, but always leaves us to our own designs, knowing that justice always will win out. This must be our disposition in heated debates.

Living as truly as we can as Christians is the best way to make Christians.

PARISH PROFILE



# Our Lady of Lourdes Church home to diverse Catholic congregation

COURTESY PHOTO BY TERRY MONTLER

The new 719-seat church of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe dominates the original 120-seat building. The thriving parish fills the new building for the four Masses celebrated each weekend. The original church will continue to be used for the celebration of baptisms, weddings, funerals and daily Mass.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES**
725 Deese Street
Monroe, N.C. 28112
(704) 289-2773

**Vicariate:** Albemarle
**Pastor:** Augustinian Father James Cassidy
**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Jesus Reyes, Rev. Mr. Edwin Rodriguez
**Number of Households:** 1,200

Augustinian Father James Cassidy

MONROE — The fortunes of World War II put the Catholic Church on the map in Union County and are responsible for the founding of Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

In 1941, a priest from St. James Church in Hamlet offered monthly Mass to the few Catholics living in Monroe at a local's house. The establishment of nearby Camp Sutton as a training site for servicemen preparing to enter combat overseas resulted in an influx of soldiers descending upon the normally quiet area. These soldiers were from all over the country and many of them were Catholic.

A U.S. Army chaplain offered Mass at the camp and shortly thereafter two priests of the Congregation of Priests of Mercy arrived from Brooklyn, N.Y., to establish a church in Monroe.

Mercy Father James Hudson became the first pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, officially established May 10, 1942. The first Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Center Theatre on Main Street May 31, 1942. More than 500 soldiers, their wives, relatives and the few local Catholics celebrated solemn high Mass in the Monroe High School auditorium on Christmas, 1942.

At war's end in 1945, the exodus of Catholic soldiers from the area significantly reduced Mass attendance, but some of those who had married local women decided to settle in Monroe. From this seminal group, mostly comprised of men from Tennessee, New York, Wisconsin and Indiana, the Catholic presence in Union County grew.

Through the efforts of the Priests of Mercy and the generosity of benefactors from Brooklyn, Boston and across the Northeast, a new church building was dedicated by then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh April 24, 1946.

The Priests of Mercy faithfully served Our Lady of Lourdes Church and its missions, St. Joseph in Monroe and later Sacred Heart in Wadesboro, dedicated in September 1947, for several years. The parish rectory for Our Lady of Lourdes Church was built in 1955, and priests from the Diocese of Raleigh assumed the spiritual care of the growing parish and its missions in 1960. Father Robert Shea became the first diocesan pastor.

When the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley invited the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to assume the pastorate of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. In 1973, Oblate Father Donald Joyce became pastor, followed by Oblate Father George Waggert in 1976 and Oblate Father Paul McCartin in 1978.

A parish hall was built during these years to accommodate the growing congregation, which had reached 154 families by 1981. In 1984, during the pastorate of Oblate Father Martin Walsh, it became necessary to build an education building for the growing number of children in religious education.

In 1988, the Oblates transferred charge of the parish to priests of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. Holy Ghost Father Edward Vilkauskas became pastor to approximately 250 families.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church continued to grow, with a number of parishioners increasing almost weekly. Approximately 650 people of the 1,000-member parish celebrated their 50th jubilee anniversary with an outdoor Mass celebrated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue May 10, 1992. By February 1996, as then-Bishop William G. Curlin and the parish celebrated the church's 50th anniversary, a fund for the new church building had already been established.

Over the next decade, the Spanish-speaking population of Monroe grew exponentially, and with it the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. By 2004, more than 1,200 families were worshipping each weekend at the church, including at least 840 Hispanic families.

Along with the Women's Guild, Men's Club and Knights of Columbus, parishioners became actively involved in RCIA, faith formation and a Bible study group.

The parish provides monthly evaluations for Hispanic schoolchildren to assess their progress and needed areas of improvement. An active Hispanic young adults group serves the growing Spanish-speaking population in Monroe.

Father Vilkauskas and parishioners broke ground for the new church Aug. 12, 2000, with a bilingual ceremony reflective of the community's faithful optimism and multicultural heritage.

In 2000, Father Carlo Di Natale Tarasi arrived as pastor, and newly ordained Father Luis Salvador Osorio became parochial vicar. In July 2001, then-Father (now Bishop) Peter J. Jugis became pastor.

After nearly two years at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Father Jugis was elected the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. In September 2003, Augustinian Father James Cassidy assumed the position of pastor of the church.

On April 18, 2004, Bishop Jugis returned to celebrate the dedication of the new Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The new 11,955-square-foot church features seating for 719 worshippers. In the near future, statues will fill two alcoves in the front of the church and Stations of the Cross will adorn the walls.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile: St. Barnabas Church

PAGE 16

APRIL 30, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 30

# A journey toward God

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Molly DiPaola studies a reading along the path of the prayer labyrinth at St. John Neumann Church April 24. Labyrinths can be found in many medieval cathedrals, the archetype being the pattern used at Chartres Cathedral in northern France.**

## *Catholics explore ancient form of prayer*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In the semi-darkened room, several confirmation students lay scattered along the path of the prayer labyrinth. Quiet, spiritual music played in the background, but they couldn't hear it.

Each student was wearing a set of headphones — a familiar sight for eighth-graders — but instead of listening to Eminem or No Doubt, they were enjoying Christian music by artists such as Michael W. Smith.

In a new take on an ancient style of prayer, 80 students from St. John Neumann Church journeyed along a labyrinth as part of their confirmation retreat.

The labyrinth used was a contemporary version of a cathedral labyrinth, which combines ancient Christian tradition with contemporary music, meditations, art, media and activities at 11 stations along the path.

Patrick Tylicki, an eighth-grader at Mint Hill Middle School, said he expected a maze.

Whereas in a maze a participant can run into dead ends, a labyrinth has only one twisting path that weaves its way to the center and back out again. There is only one entrance and exit, no dead ends, and no crossing of paths with a choice of which way to turn.

See LABYRINTH, page 8

# U.S. bishops receive new liturgy instruction; few changes seen

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The head of the U.S. bishops welcomed a new Vatican instruction aimed at curbing liturgical abuses, and a liturgy expert predicted it will require few changes in most U.S. parishes.

The instruction, "Redemptionis Sacramentum" ("The Sacrament of Redemption") was issued April 23 by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The document's 60-plus pages are devoted almost entirely to explaining what should be done and listing abuses to avoid in the celebration of Mass and the conduct of eucharistic devotion outside Mass. Its subtitle is "On Certain Matters to Be Observed or to Be Avoided Regarding the Most Holy Eucharist."

Msgr. James P. Moroney, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, said the most significant change the document will bring to most U.S. parishes is the removal of flagons or pitchers of wine from altars at Masses where

See LITURGY, page 12

# Panda-monium at St. Mark Church

## *Seniors enjoy annual Spring Fling*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

HUNTERSVILLE — Seniors of the Diocese of Charlotte descended upon St. Mark Church for a day of enrichment and entertainment at the 18th Annual Spring Fling April 22.

Nearly 200 seniors, from as close as St. Mark and as far away as St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, gathered for line dancing, safety and health presentations, yoga, crafts and more. As at past Spring Flings, bingo reigned supreme as the

See SENIORS, page 7

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Frank Czelusniak, a parishioner from St. Matthew Church, gets some help from his panda, which he won in an earlier bingo game.**

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**Diocesan Youth Conference**
*Youth 'Fan into Flames' faith at annual gathering*
PAGE 5

**Stewards of the Lord**
*Catholics challenged to nurture God's gifts*
PAGE 6

**Culture Watch**
*Bosco book, Bill Murray's sister sister*
PAGE 10-11

# In Brief

**Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard**

CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

**Betsy Lamb, a coordinator of formation programs for the Baltimore Archdiocese, is pictured March 21 at her home in Columbia, Md., before beginning her six-month sentence at a federal prison in Connecticut.**

## Church worker going to prison for protest says Gospel her motivation

COLUMBIA, Md. (CNS) — Betsy Lamb, Baltimore archdiocesan coordinator of formation programs, went to prison in April, convicted for her convictions.

"I would do it again, if that seems like the thing to do," she said shortly before traveling to Danbury Federal Correctional Institution in Connecticut to begin her six-month sentence for trespassing in a protest last year at Fort Benning, Ga.

Lamb said she was "a little apprehensive" about going to prison but does not regret what she did to sentence her to spend 180 days and nights in a low-security, concrete prison where most of the inmates are doing time for drug crimes.

During last November's annual protest aimed at closing an Army training school for Central and South American military personnel at Fort Benning, Lamb and 26 other protesters crossed a police line and were arrested as they tried to climb the Army base's eight-foot fence topped with barbed wire.

The Army school used to be called the School of the Americas, but in 2001 it was closed briefly and then reopened as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Protesters want it closed permanently, citing some of its alumni who have been implicated in torture, murder and other human rights violations.

A 1990 congressional task force found five of the training school's graduates were among the nine soldiers arrested for the murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her teenage daughter in El Salvador in November 1989. Every year since, large protest demonstrations have been held at the gates of Fort Benning on the anniversary of those murders.

The activist organization SOA Watch has compiled lists of dozens of former students the group says have been implicated in some of Latin America's most notorious human rights crimes. The U.S. government says only a small number of students were involved in criminal activities and that the program's focus has changed over the years.

But Lamb, 65, said stories she has heard convince her otherwise, and that's why she crossed the line last November.

"The people I talked to in Latin America said, 'Please, when you go back, try to close the SOA,'" she said, "and that really affected me."

Because her November arrest was her fourth, she was given a prison term rather than probation or a fine.

## Pro-lifers offer largely silent witness at March for Women's Lives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Vastly outnumbered by the hundreds of thousands taking part in the April 25 March for Women's Lives in Washington, pro-life groups conducted a largely silent witness along the march route.

"Today we're being silent," said Georgette Forney, founder of Silent No More Awareness. "It won't do any good to engage them. This is not the forum."

About 90 members of the organization lined one sidewalk near the start of the march route bearing signs and wearing T-shirts with a pro-life message.

Holding a sign that read, "I regret my abortion," Forney said one March for Women's Lives participant told her, "Have another baby." "Like somehow I can substitute one for another," Forney added.

Other gibes directed at the group included "Why don't you go play out in the street," "I didn't regret my abortion," "You should see a therapist about that," and "Choose Satan. He'll give you eternal life."

At a second location along the march route, close to 100 pro-lifers lined the curb at an intersection.

There, Andrea Staargaard, 19, talked about the abortion she had at 16 at a Pennsylvania abortion clinic. State law required parental consent, and Staargaard wanted to avoid telling her family.

"A doctor even suggested that I use a fake name," she said.

In the three years since the abortion, "I never stop thinking about it," Staargaard said. One source of solace after her abortion was joining the Catholic Church.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, will host a *weekly film viewing and discussion group* beginning May 4. The first film in the series, "Jesus," will be shown following the 7 p.m. Mass. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will celebrate the 56th semi-annual *Family Rosary Day* May 2 at 3:30 p.m. Father Matthew Buettner, parochial vicar for St. Gabriel School, will be the featured speaker. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — A Mass in celebration of the *National Day of Prayer* will be held May 6 at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Rd., and will be followed with a light reception. The Mass will be hosted by the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Moms In Touch groups. For information, contact Lisa Kallander at (704) 849-2043.

HUNTERSVILLE — Has your Lenten journey brought you a new desire to draw closer to God, but you're not sure how to respond? If so, join the *"Love in Action"* prayer group for a Life in the Spirit seminar. This seminar will help you yield to the poet an action of the Holy Spirit in your life and will be a rewarding preparation for the celebration of Pentecost. The group will meet Wednesday evenings through May 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Paul Fitzgerald at (704) 593-0973.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* May 15 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. The March 10 program will feature a fashion show. For more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancien*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope says democracy could deteriorate, disappear if not built on ethics, values

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Democracy is in danger of deteriorating and disappearing if its foundations are not built on ethics and Christian values, said Pope John Paul II.

Politicians today must "cultivate those human and Christian values which make up Europe's rich, ideal heritage," he said.

This heritage "gave life to a civilization which over the centuries fostered the rise of an authentically democratic society," the pope said April 26.

"Without ethical foundations, democracy risks deteriorating over time and even disappearing," he said.

The pope gave his address to some 200 people gathered to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Giorgio La Pira, a Sicilian-born professor, politician and former mayor of Florence known for promoting peace and disarmament during the nuclear arms race.

The pope said La Pira's life reflected an "extraordinary" example of "a politician and a believer, able to unite contemplation and prayer with social and administrative action, with special attention paid to the poor and suffering."

The pope urged his audience to follow in the footsteps of "this prophet of peace." He said La Pira applied "the methodology of the Gospel" in political theory and practice, drawing inspiration from "the commandment of love and pardon."

Giorgio La Pira died in 1977. His sainthood cause is being prepared at the diocesan level in Florence.

*Order of Hibernians,* a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — The *18th Annual Spring Fling* will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, May 13, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The day will feature music, games, bingo, door prizes and more. Father Ed Sheridan will celebrate the closing Mass. Spring Fling is hosted by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry. For registration information, please call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night,* featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is in the initial stage of forming a court of the *Catholic Daughters of America.* Women from neighboring parishes, ages 18 and older, are welcome to join. For more information, contact Angie Erst at (828) 488-6560 or Pat Pickering at (828) 497-4999.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

May 2 — 12 p.m.
Dedication of new church
St. Joseph Vietmanese Church, Charlotte

May 3 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville

May 5 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John the Baptist Church, Tryon

May 6 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Jude Church, Sapphire Valley

# Pope beatifies six, including Colombian nun, Polish prince

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faith in God can transform people into heroes of love and sacrifice, Pope John Paul II said as he beatified four religious women, a Polish prince who became a priest and a Portuguese laywoman.

"They are eloquent examples of how the Lord transforms the existence of believers when they trust in him," the pope said during the April 25 Mass in St. Peter's Square. They demonstrate that "love for Christ is the secret of holiness."

The four religious beatified included Mother Laura Montoya, the first blessed to be born, live and die in Colombia.

Blessed Montoya, who lived 1874-1949, founded the Missionaries Sisters of Immaculate Mary and of St. Catherine of Siena, to work among the indigenous peoples of Colombia. The pope established Oct. 21 as her feast day.

The Polish prince, Father August Czartoryski, was born in 1858 in Paris. He joined the Salesians in 1887 and died in 1893, a year after being ordained to the priesthood. His feast day is Aug. 2.

The pope said he hoped that like Blessed Czartoryski today's young people, "who look for the way to discern the will of God for their lives," will discover their vocation through prayer and with the help of "wise guides."

Beatifying Alexandrina Maria da Costa, the Portuguese laywoman, the pope focused on how she offered her suffering for the salvation of sinners and on her devotion to the Eucharist, "which became her only food for the last 13 years of her life."

She suffered progressive paralysis after having jumped out of a window at age 14 "to save her purity" when three men broke into her house. By 19, she devoted her life to prayer and began having mystical experiences; every Friday for four years, she mystically "lived the sufferings of the Passion," according to a Vatican biography.

In his homily, the pope said her life offered Christians an example of how they could "make more noble everything that is painful and sad in life" by offering everything in love for God.

The pope declared Oct. 13 as her feast day.

He also beatified:

— Mother Lupita Garcia Zavala, also known as Mother Maria Guadalupe, the Mexican co-founder of the Congregation of the Servants of St. Margaret Mary and the Poor. The feast day of the nun, who lived 1878-1963, is April 27.

— Italian Sister of Charity Giulia Nemesia Valle, who lived 1847-1916. Her feast day is June 26.

— Spanish Salesian Sister Eusebia Palomino Yenes, who lived 1899-1935. Her feast day is Feb. 9.

# Marine Mass

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

U.S. Marines from Gulf Company, 2/7, a part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, pray during an open-air Mass at a military base near the town of Fallujah, Iraq, April 25.

## THIS MONTH IN —1994

INSTALLATION OF BISHOP CURLIN

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin was installed as the third bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church April 13, 1994. Approximately 1,600 dignitaries from across the country, friends and well-wishers from the Diocese of Charlotte and Archdiocese of Washington attended the ceremony. The procession included about 28 archbishops, bishops and abbots; 180 priests; and scores of seminarians, men and women religious, ecumenical representatives and laity.

# Belmont Abbey celebrates Catholic heritage with Founders' Day

*Monastery, college present Mercy Sister Picôt with honorary degree*

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Rosalind Picôt received an honorary degree during Belmont Abbey College's Founders' Day celebration April 21.

The program, which celebrated 128 years of Catholic heritage at Belmont Abbey, began with solemn vespers in the Abbey Basilica, where an honorary doctorate of humane letters was presented to Sister Picôt, regional president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

A native of Wilmington, Sister Picôt entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1955. She served as director of formation before joining the council. She became vice president and then president of the regional community of North Carolina in the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

She has served also as a delegate to the governing chapters of both the regional community and the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

During her career, Sister Picôt made an impact on young minds throughout the Charlotte region, teaching at Sacred Heart Grade School in Belmont, St. Michael School in Gastonia, Charlotte Catholic High School and Our Lady of Mercy High School in Charlotte

She also served as a leader in the community and in education as principal at the two high schools.

After completing her doctorate, Sister Picôt served in administration at Sacred Heart College in Belmont and was vice president for academic affairs at the college when it ceased academic operation in 1987.

Sister Picôt has served on various civic, social service and educational boards. Through the years, she has conducted numerous studies and analyses of educational programs, as well as workshops on adult development, spiritual development, secondary school administration, leadership, organization and the functioning of boards of directors.

Sister Picôt is one of four recipients to receive an honorary doctorate from the Abbey this year.

Others include Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Jim Palermo, executive in residence at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte; and Dr. Richard Boyce, professor of preaching and pastoral leadership at Union PSCE at Charlotte, all of who will receive honorary degrees during the college's commencement exercises on May 8.

Sister Picôt received her degree early because a scheduling conflict prevented her from receiving it during the May commencement.

COURTESY PHOTO

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, and Dean de la Motte applaud as Mercy Sister Rosalind Picôt accepts her honorary doctorate of humane letters during Belmont Abbey College's Founder's Day celebration April 21.

# Conveying catechesis

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Pat Onaindia, administrative assistant for the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, and Franciscan Sister of St. Joseph Ann Lyons, southern regional coordinator of faith formation, hold the new Spanish translation of the "Catechist Recognition Process." Part of a $7,500 grant from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph was used to translate six English modules of the "Catechist Recognition Process," a competency-based catechist formation process; and to purchase a complete set of "Ecos de Fe," a video series in Spanish for catechist formation.

# Church victimized by break in

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte was broken into during the night on Sunday, April 25.

Thieves forced open a door and broke into a safe where the offertory collection from weekend Masses was kept. Sound equipment used by the choir was also taken in the robbery. A police report placed the value of the robbery at $18,000.

In a letter to parishioners, Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor, said the church has insurance to cover the loss of the cash and equipment and the parish was working with police and diocesan officials to ensure that security at the church is tightened.

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# Seniors fling into spring

SENIORS, *from page 1*

activity of choice for most of the seniors.

Each year since 1986, diocesan office of Elder Ministry has hosted the Spring Fling as a day where seniors can forget the demands of life and join others in the spirit of oneness and friendship, said Sandra Breakfield, director of Elder Ministry.

Elder Ministry, a division of Catholic Social Services, provides guidance to parishes within the Diocese of Charlotte in order to enhance the well-being of older adults. Annual events such as the Spring Fling and Fall Day of Reflection provide an opportunity for senior citizens to gather for entertainment, camaraderie, education and spiritual enrichment.

"Our goal is that the seniors enjoy being together and participating in the activities," Breakfield said. "The spirits and faces of the people spoke volumes — everyone seemed to enjoy themselves."

Many of the attendees took advantage of the opportunity to participate in several of the recreational activities, including music trivia and a sing-along on the piano led by Mary Finlayson, a parishioner at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte; and a presentation on cooking with herbs and container gardening by Marta Carlson of Paradise Gardens.

Aside from an abundance of recreational activities, the seniors had several opportunities to focus on their health and well-being. Participants could have their blood pressure checked by Carole Cloer, a registered nurse from Interim Healthcare.

Cloer outlined the major concerns of senior citizens: health conditions such as high blood pressure, cardiac problems, stroke, arthritis and type II diabetes; medication costs; making their savings last; and not becoming a burden on their families.

Participants could also attend a safety seminar presented by Ron McKinney, chief of police in Cornelius.

There is a major difference between the generations, McKinney said. Seniors don't think in terms of being deceived. He cautioned the participants to be more aware when interacting with home-repair technicians and when using a credit card in public, and reminded them to inform the police department when going on vacation.

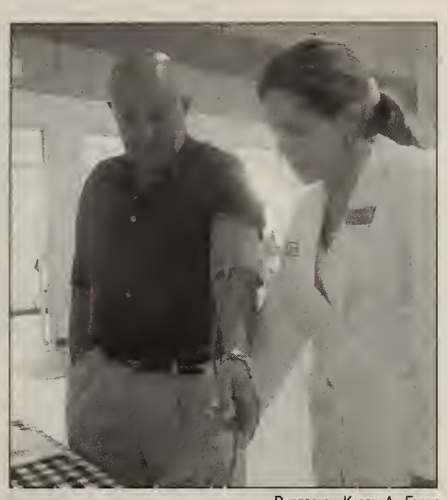
More health information came from Judy Fryer and Bob Sterr of Foot Solutions, who provided facts about choosing the proper footwear to provide stability, care of arthritic and diabetic feet and tips for healthy feet.

"We try to offer opportunities for fun and fellowship, but also add a learning component to the day," Breakfield said. "That way, there's something for everyone."

A planning committee, consisting of parishioners from five churches, meets each year to plan the Spring Fling, Breakfield said. They evaluate previous years' programs and decide which activities to include for the upcoming event, always trying to provide a variety of programs.

Breakfield said she could not coordinate the Spring Fling without the generosity of the presenters, all of whom volunteered their time, and the Knights of Columbus from St. Mark Church, who set up the church and classrooms for the event and cleaned up afterwards.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*



PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Above: Peter Ferrara of Holy Spirit Church in Denver has his blood pressure checked by Carole Cloer, RN.**

**Right: Seniors try some line dancing at the Spring Fling.**

**WANT TO GO?**

The next Elder Ministry Spring Fling will take place at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory on May 13, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For more information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220. Anyone interested in being a part of the planning committee for Spring Fling 2005 should call Breakfield.

**SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS**

As people grow older, their chances of being victims of crime decreases dramatically. But a lifetime of experience, coupled with the physical problems associated with aging, often make older Americans fearful. Though they're on the lookout constantly for physical attack and burglary, they're not as alert to frauds and con games — the greatest crime threat to seniors' well-being and trust.

Want to conquer fear and prevent crime? Take these common-sense precautions.

*Be Alert When Out and About*

- Go with friends or family, not alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance.
- Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train or subway.
- If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

*Make Your Home Safe and Secure*

- Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Consider a home alarm system that provides monitoring for burglary, fire and medical emergencies.

*Watch Out for Con Artists*

- Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true — a free vacation; sweepstakes prizes; cures for cancer and arthritis; a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything — an insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, the Better Business Bureau or local consumer protection office. Call the National Consumers League Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060.

*Get Involved in the Community*

- Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement.
- Form a neighborhood watch to look out for each other and help the police.
- Work to change conditions that hurt your neighborhood. Volunteer as a citizen patroller, tutor for children, office aide in the police or fire departments, mentor for teens, escort for individuals with disabilities.

*Source: Philadelphia, Penn., Police Department*

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STEWARDS OF THE LORD

# Catholics challenged to nurture God's gifts at conference

DULUTH, Ga. — More than 340 parish representatives from throughout the Southeast, including the Diocese of Charlotte, recently attended the Regional Stewardship Conference to gain insight on ways to make stewardship a way of life.

The conference, held at the Atlanta Marriot Gwinnett Place March 27, was sponsored by the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston, S.C., and Savannah, Ga.

Five people attended from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, including Mary and John Pollick.

Mary Pollick, chairwoman of her parish's stewardship commission, said the conference allowed her group to exchange suggestions and contact information with others.

"We pulled ideas from other places that had successful ministries," she said.

Keynote speaker Bishop Robert Morneau, auxiliary bishop of Green Bay, Wis., talked about "Stewardship: An Expression of Our Christian Life."

The author of several books and essays, Bishop Morneau discussed the questions that he said kept him awake at night — "What have you done with the garden entrusted to you?" and "What return can I make to the Lord for all he's done for me?"

Stewardship, said the bishop, consists of "four unsplit infinitives, including gratefully receiving God's gifts."

"We are so blessed to have so many gifts," said Bishop Morneau. "And if I am to be a eucharistic person, then I have to give thanks to God for all he has given me."

Stewards must also responsibly nurture and tend God's gifts, said the bishop.

"You should not stay out of your gifted area too long," he said. "My biggest fear is getting to the gates of heaven and being told I was an eight-cylinder car but I only used two cylinders."

The bishop said stewards must also justly and charitably share God's gifts and return them abundantly.

In the Diocese of Green Bay, there are 380,000 Catholics in 186 parishes, he said, but one-third of those Catholics give "nothing — no time, no talent, no treasure."

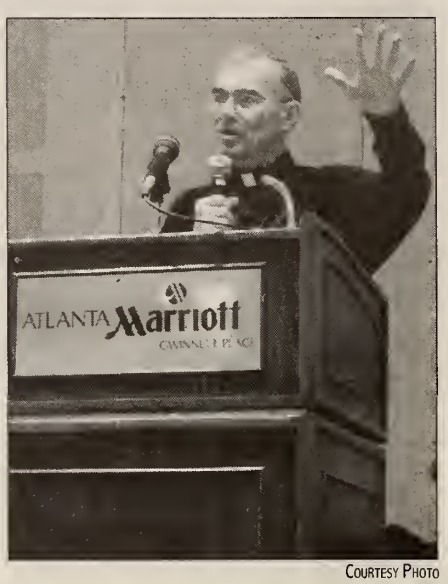
"The concept of stewardship has the power to change the answer to the question: 'Who am I and what am I doing here?'" said Bishop Morneau.

The bishop spoke of a friend, a 44-year-old man who is quite wealthy. One day the man told the bishop that he was simply a "trustee" of his wealth, and that it all belonged to God.

"Stewardship is inclusive," said Bishop Morneau. "It's a way of life. It's not just finances, though that's a big part of it. It's impossible to have joy without generosity."

"All of us are stewards of our church and faith," said Pollick. "We need to take ownership of our parishes. When we do, we need to be good stewards of what we've been given and use our time, talent and treasure."

"We are radiators of God's love and light. We are revealers of God's beauty," said Bishop Morneau. "May we do that well."




COURTESY PHOTO

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Morneau of Green Bay speaks about stewardship as an expression of Christian life at the Regional Stewardship Conference in Duluth, Ga., March 27.

# Designing excellence

COURTESY PHOTO

The eighth-grade yearbook staff at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem received the Excellence Award for Elementary School Yearbooks by Walsworth Publishing Company, a yearbook company, in Marceline, Mo, for the yearbook's theme "Where's Leo?" and artistic completion of the theme. Above: Jo Ann Mount of Walsworth Publishing presents the award to eighth-grader Ryan Krysiak, yearbook cover designer, and Terri Coppola, yearbook coordinator, during a special assembly April 8.

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# Youth 'Fan into Flames'

## *Hundreds of youth learn power, love, self-control*

BY KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. — The flames of faith were stoked among Catholic youth.

With beautiful weather and Lake Wylie as the backdrop, Camp Thunderbird was the perfect stage for hundreds of high school students to "Fan into Flames" their fervor for God at the 27th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference April 23-25.

"We are very impressed to see that these 300 youth and their leaders are such faithful and on fire Catholics," said Peg Ruble, associate director of diocesan youth ministry and an adult mentor of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council, who helped organize the event.

The DYC is the largest annual diocesan gathering, bringing together high school youth from around the Diocese of Charlotte for a theme-centered weekend of keynote speakers, entertainment, daily Mass and reconciliation, and workshops led by youth and young adults.

This year's "Fan into Flames" theme was chosen by the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council, which consists of youth from all 10 vicariates of the diocese. The theme evolved after the youth read II Timothy (1:6-7): "For this reason, I remind you to stir into flames the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control."

The weekend's workshops showed youth how to fan that flame through power, love and self-control.

"Timothy for Today," facilitated by Brendan Budlong, youth minister from the Diocese of Raleigh, covered the subheadings of the event's theme. He compared spiritual strength to physical strength, and told the youth they had to exercise their spiritual muscles by studying Scripture, learning their faith and attending other, similar conferences.

When he asked his audience to list ways the Catholic faith is unique, they responded with answers such as the Eucharist, Marian devotion, the papacy and priesthood and church tradition.

Budlong also explained the importance of prayer and how the Catholic Church has many different ways to converse with God, describing the Augustinian, Franciscan, Ignatius and Thomist prayer styles.

The "Wow! Now It Makes Sense" workshop was facilitated by Carl Brown, a licensed counselor, parishioner of Good Shepherd Church in King and adult mentor of the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council.

Brown empowered youth with information they could use to explain their faith in a simple and clear way.

"Now I will know what to tell people when they ask me questions about my faith," said Megan Peeters from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

In "The Seven Deadly Sins" workshop, Rev. Mr. Mike Langsdoft of Holy Family Church in Clemmons explained and clarified the various sins, including lust.

"Lust is a desire for something for your own pleasure, disregarding the feelings of another," said Rev. Mr. Langsdorf. "God calls us into a relationship with him that is unbelievable. Put your vices aside, recognize them and seek forgiveness; then you will be free to live as God wants you to live."

Langsdorf's daughter, Beth, who started participating in diocesan youth conferences as a teenager, now works as an adult member on the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council. She was impressed at the program the youth put together and said that it was much more spiritual than what she remembered from her earlier experiences.

"The conference answered a lot more questions that the teens have about their religion," said Beth Langsdorf. "It also made learning the faith a fun and positive experience."

Friday evening Mass was concelebrated by Father Dean Cesa, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, and Father Frank Seabo, administrator of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

Saturday morning Mass was concelebrated by Augustinian Father James Cassidy, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, and Capuchin Father Stan Kobel, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; and Father Kobel concelebrated Mass for the youth on Sunday.

In addition to daily Mass and workshops, the weekend included a high ropes course challenge, a concert by the contemporary Christian band Silar's Bald and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

PHOTO BY KATHY SCHMUGGE

**Youth from St. John Neumann enjoy a break with oversized pixie sticks after a workshop at the Diocesan Youth Conference April 23-25.**

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# DYC imparts youth ministry awards

Awards were distributed to recognize outstanding efforts on behalf of youth ministry at the 27th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference April 23-25.

Youth ministers were recognized for five and 10 years of service with certifications and pins. Other awards include:

The Bishop William G. Curlin Award for Outstanding Pastoral Ministry went to the youth group of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury for their response to an accident involving two 15-passenger vans in Rowan County in fall 2003.

The Bishop Michael J. Begley Award for Outstanding Service to Church, Community and Family went to Zachary Carter of St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Carter was selected for his participation in numerous parish and community groups and activities, fundraisers conferences and retreats, including his work as a youth representative on the parish pastoral council.

The Eagle and Cross Award for Service and Justice, a national recognition by the Federation for Catholic Youth Ministers, was presented to Michelle Lail of St. Mary Church in Shelby.

Lail assists in teaching more than 20 third- and fourth-grade students in St. Mary Church's faith formation program and has organized her school's Operation Christmas Angel program for less-fortunate children.

The For God and For Youth Award, a national recognition for adult leaders committed to executing holistic and healthy youth ministry, went to Father John Putnam, judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"Over the past 10 years, Father Putnam has always done what he could to promote youth ministry," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry. "He has an ecclesial mind, a sense for the broader church."

# Catholics explore ancient form of prayer

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Confirmation students move along the path of the labyrinth. Contemporary labyrinths combine ancient Christian tradition with modern music, meditations, art, media and activities at intervals along the path.**

LABYRINTH, *from page 1*

A traditional labyrinth is a circle 30-42 feet in diameter that is divided into quarters. These sections are interconnected so that when a traveler seems to be close to the center, an abrupt turn takes him or her on a longer meditative journey.

There has been a recent re-emergence of the labyrinth as a prayer tool within the Christian community.

According to Jacqueline Messick of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, who coordinated a labyrinth walk for the parish in April 2003, the labyrinth is divided into three stages.

The walk to the center is the first stage and meant to be spent as a time of cleansing. The traveler tries to eliminate things that separate him or her from the divine; things like anger, self-pity and prejudice must be discarded along the way.

"This is accomplished through prayerful centering, which clears and prepares one to meet God," said Messick.

The second stage is at the center, where the traveler — having been cleansed of worldly encumbrances — opens his or her heart and mind to the Holy Spirit. It may be as simple as feelings of peace and calmness or as eye-opening as a sudden insight, said Messick. One must allow the Holy Spirit to speak to the soul.

The journey out is the third stage of the labyrinth. The traveler moves out into the world renewed in faith to do the work of Jesus and his church.

The contemporary version used by St. John Neumann Church was designed to explore several themes: journey, letting go, centering and incarnation.

Each station of the labyrinth explored an aspect of one of these themes, accompanied by a song, reading and activity.

For example, the third station, "Letting Go" encouraged participants to let go of their concerns by imagining that their worries were held in a stone, which they then dropped into a basin of water, imagining them falling into God's lap.

The exercise was designed to help students learn to turn to God in times of difficulty and realize they are a part of God's creation.

Other stations explored listening to God, seeing one's "true image" and reflecting on one's relationships with others.

"It is a different type of praying experience that gently reminds us that we are all pilgrims on a journey to the sacred center where God is," said Messick.

"(Walking the labyrinth) taught me more about forgiving people and brought me closer to God," confirmation candidate Tylicki said.

*Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay contributed to this story.*

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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# LABYRINTHS: AN ANCIENT TRADITION

***Labyrinths and mazes***

Mazes and a range of labyrinth designs are found all around the world in many cultures and civilizations. They are found carved in rock, ceramics, clay tablets, mosaics, manuscripts, stone patterns, turf, hedges and cathedral pavements. The earliest known designs are about 3000 years old.

The significance of them for the various cultures of which they were a part and the story of how they developed from one place to another (or simultaneously appeared in several) is often mysterious and hard to fathom. The most ancient and widespread design looks complicated but can be drawn quite easily if you know the method.

The labyrinth has since ancient times been associated with the legend of the Minotaur, the monster half-man, half-bull that dwelt in the heart of a labyrinth on the island of Crete. Theseus was able to get to the center of the labyrinth, slay the Minotaur and find his way out again by following the thread he had trailed behind him on the way in.

But the story has caused confusion ever since, because clearly the Minotaur's lair was a maze in which you could get lost, whereas a labyrinth, however confusing it looks, has only one twisting path that weaves its way to the center and back out again. There is only one entrance and exit, no dead ends, and no crossing of paths with a choice of which way to turn.

CNS PHOTO BY ROBERT BUNCH, TEXAS CATHOLIC

## Parish prayer labyrinth

**Parishioners at Prince of Peace Church in Plano, Texas, walk along a labyrinth as a contemplative form of prayer. The 36-square-foot canvas is modeled after a labyrinth on the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France.**

***Cathedral Labyrinths***

The Romans adapted the ancient labyrinth symbol as a decorative floor pattern, and the Christian artists and thinkers of early medieval times developed the Roman pattern into a new and beautiful form, which was used as a feature in many medieval cathedrals. It was marked out on the floor in colored stone or tiles and usually between 10 and 40 feet in diameter.

A range of designs were explored, but the pattern used at Chartres Cathedral in northern France is the archetype and perfection of all medieval labyrinths. Fortunately it has been well-preserved, and in recent times pilgrims have taken to traveling to Chartres specifically to walk it.

While we cannot be exactly sure what the labyrinths were used for, they were clearly a symbol of the Christian way, representing the path of the soul through life. Medieval pilgrims re-enacted this, following the path of the labyrinth in the cathedral on their knees as a means of prayer, or to symbolize the journey to Jerusalem, or as a ritual to mark the end of a pilgrimage.

People walked it on the eve of their baptism or confirmation, as an aid to contemplative prayer in Holy Week, and as an illustration both of the life of the Christian and of the life of Christ. But after medieval times the spiritual uses of labyrinths were forgotten, and they fell into disuse. Many were destroyed between the 17th and 19th centuries.

***Contemporary Labyrinths***

In recent years, labyrinths have been rediscovered as a Christian spiritual tool, most notably through the work of Dr. Lauren Artress at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, which has had worldwide influence. The labyrinths of the current revival have mostly been based on the Chartres pattern, although often adapted to suit circumstances. Many of the new wave of "alternative worship" groups in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand have incorporated labyrinths into the forms of worship that they are pioneering.

The result is a contemporary version of a cathedral labyrinth, which combines ancient Christian tradition with contemporary music, meditations, art, media and activities at intervals along the path. Several features are unique to the design:

- It is a new labyrinth pattern rather than one of the old patterns, with straight lines instead of curves, which make it much easier to mark out.
- It incorporates "stations" and activities en route.
- To walk it, the participant listens to a series of music tracks with spoken meditations on a personal CD player.
- It blends the ancient practice of labyrinth walking with contemporary popular culture — music, televisions, computers and things from everyday life. This use of what might be termed "icons of the present" suggests that the holy can be represented in the language of the here-and-now, of which popular culture is a significant part. God meets us in the stuff of everyday life, in the real world.

The result is not, in any normal sense, a church service, but an interactive environment resembling a contemporary art installation, self-evidently constructed and playful, with visitors coming and going as they please during opening hours. However, this installation offers more than an aesthetic experience — it will take you on a spiritual journey.

*— by Kevin & Ana Draper, Steve Collins and Jonny Baker, web.ukonline.co.uk/paradigm*

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# Culture Watch

**A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more**

## By Catholics for Catholics

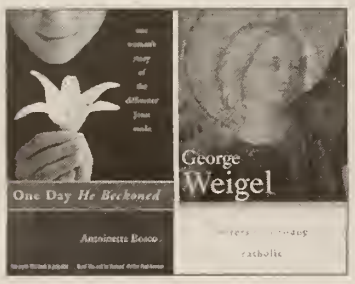
*Writers Bosco and Weigel give testimony on their faith*

REVIEWED BY MITCH FINLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the midst of the controversy and record-breaking attendance for the film "The Passion of the Christ," which focuses on Jesus' suffering and death, it's exciting to read a book that focuses on a relationship with the risen Christ.

In "One Day He Beckoned: One Woman's Story of the Difference Jesus Made," author Antoinette Bosco — an award-winning Catholic writer, a veteran Catholic News Service columnist and my friend — tells the story of how the risen Lord has been the central influence in her life.

Bosco begins by telling how Jesus brought himself to her attention when she was 15 years old and hasn't left her




heart since. Along the way she tells true stories from her own life, stories that eschew the sweetly inspirational pious messages of some religion writers.

Instead, Bosco tells us real stories about how Jesus entered her life through a failed marriage, through the suicide of one son and murder of another, through time spent praying in her home cathedral or reading the lives of the saints, through the influence of her father and of The Christophers founder Maryknoll Father James Keller, and last, but far from least, through her work over the years as a journalist.

Bosco writes about her past — her history with Jesus, if you will — but her book also focuses on contemporary issues. For example, she declares rightly that Jesus "respected women, and bypassing male attitudes of the day, regarded them as intelligent people who were as privy to his teachings as were men. ... He beckons us with a hard offer. You follow me and I'll give you a heart transplant so you can be me."

"One Day He Beckoned" is more than the author's personal story. It's an account of a life lived as a faithful, thinking Catholic, a story of one woman's life with Jesus that will reinvigorate your own faith a hundred-fold.

George Weigel is the best-selling biographer of Pope John Paul II, a theologian and a prolific writer who rarely, if ever, disappoints. In "Letters to a Young Catholic" Weigel aims to explain for "young Catholics — and not-so-young Catholics, and indeed curious souls of any religious persuasion or none — what it means to be a Catholic today."

Weigel chose as his method "to take an epistolary tour of the Catholic world, or at least those parts of the Catholic world that have shaped (his) own understanding of the church, its people, its teaching and its way of life."

Join Weigel, then, as he travels from Baltimore, Md., to Milledgeville, Ga., St. Peter's in Rome, Jerusalem, the Olde Cheshire Cheese pub in London and other noteworthy locations on the Catholic map. Taking each place as his inspiration, he explains Catholicism not as an abstraction but as a real way of life for real people who live in the real world.

Along the way, Weigel makes everything from history to Christian doctrines and traditional Catholic devotional practices come alive. If Weigel's take on being Catholic is sometimes a tad too far right of center for some readers, his breadth and depth of knowledge demand to be taken seriously.

Weigel does a first-rate job of injecting new life into what it means to be Catholic, and both younger and older readers will appreciate his clarity of insight.

Noteworthy is the way he packs abundant insight into relatively few words on the role of the mother of Jesus in Catholicism: "Mary is the first disciple of the son she bore and nursed and raised; because all Christians are grafted onto Christ in baptism, Mary is the Mother of the Church, the mystical body of Christ extended into history. Through Mary's 'fiat' we glimpse one of the primary lessons of discipleship, a lesson it takes a lifetime to learn. And the lesson is that we are not in charge of our lives — God is in charge of our lives."

"Letters to a Young Catholic" is guaranteed to keep you turning the pages. Though you may not agree with all that Weigel says, you'll find yourself struck again and again with the wisdom of his insights.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 9, 2004

## *Sunday Scripture Readings: May 9, 2004*

***May 9, Fifth Sunday of Easter Cycle C. Readings:***

1) Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-13
2) Revelation 21:1-5a
3) Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Seldom do any particular Sunday's readings line up so beautifully to give an overview of the life of the church as they do this particular day. The psalm reminds us of God's mercy and compassion, admonishing us to make his dominion known to all the generations.

In the Gospel, Jesus admonishes us to love one another with the same love with which he has loved us so that those who see our love for each other will know we are his disciples. In Acts, Paul (after being revived by the prayer of his disciples after a stoning) goes about encouraging the church and establishing church communities, raising up presbyters. And in Revelation we have the establishment of a new heaven and a new earth, and the presentation of a new Jerusalem in which God shall dwell among his people, wiping away every tear. It's a pretty complete picture.

It helps us answer the question, How did we accumulate so much hierarchical structure and order? How did we come so far from simply loving each other? Furthermore, where is all of this leading?

Each part is necessary. We must hear God's promise of mercy and compassion to all generations. We must hold fast to the central message of living out our love in the flesh as Jesus did. We need structure and order to be able to carry the message forward to the generations, and we must know that, in the end, God himself will finish the story, bringing about the perfection of all things in love.

For 200 years, after the Westerners were driven out of Japan, there was no visible church there. A complex system of catechists and prayer leaders was established by the remnants of the Japanese Catholic Church to keep the faith alive in the absence of priests. One leader would be in formation for five years while another was leading the community in covert prayers and instruction. Then the leader in formation would take over while forming another prayer leader under his instruction.

When Japan was reopened to Western contact in the mid-1800s after two centuries of intense persecution, the faith that tells us to love with the love of Jesus had survived. Faithfulness of God; love of one another with Jesus' love; structure to carry it forward. God brings the ultimate things to pass. It is a pattern we can trust.

***Question:***

How can keeping in mind that love of other believers is one of the last things Jesus told his disciples to do help to clear away distractions from living out your faith?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another" (John 13:34a).

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2 - MAY 8**

**Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30; **Monday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24—13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday,** Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9 - MAY 15**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-33, 34-35; **Monday (Bl. Damien Joseph of Moloka'i),** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday,** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:24-31; **Wednesday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras),** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday,** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Saturday (St. Isidore),** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

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## Movie Capsules

**"Man on Fire" (20th Century Fox)**
Dark and depraved revenge tale about an ex-soldier of fortune turned professional bodyguard (Denzel Washington), who unleashes his lethal fury on a ring of Mexican kidnappers after they abduct the little girl (Dakota Fanning) he has been hired to protect. As directed by Tony Scott, the film poses interesting questions concerning sin and forgiveness, but its superficial theological pretensions quickly give way to a grisly procession of torture and death, which, though unbearable to watch at times, ends on a redemptive note. Excessive graphic violence, a rationalization of vengeance, much rough and crude language, and a suicide. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

**"Johnson Family Vacation" (Fox Searchlight)**
Tiresome comedy in which a family patriarch (Cedric the Entertainer) piles his wife (Vanessa Williams) and kids and travels cross-country from California to Missouri for a family reunion, on the way sidelined by several obstacles. Director Christopher Erskin's film runs out of gas before it backs out of the driveway with contrived scenarios, jokes about as funny as a flat tire and an underused cast lost on the uneven script's road. A few sexual references, some scatological humor and fleeting drug content. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.


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CNS PHOTO BY RAY CASEY, ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS

**Dominican Sister Nancy Murray performs a one-woman show about St. Catherine of Siena at the Adrian Dominican Sisters campus in Adrian, Mich. The nun, sister of the Oscar-nominated Bill Murray, plans to take the play to the Philippines, East Timor, South Vietnam, Peru and Italy.**

# Dominican who is sister of comedian Bill Murray is performer, too

BY KATE OATIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TOLEDO, Ohio — There's one more actor in the famed Murray clan that begat Oscar-nominated Bill Murray and Brian Doyle-Murray: their sister, Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, who does a one-woman show on St. Catherine of Siena.

St. Catherine was a woman of her time but also a woman who transcended her time, according to Sister Nancy.

"In reading her letters, I found this feisty, spirited woman who was both affectionate and straightforward," she told the *Catholic Chronicle*, Toledo's diocesan newspaper.

"She would start a letter to a prostitute, for example, very formally, like, 'I implore you in the name of Jesus Christ and his holy mother to act your age, take to heart what it means to be an example to young people.' Then she'd write 'You must not forget that you have a good heart,' ending with a loving, warm affirmation," Sister Nancy said.

It's obvious she has an appreciation of her subject and for her subject's hardships and her humanity.

Sister Nancy said more than 400 of the saint's letters exist.

"Some are to her mother who's complaining that none of her children — Catherine was the 24th of 25 — visit her. And some letters are to her brother, admonishing him for not visiting their mother. There were difficult issues in her life, too," she said.

Sister Nancy to date has done more than 200 performances of the one-woman show on the saint. Her schedule this spring included stops in Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey and Georgia.

This summer she will take the play to the Philippines, East Timor, South Vietnam, Peru and Italy.

"Some Italian sisters have invited me to perform, saying, 'We want to give this saint back to the youth of this country. They don't have a clue about her,'" Sister Nancy said.

"There is a personality here no one had told us about," she said of St. Catherine. As they watch the play, "people have found in her this fire and spark, and it has resonated across the world," she added.

It's no surprise the energetic Sister Nancy could play the feisty saint to such acclaim. Indeed, being the oldest daughter in a large family sharpened her sense of the absurd, she said.

In her years as a religious Sister Nancy has had many jobs, including high school drama teacher, director of vocations and campus minister.

She entered the Dominicans in Adrian, Mich., in 1966 at age 18 and received her bachelor's degree in theater from Barry University in Miami. Her master's degree in pastoral studies is from Loyola University of Chicago, her hometown.

Combining love of theater and love of people with her spirituality is rewarding, Sister Nancy said.

"I always knew I had to do something that involved people, something with a lot of variety. I was 12 years old when I told my father I wanted to meet everyone in the world," she said. "He told me, 'Nance, you won't like them all.' And I told him that wouldn't matter."

Traveling the world to introduce St. Catherine to others has been a journey, she said. "People can have a stereotype of a sister's life. This helps give them a realistic picture."

Sister Nancy added, "We must not be afraid of the influences in the world. We have to believe that God continues to call individuals to himself and that he can work with it. He has redeemed the world, and that redemption is ongoing."

# Bishops receive new liturgy instructions

LITURGY, *from page 1*

Communion is given under both kinds, that is under forms of both bread and wine.

The instruction says the wine is to be poured into different chalices before it is consecrated, to avoid spilling consecrated wine during the transfer from one vessel to another.

Msgr. Moroney said the wine could still be brought up to the altar in a larger container at the presentation of the gifts, but then it should be distributed into the chalices during the preparation of the gifts, not just before Communion when it has already been consecrated.

Father Ronald Krisman, a former executive director of the Secretariat for Liturgy, raised the objection that the U.S. practice of distributing the consecrated wine into separate chalices at the time of the breaking of the bread has been adopted as particular law in the United States, in a provision approved by the Holy See March 22, 2002. It is a principle of church law that where there is a conflict between approved law and an instruction, the approved law prevails, he said.

But Msgr. Moroney said the Vatican congregation decided that change was needed after hearing concerns from around the world about occasional accidents that resulted in spilling the sacred species while transferring it to the chalices at Communion time.

Another instruction says any collection money or symbolic gifts for the poor brought up at the presentation of gifts "should be placed in an appropriate place which should be away from the eucharistic table."

Msgr. Moroney said parishes with deacons would have to look at an instruction that suggests deacons wear the dalmatic, an outer vestment similar to the priest's chasuble, when he is assisting at Mass.

The instruction reiterates the norm in the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal that all priests at a Mass should either concelebrate or "wear their proper choir dress or a surplice over a cassock," setting them apart from the laity in attendance. Before the new general instruction, it was not uncommon for priests attending Mass in the United States to sit in the pews in street dress if they were not concelebrating, he said.

The document insists laity called upon to distribute Communion should be called "extraordinary ministers of holy Communion." It says "Communion" must be used because only the priest can properly be called a "minister of the Eucharist" and it rejects "special" as a substitute word for the technical term "extraordinary." In church parlance, priests and deacons are "ordinary" ministers of Communion because it is one of the rights and duties attached to ordination; by calling the others "extraordinary" the church simply means that their participation in this ministry is not ordinary.

The instruction says even if extraordinary ministers are regularly used, whenever an extra priest or deacon is present he should be the first to be called upon; extraordinary ministers should be used only when all available ordained ministers are brought up and there is still additional need.

Msgr. Moroney said one of the abuses cited in the instruction as particularly serious is pouring the remainder of the Precious Blood after Mass into the sacrarium, the special sink in a church sacristy that feeds directly into the ground instead of into the waste-water system.

The instruction says anyone who throws away the consecrated wine or bread is automatically excommunicated under Canon 1367 of the Code of Canon Law, and pouring the sacred species into the sacrarium violates that canon.

Elsewhere the instruction says that all consecrated wine left over after Communion is to be consumed by the priest or another minister. The chalice is then to be cleaned and dried with the purificator, a linen cloth.

USCCB Publishing, the bishops' publishing office, said April 23 that it will publish the new instruction. It suggested visiting the bishops' Web site, www.usccb.org, for ordering information.

CNS FILE PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

**Sacred vessels used at Mass include, clockwise from left, a chalice, ciborium and paten. According to the new Vatican document on liturgy, vessels for the Lord's body and blood "must be made in strict conformity with the norms of tradition and of the liturgical books." Common vessels, those lacking in quality or devoid of all artistic merit, those made from glass, earthenware, clay, or other materials that break easily, should not be used, according to the document.**

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# Straight talk about wills

BY GINA RHODES
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

If you die without a will or other such document, the state will decide how to disburse your estate. And if you have minor children, the state will decide who will raise and care for them.

If you want to leave certain assets to specific persons or make charitable gifts to various causes, then you must have a will. If you die without a will, the state will follow its own agenda.

Each state has its own written policies for the distribution of your estate. So much will go here and so much there — places and persons for whom you may not want to provide. The state will assign someone to oversee the administration of your estate.

It will all be done "by the book." No special gifts to your parish, the diocese, the Foundation, Catholic school, agency or other causes you would want to honor. No special gifts to people outside your family. No concern for your thoughts on the size of any bequests.

Just imagine the difficulties this may cause for your family and friends. Imagine the added expense for this oversight. Imagine people you never knew making decisions on your behalf.

There are many reasons people never prepare a will: fear of death, uncertainty about estate distribution, family conflicts, difficulty doing an estate inventory, inconvenience, expense, procrastination, no lawyer and so forth. However, the plain fact is, every excuse is a bad one if it causes you to die without a will.

You don't need all the answers to get a will started. You can start with what you know and make changes and additions later. It's better to have something workable in place that reflects your wishes than nothing at all.

To help you create a valid will, I have put together a "Will Information Kit" that includes brochures and suggestions to prepare you for a conference with your attorney. This kit is interesting and informative, and it is free for the asking.

Do you have an estate-planning attorney who can assist you? Talk to your trusted friends and see whom they use. Another possibility is to contact a local bank for their recommendations. In any case, I urge you to get legal assistance so you can have peace of mind, knowing your will has been drafted properly.

For more information regarding wills, please contact me, Gina Rhodes, at (704) 370-3320 or gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Gina Rhodes is the director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

# Sister Elizabeth Berry, former Greensboro resident, dies

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Daughter of Charity Sister Elizabeth Berry died April 11, 2004 at Villa St. Michael, the province's retirement residence. She was 91.

Born Mary Elizabeth as one of 13 children in Middlesboro, Ky., Sister Berry moved to Greensboro with her family. She graduated from St. Joseph's

High School in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1930. She attended the University of North Carolina's Business College in Greensboro and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she received a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1948.

She earned a master's degree in hospital administration from St. Louis University in St. Louis, Mo., in 1951.

Sister Berry worked as her father's bookkeeper and secretary in the family business, the Berry Coal Company (later known as Berico Fuels, Inc.) for several years before entering the Daughters of Charity in 1938.

After completing her seminary in 1939, she worked as a bookkeeper and in healthcare for many years in New York, Missouri and Washington, D.C. In 1952, she was appointed administrator and local superior of Providence Hospital in Detroit, Mich., where she remained until she was sent to DePaul Medical Center in Norfolk, Va., and served in the same duty there until 1962.

Ever mindful of social justice, Sister Berry requested permission to serve in the missionary field. She left for Bolivia in February 1962 and ministered there for 23 years.

After her return to the United States in 1985, Sister Berry served briefly at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Langley, S.C., before being assigned to the pastoral care department at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C., where she remained for 11 years. In 1997, when her health began to decline, Sister Berry returned to Emmitsburg and became a resident of the Villa.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Daughters of Charity Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 S. Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

# ORB feeds local projects

CHARLOTTE — Each Lent, parishes and schools in the Diocese of Charlotte participate in Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving.

The majority of funds from the ORB collection go to the national CRS office for anti-poverty programs worldwide, with the balance remaining in the diocese. From this share, the diocesan CRS committee sponsors a mini-grants program for local initiatives on international issues or projects. The project or program can be part of a larger initiative.

Grants of up to $500 will be awarded to projects that cover a range of international, immigrant or migrant issues; reflect a social justice or empowerment component; represent a range of approaches (e.g., education, advocacy, media, linking faith and justice); and will be incorporated into parish, school or organization life.

To be eligible for a grant, a project must satisfy the following criteria:

1. It must be carried out under the auspices of a Catholic organization, such as a parish, parish faith formation program, school, campus ministry or vicariate organization.

2. It must undertake an initiative dealing with Catholic social teaching and action on issues of international justice and peace, or with local immigrant or migrant issues.

3. At the end of the grant cycle, grant recipients will submit a one- to two-page typewritten evaluation describing the project, its accomplishments and how well the group or organization met its goals with the grant money.

Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2004. Mail to: Terri Jarina, Program Director, Parish Social Ministry, Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

*Any questions about the grant process should be directed to:*

*Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234 or thjarina@charlottediocse.org, or Joseph Purello at (704) 370-3225 or jtpurello@charlottediocese.org.*

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# 'Partners in Hope'

COURTESY PHOTO BY ANN KILKELLY

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin speaks with Skip Prosser (right), head basketball coach at Wake Forest University, and another gentleman at the "Partners in Hope" fundraiser for Catholic Social Services Piedmont Triad Office in Winston-Salem April 15. Prosser spoke on the topic "Winning in Life Both On and Off the Court." Bishop Curlin co-chaired the event with St. Joseph Sister Dennis Eileen Gamber, minister to the sick at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Not without a doubt

### Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

After all the weeks of a solemn Lent, what a wonderful relief to embrace the joy of the paschal season. We think of Lent, and certainly Holy Week, as a time of prayer and penance, but it occurs to me that we sometimes ignore the range and depth of emotions revealed in the Gospel stories of the Passion of Jesus.

Consider the wild enthusiasm of the crowds who cheered Jesus as they welcomed him triumphantly into Jerusalem. Consider the depths of agony he endured in the garden on the Mount of Olives. He anticipated the betrayal of Judas, his friend, and the denial of Peter, the rock of his church.

Consider not only the brutal physical pain of the passion that Jesus faced, but also the fear and despair of his disciples.

And their doubt. After all, Jesus' followers had heard about God's loving mercy, after all the miracles they had seen, how could their hopes end in the most ignominious death the Roman Empire could impose? Surely, the faith of the disciples was as shaken as, I think, mine would have been.

But then came Sunday morning. The faithful women went to the tomb to finish anointing Jesus — and it was empty. What happened next not only shook them but also changed our world forever.

"Suddenly two men in dazzling robes stood beside them ... (and) said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.'" (Luke 24:4-5)

And the women believed it. But not everyone would accept it when they heard the news.

"Now it was Mary Magdalene ... and the other women... who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them." (Luke 24:10-11)

I can imagine these guys thinking, "Poor women. They're just imagining things. Of course, we'd love to believe them, but it can't be true!"

So God, as usual, came to the rescue.

"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." (John 20:19-20)

Then came the incident that has been synonymous with doubt ever since: "But Thomas ... was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. ... Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then He said to Thomas, '... Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:24-29)

Many people have doubts at different times. And that uncertainty can be frightening. Certainly, God wants us to believe, just as he wants us to hope and to love. But he understands us better than we do ourselves. After all, God created us with reason and free will. He expects us to use our minds as well as our hearts. Never be afraid to think about God.

There's a quote that's said to have been found cut into the walls of a Nazi concentration camp: "I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when He is silent."

Peace be with you!

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Gifts of the Spirit, Gifts from the Soul," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, and pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# Trust in God brings comfort in times of loss, loneliness, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — During times of loneliness or loss, trust in God brings comfort, said Pope John Paul II at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

On a warm and sunny spring day April 28, the pope reflected on Psalm 27, which he said illustrates the psalmist's trust and hope in God despite his facing much tribulation.

The psalm shows that "there is an aggressive evil in the world which has Satan as its guide and inspiration," the pope said.

Yet despite the threat of adversaries and even abandonment by his parents, the psalmist displays "the serene faith of the believer," he said.

"Even in solitude and with the loss of one's dearly beloved, the psalmist never is completely alone because merciful God kneels before him," he said.

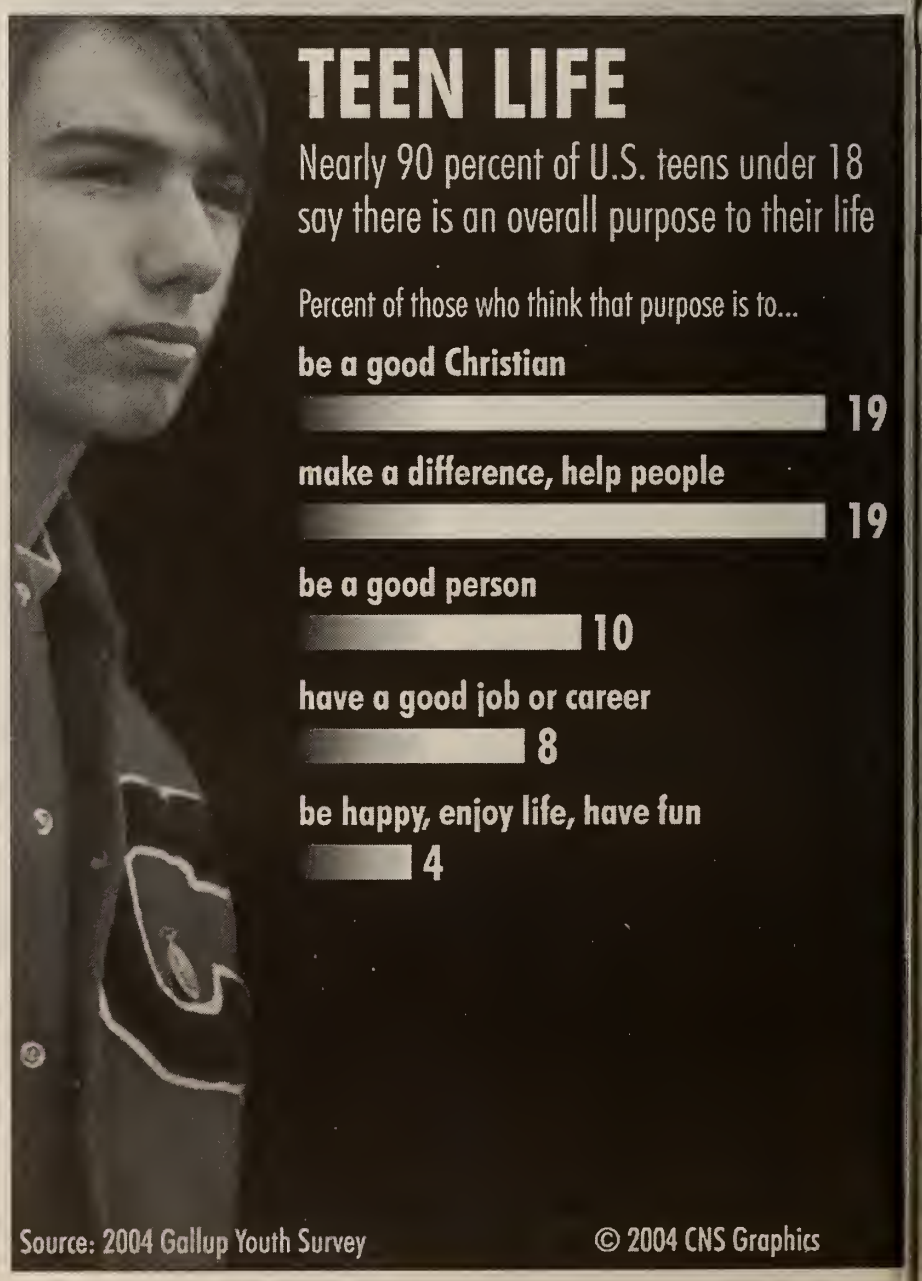
The pope said this particular psalm has special meaning for those people who have been forgotten or abandoned by family and society.

### The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

"To all the elderly, the sick, those forgotten by all, to those who will never be caressed by another, let us remember these words by the psalmist and prophet, so that they may feel the paternal and maternal hand of the Lord silently touch with love their suffering faces, perhaps lined with tears," the pope said.

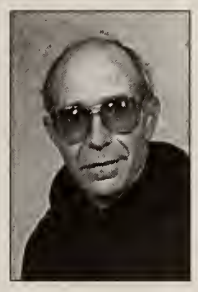
The pope spoke in a clear voice as he read small portions of a one-and-a-half-page catechesis. Before praying the "Regina Coeli," he offered greetings in 10 different languages to the tens of thousands of pilgrims gathered in the square.



# Mothers never die

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap



There is something special about a mother. More than any other person, she lends herself to sentimentality and poetry. That's not surprising, because she brought us into existence and cared for us in our helpless years called infancy.

When we made the first leap of faith called the first fearful step, she was there. She was also there when we uttered the first word, chopping up consonants and vowels at the same time. The list may go on endlessly. We feel that our mother is always alive in our lives, even when her body lies in the grave and her soul enjoys heaven.

Abraham Lincoln has been quoted as saying: "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." It is right to give thanks and praise to our mothers with the joyful celebration of Mother's Day, which has a long and interesting history.

The Encyclopedia Britannica informs us that ancient Greeks as well as Asians were honoring Rhea, the mother of all gods. That tradition was christianized and became the Mother Church. The "she" pronoun used to designate the Catholic Church is not an accident.

In the United States, Mother's Day began in 1872 with Julia Ward Howe. The least we can do is to dedicate one day a year to the most important person in our lives: our mother. The best we can do is to honor our mother every day of our lives.

As I think of Mother's Day, I find myself facing a difficult question: What can be said about mothers that has not been said a thousand times or more? The answer is: probably nothing. However, things need to be said not because they are new, but because they are true.

I wish to make clear that mothers are very important, but they are not all angels or saints (mine is!). Mothers are people too. We are inclined to idealize mothers to the point of making them unreal. The mother for me is the person who meets our needs and she herself has needs as well. Mothers get lonely and need friendship, they get tired and need rest, they get hurt and need healing, they are misunderstood and they need love.

There is a beautiful description of a mother recorded in the Second Book of Kings. The title is "The Shunammite's son restored to life." About the upcoming year, Elisha said, "You will hold a son in your arms."

"No, my Lord," she objected. "Don't mislead your servant, o man of God!"

But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her. The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.

"My head! My head!" he said to his father.

His father told a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died. " (II Kings 4:14–18)

Fortunately, the sad story has an happy ending: Elisha brought her son back to life, but the picture of that mother, who held her son for hours, is the perfect statue of courage and heroism. We are not talking here about muscle and brawn. We are talking about character and strength. This life is no bowl of cherries, but the ability to keep on going when everything inside of you wants to quit.

Just like the son who did not want to get up and go to school. His mother said: "Rise and shine. Don't be late for your first day back to school."

The son answers: "I don't want to go, I have a stomachache, my head hurts and I think I have a fever. Anyway, give me two reasons why I should go to school."

The mother promptly replies: "First, you are 42 years old. Second, you are the principal of the school."

Don't forget: Mother knows best and she deserves our love, our attention, as well as the best gift.

John Whitehall, a wealthy Texan, wanted to send his mother an unusual, expensive gift for Mother's Day. The owner of a pet shop told him of a mynah bird worth well over $10,000.

"What makes this bird so valuable?" asked Whitehall.

The owner responded, "This mynah bird is the only one in the world that can recite the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm and 1 Corinthians 13."

"I'll take it," said the Texan. "I don't care how much it costs. Mother is worth it and will get so much comfort hearing it recite Scripture."

So he wrote a check and had it shipped off to his mother. The Monday after Mother's Day, he called her long distance. "Did you get my present?"

"I certainly did, and thank you."

"And how did you like the bird?

"Oh son, it was delicious!"

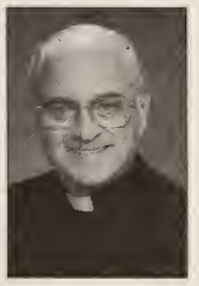
My friends, there are two special people in our lives: your mother and mine.

*Father Aurilia is the pastor of Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville.*

# Don't postpone joy!

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR CNS Columnist



We've all heard this slogan before: Don't postpone joy! But does it mean don't put off your next expensive vacation? Or don't forget to shop for a new outfit?

Obviously, it must mean more than acquiring things or experiences.

Happiness is not something that comes from the outside world, like a martini on New Year's Eve. Eating, drinking and acquiring temporal goods can be uplifting for a time. Getting money and power will surely lift your spirits temporarily, but when you lose your job, or your big car, or your house, that kind of happiness evaporates.

There is a deeper happiness — which comes from within — called joy. It is a way of life! Joy is more the byproduct of a meaningful life than a temporary state of euphoria.

What does "Don't postpone joy" mean to someone like Mother Teresa? She taught us so much by her own example because she listened attentively to Jesus who said: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and everything else will be given to you.... I tell you this that your joy may be full." She followed him.

Jesus taught us that joy will come by forgiving when you feel resentful, by being kind when you want to be mean, by persevering when you want to quit, by beginning again when others have ruined your plans, by giving your best when no one pays the slightest attention to your best efforts.

Mother Teresa put it more poetically:

"People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;

"Forgive them anyway.

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

"Be kind anyway.

"If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

"Be successful anyway.

"If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

"Be honest and frank anyway.

"What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

"Build anyway.

"If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

"Be happy anyway.

"The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

"Do good anyway.

"Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

"Give the world your best anyway.

"You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God;

"It was never between you and them anyway."

# Christian debt after bankruptcy

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN CNS Columnist

*Q. Seven years ago I filed bankruptcy, and my debts were discharged. Am I required to pay these debts in order to forgive the sin of being careless with God's blessings?*

*I will not likely have the money to pay them off; it amounts to a great sum, and my salary now is just enough to live on. Other people in my life think I have an obligation to go back and take care of these debts. (Ohio)*

A. First, if you took reasonable care of your finances before your bankruptcy and did not plan to defraud your creditors, there is no sin to forgive. Recent years have seen a great increase in personal and commercial bankruptcies. I'm sure in most of them the individuals responsible say to themselves, with hindsight: "If only I had done this, or that, results would have been different."

Harsh as it may sound, however, bad financial judgments, incompetence or just "bad luck" may result in a lot of pain, but they are not sins.

After bankruptcy is declared, all possessions are disposed of according to the requirements of civil law. These dispositions, including any properties the insolvent individual is allowed to retain for personal and family support, for example, are morally binding, as long as there is nothing intrinsically sinful involved.

In the United States, the common juridical opinion is that all debts are contracted with the implied condition that they will be canceled in case of an honest bankruptcy. In other words, a voluntary forgiveness of the person's debts is assumed.

The common language in the law is that "a discharge in bankruptcy shall release a bankrupt from all his provable debts." This language, and the practice of our courts in applying it, gives solid basis for the moral opinion that after a legitimate bankruptcy all debts are canceled in conscience as well as in law.

Again, malicious or "arranged" bankruptcy that deliberately defrauds someone else does not excuse from restitution. Such sinful intent, however, is never to be presumed without weighty evidence.

## Homemade wine for Mass?

*Q. May homemade wine be used at Mass? (New York)*

A. Yes. Wine for the Eucharist should be pure, natural, unadulterated grape wine, that is, with no preservatives, flavoring or other additives. As long as it is made this way, it makes no difference whether it is produced commercially or at home. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 322)

# St. Barnabas Church celebrates decades of growth for Arden Catholics

File Photo

St. Barnabas Church in Arden expanded its facility in 1994 to accommodate parish growth, 10 years after the dedication of a new church building.

ARDEN — The history of St. Barnabas Church began in 1964, when a structure in Arden was purchased from local Baptists for use as a Catholic church. The first Mass was celebrated in November of that year, and the new church was dedicated by then-Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh a month later. Thirty-six families made up that early church community.

Originally designated as a mission of St. Lawrence Church in Asheville, St. Barnabas Church was first served by Msgr. George Lynch, who later became auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh. The congregation of 50 families later welcomed Oblate Father Joseph Maule as the first pastor when the church attained parish status in early 1966. Oblate Father Joseph Cutter became pastor in 1968, and St. Barnabas Church continued to flourish in both spirituality and in numbers.

The parish not only saw its first holy Communion and confirmation classes receive their respective sacraments, but it also soon formed a pastoral committee, ladies' guild and musicians group, all of which became vital to the church community.

Long-range planning took place during the 1970s to coincide with a continuing influx of Catholics settling in the Arden area. Meanwhile, efforts to pay off the church mortgage were completed by 1976, thus allowing the parish to attend more closely to expansion projects. A residence for the pastor was purchased, and in 1980, land transfers brought the construction of a new church facility a step closer to reality.

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH**
109 Crescent Hill Drive
Arden, N.C. 28704
(828) 684-6098

**Vicariate:** Asheville
**Pastor:** Father Roger Arnsparger
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley
**Number of Households:** 760

Father Roger Arnsparger

The original building was sold, and the parish celebrated Mass under a tent and in a roller skating rink during the construction of a new church.

The parish welcomed its third pastor, Jesuit Father Frank Bourbon, in June 1982, and four months later then-Bishop Michael J. Begley of Charlotte granted permission to proceed with building plans. A groundbreaking ceremony took place Sept. 19, 1983.

In 1984, the parish saw the completion of the new St. Barnabas Church, which was dedicated by Bishop Begley on July 22. With a church featuring a native stone sanctuary wall, a locally crafted crucifix and educational facilities, the parish now had a spiritual home reflecting the beauty of both faith and the North Carolina mountains.

Father Bourbon was reassigned in September 1984 and Jesuit Father Joseph Newell became the fourth pastor of St. Barnabas Church. As the years passed, the St. Barnabas Church religious education program was enhanced. During the 1980s came the expansion of the parish's Cursillo and Knights of Columbus council (named after Father Maule).

During this period, the church also celebrated the ordination of its first deacon, Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley in July 1988 and the ordination and first Mass of one of the parish's own, Father Joseph Mack in May 10, 1989. When Father Newell was reassigned, Father John Schneider became the church's pastor in July 1990. By that time, the parish had grown to 300 families.

For the next several years, Father Schneider continued the devoted work of his predecessors, forming and developing an enthusiastic youth ministry comprised of middle and high school students.

Ever-increasing in size and participation, the parish began to explore the possibility of again expanding the facility in February 1990. After a lengthy series of meetings, the project was underway. New classrooms, offices, meeting rooms and an expanded library highlighted the augmentation of the church. In July 1994, then-Bishop William G. Curlin blessed the expansion, 10 years after the dedication of the new St. Barnabas Church.

Father Schneider served as pastor to some 620 households that made up the religious, educational, social and, in part, administrative strengths of St. Barnabas Church. With its enthusiastic variety of committees, ministries, groups and projects, the parish offered a spirited affirmation of service as a faith community.

Father Roger Arnsparger was assigned as administrator in July 1999. On Oct. 24 of that year, the church doors were symbolically "sealed" as St. Barnabas Church began its Jubilee 2000 celebration, getting a head start on a similar ceremony that took place in the Vatican on the first Sunday in Advent. The doors of St. Barnabas Church and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome both were unsealed on Christmas Eve of that year. Father Arnsbarger, now pastor, blessed the parish's "Jubilee Doors."

In November 1999, parishioners made 15 quilts and sent them to victims of Hurricane Floyd in Goldsboro, N.C.

The parish continued expansion of religious education to youth and adults. Each year has seen "Parish Vision Meetings" to assist parishioners with effective evangelization of the parish. The church's Respect Life Committee has increased its pro-life apostolate through prayer, direct services, education and legislative efforts.

The church hosts two Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortive Healing Retreats annually and sponsors "Triumph of the Cross," an annual Catholic conference, and a Catholic Men's Conference. On March 10, 2003, the church began perpetual adoration of the Eucharist.

The parish now consists of 760 families. Because of projected future growth, the parish has purchased five acres of adjacent land and plans are being made for improved access and additional facilities for the church's work.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972 by Pope Paul VI

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MAY 7, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 31

**Precious cargo**

*Week to appreciate school bus drivers*

| PAGE 6

FIGHTING FOR LIFE

## New poll shows growing shift toward pro-life position

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The results of a new poll indicate increasing support for a pro-life position, according to representatives of several pro-life organizations.

The April 15-17 poll conducted by Zogby International showed that 56 percent of those responding said that abortion should never be legal or be legal only when the mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape and incest.

Forty-two percent of the respondents said abortion should be legal for any reason

See ABORTION, page 4

**PRAYERS RISING LIKE INCENSE**

PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses the altar of St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte during the dedication Mass May 2.

## Crossing the chasm

CNS PHOTO BY JASON LANGE

U.S. agents patrol the border as travelers migrating north make camp on the Mexican side April 9 near Tijuana. Some workers find an open door, meals and a bed at Casa del Migrante, where they can stay for up to two weeks in their search for work in Tijuana or the United States. See story page 8.

COVERAGE OF DIOCESAN HISPANIC MINISTRY AND OUTREACH, PAGE 9.

## New home, old traditions

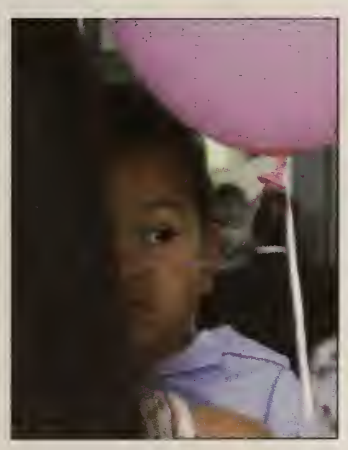
*Vietnamese celebrate new church, freedom*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Catholic population of Charlotte now has some more room to grow.

Almost 2,000 people crowded the new St. Joseph

See DEDICATION, page 5



A child regards the crowd that overflowed into the church's vestibule during the Mass.

## Catholics, Lutherans look back, forward as dialogue ends one phase

BY CANDY CZERNICKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WAUWATOSA, Wis. — As Lutheran and Catholic scholars completed five years of work on a document about their churches' structures and ministries, they looked back on the 10 rounds of dialogue that began in 1965 and ahead in anticipation of the 11th topic for discussion.

"In working toward church unity, the challenge is to find a common lens that bypasses old differences," Susan Wood, a dialogue participant and professor at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., told the *Catholic Herald*, the Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper.

"In the past, things have been seen through juridical eyes — that didn't get us very far," said Wood.

The end of the 10th round of dialogue between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Roman Catholic Church was announced at Redemption Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa April 22.

The dialogue is co-chaired by Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba of Milwaukee and retired Lutheran Bishop Charles Maahs.

The group's agreed

See DIALOGUE, page 13

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**Culture Watch**
*Spanish Benedictines'*
*'Chant'*
| PAGES 10-11

**Perspectives**
*'Catholicism for Dummies,'*
*Strangers among us*
| PAGES 14-15

**Parish Profile**
*St. Joseph Vietnamese Church*
| PAGE 16

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SEEING THROUGH CHRIST'S EYES

CNS PHOTO BY KATE OATIS, CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

Father Richard Saelzler, a counselor at St. Thomas More University Parish in Bowling Green, Ohio, poses at his computer, which has software that speaks to him. The priest, who lost his sight two years ago after undergoing surgery for cancer of the esophagus, says blindness has made him a better counselor.

# Blind priest says own suffering has made him better counselor

TOLEDO, Ohio (CNS) — Father Richard Saelzler, who lost his eyesight two years ago, is a firm believer that those who are "willing to share in the blessings" have to also be "willing to share in the cup" and endure struggles.

"I'm struggling to take up my cross every day, just like everybody else," Father Saelzler told the *Catholic Chronicle*, newspaper of the Toledo Diocese.

The priest, known to most as Father Ric, is in residence at St. Thomas More University Parish in Bowling Green. He works at the parish as a counselor.

He went blind when he suffered complications following surgery for cancer of the esophagus. He almost died when his blood pressure dropped dramatically and he "crashed," he said.

His doctors saved his life, but a lack of oxygen to his optic nerve destroyed his eyesight. He was in a coma in intensive care for days.

When he lost his sight, Father Saelzler said, his immediate reaction was to ask, "What am I going to do?"

"My world was so visual. My favorite hobbies were gardening, watching movies, photography. After I left the hospital for the nursing home, I started praying that I would die," he said.

But now he has a different outlook, and even though there are still some depressing times he does not give in to despair. The priest said he has felt lonely, but never angry.

"Anger is useless. I saw my blindness as a part of nature," he said. "There's no one to be angry at. I could be angry at the world for spending money on war but ignoring AIDS in Africa. No, anger's not it."

What has carried him through, he said, has been uniting his suffering to that of Jesus. And he is quick to point out that his faith isn't just a crutch to get him through the rough times.

"In the midst of suffering, there is redemption, transformation. If there isn't resurrection, this is, indeed, a curse," he said. "There is a constant transformation going on in me."

Father Saelzler said the transformation has made him "more positive when counseling people."

"I listen better now. I encourage people to celebrate their victories and not beat themselves up over failures," he added.

# Repression of Christians in Vietnam 'grave concern,' U.S. bishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The violent repression of the Montagnard people in Vietnam is a matter of "grave concern," the head of the U.S. bishops' international policy committee said in a letter to Vietnam's ambassador to the United States.

In his April 28 letter to Ambassador Nguyen Tam Chien, Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., also called for the release of Father Thaddeus Nguyen Van Ly, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail following his 2001 testimony to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Bishop Ricard told the ambassador that by imprisoning Father Ly, "an otherwise obscure human rights advocate, your government has converted him into one of the world's better-known prisoners of conscience and given greater reason for criticism of Vietnam's record on human rights and religious freedom."

Human Rights Watch reported that Montagnards, mainly Protestants, were beaten and some killed during Easter Week demonstrations in Vietnam's Central Highlands, and the Montagnards were seeking to "peacefully press for religious freedom and return of ancestral land in the Central Highlands."

The Vietnamese government charged that antigovernment elements are inciting the Montagnards to seek a separatist state, Human Rights Watch said.

"Vietnam's policy of repression on Montagnard Christians is only fueling the unrest," said Brad Adams of the Asia Division of Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights Watch said it "continues to receive credible reports" of Vietnamese officials forcing Montagnard Christians to "abandon Christianity and cease all political or religious activities in public self-criticism sessions or by signing written pledges."

# Diocesan planner

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will host a *Festival of Praise* May 22, 8-10 p.m. The evening will feature praise and worship music by St. Mark's LIFE TEEN band in addition to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. For details, call Debra Lemmon at (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — The music ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* May 22 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults of all ages have found this to be a great place for entertaining and warm spiritual messages, evangelization and an opportunity for praise and worship music in a Christian environment. There is no charge to attend. To reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. The May 12 meeting will honor those couples celebrating 50 years of marriage. For reservations and more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes will meet through June 23 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 -11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians,* St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, will meet at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., May 19 at 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554 0720.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Lucy Wellmaker, parishioner and life coach, will lead a follow-up session on Rick Warren's book *"The Purpose-Driven Life"* May 19, 10-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. These sessions are open to anyone who has read the book. For more information e-mail lwellmaker@triad.rr.com.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catho-

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official calls on Christians, Buddhists to help children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians and Buddhists must address the needs of children, especially those who have been abandoned, abused by adults, or are affected by HIV/AIDS, said a top Vatican official.

"As religious believers, we must turn our gaze to the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole," said Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald in an annual message to Buddhists.

The Vatican released the message April 29 as Buddhists worldwide prepared for the May 4 feast of Vesakh, which commemorates the principal events in the life of Buddhism's founder, Siddhartha Gautama.

Archbishop Fitzgerald, who heads the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said children must be "protected, loved and educated."

However, many children lack a stable and loving family, he said.

"Even worse, there are little ones who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults through sexual abuse, prostitution, forced begging, involvement in the sale and use of drugs, conscription, etc.," said Archbishop Fitzgerald.

The tragedy of HIV/AIDS also has brought immense suffering to many children's lives, he said.

The archbishop said Buddhists and Christians should mobilize their "forces and resources," and if Buddhists and Christians help children "governments, civic bodies and all people of good will, through our own example, can be inspired to greater involvement in the welfare of all children."

lic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — The *18th Annual Spring Fling* will be held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, May 13, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The day will feature music, games, bingo, door prizes and more. Father Ed Sheridan will celebrate the closing Mass. Spring Fling is hosted by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry. For registration information, please call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night,* featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — St. Mary Church is in the initial stage of forming a court of the *Catholic Daughters of America.* Women from neighboring parishes, ages 18 and older, are welcome to join. For more information, contact Angie Erst at (828) 488-6560 or Pat Pickering at (828) 497-4999.

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**May 8 — 9 a.m.**
Baccalaureate Mass
Belmont Abbey College

**May 10 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

**May 12 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Spirit Church, Denver

**May 14 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Therese Church, Mooresville

**May 16 — 12 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

**May 17 — 7:30 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

# Pope calls for renewed missionary zeal based on love for Eucharist

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for renewed missionary zeal based on a "constant relationship" with the Eucharist.

In his message for World Mission Sunday 2004, the pope said the church's mission of evangelization was "still only at the beginning" even after 2,000 years of service.

"The social and religious challenges facing humanity in our day call believers to renew their missionary fervor. Yes. It is necessary to relaunch mission 'ad gentes' with courage," he said in his written message, released by the Vatican April 29, ahead of World Mission Sunday, which will be celebrated Oct. 24 in most dioceses.

Addressing this year's theme, "Eucharist and Mission," the pope focused on the importance of the Eucharist in sparking and sustaining the call to spread the Gospel.

He asked, "How could the church fulfill her vocation without cultivating a constant relationship with the Eucharist, without nourishing herself with this food which sanctifies, without founding her missionary activity on this indispensable support?"

The keys to helping the church fulfill that vocation are dedicated priests — "apostles who are 'experts' in the celebration, adoration and contemplation of the Eucharist," he wrote.

The pope said that the Eucharist is vital for men and women missionaries.

"The Eucharist is the comfort and the pledge of final triumph for those who fight evil and sin; it is the 'bread of life' which sustains those who, in turn, become 'bread broken' for others, paying at times even with martyrdom their fidelity to the Gospel," he said.

The pope made an appeal to the faithful to help support "spiritually and materially" the church's apostolic activities by the pontifical mission societies so that "through their contribution, the proclamation of the Gospel may reach all peoples of the earth."

# Through the stained glass

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Amanda Zielinski of Pike Stained Glass Studios in Rochester, N.Y., carefully removes lead from a window that is being restored for Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester. Windows were being re-leaded and cleaned by the studio this spring as part of the cathedral's renovation. According to studio owner Valerie O'Hara, stained-glass windows are low-maintenance but should be restored about every 100 years to maintain structural integrity.

## THIS MONTH IN —1917

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Beginning May 13, 1917, three Portuguese children received apparitions of Our Lady. Mary asked them to pray the rosary and gave them three secrets. The first concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second was a vision of hell.

Pope John Paul II directed the third secret to be revealed in 2000; it spoke of a 'bishop in white' being shot with bullets and arrows. Many people linked this to the assassination attempt against the pope May 13, 1981.

# New poll shows growing shift toward pro-life position

ABORTION, *from page 1*

for the first, first and second, or all three trimesters of pregnancy.

Asked if they considered themselves "pro-life" or "pro-choice," 49 percent said pro-life while 45 percent said pro-choice. By a 61-34 percent margin, poll respondents said abortion should not be permitted after the fetal heartbeat has begun.

Zogby interviewed 1,209 Americans by telephone. The poll's margin of error was plus or minus 2.8 percent. It was made public April 23 in Washington.

By even greater margins:

— Sixty-five percent agreed that abortion should not be permitted after fetal brainwaves are detected; 28 percent disagreed with that statement.

— Seventy-four percent said tax dollars should not be used to pay for abortion, while 22 percent said they should.

— Seventy-seven percent favored laws requiring that before they have an abortion, women who are 20 or more weeks pregnant be given information about fetal pain caused by an abortion. Sixteen percent disagreed.

Carol Tobias, political director for the National Right to Life Committee, which commissioned the poll, said "only 13 percent of the public" supports the "extreme position" taken by leaders of the April 25 March for Women's Lives of "abortion on demand throughout pregnancy."

She made her comments at a Washington press conference where the poll results were released.

In the poll, 25 percent of those surveyed favored abortion for any reason for the first trimester; 4 percent approved of abortion for any reason during the first two trimesters; and 13 percent favored abortion at any time during pregnancy.

Poll results also indicate a greater pro-life stance among African-Americans, Hispanics and young people.

Twenty percent of those polled were ages 18-29. Of this group, 60 percent said abortion should never be legal or be legal only when the mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape and incest, as opposed to 39 percent who favored abortion for any reason during the first trimester, the first and second trimester, or all three trimesters.

Of all those surveyed, African-Americans accounted for 11 percent of respondents; Hispanics made up 8 percent.

Of the African Americans, 62 percent said abortion should never be legal or be legal only when the mother's life is in danger or in cases of rape and incest; 38 percent favored abortion for any reason during the first trimester, the first and second trimester, or all three trimesters. Among Hispanic respondents, the margin was 78 percent to 21 percent.

"A poll released last year by UCLA showed that just a slim majority of 54 percent of college students support abortion, down from 67 percent a decade ago," said Cathy McLeod, mid-Atlantic regional coordinator for American Collegians for Life.

"The abortion lobby has failed to capture the hearts and minds of college women my age because they offer us one choice: abortion," she said.

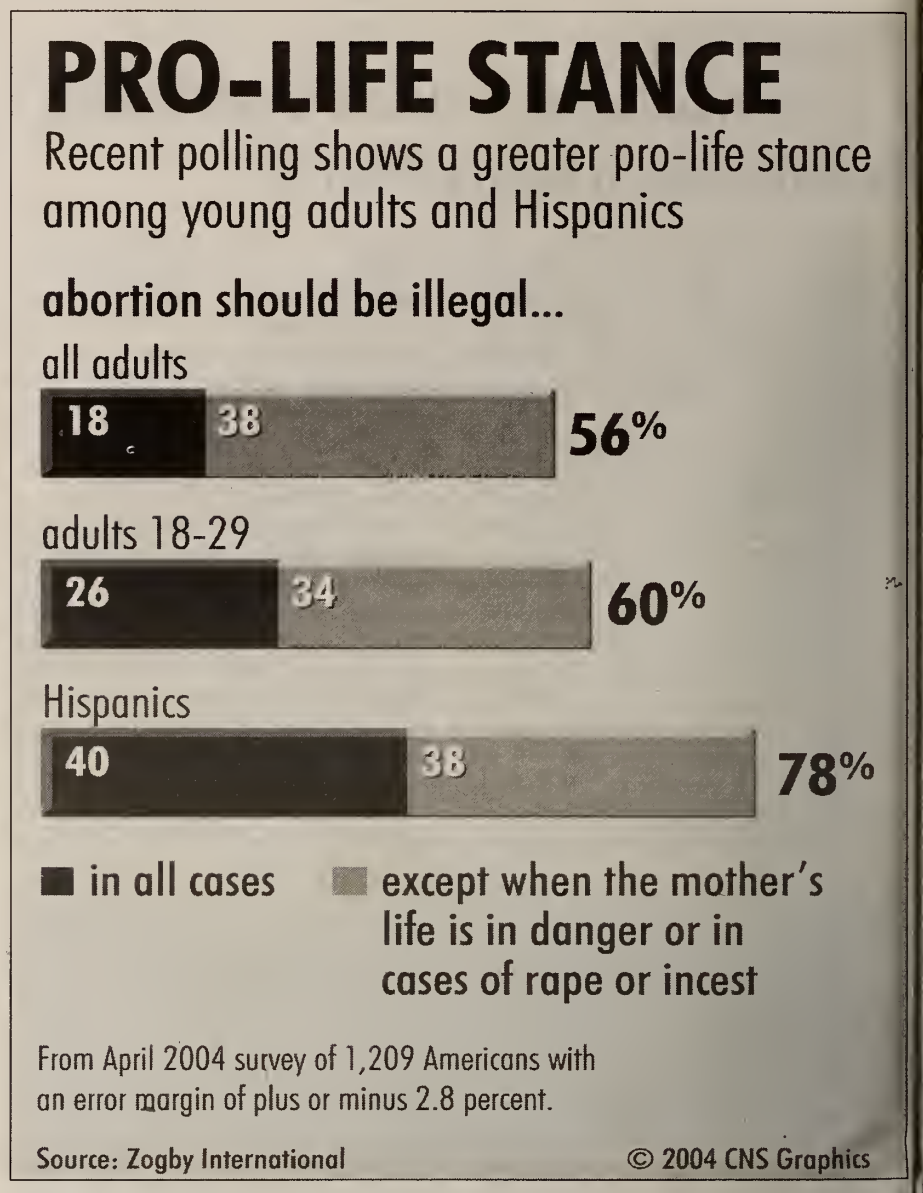
Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, talked about other numbers related to abortion that have not yet been quantified.

"After 31 years we know almost nothing about abortion's impact on women's health, on marriages, or on surviving siblings. We don't even know with certainty how many children have died," Ruse said. "Legalized abortion has been an unchecked, unstudied experiment."

She cited a 2003 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that "multiple abortions are now the norm."

Ruse added, "The survey didn't ask why these abortions occurred," but she referred to an Alan Guttmacher Institute study from the late 1980s that suggested some reasons.

"The two overarching reasons that women have abortions are a lack of financial and emotional support," she said. "In other words, women abort their babies because they need practical help and emotional support, and no one will give it to them."




*Christian fatherhood* St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers

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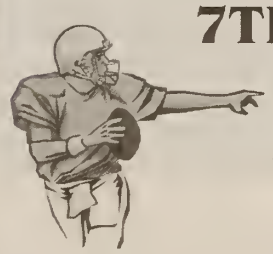

**MEN'S CONFERENCE**
**"Passing the Torch: The Four Quarters of Fatherhood"**

**What:** Men's Conference
**Who:** Steve Wood
**When:** Thursday, May 13 7-9:30 pm
**Where:** St. Barnabas
109 Crescent Hill Dr.
Arden, NC 28704
828.684.6098

**Price: $20**
**Info: Randy Warrick**
**828.890.0501**

**Directions:** Off I-26, take Exit 40 at Arden Ajrport. Go east 2 miles to Hwy 25. Turn right at signal. Proceed 1/2 mile. Turn right at Sunbeam Bakery.

**Fathering during the first quarter:**
- Keys to fathering during the early years
- How discipline works

**Fathering during the second quarter:**
- How to raise your sons to be *real* men
- Successful fathering of daughters

**Fathering during the third quarter:**
- Motivating older teens
- Keeping teens out of trouble
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**Fathering during the fourth quarter:**
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**Western Region:** 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Sister Marie Frechette (828) 255-0146
**Piedmont-Triad:** 621 W. Second Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: David Harold (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office: (336) 274-5577
High Point Hispanic Center: (336) 884-5858

**For information on specific programs, please call your local office.**

# New Vietnamese church dedicated

DEDICATION, *from page 1*

Vietnamese Church dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis during a special Mass May 2. The celebration included fireworks and a festival featuring Vietnamese music and food.

"Even though the culture may be foreign to some Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte, the parish of St. Joseph Vietnamese is another wonderful example of God's presence in our world," said Bishop Jugis.

"The growth of the Vietnamese community and this church is testament that wherever the seed of Jesus Christ is planted, good things will grow," he said.

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Jugis was Father Peter Tan Van Le, pastor; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Capuchin Father Stan Kobel, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church; visiting clergy Msgr. Francis Pham Van Phuong; Msgr. Peter Nguyen Van Tai; and other Vietnamese priests.

The dedication was a visual pageant, featuring native Vietnamese dress, music and expression of worship. Wide-eyed children peered around parents for glimpses of the procession to the church. Smiling men and women donned traditional costumes of celebration. Balloons, banners and drums accentuated the din of excitement.

After Bishop Jugis cut the ceremonial ribbon across the church's entrance, firecrackers exploded as parishioners and guests filed into the modern church that features a tabernacle, altar, baptismal font, Stations of the Cross and furniture from Vietnam.

The $1.8 million facility, which includes offices and an education center, totals almost 22,300 square feet. The worship space can accommodate 725 people, more than double the existing church that connects to the new facility.

Despite all the room, worshippers overflowed into the church's vestibule, the cry room and the old church, where the Mass was shown on closed-circuit television.

The Vietnamese Catholic community began in 1981 as a mission program of three churches, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Consolation and St. Ann. The 20 or so original Vietnamese families were political refugees, resettled in North Carolina by a number of humanitarian organizations including Catholic Social Services.

Many of the Vietnamese Catholics had been imprisoned by the Communists for their beliefs prior to coming to Charlotte in search of jobs and religious freedom, said Father Tan Van Le.

The priest, who was imprisoned for 13 years and had to celebrate Mass in secret, came to Charlotte from the Diocese of Vinh Long in Vietnam via a diocesan sponsorship.

The parish continued to grow and purchased a Baptist church in 1998. Then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the church and cultural center in November 1999.

The church's congregation has since blossomed to 385 families. The Vietnamese community in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte is now estimated at 9,200 people.

"We have the first Vietnamese church in Charlotte, and our community is growing," said Neilson Chung, a parishioner. "We are very proud of what we have done."

"The church allows Charlotte's Vietnamese community to have a place of worship, a place of education for young people and a place for us to preserve the mother language, tradition and morals of our culture," said Father Tan Van Le.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A colorful procession makes its way to the church's entrance before the dedication Mass May 2.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis prepares to cut the ribbon across the entrance of St. Joseph Vietnamese Church before the dedication Mass May 2.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Children cover their ears while processing into the church as firecrackers explode in celebration of the dedication Mass May 2.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more on the history of St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, please see the Parish Profile on page 16.

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| Rev. James A. Stuber | 1985 |
| Rev. James E. Noonan | 1992 |
| Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe | 1994 |
| Rev. Edmund Kirsch | 2001 |
| Rev. Ramon Berg | 2003 |

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**PRECIOUS CARGO**

# Week to appreciate school bus drivers

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The best part of Patrick Loftus' day is seeing the kids.

"I greet them every morning by name," he said.

A school bus driver for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools for almost two years, Loftus and the other drivers will be honored during School Bus Driver Appreciation Week May 10-16.

"The drivers are a big asset," said Ty Canipe, MACS transportation director. "They're the first and last person the students see every day. If the driver starts the students' day positive, their whole day may be positive."

Canipe oversees 14 school buses for the eight MACS schools and a half a dozen for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville. The drivers "all take their jobs very seriously," he said.

"They take pride in their job responsibilities, including keeping the bus clean inside and out," said Canipe. "But most of all they take a very professional approach when it comes to dealing with the parents, school staff and the students."

"Being on time is very important," said Regina Horne, a driver of eight years. "Many parents depend on it."

The drivers begin their day at 5:30 a.m. by reporting in and checking their buses for mechanical problems. They complete morning runs by about 8:30 a.m.

They return around 2:30 p.m. and most drivers finish between 5-5:30 p.m.

"However, on many days if the traffic is not cooperative, the last bus may not return until well after 6 p.m.," said Canipe.

The drivers also are called upon to transport classes on field trips, an average of four a day, "from the mountains to the zoo," said Canipe. "The motto for the department is 'you call, we haul.'"

During the spring and fall, the number of field trips can get as high as 10-12 per day, he said.

Because of the traffic congestion and pollution in Charlotte, the MACS transportation department encourages parents to utilize the school buses.

"Yearly cost is $650, a bargain considering the cost of fuel and time spent on the road," said Canipe.

Gov. Michael Easley proclaimed School Bus Driver Appreciation Week because "every month of the year, in darkness and daylight, bitter cold and brutal heat, North Carolina's school bus drivers travel thousands upon thousands of miles on everything from dirt paths to multilane highways in order to deliver our precious school students to their places of learning and then home again."

Easley proclaimed April 25-May 1, 2004 to celebrate the week, but Canipe said MACS chose to celebrate their bus drivers the second week of May.

"We're having a lunch for them on May 11, and a little something special planned each day," he said. "The schools are welcome to do something for them, too."

Loftus likes to do kind things for the students — such as give them good news.

"On Friday, or before a holiday, I tell them the bus will not be in operation tomorrow," he said. "That usually gets a cheer."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Driver Regina Horne welcomes students aboard her school bus outside St. Patrick School in Charlotte May 4.**

### MACS SCHOOL BUS FACTS

13 full time drivers. 1 part-time substitute.

850 MACS students ride buses each day:
— 550 at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School;
— 150 at Charlotte Catholic High School;
— 150 at St. Mark School, Our Lady of the Assumption School, St. Ann School and St. Patrick School.

MACS buses travel an average of 100 miles each day.

Pickups are as far away as Rock Hill, S.C.; Weddington; and Davidson ( Lake Norman). Possible future pickups may include Gastonia and Belmont for Charlotte CatholicHighSchool.

The average experience of the 14 MACS drivers is 7.5 years. Nearly 25 percent of the drivers are retirees. Many go the whole school year without an absence.

Each driver is CPR certified. Workshops are held quarterly to keep drivers up to date on vital safety issues. All drivers are certified by the state of North Carolina.


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*Crossing the border*

# Migrants regroup at Tijuana church-run shelter

BY JASON LANGE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TIJUANA, Mexico — As darkness descended, Juan Balerio nervously went over his plan to cross an arid stretch of mountains into the United States.

First, he would buy a gallon of water and several boxes of crackers. The hike can take anywhere from eight hours to two or three days, so food and water were important.

Then, at 8 p.m., he planned to take a bus to the outskirts of Tijuana to a mountainous slum called "Nido de las Aguilas," or the Eagle's Nest. That's where the border fences end as rolling hills give way to dusty crags. Balerio said that with a little patience and luck he would be in San Diego the next afternoon.

"If I survive," he said with a smile.

The 22-year-old has illegally crossed the border near Tijuana three times since he left his impoverished home town in central Mexico at age 15 in search of work, and he is aware of the dangers.

Speaking from the staging ground of his plan, a Catholic migrant shelter in Tijuana called Casa del Migrante, he said: "It can get very cold or very hot, and there are many snakes. You hear stories about people dying."

By the hundreds.

### *Deadly crossings*

Last year alone, more than 400 migrants perished trying to cross the 2,000-mile border that divides the United States and Mexico, according to migrant groups that keep tabs on the deaths.

Most died of exposure as they braved deserts and mountains. Others suffocated after migrant smugglers locked them in sweltering truck trailers. Many drowned swimming the Rio Grande.

The deaths amount to a small portion of the estimated 300,000 Mexicans that cross illegally every year.

CNS PHOTOS BY DAVID MAUNG

*Above:* Migrants chat in the courtyard of Casa del Migrante in Tijuana, Mexico, April 19. The center, run by Scalabrinian missionaries, offers temporary shelter to travelers migrating to the United States through the Tijuana border crossing. *Below:* Migrant workers pray before the evening meal at Casa del Migrante April 19.

Around Balerio, some 30 men with worn clothes and tired faces walked about the migrant shelter's central courtyard. Most of them had traveled hundreds of miles to cross the border before running out of luck in Tijuana.

"Many were robbed and were sleeping on the streets before coming here," said Scalabrinian Father Luis Kendzierski, who runs Casa del Migrante.

### *Desert shelter*

Casa del Migrante, run by Scalabrinian missionaries, provides hot meals, showers and a place to sleep for about 80 migrants each night. Since its founding in 1987, Casa del Migrante has sheltered some 130,000 migrants.

Residents can stay for two weeks. Father Kendzierski knows many plan their next move — usually an attempt to cross the border.

Doctors come to the shelter twice a week, usually to treat blistered feet or

wounds from a beating.

"Thugs here know all too well migrants arrive with money to pay the coyote," or migrant smuggler, said Father Kendzierski.

The shelter's staff also works to educate the migrants on sexually transmitted diseases and drug addiction, ills often not found in their home communities but more common along the border and in the United States.

Father Kendzierski and another priest offer spiritual guidance to the migrants, who are mostly Catholic.

Originally founded to assist Italian migrants arriving in the United States and South America in the late 19th century, the Scalabrinians now operate migrant shelters in 25 countries, including France, Australia, the Philippines and the United States.

### *Searching for work*

Most of the migrants who pass through Casa del Migrante hope to cross the border, said Father Kendzierski. The shelter also assists migrants from other parts of Mexico drawn to work in Tijuana's many factories.

Julian Toledo, 23, said at least Tijuana has electricity and jobs, something his home town in the mountains of southern Oaxaca state does not have.

"I don't want to leave my country," Toledo said.

The young men sharing the bench with Toledo do not hesitate to ridicule him.

"In Tijuana you'll earn $10 or $15 a day," Francisco Santiago, a one-time construction worker in San Francisco, told Toledo. "Up there (in America) you can make that in an hour."

Jobs are relatively plentiful in Tijuana, where the North American Free Trade Agreement triggered a boom in low-wage, low-skill factory jobs in the 1990s.

The factories send vans to the migrant shelter every morning looking for people to work their assembly lines.

Oscar Sandoval earned 150 pesos (US$13) earlier in the day at a food processing plant. That money will not go far in Tijuana, where living expenses are higher than in the rest of Mexico.

"They tell us that should be enough to rent a room, buy food and pay for bus fare to work," Sandoval said.

A week earlier, Sandoval was earning $18 per hour as a truck driver in Los Angeles. He was deported after police discovered he did not have a valid driver's license.

"If I return and they catch me, the border patrol agents said I'd do two years in a federal prison," Sandoval said.

### *High stakes*

About 16,000 foreign migrants, or 10 percent of the U.S. federal prison population, are currently locked up for migration offenses — namely illegal border crossings, according to statistics from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons.

U.S. migration authorities said Sandoval could re-enter the United States after one year; the Sonora state native plans to do his best in Tijuana until then.

Father Kendzierski said about 40 percent of the migrants who come to Casa del Migrante are deportees, dropped off by U.S. Border Patrol agents in Tijuana.

Those with family in the United States try to convince relatives there to pay a migrant smuggler's fee — usually $1,000-$1,500.

Those who cannot raise the money might try to cross anyway, although they risk jail time if caught on multiple occasions.

"I'm going to try one more time tomorrow," said 31-year-old Gaspar Torres after returning from the food processing plant.

The money he earned during the week would be enough for food and water for his hike from Nido de las Aguilas and for a bus to Los Angeles, if he is not caught.

"I'll be praying that they don't catch me," he said.

LOCAL OUTREACH
For Hispanic outreach efforts in the Diocese of Charlotte, see coverage on pages 8-9.

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'WELCOMING THE STRANGER'

# Diocese of Charlotte reaches out to Hispanic immigrants

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte moves forward, ministry leaders and Hispanics are looking back and reassessing their needs.

The diocese's three-year Hispanic Pastoral Plan is being reviewed to ensure its success in light of the U.S. bishops' November 2002 document, "Encuentro and Mission: A Renewed Pastoral Framework for Hispanic Ministry."

"That document has some very important aspects of Hispanic ministry that the bishops are asking us to focus on and take into consideration," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic Ministry.

"We're also halfway through the plan and we wanted to stop and see how we were doing, and what we can be doing with the new focus that the bishops asked us to consider," said Sister Inkrott.

The Hispanic Pastoral Plan 2002-2005, an updated and diocese-focused version of three previous national Hispanic pastoral plans developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was adopted by the Diocese of Charlotte in November 2002 after almost a year of meetings of Hispanic ministry coordinators, social service personnel, vicars forane and Hispanic community leaders.

With the growing number of Hispanics in the Diocese of Charlotte — estimated to be more than 203,000 — the Hispanic Pastoral Plan addresses their ever-developing pastoral, health and human services needs. Diocesan members will review the plan at the Catholic Conference Center May 19.

"The immigrants who are arriving in North Carolina are bearers of gifts," said Sister Inkrott. "If I look at persons who are different from me as objects of fear or suspicion, I will miss seeing the gifts that they offer and I will be the poorer for it."

### *An ideal home*

Hispanic Catholics are quickly becoming the majority in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis discussed the Hispanic growth with Pope John Paul II during a private audience March 29, part of the bishop's "ad limina" weeklong visit to the Vatican.

Bishop Jugis described the warm reception Catholics in the diocese have given to the Hispanics living in western North Carolina. The pope expressed surprise that so many had come to the diocese.

"I told him that there are many people moving into our area because of the job opportunities and the quality of life," said Bishop Jugis. "I also told him of the efforts of diocesan priests to minister to the Latino population."

In order to help meet the growing needs of the Hispanic population, Father Julio Cesar Dominguez and Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez-Gaytan, both natives

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Bishop Misael Vacca Ramirez of Yopal, Columbia, and Father Jose Juya, Hispanic apostolate at St. Michael Church in Gastonia, lead a procession honoring the Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquira outside the church Sept. 13, 2003. Many parishes are finding different ways to reach out to the diverse Hispanic cultures in their churches.**

Jugis in September 2003, a month before his ordination as bishop. The meeting allowed the bishop to become familiar with the priests and their needs, and discuss the Hispanic Pastoral Plan.

Parishes with strong Hispanic congregations throughout the diocese have begun Spanish-language Masses and Hispanic ministries. Recent church dedications have featured bilingual Masses and celebrations.

But the Catholic Church is challenged to develop ministries that respond to the needs of Hispanics coming from different countries with different traditions despite their common heritage.

"A mariachi Mass is not for Salvadorans or Argentines or Chileans," said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs.

In January 2003, the U.S. and Mexican bishops issued their first joint pastoral letter pledging cooperation on pastoral care of migrants. Within the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes are finding ways to welcome the diverse Hispanic cultures.

Gastonia has a strong Colombian presence, according to Sister Inkrott. Father José Juya, Hispanic apostolate at St. Michael Church, invited Bishop Misael Vacca Ramirez of Yopal, Colombia, to lead a special Mass for Colombians honoring the Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquira at the Gastonia parish in September 2003.

"Every Latin American country has a version of Mary," said Juan Garcia, a St. Michael parishioner. He likened the Lady of Chiquinquira to the Lady of Guadalupe, who helped convert millions chance to draw strength from each other in their faith."

To coincide with an annual fiesta honoring the Lady of the Incarnation, the patron saint of Aquacatan in Guatemala, the large Guatemalan population of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton held a weekend celebration April 30-May 2. Father Kenneth Whittington, pastor, and Father Luis Ixcoy, a priest from the Diocese of Huehuetenango in Guatemala, participated in the celebrations.

"It's important to serve the people in your parish and increase our awareness of what the church really is, which is unity," said Father Whittington.

The Diocese of Charlotte and Belmont Abbey provided grants to help Lissette Westover, a St. Michael parishioner, establish La Casa Latinoamericana de las Carolinas at Belmont Abbey in 2003. La Casa provides interpretation, translation and other services, as well as doctor and job referrals.

### *Continuing efforts*

Diocesan offices of Catholic Social Services continue to address the needs of Hispanics around the Diocese of Charlotte.

Since 1990, Casa Guadalupe, a CSS program with offices in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, has provided critical services and information to the Piedmont-Triad Hispanic community, including helping immigrants achieve legal, permanent residency and citizenship.

Between the two offices, Casa Guadalupe assists an estimated 600-700 people per week, according to Lisa Reyna, program director.

"Immigration, interpreting, translating — anything where language is a barrier, we help with," said Reyna. "We defend the rights of those who can't speak for themselves."

For its efforts, in 2002 Casa Guadalupe was honored with a Defenders of Justice Award in the Grassroots Empowerment category, given by the North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center.

Casa Guadalupe participated in N.C. United Power's First Statewide Assembly in Durham April 25. More than 1,400 delegates from across North Carolina, representing more than 30 countries, discussed issues including a repeal of the new DMV policy restricting driver's licenses to immigrants and expanded bilingual services.

The Hispanic Center of High Point, a CSS program originally located in Christ the King Church, provides classes, counseling, individual and group therapy, victim assistance and child and youth services.

Program Esperanza, a program of the CSS Charlotte Regional Office that grew out of a partnership with United Way of Central Carolinas in 1997, helps link Hispanics to community resources and services such as English classes, health care, employment, immigration services, school and legal representation.

### *Uniting over dividing*

"The right to emigrate also certainly exists," said Pope John Paul II in a December 2003 message for the 2004 celebrations of World Day for Migrants and Refugees.

Marked by Catholics on different days in different countries, the United States celebrated National Migration Week Jan. 4-10 of this year.

The earth and its resources belong to all people, the pope said, and while governments have a right to regulate migration, people have the right to seek safety and dignified lives for themselves and their families abroad.

While people may be afraid of the impact immigrants will have on their country and economy, overcoming the fear and welcoming newcomers (as brothers and sisters) is a contribution to peace all are called to make, he said.

"If the dream of a peaceful world is shared by many and if the contribution of migrants and refugees is valued, humanity can become increasingly the family of all and our Earth (can become) a real common home," the pope said.

"If one promotes a gradual integration of migrants while respecting their identities and safeguarding the cultural patrimony of the population welcoming them, one reduces the risk that immigrants will concentrate in one area, creating real ghettoes," he said.

Isolation from one's neighbors and from the culture of the host country, he said, "sometimes ends up increasing the desire for a gradual conquest of the territory," which creates further tension.

When peoples of different races, religions and cultures live side by side and work or study together, the pope said, they have an opportunity to discover "values common to every culture capable of uniting rather than dividing."

*Catholic News Service and Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

# Task force forming to address Hispanics' needs

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Catholics are continuing to reach out to Hispanics in western North Carolina.

"The Western Region Office of Catholic Social Services (CSS/WRO) is spearheading a task force which is the outgrowth of a Latino Steering Committee (LSC) that has met monthly for networking," said Debra Braese, CSS/WRO's area director.

The LSC meets, Braese said, "in response to concerns expressed by parishes about Hispanic needs and is the Western Region Office's way to explore, collaborate and find solutions."

LSC's May 19 meeting at St. Eugene Church will include the steering committee plus pastors, parishioners and anyone else who is a member of or interested in working with the Hispanic community in CSS/WRO's service area: western North Carolina, from Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Rutherford counties to the Tennessee border.

"The meeting May 19 will be to see if we want to move from networking to advocacy and, if so, how Catholic Social Services can help that," said Ada Volkmer, CSS/WRO immigration specialist. The meeting is for anyone "who wants to get together to brainstorm about creating ways to break down barriers that Latinos face."

The meeting will explain what the LSC does and where there are gaps in services to western North Carolina's Hispanic population.

"The Latino Steering Committee has always been hosted and moderated by CSS," Volkmer said.

LSC is made up of western North Carolinians who want to work with Hispanics. Included are health department employees, Realtors, Girl Scout leaders, legal aid staffers, University of North Carolina at Ashville students and educators, among others.

LSC's database contains about 250 names, with 25-30 people attending meetings the third Wednesday of each month at CSS/WRO's office at 50 Orange St. in Asheville. They network and share concerns and event announcements. Sometimes guest speakers present programs, such as updates in various areas of the law.

Concerns include the need for more education about the fact that Hispanics in western North Carolina come from many countries, not just Mexico.

"Community advocates have reported that Puerto Ricans (who are U.S. citizens) have been asked for their Mexican birth certificates," Volkmer said. "Or birth certificates from countries other than Mexico are regarded as fake."

No reservations are required to attend the May 19 meeting. Anyone wanting to stay after the meeting to mingle and get acquainted should bring a bag lunch and something to drink. For more information, call Ada Volkmer at (828) 258-2617, ext. 22.

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

**WANT TO GO?**

The Latino Steering Committee's first meeting is May 19, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Eugene Catholic Church, 1 Culvern St., Asheville. Directions: Exit 5 off I-240, turn right at end of exit. Go about 11 stoplights to intersection of Beaverdam Road. Turn right, then make the first left. The church is at the end of the street.

# Migration en masse

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 52 percent of the nation's 32.5 million foreign-born population in 2002 came from Latin America. While the entire foreign-born population comprises only 11.5 percent of the U.S. total, the massive flow from Latin America is radically changing the demographics of the U.S. church.

Hispanics are estimated to constitute about 40 percent of the current U.S. Catholic population and their number is projected to continue growing. Latin Americans plus U.S.-born Latinos make Hispanics the fastest growing ethnic group in the U.S. church.

The church's attitude toward immigrants is expressed by a 2000 document by the U.S. bishops: "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity."

The infusion of so many Latinos, especially clandestine flows across the U.S.-Mexican border, has raised concerns among some groups — accelerated since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 — for tighter border controls.

The Center for Immigration also raises the issue that so many Spanish-speaking immigrants may form a closed community hindering "assimilation and integration of immigrants by creating a critical mass necessary to foster linguistic and spatial isolation."

Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, discounts such concerns. Immigrants are highly motivated, coming to better their lives and they know that they have to learn English to succeed, he said.

"They will become English-speaking. If the first generation doesn't, the next generation will speak English," he said.

The same is true of adapting to U.S. ways of doing things and to incorporating U.S. values, said Cruz.

"People are born in different countries, but their kids are as American as can be," he said.

— *Catholic News Service*

EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS

# Children's Day celebrated in Canton

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CANTON — Just for the kids, Immaculate Conception Church held its first El Día de los Niños.

El Día de los Niños (Children's Day) is celebrated in Latin American schools on April 30. (Several Asian countries also celebrate Children's Day.) Immaculate Conception's El Día de los Niños roared into action May 2, with 31 preteen children, their parents and older siblings piling into the balloon-festooned church hall after Father Shawn O'Neal celebrated a Hispanic Mass.

The day is especially tailored for children up to sixth-grade age.

Rainy weather put a crimp in the planned outdoor games, but everyone enjoyed chocolate cake and Neapolitan ice cream in the church hall. The children also received small bags of sweets and toys.

A story in the Idaho Press-Tribune last year, shortly before Idaho became the first state to have an official Children's Day, noted that, "El Día de los Niños began in Latin American countries as a day to recognize youth. It is widely celebrated in Mexico, where movie theaters show free movies, ice cream flows freely and kids dress up in costumes and parade through town."

Martha Calderon was at Immaculate Conception with her children. She recalls that in her native Mexico, teachers also dressed in costumes the children chose. They demolished piñatas and played musical chairs and hide-and-seek. There was a special lunch, with sweets later in the afternoon.

"It was a whole day from beginning to end devoted to the children — games and food," she said. "The whole day was nothing but for the kids."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Nicole Castro, 3, collects a bag of toys and treats from the other kids during the El Día de los Niños celebration at Immaculate Conception Church April 30.**

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Veronica Martin feeds chocolate cake to her 10-month-old son Alexander, held by his father, Aristeo Martin, during the El Día de los Niños celebration at Immaculate Conception Church April 30.**

# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Spanish Benedictines' 'Chant' CD returns

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The music world has had to deal with its share of pop stars who would just as soon make their music and then be left alone.

But nobody takes it to the level of the Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain, who recorded their Gregorian chants between 1973 and 1979 while maintaining their cloistered lifestyle.

It took more than a decade, but the monks' chants caught on. The first wave of success came from their native Spain. That was followed in 1994 by top-10 status for "Chant" on Billboard's pop charts for eight weeks; it spent 25 weeks

atop Billboard's classical music chart.

Before the phenomenon subsided, "Chant" had sold 3 million copies over two years. And it's still selling at a clip of about 300 copies a week, according to Mark Forlow, vice president of classics for EMI Classics and Virgin Classics, which distribute the monks' recordings on the Angel label.

In a telephone interview from New York, Forlow told Catholic News Service that at the peak of the "Chant" craze "I remember there were reporters who were showing up at the door of the monastery, and the monks just wishing they'd go away."

Also, Forlow recalled, "there were certain monks who were no longer with the order who came out of the woodwork and said, 'We want to be paid!'"

Forlow said the craze was fueled by an Associated Press story about the Spanish success of the monks' music "that seemed to run simultaneously in every newspaper available."

The "Chant" success story resulted in three additional CDs of chant music that also was recorded during the 1970s by the Santo Domingo de Silas monks. A feminine counterpart to the monks' music was released, also by Angel, called "Vision: The Music of Hildegard von Bingen" by Emily Van Evera and Benedictine Sister Germaine Fritz.

And before it was all over, popular greeting card artist Sandra Boynton, who had studied Latin at a Quaker day school, put together the Ad Hog Camerata for a gentle porcine spoof called "Grunt: Pigorian Chant from Snouto Domoinko de Silo."

Now, the monks' original music is returning. EMI-Virgin's Spanish subsidiary, which started the "Chant" madness, developed a "greatest hits" compilation of sorts for European audiences — selling 300,000 copies — and offered it to EMI-Virgin in the States.

Forlow said EMI-Virgin tweaked it somewhat, using new liner notes and cover art, and has named it "Chant: The Anniversary Edition," a two-CD set. It was to be available in record stores May 4, retailing for the cost of a single CD.

"We've got almost everything from the original 'Chant' as well as material from the last three albums," Forlow told CNS. He added that only the original "Chant" and its immediate successor, "Christmas Chants," are still available, but the other two albums are not.

Forlow said the first "Chant" benefited from the "stress-busting" trends at the time. He added the 10th anniversary edition will be marketed to religious bookstores as well as publications that focus on meditation and healing.

"We're certainly going to look to the Christian community to get the word out again," he said.

But any sales that come will have to be generated by the quality of the music. The Benedictine Monks of Santo Domingo de Silos continue to be unavailable for interviews.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 16, 2004

### *May 16, Sixth Sunday of Easter*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
2) Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
3) Gospel: John 14:23-29

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

About 15 years ago when I was pregnant with our second child, I was completing a master's thesis — no small feat with a husband, a household, a 4-year-old, a job and no word processor. What made it all possible was the tremendous support I received from family and friends.

A sister-in-law stepped in with child care one day a week, friends gave me a key to their house so I could use their computer day or night and my husband took over household chores. They lifted numerous burdens so that I could finish my degree before baby No. 2 came along.

It's hard to overestimate the positive impact of burdens lifted, whether those encumbrances are physical, psychological or social. A person freed from unnecessary burdens is one free to dream, to create, to achieve and to love.

Both the readings from Acts and from the Gospel of John highlight the presence of the Holy Spirit as having this effect. The apostles are prompted by the Spirit to reduce religious restrictions for the gentile converts. Jesus gives the Spirit to free our hearts from the burden of fear.

Every time you or I lighten the load of another human being, we are acting in the power of the Spirit. The amazing truth is that often what we perceive as small, inconsequential words or actions have great capacity to make another's life less burdensome. I'm sure that my colleagues don't realize how much their words of encouragement and their daily acts of kindness free me to be my best self, and yet this happens daily.

St. Paul says in Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." The law of Christ is life in the Spirit and the lifting of burdens in a variety of life-giving ways.

***Questions:***

How has someone lifted a burden for you, and in what way did that free you? What is one burden that you can lift for another today?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities" (Acts 15:28).

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9 - MAY 15**

**Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-33, 34-35; **Monday (Bl. Damien Joseph of Moloka'i),** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday,** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:24-31; **Wednesday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus,** St. Pancras), Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday,** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Saturday (St. Isidore),** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16 - MAY 22**

**Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29; **Monday,** Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26—16:4; **Tuesday (St. John I),** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (Ascension of the Lord),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Rita of Cascia),** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

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# 'Laws' breaks rules of attraction

CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

**Two rival divorce lawyers (Julianne Moore and Pierce Brosnan) wake up married after a drunken evening and must continue as opposing attorneys on a bitter court case while carrying on a spousal charade in the underwhelming romantic comedy "Laws of Attraction." Implied sexual encounters following inebriation, impersonation of a cleric, a few crude expressions and an instance of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

# 'Godsend' is anything but

## *Cloning dilemma lost in standard ghost-story devices*

BY DAVID DICERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — When a tragedy takes their young son's life, a couple strikes a Faustian bargain to get him back, with unforeseen consequences, in the cautionary thriller "Godsend" (Lions Gate).

Fueled by the debate surrounding advances in reproductive technologies, the film touches on important issues concerning bioethics and the moral implications of artificially creating human life. But while the questions raised are thought-provoking, the only thing the movie itself provokes in viewers is the urge to check their watches.

Greg Kinnear and Rebecca Romijn-Stamos star as Paul and Jessie Duncan, a couple whose lives are shattered when their 8-year-old son, Adam (Cameron Bright), is killed in a traffic accident. Robert De Niro plays Richard Wells, an enigmatic geneticist with the incredible offer to clone Adam and give them back their happy life.

The couple resettles near Wells' Godsend Fertility Clinic, and they sever all ties with their former life to keep the illegal procedure secret. Jessie is fertilized with stem cells carrying Adam's DNA, and soon after gives birth to second "Adam."

As Adam reaches his eighth birthday — the age his duplicate died — things begin to take an ominous turn. He starts to have vivid nightmares, and his lovable personality darkens, revealing a sinister streak.

Adam's cryptic references to "another boy" spark fears that he is somehow "remembering" things from the first Adam's life, forcing Paul and Jessie to come to terms with their decision and setting in motion a series of chilling revelations about Wells' shadowy past.

Kinnear and Romijn-Stamos both convincingly convey the devastation of losing a child, allowing viewers to empathize with their pain-prompted decision. However, Catholics should be careful not to interpret such emotional commiseration as justification for condoning their course of action.

The film wisely relies on subtlety and suggestion to create an atmosphere of psychological suspense. The movie is full of allegorical references and images that underscore the themes explored. Adam, an obvious allusion to Genesis, is the first child ever successfully cloned.

Unfortunately, after an intelligent setup, the story's philosophical pretensions quickly give way to spooky atmospherics and standard ghost-story devices which detract from the central moral dilemma posed. The rickety script's emotionally unsatisfying ending leaves too much unresolved.

The church teaches that medical science does not have the moral right to do something simply because that something is now doable — especially when that something denies the sacred dignity of the human person, and reduces humans to mere objects which can be manipulated.

Due to a sexual encounter, a problematic theme of cloning, recurring profanity, sporadic crude language and some scary sequences, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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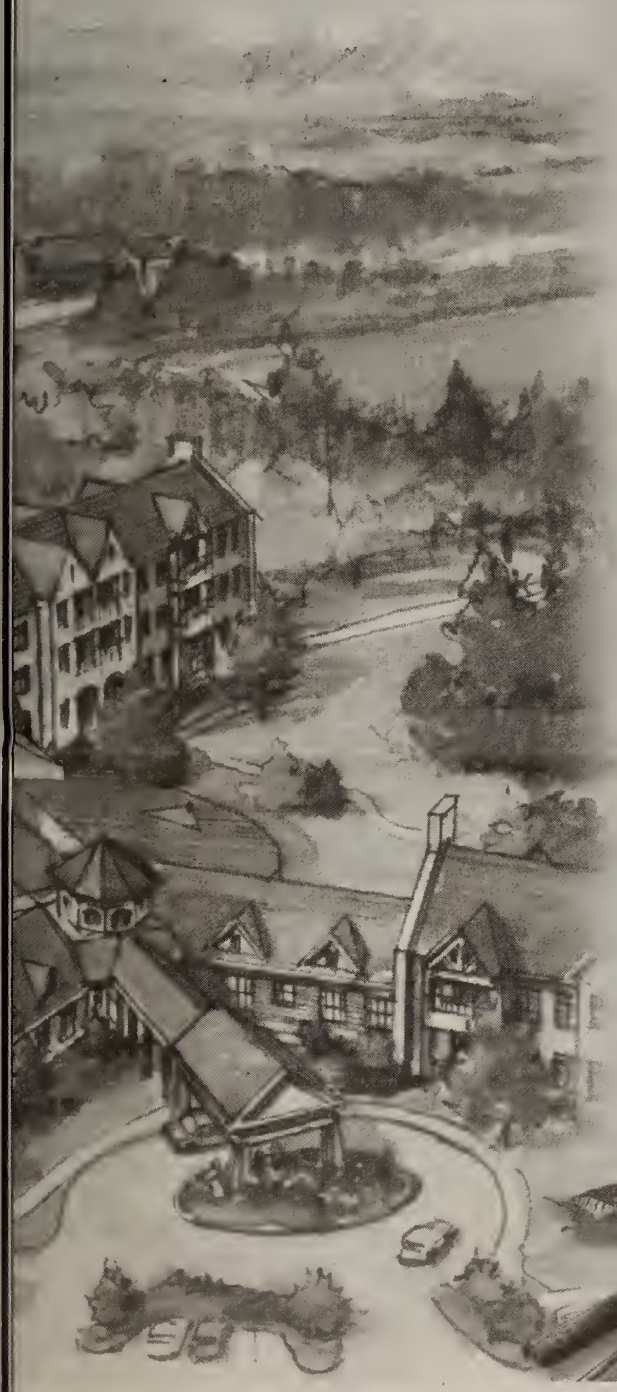

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# Catholic-Lutheran dialogue ends one phase

DIALOGUE, *from page 1*

document on "The Church as Koinonia of Salvation: Its Structures and Ministries" — which includes 10 recommendations to the churches — was to be made public May 5.

At a joint celebration and worship service April 23 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee, Bishop Maahs said the adoption of the document "really is kind of a culmination. In many ways, (it is) building on the foundation of the work that has been done in the past by theologians and scholars of both of our communions."

He reiterated earlier comments by Bishop Sklba about the friendships that have developed from the dialogue.

"Those who work so closely together (are) kind of a model of the way in which the two faiths can celebrate our oneness in Christ and our understanding of the Gospel which is so similar," Bishop Maahs said.

Wood said the basic church structure is the congregation for Lutherans and the parish for Catholics. The congregation or parish, in turn, belongs to a regional structure, such as a synod (for Lutherans) or a diocese (for Catholics).

While Lutherans have no equivalent to the Catholics' national structure, such as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, both have worldwide structures — the Lutheran World Federation, defined as a communion of churches, and the "universal church" under the direction of the pope.

For Lutherans, Wood said, "the congregation is considered to have the fullness of church." In Catholicism, the diocese is the basic unit of church.

"Lutherans don't have a well-developed theology of the episcopacy, and Catholics don't have one of the parish," she said.

Michael Root, a Lutheran seminary professor, said while some might say the 10th round of dialogue "deals with internal structures rather than the needs of the real world" the talks were changed by the signing in 1999 of a Lutheran-Roman Catholic declaration on justification, in which both churches agreed that people are saved by grace alone.

"How does a Christian stand before a righteous God? That was 'the' issue of the Reformation," Root said. "Now this needs no longer divide Lutherans and Catholics."

Root added that "the remaining problems deal with church ministry and authority. Lutherans and Roman Catholics can't share Eucharist because of differences over appropriate eucharistic ministers. The ministry issue is at the heart of what divides Lutherans and Roman Catholics nationally and internationally."

"These questions seem trivial, lower in the hierarchy of truths, not essential to the faith yet in some ways more difficult," he said. "Not being able to solve it is more of a rub. Ecumenism is about relationships between churches — concrete communities, real people."

Structural questions about people and actions they take, he said, require "a certain minimum agreement about structure. It's where the ecumenical rubber meets the institutional road."

Bishop Maahs said the next step in the dialogue is to recommend a topic for the 11th round to both traditions' advisory boards, but "we're still in the process of working on that right now. I can't tell you what that might be."

Previous rounds included discussions of Mary and the saints, Eucharist, papal primacy, baptism, teaching authority, Scripture and tradition, justification by faith, and the Nicene Creed.


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Resurrection of the body

*Body to be respected, not worshipped*

## Guest Column

FATHER MATTHEW BUETTNER
GUEST COLUMNIST

During a recent retreat in Toronto, I perused a local newspaper and was struck by an article about a woman "nipped, tucked for 18 years." Indeed, the woman "has spent as many years creating a new body as she did living with the old one."

The article catalogues the woman's 18-year quest to achieve happiness with her appearance from her first plastic surgery at 18 years old (breast reduction). Since then, she has undergone the following procedures: "a brow lift, Botox injections for forehead frown lines, laser vision surgery, blepharoplasty (eyelid tightening) for droopy eyelids, carbon dioxide laser beam treatments for dark under-eye bags, electrolysis for upper lip hair, adult braces, dental bleaching, microdermabrasion (skin sanding) for acne scars, liposuction under her chin, upper abdomen, stomach, upper buttocks and inner thighs, a tummy tuck, cellulite treatments and varicose vein removal."

In all, the woman admits to spending "somewhere in the ballpark of $40,000 on cosmetic surgery, about what her ... degree in business administration cost." And, if asked, she would say that "reshaping her body has been worth more to her than training her mind."

This story is not all that unique in our western society. The article states "new statistics show 2003 was a banner year for the [plastic surgery] profession, with double-digit increases in everything from facelifts to fat injections to plump up sunken skin. And the upward curve shows no sign of falling." Indeed, the prevailing secular culture, which is so often dominated by trends and fads, sees its disfigured image in the mirror and is attempting to perfect it at all costs.

Such is the popularity behind the "reality" television show "Extreme Makeover" (which I have not seen, but is mentioned in the newspaper article). Considering that plastic surgery itself is not intrinsically evil, what is fundamentally wrong with this obsession with appearance? Rather than delivering a theological treatise on the resurrection of the body, I seek to demonstrate the practicality of the Catholic belief in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, a timely topic for the Easter season, a timely topic for our world.

Let us begin with the truth that has been professed since the Twelve Apostles: "I believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

In the fifth century, St. Augustine commented, "On no point does the Christian faith encounter more opposition than on the resurrection of the body" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 996). This fundamental, yet controversial belief has informed and shaped Catholic faith and practice for 2,000 years. Belief in the resurrection of the body is rooted deeply in the cleansing and restorative power of baptism. But we must first take into account the state of man before baptism.

Created in the image and likeness of God, man is an integral union of body and soul (CCC 362). The whole human person, body and soul, damaged by original sin, is afflicted by sin and death and in need of redemption by Jesus Christ through the sacraments of the Church (CCC 405; 1122-1130). Beginning in baptism, the body and soul are cleansed of original and personal sin and are therefore, perfected, consecrated, set-apart; hence, the body becomes a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1265).

Consequently, the baptized person, body and soul, continues to be sanctified throughout life by the other sacraments: anointed with sacred chrism in Confirmation, nourished by the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion, forgiven in the sacrament of penance, healed in the sacrament of anointing of the sick, etc. Both the body and the soul are redeemed and sanctified by God in the sacraments. It is this truth that governs Catholic doctrine and practice. It is this truth that forms the basis for the Catholic "golden mean" (navigating safely between two extremes).

In the Catholic "golden mean," the body is considered good, consecrated and therefore, must be respected. We are stewards of our bodies, since they are a divine gift. We ought to eat and drink and exercise in moderation, carefully avoiding extremes.

Less than 100 years ago, journalist G.K. Chesterton wrote a prophetic statement for our day: "The true religion of today does not concern itself with dogmas and doctrines. It concerns itself almost entirely with diet."

Many people are religious about their diet and appearance. With tremendous zeal and fervor, many even "evangelize" about the benefits of their respective diets. And certainly we have sufficient examples of this extreme in our society (thank you multimillion dollar diet industry, et al). So, the obsession with the body's perfection is tempered by the belief that the body is created to be perfected by grace in this life and enjoy final perfection in heaven.

But the opposite extreme is to be avoided as well. The body is indeed sacred and has an eternal destination and purpose. We should avoid extremes of food and drink and smoking, which often increase our attachment to bodily pleasures.

Indeed, the body, though deeply wounded by original sin and imperfect in appearance, is perfected and sanctified by our Lord. As a result, the body is considered good and is to be respected; the body is not, however, a god and is not to be worshipped.

Putting the belief of the resurrection of the body into practical application means avoiding two extremes: obsession with appearance or health on the one hand and blatant disregard on the other. Only by following the "golden mean" will we ensure eternal happiness and possibly save ourselves $40,000 in the meantime.

*Father Buettner is parochial vicar a St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.*

# Humans, all creation are part of God's plan for salvation, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Human beings are not bits of dust randomly scattered in the universe, but were created by a loving God and are destined for salvation in Christ, Pope John Paul II said.

At a May 5 general audience threatened by rain, the pope offered what he said would be the first of several reflections on the hymn to Christ in St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians.

The canticle proclaims that all things created in heaven and on earth were created in Christ and that Christ reconciled all creation to himself through his sacrifice on the cross.

"In the hymn," the pope said, "there emerges the great figure of Christ, Lord of the cosmos."

The canticle proclaims that God is at work in every aspect of creation through his Son, the pope said.

"He also is the lord of the history of salvation, which is manifest in the church and is accomplished by 'the blood of his cross,' the source of peace and harmony for humanity," he said.

Pope John Paul said the canticle reassures believers that everything in creation and everything in history is subject to God's power and that Christ will triumph no matter what happens.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

"In this way, the hymn paints a stupendous fresco of the universe and of history, inviting us to trust," he said.

"We are not a useless speck of dust lost in a senseless space and time, but we are part of a wise plan flowing from the love of the Father," the pope said.

Speaking in Polish, the pope said, "The whole world that surrounds us, and especially the human person, carries in itself the fingerprint of the eternal word of God and, simply by its existence, it witnesses to God and his love."

At the end of the audience, the bishops of Michigan and Ohio joined Pope John Paul in blessing an estimated 12,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

The bishops were in Rome for their "ad limina" visits, which bishops make every five years to report on the status of their dioceses.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, and pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald,* P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# The strangers among us

## Working Matters

JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Him? Been here a few days I guess. Not from around here; I couldn't understand a word he said. The clerk down at the builder's supply said he heard the guy was trying to get work as a carpenter."

What kind of a reception did Joseph get when he and his family showed up in some Egyptian town? We don't know from Matthew 2:13-15 what their refugee lives were like.

I like to think their neighbors helped the family settle in, helped Joseph find work.

But what if they had a terrible time in their new home? Maybe one of their neighbors, another refugee from Israel and one who'd learned to speak the local language, said there'd been talk: "Just what we need, another one moving in to take our jobs," he'd heard someone say. "Why don't these people stay home? They don't have any right to be here."

"Both the Old and New Testaments tell compelling stories of refugees forced to flee because of oppression," Franciscan Father Thomas Betz writes in "A Guide to Understanding Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and the Movement of Peoples" (hereafter, Guide), which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops published in 2003.

Guide, based on the USCCB's "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity," published in 2000, is a resource your parish can use "as a study guide, discussion starter, and guide to action ...."

Oppression can be political or economic. Whatever the reason, Catholic social teaching makes these points: migration is a right, nations can regulate their borders and the regulation must be just.

As defined in Guide, the first principle is that "People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families."

Because we are all equal in God's sight, we all have the same rights, as Guide says, to "what is necessary for life —food, clothing, shelter. Moreover, every person has the right to education, medical care, religion, and the expression of one's culture."

"In many places people live in fear, danger, or dehumanizing poverty," Guide continues. "Clearly, it is not God's will that some of his children live in luxury while others have nothing .... When a person cannot achieve a meaningful life in his or her own land, that person has the right to move."

In a perfect world, of course, all of the earth's resources would be equally divided and none of us would be scarfing up more than our share (we would even be willing to do with less so that others could have more) but, since that hasn't happened yet, we have immigration.

However, the second principle states, "A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration." Guide explains that, "while people have the right to move, no country has the duty to receive so many immigrants that its social and economic life are jeopardized."

So, do these principles cancel each other out? Not if read in the context of the third principle: "A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy."

For instance, "A merciful immigration policy will not force married couples or children to live separately from their families for long periods." Yet, as Elizabeth Dudas said in "Making Room at the Table," it normally takes five years for an immigrant with residency status to bring his or her family to this country.

How would similar immigration policies have affected Jesus, Mary and Joseph? Would they have been considered criminals because they didn't have legal permission to live in Egypt? Would they have had to live apart for years as they struggled to establish residency? Would they have been exploited because they feared that if they complained they'd be deported? What would their lives have been like as "undocumented aliens"?

# A column for dummies

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

I used to breeze by the section of the bookstore that displays the "For Dummies" books.

I'm sure you've seen the familiar black-and-yellow covers with the words "For Dummies" in a yellow chalk-like font to give you the impression that you are in grade school. Since the mascot of the book, "Dummies Man," has a triangular face that looks like an upside-down dunce cap, I assumed the books weren't for me. That is until I came across "Catholicism For Dummies."

At first glance it looks a little insulting, because as anyone at Mass will tell you, Catholicism isn't for dummies. But two priests, Father John Triglio and Father Kenneth Brighenti, authored the book, so surely it wasn't making fun of our religion. And the book carries an Imprimatur, meaning a church authority has reviewed it and it is free of doctrinal error.

"Catholicism for Dummies" makes understanding the faith far easier than any book I've ever read. The "For Dummies" books are written so that a casual reader can find information fast. The table of contents is eight pages, the index runs for 19. You know you are reading a good reference book when you flip to a page and find something that interests you and then leads you to another topic. That happened to me several times while glancing through the book.

The book is also full of icons with titles such as "From the Bible" and "Remember" that direct the reader to important points. Some of the catchy chapter and subchapter titles border on blasphemy: "The Official Scoop on Mary" describes the Blessed Mother; the section on celibacy is called "Flying Solo for Life." Despite the attempt at mirth, the scholarship beneath the titles is solid.

Father Trigilio of Marysville, Pa., and Father Brighenti of Raritan, N.J., wrote the book after being approached by an agent. The two, who have been friends since seminary in the mid 1980s, are celebrities to anyone who watches Eternal World Television Network (EWTN), where they are featured on the program "Council on Faith." Their goal was to write a book that was similar to the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," but was easier to read.

You'd be surprised at who is reading the book. Although it was written for non-Catholics and non-practicing Catholics, the two priests find that many Catholics enjoy the easy-to-read prose. The book is also being used as a college textbook at Seton Hall University and in RCIA courses around the country.

"We've gotten very positive feedback on the book especially from the parents of fallen-away Catholics who say the book helped their adult children come back to the faith," said Father Triglio.

"Part of being a priest is to be a teacher," said Father Brighenti. "It's nice to live in a technological age where we can use TV and books to get out the good news of Christ."

The book has sold well. The "For Dummies" series is one of the most successful brands in book publishing with more than 950 titles in print. The authors of "Catholicism for Dummies" say their book has sold 49,000 copies in its first year. The publisher, Wiley Publishing, won't discuss specifics about sales but says the book is doing very well.

Father Brighenti finds it all very humbling. "I'm just doing my job as a priest," he said.

Father Trigilio feels the book is part of a renaissance. "In an uncertain world, with the war and the economy as they are, people seem to want to know the content of their faith as well as the practice of it."

Both men donate their proceeds from the book and others they have co-authored — Father Brighenti to the Religious Teachers Filippini, Father Trigilio to Sister Angelica and EWTN.

"Catholicism for Dummies" has traveled far. Father Trigilio sent a copy to Pope John Paul II and received a note from the pope's office congratulating the priests for their ministry.

The next book they are thinking about has a working title of "The Papacy for Dummies." I wonder how the Holy Father would react to that?

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# The intersection of prayer and fitness

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

Prayer gradually has been re-entering hospital rooms and doctors' offices over the past decade. A number of recent studies are stacking up in favor of faith and spirituality in the healing process and in the treatment of many illnesses, diseases and psychiatric disorders.

But now prayer is going even further into the world of health. Yoga studios and gyms are beginning to "see the light," incorporating faith into various fitness and wellness programs.

The most obvious example is The Lord's Gym. Founded in 1997 as an alternative to the "meat market" environment of most fitness centers, the Lord's Gym fosters an "environment where men and women can exercise without the discomfort of gawkers and those flaunting their bodies openly."

Aiming to be a "morally wholesome" environment, the gyms play Christian music, feature huge murals of Jesus carrying a cross, and include Scripture cards on the treadmills, stationary bikes and weight benches.

Members can participate in Chariots of Fire (spinning), Praise and Stretch, Stairway to Heaven (step aerobics) or Karate for Christ, among several exercise programs. A cycling class takes participants on a virtual trip through the streets of Jerusalem.

Another example, the Ridgely Retreat facility in Annapolis, Md., began as a place where people with arthritis could exercise. However, now it offers everything from Candlelight Yoga to retreat rooms to a Creative Playhouse with group activities for children.

The intersection of prayer and fitness doesn't surprise me and many in my generation. As a runner from the time I was a high school freshman, I've always used that quiet time to pray (and to distract me from the pain I feel at the second mile). I'll either have a casual conversation with God, recite the prayer of St. Francis or say a novena.

When I ran around the University of Notre Dame campus as a student, I'd visit the grotto as my last water stop, pause to say a prayer and sometimes light a votive candle for a special intention. There I'd see a half dozen students doing the same at the beginning, middle or end of their runs.

As a Catholic I've always believed in the power of prayer to heal. As someone who enjoys food too much, I've always exercised. And when I put the two together I feel twice as empowered. In an age when we desperately need prayer and exercise, it makes sense to combine the two.

# St. Joseph Vietnamese Church symbolizes religious freedom for growing community

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**The new St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis May 2. The 22,300-square foot facility includes a new church, offices, an education center and the original worship space.**

CHARLOTTE — Many at St. Joseph Vietnamese Church have crossed oceans of water and endured unbelievable hardships to build their new church.

Immediately following the evacuation of U.S. troops from Vietnam in 1975, some 135,000 Vietnamese — mostly ex-military and government officials who had worked for the United States during the war, and their families — fled to America.

In the nearly 30 years since Saigon fell to the Communists, Vietnamese have come to comprise the largest population of Southeast Asian refugees to have settled in the United States. With their American-born children, they number nearly 1 million.

Through worldwide humanitarian efforts and sponsorships from American individuals and organizations, including Catholic Social Services, Vietnamese refugees received opportunities to come to North Carolina.

Ministry to Vietnamese immigrants developed in the Diocese of Charlotte during the early 1980s, with the small community gathering for Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Our Lady of Consolation Church and St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

Charlotte's Vietnamese Catholic community numbered about 20 families when they chose St. Joseph as their patron in May 1981. By 1988, the community was 400 strong and growing.

Through a diocesan sponsorship, Father Peter Tan Van Le arrived to serve as chaplain to the Vietnamese community in April 1993 from the Diocese of Vinh Long, which was home to some 300,000 Catholics south of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Many members of the Vietnamese Catholic community had been imprisoned by the Communists for their beliefs prior to coming to Charlotte in search of jobs and religious freedom, said Father Tan Van Le.

Having been imprisoned for 13 years and celebrating Mass in secret, Father Tan Van Le came via a diocesan sponsorship.

**ST. JOSEPH VIETNAMESE**
4929 Sandy Porter Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28273
(704) 504-0907

**Vicariate:** Charlotte
**Pastor:** Father Peter Tan Van Le
**Parochial Vicar:** Father Peter Pham
**Number of Households:** 385

**Father Peter Tan Van Le**

In September 1994, the St. Joseph community began meeting weekly for Mass and other activities at St. Ann Church. In May 1995, the community received permission from then-Bishop William G. Curlin to build its own church.

Almost three years of enthusiastic fund-raising activities ensued, and in February 1998, the community purchased the former Steele Creek Baptist Church, a nearby house and the surrounding property. The first Mass was celebrated Aug. 30 of that year.

The 300-seat church served as a cultural center for the 1,500 Vietnamese Catholics in the Charlotte area at the time, as well as the locality's greater Vietnamese population of close to 10,000.

The Vietnamese Catholic community of Charlotte dedicated its new church and cultural center Nov. 29, 1999. Then-Bishop Curlin concelebrated the Mass with Father Tan Van Le. The dedication Mass and festivities, attended by some 2,500 people, crystallized a dream which had been almost 20 years in the making.

The liturgy highlighted two days of celebrating the dedication of St. Joseph Vietnamese Church. Youth activities, the sacrament of reconciliation and a Mass honoring Vietnamese saints added to the weekend occasion.

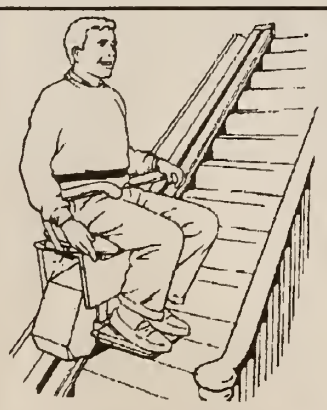
Regular Masses celebrated in Vietnamese continued over the years, with Vietnamese-language classes being taught to children and catechism classes in Vietnamese and English offered to both children and adults.

Almost 2,000 people crowded the new St. Joseph Vietnamese Church dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis May 2, 2004. Like the previous church's dedication, the event included a weekend-long celebration with traditional music, food and expression of worship.

The $1.8 million facility, which includes offices and an education center, totals almost 22,300 square feet. The worship space, featuring religious items from Vietnam, can accommodate 725 people, more than double the existing church that connects to the new facility.

Masses in Vietnamese are celebrated daily, with perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday through Saturday.

The Vietnamese community in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte is now estimated at 9,200 people.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MAY 14, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 32

**Journey into heritage**

*Black Catholics commemorated, celebrated*

| PAGE 11

**BEST OF THE BEST**

## Swiss Guard keep peace, protect pope

*Corps unveils plans for jubilee celebration*

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Don't be fooled by their designer duds. Under those bright, baggy bloomers and a tilted beret stands a lean, mean fighting machine as well as a courteous helper of lost or curious tourists.

He is a Swiss Guard. He stands at least 5 feet 8 inches tall, is an ironclad Catholic of "irreproachable" character, young and single, has clocked in at least 19 birthdays and usually no more than 30, and he is Swiss.

He also has completed rigorous entrance requirements and Swiss army training, making him a member of an elite guard who is ready at any

See SWISS, page 9

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Swiss Guards fall into formation following Mass in St. Peter's Basilica May 6 at the Vatican. The elite corps has begun marking 500 years of service. Established in 1506, the guard is the oldest still-active military force.

COURTESY PHOTO

Marina and Olivia, sisters born and orphaned in Russia, show their smiles. Through Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office in Asheville, a midwestern couple adopted the sisters last year.

**FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE**

## CSS brings orphaned sisters to new family

BY DAVID HAINS
Special to
The Catholic News & Herald

ASHEVILLE — The smiles on their faces seem to say it all.

Two giggly little girls, arm in arm and happy. All appears to be right in their smiley world. Their story, although it has a beautiful ending, isn't quite as simple.

The girls, Marina and Olivia, are sisters who were both born in Russia. Orphaned after a house fire killed their parents, one girl was seven, the other five. As older children in a country with hundreds of thousands like them, their

See SISTERS, page 5

## Pro-life official praises FDA denial on 'morning-after pill'

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — "The voice of reason prevailed" in the Food and Drug Administration's May 6 decision to withhold permission for over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill" marketed as Plan B, according to the U.S. bishops' chief spokeswoman on pro-life issues.

"A drug which can destroy human embryos and increases health risks to women and girls does not belong on the drugstore shelf," said Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, in a May 7 statement.

See PILL, page 17

## Immigration bill said to go far in repairing inadequate system

**LEGISLATION WILL HELP CREATE LEGAL AVENUES FOR MIGRANTS**

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — House and Senate Democrats introduced a bill May 4 that the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration

See BILL, page 14

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**Out of the shadows**
*CSS learns to spot trafficking victims*
| PAGE 4

**Field of dreams**
*BMHS hosts Special Olympics*
| PAGE 7

**Standing on faith**
*Woman helps migrants live as amputees*
| PAGE 15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SIGNS OF STIGMATA?

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID IRION

David Irion observes the crucifix at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Marshall, Alaska. Some parishioners claimed the crucifix began to bleed from the nail markings during the Easter Vigil April 10. Bishop Donald J. Kettler of Fairbanks sent a representative to investigate and later said the person "couldn't see any changes" on the crucifix.

# Reports of bleeding crucifix bring pilgrims to Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — Reports that a crucifix started bleeding from classic stigmata points has drawn visitors to a remote Alaskan village church.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Marshall, an Eskimo village of about 360 people, has been abuzz since the Easter Vigil, when a group of parishioners say the church's main crucifix began to bleed from the feet, hands and side.

Anna Polty, 73, and her friend Sophie Shorty claim they saw something happening to the crucifix during the April 10 Easter Vigil. A closer inspection after the vigil revealed the crucifix was bleeding.

"Where they nailed his hands, and on his feet and on that cut on his side it was starting to bleed," Polty said. "His knee starting to bleed too, and his elbow too. Started sliding down, all that blood."

Polty and Shorty asked three remaining parishioners and the visiting priest — Marshall does not have a resident pastor — to go look at the crucifix.

Everyone agreed something strange was going on, Polty said. The visiting priest was unable to be reached for comment, but Polty said the priest couldn't explain why the crucifix was bleeding.

By Easter morning, the village was astir with the reports, and locals poured into the church to see for themselves. Some noticed a change in the crucifix and others didn't, according to Immaculate Heart parish administrator Clara Shorty.

Over the next few days, people from surrounding villages started showing up to pray and study the crucifix. Clara Shorty estimated that in the three weeks after Easter, at least two dozen visitors had flown into Marshall — there are no roads to the village — some from hundreds of miles away.

Bishop Donald J. Kettler of Fairbanks, whose diocese includes Marshall, sent a representative to check out the crucifix a few days after Easter. He said the representative "looked carefully and couldn't see any changes." But, the bishop added, that report does not mean that nothing happened.

"As long as people are using it to strengthen their faith and are staying within the message of Jesus Christ, we can see it as a blessing, whatever it is," he said.

The bishop sent a letter about the crucifix to the parishes of his diocese, saying he will "continue to gather information and will proceed slowly, carefully and prayerfully."

# Judge overturns feeding tube law; court battles likely to continue

CLEARWATER, Fla. (CNS) — Despite a Florida judge's May 6 ruling overturning Terri's Law as "unjustifiable state interference" with constitutionally protected privacy rights, the court battles over brain-damaged Terri Schiavo's feeding tube were likely to continue.

Schiavo, 40, was left brain-damaged in 1990 after a heart stoppage and has received nutrition and hydration through a feeding tube. But her estranged husband, Michael, has been battling in court to have the feeding tube removed, saying Terri would not want to be kept alive artificially.

Six days after Terri's feeding tube was removed in October 2003, the Florida Legislature approved a bill allowing Florida Gov. Jeb Bush to issue an executive order that tube-feeding be resumed.

In his May 6 decision, Pinellas Circuit Court Judge Douglas Baird of Clearwater said the Florida Constitution "guarantees to every citizen the right to be the master of his or her own personal private medical decisions."

But the new law allows "unjustifiable state interference with the privacy right of every individual without any semblance of due process protection," he added.

Gov. Bush plans to defend the constitutionality of the law, and the issue is expected to reach the Florida Supreme Court.

Burke Balch of the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics, a department of the National Right to Life Committee, said he hoped Baird's decision would be reversed on appeal. He also expressed support for the Florida Starvation and Dehydration of Persons with Disabilities Prevention Act, a more comprehensive version of Terri's Law that failed to pass in Florida's recently ended legislative session.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will host a *Festival of Praise* May 22, 8-10 p.m. The evening will feature praise and worship music by St. Mark's LIFE TEEN band in addition to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. For details, call Debra Lemmon at (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — The music ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* May 22 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults of all ages have found this to be a great place for entertaining and warm spiritual messages, evangelization and an opportunity for praise and worship music in a Christian environment. There is no charge to attend. To reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course entitled, *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* based on the book by Susan Miller. We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes will meet through June 23 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch. Call Gerry Phillips at (704) 895-2388 or Colleen Siadak at (704) 987-7920 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Iraq abuse stories belie work of 'great democracy'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers represented an "unequivocal and inadmissible contrast with the principles of a great democracy," the Vatican newspaper said.

The report May 6 in L'Osservatore Romano was the first Vatican comment on the scandal over revelation of alleged torture and abuse of Iraqi captives at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

"The detailed revelations about the torture — in some cases deadly — inflicted on prisoners by forces engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan are affecting world public opinion and especially public opinion in the United States," the newspaper said.

Beyond global criticisms, it said, "it is precisely the U.S. people who have been most wounded in learning that this disfigurement of the human person, represented by torture, could be perpetrated under its flag."

It said the photos of the Iraqi prisoners, "humiliated physically and morally in order to weaken their resistance to interrogators," have rightly triggered widespread indignation.

The scandal erupted after CBS released pictures showing grinning U.S. soldiers allegedly abusing and humiliating prisoners, some of them naked, in the Iraqi prison.

Administrative and criminal investigations have begun and President George W. Bush, in interviews broadcast on Arab TV stations May 5, promised that the soldiers responsible would be punished.

# Pope urges U.S. bishops to be close to their priests, encourage them

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops must love, listen to, support and correct the priests in their diocese, Pope John Paul II told bishops from Michigan and Ohio.

"As a spiritual father and brother to his priests, the bishop should do everything in his power to encourage them in fidelity to their vocation and to the demands of leading a life worthy of the calling they have received," the pope told the bishops May 6 as part of their "ad limina" visit.

The bishop, he said, must be close to all the people in his diocese, and built up the unity and communion of the church "in faith, hope and love" by establishing "an ever-closer relationship with your priests."

Pope John Paul said each bishop should relate to his priests "as a father and brother who loves them, listens to them, welcomes them, corrects them, supports them, seeks their cooperation and, as much as possible, is concerned for their human, spiritual, ministerial and financial well-being."

The pope said the "bonds of fraternal unity" with and among priests must be strengthened, particularly through reinforcing the spiritual life and identity they share and their "life of celibate chastity."

Pope John Paul urged the bishops to take seriously their personal responsibility for the seminaries in their dioceses and for the training of candidates to the priesthood to produce men with "mature and balanced personalities, men capable of establishing sound human and pastoral relationships, knowledgeable in theology, solid in the spiritual life and in love with the church."

Bishops also must ensure that ongoing formation programs are in place for men who already have been ordained.

"In this way, they will grow ever more fully into 'men of the church,' imbued with a truly catholic spirit and authentic missionary zeal," the pope said.

# The towering Mary

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Residents of Hammond, Ind., view a 33-foot statue of the Virgin Mary outside Van's Industrial Sheet Metal May 9. The giant statue was to have its first cleaning since its completion. Named Our Lady of the New Millennium, the piece was created by Wilmington, Del., sculptor Charles Cropper Parks for a Chicago man. It has traveled throughout the United States since its unveiling during Pope John Paul II's 1999 visit to St. Louis.

## CORRECTION

Several paragraphs were inadvertently omitted from the story "Welcoming the Stranger: Diocese of Charlotte reaches out to Hispanic immigrants" on page 8 of the May 7 issue. The complete story can be downloaded from the diocesan Web site at http://www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic High School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug. 14, 2004. For more information, call Nicholas Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mail nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentle Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low-impact aerobic workout. For more information, call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

GREENSBORO — Lucy Wellmaker, parishioner and life coach, will lead a follow-up session on Rick Warren's book *"The Purpose-Driven Life"* May 19, 10-11:30 a.m. and 6:30-8 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. These sessions are open to anyone who has read the book. For more information e-mail lwellmaker@triad.rr.com.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., will hold three days of prayer in honor of *St. Rita of Cascia*, Augustinian nun, May 20 and 21 at 7 p.m. and May 22 at 11 a.m., followed by brunch. Augustinian Father Richard Cannuli will be this year's director. The talks will focus on different aspects of St. Rita's life and how her life has meaning for us today. For more information, call the parish office at (828) 456-6707.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**May 16 — 12 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

**May 17 — 7:30 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

**May 18 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

**May 19 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir

**May 22 — 5 p.m.**
Ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Guadarrama
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

**May 24 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

COURTESY PHOTO BY JOSEPH PURELLO

Lauri Latuda, grants and programs administrator for the U.S. bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services, speaks to 70 Catholic Social Services employees during an in-service training day at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory April 22.

# CSS learns to spot trafficking victims

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

HICKORY — Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte is continuing its efforts to bring the hidden problem of human trafficking out of the shadows.

Seventy CSS employees learned to identify the signs and symptoms of human trafficking and how to assist victims during an in-service training day at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory April 22.

The day's featured presenter was Laurie Latuda, a grants and programs administrator with the Office of Refugee Programs in the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services (MRS).

"Oftentimes the only contact that people who have been trafficked have with the outside world is through religious ministers," said Latuda.

While those who profit from the trade in human beings often keep their victims under close watch, attending weekly Mass might be the only activity that the trafficker allows them to do alone.

"In almost all cases, language barriers, lack of contacts in the new land, beatings and fear of reprisals on family members left behind combine to keep the victims silent and unable to flee to safety," said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace of CSS.

An estimated 18,000 to 20,000 victims of human trafficking — most of them women and children — enter the United States each year. The number of people brought across international borders worldwide for the sex trade or other forced labor is placed at anywhere from 400,000 to a million or more annually.

These victims "often believe they are coming here to find the American dream," said Latuda. Instead, she said, many victims find forced labor, sexual exploitation or other contemporary forms of slavery.

Because of the lack of legal immigration options, they sometimes pay people to smuggle them into the United States "and sometimes (the smugglers) turn out to be traffickers who enslave them," she said.

"It's quite profitable," Latuda added. "There are networks ... who traffic in people, just like there are networks of drug traffickers or arms traffickers."

"We must do all we can to fight our culture's overwhelming trend to turn sexual activity into a commodity to be bought and sold," said Purello, adding that, "the trend to turn sex into a commodity (on TV, in movies, in popular music) often involves packaging sex with violence."

"We are also called to be much more conscious of the working conditions of laborers who make and provide the goods we buy," he said. "If a serious dent can be made in the demand side of the human trafficking business, then we will also see a significant fall in the number of people being trapped and exploited."

Anyone who suspects a trafficking situation that has not yet been reported or investigated should start by calling the Justice Department's Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force complaint line at (888) 428-7581, advised Latuda. That will initiate a federal investigation into the matter.

People also can help the trafficked person obtain free or low-cost legal services from an attorney familiar with the provisions of the federal law.

Latuda and others like her at MRS, who can be reached at (202) 541-3385, can help the trafficked person connect with local social service agencies that will help them before and after they are certified as trafficking victims.

*Nancy Frazier O'Brien of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

# CSS welcomes new area director

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Making the Catholic Social Services Western Region Office (CSS/WRO) very visible and better known so that it's a place where people "can come and get help when they're hurting" is one of Debra Braese's goals.

Braese has succeeded Sister Marie Frechette as CSS/WRO's area director. Sister Frechette, of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity, is now heading the order's mission advancement office in Philadelphia.

"I saw this as an opportunity to work in an environment that supported my faith belief," said Braese, a parishioner at St. Andrew the Apostle in Mars Hill.

"I don't think that opportunity comes along very often, so it was a good mix of my experience and my faith," said Braese. "This position includes all the parts of social work and ministry that I like: counseling, outreach to the community, working with parishes and program development."

Braese has been a social worker for 24 years. She has worked in child protective services in the Buncombe County Department of Social Services (DSS), as a children's outpatient therapist in a mental health center in Burlington, as assistant director of Haywood County DSS and as program manager for Buncombe County DSS.

Braese holds a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She said that it's "important ... that CSS not be seen as a nonprofit agency that stands on its own, but that it is an extension of God's light, that there's hope and healing and outreach in the services that we provide. If parishes can embrace us as an agency that can help take care of our community, that's a unique position to be in."

Located in Asheville, WRO/CSS serves western North Carolina from Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Rutherford counties to the Tennessee border.

Staff members, in addition to Braese, who provides individual counseling, are Lori Gilcrist, office manager; Ada Volkmer and Jerry Tudela, immigration specialists; Svetlana Gundorin, refugee specialist for people from the former Soviet Union; Carol Meyerriecks and Michele Sheppard, international and domestic adoption workers; and Shelly Kilgore, adoption administrative assistant. Sheppard also handles pregnancy support.

Debra Braese

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

**WANT MORE INFO?**

For more information about services and any applicable fees, call (828) 255-0146.

## How to Identify a Trafficked Person

1. *Why and how did the person come into the country?*

Many trafficking victims are smuggled into the U.S. or come on legitimate visas with the promise of a good job. Once here, they may be forced into a different job and/or work off their travel "debt."

2. *How was the person recruited?*

Many victims are recruited by acquaintances/people in their ethnic group who offer "success stories" in the U.S. Terms of their contract before departure are vague and they are surprised to learn they owe exorbitant debts for travel, lodging, food, etc.

3. *Does the person have identification papers?*

Many victims have their documents seized upon arrival by their traffickers or employers.

4. *Does the person owe money to his/her employer?*

The person may have been promised a good job with pay but learned he/she must work off his/her travel debt. While doing so, he/she is charged exorbitant fees for rent, food and clothes leading them into a cycle of debt to his/her employer.

5. *Does the person get paid a fair wage?*

How many hours does he/she work? Does he/she receive compensation or does it go directly to the employer?

6. *Where does the person live? Is their freedom restricted in any way?*

Victims may be forced to live in the same place where they work. They may not be allowed to leave the premises and/or may be frightened into staying inside due to their immigration status and lack of documents (if the employer is holding them).

7. *Has the person been threatened to prevent him/her from leaving?*

In addition to physical harm, the person may be subject to psychological intimidation and/or coercion through threats to family members if he/she tries to leave.

— *Migration and Refugee Services, Office of Refugee Programs*

# Orphaned sisters find new home through CSS

SISTERS, *from page 1*

prospects for the stability and love of an adoptive home weren't good.

But thanks to Catholic Social Services (CSS) and a loving couple from Minnesota, Marina and Olivia traveled more than 6,000 miles from southeastern Russia to the Midwestern prairie of the United States. They now have a new country, a new home and new parents.

The story of the sisters and the adoptive parents, Randy and Rita Ward of Eden Prairie, Minn., is heartwarming and typical for the International Adoption Program, based in the Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville.

"We are the only Catholic agency in the country with a direct placement program in Russia," said Carol Meyerriecks, international adoption director.

Direct placement means the CSS office deals directly with Russian authorities in placing children in U.S. homes, usually making the adoption faster and less expensive than an agency that does not have direct placement capability.

Still, adoption is expensive; according to Meyerriecks, the average cost of an international adoption is $24,000.

The Wards, married for 16 years, decided several years ago that they wanted to adopt.

COURTESY PHOTO

**Marina and Olivia traveled more than 6,000 miles from southeastern Russia to the United States to live with Randy and Rita Ward. The adoption was made possible by the Western Region Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville.**

"Our lives forever changed after Randy's parents died and then my 20-year-old son died," said Rita Ward. "All we could do was turn to God and trust God to hold us through each day. When we thought about older kids who have lost parents, we knew that grief and loss was something we had experience with."

The Wards are somewhat unusual in that they are older than the typical adoptive parents. Randy is 50, Rita is 46.

"Because of our ages, we wanted to adopt sisters so that the children would always have someone they could to cling to, no matter what happens to us," said Rita.

"I prayed for this for a long time. My husband thought we would never get what we wanted, but every day I got on the Internet and sent out a few e-mails," she said. "Last summer, I found a list of agencies certified for adoption by the Russian government, and that's when I wrote to Carol."

The Wards have never met Meyerriecks in person, although they've talked on the telephone and exchanged e-mails many times. Usually in an adoption, the initial contact is followed by a home study, which is an in-depth background check that certifies an applicants' fitness to be adoptive parents.

Since a home study had already been completed for the Wards, their adoption of the girls, which began in August, was completed by the fall.

"International adoptions usually go quickly because there is a tremendous need for adoptive parents and the Wards were willing to take older children," said Meyerriecks.

The CSS staff in Asheville arranges happy endings, like the Wards and their new children, all the time. But Meyerriecks would like to do more.

"Most couples prefer infant adoptions," she said. "There are lots of great older kids out there who need a home."

In October 2003, the Wards traveled to Kirov, a five-hour drive from Moscow, and met their daughters-to-be.

"Everyone was so very nice to us. It was very emotional for the orphanage since ours was their first adoption," said Rita. "On the first night, we stayed in a hotel with the girls and got to know one another. They got very giggly and we all had a great time."

As with most adoptive parents, it was love at first sight, even though there was a language barrier. Neither of the Wards speaks Russian.

"Randy and I have gotten very good at charades and sign language," said Rita. "The girls always laugh whenever I try to pronounce something in Russian."

Marina and Olivia, who are in the second grade and kindergarten respectively, are adjusting to life in the United States with ease; they make regular trips to the nearby Mall of America and are learning about the Catholic faith at the Pax Christi Catholic community in Eden Prairie.

Marina and Oliva will be baptized over the Memorial Day weekend.

"They had no experience with church or prayer before coming here. They are celebrities at our parish," said Rita. "Olivia gets mixed up sometimes and thinks Father Tim Power is Jesus, to which he responds 'I'm a close personal friend.'"

*David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at (704) 370-3336 or e-mail dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

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GRADUATION DAY

# Nearly 200 Abbey seniors join in 126th commencement exercises

## *Bishop Jugis receives honorary degree*

BELMONT — Graduating seniors bid a final adieu to the Abbey during Belmont Abbey College's 126th commencement exercises May 8.

The college presented to 193 graduates Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Faculty achievements were also recognized, including Dr. Sheila Reilly as the recipient of the 2004 Adrian Award. Bishop Peter J. Jugis was one of three leaders in the Charlotte community to receive honorary doctorates during the ceremonies.

Ordained bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Matthew Church Oct. 24, 2003, Bishop Jugis previously served as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe and judicial vicar of the diocesan tribunal.

A native of Charlotte, Bishop Jugis is a graduate of South Mecklenburg High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte before he entered Pontifical North American College, a seminary in Rome.

He was ordained in 1983 by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In 1993, Bishop Jugis received his doctorate in church canon law from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Other recipients of honorary doctorates were Rev. Richard Boyce, professor of preaching and pastoral leadership at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Charlotte, and Jim Palermo, executive in residence at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte.

Belmont Abbey College was named one of the country's leading private liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*. The 650-acre campus consists of the college, the monastery and the Abbey Basilica.

Nearly a thousand students call Belmont Abbey home. The students, with diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, represent more than 18 countries and 34 states and pursue undergraduate degrees in a number of liberal arts course offerings.

Founded in 1876, the college celebrates its heritage and is inspired by the Benedictine monastic tradition. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the college and Abbey Basilica greet thousands of visitors each year.

COURTESY PHOTO

**Almost 200 seniors receive degrees during Belmont Abbey College's commencement ceremonies May 8.**

COURTESY PHOTO

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis receives his honorary doctorate during Belmont Abbey College's commencement ceremonies May 8.**


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FIELD OF DREAMS

COURTESY PHOTO BY KERNERSVILLE NEWS

An athlete makes a long jump during the Forsyth County Special Olympics Spring Games held at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville April 19-21. Approximately 600 athletes from schools throughout the county participated.

# Bishop McGuinness hosts Special Olympics

## *600 Olympians compete in Spring Games*

KERNERSVILLE — Special athletes ages eight and up walked, ran, raced in wheelchairs, long-jumped and threw balls for winning ribbons during the Forsyth County Special Olympics Spring Games held at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

The games, held on the school's field April 19-21, were part of the countywide Special Olympics program.

The program allows children and adults with mental retardation or other closely related developmental disabilities to train and compete in a wide array of sports. It allows winning athletes to advance to international competitions.

Approximately 600 athletes from schools throughout the county competed in the Spring Games, which were attended by approximately 1,200 parents, volunteers and athletes, according to Lisa Kiser, Forsyth County Special Olympics volunteer coordinator.

"Every student in our school participated in some way," said Ann Lynch, Bishop McGuinness director of advancement. "Bishop McGuinness has a long history of being involved with the Special Olympics as volunteers."

According to Shirley Shaw, Bishop McGuinness Spanish teacher, who coordinated the event and has been involved with Special Olympics for the past 10 years, this year's Spring Games were held at the school rather than at Wake Forest University, their regular location, because of construction at the university.

"Our folks loved it and would like to do it again," said Shaw. "It just turned out really well and was really exciting."

Kiser said Bishop McGuinness' long history of involvement made it a great choice for the Spring Games.

"They are heavily involved," said Kiser. "A quarter of their students are involved with Special Olympics sometime during the year."

Shaw said the volunteers have found through the years that by being involved, they receive even more than the athletes do.

"The fact that they care so much and work so hard is really inspiring to us," said Shaw.

According to Lynch, although students had classes on Monday and Wednesday, the entire day Tuesday was devoted to volunteering at the games.

Tuesday, which was the day the elementary-age Olympians competed, the school hosted a carnival, complete with games, food and drinks, a Krispy Kreme doughnut decorating machine and over 5,000 prizes, all of which were donated.

The games began on Monday with an opening ceremony, at which all the elementary, middle, high school and adult competitors were present.

Athletes were able to compete in various categories, including motor activities, jumps, shot puts, softball and tennis ball throws, relays, dashes, walks and wheelchair races. Game winners were awarded ribbons throughout the event.

Brittany Shoemaker, 13, who has competed in Special Olympics for the past two years, said she enjoys everything about the event.

"Everything is fun about it," said Shoemaker. "I especially like running and swimming, and we only get like one minute of school."

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students volunteered at the Forsyth County Special Olympics Spring Games held at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School April 19-21 From left: Thomas Porter, Brittany Bohannon, Jillian Smith, Marleny Ruiz, Ashley Moore, Marc Russel and Ashley Payne.

# BMHS student to join Radford basketball team

## *Highlanders sign Smith in late signing period*

RADFORD, Va. — Radford University men's basketball coach Byron Samuels announced his first signing of the late signing period, inking Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School student Branden Smith to a National Letter of Intent April 29.

A senior at Bishop McGuinness in Kernersville, Smith will add more athleticism to Radford's perimeter game. The 6-3, 180-pound combo-guard averaged 21.0 points per game and 5.0 rebounds per game. Smith also tallied 4.4 assists and 4.1 steals per game at Bishop McGuinness.

Smith has a 43-inch vertical leap, giving him the ability to play under the basket, but he also has skill from beyond the arc, shooting 46 percent from three-point land.

"Branden Smith is a difference maker. He's an excellent shooter and strong athlete. His size and strength help us immediately," said Samuels.

"What sets Branden apart are his love for playing and his love for competing. I'm 100 percent confident in Branden as a person, student and basketball player," he said.

In addition to his athleticism and shooting ability, Samuels is also excited about what role Smith, a native of Chesapeake, Va., will play for the Highlanders.

COURTESY PHOTO

Radford University Men's Basketball Coach Stan Kowalewski watches as Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School senior Branden Smith signs his National Letter of Intent to attend Radford University.

"I envision him ... giving us one of the best backcourts in the Big South Conference and beyond," said Samuels. "Branden can flat-out play, and I'm proud to have him in the Radford basketball family."

Smith will join Radford University this fall as a freshman with four years of eligibility. Smith is the third committed recruit the Highlanders have in place.

AFTER AFRICA

## Priest returns to discuss mission work in Zambia

CHARLOTTE — From Charlotte to Zambia and back again, Capuchin Father Steve Hoyt is living his dream.

Father Hoyt, former chaplain at Charlotte Catholic High School, departed for Zambia in September 2002. His journey was the fulfillment of a dream to serve as a missionary since joining his order almost 20 years ago.

Father Hoyt will return to the school to discuss his work in Zambia on Sunday, May 16. The free event will include presentations about issues facing young Zambians and how they can be assisted through prayer, service and awareness.

Father Hoyt first got a taste of mission life in February 2002, when his order arranged a visit to the Capuchin mission headquarters in Zambia's capital. He described the experience as humbling.

"So many Zambians expressed their honor and pleasure to meet me," he said. "They gave me so much more than I could possibly give them. I witnessed their endurance, suffering and the beauty of their faithfulness and love stemming from the family."

When he left for Zambia in September 2002, he was one of 35 Capuchins working at three mission sites separated by 300-400 miles.

Capuchin mission work in Zambia, which is about the size of Texas, originated in 1932 when the Irish Capuchins established the first mission in Loanja. In 1965, U.S. Capuchins took over missions in Chinyingi and Zambezi. They have continued to expand their reach and establish new missions.

**WANT TO GO?**

The "meet and greet" with Capuchin Father Steve Hoyt will take place in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School on Sunday, May 16. Mass is at 1 p.m.; Father Hoyt's presentation is at 2 p.m.

# Holy Angels honors volunteers at annual banquet

COURTESY PHOTO

**Missy Tiber, Dr. Richard Rankin, Lora Grant and Brittany Hampton display their awards at Holy Angels' 14th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet April 22.**

BELMONT — Holy Angels presented volunteer awards during the 14th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet April 22 as part of Volunteer Appreciation Week celebrations.

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy, Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation providing residential services programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

Volunteer of the Year went to Brittany Hampton of Stanley.

Hampton has been a volunteer in the Oakcrest Fox Run ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded) since September 2003. A junior at East Gaston High School, Hampton developed an interest in volunteering following a presentation on Holy Angels at her school.

Volunteer Group of the Year went to Gaston Day School in Gastonia.

This past year, Holy Angels and Gaston Day School formed a unique partnership. The two organizations have similar goals for the students they serve — to help each individual reach his or her highest potential through creative programs and services.

Both organizations were committed to making this a most interesting and innovative partnership, filled with opportunities for the students to participate in a variety of educational and service activities. The students were offered opportunities with the potential to change the way they view the community and accept the differences of the people who live there.

The Holy Angels residents enjoyed soccer, basketball and volleyball games — many for the first time. Several students volunteered during their after-school hours.

Gaston Day School students also raised over $9,000 during the Hands Around Our School fundraiser.

The Ed Sabatini Advocacy Award went to Lora Grant of Belmont.

Named in honor of the late Ed Sabatini, the award recognizes an individual or group who serves as an advocate of Holy Angels.

Grant has been a creative, enthusiastic and driving force behind many Holy Angels programs. She was often an ambassador to recruit volunteers for activities for Holy Angels, such as the Angel Bowl, and worked to promote Holy Angels' Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in Belmont.

The Dennis McClain Volunteer of the Year Award went to Missy Tiber of Cramerton.

Dennis McClain was a classroom volunteer at the former Maria Morrow Center who signed up as a volunteer after learning he had a terminal illness. McClain came with his wife, Maria, two hours each week to assist students with a variety of classroom activities. His last visit was just days prior to his death.

Tiber, Belmont Abbey College's women's basketball coach, has been a volunteer since August 2003. She has accompanied residents on field trips, assisted the Holy Angels Foundation with the Hands Around Our School project, and recently ran for Holy Angels in the "Run for the Money" race where she won second place in her division.

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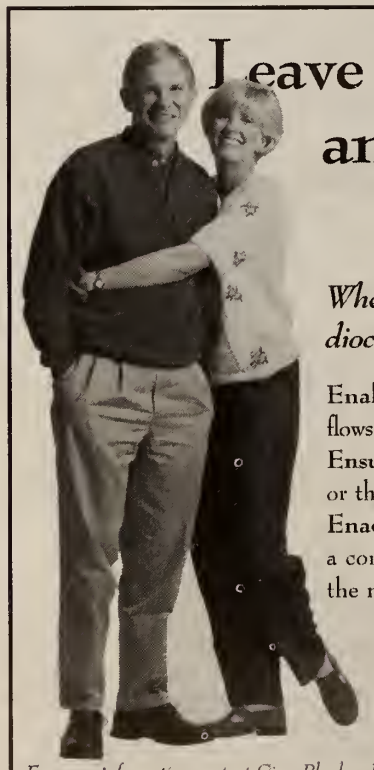

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# Protecting the pope

## *Swiss Guard to celebrate 500 years of service*

SWISS, *from page 1*

moment to sacrifice his life for the pope.

The papal Swiss Guard tradition has been marching on for nearly 500 years — making it the oldest, continually active military corps in history.

On May 5, the corps unveiled plans for its 2006 jubilee celebration. Events will include a commemorative march from Switzerland to Rome to re-enact the Guard's entry into Rome half a millennium ago and to reaffirm that the corps' spirit and dedication to protect the pope have never dimmed.

### *Poised and ready*

Many people, however, do not see that side of the guards as they stand duty at one of the Vatican's entrances. Most tourists see them as the perfect setup for a souvenir snapshot.

"They're not just buttoned up, ready for show; they're very highly trained for any emergency," said Msgr. Charles Burns, a church historian who spent more than 25 years as an official of the Vatican archives.

"And they're not sloppy guards. You won't see them slouching or hanging around smoking a cigarette like the carabinieri," he said, referring to the Italian military police.

The Swiss Guards "take their job very seriously and bring great commitment to it," he said.

Pope John Paul paid tribute to that centuries-old commitment in a May 6 address to 33 new recruits before they took their oath of allegiance later that day in the Vatican.

"Thank you for your service to the successor of Peter and his collaborators here in the Vatican. It is a demanding commitment and perhaps sometimes tiresome, but God will reward you," he said.

Enduring 24-hour shifts, most Swiss Guards find their greatest battle is putting up with thousands of tourists asking the same questions: "Is there a bathroom?" "Which way to the museum?" and "Why can't I see the pope?"

The Swiss Guards attend to the same questions day after day with poise and sometimes even a smile.

The pope's speech to the new recruits came on the day the Vatican honored the 147 Swiss Guards who lost their lives defending Pope Clement VII in the sack of Rome in 1527. Only 42 guards survived.

On this anniversary the Vatican holds a swearing-in of all new guards to help remind them of the seriousness of their commitment.

### *History of loyalty*

The sack of Rome marked the bloodiest day in Swiss Guard history. After that, no other combat deaths have been recorded.

Wielding nothing but Renaissance weaponry, this tiny army kept Nazi soldiers out of Vatican City as Germany occupied Rome during World War II.

The last time the Swiss Guard ever lost to an invader was in 1798 when Napoleon swept through, disarmed and disbanded the corps and abducted two popes in two years. One of those popes, Pius VI, died in captivity.

After that, the guard's record is impeccable, keeping popes and papal territory safe and protected since their troops regrouped in 1800.

It was an undercover Swiss Guard who helped shield Pope John Paul II during the assassination attempt against his life May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square.

Perhaps the darkest moment in the Guard's history occurred in 1998 when its former commander, Col. Alois Estermann, and his wife, were murdered by a disgruntled corpsman, Cedric Tornay, who then turned the gun on himself.

Today, numbering 110 men, the Swiss Guard may still be the world's smallest army.

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Swiss Guards stand in formation at the Vatican May 6. The elite corps has begun marking 500 years of service. Established in 1506, the guard is the oldest still-active military force.**

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**A Swiss Guard stands near as Pope John Paul II prays during a special audience at the Vatican April 3.**

### *The long march*

Pope Julius II formally requested the service of Swiss mercenaries — famed for their courage and loyalty — in June 1505. Just three months later, a regiment left Switzerland and headed on foot for Rome.

One hundred and fifty Swiss soldiers arrived at the Vatican Jan. 22, 1506, the day that marks the official founding of the corps.

Now, nearly 500 years later, the Swiss Guard is gearing up for a full year-and-a-half of jubilee celebrations.

Lt. Gen. Beat Fischer, commander of the Swiss Army Corps and president of the Swiss Guard jubilee committee, said at a Vatican press conference May 5 that at least 100 former guards will leave from Bellinzona, Switzerland, in early April 2006 and head to Rome on foot. After Milan, Italy, they will follow the historical pilgrims' route, the Via Francigena.

By leaving in April, the modern-day marchers will avoid trekking across the Alps in the winter. They will also make just 26 stops along the way — representing Switzerland's 26 cantons — to arrive in Rome a month later in time for the annual swearing-in ceremony for new guards May 6, 2006, in the Vatican.

Any likelihood of there someday being a Miss Swiss Guard? Nixed.

"Not under my command," said Col. Elmar Mader, commander of the Swiss Guard.

"It's a very ecclesial environment" and "60 percent of our corps is under the age of 25; women in the same barracks (as the men) would create big problems," he said.

Avoiding the battle of the sexes just might be their riskiest campaign yet.

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# Revival energizes black Catholics attending national convocation

By Mary Ann Wyand
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — An hour of praise and worship and a nearly-two-hour revival energized participants at the National Black Catholic Convocation April 20 at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis.

During the revival, Father Patrick Smith, pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Washington, challenged black Catholics to grow in faith and to reach out to young people who desperately need to hear about the good news of Jesus Christ.

His talk was based on Ezekiel's vision of dry bones that are brought to life by God, as described in chapter 37, verses 1-14.

"What God wants to do is change the lyrics of your life. We need to take the time to listen to the word," Father Smith said.

"We need to talk about teen pregnancy and abortion, stuff we don't talk a whole lot about sometimes," he said. "But, realistically, why talk about the teen pregnancy rate or the abortion rate or the divorce rate or the illiteracy rate or the teacher turnover rate in inner-city schools or the crime rate or the homicide rate or the unemployment rate? Why talk about all that if there is no solution?"

The priest added, "Unless we bring this stuff into the light, we'll never be healed of it. Things change when they get brought into the light. But I think we're just basically afraid."

God brings life to dry bones, he said, referring to Ezekiel.

"He wants you to see just what it looks like when he's not present," Father Smith said. "He wants you to see the mess as it really is. He wants you to know that you can't fix it yourself. ... I can't revive anybody. That's not my job. It's God's job. The question is: Are we ready to be revived by him?"

After the revival, Father Smith said "young people are ready for the radical Gospel, of truly imitating Christ. They're waiting for the (church) leadership to say, 'OK. Let's go.' They need to hear it."

Msgr. Ray East, director of the Office of Black Catholics for the Archdiocese of Washington, led the praise and worship.

After the revival, Msgr. East said many teenagers and young adults are very involved in ministry and mission outreach. The challenge is to involve all youths in church ministries.

"They're today's church leaders," he told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. "All we need to do is give them the microphone. The Lord is already using them. They're already in ministry."

During the National Catholic Youth Conference last November in Houston, Msgr. East said, he heard teens share powerful mission stories.

"Young people had already gone on mission trips," he said. "They had already been to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti, and they were sharing their mission stories. They were trained missioners, and they were only 14 and 16 years old. I couldn't believe it.

"What we need to do is highlight what they're doing and support them in the ministry that God has already given them," he said. "I think they have so much to teach us. It's like God speaks to us through the young people and, with open minds and open hearts, we'll learn from them. I believe that our young people will lead us."

CNS photo by Mary Ann Wyand, The Criterion

Musician Roscoe Hager from the Leon C. Roberts Liturgical Institute drums during the National Black Catholic Convocation revival at St. Rita Church in Indianapolis April 20. He is a member of St. Augustine Church in Washington.

JOURNEY INTO HERITAGE

# Black Catholics com

by KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

BALTIMORE — Forty-seven Catholics made a heritage pilgrimage to Baltimore and Washington, D.C., April 30-May 2, the second such trip sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry (AAAM) of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We selected sites that were of particular interest to black Catholics and those interested in the contributions of blacks to our faith and our society," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor of the diocese and vicar for the AAAM.

The AAAM was established in 1985 "to coordinate the efforts of black Catholics in the Charlotte Diocese," wrote then-Bishop John F. Donoghue. "This coordination would give visibility to the work of black Catholics in the diocese and educate various diocesan groups to the needs and contributions of black Catholics in the church."

The pilgrims, most of whom are parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, first visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, where the highlight of the tour was Our Mother of Africa Chapel.

A gift of African-American Catholics under the leadership of the Black Bishops of the United States and the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), the chapel was dedicated by Cardinal James Hickey Aug. 30, 1997.

The pilgrims were notably excited when they reached the chapel, several murmuring, "Here's our chapel," and "This one is ours."

A few members of the group took a moment to pray at the foot of the bronze statue of Mary and the infant Jesus, while others snapped photos of the sculptures of the four gospel writers, each depicted with African features.

According to the NBCC Web site, Our Mother of Africa Chapel is characterized by the term "sacred conversation" — the integration of sacred persons into a single scene, illustrated by a narrative bas-relief sculpture chronicling the African-American odyssey. A black ebony Christ was created using a centuries-old African carving tradition.

The marble inlay at the threshold of the chapel shows the "Henrietta Marie," a 17th-century slave ship. The mahogany vault ceiling is reminiscent of the hulls of such sailing vessels.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to visiting the Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore. Committed solely to the study and preservation of African-American history, the museum contains more than 100 wax figures depicting nearly 3,500 years of black history, from the pharaoh Akhenaton, who ruled Egypt 1380-1362 B.C., to current U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

A somber mood overtook the group as they walked through the slavery exhibit depicting the inhumane conditions slaves endured on "The Middle Passage" — the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean from West Africa to the Americas — as well as the horrible conditions of their captivity.

However, the museum focuses primarily on the contributions blacks have made to the world — from the writings of Alexander Pushkin and Phyllis Wheatley to the space exploration of Dr. Mae Jemison and Dr. Ronald McNair. It also celebrates the achievements of Harriet Tubman; Frederick Douglass; educators George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington; Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and many others.

Sunday morning the pilgrims attended Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, the first Catholic church in the United States officially established for blacks. The church was founded in 1863 by a group of black Catholic San Domingo refugees and the Sulpician Fathers, who had fled the French Revolution and settled in Baltimore.

The pilgrimage concluded with a visit to the motherhouse for the congre-

# morated, celebrated

gation of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first order of black nuns. Led by Mother Mary Lange (nee Elizabeth Clarissa Lange), four free black Catholic women founded the Oblates in 1828.

Despite being a free black in a slave-holding state, a woman in a male-dominated society, Catholic at a time when it was not popular to be Catholic and French-speaking in an American city, Lange was determined to serve the Catholic Church and to serve her people. Through her leadership, the Oblates offered vital services to blacks in the Baltimore area, including educating children and providing homes for orphans.

Today, Oblate sisters work in the areas of parish planning, administration, adult education and retreats, with education continuing to be their primary focus. They can be found in ministries in seven states, the District of Columbia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

When Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte had a parochial school, it was administered by Oblates sisters, so several of the pilgrims received an enthusiastic welcome from their former teachers and principal.

Rev. Mr. Todd said he hoped the pilgrims came away from the trip with a sense of pride and a deeper knowledge and appreciation of what early black Catholics endured. For example, the Oblate sisters faced severe prejudice and discrimination, and still do today.

He also hoped the pilgrims gained a sense of gratitude and a deepening of their own faith and commitment as a result of the trip.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Amidst the scaffolding set up for the renovation of the church, Catholics from the Diocese of Charlotte listen to the homily during Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore May 2.**

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Cheyenne Lipscomb prays before the statue of Mary and the infant Jesus in the Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. May 1.**

# Black Catholics in history

**THE POPES**

***Pope St. Victor I***

Born in Africa, St. Victor served as pope from 189 until 198. St. Victor condemned and excommunicated Theodore of Byzantium for his denial of the divinity of Jesus Christ. He was buried near the body of the apostle Peter in St. Peter's Basilica. Some reports relate that St. Victor died of natural causes, while other accounts state he suffered martyrdom.

***Pope St. Melchiades***

St. Melchiades occupied the papacy from 311 to 314. St. Melchiades decreed that none of the faithful should fast on Sunday or on the fifth day of the week, because this was the custom of the pagans. St. Melchiades led the church to final victory over the Roman Empire.

***Pope St. Gelasius I***

St. Gelasius occupied the papacy from 492 until 496. He delivered the city of Rome from the peril of famine. He was known for his austerity of life and liberality to the poor.

**THE SAINTS**

***St. Augustine***

St. Augustine was born in Tegaste, Africa. The Christian training by his mother, St. Monica, influenced his entire life. He was highly educated and used his great abilities to lead men to love God. His letters, sermons, tracts and books instructed the early church and have relevance for the church today. Two of his most famous books are his autobiography, "Confessions," and "City of God."

***St. Benedict the Moor***

St. Benedict the Moor was born in Sicily in 1526. The son of African slaves, he was freed at an early age. When he was 21, he was insulted because of his color, but his dignified bearing caused a group of Franciscan hermits to invite him to join their community. In 1564, he joined the Franciscan friary in Palermo and worked in the kitchen until 1578, when he was chosen superior of the group. He carried through the adoption of stricter interpretation of the Franciscan rule.

***St. Martin de Porres***

At age 11, St. Martin took a job as a servant in the Dominican priory and was later placed in charge of the infirmary, where he became known for his care of the sick and his miraculous cures. In recognition of his deep devotion, his superiors dropped the stipulation that "no black person may be received to the holy habit or profession of our order." On May 16, 1962, Pope John XXIII made Martin de Porres the first black American saint.

***St. Monica***

Through her patience, gentleness and prayers, St. Monica converted her pagan husband. She gave thorough religious training to her son, only to see him later scorn all religion and live a life of disrepute. Before her death, St. Augustine had returned to God and was using all his energies to build Christ's Church.

*Source: The National Black Catholic Congress*


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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## New Jersey nun writes coloring book on life of Pope Pius XII

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Of the myriad books — pro and con — written about Pope Pius XII in recent years, "Pius XII: The Children's Pope" is certainly one-of-a-kind.

It is a coloring book with a narrative text that touches on the late pope's ecclesial career, his assignment as nuncio to Germany during the Nazi rise to power, his actions during the Holocaust and his relations with the United States — all in 28 pages.

Written by Sister Margherita Marchione, a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order in Morristown, N.J., the coloring book has been released in two bilingual editions: English/Spanish in the United States and Italian/English in Italy.

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**New Jersey Sister Margherita Marchione displays a portrait of Pope Pius XII in St. Peter's Square in early December. The member of the Religious Teachers Filippini order recently wrote "Pius XII: The Children's Pope," a 28-page coloring book with a narrative text that touches on the late pope's ecclesial career, his assignment as nuncio to Germany during the Nazi rise to power, his actions during the Holocaust and his relations with the United States.**

"I took a copy to (Pope John Paul II's) secretary, and he was delighted. I told him we should have it translated into Polish, too," Sister Marchione said during a visit to Rome in late April.

Sister Marchione has been one of the staunchest defenders of Pope Pius XII against the accusation of "silence" during the Nazi persecution of Jews. In several books, she has presented evidence that the pope quietly worked to help save the lives of Jews and others.

Her coloring book, not surprisingly, takes a sympathetic tone and avoids any hint of controversy. Written in very simple language, it describes the pontiff as a gentle, caring soul who battled adversity all his life.

"I think it's important that children discover the goodness of this man. By getting the children interested, you'll get the parents interested," she said.

In a page titled "The Holocaust," the book says, "In Germany, Adolf Hitler killed thousands of Jewish people and others. The pope saved many by hiding them in the Vatican and in convents and monasteries. He also provided them with money, food and clothing."

It cites a letter from Jewish concentration-camp survivors thanking the pope for his actions. Elsewhere, it relates that as a young priest he helped a Jewish family flee to Jerusalem when they were treated badly by Italians.

The coloring book recalls how Pope Pius once found an injured bird in the Vatican Gardens and nursed it back to health. It would perch on his shoulder during mealtimes, hopping down to eat from its own dish of seeds and keeping him company.

Sister Marchione said these are human touches that risk being overlooked in the debate about the pope's wartime role.

The nun said Paulist Press is publishing this book in the United States at the price of $1.

The Vatican is in the early stages of considering the sainthood cause of Pope Pius XII, which involves the drafting of a "positio" or dossier with thousands of pages of evidence and testimonials.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 23, 2004

## *May 23, Seventh Sunday of Easter*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9
2) Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
3) Gospel: John 17:20-26

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Easter Season that we anticipated through the long weeks of Lent is itself drawing to a close. For me, the Vigil this year began on a cold wet Saturday night that seemed more like November than early April.

Outside the church the Boy Scouts, not deterred in their efforts to build the Easter fire, proudly stood watch over the Easter flames. Our priest prepared the candle with ancient words of prayer that mark the passage of another year of our Lord; then the great paschal candle began its journey into the warm darkness of the church.

"Christ Our Light!" the deacon chanted at the threshold of the church. Our community responded with joy, "Thanks be to God!" Once the paschal candle reached its destination by the baptismal font, the words of the Easter Proclamation filled the darkened church, reminding us with each verse that this holy night was like no other in the year.

"This is our Passover feast." The repetitive "This is the night" continued rhythmically through the Exultet, bringing home the truth of God's love for us and the importanc of remembering the stories of salva tion history.

In the candlelight, I looked int the faces of our candidates for bap tism and of those who had been bap tized in other Christian communitie and soon would be received into th church. Joy and expectation fille their faces. Here were ordinary people, both young and older, wh had stories of how the God of th universe somehow had invited each o them to this very moment.

I have been blessed this past yea because I have come to know each o them and have been entrusted wit their stories of struggle and comin to faith. In the life of each perso there, listening to the Easter Procla mation and waiting to receive the sac raments for the first time, there wer people who pointed the way to Jesus Some, in fact, may never know hov important they have been i someone's journey of faith.

In John's Gospel, Jesus prays no just for the disciples "but also fo those who will believe in me throug their word so that they may all b one, as you, Father, are in me."

In the long continuum of time men and women wish to be one wit the Father and Son because someon passed on the faith. Someone becam a beacon of light in a dark world.

***Questions:***

Who are some of the people wh have pointed the way to Jesus fo you? How have you helped light th way in someone's journey of faith?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16 - MAY 22**

**Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter),** Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29; **Monday,** Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26—16:4; **Tuesday (St. John I),** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (Ascension of the Lord),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Rita of Cascia),** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23 - MAY 29**

**Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter),** Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday,** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday,** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday,** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday,** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# 'Fog of War' makes clear the mind of former defense secretary

BY ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Director Errol Morris' documentary "The Fog of War" is a riveting look at a man, a government and a turbulent time in a country's history that both examines the past and contemplates the present.

Morris peers into the mind of Robert McNamara, the U.S. secretary of defense under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, and what is revealed is at turns intimate, anticipated and surprising.

Still full of energy and opinions at age 85, McNamara is a fine subject, an entertaining character as well as a man of substance. He seems like a man trying to make amends, but on his own terms. It is as if he wants to reshape his image into one of a more gentle, thoughtful man, even during the time of his appointment.

It is easy to see why "The Fog of War" won the Academy Award for Best Documentary. Morris tightly weaves varying elements into his story, from history to personalities to morality, using McNamara as a guide. Yet Morris clearly conveys to the audience the guide's biases and inclinations. (McNamara fully admits he has learned to answer not the question that was asked, but the question he would have wanted asked.)

It is a film as much about McNamara as a high-powered government official attempting to balance power, ambition and moral responsibility as it is about the Vietnam War and Cold War.

On its surface, the film is visually slick, using precise editing, gripping wartime footage and clever illustrations to drive home a point. All of this is tied together with a synergetic score that punctuates the film's theme that humans are fallible creatures and war is messy business.

McNamara, eyes twinkling, imparts lessons he has learned along the way about human nature and the nature of warfare. Morris divides these into 11 title cards, encapsulating each tutorial succinctly with headings such as "No. 1, Empathize with your enemy," "No. 8, Be prepared to re-examine your reasoning," and "No. 9, In order to do good, you may need to engage evil."

Although it is not closely examined, the morality of going to war weighs heavily in the air. McNamara describes World War I as a celebration in the belief that the world could now avoid war among great nations. There is no need to elaborate any more on the irony of his point. He declares, "War is so complex, we can't comprehend all the variables," a thought that resonates with Americans, especially now.

It is in his revelations of closed-door discussions that the viewer can begin to grasp the machinations of engaging the enemy. And given our own turbulent times, the viewer anticipates that McNamara will comment on the war in Iraq, which he disappointingly does not do.

"The Fog of War" engages with its pitch-perfect tone and finely crafted storytelling, leaving the viewer wanting more.

Because of some frightful scenes of war and a few instances of profanity, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

# 'Minute' is double-trouble fun

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen star in "New York Minute," a cotton-candy comedy about twin sisters with polar opposite personalities who wind up being pursued around Manhattan by a bungling gangster and an overzealous truant officer. The frothy but forgettable fluff keeps its screwball silliness sanitary while promoting a family-value message, that, compared to harder-edged teen fare, most parents would take in a New York minute. Some slight sibling issues and mild sensuality. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

## Movie capsules

**"Mean Girls"**

Catty teen comedy about an insecure 15-year-old, home-schooled for most of her life and raised in the African bush, who gets a crash course in the law of the social jungle when she is thrust into a public high school and gets stung by its reigning queen bee.

The film explores the psychological minefields navigated by many young girls and imparts a positive self-esteem message, but its hard-edged sexual references make it unsuitable for the 'tween and teen audience it seems aimed at.

Recurring crude language and humor, some drug references and implied underage drinking. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"Van Helsing"**

Dreadful action adventure about a notorious monster hunter sent to Transylvania by a secret Vatican agency and charged with helping a local vampire slayer rid the world of Count Dracula and other fiendish creatures including werewolves and Frankenstein's monster.

Despite stylishly gothic atmospherics, this long, loud and ludicrous monster mash amounts to little more than overwrought special-effects sequences without any thought given to story — let alone characters to sink your teeth into.

Incessant comic-book violence, an implied sexual encounter, some innuendo and frightening images. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.


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# Immigration bill to fix system

BILL, *from page 1*

said would go far to repair an inadequate immigration system.

The Safe, Orderly Legal Visas and Enforcement, or SOLVE, Act would allow people who have entered the country illegally to apply for legal residency if they have been here for more than five years and held jobs. It also would break through backlogs in applications for family reunification visas and create two programs for workers in low-skilled, temporary jobs.

In a statement the same day, Coadjutor Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., offered his support for the bill as chairman of the migration committee.

The bill reforms "crucial areas of our immigration system in a way that protects the rights of U.S. and foreign workers; promotes family unity; and grants migrant workers and their families in the United States the opportunity to become permanent residents, and if they so choose, U.S. citizens," Bishop Wenski said in the statement.

In introducing the bill in the Senate, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said much of the nation's economy depends upon immigrant labor, yet millions of those workers lack the legal right to be in the country.

"These workers and their families live in constant fear of deportation and are easy targets of abuse and exploitation by unscrupulous employers and by criminals," he said. "Many risk great danger and even death to cross our borders."

Bishop Wenski said the legislation will help create legal avenues for migrants to come to the United States and join their families.

"It will significantly repair an immigration system which is inadequate to meet the migration flows of the 21st century and which all too often undermines the basic rights and dignity of the human person," his statement said.

The U.S. bishops "witness almost daily the exploitation and abuse of migrant workers who seek to support themselves and their families; the discord in local communities, especially along our southern border, which are impacted by immigration; and, most disturbingly, the deaths of migrants, including women and children in remote areas of the American Southwest," Bishop Wenski said.

Kennedy said the legislation would benefit both workers and businesses by improving wages and working conditions, and would strengthen national security by encouraging people without legal documentation to come forward and legalize their status.

A statement from the National Council of La Raza said it is unlikely that the SOLVE Act would pass this legislative year, but that it offers the best approach to immigration reform of the several bills introduced so far.

"It neither increases nor decreases immigration," said the statement from council president Raul Yzaguirre.

"Rather, it makes legality the norm by bringing hard-working immigrants out of the shadows and allowing them to earn their legal status, and by creating the necessary legal channels for needed workers to enter the United States in the future," he said.

The bishops of the United States and Mexico in 2003 issued a joint pastoral letter in which they called for the governments of both countries to change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, creating a system for illegal immigrants to legalize their status and better protecting the civil rights of migrants.

Bishop Wenski's statement said the new bill would make necessary reforms in those areas.

Besides commending the sponsors of the bill, Bishop Wenski also credited President George W. Bush's proposals to reform the immigration system and said the bishops look forward to working with him and member of Congress "to enact legislation which provides a measure of justice to the migrant, while also serving the common good of all."

# Bill would require hospitals to report illegal immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Legislation that would require hospitals to report on patients' immigration status would create a new role for hospital personnel, "that of border patrol agents," according to the Catholic Health Association.

The bill, HR 3722, would require hospitals to ask patients about their immigration status, get fingerprints or photos of those who cannot prove their legal residency if asked, and send the information on to the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau.

Compliance with the reporting law would be a requirement for hospitals to be reimbursed by the federal government for treating illegal immigrants who have no medical insurance and cannot afford to pay their bills.

In a letter Congress urging them to oppose the legislation, the Catholic Health Association and six other hospital groups said the bill "would virtually ensure that illegal immigrants will avoid getting the appropriate and timely life-saving health care they need, when they need it."

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., said the bill would help address "the greatest threat to the American people ... the still uncontrolled flood of illegal immigration into our society."

Marcela Urrutia, of the National Council of La Raza, said HR 3722 "will create such fear among immigrant families it will lead to deaths," because people will not seek medical care for fear of being deported.

Current federal law requires hospitals to provide treatment to anyone seeking it and prohibits asking patients about their immigration status. If passed, Rohrabacher's bill would supercede that provision.

Would a woman in labor have to be sure she takes her immigration papers with her to the hospital to avoid triggering an inquiry as she is giving birth? asked Eliseo Medina, vice president of the Service Employees International Union.

"Will everyone be asked for their documents or only some people? On what basis? Skin color? Last name?" Medina asked.

"It's a quagmire the health system doesn't need," he said. "It's baffling that Congress would waste time on this."

The bill also would require hospitals to ask illegal immigrants for information about their employers, who would then be billed for the patients' treatment.

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STANDING ON FAITH

# Mexican woman helps migrants deal with life as amputees

BY JO TUCKMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TAPACHULA, Mexico — Wilmer Dubon said every day he thanks God he is still alive after members of a violent youth gang pushed him off a freight train laden with hundreds of Central American migrants heading for the United States.

Dubon, who lay for eight hours on the track before he was taken to a hospital to have his left leg amputated at the thigh, said learning to feel grateful has not been easy.

"At first I wanted vengeance. I wanted to kill the people who had done this to me," said the 25-year-old Honduran farmer who left his tiny village for the United States because it was the only hope he felt he had to pull his family out of poverty.

"I didn't feel like living any more," Dubon said, telling of a feeling of uselessness after waking up from the anesthesia to discover he had lost a leg. "But now things are getting a bit better."

Dubon has found some solace in a threadbare charity shelter for Central American amputees in the sticky lowland Mexican city of Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border where the train begins its journey north.

The Good Shepherd Shelter was set up by a Mexican charismatic Catholic, Olga Sanchez, who promised God to dedicate her life to others 13 years ago after she recovered from cancer. She decided to concentrate on helping the train's victims after witnessing their struggle to come to terms with their broken bodies and shattered dreams.

"I know what it is like to feel that everything is over, to feel helpless," Sanchez said. "I tell them my experience and I tell them that you don't need arms or legs to live and do God's work."

Sanchez, 46, recounted her own depression when doctors told her she had six months to live. She said she was close to committing suicide when a woman she met in church persuaded her to visit a herbalist she now credits with her recovery.

CNS PHOTO BY JUAN DE DIOS GARCIA DAVISH

**Undocumented workers from Central America hop rail cars in an attempt to escape Mexican authorities in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, in autumn 2003. Hopeful of finding work, immigrants board trains headed for the United States, but some lose their limbs in accidental falls or from train-gang violence. The Good Shepherd Shelter run by Olga Sanchez in Tapachula, Mexico, provides physical and spiritual care for amputees.**

"I believed in God before, but not the way I do now," said Sanchez, who runs a prayer meeting in the shelter every night. "He rescued me."

Sanchez said there are three types of amputees who end up in her shelter: those who fell while trying to jump onto a train, those who slipped off from exhaustion and those, like Dubon, pushed off by gangs.

"They all come traumatized, and many don't want to live, especially the ones who have lost their legs," said Sanchez before cleaning out the wounds of a recent amputee.

"They are ashamed to go back to their own countries; they think that they cannot work anymore," she said.

Dressed in white with her black hair flowing down her back and a heavy crucifix swinging around her neck, Sanchez seeks to keep the atmosphere positive in the shelter she set up five years ago after running out of space to tend to the patients in her own house.

CNS PHOTO BY JO TUCKMAN

**Honduran Wilmer Dubon, his leg amputated after he was pushed off a freight train headed for the United States, regains his life at the Good Shepherd Shelter in Tapulcha, Mexico, April 23.**

With 25 to 30 amputees at any one time, the shelter is at capacity; Sanchez said she dreams of building a larger shelter on the outskirts of Tapachula.

Sanchez said the Good Shepherd Shelter is run entirely from donations garnered from knocking on doors and selling second-hand clothing. She recently received a more substantial gift from a Swiss benefactor for the purchase of artificial limbs for her guests to take with them when they are deported by the Mexican authorities.

Massive migration from Central America to the United States dates back to the region's civil wars of the 1980s. Now migrants are striking out for economic reasons.

Enough make it for the risks to seem worthwhile, even though it is common knowledge that their chances of being caught and deported are high and the possibility of mutilation or death is real.

Last year, Mexican authorities detained 155,000 undocumented Central Americans, sending the vast majority home within hours. During the first three months of 2004, they detained nearly 65,000 — 50 percent more than during the same period in 2003.

The huge increase reflects not only the rising tide of Central American migration, but also a Mexican crackdown along traditional routes such as the freight trains that start just before Tapachula and crisscross the country, headed for the northern border 1,300 miles away.

More and better-organized raids are pushing migrants to take more risks. Each day, for the hundreds who take the train, this means constantly leaping on and off moving train cars.

The migrants also are frequent victims of a violent Salvadoran and Honduran gang, Mara Salvatrucha, which uses the railways in southern Mexico as its new domain.

The vast majority of the current wave of Central Americans heading north are from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. The contingent from Honduras is growing particularly fast as Hondurans give up hope that their economy will recover from the devastating blow dealt by Hurricane Mitch. Most of the patients in the Good Shepherd Shelter are Honduran.

This has prompted Sanchez to begin exploring the possibility of setting up a workshop for the amputees from that country so that they might have some job skills once they return home.

"Honduras is a difficult place for them," said Sanchez.

She said she has driven many of her patients back to their tiny hillside hamlets where moving around with artificial limbs or in wheelchairs poses particular challenges.

Leticia Melia looks with suspicion at her two new legs lying on her bed in the shelter. She set out from Honduras a few months ago with a cousin and a friend, leaving her baby and two young children with her mother.

The threesome traveled through Guatemala with relatively little trouble, but once in Mexico Melia bungled her jump onto the train near Tapachula and lost both her legs as a result.

"Sometimes I don't want to go," Melia says of her impending return home, weighing the desire to see her children again with the shame she feels at the manner of her return. "I went to work to help my family, and now I am just going to be a burden."

*Editor's Note: Olga Sanchez may be contacted by e-mail at: olgasanchezmartinez@hotmail.com or vraselli@gmx.ch. The address for Good Shepherd Shelter is: 11 privada sur, No. 305, Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico.*

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BAC NAMES NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN

# Dr. Elaine Sipe to head adult and continuing education program

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has appointed Dr. Elaine Sipe to the newly created position of associate dean for adult and continuing education.

Sipe, who is currently dean of University College and a professor of education at Concordia University, had previously served as director of the Adult Degree Program at Belmont Abbey College.

"I am preparing with eager anticipation to return to Belmont to continue my profession as an adult educator," said Sipe, who is now planning for her Abbey homecoming.

"I look forward to listening to members of the Belmont Abbey community and local citizens regarding their educational dreams and to making those dreams a reality," she said.

As associate dean for adult and continuing education, Sipe will oversee all aspects of the Adult Degree Program at Belmont Abbey College. She will be responsible for working closely with the academic dean, faculty, ADP staff and local businesses and organizations in conducting a thorough review of the program, evaluating the needs of the greater Charlotte region and developing a long-range plan to strengthen and promote continuing adult education.

Dr. Elaine Sipe

"Given the highly competitive and dynamic nature of adult and continuing education, Dr. Sipe's expertise and familiarity with the mission and values of Belmont Abbey will serve us extremely well," said Dr. Dean de la Motte, academic dean at Belmont Abbey College.

"I am thrilled that after being so involved in the Adult Degree Program in its early days at Sacred Heart (College) and here at the Abbey, she has agreed to return at this moment in our history," he said.

## Classifieds

### EMPLOYMENT

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION: Dynamic and welcoming faith community seeking experienced Director of Faith Formation with master's degree in religious education. Send resume and a statement of your vision of Faith Formation to: St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Faith Formation Search Committee, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail jmalmfelt@stpaulcc.org.

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# Pro-life official praises FDA denial of 'morning-after pill'

PILL, *from page 1*

Plan B, marketed by Barr Pharmaceuticals, is designed to be taken within 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. It involves a large dose of progestin-only birth control pills, which are available only by prescription.

Ruse said Plan B is "marketed and advertised as a 'contraceptive' but its own proponents admit that it works before and after conception."

"The Plan B distributor may argue that it's all the same, but preventing human life from beginning is not the same as destroying life that has already begun," Ruse said. "Women deserve to know the truth about drugs that are marketed to them, and teenage girls should not be sold potentially dangerous abortifacient drugs off the shelf."

In its decision, the FDA left the door open for approval of over-the-counter sales of Plan B in the future.

"You have not provided adequate data to support a conclusion that Plan B can be used safely by young adolescent women for emergency contraception without the professional supervision of a practitioner licensed by law to administer the drug," said Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, in a letter to Barr.

The letter suggested that Barr "provide additional data demonstrating that Plan B can be used safely by women under 16 years of age without professional supervision" or submit a revised application for approval of over-the-counter sales only to those 16 and over, while keeping a prescription-only option for those under 16.

Bruce Downey, chairman and CEO of Barr, said the company was encouraged by the FDA's suggestions, and looked forward "to working with the agency toward approval of Plan B for over-the-counter use."

"It is frightening to think that young women could potentially be able to obtain this drug over the counter," said Maggi Nadol, program director of the diocesan Respect Life office.

"Even more frightening is the way it is attempting to pretend that actions have no consequences — just pop a pill and all traces of having sex are removed," said Nadol. "What about the emotional repercussions, the possibility of sexually transmitted diseases and the most ignored issue, the moral implications?"

The FDA's decision also drew comment from officials of the American Life League and the Population Research Institute, among other groups.

"While we are quite pleased" with the FDA action, it "is far from being totally satisfactory," said Judie Brown, president of American Life League, in a statement.

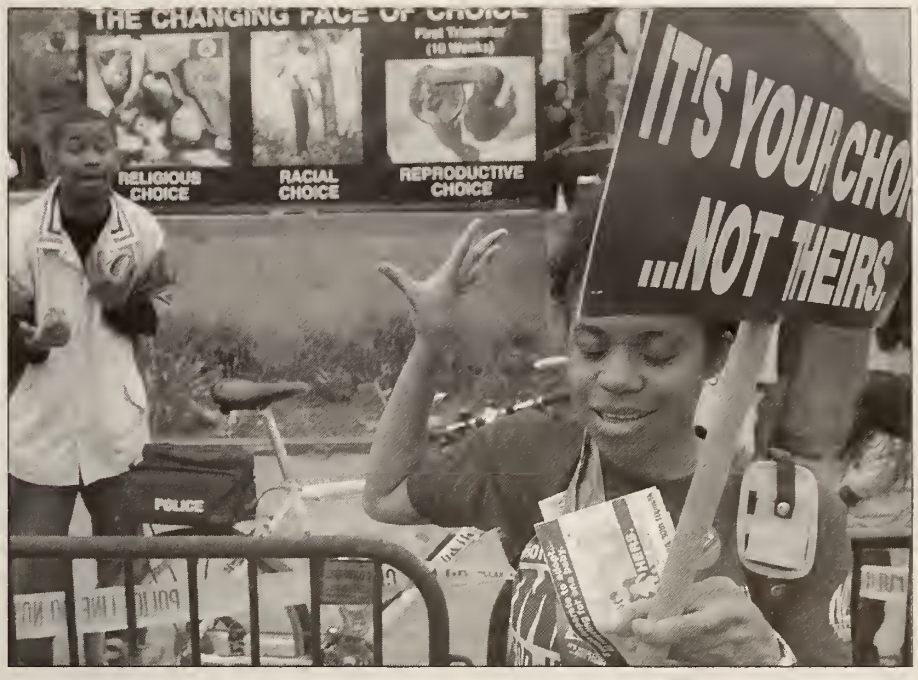
"There are no studies indicating the long-term side effects of these pills when used by adolescents, nor are there studies to help us understand what will happen to a young woman who relies solely on the megadoses these pills dump into her system each time she takes the pills," she said.

"The best thing the FDA can do now for American women and their progeny is to take the next logical step and remove these pills from the market altogether," Brown added.

Stephen W. Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute, said approval of over-the-counter sales of Plan B "would be an act of almost unprecedented recklessness where women's lives are concerned — especially the lives of very young women."

"The law has a teaching role," he added. "How many people — especially teenage girls — are inclined to think, 'It's legal, so it must be OK; if it weren't safe, they wouldn't legalize it'?"

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*




CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

**Amanda Gilbert, 26, walks away from an anti-abortion demonstrator pleading his position during the March for Women's Lives April 25 in Washington. "The voice of reason prevailed" in the Food and Drug Administration's May 6 decision to withhold permission for over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill," said the U.S. bishops' chief spokeswoman on pro-life issues.**


## Editor Diocesan Magazine

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh is seeking an editor to be responsible for the local editorial content, photography and the overall quality of the magazine. The editor will review all general articles to ensure consistency with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The editor will write articles, features and recruit columnists. Supervises magazine staff and oversees free lancers. Candidates must have B.A. in Journalism or equivalent, 5 years magazine experience and be in full communion with the Church. Bi-lingual (Spanish) helpful. EOE. Send resume and salary requirements to:

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Pope, at audience, encourages faithful to always trust in God

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In the face of serious trouble and even death, believers are called to trust in God, "who remains ever faithful to his promises" to save those he created and loves, Pope John Paul II said.

At his May 12 weekly general audience, the pope said Psalm 30 "demonstrates that we must never let ourselves be entrapped by the dark snare of desperation when it appears that all is lost."

The human longing for God's help in overcoming trials and death is, in the end, an expression of a hope for eternal life, he said.

"The satisfaction of this powerful aspiration was fully assured with the resurrection of Christ, for which we can never thank God enough," the pope said.

The crowd of 15,000 people at the general audience in St. Peter's Square included some 900 religious women from more than 65 countries participating in the assembly of the International Union of Superiors General, as well as a handful of Polish children who received their first Communion in Rome.

Speaking in Polish, the pope said, "I entrust to God all of the children who, at this time of year, are receiving Christ in their hearts for the first time."

"May they learn to love Jesus with their whole lives and, with the help of the mother of God, may they always persevere in the faith," he said.

Pope John Paul also prayed that as children receive first Communion their parents and siblings will grow in faith.

The pope also welcomed 180 military officers participating in courses at the Rome-based NATO Defense College, which offers programs on political, military and security issues and prepares officers for NATO command positions.

Speaking in English, the pope offered the college personnel "prayerful good wishes for their efforts to promote international peace and security."

Also attending the audience were residents and supporters of Rondine-Cittadella della Pace, an experiment in building a model town dedicated to peace education and hospitality.

"To them and to everyone present, I renew my call to pray for peace in the world, especially in Iraq and in the Middle East," the pope said.

"With the support of the international community, may those beloved populations set out with determination on the path of reconciliation, dialogue and cooperation," he said.

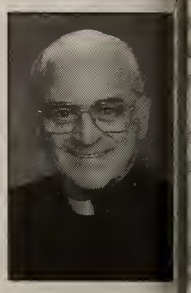
**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

## An emotional connection with God?

**Spirituality for Today**

FATHER JOHN CATOIR



"I liked your article on contemplation," a reader wrote, "but there is still something nagging at me. Why is it so hard for me to connect with the ever-present, loving, pure, brilliant Supreme Being?"

Alas, St. Augustine had the same problem. He said, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee O Lord."

We all feel the same frustration, yet the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us. Some ask in exasperation: "Is he really there? If so, why doesn't he make his presence felt?"

Good people from the beginning of time have done everything from sacrificing their young to almost starving themselves to death in order to connect with their Creator. We all wonder about it. If you love someone and that person loves you, shouldn't there be some way to experience that person's presence? Shouldn't there be an emotional connection with God?

With human relationships, the answer is yes, but in the realm of the supernatural we have to do it God's way. Occasionally he does lift someone up to mystical heights, but only rarely. More often than not, prayer can be terribly dry. Disappointment is inevitable, unless you persevere.

Why not begin to approach prayer differently? Why not freshen it with joy? "Choose" to be joyful. "Believe" deeply in God's love, and "reject" those negative thoughts and feelings.

When Mary and Martha complained to Jesus about his not being there when their brother Lazarus died, he answered, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha didn't like that answer: "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus interrupted: "I am the resur rection and the life. Those who believe i me will live, even though they die, an everyone who lives and believes in m will never die" (Jn 11:25).

This is a strange way of sayin "Trust me." He doesn't apologize. H doesn't offer an excuse. He simply cha lenges Martha. He is telling her to disre gard her feelings of confusion and doub He wants her to make a leap of faith.

Here's a little test for you:

When Jesus says, "The kingdom c God is within you," do you believe him This belief is not a matter of feelings; it a matter of intellectual acceptance. Fait is knowledge given by someone yo trust. Either you believe or you don't.

God is present to your soul no ma ter what you may be feeling at any give moment. When you say yes to this trut you come alive. Listen to these words the Psalms: "In your presence there the fullness of joy; in your right hand a pleasures forevermore." "You make u glad with the joy of your presence." "Yo turn our mourning into dancing."

These are all expressions of exube ance. Such feelings are repeated over an again in the Bible. Usually they a manifest within the context of commu nal prayer. When you have a who community around you singing prais

**Coming of Age**

KAREN DIETLEIN
CNS COLUMNIST

## Vote me off the island, please

Vote me off the island, please. This particular Average Jane has had quite enough of the bachelors, big brothers, idols and survivors that have come to rule our cultural roost the past few years.

I was standing in line at the drugstore with aspirin and Altoids, killing time by paging through a magazine. On the cover was a picture of a square-jawed, handsome man — the new "Bachelor," the caption said. Behind me, two women were engaged in an anti-Trump tirade, cursing out the real-estate czar for sacking Kwame. Over the speaker system, "American Idol" finalist Clay Aiken sang about invisibility.

It was too much. I hoped to find a refuge from the reality-show onslaught in my car, where a local DJ took calls from listeners defending American Idol contestant LaToya London.

"Yo, vote for Fantasia! It's more important than the presidential election!" he joked.

After hoping desperately that people don't actually believe him, I conceded that the DJ may be partially right. My drugstore experience only goes to show how omnipresent reality shows are and how much influence they've had on pop culture and the way we look at the world.

And I'm not sure that's a good thing.

On MTV's "The Real World" each season — come on, you know the drill — eight strangers are picked to live in a house together. Their every move is filmed and aired once a week to millions who watch them fight, talk on the phone and spill their secret confessions to MTV cameras.

While I enjoyed the show, there was nothing "real" about it. The houses were huge, with amenities the average 20-something couldn't hope to own: private docks, new furniture, backyard Jacuzzis and gourmet kitchens. And interactions sometimes rang hollow due to the blatant black-and-white stereotypes that ruled over a few seasons — the ultrareligious Christian girl, the punk-rock atheist, the fashionista, the homophobe, the gay man, the macho jock.

To win on "Survivor," you have to outfox people intent on stabbing you in the back while you attempt to do the same to them. Never mind that if I were stranded in the middle of nowhere with only a bathing suit, a set of brains and eight other people, I'd probably want them around to help me hunt, gather and construct some decent shelter.

For many world cultures, community ties — helping each other out, creating a better world for one another — are crucial to an individual's very existence. For our TV survivors, having those ties and loyalties are signs of weakness. Scrambling to the top on the backs of others, forsaking friends and betraying neighbors are cardinal virtues.

"Survivor" is not the kind of world want to live in.

I watched "The Bachelor" for a litt while, only to succumb to a sense of naus watching him smooch, snog and woo girls at once. (They really want a guy wh goes from girl to girl like that? Ugh!) Th girls change who they essentially are survive the rose ceremonies and stay the Bachelor's good side, sublimating the own special qualities in order to mo themselves into the Bachelor's ide woman.

Whatever happened to loving som one for who he or she is?

I think there's very little truth in t backstabbing and bickering of "Survivo in the forced "love" of "The Bachelor" and the homes of the "Real World." Yet, it's st everywhere: in our conversations, o books, our schools, our music and o philosophies.

And, in the process, they are becomi our reality.

# How much is a parish secretary worth?

## Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

One of the few pieces of practical pastoral advice I got in the seminary was, "When you get to the parish make friends with two people, the cook and the secretary."

Since our parish does not have a cook, there is one crucial person to make friends with: the secretary.

People not intimately connected with parish life probably don't have an appreciation of how essential a parish secretary is to a healthy parish. She — generally a she — is often the first point of contact for people with our parish. If she is friendly, the parish is perceived as friendly.

Our parish secretary is unfailingly friendly, greeting people with sympathy and kindness.

The parish secretary is also, in many ways the repository of the parish memory. She keeps the sacramental records and the parish rolls. She remembers who is coming and who is going; who has had a baby, wedding, funeral or tragedy.

The parish secretary, in many parishes, outlasts the pastor. Our secretary has served three pastors here and understands the different styles and plans of each one. In my case we have worked together for nine years, and she still knows more about the community and the families than I ever will.

Like the pastor, the parish secretary has to be skilled at a variety of tasks and has to have seemingly contradictory or at least "contrasting" skills. She has to be a detail person, recording Mass intentions and paying bills with accuracy.

She also has to be a people person, ready to stop and talk with the people who come in about a funeral or a sick loved one.

Being a parish secretary often calls for long hours, low pay and hard work. Our parish secretary works six days per week. We pay her for five, but she donates each Saturday as her gift to the parish as part of her tithing of her time, talent and treasure.

People sometimes presume too much of her. They always presume that she will be there to unlock the door whenever they arrive. They presume that she will not only reserve a room for their group but find them trash bags, set aside a can of coffee for them and put up signs advertising their meeting.

She does all those things, besides getting the bulletin out, running off inserts and recording all the contribution records.

Secretaries in parishes always are working under deadlines. They have the liturgical season, with feasts that require programs to be run off and schedules to go out for all the various ministries.

They also have the endless details that people expect to be exactly right. Each year our secretary has the huge task of getting out about 1,000 statements of contributions so that people can take deductions on their taxes. That means she has to record all their gifts every week. People sometimes presume she should know that the unmarked $20 in the collection should have been attributed to them.

This past week, I certainly found out how much our parish secretary does. Ours was out sick for her first sick day in 18 years. That is an unbelievable record. With the constant flow of people on the phone and through the door, I realized how indispensable she really is and how much any pastor depends on a secretary.

I am happy to do my own cooking, but I know I could never replace our parish secretary.

# The forms of absolutions

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. At my parish before Easter, we have five priests in different locations for the sacrament of penance. After some Scripture, prayers and music, people line up by each priest to confess their sins and receive absolution.*

*Since there is such a shortage of priests, why can't one priest give a general absolution to everyone? (Iowa)*

A. The Catholic Church's Rite of Penance provides three forms for ministering and receiving this sacrament. The first is the one-on-one encounter with the priest, which was the exclusive form most of us older Catholics grew up with.

Second is the form you describe. The ritual prescribes a ceremony of Scripture readings, homily, examination of conscience and prayers, and usually some music, with all penitents present and participating.

The pastor tries to recruit a sufficient number of priests from the surrounding area who provide opportunity for individual confession and absolution. This way of celebrating the sacrament of penance is common and popular in many parishes today.

Among other advantages, as the official ritual notes, it emphasizes the fact that none of our sins are "private." They all involve other people, in fact the whole church community, in some way. Admitting our sins and asking absolution together emphasize that critical aspect of sin and forgiveness.

The third official form for the rite of penance is the one you suggest. All the first part of the ceremony remains, but after necessary explanations one priest ministers absolution to everyone at the same time.

By church regulations, this third rite may now be used only on certain very limited occasions, to be determined, if necessary, by the bishop of the diocese.

## The Holy Land village of Ein Karem

*Q. I am searching for information about a village in the Holy Land called Ein Karem. I am Lebanese American, and our family name is similar. We've been told that it comes from that little town, where supposedly the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth took place. We'd be grateful for any information you can give. (Ohio)*

A. Ain Karem (the name means spring of the vineyard) is a lovely village about five miles from Jerusalem, surrounded for thousands of years by olive trees and vineyards.

Since the time of St. Helena (fourth century), tradition has identified it as the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and birthplace of John the Baptist. It would thus have been Mary's destination when she "set out and traveled to the hill country of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth" (Lk 1:39-40).

For centuries the town was mostly Arab, predominantly Muslim, but about 10 percent Christian. It has changed dramatically, however, in the last two generations. Since 1948 it has been part of the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel, and the population is mostly Jewish. Some monasteries and convents still exist however.

The ancient Church of the Visitation was totally rebuilt during the last century. It, along with the Church of St. John the Baptist, are two jewels of the Holy Land.

More information than you will want to absorb is available by an Internet Google search for "ain karem."

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# The selling of religion

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

During a visit to Malta, I took a liking to the Maltese Cross. Its two crossbars are even in length, with two points at each of their four ends. The eight points on a Maltese Cross represent the eight Beatitudes.

I thought, "What a wonderful gift this would make for friends." I bought several of the crosses and later was sorry I hadn't purchased more.

Most people would think my desire to buy crosses was normal, perhaps even thoughtful. But after reading Vincent Miller's book "Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture," I am revisiting that question.

Miller encourages readers to reflect on the pros and cons of a consumer age glutted with commodities, and the effect this has on religion. He asks whether in selling religious goods, religion makes itself all too much like other marketers.

The Maltese Cross symbolizes noble knights who fought for religious principles. More important, it symbolizes a way of life according to Christ that is antithetical to the way people usually live. Did those to whom I gave this cross see it as jewelry that would be admired or was it cherished as a reminder of how they should live?

Miller raises other soul-searching questions. For example, Pope John Paul II is a celebrity whom people will travel thousands of miles to hear. When he is on television, they make it a point to watch him. As a commodity, Pope John Paul II sells well. But when people hear him, do they hear his message and act upon it?

Miller gives another example of religion as a best-selling commodity. Before and during Holy Week, there were a number of Scripture scholars on television commenting on variations in the Scripture accounts of the Passion. How, for example, did a large crowd appear to condemn Christ, especially since this was a high Jewish feast time when they would be busy preparing their sacrifices?

I don't mean to be crass, but programs of this type sell well. People need religion. Marketers know this and also know how to package it. But in consuming such programs, are people consciously or unconsciously seeking the bizarre or are they searching for a way to better know Christ?

We live in an era of new needs. There is the need for therapy and things that both soften and invigorate our lives, bringing comfort and energy. It is an era that also challenges us to take a better look at how consumerism sells religion and about our intentions and goals in purchasing what is sold.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MAY 21, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 33

**Parish Profile:**
St. Benedict the Moor Church helps shape Winston-Salem Vicariate

| PAGE 16

## Pope's birthday like any other day, but with cake, spokesman says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Although there was a birthday cake and a special lunch, Pope John Paul II's birthday also was "an ordinary day of work," the Vatican spokesman said.

The pope celebrated his 84th birthday May 18.

"For the Holy Father it will be an ordinary day of work and, especially, of thanking God for the gift of life," said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman.

See BIRTHDAY, page 4

SEALED WITH A GIFT

## Confirmation recalls, reinforces baptismal grace

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is the sixth story in a series on the seven sacraments.*

BELMONT — "Michael, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis as he confirmed Miguel Maldonado at Queen of the Apostles Church May 17.

Within a span of several weeks, hundreds of eighth-

See CONFIRMATION, page 7

## Arm in arm

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

hafijeh Khalifeh, Arabic and Islamic religion teacher, and Sister laria Goreth, catechism teacher, walk together during recess at Latin Patriarchate parish school in the West Bank May 4. The chool teaches catechism to Catholic students and Islam to Muslim tudents, and helps foster peaceful values in an area where they re sometimes not accepted. *For the complete story, see page 9*

MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Second-graders Anna Tonseth and Max Barrios crown a statue of Mary with a wreath of flowers. Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, celebrated the Children's Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother May 14 for the students and faculty of Sacred Heart School.

## *Sacred Heart students crown the Blessed Mother*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In a month closely associated with honoring mothers, Catholics choose May to honor Mary as the mother of Jesus and of the church.

Following the Ecumenical Council of Nicea II in 787, public veneration of icons and images of Jesus, Mary and the saints was no longer persecuted by some in the church as a form of idolatry. Consequently, the tradition arose of crowning a statue of Mary in recognition of her position as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Coronation ceremonies have been a tradition in the Catholic Church since the 16th century. Today, young girls and boys who have recently received their first Communion are typically selected to crown a statue of Mary during a special Mass in the month of May.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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**'Crossroads of humanity'**
*Airport chaplains gather, discuss ministry*
| PAGE 4

**Prayers in the air**
*Greensboro prayer group thrives for three decades*
| PAGE 5

**Culture Watch**
*In book, pope wonders if he was strict enough leader*
| PAGES 10-11

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## BULLETING HISTORY

CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

Joy Ebnet, a secretary at Five Saints Faith Community in Bowlus, Minn., adjusts the tray that catches parish bulletins as they come off the copier in late April. Bulletins can be a source of historical records for some parishes.

# Bulletins seen as communications tool but also historical record

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — These days, it is rare for Catholics to exit weekend Mass without a bulletin in hand.

"It's valuable in that it's bringing something tangible home — a souvenir of the Mass, so to speak," said Father James Hahn, pastor of Christ the King Church in Cambridge.

James Thoennes, archivist for the Diocese of St. Cloud, said he recalls that when taking Communion to the homebound he would "bring along the bulletin, and that was like a letter from home."

Bulletins are an important vehicle for communication between the pastor and congregation and within the congregation itself. But for some parishes, bulletins are a source of important historical records.

The bulletins at Holy Spirit Church in St. Cloud recently became an invaluable source of information when someone stole the parish safe. Losing $4,000 in checks and cash was bad, said Father Virgil Helmin, pastor, but so was losing the parish documents.

While records of baptisms, marriages and deaths were copied to the chancery archives, Father Helmin said what was printed in the bulletins about parishioners' deaths, baptisms, weddings, first Communions and confirmations serves as the only record of those events from November 1999 to the night of the burglary.

The most important bulletin feature was — and still is — the listing of Mass times and intentions, Thoennes said, and these are usually the first items to go onto the page. As bulletins became more common, they began to feature times for confessions as well as requests for prayer, he said.

With the growth of parish organizations, Father Hahn said bulletins eliminate "the need of rattling off a lot of data" in verbal announcements and "help people focus more on the Mass, especially the Liturgy of the Word. It frees up the Mass itself for a better worship experience."

To those who ask that their event be announced from the pulpit "because nobody reads the bulletin" — a highly mistaken assumption, according to many — Father Hahn has this rule of thumb: Only those events that follow immediately after Mass are announced during Mass.

# Bishops' official calls for recommitment to just educational system

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education desegregation ruling, the U.S. Catholic bishops' education secretary said the Supreme Court decision should "renew our commitment to a just educational system."

"Without the Brown decision, it is hard to imagine any serious efforts to improve education for all children in the United States," said Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee May 17.

She noted that the ruling, with its declaration that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," represented what was a "long-overdue victory" at the time and also shows "how far our nation has come" in the 50 years since it was issued.

She said the May 17, 1954, decision — which said that segregation had no valid purpose and was also unconstitutional — "benefits all American children, regardless of race."

Sister McPhee noted that although "many implementation struggles ensued in the years following Brown, and many continue today, the spirit of hope captured in the Brown decision lives on."

She also referred to a 1995 document, prepared by the U.S. bishops' education committee and approved by their Administrative Board, titled "Principles for Educational Reform in the United States."

"We have a deep concern that all children will be provided with a means to attain a quality education that will prepare them to be good citizens, lead productive lives, and be socially and morally responsible," it said.

In a reformed educational system, it said, parents, teachers, administrators and government policy-makers fully accept their responsibility to students, who are "the central focus of all education." The bishops also advocated policy decisions that would allow school choice.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Helen Gillogly, SFO, at (828) 883-9645.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., will host a *Festival of Praise* May 22, 8-10 p.m. The evening will feature praise and worship music by St. Mark's LIFE TEEN band in addition to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome. For details, call Debra Lemmon at (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — The music ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* May 22 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults of all ages have found this to be a great place for entertaining and warm spiritual messages, evangelization and an opportunity for praise and worship music in a Christian environment. There is no charge to attend. To reserve a table for a group of six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gatherings for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT— To mark 10 years of *perpetua Eucharistic adoration* at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass June 13 at 3 p.m. with a Corpus Christi procession and blessing of the sick. Al are welcome to attend. Father Frank O'Rourke pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, will be master of ceremonies. For more information cal (336) 886-2444.

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic Hig School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug 14, 2004. For more information, call Nichola Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mai nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mar Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentl Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30 2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fit ness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low impact aerobic workout. For more information call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic wome are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancie Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and char table group for an ongoing series of fun an informative activities. LAOH meets the firs Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pi X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope praises pontifical mission societies as 'authentic missionaries'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the pontifical mission societies represent a solid point of reference for those searching for truth in a troubled world.

"You offer a message of love and hope" as "you help bring the good news to the ends of the earth," he said May 11 in an audience address to heads of the four pontifical mission societies.

"In these tumultuous times that humanity is living, the pontifical missionary societies ... represent a reliable reference for those who are seeking the truth which saves," the pope said.

Because their message is one of hope, "you must pay special attention to the people of the world where their suffering is greater and their needs are more acute: the people of the so-called Third World," he said.

Some 117 national directors of the world's pontifical mission societies met with the pope at the Vatican May 11 during their May 6-14 general assembly in Rome.

The pope called them "authentic missionaries in a globalized world where suffering for truth and justice surpassed every national border."

By their concern for the suffering of others and working to help those in need, mission society workers are also working "to help one's own people escape from narrow selfishness, suffocating abundance and from emptiness and behavior which are at times unworthy of human beings," the pope said.

Performing works of mercy and charity is not a matter of simple almsgiving, but is "fulfilling the duty inherent in one's Christian identity in helping the other in need," he said.

or refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at 336) 292-1118.

**IICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated he first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact oan Moran (828)-327-0487.

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each nonth at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., t 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more etails, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

IICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the econd and fourth Wednesday of each month at :30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 21 Second St. NE. For more information, call he church office at (828) 327-2341.

**ALISBURY VICARIATE**

ONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's lan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James hurch, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. earn a natural method that is just as effective as he Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. ontact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for ore information or email questions to ujo94@aol.com.

ALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. ulton St., celebrates a *Charismatic and Healing Mass* the first Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. rayer and worship with prayer teams will be vailable at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will llow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, ill be the celebrant. For further information, ll Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

**IOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

YLVA — St. Mary Church is in the initial stage of forming a court of the *Catholic Daughters of America*. Women from neighboring parishes, ages 18 and older, are welcome to join. For more information, contact Angie Erst at (828) 488-6560 or Pat Pickering at (828) 497-4999.

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# June papal trip features meeting with Swiss youth, open-air Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's schedule for his June 5-6 trip to Switzerland features a meeting with the country's Catholic youths, an open-air Mass and smaller encounters with Swiss civil and church leaders.

The program calls for the pope to deliver one sermon and four short greetings during the weekend visit, his third to Switzerland and the 103rd foreign trip of his pontificate.

Here is the Vatican schedule for the pope's trip to Switzerland. Times listed are local; Eastern Daylight Time is in parentheses.

Saturday, June 5 (Rome, Payerne, Bern)

— 9:45 a.m. (3:45 a.m.), Departure from Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport for Switzerland.

— 11:30 a.m. (5:30 a.m.), Arrival at airport in Payerne. Meeting with Joseph Deiss, president of the Swiss confederation. Greeting by the pope.

— 1:15 p.m. (7:15 a.m.), Arrival at Bern's Viktoriaheim residence, a home for the sick and aged run by the Sisters of Charity of the Holy Cross (Ingenbohl sisters.)

— 6:15 p.m. (12:15 p.m.), Encounter with young Catholics of Switzerland at the Bea Bern Expo sports arena. Greeting by the pope.

— 7:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m.), Arrival at Viktoriaheim residence.

Sunday, June 6 (Bern, Payerne, Rome)

— 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), Arrival at the Allmend meadow on the outskirts of Bern.

— 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m.), Mass at the Allmend meadow. Sermon by the pope. After the Mass, recitation of the Angelus and greeting by the pope.

— 1:45 p.m. (7:45 a.m.), Meeting with bishops of the Swiss bishops' conference and with cardinals and bishops of the papal entourage in the Viktoriaheim residence in Bern.

— 4:45 p.m. (10:45 a.m.), Departure from Viktoriaheim residence.

— 5:15 p.m. (11:15 a.m.), Meeting with the association of former Swiss Guards in the building facing the Viktoriaheim residence. Greeting by the pope.

— 6:45 p.m. (12:45 p.m.), Arrival at airport in Payerne. Departure ceremony.

— 7 p.m. (1 p.m.), Departure for Rome.

— 8:45 p.m. (2:45 p.m.), Arrival at Rome's Ciampino airport.

# Have shells, will travel

CNS PHOTO BY BARRY JAMES

Seashells adorn the bicycles of Dutch pilgrims Henk de Muynck, Wim Vermeulen, Peter Uipkes and Kees Langejan, who stopped in Chartres, France, in early May on their journey to Santiago de Compostela. They had at that point traveled 400 miles from their homes in the southern Netherlands and had just more than 1,000 miles to go. The scallop shell has long been associated with pilgrims making their way to the shrine of St. James.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**ay 22 — 5 p.m.**
ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Guadarrama
ur Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

**ay 24 — 7 p.m.**
Confirmation
ur Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

**May 26 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

**May 27 — 7:30 p.m.**
Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

## THIS MONTH IN —1997

### ST. MARK PARISH FORMED

Due to growth in north Mecklenburg County, then-Bishop William G. Curlin announced the establishment of St. Mark Parish in Huntersville May 13, and named Msgr. Joseph Kerin as its pastor. The Diocese of Charlotte opted to utilize a 23-acre tract on Stumptown Road that was purchased in 1990. A home purchased across from the property was designated to serve as the parish rectory.

AT THE 'CROSSROADS OF HUMANITY'

# Airport chaplains gather, discuss ministry

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

WASHINGTON — Catholic airport chaplains from across the country, including one from the Diocese of Charlotte, converged in Washington, D.C., to discuss their unique ministry to people on the move.

The 18th annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Airport Chaplains (NCCAC), who staff airport chapels and provide pastoral care to travelers and airline workers, was held April 27-30.

Participants included Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, chaplain to Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and coordinator of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Charlotte; Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers; and Dominican Father Anthony Chinh quang Dao, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees.

Archbishop Marchetto's keynote address, "Challenges for the Pastoral Care of Civil Aviation," echoed Pope John Paul II's description of the airport as "a true crossroads of humanity," where the airport chaplain, offering pastoral assistance, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist, "reminds travelers of God's loving presence and bears witness to the fundamental truths affecting all human life."

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, more travelers and staff have sought out airport chapels and chaplains, according to Father John Jamnicky, coordinator for the Human Mobility Apostolate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"More and more people ... are taking advantage of time in chapels, participation in services, time to talk with chaplains, whether there are security issues or not," said Father Jamnicky.

Rev. Mr. Wenning, who has been Charlotte's airport chaplain since 1988, said airport chapels and chaplains do much for travelers.

"Within the hustle and bustle of the airport, the chapel is a physical place to come that's relatively quiet for prayer and meditation," he said. "Associated with that is the office of the chaplain, where we can meet with people if needed."

However, said Rev. Mr. Wenning, the chaplain is often out in the concourses to assist with emergencies and be available for airport employees and travelers, from helping those who have "lost their tickets or lost their way" to those looking for a place to eat, the bathroom, a "German newspaper," and so on.

"It's not so much a ministry of faith as it is helping others," said Rev. Mr. Wenning.

"Many times people are traveling due to grief, such as a death in the family, and you can spot them sitting in the waiting areas," he said. "You sit next to them, usually a seat apart, introduce yourself and see what you can do for them. Many times you are met with dead silence, and sometimes they open their hearts."

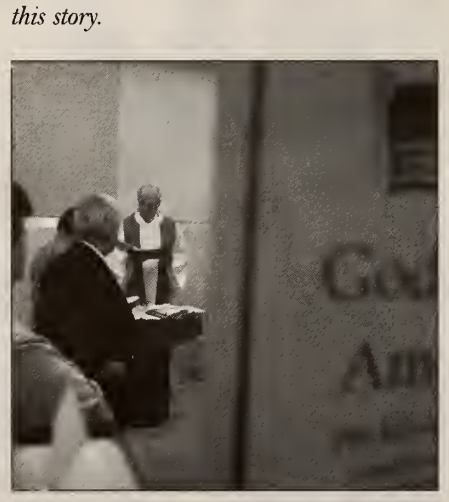
At the recent gathering, chaplains heard presentations on "The Mission of the NCCAC" and "Airport Ministry is Ecumenical and Interreligious," which dealt with how to have a Catholic presence in a multireligious chapel open to people of all faiths.

There was also a presentation entitled "Boundaries" by Dr. Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, and Father J. Cletus Kiley, director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Priestly Life and Ministry.

The presentation dealt with the issue of sexual abuse of minors and the liability to which priests and deacons are subject, even at airports, said Rev. Mr. Wenning.

"Many children travel alone, and we try to be of assistance to them," he said.

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Msgr. William Charbonneau celebrates Sunday Mass at the chapel at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in September 2002.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Youths present Pope John Paul II with a birthday cake during a special audience at the Vatican May 15. The pope turned 84 on May 18.

# Birthday ordinary day, but with cake

BIRTHDAY, *from page 1*

The only change from the pope's normal schedule, he said, was that the pope had invited "his closest collaborators from the Curia" to lunch.

The spokesman said birthday greetings from heads of state and from individuals around the world had arrived in the pope's mailbox.

During the ordinary part of his workday, Pope John Paul met with Portugal's prime minister and witnessed the signing of a new treaty regulating relations between the Catholic Church and the country. The treaty, guaranteeing the juridical status of the church and religious freedom, updated a concordat signed in 1940.

The visiting delegation sang "Happy Birthday" to the pope in Portuguese. The same tune was used a short time later, when members of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers sang their birthday greetings at an audience with the pope.

The pope also met with four U.S. bishops making their "ad limina" visits.

"I did take the occasion to extend birthday wishes to him," said Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma Cit, who was making his sixth "ad limina" visit. "He had a big smile, was very gracious and very happy."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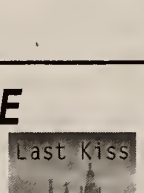
—Msgr. John J. McSweeney, Pastor, St. Matthew Catholic Church, Charlotte

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# Fun in the sun

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Caleb Kulla rolls a ball to claim a prize at the "Boardwalk at St. Pius X" stewardship carnival in Greensboro May 16.**

## *Parishioners explore ministries, enjoy carnival*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — The "boardwalk" was bustling at St. Pius X Church.

After being inspired by Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah during a diocesan stewardship program in Charlotte, parishioners crafted the "Boardwalk at St. Pius X" stewardship carnival at the church May 16.

"We actually have two goals today," said Patti Dinning, head of the parish stewardship committee. "The first and primary reason for this carnival is to increase the awareness of our church ministries. The second is to do a better job of following up on all those who volunteer time and talents."

The event was designed to bring together the parish community in order to discover those who are capable and willing to contribute their time and talent, according to Pat Spivey, pastoral associate.

In preparation for the "Boardwalk," packets were mailed to each family in the parish. Each packet contained a letter from Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor; a list of all parish ministries; a list of the skills parishioners might offer the parish; and a card indicating how much of a financial commitment a family was willing to offer to the parish.

As the cards were turned in, the parishioners received free food or activity tickets to the carnival. In addition, parishioners were given a "passport" to be punched at each ministry table visited for a chance to win door prizes donated by each of the ministries.

One of the joint ministries featured at the carnival was Mobile Meals and Senior Wheels, headed by parishioner Dolores Ahrens. Both are outreach ministries to the elderly of the community — one brings meals to the disabled and elderly, while the other transports those who need transportation.

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Clown Jennifer Otter hands Luke Proia a balloon during the "Boardwalk at St. Pius X" stewardship carnival in Greensboro May 16.**

Rev. Mr. Bill Shaw and wife Ann greeted parishioners in front of their booth for Adult Faith Formation. The adult classes, which take place between Masses on Sundays, offer discussions on contemporary topics. There is an average of 35 adults in attendance at any given session.

"I am fairly new to the parish and I think this is a fantastic way to go," said Scott Voegele. "I am finally being informed about the opportunities for stewardship within the church."

"This is a great way for new parishioners to get involved," agreed Emily Voegele. "Even our two children are getting a sense of volunteerism."

"The best part of the day's activities is the friendliness and fellowship," said Clifford Barr, a greeter. "The idea is good for recruiting other parishioners to participate and get involved in the parish activities."

**PRAYERS IN THE AIR**

# Greensboro prayer group thrives for three decades

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

GREENSBORO — It was the summer of 1973 when Hannah Hammer received a call from her daughter about a prayer group forming at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. Although wary at first, she decided to give it a try.

"After Msgr. (Hugh) Dolan said Mass, they sat in a circle and prayed for about an hour," recalled Hammer. "I did not pray nor did I sit in the circle. I sat outside and listened. The whole thing seemed a little odd to me ...."

Yet Hammer felt drawn to the group and continued going week after week. She finally asked the purpose of the meetings.

The reply, said Hammer, was, "Only to worship and pray. We have a special devotion to the Holy Spirit."

That devotion has helped the group to thrive for almost 31 years. Eighty-five people attended the group's 30th anniversary in October 2003, including half a dozen of the original prayer group members.

"Almost 31 years — that's a lot of prayers," commented Hammer, who wrote about the group's history for its 30th anniversary celebration.

"Our group is the mother group for prayer groups that meet in other parishes— we've helped others get started," said Hammer. "Almost every year, we have a get-together and invite prayer groups from other parishes."

The St. Pius X group met for 21 years before someone suggested they come up with a name, she said.

"Everyone had a different name. After a lively discussion, we prayed about it for a few minutes and then everyone voted unanimously for the same name: St. Joseph's Intercessors," said Hammer. "This in itself was a miracle."

The Intercessors have met in every Catholic Church in Greensboro through the years, said Hammer, and they picked up some "rules" from the priests who joined them.

"Father (Thomas) Burke told us to stay close to the church, so we have. Father (now Msgr.) Bill Pharr told us to end at 9 p.m., so we do. Father Larry Dunn told us not to limit the prayer time for any reason, so we don't," said Hammer.

Despite the modifications in rules and location, the format of the prayer group has remained consistent and simple, said Hammer. Although they had to omit Mass due to the consideration of priests' schedules, the group still focuses on what they consider their "main work" — prayer.

"We pray for the church, priests, deacons, all religious, those who are ill, wounded and bruised, our country and government," said Hammer. "It is our privilege to pray for any needs that Msgr. Anthony (Marcaccio) or anyone else gives us during the week."

Often the group will have a "soaking prayer" session — they will gather outside the normal meeting time and pray for two hours for one person, one intention. Earlier in the week, more than a dozen people spent two hours praying for a parishioner with cancer.

"It's good to have 14 people stop what they're doing to go and pray for someone they don't necessarily know," said Hammer. "We soaked that person with prayer. We asked God to do a miracle."

Those who attend the weekly gatherings vary in number and purpose, said Hammer. Some come for a spiritual "pick me up," some come when they need prayer for themselves or a loved one.

"We have had hundreds of hurting people of all denominations move through the group," said Hammer. "Everyone is welcome to come and go as they wish."

The "regulars," she said, are there every week.

"Weekly attendees believe intercessory prayer to be an important part of their stewardship ministry," said Hammer. "Prayer develops an intimacy with Jesus. A prayer group is one way to avail yourself of the power that is available."

Pope John Paul II has often stressed the importance of prayer.

"We encounter Our Lord, especially in the liturgy and in personal prayer, as we journey toward that day when we shall see him 'face to face,'" said the pope during his weekly audience at the Vatican April 28.

"We've seen a lot of answered prayers. We have been a part of many wonderful signs and wonders," said Hammer, "but we know that no matter how hard, long and fervently we pray, the results are in the hands of our wise and merciful God."

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WELCOME SMILES

# Down syndrome students visit Pastoral Center, uptown Charlotte

*Pilot program at St. Patrick School produces progress*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — With smiles on their faces, three students moved eagerly through the diocesan Pastoral Center.

"Nice to meet you," said one student, shaking hands with staff members. "My name is Matthew."

Matthew Isley, 13, was joined by Morgan Grier, 17, and Jenna Clayton, 13, all of whom have Down syndrome, a congenital condition characterized by moderate to severe mental retardation.

They are all students in the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom at St. Patrick School. Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, offered the students and their teachers a tour of the Pastoral Center before treating them to lunch in uptown Charlotte.

Kitty Cypert, special-education teacher, and Heleen Hogan, teacher's assistant, joined the students on their tour.

Named for its original students, Matthew and Morgan, the program — now in its second year — teaches basic academic curriculum as well as life skills based on the students' levels of ability.

Cherry was especially impressed with the progress the students have made since joining the program. They were very outgoing and able to interact with adults, such as at the restaurant and on the Gold Rush trolley bus, she said.

"Matthew sat at the front of the bus and greeted everyone who came aboard," said Cherry.

"Since the beginning of the year, there's been a lot of progress especially in social skills," said Cypert. "We've taught them that when they meet people, they should say hello and shake their hands."

Those with Down syndrome often like to hug people, she said.

"Getting them out in the community, teaching them the appropriate skills and hopefully getting the world to accept them — that's what it's all about," said Cypert.

Hogan, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, was influential in instituting the pilot program. She has 17 years of experience working with children, the last 10 of which have been spent with special-needs children.

"The parents and I wanted a Catholic-based education, one with a Christian emphasis including prayer, in a loving atmosphere," explained Hogan.

Both Hogan and Cypert praised the students and faculty of St. Patrick School for their inclusion of Jenna, Matthew and Morgan. Students often assist them in their studies and other classroom work.

"When we go into the lunchroom students always ask Jenna, Morgan and Matthew to sit with them," said Cypert. "They feel very included, and are really happy to be here."

"Catholic education should be for all children, incorporating all types of students into mainstream society," said Angela Montague, principal of St. Patrick School. "They are a part of our community, and we would be lost without them."

*Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Students and staff from the Matthew-Morgan Pilot Classroom at St. Patrick School visited the diocesan Pastoral Center May 13. From left: special-education teacher Kitty Cypert; superintendent Linda Cherry; career day visitor Milea George; student Matthew Isley; Caroline Thomason; student Morgan Grier; teacher's assistant Heleen Hogan; and student Jenna Clayton.

# Taking it to the field

COURTESY PHOTO

Approximately 300 fifth-graders from all the elementary Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools were invited for a Field Day at Charlotte Catholic High School May 10. High school seniors led the fifth-graders in groups through various field activities.

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# Confirmation reinforces baptism

CONFIRMATION, *from page 1*

graders in the Diocese of Charlotte will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit as they receive the third sacrament of initiation: confirmation.

According to Father John Triglio, Jr. and Father Kenneth Brighenti, co-hosts of the EWTN program "Council of Faith," "Confirmation ... builds on what was begun in baptism and what was nourished in holy Eucharist."

"It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community and it matures the soul for the work ahead," said Father Triglio.

Having been gifted with the Holy Spirit, confirmed Catholics are assisted in living their faith with a greater degree of intensity and integrity, said Father James Hawker, vicar of education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"When we talk about the Holy Spirit, we should be sensitive to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Holy Spirit," he said.

One of the premier fruits of the Holy Spirit is peace, said Father Hawker.

"If there is anything we need in our world today, it is internal peace, as well as peace around us and peace in our world."

It is also extremely important, said Father Hawker, to be gifted with the gifts of wisdom, understanding, courage and fortitude in any culture.

***One sacrament, two traditions***

"Confirmation, in one sense, is one of the more intriguing sacraments in the (Catholic) Church," said Father Hawker, "because there have been traditionally two approaches to the celebration of the sacrament."

In the theological approach, which is intended to be the norm, confirmation and communion are received at the same time as baptism. The Eastern Catholic churches celebrate the three sacraments of initiation in this manner.

In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, candidates within the Roman Catholic Church also receive the sacraments together during the Easter Vigil .

"It should be remembered that the sacrament is looked at as being a great gift of God through the Catholic Church," said Father Hawker. "There is no need for the recipient to be aware of having received the sacrament as an infant. His or her response will be manifested as life unfolds."

According to Father Hawker, the second approach — the psychological school — emphasizes that the sacrament should be received after the age of reason (seven years old) or older. Therefore, the recipient of the sacrament is aware of the wonder, gift and grace of the sacrament at the time of baptism.

***A sacrament with a past***

The sacrament of confirmation is, in reality, a reconfirmation of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the person within the community of believers.

"There's no question that the recipient of the grace and the wonder of baptism receives the Holy Spirit at that time," said Father Hawker.

The faith given in baptism is made stronger in confirmation as a Catholic accepts the responsibility for his faith and destiny. The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit give Catholics the courage to practice their faith, according to Father Triglio and Father Brighenti.

Therefore, the sacrament is a reconfirmation of what has happened previously in a person's life, and a tool for living out one's faith in the future.

***Rooted in the birth of the church***

Confirmation is traditionally celebrated near the time of Pentecost, when Catholics celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles as "a great wind and tongues of fire resting on the head of each, and that beautifully symbolizes the church," said Father Hawker.

"We are a community of spirited people, and the Holy Spirit rests on each one of us personally," he said.

"The church has a responsibility to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus," Father Hawker said. "Each one of us has the responsibility to be faithful to the Gospel and to be witnesses of that Gospel and of Jesus Christ."

***A new name***

According to Father Hawker, "The significance of taking a name in confirmation is so that we might be reminded of some person within the tradition of the church who was faithful to the Lord Jesus, to his or her identity as a follower of Jesus and to the mission he or she had within the context of his or her own contemporary situation."

"So the taking of the name of this person reminds us of our calling to be faithful, to be disciples of Jesus just as that person was," he said.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis calls down the Holy Spirit upon Nick Woods, 14, during the confirmation Mass at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont May 17.

**GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

**Traditional, according to Isaiah 11:2-3**
Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel
Fortitude
Knowledge
Piety
Fear of the Lord

**According to Paul; Corinthians 12:8-10**
Expression of wisdom
Expression of knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophecy
Discerning spirits
Speaking in tongues
Interpretation of Tongues

**FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

**Traditional:**
Charity
Joy
Peace
Patience
Benignity
Goodness
Long-suffering
Humility
Fidelity
Modesty
Continence
Chastity

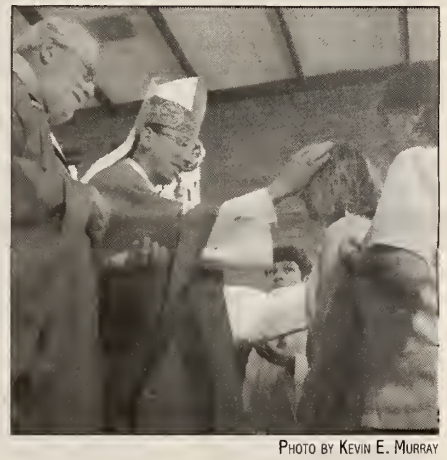

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, watches as Bishop Peter. J. Jugis anoints Cecily Tindall, 14, with chrism oil during the confirmation Mass May 17.

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Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

***Source: The Catholic Source Book***

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# Food and fashion in Salisbury

SALISBURY — St. Ann's Circle, a women's group at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, held a Spring Lunch and Fashion Show May 5.

One hundred women attended the event to honor St. Ann, grandmother of Jesus, preview fashions from Mary Elizabeth's of Salisbury, and enjoy food prepared by chefs Mary Frances Roueche and Angie Mooney.

Roueche received an award for outstanding leadership in guiding the event to completion. Charlotte Taylor received an award for marketing and selling tickets to the affair.

Female students from Sacred Heart School donned white aprons to serve ice tea during the luncheon. Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, was the only man allowed at the "girls-only" event to accept a check for the new church building fund.

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of St. Ann's Circle, a woman's group at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, enjoy food and fun at their Spring Lunch and Fashion Show May 5. One hundred women and one man, Father John Putnam, attended the event.

# Asheville resident earns distinguised graduate award

ASHEVILLE — Donald Hathaway, a parishioner of St. Eugene Church in Asheville, was the recipient of the 2004 Distinguished Graduate Award from St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven, Ind., presented May 2.

The award is presented by the elementary school board in conjunction with the National Catholic Education Association to alumni who distinguish themselves as outstanding Catholic citizens.

After graduating St. John the Baptist school in 1944, Hathaway earned Bachelor of Science degrees, both in geology, from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind., and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Now an Asheville business owner, Hathaway earned the award by attaining national prominence as a geologist. He spent years in exploration and has had his findings published in numerous geological and scientific journals.

Donald Hathaway

He also has spent time lecturing high school and college students about geology and the opportunities of a career in science.

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# Catholics, Muslims work together on peaceful values

*Intifada impacts schools, patriarchate determined to go on*

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BEIT JALLA, West Bank — Schools in the Latin-rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem provide Islamic as well as Christian religious instruction in an effort to help educate all their students, a schools official said.

"Our schools are an opportunity to give (Muslims) an insight into our values. We don't want them to become Christian, but we want to spread our peaceful values in a world where peaceful values are not accepted," said Father Majdi al-Siryani, director of the patriarchate schools in the Palestinian territories.

"We ... need to educate them in their religion. We make sure they get the right teachings; otherwise, someone else will teach them the wrong Muslim teachings," he said.

The Latin Patriarchate parish schools have come a long way since being founded 150 years ago in the Holy Land with a handful of students and a group of determined priests.

Father al-Siryani said in those days it was difficult to recruit students, because families needed their sons to work.

"The schools were established mostly in remote villages where schools didn't exist," said Father al-Siryani.

***Growing together***

Today the patriarchate runs 41 schools — including 30 high schools — in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories. The schools have 20,000 students and 15,000 teachers and staff, he said.

Father al-Siryani said the main mission of the schools is to teach catechism to Catholic children. The schools also serve as a way of helping the Muslim community get to know the Christians since many students are Muslim, he said.

The patriarchate aims to maintain the Christian character of the schools even when Christian students are in the minority, he said. The parish priest is always director of the school, parish nuns are always involved in some way, and many of the teachers are Christian.

Until the outbreak of the intifada, Father al-Siryani was responsible for the patriarchate schools in Israel, but the closures and Israeli checkpoints have made travel difficult and time-consuming. Now, schools in Israel are overseen by a priest in northern Israel.

The schools' students normally reflect the religious ratio of their communities. The school in Beit Sahour is 90 percent Christian and 10 percent Muslim; the school in Nablus is the opposite.

In the village of Aboud, most of the students are Muslim, Father al-Siryani said. School officials are hoping to expand the school into a high school, he added.

In Jifna, the parish elementary school is the only school. One-third of the students are Muslim, many from a neighboring refugee camp, said Father Rick van de Water, the parish priest.

"There are a lot of children from the refugee camp in the school, and it is one main way we establish good relations with the people around us," Father van de Water said.

Alumni from the Latin Patriarchate schools include Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Suha Arafat was raised Greek Orthodox and converted to Islam to marry Yasser Arafat.

Other alumni are political and religious leaders, including Ramallah Mayor Ayoub Rabah, a Catholic; Parliament member Razi Hanania; and Lutheran Bishop Mounib Younan.

"It helped build my personality," said Rabah, who graduated in 1964. "Compared to the others schools in Ramallah at the time, it was one of the best in town. It helped me prepare for college."

***Intifada impact***

Last year, because of dwindling enrollment in some schools due to emigration and the checkpoints, the patriarchate laid off 100 teachers and will lay off another 20 teachers at the end of this school year, said Father al-Siryani.

The Nablus school has seen its enrollment slashed in half from 800 to 400 because of all the intifada-related issues, Father al-Siryani said.

Aside from the decline in enrollment, many families cannot afford to pay the $150 annual tuition; the cost to the school is $789 per student, Father al-Siryani said.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

**Nida Hijazi listens to Muslim student Firas Wahsh read from the Quran in a classroom of a parish school in Beit Jalla, West Bank.**

Many Palestinian communities have unemployment rates of at least 70 percent, so the patriarchate has to scramble to find supporters. Funding comes from the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, the Vatican and other sources.

Some schools were in danger of closing because of a lack of resources, Father al-Siryani said.

"We still have to be there and educate them. If we don't assume this responsibility, nobody will," he said.

***Educating the masses***

The patriarchate schools in Israel and Jordan function under a more normal situation, he said.

"In Israel it is different; their life is just about normal; they don't have the financial problems we have. Most schools are subsidized by the (Israeli) government, and the (Israeli) Ministry of Education follows up on the schools. Here we don't have government follow-up, we have curfews," Father al-Siryani said.

The first schools were established in the West Bank between 1854 and 1858. A photograph from 1870 shows the Beit Sahour parish priest, Father Jean Moretain, in a school picture with his four students.

In 1866, the patriarchate decided to allow girls at a school in Jordan, but it was not easy to get girls to enroll, Father al-Siryani said.

"The parents believed education was not good for the girls; they would learn how to write romantic letters," he said. "It took some time (to catch on) in the remote villages; they were Bedouin communities. It was not an easy job to direct a school."

# Dialogue, respect key to relations with migrants, Muslims, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II said dialogue and respect must underpin Catholics' relations with immigrants, especially Muslims.

It is vital "to approach all cultures with a respectful attitude in which one is aware that he doesn't just have something to say and offer, but also much to listen to and receive," he said.

The pope made his remarks May 18 to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers during its May 17-19 plenary meeting at the Vatican.

"In every culture, an approach can be found to the mystery of mankind even in its religious dimension and that explains, as the Second Vatican Council affirmed, why some facets of truth are found even outside the revealed (Christian) message," he said.

But integrating people of different cultures and religions is "never without unforeseen events or difficulties," especially when it comes to Muslim immigrants "who pose specific problems," said the pope.

"Fraternal dialogue and reciprocal respect are never a limit or hindrance in proclaiming the Gospel. Rather, love and welcoming constitute the first and most effective form of evangelization," he said.

Priests must take the lead in helping the faithful pay authentic Christian witness to their Muslim brothers and sisters, the pope said.

"It is, therefore, necessary that individual churches open up to welcoming (these newcomers) even with pastoral initiatives aimed at meeting and dialogue, but above all helping the faithful overcome prejudices" and teaching them to be missionaries at home, he said.

The pope said respect for all cultures is not just necessary because communities are more ethnically diverse than before, but also because such respect "is necessary so that the Gospel message can reach all people."

He said globalization makes it necessary to more actively engage in cultural exchange and interreligious dialogue.

""Social integration and cultural interaction have become a necessary prerequisite for peoples and nations to live together in true peace," he said.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## In new book, pope wonders if he has been strict enough as a leader

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — In a new autobiographical book, Pope John Paul II says he thinks he may have been too lenient as a pastor.

"The pastor's role also includes admonishing. I think that, in this category, I have perhaps done too little," the pope wrote in "Get Up, Let Us Go," a book distributed in Italian and other languages May 17.

"There's always a problem of balance between authority and service. Perhaps I should rebuke myself for not having tried hard enough to command," the pope said.

"In a certain sense, that's a result of my temperament," he added.

The book reviews his 20 years as a bishop in Poland and includes reflections on activities following his election as pope in 1978. An English edition was expected to be published in coming months.

The pope reflected on his authoritarian shortcomings in a chapter that recalled his ordination as bishop in 1958. He said how to wield episcopal authority is a question faced by every bishop.

All bishops try to keep Christ as a model, who spoke in terms of serving his flock and not ordering them around, he said.

"Naturally, authority belongs to the bishop, but a lot depends on how it is exercised. It the bishop depends too much on authority, people think that he only knows how to command," the pope said.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A nun passes a shop window displaying a new book by Pope John Paul in Rome May 18. "Get Up, Let Us Go" focuses on his 20 years as a bishop in Poland.

"A certain balance is needed. If a bishop says: 'Here I alone command,' or 'I'm only here to serve,' something is missing. He should serve by governing and govern by serving," he said.

The pope said that, despite his temperament, he had tried to strike that balance over the years.

"Notwithstanding the inner resistance I felt in reprimanding, I think I made all the necessary decisions," he said.

He said that in discussing important issues, he always liked to ask two questions of his collaborators: What truth of faith sheds light on this problem, and who can we find to help us?

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 30, 2004

## *May 30, Pentecost Sunday*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-30, 31, 34
2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
3) Gospel: John 20:19-23

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Paul and Shirley live in the country between a small city and Appalachia — close enough to both to have a foot in each. Paul is a retired forester, and their house is on the edge of the national forest where he worked for many years. He knows the region and its people very well.

Paul's neighbor Pearl is an 86-year-old mountain woman who still prefers the Spartan life she's always lived, with no electricity or running water in her house. She chops wood for heat and daily carries in water from a well.

Paul sometimes helps with her harder chores, but when he noticed she needed some big repairs she could neither afford nor do herself, he asked his parish youth group to help.

The ensuing project was a perfect model of Pentecost — the Holy Spirit of God working through a community with a power and effectiveness greater than the sum of its parts.

On an early fall morning, 20 sleepy teenagers arrived with 10 accompanying adults and assembled on the dewy grass in Pearl's front yard. Their youth minister, wondering how the rag-tag group possibly could accomplish the daunting array of tasks Paul had planned, gave a pep talk and prayed for the Spirit's guidance.

One could almost see the tongues of spiritual fire parting as Paul divided the youths into small crews and instructed them.

Throughout the morning Pearl talked with her helpers as they worked together, sharing tools, jokes, water and a glorious day.

Within five hours they had painted three outbuildings, screened in her back porch, replaced a door, painted her front porch, replaced all her gutters, trimmed her trees, cut a winter's worth of firewood and built a crib to hold it.

Also established, as the Spirit naturally will, was a bond of love and care. As they finished the lunch that Shirley provided, Pearl told them, "You are all my family." Hugs — the sign of peace.

That's the message of Pentecost — God working as community. One God but one with the Son, one with the Holy Spirit and one with us, God's people. God's Spirit is poured out on each one and gathers strength as we join together to breathe life and love into the world.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 23 - MAY 29**

**Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter),** Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday,** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday,** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday,** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday,** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 30 - JUNE 5**

**Sunday (Pentecost Sunday),** Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday (The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Tuesday,** 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter),** 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions),** 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday,** 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday (St. Boniface),** 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:38-44

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# Return of the ogre

CNS PHOTO FROM DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Shrek, the big green ogre, appears in a scene from the computer-animated comedy "Shrek 2."

# 'Shrek' sequel is solid summer fun

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Everyone's favorite green ogre is back in "Shrek 2," the whimsical sequel to 2001's smash storybook send-up.

Dishing out the same blend of clever pop culture references and double-layered dialogue as the original, the film is an enchanting animated fairy tale farce that should leave viewers feeling happily ever after.

The new film opens with Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) honeymooning with his new ogre bride, Fiona (voiced by Cameron Diaz), the not-so-fair princess whose hand — and heart — he had won in the original.

Returning home to their swamp love nest, the newlyweds receive an invitation to visit Fiona's parents (voiced by John Cleese and Julie Andrews), the king and queen of the comically coined kingdom, Far Far Away.

Against Shrek's better judgment, the lovers set off, with Shrek's jive-talking burro buddy, Donkey (voiced by Eddie Murphy), tagging along for the ride.

As feared, the joyous homecoming turns sour when the royals catch sight of their ogrefied daughter and new ogre-in-law son.

Apparently, Fiona was supposed to have been rescued by Prince Charming (voiced by Rupert Everett), a narcissistic ninny whose kiss would have returned her beauty by breaking the curse which keeps Fiona in her troll-like state. Instead, Shrek beat him to the smooch.

In an effort to write his own storybook ending, the king, in cahoots with a scheming Fairy Godmother (voiced by Jennifer Saunders), hatches a plot to undo Shrek and Fiona's chances of living happily ever after.

"Shrek 2" raises the bar for cutting-edge computer animation set by its predecessor. But it is the actors' voices that truly bring the cartoon confections to life, especially the returning trio of Myers, Diaz and Murphy.

Joining the cast is Antonio Banderas as Puss-and-Boots, a Zorro-like feline who, without letting the cat out of the bag, serves as a cat-alyst for much of the make-believe mischief.

With its welcome mix of adventure, romance and satire, "Shrek 2" echoes both the wit and charm, if not the freshness, of the original — a rare achievement in the world of sequels. The film is driven by an irreverence that spoofs and subverts the very fairy tale conventions it celebrates; fairy godmothers used to grant happy endings, not try to sabotage them.

The wall-to-wall humor will keep young viewers laughing, with the bawdier zingers above their heads. Adults will also have fun spotting the parodies of both current and classic Hollywood fare, including an amusing takeoff of the famous surf-and-sand kiss in "From Here to Eternity."

And while the follow-up's message of self-acceptance is somewhat recycled from the earlier installment, it is one well worth repeating, especially in our superficial society which puts such a premium on surface appearance at the exclusion of inner worth.

This is one summer movie that will cast a spell over young and old alike and should leave the competition green with envy.

Due to some mildly crude and suggestive humor, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

*DiCerto is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Pope, at audience, says God's mercy breaks cycle of sin, punishment

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In God the human cycle of sin and punishment is replaced by a cycle of sin and forgiveness that gives a sense of peace and hope to believers, Pope John Paul II said.

"God is not indifferent to the evil perpetrated by his creatures because he is the guardian of justice and truth," the pope said May 19 during his weekly general audience.

Some 15,000 pilgrims from around the world gathered with the pope in St. Peter's Square to hear his reflections on Psalm 32 and to continue offering him best wishes for his 84th birthday, which was May 18.

A small group of Polish war veterans who had fought at Monte Cassino, Italy, during World War II were present for the audience.

The battle, in which 860 Polish soldiers died and some 2,800 Poles were injured, "opened the way for the Allies to reach Rome," the pope told the veterans.

"This has become a symbol of the noblest values of the Polish spirit and, especially, of the courage and readiness to give one's life 'for our freedom and theirs,'" the pope said.

"After the end of the war, Poland had to wait a long time before this hope was fulfilled," he said, referring to the years of communist domination.

"Today, however, we can thank God for the great grace which is the freedom of the Polish people. It is a gift and a task for today's generation," he said, praying that the Polish people would cultivate their freedom in love and respect for their traditional moral values.

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE
JOHN PAUL II

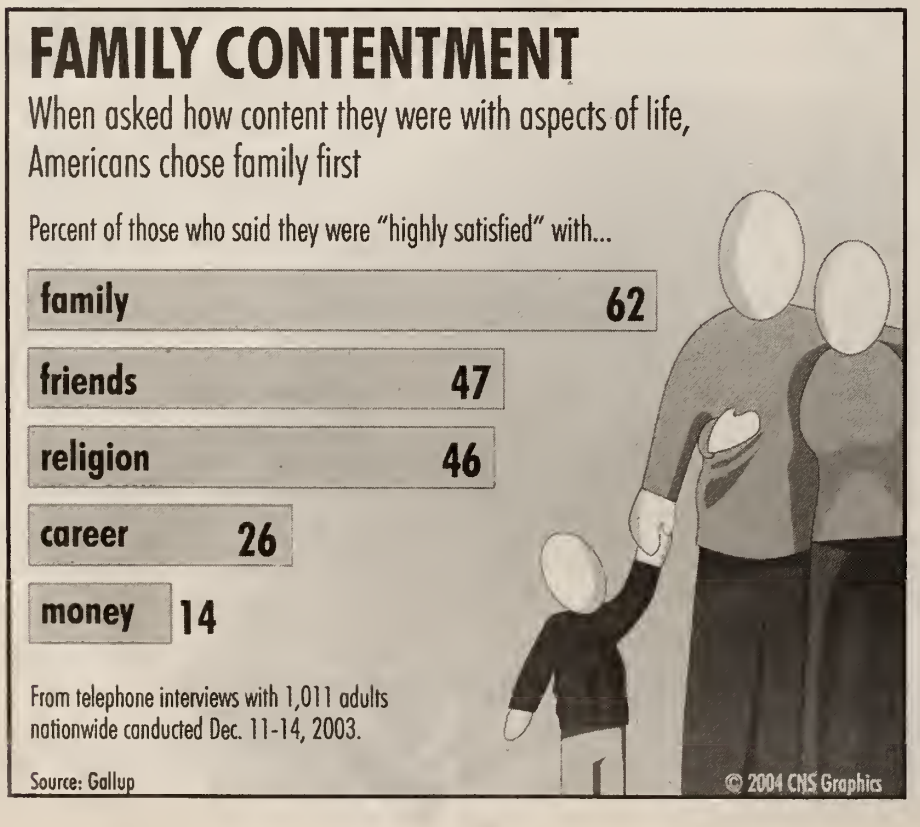
In his main audience talk, the pope said Psalm 32 is a hymn of praise to God for his mercy and willingness to forgive.

The psalmist initially lacks the courage to acknowledge his errors, but when he finally says, "I confess my faults to the Lord," God responds "immediately with generous forgiveness" and the sinner is filled with peace, the pope said.

When Catholics approach the sacrament of confession, he said, the same thing occurs.

In the sacrament, the pope said, "one experiences an awareness of sin — frequently obscured in our day — together with the joy of forgiveness."

"The strict logic of sin-punishment has been replaced, through God's grace, by the joyful reality of sin-forgiveness," Pope John Paul said.




## A story missed

*Confronting evil with love is a story worth covering*

**Catholics & the Media**

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

The old slogan, "no news is good news," is appropriate when you are waiting for a jury verdict or for the IRS to ask you questions about your tax return. But a situation in Asheville over a recent weekend unfortunately shows that the opposite is also true, "Good news is no news."

The good news is how a group of churches in Asheville reacted to a recent demonstration outside their doors as Sunday services were starting. Six churches, including St. Eugene Church, were picketed by a group call "God Hates Fags" (GHF).

GHF is the deluded battle cry of a group of people from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan. After visiting the group's Web site, it's difficult to describe them as a church, which is a place of love and worship, or as Baptists, who in my experience are people who love the Lord deeply and demonstrate their faith with countless acts of witness and charity.

To show how little connection the picketers have with mainline Baptists, one of the churches where picketers showed up was the First Baptist Church of Asheville. Other denominations targeted by the group included Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist.

GHF travels the country picketing churches, schools and any organization that has anything positive or nurturing involving homosexuals. The Asheville churches were targeted because of outreach programs that minister to the gay community.

The demonstration, if you can call it that, consisted of a few people who got out of a car, marched outside St. Eugene Church for a few minutes and then left. One television station, WLOS, did a story on the gathering, quoting both the demonstrators and the churchgoers in equal measure. This is the standard journalistic approach that presents both sides of a story and lets readers or viewers decide about the message. Other than that, there was no coverage.

At first blush, it would look like a wacko fringe group got the lack of coverage that its strange ideas deserve. And maybe that's OK. But there was a far more compelling story that occurred in response to GHF — a story of interfaith cooperation that exemplifies the biblical call to turn the other cheek and to love your brother.

Here's what happened upon learning of the impending demonstration. The six churches that were targeted for picketing got together and wrote a letter to their parishioners responding to the demonstration. The letter, much of which was written by Father Frank Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church, is a model of ecumenism and a faith-based response to an adversarial event. It was evident in the news quotes from the people who walked past the protestors on their way into Sunday service that the message in the pastor's letter got through.

"We, the pastors of the six churches targeted for protest here in Asheville, have come together to show our solidarity in the faith," the letter states. It goes on to say that "hate can never be used as a means to describe the actions of God in relation to people."

That's a polite way of saying that the loathsome slogan, "God Hates Fags," is a contradiction, since God is a being filled only with love. God's love is the basic message of every Mass and service celebrated at Christian churches. We hear this message in the pews over and over; seeing it in action in response to a hate group is further proof of the spirit of God's love.

Newsrooms take note: confronting evil and hatred with love and good will is a story worth covering.

The pastor's letter ends by inviting "all people of faith and good will to pray with us as we gather peacefully in prayer and song, as every Sunday, with our congregations."

Amen.

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, and pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

# The story of a family

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

When Amy Biancolli, an enthusiastic college student, came into my office one day back in the early 1980s, I had no way of knowing this would be the beginning of a friendship I forever shall cherish.

I was editor of a Connecticut newspaper, and she was a college student asking if she could be an intern reporter. How could I refuse someone so enthusiastic, already committed to this profession? Her father, Louis Biancolli, after all, had been music critic for the World Telegram and Sun, a much respected New York newspaper, for some 40 years.

What I could not have known that day was how connected I was to become to Amy and her family — especially her mother, Jeanne Mitchell, the renowned violinist of the '50s, and her sister Lucy, with striking violet-blue eyes and fingers that made everything she touched, be it a grand piano or typesetter keys, send a perfect offering into the world.

But my lifelong connection to Amy and her family is not because of their incredible talents. It is because of the love and faith we shared (all the Biancollis were converts to the Catholic Church), the pain we endured together and the blessings we acknowledge.

As Amy developed into an outstanding writer, accepted into the Columbia School of Journalism, I got to know her mother and her sister very well. Her mother and I had become instant sisters in our faith and our motherhood. We were united in pain, as we both faced parallel illnesses that afflicted her daughter Lucy and my son Peter, both of whom had contemplated suicide. We had high hopes for their progress in health, but their beautiful brains gave out.

A year after Peter's suicide, Lucy killed herself.

Unbelievably, Amy, newly married, was all too soon to face the deaths of her father and, not too long after, her mother. Jeanne's death was a blow to me for she had become my best friend as we supported each other after the suicides of our beloved children.

This month I received a gift from Amy, now a mother of three — a book she has written about her loss, being the only survivor of her family, lovingly titled "House of Holy Fools: A Family Portrait in Six Cracked Parts." She said she wrote the book for her children so that they will know her sister and parents through her words, memories and pictures framed with love.

I read Amy's book the week after I came home from burying my son Sterling, my third son to die. I was so moved. Her pain was my pain, too, especially her words that no one knows better than the living the excruciating pains of death.

She writes: "I know where to find [my loved ones] because I find them in myself.... I love them still; and still, forever leaving, they remain."

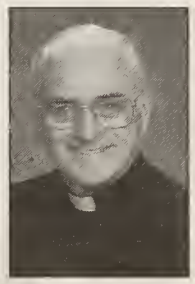
Amy writes about the tragedy of Lucy's suicide, and my heart was pierced again: "Suicide is always senseless because the suffering that leads to it makes no sense at all.... Only God knows why Lucy had to kill herself; only God knows why her brain waged war against her."

This memoir by a daughter of a family that loved music, laughter and joy so much is a memorable love story. Amy Biancolli writes of them and speaks only of blessings — especially of her own conversion to the Catholic faith, which has led her to say, "I was given so much. I can't doubt anything in my life."

# Importance of church unity

## Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



The word "inculturation" refers to the way different cultures around the world affect our Catholic faith. There is need for dialogue in each country where serious differences exist. Those devoted to protecting the faith are usually at odds with those defending local customs.

Pope John Paul II offered these criteria for true inculturation:

—The teaching must always be compatible with the Gospel, and the teacher must always be in communion with the universal church.

—Accepting the morality of each culture can damage the integrity of the faith. It can also shatter the universal church's unity.

"We Americans, like others, tend to assume that the church should govern herself by the processes to which we are accustomed in our political and industrial life," said Cardinal Avery Dulles. "The Catholic Church has thus far remained resistant to such absorption. Her stable traditions and worldwide organization enable her to be in some respects counterculture, and to speak out against certain values and practices that are generally accepted in the secular culture."

At what point does the church refuse to be absorbed by the secular culture? How are Catholics supposed to remain ecumenical in these circumstances?

Is it a matter of reaching agreements through compromise or a process of mutual enrichment where each Christian church offers something in the interest of church unity? The Catholic Church offers the papacy as a symbol of universal unity and as a faithful defender of doctrinal integrity against the popular culture. This is an exceedingly important point.

In the recent controversy over gay and lesbian marriages, we know these are our brothers and sisters in Christ. As Americans, they deserve to be treated as equal citizens under the law.

Vatican II's Declaration of Religious Freedom teaches us that "the human person has a right to religious freedom. This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups, and of any human power.... No one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his religious beliefs."

But as a group they can't redefine the church's traditional teaching on the sacrament of matrimony.

There are principles at stake, and they cannot be tossed aside in the name of peace.

# Teens and their first jobs

*Hard work, but earned pride*

## Coming of Age

KASE JOHNSTUN
CNS COLUMNIST

I've mentioned in previous columns how my first jobs taught me so much about working with people, being responsible and having a good time while working. But I failed to mention something else: cash.

Those jobs provided cash for my social life — cash for gas, cash for movies, cash for clothes, cash for cash — relieving my parents of the expense.

First jobs are not glamorous. They are not cushy. They do not provide health benefits, and they usually do not boast titles such as "executive director." First jobs do not pave the way to an illustrious career once you depart their doors. I made shakes. I scrubbed cars. I got dirty.

These jobs were not the world's best. Standing on blacktop, baking in the more than 100-degree weather, waiting for a car to come out to wipe down, then waiting again for the customer to complain about the job I had done and walk away without tipping, is not fabulous. Many times I hated my first jobs and loathed going to work to get bossed around by an uptight manager: "Mop the floor, clean the ashtray and clean the grill."

High school or junior high students have — and had — no experience to land a nice office job with a computer, the Internet, e-mail and paid vacation. So, we need to push those ideas straight out the office door of our heads.

Talking with a young man recently, I heard something fly from his mouth I couldn't believe. "I want an office job from 3 to 5 in the afternoon and will work around my practice."

I thought, sure, there are a lot of good positions for teens in telemarketing, and they pay pretty good money.

"I don't want to do telemarketing. I want a real job," he added.

At this point I had to burst his bubble. He was above fast food. He was above car washing. He was above manual labor. I told him, "Good luck."

There is nothing wrong with fast-food jobs or manual-labor jobs. They are very respectable and honorable. The paychecks from these jobs buy the same clothes as office jobs.

First jobs are just that, first jobs, and they offer one important thing that teens need: cash. They also offer the many issues and responsibilities that go along with having $20 in your pocket from serving people slaw on Saturday night or $40 from filling gas tanks Friday afternoon. With the money come many things, including budgeting skills and bank account management, both important skills to learn young.

But the most important thing that comes from holding $50 in your hand from working late into the night on Thursday — when everyone else is at the game — is pride. This is not the pride that hurts people or takes from others. It is not the pride that gloats. It is not the pride that makes your head expand to a point that makes it difficult to fit it through the door.

It is the pride that gives a little upbeat step as you leave your work knowing that your first job is a pain but that you mopped the floor or filled the drink or built a solid frame the best that you could. Then with cash in pocket you have more freedom to buy the extra hamburger without worrying about giving your parents the change at the end of the night.

That's nice, and it's worth it.

# St. Benedict the Moor Church helped shape Winston-Salem Vicariate landscape

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Benedict the Moor Church was established in 1940 to serve the spiritual needs of Winston-Salem Catholics.

**St. Benedict the Moor Church**
1625 East 12th Street
Winston-Salem, N.C.
(336) 725-9200

**Vicariate:** Winston-Salem
**Pastor:** Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt
**Pastoral Associate:** Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams
**Number of Families:** 160

Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt

WINSTON-SALEM — The parish of St. Benedict the Moor was established in 1940 to serve the spiritual needs of Winston-Salem Catholics. Now one of four Winston-Salem parishes, it has helped shape the Catholic landscape in the Winston-Salem Vicariate.

Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh established St. Benedict the Moor Church in response to the needs of African-American Catholics living in the Winston-Salem area. Placing it under the direction of the Franciscans, the bishop welcomed Franciscan Father Ronald Scott as the founding pastor.

About a dozen local African-American Catholics made up the original parish family. The first Masses were celebrated in the home of a lawyer, Hosea Price, and his wife. Working closely with Father Scott, parishioners began searching for a site on which to build a church. Property for that church, along with a parish hall and rectory, was purchased in April 1940 from a bishop of the AME Zion Church. The site is that of the present St. Benedict the Moor Church.

As construction proceeded, the congregation continued gathering for Mass at the Price home and, in November 1940, in a local funeral home. Bishop McGuinness dedicated the new church the following year.

Father Scott continued as pastor, and in August 1943 he welcomed an associate pastor to assist in developing the parish. Parishioners found spiritual and social opportunities in a number of parish groups and organizations, including the Legion of Mary, Third Order of St. Francis, St. Monica's Guild and St. Benedict's Men's Club.

To enhance the educational aspect of the faith, the Sisters of St. Francis of Allegany, N.Y., arrived in Winston-Salem, and in early September 1946 opened St. Anne Academy. Later that month, Bishop Joseph Waters of Raleigh dedicated the academy, a convent and a residence for girls.

In September 1950, the Sisters of St. Francis helped found a parish grammar school, enrolling 116 students in its first year. In addition to education and spiritual nourishment, the school also turned out championship basketball teams throughout the 1950s, '60s and '70s. The school continued operation until 1979.

St. Benedict the Moor Church assumed responsibility for its first mission, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in downtown Winston-Salem, in 1969. The following year, the Catholic community to the east in Kernersville became a mission of St. Benedict the Moor Church and continued as such until 1973. Catholics to the north in King were also ministered to by St. Benedict the Moor clergy. That community, now known as Good Shepherd Church, remains a mission of St. Benedict the Moor Church, while Our Lady of Fatima Chapel is now a mission of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem. The Kernersville congregation was given parish status in 1973, when Holy Cross Church was founded.

St. Benedict the Moor parishioners observed the 50th anniversary of their church in November 1990 with a Mass celebrated by then-Bishop (now Archbishop of Atlanta) John F. Donoghue. Among the concelebrants were Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt, pastor; and Father Francis O'Rourke and Father Thomas Gaunt, former pastors.

Parish formation continued through the 1990s under the pastorate of Father Hunt, who has served at St. Benedict the Moor Church since 1990. Parishioners continue to be involved in an active prayer group, altar servers group, youth group, religious education, choir and a variety of commissions.

The parish also places a high priority on community involvement. Local groups and efforts such as the Crisis Control ministry, Red Cross donor program and Samaritan Soup Kitchen have benefited from St. Benedict the Moor parishioner support. The church building is host to Narcotics Anonymous and Community Watch meetings.

Parishioners are also actively involved with the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. Several parishioners joined members of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte for a heritage pilgrimage to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. in May 2004.

The parish family of St. Benedict the Moor celebrated the church's 60th anniversary with a retreat, spring picnic, fall festival and a dinner celebration for 150 parishioners in December 2000.

In the past year, the Community Knowledge Center was established at the church. Sponsored by Winston-Salem State University, the center features 10 computers and offers classes for senior citizens, tutoring for middle-school students and a tax-filing service for Hispanics.

As pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Good Shepherd Church in King, Father Hunt ministers to hundreds of Catholics in Forsyth and Stokes counties.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MAY 28, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 34

**Parish Profile:**

**Christ the King Church celebrates diversity, unity of Catholic faith**

| PAGE 16

BRINGING TWO WORLDS TOGETHER

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sister Pat Beyrau wraps Tyler Anthony in a traditional Kenyan cloth as part of her presentation to students of Our Lady of the Assumption School May 20. Through their "OLA Builds a School in Africa" project, students collected $1,700 to help furnish rural schools in Kenya.

# Charlotte students raise money for African schools

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When fifth-grader Hunter Smith took over as the student council president of Our Lady of the Assumption School last September, she dreamed of helping other schoolchildren.

So she paid a visit to her principal, Patricia Murphy.

"Hunter approached me with the idea of collecting donations to help children in Africa," said Murphy.

Into the picture came Caroline Glickman, whose sister is a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. For the past 18 months, Sister Pat Beyrau has worked with three other Daughters of Charity to build and equip schools in West Pokot, a re-

See AFRICA, page 5

# Southern bishops call for prison alternatives

*Catholic leaders issue fourth criminal justice statement*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MARTIN, Ky. — The fourth in a series of criminal justice statements from the Catholic bishops of Southern states calls for alternatives to incarceration to be used whenever possible.

"Prisons, like wars, are public admissions of defeat for humanity," said the statement: "'I Have Come to Heal ...' Restorative Justice."

Alternatives to imprisonment "must be searched for and implemented," it said, explaining that the criminal justice system was created in the face of violence, as a way to provide public safety.

The statement issued in April is part of a planned six-part series on criminal justice issues from the bishops of 12 Southern states.

See PRISON, page 13

# U.S. prelate wonders why no one heeded warnings of torture

*Cardinal says early support produced no outcry*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — More than a year ago, U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford warned that the "war on terrorism" was leading to implicit acceptance of torture

See TORTURE, page 9

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

An Iraqi woman waits to learn about a relative held at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad May 11.

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**Under the Sea**
*Student mural adds ocean view to BMCHS*
| PAGE 7

**These kids have kick**
*Catholic siblings among top karate experts*
| PAGE 8

**Perspectives**
*Sacramentally confessing a crime; happiness is a choice*
| PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## HONORING HEROES

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

A quote from President Harry S. Truman appears on a granite wall at the new National World War II Memorial in Washington May 19. The memorial, which will be formally dedicated May 29, is located between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall. Its design and features pay tribute to the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who died in the war.

# Catholic World War II vets on new memorial: It's about time

WASHINGTON (CNS) — World War II veterans say it's about time a memorial honoring their service and that of their fallen comrades be built.

After years of wrangling over its design and the site for it, the memorial will be dedicated May 29. The structure lies east of the Reflecting Pool in the shadow of the Washington Monument on the National Mall.

Three Catholic veterans of the war residing at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington hoped to attend the dedication.

"It's about time" for a monument, said Jewell Miggins, 80, who served stateside in the Women's Army Corps in Illinois while her late husband fought in the Pacific theater.

Joseph Kuhar, 87, served in Europe in the Special Service unit of the armed forces that mounted entertainment for the troops. Performers he worked with included Marlene Dietrich, Dinah Shore, Eddie Cantor and Mickey Rooney.

Kuhar's job wasn't cushy. Soldiers received five points for every battle they were in, and one point for every area they were in where there was fighting. Kuhar received 65 points before he left the Special Service unit.

He said he remembered how chaplains would offer Mass in Europe to meet soldiers' hunger for the divine.

"We'd come from four miles around at night to see Father say Mass in the back of a Jeep if we had to," he noted.

"I think it should have been built a long time ago," Kuhar said of the memorial.

Robert Cooper, 81, stayed out of combat as a Navy mechanic fixing airplanes, first in Florida and then at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"I never had a shot fired at me," he said, but "I saw plenty of dying — 21 people in one day in Pensacola," Cooper said. "I lost a number of fairly good friends" in crashes during training exercises.

Cooper learned about the Catholic faith from a priest, a Navy chaplain, while stationed in Florida. He became a Catholic in 1949.

The memorial, built on a new plaza on the Mall, features 24 bas relief panels depicting America's war years. Two 43-foot arches serve as markers on the memorial's north and south ends. Each state, the District of Columbia, and every U.S. territory at that time will be represented by a 17-foot granite pillar — 56 in all — to symbolize national unity during World War II.

# Missouri to vote on constitutional amendment to define marriage

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Catholic officials in Missouri will support a proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

Missourians will vote on the proposed amendment at either the August primary election or the November general election.

"This is not a vote against people who are homosexual," said Rev. Mr. Larry Weber, executive director of the Missouri Catholic Conference, which lobbies the state General Assembly.

"It is a vote in favor of preserving the traditional family unit in this state. Families are and always have been the foundation of our society. We believe that without stable families, our society will collapse," he said.

State law already defines marriage as existing only between one man and one woman. A constitutional amendment would prevent state courts or lawmakers from striking down that law.

"Marriage between persons of the same sex, and full faith and credit of that marital status entered into in another state, will not be recognized as marriage in Missouri," the bill said.

Missouri's Catholic bishops wrote and urged lawmakers to send to the voters a constitutional amendment defining marriage.

"If our laws redefine marriage to include same-sex unions, then marriage simply becomes a menu for choosing a variety of relationships," the bishops said. "If that is all marriage is, then there is no reason why polygamy and other relationships cannot be added along with same-sex unions to the banner of 'marriage.'"

"Our laws can uphold traditional marriage or they can attempt to validate a variety of sexual relationships, but they cannot do both," the bishops said.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will meet June 9 at 10:30 a.m. with entertainment and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Lucille Kroboth at (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT— To mark 10 years of *perpetual Eucharistic adoration* at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass June 13 at 3 p.m. with a Corpus Christi procession and blessing of the sick. All are welcome to attend. Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, will be master of ceremonies. For more information call (336) 886-2444.

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic High School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug. 14, 2004. For more information, call Nicholas Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mail nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentle Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low-impact aerobic workout. For more information, call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Parents obligated to control what children see in media, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parents have a serious obligation to control what their children are allowed to watch or see on television, at the movies and on the Internet, Pope John Paul II said.

But government authorities also have a duty to ensure that the media, especially those using public airwaves to communicate, "are always respectful of the truth and the common good," the pope said.

Pope John Paul spoke about the media during his midday "Regina Coeli" address May 23, the church's World Communications Day.

The pope said the church looks toward communications professionals "with attention, kindness and a desire to establish with them a frank and open dialogue in order to encourage a commitment on behalf of the authentic progress of humanity."

Pope John Paul said the media offer individuals and families "the vast resources of communication and information" that can contribute to "education, cultural enrichment and spiritual growth."

But the media also can cause "serious damage to the family when they present an inadequate or even distorted vision of life, of the family itself, of religion and of morality," he said.

"Therefore, one must learn to use them with wisdom and prudence," the pope said.

# Pope pleads for interreligious effort for Middle East peace

ROME (CNS) — As Rome's Jewish community celebrated the 100th anniversary of its monumental synagogue, Pope John Paul II pleaded for new interreligious efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

"The God of justice and peace, of mercy and reconciliation calls us to collaborate without hesitation in our modern world, which is lacerated by confrontations and hostility," the pope wrote to the community.

The pope's message was read at the May 23 anniversary celebration, which the city's Jewish community marked by renewing its commitment to dialogue with Christians and Muslims.

The synagogue, built between 1901 and 1904, replaced the five small synagogues of Rome's Jewish ghetto, where the city's Jews were forced by papal order to live beginning in 1556.

When the pope visited the synagogue in 1986, it was considered a breakthrough gesture that did much to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Christianity and Judaism. It was the first time a modern pope had entered a synagogue.

Pope John Paul recalled the church's condemnation of anti-Semitism and its request for forgiveness for the times when church members have harmed the Jewish people.

"Nevertheless, while it is obligatory, it is not enough to express disapproval and condemnation of the hostility toward the Jewish people that frequently marked history. We also must develop friendship, esteem and fraternal relations with them," the pope said.

The pope said Christians and Jews couldn't help but worry about the continuing violence in the Holy Land where "too much innocent blood" has been shed by Israelis and Palestinians.

"For this, we want today to raise a fervent prayer to the Eternal in faith and in hope, to the God of 'shalom' so that hostility will no longer overwhelm with hatred those who call Abraham father — Jews, Christian and Muslims," the pope said.

"If we learn to unite our hearts and our hands to respond to the divine call, the light of the Everlasting will draw near to enlighten all peoples, showing us the path of peace," the pope said. "We all want to follow it with one heart."

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Boxcar stampede

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

**Elijah Gomez, with his version of a racecar, runs ahead of his preschool classmates at St. Casimir School in Hammond, Ind., during the school's first "Baby 500" event. The children raced mock cars in celebration of the running of the Indianapolis 500, which was to take place May 30.**

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**May 29 — 5 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Philip the Apostle, Statesville

**May 30 — 12:30 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**June 1 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. James Church, Concord

**June 2 — 7 p.m.**
Baccalaureate Mass for Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

**June 5 — 11 a.m.**
Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Mr. Robert Conway, Rev. Mr. Timothy Reid, Rev. Mr. John Starczewski
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

**June 6 — 2 p.m.**
Fiftieth Anniversary Parish Mass
Immaculate Conception Church, Canton

**June 7 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill

**June 9 — 7 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Baptist de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

## THIS MONTH IN—1995

DEDICATION OF KOREAN CHURCH

Then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the new St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte May 7, 1995. The 80 families of the parish raised $285,000 to build the 5,000-square foot church with seating for 240. The church is located on 4.5 acres, purchased by the Korean community for $100,000.

COMMITTED COUPLE

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Father Matthew Kauth, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin; Jerry Hoffart, grand knight of Council 8363; Gertrude and Jacob Bohres, parishioners; and Rosario Sulsenti, district deputy No. 15. The Bohres were recently recognized for their years of service during a reception in their honor.

# Franklin couple honored for service

FRANKLIN — Jacob and Gertrude Bohres were recently honored for their long-standing service to St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

Father Matthew Kauth, administrator, held a surprise reception for the couple in the church's Family Life Center April 25.

Knights of Columbus Council 8363 presented awards for Family of the Month, Family of the Year and an Appreciation Award honoring the couple for their years of service to the church, community, Operation L.A.M.B. (Least Among My Brethren) and the Knights council.

At a following Knights meeting, Jacob Bohres was honored with a recognition plaque.

# Celebrating a committed catechist

COURTESY PHOTO

Becky Treadway (left), 17, stands with her family after receiving an Exemplary Catechist Award from the Asheville Vicariate Leadership Team during the appreciation banquet at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville May 7. Becky has been conducting faith formation classes since she was 12 years old. Her parents, Pam and Tim, drove her 80 miles each week from Greenville, S.C., to Hendersonville every week for five years. Also pictured is Becky's brother, Andrew.

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# Students raise money for Africa schools

AFRICA, *from page 1*

mote mountainous region of Kenya in east Central Africa.

Thus began the "OLA Builds a School in Africa" campaign.

Students gave up buying pizza, ice cream and CDs to contribute their savings to the fund. Teachers asked for donations instead of Christmas presents. Quarter by quarter, dollar by dollar, the fund gradually grew to $1,700.

Sister Beyrau paid a visit to Our Lady of the Assumption School May 20 to accept the check and to share her experiences in Africa with the fourth- and fifth-grade students.

The monies collected by the students will help fund the work of the Daughters of Charity by allowing them to purchase "Trunks on the Go" — trunks filled with a variety of school supplies such as charts and numbers and letters made of wood, which can then be used in several different schools.

School buildings in this area of Kenya are made of mud and sticks and have little or no furniture, Sister Beyrau explained to the students. As many as 80 students crowd into a single unfurnished classroom, sitting on benches fashioned out of logs. They attend school from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., learning without books, paper or pencils.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Sister Pat Beyrau shows an African carving to the students and faculty of Our Lady of the Assumption School May 20.**

Even in these crowded conditions, discipline is never a problem, Sister Beyrau said, because the children all want so badly to learn.

"The most glorious time is when they're in school," she said, explaining how difficult the children's lives are outside of school.

Children are expected to work at home, helping to take care of the family's animals and land. West Pokot girls typically begin their days at 4 a.m. to haul water for the family. Students then walk as far as two miles to school.

Attending school is a new concept to many Kenyans, Sister Beyrau said. In 2003, the current president, Mwai Kibaki, decreed that education would be provided free to all students through the eighth grade. Hundreds of children are taking advantage of this opportunity and attending school for the first time.

This opportunity for Kenyan children means more work for teachers and missionaries such as Sister Beyrau. The Daughters of Charity, along with Kenyan mothers, are building a child development center in the village of Chepenyal, which will prepare three- to six-year-old children to attend primary school.

This is an example of children helping other children, Murphy said.

"It's good for the students to learn how to gather their resources in school to directly benefit children in Kenya," she said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

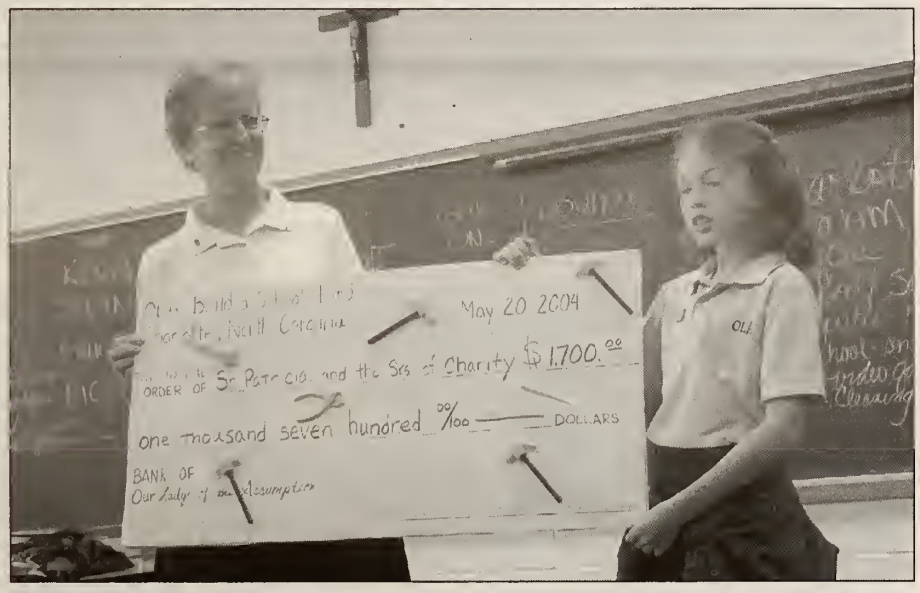


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Hunter Smith, student council president, presents a ceremonial check for $1,700 to Sister Pat Beyrau to support the work of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in West Pokot, Kenya.**

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# 'Tales of Wonder' at St. Ann School

## *Student body performs annual spring musical*

BY PEGGY ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — Students sang and danced their way through stories of the Catholic faith during St. Ann School's annual spring musical May 22.

The entire student body came together to celebrate God's gifts with the musical "Tales of Wonder." Approximately 240 students in kindergarten through fifth-grade, dressed in brightly colored T-shirts, formed a rainbow of voices offering praise to God.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time an elementary school has performed a musical of this caliber," said Karen Charlton, school choir director and parent of two students.

Songs included "I Say 'Yes,' My Lord" in both English and Spanish, along with a rousing rendition of "All You Works of God" that had the audience on their feet, clapping and singing.

The school choir, which consists of students in grades three, four and five, participated in leading many of the songs.

Marty Haugen, a composer of liturgical music for both Catholic and Protestant congregations, developed "Tales of Wonder" after he observed a small village community in Hawaii. He has spent 20 years presenting workshops and concerts around the world for those interested in the renewal of worship.

"Tales of Wonder" was recently performed at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

"It was appropriate for St. Ann School, because we, too, are a close-knit community," said Charlton. "Everyone in the school worked together as a village to pull the show together."

The program was directed by Charlton; Maryanne Jackson and Shelley Earnhardt, parents of St. Ann School students; and school music teacher Harry Booth.

"So many people volunteered hours and hours of their time to make this happen," said parent Dottie Sue Fowler. "It was just phenomenal. The choice of music and the children's voices were incredibly moving."

Bill Ballard, a grandfather of a student, and guidance counselor Nancy Russo served as storytellers. Musicians were teacher Kari Jenkins and members of the professional group Bethany from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

In addition, every teacher participated, encouraging the students and helping the show to run smoothly.

All areas of the St. Ann School cultural arts curriculum were represented in the show. Spanish teacher Maritza Ortiz-Romero worked with students on the Spanish song. Students in the Art Club, led by teacher Angie Olle, created artwork and props, including blooming sunflowers, bolts of lightning and a huge rainbow on the stage.

"It was fun," said Sarah Loesch, a kindergarten student. "I got to be a bird."

"Marty Haugen's vision of a global village was truly exemplified Saturday night as people of all ages and many nationalities joined together to sing the songs of our faith," said Charlton. "It is this diversity and community that make St. Ann School such a special place."

COURTESY PHOTO

The entire student body of St. Ann School perform in the school's annual spring musical May 22.

# The buddy system

COURTESY PHOTO

At Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, eighth-graders and kindergarten students work together on laptop computers May 13. The older students are assigned as buddies at the beginning of the school year and they mentor to the kindergarten students on different projects throughout the year.

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UNDER THE SEA

# Student mural adds ocean view to Bishop McGuinness

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

KERNERSVILLE — Life under the sea just got a little clearer at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

To help liven up the school hallways, senior Jackie Taylor led a team of students in painting a giant mural depicting an ocean ecosystem.

"This type of project gives the kids a chance to showcase their talents," said Rick Eklund, biology teacher.

Eklund was instrumental in getting the project underway. When students and faculty moved into the new high school in 2001, the building seemed rather "clinical." So Eklund and other faculty got together to determine what could be done to "liven up" the place.

"We recruited art students who would be willing to paint a 12-feet-by-9-feet mural of a rainforest on the staircase landing leading up to the science department," he said.

"The concept of painting murals ... humanizes the school by making it more than just a building," said Leslie Hiatt, art teacher.

It was junior Megan Witzke who volunteered to head up a team of students to add character to the school last year.

This year, Eklund encouraged his students to leave a positive memorial of their years at the school. Once Eklund approved Jackie's ocean design, she organized a new team of artists — senior Erica Lawrence and freshmen Melissa Taylor, Teri Walsh and Jessica Hogan.

The students worked on the mural after school, often 10-12 hours each week. In order not to become overwhelmed with the massive project, the students worked for several weeks and then took a week or so off until the mural was finished.

In order to cover the staircase wall, located a level below the rainforest mural, the students utilized a lift from the drama department to reach the high spots.

"The ocean scene is real nice," said sophomore Richard Dudley. "I especially like how the forest is above it. It's like going under water as you go down the stairs."

"While I thought the ocean was a cool idea, painting it became very mundane," said Jackie. "What I thought would be very difficult was the best part, because it included painting a variety of multicolored fish."

Ecklund wasn't surprised that Jackie volunteered to head up the project.

"She is very dedicated and independent," he said.

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**From left: Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students Melissa Taylor, Teri Walsh, Jackie Taylor and Erica Lawrence stand before the mural of an ocean ecosystem they painted in the stairwell leading to the science wing of the school.**

Described as an in-charge person with an upbeat outlook on school and life, Jackie — a black belt in karate — was recently appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

"I am looking forward to getting a pilot's license," said Jackie.

"The Air Force Academy did not make a mistake in appointing her," said Hiatt. "She is and will be an excellent student there."

Students and faculty are pleased with the new mural.

"It is edifying to see these students express themselves through the medium of art," said Loretta Bednar, head of the religious studies department.

"(The mural) allows students to look at something in the morning and get a sense of joy," said Richard. "It's a morale booster, knowing that someone was willing to put that much time and effort into it."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*


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# Students to journey down under

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School students are preparing to go "down under" this summer.

Forty students and parents will spend 14 days exploring the South Pacific in mid-June. Students travel to the South Pacific every second year.

An educational and adventure field trip, the "Journey Down Under" begins in New Zealand with a visit to Rotorura and the Maori culture. The group then travels to Sydney, Australia, and on to Cairns in Queensland, where they will spend a day on the Great Barrier Reef and become familiar with the Tjapuki aboriginal culture.

Next is a trip north to Cape Tribulation to spend two days deep in the rainforest spotting and learning about the importance of environmental issues. Students will visit several animal habitats, do an early morning climb of the Sydney Harbor bridge and immerse themselves in cultures thousands of years old.

The tour will end with two days in Honolulu, Hawaii.


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COURTESY PHOTO

Ryan and Alex Kilmartin stand with some of their awards and trophies at their home. Both second-degree black belts in tae kwon do, the brothers rank among the top two in the world in their respective age brackets.

# These kids have kick

## *Catholic siblings are among top karate experts*

CHARLOTTE — Ryan and Alex Kilmartin have lofty goals in life — Ryan, 13, wants to be a marine biologist specializing in sharks; Alex, 11, wants to become a doctor.

In the meantime, the brothers are both second-degree black belts who rank among the top two in the world in their respective age brackets for tae kwon do.

Tae kwon do, a 2,000-year-old Korean martial art, was introduced to the Olympics in Korea in 1988, according to the Tae Kwon Do Network.

Ryan, a student at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, and Alex, a student at St. Matthew School, both started tae kwon do when each was around four years old. Between them, they have won 27 AAU national championships and gold medals. Plaques, clippings and magazine covers of their achievements, and 400 trophies — half of which are taller than both boys — decorate their recreation room walls.

"In team sports, there's always someone to lean on, someone to cover your mistakes," said the boys' father, Sean Kilmartin. "In this sport (tae kwon do), it's just you. What they learned at a young age was if you want to win, you have to do it yourself."

"And their success was their own," he said. "They've competed against some of the best."

Ryan has won as the overall top competitor in U.S. Junior Karate.

Alex was the youngest person in America ever to participate in the Junior Olympic Games when he was 5 years old. He competed in the 8-and-under division; he didn't win that first year but came back to win the next three years. When he turned 8, he moved to the 10-and-under division and won that competition as well.

During their careers, Ryan and Alex have competed in the Battle of Atlanta and the U.S. Open. Last year, they finished the North American Sports Karate Association Tour with Alex ranked No. 1 in the world and Ryan No. 1 in the United States and No. 2 in the world.

Kilmartin said discipline and respect involved in tae kwon do have done much for his children.

"It reinforces a lot of the basic principles and consistencies that we as parents and as Catholics want to instill in their lives," he said. "They have never raised their hands to anyone outside of the sport."

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# Celebrating first Communion

COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Oscar Mendez, Violeta Padron, Jamil Wright, Cara Adeimy and Carlos Mendez celebrated their first Communion at St. James Church in Hamlet May 16. The Anglo and Hispanic children prepared for the sacrament together under the direction of Cecilia Wilson.

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# Torture warnings not heeded, says prelate

TORTURE, *from page 1*

by the United States.

Today, in the wake of Iraqi prisoner abuse, Cardinal Stafford wonders why others did not see it coming.

"All of this outcry by the Democrats in Congress, the Republicans in the White House and by the press is deceitful in light of the silence that took place when torture was being talked about in 2001, 2002, 2003," Cardinal Stafford said in an interview with the Catholic magazine, Inside the Vatican.

In a February 2003 statement reported by Catholic News Service, Cardinal Stafford said, "The government of the United States has compromised its own basic principles by implicitly endorsing the use of torture since Sept. 11, 2001."

At that time, the cardinal was concerned that political leaders of both major parties, as well as some leading legal experts, supported the torture of terrorist suspects and that media reports of their statements had produced no outcry.

"What's incredible is that nobody at that time made any comments about these articles," he said in his latest interview, published on the magazine's Web site in mid-May.

"If American soldiers and superiors in Iraq had known that there had been an explicit, absolute refusal to go along that route, that fatal choice of torture ... then they would have thought a long time before allowing it," he said.

Cardinal Stafford said the revelations and photos of prisoner abuse will infuriate Arabs and raise fundamental questions about the type of democracy the United States is trying to export.

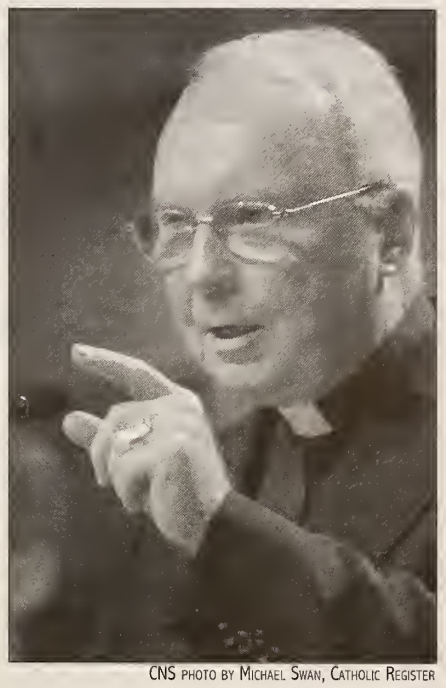
"Muslims are outraged and deceived because Americans appear to be imposing the same type of life upon Iraqi society that we said we were going to rescue them from. It's the very opposite of what we said we were going to do," he said.

"Not only have we humiliated the Iraqi people, but we've deceived them. We've deceived the Arab peoples," he said.

"Is this what American democracy is producing? Men and women who, just below the surface, are barbarians. Just below the surface of American civilization, of American popular culture, we are becoming barbaric. Is that what American democracy is producing today?" he said.

In early 2003, Cardinal Stafford was a strong critic of the U.S. decision to go to war, saying there appeared to be no hard evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He now says the fact that no such weapons were found represents an intelligence failure and a moral failure.

"Why did the president, the vice president and the secretary of defense say there was an immediate danger to the peace of American society by the proximate use of weapons that would come from Iraq, either directly or through al-Qaida? Why did they say that when they didn't have the documentation to back it up?" he said.



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL SWAN, CATHOLIC REGISTER

**Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, shown here speaking at a 2002 press conference, warned more than a year ago that "war on terror" would lead to the torture of Iraqi prisoners.**

"They tried to convince an intelligent citizenry, an enlightened citizenry who are ultimately responsible, whether a government should remain or not remain, but we were not presented with the real reasons," he said.

"I think the real reason was to try to create this democracy in the Middle East, and I think it was wishful thinking. But nevertheless, that was their intention, as we found out once they got in there," he said.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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Living Light catechetical journal to cease publication

*40-year run ends due to low circulation, rising production costs*

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — *The Living Light*, a quarterly catechetical journal published by the U.S. bishops' Department of Education, will end publication with its summer issue after a 40-year run.

*The Living Light* was established in 1964 by the National Center for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, forerunner to today's U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 1966, it became a publication of the education department.

Over the years, *Our Sunday Visitor*, William H. Sadlier Inc. and Mercer University Press produced and distributed *The Living Light*. For the last decade, USCCB Publishing had produced it and distributed it.

The journal was projected to lose $44,000 in the coming year.

"The decision to close the journal is strictly a financial one. We simply could no longer underwrite the journal's expense," said Dominican Sister Glenn Anne McPhee, USCCB secretary of education, in a statement.

Circulation of *The Living Light* was 1,500, according to the 2004 Catholic Press Directory, although Conventual Franciscan Father Berard Marthaler, executive editor, said it was "less than 1,000."

Subscriptions sold for $29.95, and individual issues cost $8.

Mary Perkins Ryan served as executive editor for the first 10 years of *The Living Light*. For the last 30 years, Father Marthaler, now a professor emeritus at The Catholic University of America in Washington, served as executive editor.

Father Marthaler told Catholic News Service the professional journal nearly closed down after its first two years of operation, "then Our Sunday Visitor came to the rescue." But no publisher or distributor could stem ongoing losses to produce it, he said.

"We changed the format almost every time we changed publishers," he said, adding, "Anything that's a money loser they're not going to make a top priority."

He told CNS he had first mentioned stepping down from his editor's post two years ago. Recently, he added, "I finally said, 'We've got to do something.'"

Although Father Marthaler said he would step down and some possible successors were considered, Sister McPhee said that played no part in the decision to close the quarterly.

Father Marthaler said *The Living Light's* subscription base was strong in European libraries, but weaker in U.S. libraries.

"That reflects what's happening in diocesan religious education," he added, alluding to staff cuts in individual dioceses.

Still, "it was a good run. I think we served the field well. It was an exciting time," Father Marthaler said.

In the wake of *The Living Light's* closing, books that cull articles from back issues are being considered. A book on adolescent catechesis taken from the journal's articles has already been published.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 6, 2004

## *June 6, Feast of Most Holy Trinity*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-9
2) Romans 5:1-5
3) Gospel: John 16:12-15

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Why is grass green?"

Parents of curious pre-school age children are not surprised by such questions. Most will have enough basic scientific information to offer a cogent answer. But knowledge of facts is one thing; wisdom is another.

Parents who are merely knowledgeable will sit young questioners down and launch into their best imitation of Mr. Wizard, speaking earnestly about chlorophyll and sunshine and the miracle of photosynthesis. They will draw colorful diagrams. And after they've finished their carefully detailed explanations, they'll be frustrated at their children's uncomprehending stares.

Wise parents, on the other hand, will tailor their response to the age and capacity of the children. They won't try to turn preschoolers into botanists, but will give them just enough information to lay some groundwork for later developmental stages when the children will be capable of embracing more of the details and grasping more fully the concepts behind the facts.

In the Gospel for Trinity Sunday Jesus takes the wisdom approach with his disciples: "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now." He knows they haven't the capacity to receive a fuller explanation of his identity and mission. That's why Jesus sends his Spirit — to "guide you to all truth."

The mystery of the Trinity, of the inner life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit celebrated this Sunday, is at the heart of that truth to which we are led over time. But even the church's understanding of this mystery wasn't clearly expressed until almost 300 years of controversy and reflection and dialogue and prayer had taken place.

The challenging news is that we are called to embrace truths and mysteries utterly beyond our capacity to comprehend. The good news is that we have the patient testimony of the Spirit to lead us deeper and deeper into their truth.

***Questions:***
What is one area of truth which you have come to understand more deeply over time? Through whom has the Spirit helped you grasp more fully the mystery of God's presence in the world?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 30 - JUNE 5**

**Sunday (Pentecost Sunday)**, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday (The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Tuesday**, 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter)**, 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)**, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday**, 2 Timothy 3:10-17, Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday (St. Boniface)**, 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:38-44

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 6 - JUNE 12**

**Sunday (Most Holy Trinity)**, Proverbs 8:22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15; **Monday**, 1 Kings 17:1-6, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday**, 1 Kings 17:7-16, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday (St. Ephrem)**, 1 Kings 18:20-39, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, 1 Kings 18:41-46, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday (St Barnabas)**, Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday**, 1 Kings 19:19-21, Matthew 5:33-37


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# 'Raising' some laughs

## *Film infuses laughter with endearing moments*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE —Helen Harris (Kate Hudson) has it all — she's moving up the ladder at the model agency where she works for fashionista Dominique (Helen Mirren), she lives in a stylish one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan and she dates male models.

On top of that, she has five adoring nieces and nephews, who live just close enough — two taxi rides and a train ride away — to not interfere with her swinging single lifestyle.

But her perfect world crumbles when her oldest sister, Lindsay (Felicity Huffman) and Lindsay's husband, Paul (Sean O'Bryan), die in a car accident.

After the funeral, Helen hides in the closet, comforting Lindsay's kids, Audrey (Hayden Panettiere), Henry and Sarah (played by real-life siblings Spencer and Abigail Breslin), while pregnant middle sister Jenny (Joan Cusack) makes sure there are enough three-ply blue dinner napkins for the guests.

It's obvious Jenny will be the logical choice to raise the Davis children, so it comes as a shock to both sisters when the estate lawyers inform them Lindsay and Paul have chosen Helen as guardian.

Suddenly, Helen's perfect, easy-going lifestyle is turned upside down. She and the kids move into the only apartment she can afford — in Queens. She enrolls them in a Lutheran school by pretending to be followers of the faith. Pastor Dan Parker (John Corbett), the school's principal, informs her that, like most religious schools, the school enrolls non-Lutherans.

Helen finds herself on the outs again when her child-phobic boss, Dominique, fires her for bringing the children to a fashion show, then ruining a photo shoot when Sarah's kindergarten class gives the model a makeover — using permanent markers. Unable to get a job at another modeling agency, a neighbor helps Helen find work as a receptionist at a used-car dealership.

Attracted to the lively blond, Pastor Dan sets off to woo Helen. One of the film's funniest moments happens when he asks her out on a date and Helen exclaims, "I've made you break your vow!" Set straight again, Helen nevertheless rebukes the handsome pastor's advances — for the time being.

"Raising Helen" does an excellent job interspersing the serious with the fun, as Helen and the kids adjust to their new lives while mourning the loss of Lindsay and Paul.

A particularly poignant moment comes when Henry admits that he no longer plays basketball because he doesn't think it's fair that he should be having fun when his parents are in heaven. Helen explains that his parents would want him to do the things he loves, and that doing so honors their memory.

All seems to be going smoothly for a while, until Helen and Jenny catch 15-year-old Audrey at a motel on prom night.

Convinced she is not cut out for motherhood, Helen relinquishes guardianship to Jenny and goes back to her old lifestyle. She soon discovers that dancing all night no longer fulfills her and she retrieves the children, ready to leave behind the fun-loving aunt she once was for the tough but loving mom Audrey, Henry and Sarah need her to be.

"Raising Helen" showcases how effective parenting is executed with equal parts discipline and love, and how experienced parents can help guide the novices through the demanding job of parenting in the 21st century.

Because of brief, mild sexual innuendo, implied underage drinking and a few instances of crass language, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification of "Raising Helen" is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY RON BATZDORFF

*Family DEVO-tion*

Audrey (Hayden Panattiere, left), Helen (Kate Hudson, center left), Lindsay (Felicity Huffman, center right) and Paul (Sean O'Bryan, right) let loose with a dance to a tune by the 1980s musical group DEVO in a bonding moment.


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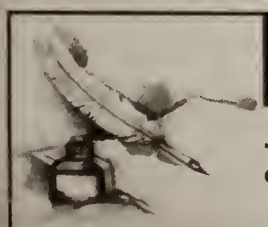
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# Movie Capsules

**"THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW"**

Visually spectacular doomsday drama about a scientist (Dennis Quaid) trying to reunite with his son (Jake Gyllenhaal) during a worldwide environmental catastrophe triggered by global warning which, in addition to unleashing monstrous hurricanes, killer tornadoes and biblical-proportion floods, threatens to rapidly plunge Earth into a new ice age.

The film is brimming with eye-popping special-effects sequences; director Roland Emmerich plays fast and loose with scientific facts to craft a high-concept rollercoaster ride full of escapist thrills but without much of a story beyond its nature-gone-mad premise.

Intense scenes of natural disasters. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

**"SAVED!"**

Tart teen comedy about a senior (Jena Malone) at an evangelical high school, who, after her boyfriend (Chad Faust) tells her that he thinks he is gay, sleeps with him in an attempt to "cure" him and winds up getting pregnant, sending her into a spiritual tailspin and putting her at odds with her sanctimonious best friend (Mandy Moore).

Directed by Brian Dannelly, the film uses satire to offer a scalding critique of hypocrisy and puffed-up piety, but its wall-to-wall bashing of conservative Christians, which at times stoops to irreverent lows, displays the same sort of insensitivity which the movie purportedly decries.

Religious stereotypes, an implied teen sexual encounter, homosexual references, recurring rough and crude language, profanity and several sacrilegious jokes. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.


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Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203 Or fax to: (704) 370-3291



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We offer a comprehensive benefits package which includes medical, dental, and life insurance, 403B retirement incentives, and paid vacation and holidays. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Interested candidates should send a resume, written philosophy of education, and references - ASAP to Principal Search Committee, 605 Barbee Ave, High Point, NC 27262. Resumes may also be faxed to (336)884-1849 or sent via e-mail to nachter@ihmchurch.org.



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CNS PHOTO BY PAUL FINCH, CATHOLIC SUN

*Prayers in prison*

Helen Day, 87, discusses the value of the rosary with three inmates at the Onondaga County Justice Center in Syracuse, N.Y. Day, who is devoted to the Blessed Mother and the rosary, volunteers her time doing jail ministry along with others who offer spiritual support to the incarcerated.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# Bishops call for alternatives to imprisonment

PRISON, *from page 1*

Previous statements have dealt with juvenile justice, the privatization of the prison industry and an overview of criminal justice problems in the South.

The newest statement said the current criminal justice system "is based on retribution — those who cause suffering by committing crime are to be punished by the government for what they have done wrong."

But many people, including crime victims, think that system simply is not working, the bishops said. One option is to allow the legal system to consider restorative justice programs.

Unlike the criminal justice system, "restorative justice focuses first on the victim and the community harmed by the crime," it explained.

"This shift in focus affirms the hurt and loss of the victim, as well as the harm and fear of the community, and insists that offenders come to grips with the consequences of their actions," the bishops' statement said.

Such approaches are not "soft on crime," because offenders are brought to face their victims and communities — and in a way that "offers victims a much greater sense of peace and accountability. Offenders who are willing to face the human consequences of their actions are more ready to accept responsibility, make reparations and rebuild their lives."

Not all victims or all perpetrators are ready for a restorative justice approach, the bishops said. The idea is not to replace the current court system, but to offer, for example, programs such as mediated victim-offender community conferences.

In such conferences, victims and offenders seek reconciliation and resolution. If the parties are unwilling or unable to reach a resolution, the case goes back to regular criminal court.

In some communities, victims, representatives of the community and law enforcement officers meet with an offender, the statement explained. The programs require that the harm to the victim and the community be repaired somehow, that the offender demonstrate understanding of how his or her behavior harmed the community, and that a plan be drafted for the criminal to avoid such behavior in the future.

A goal of restorative justice is to find an alternative to putting so many people in jail. "We have a higher percentage of our people in prison than any country in the world," noted the statement.

The bishops said while they recognize a role for prisons and that sometimes offenders must be imprisoned to protect society, such incarceration "should be about more than punishment."

"Our society seems to prefer punishment to rehabilitation, and retribution to restoration, thereby indicating a failure to recognize prisoners as human beings," it said. "A Catholic approach never gives up on those who violate laws. We believe that both victims and offenders are children of God."

Prisons should be places where offenders are challenged, encouraged and rewarded for efforts to change their behaviors and attitudes, it said.

"Programs in jails and prisons that offer offenders education, life skills, religious expression and recovery from substance abuse greatly reduce recidivism, benefit society and help the offenders when they reintegrate into the community," the bishops' statement continued.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Fairness needs community support

## Faith and the Marketplace

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH

Several years ago, I received a call from a group of workers in an industrial laundry in eastern Kentucky. The 65 workers had voted for union representation 10 months earlier, but negotiations had stalled in securing a first contract. The union wanted some church people to listen to the workers because it recognized the Catholic teachings on workers' rights.

The plant launders bed linens and uniforms from hospitals and nursing homes, plus fire-retardant garments from heavy industry. Started as a family business, it was sold years before to a national firm. The family atmosphere of the early days changed to more standard and impersonal work rules.

The testimonies at the hearing ranged from wages to work conditions. One worker after more than 40 years at the laundry still made only $6.25 an hour, a wage that kept a family of three in poverty. Another worker testified that when summer temperatures outside reached 90 degrees, she recorded a 118-degree temperature at her workstation in the plant.

Other workers complained of rigid work rules, crowded conditions and unclean bathrooms. After two hours of roundtable discussion, I puzzled over my next step.

Labor laws currently favor the employer. Nationally, one-third of the workplaces that unionize never negotiate a first contract, and one-fourth more never get a second contract. The law requires employers to bargain in good faith, which essentially means meeting on a regular basis. The only correction for bargaining in bad faith — however defined — is a flimsy order to bargain in good faith. No fines, no penalties, no punitive damages.

As a sympathetic listener, I had no legal power. But, as a person of faith, I could use moral suasion. I discovered that the owner of the laundry business was a devout Catholic living in New York, so I wrote a letter outlining the social teachings of the church, emphasizing the dignity of every worker and the right to a just wage.

Next, I contacted his bishop and asked him to hand deliver the letter, which he did — on the golf course.

Ten days later, the negotiating team came to the meeting, letter in hand, and negotiated a contract giving everyone a $1-an-hour raise.

The hearing that I and the other church representatives convened, instinctively, at the industrial laundry reflects a major program of Jobs with Justice (JwJ), a community organization dedicated to improving workers' standard of living. JwJ organizes Workers' Rights Boards composed of community and religious leaders, academics, elected officials and other prominent members of the community to review workers' complaints.

With no legal authority, yet with great moral authority coming from upright community members, these boards invite employers to the public hearings, then seek follow-up meetings with management to discuss the findings. If talking and mediation prove ineffective, the Workers' Rights Boards may pursue publicity through letter writing to customers, newspapers and stockholders, or more direct action through picketing and demonstrations.

These boards are operating in 20 cities and have helped janitors and factory workers, food service folks and immigrant laborers affirm their dignity in labor struggles.

Maintaining a vibrant middle class depends on protecting and advancing workers' rights. Unfortunately, anti-union sentiment appears pervasive and the right to organize must fight an increasingly hostile legal system. Union busting represents a $500 million industry that plays the system to ensure property rights over human rights.

Workers' Rights Boards offer communities a way to affirm justice until labor laws are reformed. No workplace is off limits or a "none-of-your-business" situation. Developing a just society demands involvement, and fairness needs community support.

# Pope says even in times of trial Christians must praise God

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Even in times of trial, Christians must continue giving praise to God, whose victory over sin and evil already has been won, Pope John Paul II said.

Praise fills the hearts of "those who await in hope the coming of the Lord to fill with light human history, so often immersed in the darkness of sin, injustice, lies and violence," the pope said May 26 at his weekly general audience.

Under a cloudless blue sky, Pope John Paul continued his series of audience talks about the psalms and canticles used in the church's evening prayer, focusing on a hymn about God's justice from the Book of Revelation.

The pope described the last book of the Christian Bible as a "book of struggle and of hope."

Revelation's hymn to "the Lord God almighty" underscores the "just and resolute judgment" of God, the pope said.

As the hymn emphasizes, he said, God's justice and judgment do not rely on condemnation alone.

"Yes, he is the judge, but he is also the savior; he condemns evil, but he rewards fidelity; he is justice, but most of all he is love," the pope said.

While the Book of Revelation takes seriously the figure of Satan and his attacks on the faith of believers, it also makes clear that the victory already has been won by the death and resurrection of Christ, the pope said.

"May the victory of the Lamb-Messiah over sin and evil be a source for our joy as well and an encouragement to persevere amid the trials that mark our earthy existence," he said.

At the end of the audience, a delegation from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., presented Pope John Paul with a copy of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles from The Saint John's Bible.

The Bible, a work in progress, is being written and illuminated by a team of calligraphers under the artistic direction of Donald Jackson, a master calligrapher.

The New Testament facsimile was presented to the pope by Jackson and his wife, Mabel; Benedictine Abbot John Klassen of St. John's Abbey; and Benedictine Brother Dietrich Reinhart, president of the university.

The university said theirs is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible to be produced since the early 1500s. The calligraphers and artists are writing on vellum, using quills, natural handmade inks and hand-ground pigments and gold leaf.

When group members gave the pope his copy of the Gospels and Acts, they held it open to a full-page painting of Jesus with the words "And the word became flesh" written in gold and platinum. The painting faces the first page of the Gospel of St. John, the source of the quote.

Jackson said he chose that page "because it is the beginning, it's big and it's quite dramatic."

Abbot Klassen said when the pope saw it "his eyes lit up."

While the abbot explained the project to the pope, Jackson remained silent.

"I let the book speak," he said later.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# Choose to be happy

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Browsing through some Christo-her files from a while back, I came pon a wonderful story based on a Buddhist koan. A koan is a paradox sed for meditation and to gain en-ightenment. This tale is about happi-ess — and about attitude.

There were two Buddhist monks, ne somber and one joyful. The first nonk prayed all day in deep, motion-ess silence. The second sang and lanced his praise of God near a great ree in the monastery garden.

One day an angel appeared to the irst monk, saying, "I have come from God and you have been given per-nission to ask him one question. What is your question?"

The somber monk quickly asked, 'How many more lives must I live before I will attain self-realization?"

The angel then went to the second nonk and gave him exactly the same nessage. And the second monk asked he angel exactly the same question.

A week later, the angel returned o the first monk and said, "I have your answer. You must live three nore lives before you will attain self-realization." The first monk started to weep and moan, "Three more lives. Oh no! Three more lives."

The angel went to the second monk and said, "I have your answer. You must live as many more lives as there are leaves on that tree before you will attain self-realization."

The second monk looked up at the tree and said, "Why there must be 10,000 leaves on that tree! Only 10,000 more lives!" And he began to sing and dance joyfully.

Suddenly, a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "My son, this day you have attained self-realization."

They say it can take years to get all the wisdom from a koan. But it's certainly obvious that while attitude may not be everything, it can be pretty close.

How many people do you know who go though life always seeing a glass that's half empty? What are their lives like? I'll bet they are the negative, critical, pessimistic folks that you go out of your way to avoid.

On the other hand, there are the "half full" sort of people who exude optimism and positive thinking. These are the men and women we enjoy being around. More importantly, I suspect these are people who enjoy their own company, as well.

Beyond that, while most of us say we want to be happy, too many of us spend more time pursuing the things we think will make us happy rather than simply choosing to be happy wherever and whatever we are. If we decide that such-and-such will make us happy, then how can we possibly be happy without it — whatever "it" may be.

So what's the relationship between attitude and happiness?

A wise man named Abraham Lincoln put it this way: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Have you made up your mind yet?

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Half Empty or Half Full — It's All in Your Attitude," write:. The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Fighting sows seeds

## Coming of Age

KASE JOHNSTUN
CNS COLUMNIST

Seeing four fights in four days, I witnessed the lowest common denominator of human behavior.

Waiting to interview someone at a local park, I sat on a bench and relaxed. Mid-spring air streamed through canyon onto the surface of the pond.

A rumble came from the parking lot. A truck pulled up, and out of the back jumped six high school students. I went back to trying to escape the world outside the tree-fenced park.

Another car pulled up and five high school students jumped out. Like a flock of geese averting a dog, the students began flailing around the park until two of them met in the middle and within seconds blows were thrown and red blood stained the green grass.

Startled, I jumped up and walked in a seemingly calm manner to my car to call the police. Taunts flew. Chants from supporters spat from their mouths.

Again, the boys interlocked. One pulled away for a slight second and within that second a punch landed on his nose releasing a crackling sound.

I picked up my cell and began to call when I noticed the fight had ended. Both of the boys were walking and heading back to their cars.

I thought, "Well at least it was a fair fight, one on one, no weapons."

This was my relief? One on one? No weapons?

I hung up the phone because the cops would never make it in time.

Fighting. It's just a way high school kids get out their aggressions, I tried to convince myself. It's harmless. Both boys walked away just a little bloody.

The other three fights were between grown men in public places.

—Finishing my run, I noticed two men on the corner calling each other on, and then the first punch flew.

—At a baseball game, one guy turned to another and said, "'Life,' remember that word before you talk to me again," and they proceeded to bump chests and scream.

—The last happened at the pool in my apartment complex. One man stood at the pool and yelled up to the other, and after half an hour of cursing and taunting, the man at the pool headed up the stairs to confront the man on the balcony, kids standing around and watching, learning from their fathers.

I would be tempted to say that the fight in the park is inconsequential because no one really got hurt, but I am guessing those same grown men spent some time with their friends in the park when they were young.

# Sacramentally confessing a crime

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. I'm a recent convert to Catholicism, but am stymied by one aspect of the sacrament of reconciliation. A priest, explaining the procedure on television, said he once had to refuse absolution because the penitent wouldn't promise to "come clean" with the law about a crime he committed.*

*Though I haven't committed any crime, I'd still like to know whether a priest in confession can require, as a condition of absolution, a promise that some incriminating action must be taken by a penitent who has gotten himself into a jam. Could I have misunderstood? (Pennsylvania)*

A. Normally, a person who has committed a sin that is also a crime punishable by law is not required to confess that crime to civil authorities to obtain absolution. If the usual requirements for sacramental absolution (sincere contrition and firm purpose to avoid sin in the future) are present, absolution should be given.

If the priest has good reason to do so, he might suggest that the penitent "come clean" as you say, but that would not be required. Processes of discovery and prosecution of the offender are left in the hands of the proper civil authorities.

The situation changes drastically, however, if someone else, an innocent person, is being punished for the crime. One condition for genuine contrition in the sacrament is that the penitent is not planning, or is not in the process of doing, something that is in fact another serious sin.

Let's suppose a person commits a crime, the sentence for which is a long prison term. If another innocent person is charged with the crime and sentenced to prison, the real offender would be seriously obliged to confess to the appropriate authorities or in some other way save the innocent person from suffering for the crime he himself committed.

Not to do so, to simply walk away and ignore the terrible injustice to someone else, would be a serious sin against charity.

If such an offender goes to confession and deliberately intends to allow another person to suffer imprisonment for the sin he himself committed, he has by his own admission the intention to remain in mortal sin, a sin against the virtue of charity. A priest would be correct to withhold absolution until that intention changes.

All this and possibly other circumstances of the case must, of course, be weighed by both the priest and the penitent carefully, honestly and compassionately at the time of the celebration of the sacrament.

Perhaps this is the kind of confessional experience the priest you heard was referring to.

# Definition of basilica

*Q. What is a basilica? Is a church built as such or is it designated a basilica later? (Wisconsin)*

A. A basilica (the word comes from Greek for a royal hall) is simply a church that has been so designated because of its historical, liturgical or cultural significance. A variety of spiritual privileges (indulgences, special blessings, etc.) are granted to pilgrims and other visitors to basilica churches.

Some ancient governmental Roman structures were built in a distinctive "basilica" style, which has since been adopted in many Christian churches.

The exact status of many basilicas is confusing, but among what are called "major" basilicas are St. Peter's, St. Paul's on the Ostian Way, St. Mary Major and St. John Lateran, all in Rome; and the church of St. Francis in Assisi, where St. Francis is buried.

Popes have named hundreds of "minor" basilicas around the world, approximately 45 of them in the United States. The most noted, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the largest Catholic church in North and South America, was designated a basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1990.

PARISH PROFILE

# Christ the King Church celebrates diversity, unity of Catholic faith

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

Christ the King Church has ministered to the needs of Catholics in High Point since its founding by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in 1940.

**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**
1505 East Kivett Dr.
High Point, N.C. 27260
(336) 884-0244

**Vicariate:** Greensboro
**Pastor:** Father Philip Kollithanath
**Number of Households:** 450

Father Philip Kollithanath

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church was founded in 1940 to serve the African-American Catholics in High Point, and has since become a multi-ethnic parish celebrating both the diversity and unity of the Catholic faith and tradition.

Then-Bishop Eugene F. McGuinness of Raleigh invited the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement of Graymoor, N.Y., to staff the new church in High Point in 1940. Father Bernardine Watson served as the first pastor, originally celebrating Mass in a funeral home.

Through the generosity and perseverance of Father Watson and several benefactors, a clothing shop was acquired for use by the church. While Mass continued to be celebrated there during much of 1941, the parishioners turned their attention to building a new church and rectory on Kivett Drive.

The new colonial-style church was dedicated by Bishop McGuinness Dec. 14, 1941.

During the 1940s and into the '50s, the Christ the King parish community continued to grow. A school building and convent were built in 1949, and in 1950 the Franciscan Handmaids arrived from New York City to staff the school. The African-American communities, both Catholic and non-Catholic, of High Point, Thomasville and Greensboro were served by the new Christ the King School, which opened its doors to 50 students in September 1950.

The friars continued their pastorate in High Point for the next several decades, cultivating a faith community that became continually more culturally diverse over time. A stained-glass window behind the church's choir loft depicts that diversity, with Jesus surrounded by four individuals representing the African, Asian, European and Indian bloodlines that make up much of the parish community today.

Lowering enrollment, financial difficulties and the recalling of the sisters to New York forced Christ the King School to close in 1981. The diocesan office of education converted the school for use as a day care center, which began its operation in August 1981.

Upon the friars' leaving High Point in 1991, Christ the King Church became a diocesan parish in December of that year. Fathers Martin Madison and John Hoover served the parish until December 1994 when Father Philip Kollithanath, present pastor, was appointed to Christ the King Church.

In 2000, 10 members of the Congregation of Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul arrived at Christ the King Church to conduct the religious education program and other ministerial work, including operating the day care center. DePaul Academy serves as a multicultural preschool and after-school for the local community, particularly Hispanics.

In January 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis dedicated a new gymnasium to serve as a multicultural center and host activities for children and youth programs which are funded by a variety of local foundations.

Assisting in the advancing growth of the Christ the King community have been many commissions and ministries focusing on the spiritual, educational, multicultural and evangelical dimensions of the parish.

Parishioners gather to engage in Bible study, to learn English as a Second Language, to put their faith into action in the local community and to celebrate their ethnicity. A bilingual religious education program provides sharing and learning opportunities for English- and Spanish-speaking parishioners, and the parish African-American Ministry offers outreach programs benefiting the local region.

The Women's Guild, Altar Guild, 55+ Club and Young & Spirited Group are active in parish and community services, and the evangelization commission provides for the spiritual needs of homebound parishioners through its Visitation Ministry.

The community of Christ the King Church looks ahead to expansion and renovation projects that will accommodate the needs of a growing parish. More than 450 families currently make up the parish community.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JUNE 11, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 35

## Help for Haiti

*St. Matthew Church donates 20 tons of food to island nation*

| PAGE 5

# Diocese gifted with three new priests

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Bishop Peter J. Jugis watches as priests lay hands on the three ordinands during the ordination Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte June 5.

**BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS ENCOURAGES THEM TO INSPIRE GOD'S PEOPLE**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis called it a "day of great rejoicing for the church of Charlotte" as he welcomed the diocese's three newest priests.

Before a church filled with clergy, seminarians, the three candidates' families and other parishioners, Bishop Jugis ordained Robert Conway, Timothy Reid and John Starczewski during a Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church June 5.

The men were the first priests to be ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte by Bishop Jugis since his ordination as bishop in October 2003. The

See PRIESTS, page 7

JUBILEE FESTIVITIES

## Immaculate Conception Church celebrates 50 years

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CANTON — Nick Bonarrigo remembers arriving in Canton in 1942, when there were only seven Catholics there.

"We didn't have a church," he said. "We met in people's homes. The Champion (International Paper Company) YMCA gave us space for services."

More Catholics moved to Canton. Eventually, property

See JUBILEE, page 6

## Threshold of our future'

**BISHOP MCGUINNESS GRADUATES LOOK BACK, FORWARD DURING COMMENCEMENT**

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — ighty-one students walked ross the stage and toward eir futures after gh school.

Commencement exer-

See GRADS, page 10

**More Coverage**

**page 8** | St. Leo the Great School celebrates graduations

**page 9** | Our Lady of Grace School unveils book

**page 12** | Asheville Catholic School honors graduates

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Graduates of Charlotte Catholic High School toss their caps into the evening sky following commencement ceremonies June 3. For the Charlotte Catholic graduation story, see page 11.

## Pope pays tribute to Ronald Reagan, cites role in fall of communism

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BERN, Switzerland — Pope John Paul II paid tribute to the late President Ronald Reagan, noting his important role in the fall of European communism.

A papal spokesman said the pope was saddened to learn of Reagan's death June 5 and had prayed for the "eternal rest of his soul."

The pope was visiting

See REAGAN, page 16

**Culture Watch**
*Harry Potter movie darker but delightful*
| PAGES 14-15

**Mother Teresa award**
*St. Francis of Assisi parishioner embodies nun's traits*
| PAGE 17

**Perspectives**
*A look at the death penalty moratorium*
| PAGES 18-19

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SPELLING SUCCESS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

David Scott Tidmarsh of South Bend, Ind., expresses relief before winning the 77th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee contest in Washington June 3. The 14-year-old won in the 15th round of the contest by correctly spelling the word "autochthonous," which means indigenous.

## Spelling bee champ says he was nervous but likes spotlight

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — Be forewarned, future young spellers of the United States, that David Scott Tidmarsh, the 2004 national spelling bee champion, may bequeath his talents to younger brother Kevin.

Besides admitting he probably will pass on his word lists to his sibling, Tidmarsh, 14, said June 7 he is enjoying his time in the spotlight following his besting 264 other spellers June 3 at the 77th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington.

He spelled 39 words correctly and won the competition with the word "autochthonous," meaning indigenous.

"The place just exploded" with enthusiasm, he said in an interview with *Today's Catholic*, newspaper of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

He came home, he thinks, with $18,000 and plaques, one for him and another for his school, Edison Intermediate Center, a South Bend public school.

Among his strong supporters was English teacher and spelling bee coach Brian Ginzer, who said he was so nervous he had to stay home to watch the nationally televised competition.

To be a good speller, Ginzer said, "a person has to be an avid reader. David reads and reads and reads. I gave him 'Dracula' at the beginning of the year; it was a difficult read ... but he pummeled through it.

"He did read the dictionary. He has a photographic memory and can commit it to memory. He not only sees the word but also its pronunciation and origin and part of speech and definition," he said.

Since the third grade, he said, Tidmarsh has shown he is a "raw talent and continued to improve."

Tidmarsh, whose parents and three siblings belong to Little Flower Church in South Bend, said besides really liking to read, he also enjoys "playing board games, chess, checkers, Monopoly, things like that."

"And I like sports, like soccer and baseball, and I like to swim. I play the piano," he said, with a little laugh, and although he began seven years ago, "I'm not very good at it."

He isn't sure who or what triggered his interest in spelling.

"It's just something I always liked to do. When I had spelling bees in elementary school, I thought it would be fun," he said.

With no more spelling bees ahead for him, he thinks he might get more involved at his parish. Until now, "I just haven't had time to do more," he said.

## Bush cites Catholic programs as examples of faith-based success

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush recognized Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as an example of faith-based initiatives that work.

Speaking at a White House conference on faith-based and community initiatives June 1, Bush cited the cases of two refugees whose resettlement in the United States has been handled through Catholic agencies as examples of people whose lives have been changed through their association with faith-based organizations.

Operating on a contract basis for the federal government, the Catholic Church has for decades resettled more refugees in the United States than any other entity.

Like people with addictions or children with parents in prison, refugees are among those who benefit from social service programs run by people whose motivation comes from religious faith, Bush said.

"That's what the faith-based and community initiative is all about," Bush said.

The Bush administration's faith-based initiatives have included creating centers in federal agencies to assist small community and religious organizations provide social services through federal government programs. It also has focused on eliminating administrative barriers that previously might have kept faith-based organizations from participating in federal programs.

"I fully understand it's important to maintain the separation of church and state. ... But I do believe that groups should be allowed to access social service grants so long as they don't proselytize or exclude somebody simply because they don't share a certain faith," Bush said.

Bush said there is a way to accomplish the separation of church and state "and at the same time, accomplish the social objective of having America become a hopeful place and a loving place," which he said faith-based institutions are better equipped to do than government acting on its own.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

### BOONE VICARIATE

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All men are invited to join the *Saint Joseph Society of Charlotte* June 18 at 8 p.m. in the reception room of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Patrick Winslow will serve as guide on the path to holiness. The fulfillment of vocation can only be attained through knowledge and awareness. For more information contact Michael Kitson at paxetbonum@mindspring.com.

CHARLOTTE — All women are invited to join *Women in the Word* for weekly gathering for prayer, reflection on Sunday scripture, music and sharing experiences of Christ in daily life. The group meets each Thursday, 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Linda Flynn at (704) 366-9889. For childcare reservations, call Jurga Petrikene at 704) 907-0205.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will offer *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass and Benediction at 1:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner chlt5nc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. The May 12 meeting will honor those couples celebrating 50 years of marriage. For reservations and more information, call Lucille Kroboth (704) 537-2189.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. in Our Lady of Consolation Church, 23 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official: Arms spending robs citizens of basic needs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Arms spending robs citizens of their basic needs, said the Vatican's secretary of state.

Bringing a dignified standard of living to all people would do more in guaranteeing greater stability and peace than the latest weaponry, Cardinal Angelo Sodano said to members of the Organization of American States, who held their general assembly June 6-8 in Quito, Ecuador.

"Even today, so much wealth continues to be wasted on procuring ever more sophisticated instruments of war while that which is necessary for full human development is lacking," Cardinal Sodano said.

The cardinal noted that the OAS' commission on security in the Americas defined peace as being based on "democracy, justice, respect of human rights, solidarity, security and respect for international law."

These foundations of peace are based upon the fundamental right to life that cannot be fully realized in conditions where there is a lack of food, housing, education, health care, work and freedom, he said.

"In order to guarantee these conditions, huge economic resources are needed, but they unfortunately are often lacking," Cardinal Sodano said.

Cardinal Sodano urged donor countries and financial institutions to "make a generous effort" in offering help to those countries in dire economic straits or in need of financing for development projects.

"A donation made today may result in substantial savings tomorrow and help contribute toward peace and security," he said.

# Pope urges U.S. bishops to counter acceptance of abortion, gay unions

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged U.S. bishops to counter "erroneous yet pervasive thinking" that has paved the way for acceptance of social evils like abortion, pornography and homosexual unions.

The pope said that over the last 40 years in the United States, human rights have become detached from the search for truth and have sometimes turned into "self-centered demands."

The pope made his critique June 4 to bishops from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming who were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican.

The theme of the pope's speech was "evangelization of culture," which he said touched upon the fundamental dynamic of the church's activity, enabling people of every culture to be transformed by the power of the Gospel.

But he said this essential task is challenged today by a loss of transcendent values and goals. He cited a "growing reluctance to acknowledge that all men and women receive their essential and common dignity from God and with it the capacity to move toward truth and goodness."

"Detached from this vision of the fundamental unity and purpose of the whole human family, rights are at times reduced to self-centered demands: the growth of prostitution and pornography in the name of adult choice, the acceptance of abortion in the name of women's rights, the approval of same-sex unions in the name of homosexual rights," he said.

This is a sign that "false secularist forms of humanism" can turn into a "veritable idolatry" in the modern age, the pope said.

In the face of such a mistaken approach, he said, bishops should "do everything possible" to encourage lay Catholics to take seriously their responsibility for evangelizing culture, and to teach that human dignity is tied to creation by God and redemption by Christ.

"So again I say to the people of the United States, it is the paschal mystery of Christ that is the only sure point of reference for all of humanity on its pilgrimage in search of authentic unity and true peace," he said.

life are invited to attend. For more information, call Skyler Harvey, SFO, at (704) 545-9133.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

HIGH POINT— To mark 10 years of *perpetual Eucharistic adoration* at Maryfield Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass June 13 at 3 p.m. with a Corpus Christi procession and blessing of the sick. All are welcome to attend. Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, will be master of ceremonies. For more information call (336) 886-2444.

GREENSBORO — Jim McCullough, director of faith formation of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., will present "Key to the Scriptures," a new way to read the Bible with understanding. Classes will meet Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. beginning June 15 in the library. To register, leave your name, address and phone number with Mary-Ann DipPaola at (336) 274-6520, ext. 33.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

SYLVA — The North Carolina State Court cordially invites you to attend the institution of *Court St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Daughters of the Americas* at St. Mary, Mother of God Church at 22 Bartlett St., June 27 during the 11 a.m. Mass. For more information, e-mail Rita Goffinet at springtyme71@aol.com.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school having an event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**June 12**
Corpus Christi Celebration
with Youth and Young Adults
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

**June 13 — 3 p.m.**
Corpus Christi Mass and Procession
Maryfield Chapel, High Point

**June 14-19**
Spring General Meeting of the USCCB
Denver, Colo.

**June 21-24**
Convocation of Priests
Asheville

**June 27**
North Carolina Black Catholic Conference
Greensboro

# 'God Speed, Smarty Jones'

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Sister Patricia Friel of Queens Village, N.Y., a Little Sister of the Poor, holds a sign that reads "God Speed, Smarty Jones" for 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Smarty Jones, as she and other nuns visit Belmont Park in Elmont June 3. They were out to support the horse, which was attempting to become the first since 1978 to win horse racing's coveted Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes June 5. The much-favored horse lost to longshot Birdstone.**

## CORRECTION

Father John Trigilio's name was misspelled in a May 21 story.

## NOTICE TO READERS

*The Catholic News & Herald* is now on its bi-weekly publishing schedule for June, July and August. Our next issue will be June 25.

# Praise for a protector

## *Officer Bazluki receives employee award*

CHARLOTTE — Detention Officer Matthew Bazluki of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Special Services was the recipient of the May 2004 Employee of the Month Award.

Bazluki, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and a graduate of both St. Patrick School and Charlotte Catholic High School, received a plaque, a day off with pay, a denim shirt with the sheriff's office logo, $300 from the Quality Achievement Awards (QAA) Program for his exemplary work, a QAA pen and a commemorative pen.

Bazluki was commended for leading an active and professional law enforcement Exploring post, overseeing a child identification program that serves nearly 10,000 children annually and conducting child passenger safety seat inspections throughout the county. This is in addition to spearheading the intern program between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Central Piedmont Community College and the sheriff's office.

Bazluki has also served as a member and past vice-president of Charlotte Catholic High School's alumni board of directors and as chairman of "Safe Kids Charlotte-Mecklenburg."

It was also noted during the presentation that Bazluki had not missed a day of work during his six years as an officer.

Bazluki has the distinction of being named as the 2002 Law Enforcement Community Service Officer of the Year for the state of North Carolina by the state chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

COURTESY PHOTO

Chief Deputy Daniel E. Bailey presents Detention Officer Matthew Bazluki of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Special Services with the May 2004 Employee of the Month Award.

**BREAKING GROUND**

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

## *Parish holds groundbreaking for new church*

Senior parishioners Cristina Ammons and Harry Robbins dig in as Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan, pastor, and other parishioners watch during the groundbreaking ceremony May 30 for the new St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville. The new church will stand adjacent to the present facility, with construction expected to begin within the next few months. The current church, built in 1941 with seating for nearly 200 people, will be converted to classroom and meeting space. Seating capacity in the new church will add about 100 more seats and the facility will be handicap accessible.

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HELP FOR HAITI

# St. Matthew Church donates 20 tons of food, supplies to Caribbean nation

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As the pallets were loaded into the truck, weeks of hard work were finally coming to a close.

"We had such a great turnout from the parish," said Joe George. "We hope it will turn into an annual event."

George coordinated the five-week food drive during which parishioners of St. Matthew Church amassed 20 tons of food and supplies for the people of Haiti.

The pallets were loaded June 9 onto a truck bound for Fort Lauderdale, Fla. From there, they will venture via cargo ship to the Cape Haitian mission of the Missionaries of the Poor, an order of Catholic priests and brothers who care for the homeless and destitute.

Cape Haitian, home to about 1.8 million people, is in the heart of a ghetto surrounded by often-impassable mountains. The Missionaries of the Poor will use the food and supplies in their mission and to help feed hungry residents.

Haiti, a Caribbean nation where 85 percent of the residents are illiterate, has long been a country of crisis.

A drought last year was followed by flash floods in December. In February of this year, a violent insurgency by rebels forced out the country's first freely elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, leaving the country in shambles.

May brought several days of heavy rain, resulting in floods that have killed more than 1,000 people and left more than 50,000 homeless and hungry.

In Baltimore, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, announced it would provide emergency funds to assist flooded communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARK SARTORI

A youth does his part to help pack items for the St. Matthew Church's food drive for Haiti.

The people of St. Matthew wanted to do their part to help, too.

"It emanated from an ongoing relationship with the Missionaries of the Poor," said George.

The parish has been involved with the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica since February 1998. In October 2002, a group from the parish visited Haiti.

"As a result of that trip, we decided we needed to do something to help out and collect food," said George.

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARK SARTORI

Parishioners of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte sort items for the church's food drive for Haiti. The parish collected 20 tons of food and supplies.

Last year, the parish collected and donated 10 pallets of food and supplies for the Haitian mission. Haiti's recent troubles in the news helped this years food drive double that amount.

A banner was hung outside of the church; flyers were distributed calling for needed items, including white rice, cornmeal, dry pinto beans and pasta, flour, powdered milk, peanut butter and tuna.

"It's a neat project because people could help on different levels," said Sandy Farrelly, head of the parish mission board.

Parish priests spoke of the food drive from the pulpit. Volunteers attended weekend Masses to hand out empty banana boxes and lists of where to purchase needed items. Some parishioners went shopping, others did packing. St. Matthew School students brought in food, and many wrote and drew cards of love and support for the Haitians.

The result was 40,000 pounds of aid lining the church's gymnasium for people the majority of the 5,000-household parish had never met.

"The response was so enthusiastic," said Farrelly. "What impressed me the most was the spirit the people had — they were so excited to help out."

The response was an example of Catholics living out their faith, said George.

"It was rewarding and encouraging to see all the people getting involved," he said.

And the students who participated learned the importance of helping others in need, said George.

"That will benefit them later on, and the people of Haiti benefited from their efforts," he said.

The shipment of food will last about three to four months, said George. St. Matthew Church has partnered with Catholic churches in New Jersey and Georgia to rotate drives and keep food going to Haiti on a regular basis.

"I think it was a very nice way to do something," said parishioner Beth Pannenberg, who delivered food for the drive June 3. "It was a very worthy cause."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis exchanges confidences with 2-year-old Vanessa Games during Immaculate Conception Church's 50th anniversary celebration June 6.

# Immaculate Conception Church celebrates 50 years

JUBILEE, *from page 1*

was purchased and Immaculate Conception Church became a reality. The first Mass was celebrated in June 1954.

"Bishop (Vincent S.) Waters was here," Bonarrigo said. "It was a very moving experience. We finally had a church. It was a great thing to drive past the church and say 'That's our church.'"

For the church's 50th anniversary celebration, held June 6, Bishop Peter J. Jugis was principal celebrant. Since Immaculate Conception seats only about 80 people, the Mass was held in the Colonial Theater in downtown Canton. Some 200 people nearly filled the theater's main seating space; a few more watched from the balcony.

An embroidered white cloth covered the folding table that served as an altar on the theater stage decorated with palms in woven baskets. At the rear of the stage, Immaculate Conception Church's combined Anglo and Hispanic choirs sang, the congregation joining in.

"On this solemn feast of the Holy Trinity, we give thanks for this Catholic presence in the mountains," Bishop Jugis said in his homily.

He emphasized that, "The source of our unity is the Eucharist. Regardless of our country of origin or the first language we speak, when we partake of the Eucharist, we become one body in Christ."

Concelebrating were Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church and of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville; retired Father James Cahill, former pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva; and Father C. Morris Boyd, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson and St. Frances of Rome Church in Sparta.

Before going on a Spanish-immersion sabbatical in Mexico in 2002-2003, Father Boyd, then pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, drove to Canton every Sunday for a year to celebrate Hispanic Mass at Immaculate Conception Church.

Father McGowan celebrates the English-language Mass each Sunday morning for the parish's 33 Anglo families. On Sunday evenings, Father Shawn O'Neal, administrator of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee, celebrates Hispanic Mass about once a month, often with 100 or more Hispanic worshipers. The crowd is smaller when a communion service is offered rather than Mass.

June 6 was the parish's second Mass that Anglos and Hispanics attended together.

Following Mass, the Immaculate Conception Dancers performed on the theater stage. Then six of the church's original parishioners were recognized: Bonarrigo, Mildred Pharr, Lucille and Steve Czarnicke, and Edna and Morris Kelley.

Bishop Jugis commended the fortitude that brought people to the mountains in the past and still brings them there today.

"How blessed you are to have founding parishioners still with you," he said. "As the current bishop of Charlotte, I want to thank you for your pioneer spirit .... I think it's a good sign, that the parish is growing so much that you could not even have the celebration in the church."

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more on the history of Immaculate Conception Church, please see the Parish Profile on page 20.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Six- and 7-year-old members of the Immaculate Conception Dancers perform in the post-Mass program at Immaculate Conception Church's 50th anniversary celebration June 6.

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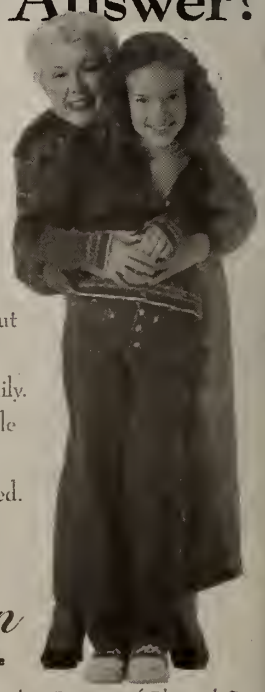

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PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

The ordinands lie prostrate before the altar while the Litany of the Saints is sung during the ordination Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte June 5.

Newly-ordained Father Timothy Reid offers Communion during the ordination Mass June 5.

# Three priests ordained

PRIESTS, *from page 1*

bishop ordained the men to the transitional diaconate at St. Vincent de Paul Church Dec. 21, 2003.

During his homily, the bishop encouraged the priestly candidates to use their ministry to tell the people the truth of Christ.

"St. Peter reminds us that Christ made all his people a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart," said Bishop Jugis in his homily. "Yet our Lord decided to establish a priestly office in his church, and to do this he chose certain men, Apostles, so that he could continue visibly to exercise his office of teacher, priest and shepherd in the church."

The bishop said that through the sacrament of holy orders, the new priests will be "configured to Christ through a sacramental identification with the Eternal High Priest."

Teaching, sanctifying and shepherding in the name of Christ are sacred duties, said Bishop Jugis.

"By your ministry, the spiritual sacrifices of the Christ's people will be made perfect, as they are united to the sacrifice of Christ which you will offer," he said.

"May the holiness of the sacrifices you celebrate consecrate you interiorly so that you can put to death whatever is not of Christ, and the life of the risen Christ may shine in you," he said.

The bishop told the new priests that Christ's people would look to them for direction.

"Strive to bring Christ's people together into one family in unity, and lead them together to God the Father," said Bishop Jugis. "Through your living ministry of this holy gift of priesthood, which you receive today, may God make you true pastors who nourish the faithful with the world of life and with the body of Christ, the bread of everlasting life."

Concelebrants of the Mass included Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and diocesan chancellor; Father Philip Scarcella, administrator of Our Lady of the Assumption Church; Father John Allen, diocesan vocations director; and other priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte. In attendance was Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

During the rite of ordination, the candidates made their promises to fulfill the office of priesthood. Kneeling, each man placed his hands between Bishop Jugis' hands in a promise of obedience to the bishop and his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the candidates, the church and its people as the candidates lay prostrate before the altar.

During the rite's most solemn moment, the candidates knelt in silence before Bishop Jugis, who laid his hands on their heads. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidates and prayed the prayer of consecration.

Each new priest was vested with a stole and a chasuble — outer garments of the priestly office. The bishop anointed their hands with sacred chrism and each was then presented with a chalice and paten signifying his role as celebrant of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained Father Conway, Father Reid and Father Starczewski then joined their brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening new chapters in their lives.

"They each bring unique gifts and very generous hearts to the service of God's people," said Father Allen. "I'm sure their diverse gifts and professional backgrounds will equip them to be very effective priests."

The road to the priesthood is marked by a series of milestones: lector, acolyte, candidacy, transitional deacon and priestly ordination.

"Now the real journey begins," said Father Reid.

Father Reid was employed in the Office of Migration and Refugee Services of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. prior to his acceptance as a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I hope to be an instrument of God's mercy," said Father Reid, "to love people as Christ loved them and to help sanctify them."

"It's the fulfillment of a dream that I've always had to serve God's people," said Father Conway. "Through the grace of God, I'll be worthy to serve them."

Widowed in 1988, Father Conway worked as a corporate accountant in New Jersey before entering the seminary.

"He's going to be a priest of the people," said Msgr. James J. McGovern, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Morristown, N.J., and Father Conway's former pastor. "He's really extends his heart to people."

"It's a wonderful power of God that he can take any one of us and use us for his will," said Father Starczewski.

A native of Utica, N.Y., Father Starczewski worked for several years in manufacturing research and development in western North Carolina before entering the seminary.

"I would like to do what all good clergy are called to do — to bring the compassion of Christ to all people," he said.

*Editor's note: More photos available at www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html.*

## PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS
### EFFECTIVE JULY 6

Father Robert Conway will be parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Father Timothy Reid will be parochial vicar at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Father John Starczewski will be parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

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# Another step in the journey

## *St. Leo students celebrate graduations*

WINSTON-SALEM — Students at St. Leo the Great School are celebrating big changes in their lives.

The eighth-graders bid a fond farewell to the school at their graduation ceremony June 1.

The students were treated to memories of distinguished alumna Karen Wiggins Jacobsen, a 1984 graduate. Jacobsen said that, while the school's appearance may have been changed and expanded over the years, its core is still built upon a strong Catholic foundation.

Several academic awards were presented during the ceremony. Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber, minister to the sick at St. Leo the Great Church, presented a $1,000 scholarship award to Casey Moore that will go toward her first year's tuition at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.

Sister Dennis Eileen said that in her mind the award stands for the "three Cs" — consideration, courtesy, and cooperation.

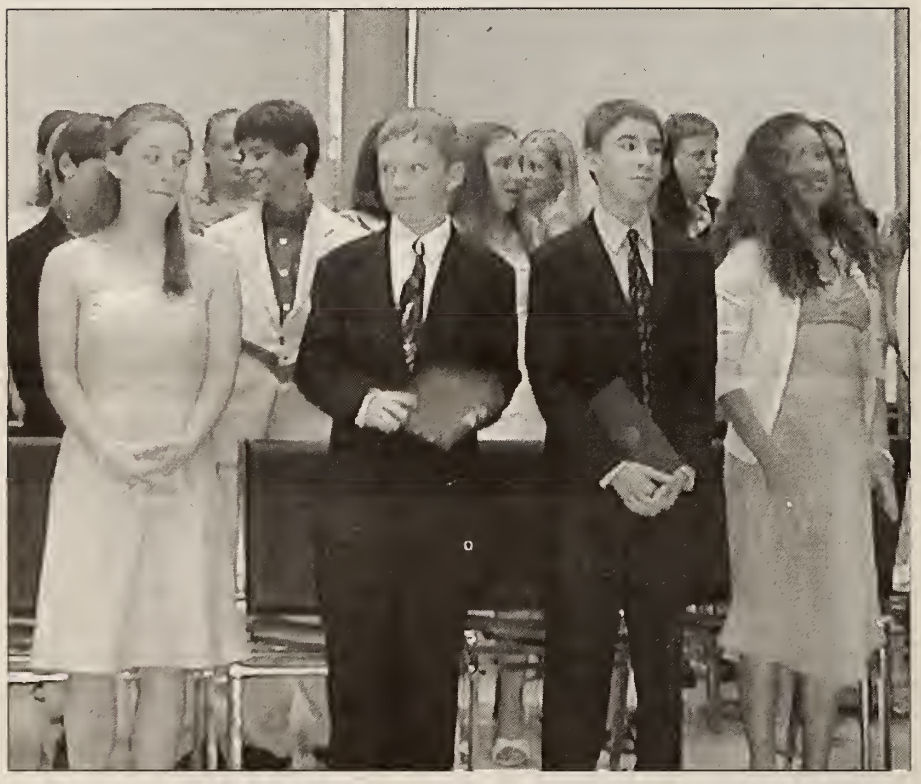
The graduates made two presentations. The first was a class gift to the school of a new cross for the front entrance and restored lettering of "St. Leo School." Second, as a sign of their love and gratitude, the students presented their parents with red roses.

Seventh graders saluted the graduates by singing "We're the Future of Tomorrow" and "May the Road Rise to Meet You."

Father Thomas Kessler, pastor o St. Leo the Great Church, blessed th graduates and their families, an wished them well as they begin thei new educational and life journeys.

Father Kessler also bestowed a spe cial blessing upon the kindergarten clas during its graduation ceremony May 2

The students sang a song to th tune of "New York, New York" to sa "goodbye" to kindergarten and "hell to the first-grade.



COURTESY PHOTO

The eighth-grade class of St. Leo the Great School participates in its graduation ceremony June 1.

# One last gathering

## *St. Michael grads ready for high school*

COURTESY PHOT

Eighth-grade graduates gather outside St. Michael School in Gastonia for a grou photo May 5. Back row (from left): Rex Woodville-Price, Mary Beth Moore, Jonatha Ramirez, Melissa Sherrill, Robbie Frye, Jenny Collier, Jonathan Elkin, Vanesa Henac Andrea Valedon, Samantha Capps, P. J. Accurso. Front row (from left): David Streng Jonathan Hinson, Elizabeth Black, Brittany Adams, Kaley Falls, Allison Scott, Kelse Abernathy, Manuel Carvajal, Robert Stover and Sarah Geyer.

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# Grandest of days

COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gabriel School celebrated its annual Grandparents Day April 30. Pictured are (from left) Nancy LeFlore with grandsons Hank (fifth grade) and Sam LeFlore (third grade), and Roger and Nancy Schmidt with grandsons Hunter (fourth grade) and Alex Brawley (kindergarten).


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# 'G is for Grace'

## *School unveils anniversary book at ceremony*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Students, faculty and staff at Our Lady of Grace School proclaim, "G is for Grace."

"It was the jubilee year for Our Lady of Grace and we wanted to do something very special to celebrate our 50th birthday, so we decided to write a book," said Shirley Kinlaw, assistant principal.

During the past school year, the student body — with help from faculty and staff — has planned, written, drawn and colored numerous poems, articles and pictures based on the alphabet for the book "G is for Grace — An A to Z Celebration."

An unveiling ceremony of the finished book for the students, faculty, parents and invited guests was held in the school gymnasium May 27. Afterward, Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, blessed the books.

"The words and work that went into this book bring the alphabet alive while expressing the thread and fabric of the faith," said Father O'Rourke.

According to Kinlaw, all of the school's 415 students, from kindergarten through eighth grade, have had some of their work incorporated into the book, which opens with a poem from Celia McMullen's kindergarten class:

"A is for angels
Who guard you at night.
If you ask them to help
They come with great might."

Each class worked with a different letter of the alphabet — students and teachers collaborated to create a four-line poem based on the assigned letter for each page of the book. Working with church historian Jim Patton and using materials available in the school library, each class developed appropriate historical text for its page that tied its assigned letter into important elements of the school's 50-year history and school life of its students.

With help from artists from ArtQuest, part of the Greenhill Art Gallery in Greensboro, graphics depicting each letter and using different media were created to illustrate the book.

"We had to brainstorm our ideas. We all made (the poems and letters) and put it together. We all drew pictures," said fifth-grader Stephen Marrujo.

"We wrote poems and essays, then put them all together," said sixth-grader Mary Kate Young. "One of the poems went into the book. That's what I liked best."

After receiving a grant to offset some of the production costs, the school contacted Carole Crane, author of alphabet books such as "T is for Tarheel" and "P is for Pilgrim."

Crane held a faculty workshop detailing the "how-tos" of creating an alphabet book, then met with each class to explain to the students what was needed for their projects.

"It was fun because we were one of the only schools to publish a book," said seventh-grader Sandra Merlini.

"It's a good book because it's inspiring," added seventh-grader Tommy King.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Students Anna Peterson and Zachary Yokeley present the letter "C" during the unveiling ceremony of the book "G is for Grace" at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro May 27.

# Bishop McGuinness holds commencement

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Graduates of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville leave the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem after the commencement ceremony May 29.

GRADS, *from page 1*

cises for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville took place at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem May 29.

"Tonight we are on the threshold of our future," said Kimberly Marie Burke, valedictorian. "Four years ago we were little ducks in a big pond. But we rose to every occasion .... This rite of passage has been earned by all those special moments that got us to this point."

"This year's graduation is most notable because this graduation class is the last class that has any connection whatsoever with the old Bishop McGuinness (school)," said Principal George Repass.

The original Bishop McGuinness High School was located in Winston-Salem. The Kernersville school opened in August 2001; the old Bishop McGuinness facility is now used by Our Lady of Mercy elementary school.

The event was also notable, said Repass, becuase the two salutatorians, Kyle Jordan Barbour and Michael Joseph Lee, were separated by 1/10,000th of a point.

"Tonight is a celebration of all of the experiences of our high school years," said Barbour during his salutatory address. "It is a time to look back ... to remember those times we enjoyed with each other ... and everything we did."

"Our decisions have molded us into what we are today," said Lee. "High school is a lot of work and stress, but is also filled with fun and happiness ... to which we must seek a good balance. We have spent four years developing, now we must move on."

The guest speaker at the event was Daniel Morrison, a 1985 graduate and member of Secretary of State Colin Powell's speech writing staff.

"In a world which has changed from my class to yours, you have the privilege of growing up as Americans," said Morrison.

He urged the graduates to write their own stories, their own plots and their own dialogue.

"The story must read like you ... Be original to be successful," he said. "You must walk out (of here) with the obligation to show the difference Bishop McGuinness has made for you."

The graduating class, which earned $1 million in scholarships, was honored during a baccalaureate Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 27.

"Watching the baccalaureate Mass with Bishop (Peter J.) Jugis and the many parish priests concelebrating brought forth the real purpose of our schools — our Catholic faith," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

"When the seniors presented roses to the mothers or mother-figures in their lives, it was done with the honor that is associated with the Blessed Mother," said Cherry. "Nowhere else at a graduation ceremony this spring would you have experienced this occurring, except at our Catholic high schools."

During the commencement ceremony, graduates were excited yet apprehensive about graduating.

"I'm speechless. It still hasn't hit me yet," said graduate Lauren Michelle Croughan.

"I'm happy and very sad at the same time because I will probably not see my friends again," said graduate Leslie Bowen. "I loved Bishop (McGuinness), especially the relationships that existed between the teachers and the students."

"In the name of the Diocese of Charlotte, I acknowledge the dedication of the faculty, administration and the families for the students at Bishop McGuinness," said Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese. "We congratulate these graduates and leave them our love and support."

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Bishop McGuinness salutatorian Kyle Jordan Barbour addresses fellow graduates and others during the commencement ceremony at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem May 29.

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FINAL FANFARE

# Charlotte Catholic graduates celebrate lessons learned in and out of the classroom

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Spring inevitably brings with it warms days, summer vacation and, for many ecstatic teenagers everywhere, the culmination of 12 years of school.

There was no deviation from this schedule as the 228 seniors of Charlotte Catholic High School's class of 2004 proudly walked across the stage of Ovens Auditorium to receive their diplomas June 3.

The Charlotte Catholic Band played the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance," graduates clad in navy robes filled the center section of the auditorium while proud family and friends watched.

The diplomas were conferred by Mgsr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and diocesan chancellor; Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; and Gerald Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School.

"The diploma I receive tonight will be hung up on a wall somewhere ... but in time, the ink will fade," said Alex Queen, salutatorian. "But the imprints you won't see on it, the lessons you can't learn with your mind but with your heart, those will last me a lifetime and beyond."

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Graduates applaud at the conclusion of commencement exercises held at Ovens Auditorium June 3. More than 200 seniors participated in the 49th annual ceremony.**

Soon these close-knit students will take their first steps into the world beyond high school. In the fall, they will attend universities as diverse as the members of the class of 2004 — including University of Georgia, Appalachian State University, Loyola Marymount University, several of the University of North Carolina campuses and both Miami University (Ohio) and University of Miami (Florida).

Seventy-seven members of Charlotte Catholic's class of 2004 were awarded scholarships totaling more than $4.3 million. Scholarships were bestowed by institutions as prestigious as Vanderbilt University, Catholic University of America and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Four students — valedictorian Michael Florack, Sarah Knish, Stephen Norris and Geoffrey Sholler — were among 8,000 National Merit Scholarship finalists.

"There are so many gifts and talents, so much faith and courage among the seniors," said Mary Jayne Dawson, campus minister.

The commencement exercises for Charlotte Catholic High School reflected the Catholic faith that is taught alongside French, American history and algebra.

"From the baccalaureate Mass with Bishop Jugis to the opening and closing prayers by seniors at the actual graduation, our Catholic faith was evident," said Cherry.

"Watching some little kindnesses at the baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony ... assures me that these seniors will carry forth their Christian attitudes and Catholic faith as they go out to the many corners of the world," she said. "I wish them much success and happiness."

"I have been privileged to listen as they shared their stories on retreats and offered so much of their time reaching out among the community," said Dawson. "When help has been needed, they are there without question, without complaint, with enthusiasm and effort."

"I look forward with pride to what this generation, specifically these seniors, will do to help make the world a better place," she said.

In his salutatory address, Queen listed the twelve most important lessons he learned as a student at Charlotte Catholic High School.

Lesson Four, he said, was "Sometimes, it's best to plan ahead in life. Other times, live for the moment."

"You need to work hard to accomplish your goals, but remember to play hard also," he said was Lesson Two.

"Life is much tougher than any course you could ever take. ... There is no set syllabus telling you exactly what you need to do," said Queen. "And you can't take it over again when it's done. Luckily, you have more than one teacher to guide you along the way."

"God didn't give us a world free of fear, pain and suffering, but what he did give us to make these things bearable is each other," said Queen.

Following the closing prayer, the euphoric graduates marched out into the open green space outside the auditorium. After tossing their caps into the air against a soft evening sky, young men and women embraced each other as if for the first time and the last.

Queen's sixth lesson: "It's great to get hugs. It's even better to give them."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

# Saying goodbye

COURTESY PHOTO

**St. Ann School fifth-graders were honored during an awards ceremony and Mass June 4. The school gymnasium was lined with parents, students, teachers and others who cheered the graduating students as they bid farewell to the school. Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, and Carol Breerwood, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, shook hands with the fifth-graders and welcomed them to Holy Trinity in the fall.**

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SEIZING THE DAY

# Pre-K, eighth-graders celebrate graduations at Asheville Catholic School

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — During the school year, Asheville Catholic School's eighth-graders devoted some of their time to the school's pre-kindergarten class as part of the Big Friends/Little Friends program.

The older students acted as mentors, helping with arts and crafts, projects and assignments. After school, they ensured that the pre-K students were safe in the car pickup line. Throughout the year, they forged memories and made friends.

On May 28, the Big Friends/Little Friends shared another memory — both classes held graduation ceremonies.

In the morning, the pre-K students marched to the front of St. Eugene Church for their graduation ceremony. Teacher's assistant Tracey Stage held a picture that each student had drawn as he or she came forward to talk about what each had learned that year. Topics ranged from bugs and dinosaurs to space shuttles and planets.

After singing "You Are My Sunshine," the students presented yellow roses to their parents. Diplomas were awarded, and the students moved the tassels around on their caps. During a reception following the ceremony, eighth-graders gave gifts to their Little Friends.

Later that evening, 20 eighth-graders — many who had been classmates since their own preschool days — marched into the church for their baccalaureate Mass and graduation ceremony.

"Don't ever stop appreciating and giving thanks to God for what he has accomplished in each and every one of you," said Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church, to the graduates.

Father Cancro, Principal Virginia Hutton and teacher Sue Banks presented class awards and certificates. Honor graduate Caitlin Bradley, who received attendance and first honors awards, delivered a message to her fellow graduates. She encouraged her classmates to believe in themselves and "seize the day," saying each graduate was "like the piece of paper that waits for the poet to write on it."

Like their Little Friends, the eighth-graders presented yellow roses to their parents. The faculty then came forward and placed their hands on the graduates' shoulders as Father Cancro offered a prayer and a blessing for the outgoing class.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Asheville Catholic School pre-kindergarten students move their tassels during their graduation ceremony at St. Eugene Church May 28.

# Portraying Olympians

COURTESY PHOTO

To celebrate the upcoming summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, St. Patrick School in Charlotte held an Olympic Field Day on the last day of school, June 4. The event, organized by Candace Mazze, physical education teacher, involved each class picking a country to represent and creating a flag to display for that country on the field. The students also made T-shirts or wore colors of that country.

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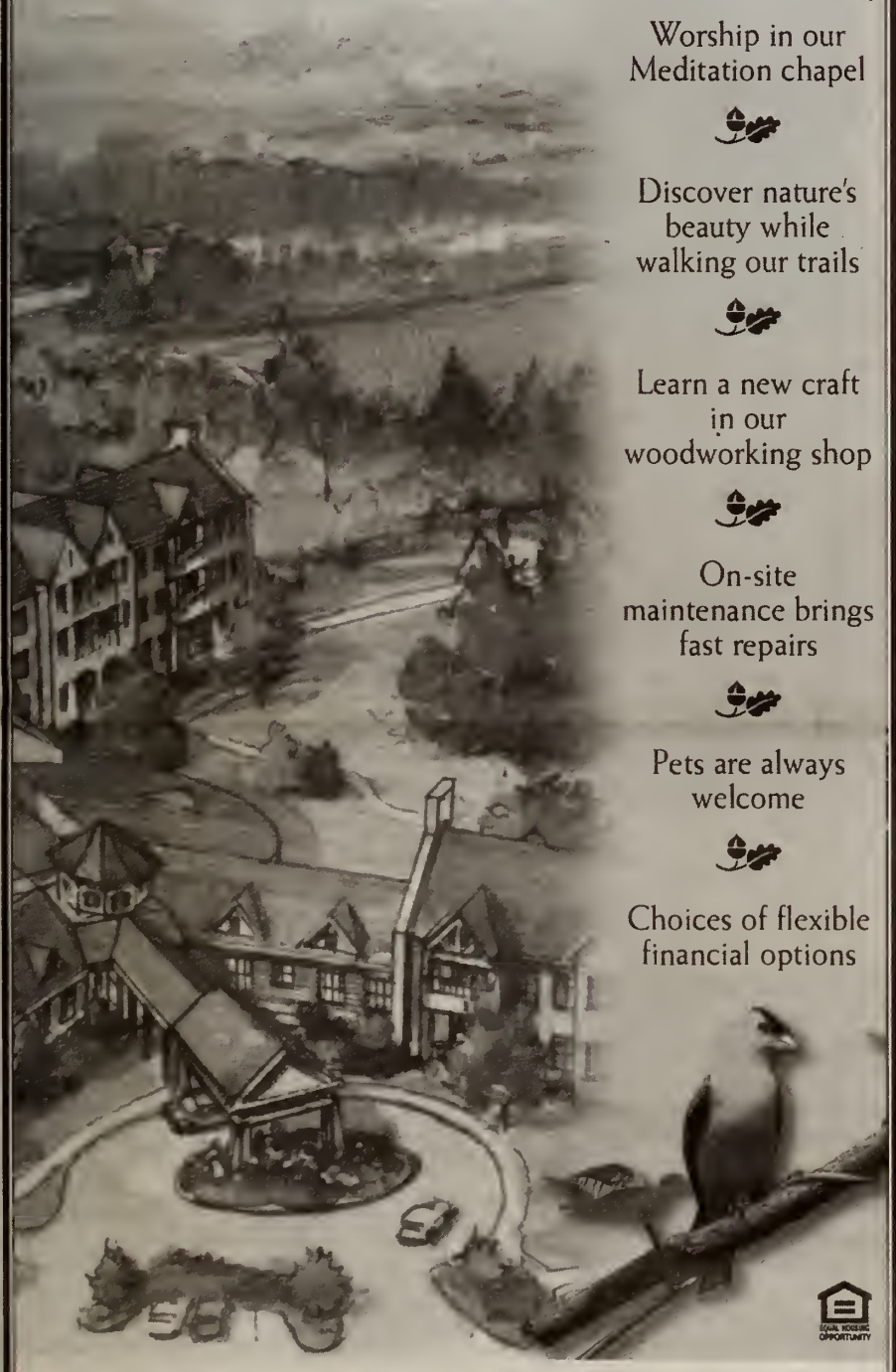

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# Matching wits and wizards

COURTESY PHOTO

*Fourth-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem play their version of a Quidditch Match June 2 in preparation for "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," released June 4. The two teams of Ravenclaw and Gryffindor, based on houses at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, faced off riding broomsticks (pool noodles) while their respective Seekers looked for the Snitch (a gold-painted golf ball with feathered wings). The idea for the game was taken from a Family Fun Magazine article, "Bringing Books to Life." Daria Wooten, mother of student Carly Wooten, hosted the event as Madame Hooch, Hogwarts' flying instructor.*


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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Calligrapher transcribes Psalms into illuminated manuscript

BY JOSEPH YOUNG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. CLOUD, Minn. — Donald Jackson had a special hand in producing the "Book of Psalms." It's an artistic hand that used a quill and flowing elliptic motions to produce an illuminated manuscript version of the biblical text.

The "Book of Psalms," 150 songs traditionally ascribed to King David, is the third volume to be completed of the Saint John's Bible. Six pages of the 80-page volume were unveiled in late April at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

The completion of Psalms marks "the midpoint of this great endeavor," said Benedictine Brother Dietrich Reinhart, president of St. John's University, which commissioned the project in 1998. The illuminated Bible is scheduled to be completed by 2007.

Jackson is artistic director of the Saint John's Bible and a former longtime scribe to Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords in London. In the field of calligraphy and illumination, Jackson is also regarded as royalty.

Calligraphy is beautiful handwriting. Illumination is decorating a page with gold, silver, copper, platinum and brilliant colors, or with elaborate designs or miniature pictures.

"As the page turns, what is drawn there captures light, delighting the eye," Jackson said. "That's what it means to illuminate."

Jackson is not illuminating and doing calligraphy for all 1,150 or so calfskin pages of the seven volumes. A team of 14 calligraphers and artists is creating this Bible, directed by Jackson from his scriptorium in Monmouth, Wales.

It will be the first handwritten and illuminated Bible since the early 1500s.

Jackson said he created a font with a lighter weight script for the "Book of Psalms" which befits their more poetic and melodic nature compared to the text of the other completed volumes: "Gospels and Acts of the Apostles" and the "Pentateuch," the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Each volume measures about 16-by-24 inches.

The content of the "Book of Psalms" is not prose, "not even poetry. This is song," Jackson said as he demonstrated calligraphy by making a huge blue cursive "R" on an easel, his arm arcing elliptically like a blade on an eccentric windmill.

"The psalms are so powerful," he said. "In them there is anguish, fear, love, joy, regret that type of thing. Yet, they are contained within the page. It is passion contained."

Jackson, however, finds it difficult to contain his passion for his artistry, a passion fashioned when his aunt, to keep her precocious young nephew occupied, propped him at a table with a pen and bottle of red ink.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Pope John Paul II views illuminated works of art that illustrate The Saint John's Bible May 26.**

"I was just a little kid, but I still can feel the joy of dribbling that red wet stuff all over the page," said Jackson, 66.

The bulk of the work of the Saint John's Bible, using the text of the New Revised Standard Version, requires less flourish and more nourishing one's concentration and attention to textual detail.

To hint at how handwritten fonts are fashioned, Jackson drew an "o" on the easel, then drew over it successively, producing an "a," "c" and "g."

"Inside that 'o' live an 'a' and 'c' and 'g'," he said. "People are used to type, they're not used to calligraphy. We're not trying to sell beer on a highway billboard here. People are not going to be driving past this Bible at 70 miles per hour."

St. John's plans to make available trade reproductions of each volume of the Saint John's Bible, as well as limited-edition, full-size facsimiles, fine art prints and a CD-ROM computer version for worldwide distribution.

Undertaking a project that has been his lifelong dream has made a difference in Jackson's life, but in subtle ways.

"Has it made me more spiritual? No. But my spirituality has more of a workout than that of the average guy," said Jackson, who said he goes "to an Anglican church because it's nearby, but I'm not a regular churchgoer."

Jackson admits, however, to being moved by what he renders artistically.

"My soul thirsts for the Lord like a deer thirsts for flowing streams," he said, alluding to Psalm 42. "How can you remain unaffected when you're playing with words like this? You're writing like God with words that are megaphonable, mega-explosive."

The remaining volumes of the Saint John's Bible are "Prophets," scheduled for completion in February 2005; "Wisdom Books and Poetry," scheduled for completion in November 2005; "Historical Books," scheduled for completion in August 2006; and "Letters and the Book of Revelation," scheduled for completion in July 2007.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 20, 2004

## June 20, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1
Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9
2) Galatians 3:26-29
3) Gospel: Luke 9:18-24

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Then Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:20)

At certain ages, it is not uncommon for human beings to take stock of their lives and assess what they are really all about. For many of my friends, it is the "women in their 50s" syndrome: Children are grown (or at least less dependent), parents often have passed away and long-cherished or habitual roles are shifting.

Most of the time a wisdom born of surviving life's challenges enables one to assess what is most important and what is peripheral in the larger scheme of things. When all the roles, accomplishments and possessions are stripped away, one naturally asks, "Who am I really?"

Jesus' disciples are called upon in today's Gospel to answer this question, not about themselves but about their friend and teacher. When Peter finally gets it right, Jesus warns him to remain silent, explaining that much suffering and rejection must occur before his messiahship can be affirmed.

Most of the persons I know who are "finding themselves," in the truest sense, are those who have suffered loss, rejection and heartache. An older gentleman in an adult confirmation class describes the awakening that came with his widower status; an aunt whose children are grown goes back to school to acquire a degree that no one thought was practical or possible.

Even among the young, the crucibles of lack or tragedy, like the refiner's fire, often create a clearer self-identity and a stronger sense of direction. While none of us are messiahs in the way that Jesus is, we are in fact "anointed" (the meaning of the word "Messiah") in baptism and confirmation to recognize and fulfill our God-given purposes. Emptied of our false selves through trial and trouble, losing our lives for Christ's sake, we find our best — and blessed — selves.

***Questions:***

What experience of loss or brokenness has enabled me to recognize my true self more clearly? What have I learned about myself and my purpose through that experience?

***Scripture to Illustrate:***

"But you — who do you say that I am?" (Luke 9:20a)

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 13 - JUNE 19**

**Sunday (Body and Blood of Christ),** Genesis 14:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 9:11-17; **Monday,** 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday,** 1 Kings 21:17-29, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday,** 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday,** Sirach 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus),** Ezekiel 34:11-16, Romans 5:5-11, Luke 15:3-7; **Saturday (The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Luke 2:41-51

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 20 - JUNE 26**

**Sunday (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1, Galatians 3:26-29, Luke 9:18-24; **Monday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga),** 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18, Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday (St. Paulinus, Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More),** 2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday,** 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (Nativity of St. John the Baptist),** Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Friday,** 2 Kings 25:1-12, Matthew 8:1-4; **Saturday,** Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19, Matthew 8:5-17

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# 'Camel' carries tender tale

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# Harry, Hogwarts and Hippogrifs

## *New Harry Potter movie darker yet delightful*

BY GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — With a new director at the helm of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the franchise forges forward.

This is the third adaptation of J.K. Rowling's wildly successful Harry Potter fantasy novels about the boy wizard.

Chris Columbus, who directed "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" in 2001 and '02, switches to a producer's hat this time, as Alfonso Cuaron ("A Little Princess") slips into the director's chair.

Cuaron brings a more cinematic sensibility to the tale just as Steve Kloves' screenplay is less concerned with a literal translation of Rowling's novel. The resulting visuals are impressive, sometimes glorious — and occasionally frightening. In other words, too intense for young children unable to distinguish between reality and fantasy, for whom nightmares about snapping monsters would be a natural aftermath.

The story opens as wizard Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), now 13, is seething under the insulting remarks made by his Uncle Vernon's cruel sister (Pam Ferris) about his tragically murdered parents. Unable to rein in his temper or his promise not to perform magic outside his Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry bloats her and floats her up and away like a giant blimp.

This is a scene of comic delight that precedes the darker emotional territory Harry is headed for: Storming out of the house, he's picked up by a magical purple bus and taken on a warp-speed ride eventually ending up with his best buds, Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint), back at school.

Danger lurks there as prison escapee Sirius Black (Gary Oldman), accused of killing Harry's folks, is in the area, and said to be set on adding Harry's scalp to his belt. Just as fearful are the Dementors, black-hooded spirits who can suck the soul from their prey and have Harry in their sights.

On the plus side, giant Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane) has been promoted to teacher status and the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Professor Lupin (David Thewlis), helps Harry defend himself against the Dementors while harboring a shocking secret.

There are fewer classroom scenes, although Emma Thompson as a heavy-goggled, clueless soothsayer, contributes periodic comic relief. Nor does the swooping game of Quidditch figure much in the telling of this tale. Overall, the film is visually enthralling and displays an equally intoxicating sense of fun and of danger.

The three teen leads are showing growth in their acting skills and Cuaron has especially been able to tone down Grint's tendency to make Ron hammy. More seasoned performers such as Maggie Smith and Michael Gambon (replacing the late Richard Harris' Professor Dumbledore) do well in their small roles and the ever-reliable Alan Rickman's sinister Snape does not disappoint.

But all is not goodness and light as the story centers on Harry's learning about those involved in his parents' deaths and coping with a deep desire for revenge.

It's seen as sheer fantasy when Harry makes the arrogant aunt inflate (she's rescued later and none the worse for wear) but his wish to destroy Black is grounded in reality, just as it's problematic when Hermione is cheered and congratulated when she slugs her classmate-tormentor, Malfoy.

Happily, Harry gradually matures through the narrative as he uncovers the truth, stays loyal to his friends and gleans lessons in living from his experiences. To its credit, this is accomplished in well-paced, polished fashion, and — as in the two previous movies — it remains very clearly a fantasy, in no way a textbook for teaching black magic, and thus is no threat to Catholic teaching.

"The Prisoner of Azakaban" is likely to hold a worldwide audience captive.

Due to some frightening images and scenes of intense menace, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG— parental guidance suggested.

*Pare is the director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.*


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CNS PHOTO BY BRAD REYNOLDS

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan meets Pope John Paul II at the Fairbanks International Airport in Alaska May 2, 1984. The former president was on a return trip from Thailand and the pontiff was en route to Seoul, South Korea. Reagan, president from 1981 to 1989, died June 5 at his home in Bel Air, Calif., after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. During eight years in office, he drew Catholic support on abortion issues and aid to private schools. He was 93.

# Pope pays tribute to Reagan

REAGAN, *from page 1*

Switzerland when Reagan, president in 1981-89, died at age 93. He had suffered for more than a decade from Alzheimer's disease.

"The pope recalled the contributions of President Reagan to the historical events that changed the lives of millions of people, especially in Europe," Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters.

The pope also noted Reagan's contributions to U.S. society, Navarro-Valls said. The spokesman said the Vatican would send a representative to Reagan's funeral, which was to take place June 11 in Washington.

The spokesman said that when President George W. Bush visited the Vatican June 4 the pope knew Reagan was very sick and sent a warm message to the late president's wife, Nancy.

Reagan met with the pope four times as president — twice at the Vatican and twice in the United States.

It was under Reagan that the United States finally established full diplomatic relations with the Vatican in 1984.

The president and the pope, along with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, are considered by many to have been the main protagonists in the disbanding of the Soviet empire and the fall of communist governments throughout Eastern Europe.

In unpublicized visits and through diplomatic channels, Reagan administration officials provided information to the pope and his aides on events in Eastern Europe, particularly in the pope's native Poland.

While Reagan oversaw an arms buildup in the United States and Western Europe aimed at pressuring the Soviets, the pope pressed for respect for human rights throughout Soviet-bloc nations.

Despite their agreement on the bankruptcy of the Soviet system, the pope and Reagan sometimes disagreed over tactics. For example, the pope and other church leaders opposed U.S. economic sanctions imposed against Poland during the 1980s, on the grounds that they took a bigger toll on the country's people than its leaders.


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## THIS MONTH IN — 1996

St. Therese Church in Mooresville celebrated two milestones with a parish party and picnic June 2, 1996.

More than 450 people attended the celebration, which honored both the founding of the church in 1946 and then-pastor Jesuit Father Bob Wiesenbaugh's ordination to the priesthood in 1971.

Among the event's attractions was a pot-luck dinner, an inflatable slide, a dunking booth, volleyball games, a water balloon toss, horseshoes and a cake walk.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bernadette Zimmerman receives the Mother Teresa Memorial Award at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson June 6. Front row (from left): Father C. Morris Boyd, parish administrator; Bernadette and her husband Zeke Zimmerman; and Olga and Burton Zimmerman, her sister-in-law and brother. Back row (from left): John Harrison, Knights of Columbus state chairman; Dave Onofrio, state deputy; and Bob Grabasky, state secretary.

# Jefferson parishioner receives Mother Teresa Memorial Award

**ZIMMERMAN BEST EXEMPLIFIES NUN'S MOTTO TO 'DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE'**

JEFFERSON — Father C. Morris Boyd, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church, presented Bernadette Zimmerman with the 2004 Mother Teresa Memorial Award June 6.

The N.C. State Council of the Knights of Columbus, who selected Zimmerman for the award, also presented a $500 check to New Beginnings, a program that works to enhance the lives of Ashe County children in foster care or in crisis situations. Zimmerman is the program's director.

The Knights of Columbus created the award in 1998 to be given annually to two parishioners in North Carolina (one in each diocese) who best exemplify one of Mother Teresa's mottoes, "Do small things with great love."

The Knights ask pastors in the dioceses to submit nominations for the award. Recommendations are judged on the nominee's dedication to serving the Catholic Church, community, families and God with true humility and love.

The institution of the award was approved by Sister Nirmala Joshi, superior general of the Missionaries of Charity. In her letter she accepted, with gratitude, the Knights' request "as a token of love for our dearest Mother."

In addition to helping found New Beginnings in 1997, Zimmerman has been instrumental in arranging meal deliveries to homebound parishioners, as well as transportation to doctors' appointments and other treatments.

She speaks on behalf of children of Ashe County at local churches and organizations, on radio shows, at business and civic clubs. Her other accomplishments include various fundraising efforts for community organizations and a phone card drive for Ashe County military personnel who are serving overseas.

The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic service organization with nearly 1.7 million members in over 12,000 local councils, provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families and young people.

In 2002, the last year for which figures are available, Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization raised and distributed a record $125 million to charitable causes and volunteered 60 million hours of service. There are over 12,000 knights in 116 local councils in North Carolina.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Seeking justice and fairness

*A look at the death penalty moratorium*

**Guest Column**

JOE PURELLO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF JUSTICE & PEACE

A Death Penalty Moratorium Bill (Senate Bill 972) was passed by the N.C. Senate in April of 2003. Members of the N.C. House of Representatives will likely have the opportunity to vote on this bill during the current legislative session in the General Assembly.

The moratorium bill calls for a two-year halt on executions so that there can be a comprehensive review of the administration of the death penalty. The bill's primary concerns are to investigate whether bias exists in the way the death penalty is applied and whether the death penalty process adequately safeguards against sentencing and executing the innocent.

The Catholic Church's social teaching does not consider the use of the death penalty, against those for whom culpability for serious crimes has been conclusively established, an intrinsic moral evil. The church teaching, however, does state that if the death penalty must be applied to protect the innocent in society, albeit extremely rarely, it must be implemented only against those for whom no doubt of culpability exists. In the Revised Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sec. 2267, one finds the church's position on the death penalty clearly stated as follows:

"Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. If however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person.

"Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm — without definitely taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself — cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

Our society might very well have already executed some innocent persons. Such a possibility is difficult to prove, given the destruction of evidence and the closing of files after executions. Yet the high number of innocent people who have been released from death row in the United States after having been duly convicted of capital crimes — at least 113 to date since 1976 in 25 states; four in North Carolina — certainly begs the question whether only those truly guilty of capital crimes have been executed.

In his March 26, 2004 letter of support for the death penalty moratorium bill in the N.C. General Assembly, Bishop Peter J. Jugis wrote:

"Another fundamental principle of the Church's teaching on the death penalty (expressed in the very first sentence of the catechism's statement on the death penalty) is that this most severe and final of all punishments is to be used only when the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined ....

"Even assuming that there may be a limited and just reason to use the death penalty to protect society, the death penalty process must ensure that innocent persons are not executed. Since the evidence clearly suggests that we are not sure that this will always be the case, further study of the death penalty process is warranted. It only seems prudent that executions should be halted while a study of the death penalty process takes place ....

"The church's opposition to the use of the death penalty in modern society and the church's current concern that the death penalty process needs to be studied (to eliminate bias and errors in its application) in no way diminish the Church's heartfelt concern for the victims of terrible acts.

"I call on all the faithful to reach out to those who have experienced the violent death of loved ones. Let us pray for their healing and for the souls of their departed loved ones."

The death penalty moratorium has received support from both those who oppose the death penalty in all circumstances and those who believe capital punishment is a justifiable response to particularly heinous acts of violence. Even supporters of the death penalty want to make sure the death penalty is only imposed on the truly guilty and applied without bias against those who are poor and members of minority groups.

An April 2004 survey of North Carolinians indicates that public support for a moratorium is strong, with 63 percent of state residents supporting a temporary suspension of executions so that the capital punishment process can be studied. (Read a press release on this survey at http://www.ncmoratorium.org/site/pr_05172004.asp.)

## Young people should discover harmony between faith, life, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Young people should discover the harmony between faith and life in order to be ready to fulfill God's plan with joy, Pope John Paul II said at his weekly general audience.

In his June 9 address to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope reflected on his June 5-6 visit to Switzerland.

He said he encouraged young people there to answer God's call with enthusiasm.

"This message, which is very dear to me, can be summed up in three words: 'rise,' 'listen,' and 'follow him.' It is Christ himself, risen and alive, who offers these words to every young man and woman of our time," he said.

Following Christ "gives full meaning to one's life," he said.

"Only Christ, redeemer of mankind, can help young people 'rise again' from negative experiences and mentalities in order to grow to their full human, spiritual and moral stature," he said.

The pope extended this message to all young people around the world.

"May the young people of Switzerland and the whole world discover the wonderful harmony between faith and life and so prepare to carry out the mission which God calls them to with enthusiasm," he said.

Looking rested and alert, the pope read almost all of his one-page statement. He gave greetings in seven different languages to some 10,000 pilgrims — many of whom sought respite from the scorching sun under colorful umbrellas and handkerchiefs.

### ASK THE BISHOP

Do you have a question for Bishop Peter J. Jugis? *The Catholic News & Herald* is starting a new feature in which Bishop Jugis will answer questions that are submitted via regular mail or e-mail.

Questions about the faith and the Diocese of Charlotte that have a broad appeal will receive priority consideration for response in the newspaper. Unfortunately, due to the anticipated volume of questions, individual responses will not be possible.

When submitting a question, please include your name, address and a daytime telephone number. Questions may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send your "Ask the Bishop" question to Ask the Bishop, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28203, or e-mail askthebishop@charlottediocese.org.

**TO LEARN ABOUT SOME SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE MORATORIUM AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CHURCH'S POSITION ON THE DEATH PENALTY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, AT (704) 370-3225 OR E-MAIL JUSTICEPEACE@CHARLOTTEDIOCESE.ORG.**

**YOU CAN READ BISHOP JUGIS' MARCH 26, 2004 LETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY AT WWW.CSSNC.ORG/JUSTICEPEACE.**

**SOME FACTS ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN NORTH CAROLINA**

On North Carolina's death row, 191 men and women await execution, more than 5 percent of the total U.S. death row population.

In 2003, North Carolina executed seven people, a number exceeded only by Texas and Oklahoma. In 2003, North Carolina's rate of executions increased, while nationally the execution rate has dropped significantly in the last 10 years.

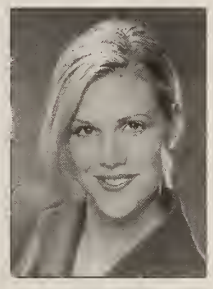
Nearly every person on North Carolina's death row is a person without means, with more than 90 percent defended by court-appointed attorneys. A recent Columbia Law School study, "A Broken System: Error Rates in Capital Cases," found that 71 percent of all death penalty convictions in North Carolina between 1973 and 1995 involved serious error at the trial court level.

A 1989 study in North Carolina showed that a defendant's chances of receiving the death penalty were 3.5 times greater if the victim was white than if the victim was a member of a minority group no matter the race of the defendant.

# The Internet: A new addiction

## Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



Just when I think I have licked all my addictions, my husband tells me that I am obsessed and need help.

Cigarettes? I used to smoke socially — until I was socializing all the time. Caffeine? My daughter's irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) that my obstetrician detected when I was seven months pregnant put a quick end to full-leaded lattes. And alcohol has been out of the picture since before high school graduation.

So now, sober as I can be this hour, I battle yet another foe: e-mail and Internet addiction.

Yes. It keeps me up at night. I can't stop checking the sales rank of my last book on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. I can't resist clicking on "Receive Messages" when the last thing I need to read is an e-mail from a stranger who claims to be my secret admirer (or my husband's?), or information on losing 60 pounds in five weeks.

But I scan and delete when I should be praying, or cleaning, or reading, or something other than staring at pixels on a screen that only make me dizzy.

I thought this loopy behavior didn't haunt normal people, but I was pleasantly surprised to read that many young adults (and people in

general) suffer from the same neurosis. In fact, this condition is so prevalent that computer scientist David Levy has organized a conference in Seattle called "Information, Silence and Sanctuary" for those like me, who, unable to escape their virtual office, can't resist using their cute laptops even if the information overload is robbing them of inner peace.

Much like environmentalists gathered and lobbied their causes in the 1960s, Levy is leading a movement to fight for something just as valuable as endangered wetlands that is at risk of becoming extinct: quiet time.

An observant Jew, he literally unplugs on the Sabbath. No e-mail, Internet, telephone or television for him from Friday's sundown to Saturday's sundown. And although he acknowledges that the primary responsibility for quiet times lies with the individual, he is encouraging businesses and government to offer more paid vacation time hours to do, well, nothing.

I can't go that far right now. Just last weekend I told myself the computer was staying off for a day. I made it one hour before I had to check the weather forecast, and since I was logged on I might as well check how my book was doing.

An hour later, my fingers were still doing the walking, as I sipped on a decaffeinated coffee, needing some kind of distraction to drag me away.

Thankfully, as a mom I get that about twice a minute: God's subtle way of directing me to dirty diapers and spilled apple juice, which are much better for my soul than junk mail.

# Drinking to the point of sin

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. When drinking alcohol, how do you know when you have committed a serious sin? What is the line you cross, making drinking more than just a "little" sin? (Missouri)*

A. The line, as you call it, isn't that hard to tell in theory, but in practice a lot of common sense and personal honesty is necessary.

As everyone knows, any use of alcohol affects our thinking and emotional processes somehow. It's sometimes called social drinking because people expect it to "loosen us up" and make social activities a bit freer and more congenial.

Any drinking, however, that deliberately causes loss of reason is a serious sin. One can know when the use of reason is lost, for example, if one cannot later remember what he or she said or did while under the influence of alcohol. The "lost weekend" syndrome is not unusual for people who drink heavily.

Hours, or in some instances days, may become a fog. People cannot remember where they were or what they did. Everything is a haze the next morning when they find themselves at home and wonder how they got there.

Others will drive long distances, even travel to other cities, or visit friends and never remember a minute of what occurred during these episodes.

Another sign is that one cannot distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad, while under the influence. Those who drink heavily frequently discover later that they have done things while drinking that they wouldn't think of doing otherwise.

Inhibitions are lost, moral compasses cease to exist, people are violated or injured — all, we realize, as a result of the fact that we were "drunk." Eventually, if this tendency isn't caught, one will almost inevitably end up inflicting terrible physical, emotional and spiritual damage on oneself or someone else.

Of course, the usual three conditions for mortal sin apply here as anywhere else: serious matter, sufficient reflection and full consent of the will. The first time one drinks to intoxication there may not be real consent. The individual just doesn't know how that amount of alcohol will affect him.

After a bit of experience, however, the person knows that drinking a certain quantity of alcohol will render him or her out of touch, unable to judge right from wrong, unable even to remember what happened during the drinking binge. The resulting intoxication is then not "accidental," but deliberate and sinful. When this point is reached, one can know she or he is in heavy sin territory.

It should go without saying that these dangerous circumstances do not normally arise suddenly, though they may do so, especially in younger people who have no experience of alcoholic intake but whose initial experience is so severe it causes critical trauma, even death.

Usually, warning signs are present long in advance, signs that tell us we're headed for trouble unless we change the track we're on. It's when we ignore those signs that we end up in serious loss of ability to control ourselves and in serious sin.

Obviously other important factors may enter the picture as well, how one's use of alcohol affects one's family, work and personal health, to mention only three.

Two more points are appropriate. First, to deliberately cause another person to come under the influence of alcohol or other dangerous drug is also gravely sinful, a serious sin at least against charity, love of neighbor.

Second, we all have seen movies of frontier days when injured people were deliberately made drunk with whiskey in preparation for painful surgery. Here, as in more modern forms of general anesthesia, the physical good of the patient justifies rendering him or her partially or fully unconscious during surgery.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

# The newly ordained

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

As I concelebrated with a newly ordained priest at his first Mass, my thoughts drifted back to all the unexpected happenings I experienced when I was newly ordained.

I knew I would be sent to a parish, but never expected to be with a pastor who was a model of kindness. From my first day on the job, he was there to help me as best he could. He could be firm, but he was never overbearing.

He was concerned that I keep up my studies, take my day off and stay healthy.

The parish had a school and two full-time assistants. Never did I expect that one assistant would become a good friend and support me throughout my 41 years of priesthood. We still call each other on a regular basis, even though I am hundreds of miles away from him.

Other priests helped us on a regular basis because of a heavy Mass schedule. They were the first priests truly to teach me about the fraternity of the priesthood. We debated theology, competed in golf and were forever chiding each other.

As a newly ordained priest, I received lessons from them that I still follow and pass on to other priests:

—Don't overextend yourself!
—Keep a sense of humor!
—Don't neglect prayer!
—Get away every so often!
—Shorten, simplify your homilies!

Our honesty with each other was fraternal correction at its best because we cared for each other.

What deeply touched me was hearing first confessions and experiencing how seriously the laity lived their spiritual life. Often I felt nowhere near their level of spirituality. In fact, the more I ministered to parishioners and saw the deep faith they had when suffering, the more I realized that here were theological lessons you can't find in textbooks.

The celebration of Mass was and is an awesome experience for me. At age 25, giving a homily was also awesome. Many of the parishioners were much older than I and knew much more about life and God's place in it for them. Yet they came to listen to a young priest and his view of God and life.

This May and June, many newly ordained priests are beginning a life of new, unexpected experiences. I pray their first pastor is a model pastor, that they experience the fraternity of the priesthood in its fullness, that they are awed by the spirituality of those they serve and they fully appreciate all that ordination gives them and empowers them to do.

# Immaculate Conception Church ministers to small, dedicated Catholic community

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Immaculate Conception Church in Canton, founded in 1954, celebrated its 50 anniversary June 6, 2004.

**Immaculate Conception Church**
42 Newfound Rd.
Canton, N.C. 28716
(828) 456-6707

**Vicariate:** Smoky Mountain
**Pastor:** Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan
**Number of Households:** 34

Mission of St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan

CANTON — Immaculate Conception Church traces its beginnings back to the 1940s, when Catholics in the area gathered for Mass in private homes. Father Ambrose Rohrbacker, then-pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville, celebrated those liturgies; later a mission was established in Canton.

During the gasoline-rationed World War II years, a school bus transported Canton Catholics through the mountains to Waynesville for Mass. The local Catholic population increased when veterans, Catholics among them, returned home after the war. Catholics were also included in the workforce who gained employment at a new paper mill in town.

Through the 1950s, the clergy of St. John the Evangelist Church began ministering to more and more Catholics throughout North Carolina's westernmost counties. From 1951, St. John the Evangelist Church became responsible for missions in Fontana, Murphy, Franklin, Canton and Sylva. Several became parishes in later years, with Immaculate Conception Church staying on as the Waynesville church's only mission.

In Canton, Mass was celebrated in the YMCA building during the early '50s. An altar was set up on a bare floor, and parishioners sat on slatted wooden chairs. A hallway served as the confessional. The visiting priest brought a makeshift altar: a suitcase containing vestments and altar furnishings, which folded out and was propped on legs.

Father (later Msgr.) Lawrence Newman was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church when one of his parishioners, Mrs. R. E. Davis, informed him that suitable property for a church in Canton was for sale. The lot was purchased, the house on it was torn down and a parking lot was constructed.

All this activity made way for construction of the new Immaculate Conception Church to begin. A church hall and kitchen were included on the lower level of the new building. The redbrick structure is simple in design, with a native pine ceiling and ornate stained-glass windows highlighting the church's nave.

In 1954, the 54 members of the Canton mission gathered with Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, Father Newman and more than 20 other priests during the dedication service. The event had added significance for one group of parishioners, who received the sacrament of confirmation during the Mass.

Like many churches in the Diocese of Charlotte, Immaculate Conception Church serves an ever-increasing Hispanic population. Before embarking on a Spanish-immersion sabbatical in Mexico in 2002-2003, Father C. Morris Boyd, then pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, drove to Canton every Sunday for a year to celebrate Hispanic Mass at Immaculate Conception Church.

Presently, Father Shawn O'Neal, administrator of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee, celebrates Mass in Spanish about once a month for about 100 Hispanic worshipers in Canton.

Immaculate Conception Church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1979 with a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Michael J. Begley, the Diocese of Charlotte's founding bishop, and a dozen priests who had served the area's Catholics.

More than 200 Anglo and Hispanic parishioners gathered at the Colonial Theater in Canton to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary June 6 with a special Mass concelebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church and of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville; retired Father James Cahill, former pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva; and Father C. Morris Boyd, administrator of St. Frances of Assisi Church in Jefferson and St. Francis of Rome Church in Sparta.

Immaculate Conception Church continues to maintain a close relationship with St. John the Evangelist Church. Father McGowan, pastor of the two congregations, celebrates Mass each Sunday in the Canton church.

Registered membership in the mountain mission has both declined and swelled since those early years. Retirees now make up a significant percentage of today's parish and Mass attendance goes up each summer as Catholic visitors flock to the area to take in Haywood County's cool mountain air and slow-paced lifestyle.

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**Outstanding students**
*High schoolers serve homeless, special-needs children*
| PAGE 5

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

## Bishops approve 2004 child sex abuse policy audits

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DENVER — The U.S. bishops have approved on-site audits this year of all U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies to monitor compliance with child sex abuse prevention policies.

The vote was 207-14 in favor with one abstention, according to a June 15 news release issued in Denver by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The vote was taken during the bishops' June 14-19 closed-door spring meeting, held this year in a Denver suburb.

Kathleen McChesney, executive director of the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, which conducts the audits, said the vote leaves enough time to do the 2004 audits.

"Last year's audits began at the end of June. This leaves us approximately the same amount of time," she said.

The hierarchy also directed its all-lay National Review Board to prepare, in conjunction with the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse, proposals for a study

See AUDITS, page 12

# Guiding Christ

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries the monstrance during a eucharistic procession on the 10th anniversary of perpetual adoration at Maryfield Chapel in High Point June 13. *For more on this story and other Corpus Christi coverage, please see pages 8-9.*

HELPING HANDS

COURTESY PHOTO BY CAROL RASMUSSEN

Mark Sinclair, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, helps repair a roof during the parish's adult mission trip to western North Carolina June 6-11.

# Parishioners build up homes, hope in western N.C.

BY THEA SINCLAIR
SPECIAL TO *THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD*

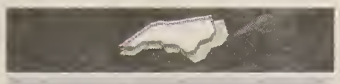
HICKORY — While many parishes sponsor mission trips to far-away places such as Jamaica, Mexico and Africa, St. Aloysius Church hosted its first adult mission trip to the western borders of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Seventeen parishioners and Father Edward Sheridan, pastor, spent June 6-11 assisting people in Clay and Cherokee counties.

"You don't need to leave our state to find many people who live in substandard housing," said Rev. Mr. Thomas Rasmussen, permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church, who helped organize the trip.

Ranging in age from 30 to 75, the group members worked in two teams — one team installed vinyl siding on the home of a 75-year-old

See MISSION, page 16



**INCOME STATISTICS**
(U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, 2000)

**CHEROKEE COUNTY**
POPULATION: 24,298
PER CAPITA INCOME: $19,193

**CLAY COUNTY**
POPULATION: 8,775
PER CAPITA INCOME: $22,057

**NORTH CAROLINA**
POPULATION: 8,049,313
PER CAPITA INCOME: $27,308

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**'A great devotion'**
*Parishioner endows funds for St. Joseph Church*
| PAGE 7

**Culture Watch**
*Priests are happy, says book*
| PAGES 10-11

**Perspectives**
*Combating violence and porn; Caring for refugees*
| PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## DEPARTING PRAYERS

CNS PHOTO BY DON BLAKE, THE DIALOG

Father Robert Cannon is one of two chaplains serving the U.S. military mortuary at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. In the last 15 months, the facility has taken in the remains of nearly 800 people — most of them U.S. soldiers who died in Iraq.

# Chaplain says military mortuary work deepens his respect for life

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (CNS) — Father Robert Cannon confronts "the face of evil" every day as he prays over the remains of U.S. military personnel being returned from Iraq and ministers to mortuary workers as they prepare those bodies for a final trip home.

Amid the horrific results of war that he sees, Father Cannon said he maintains his mental and spiritual health by approaching his work "as a man of faith."

"It is very easy for anyone to recoil from the face of evil; I see the wounds of war as part of the reflection of the evil of our day and time," he said. "I confront that with prayer, with Scripture."

The priest, 52, is a lieutenant colonel and a reservist who was called to active duty 18 months ago.

Father Cannon is the only Catholic chaplain at the base's Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Services, the Defense Department's only mortuary in the continental United States.

The center handles remains of U.S. troops from around the world. Over the past 15 months most of those remains — nearly 800 bodies — have come from Iraq.

While Father Cannon deals with death, he said his work has deepened his respect for life.

"Life is a gift," said the priest, a consultant to the U.S. Catholic bishops' pro-life office. "You understand how fleeting life is and how precious it is."

Father Cannon views his ministry as putting the spiritual works of mercy into action, especially the admonition to pray for the living and the dead. He said it was his vocation to pray for those who have died.

"And to pray for the families, that the Lord's peace and consolation will come upon them in their grieving, that they can find some consolation and some hope in the sacrifice that has been made for our country, for peace in the world," he said.

Recently, Father Cannon's phone rang — it was Base Operations, telling him that a plane with remains would arrive in 25 minutes. As he got up and prepared to start the cycle again, to board a plane and pray over the remains of dead soldiers, he offered a final tribute.

"It is an absolute honor and a sacred privilege to serve our men and women who are defending our freedoms, and to contribute a little something back to them for the freedoms I enjoy," he said. "To be able to worship freely in this country comes at a cost. I am grateful to those in the past and present who defend my freedom to worship freely."

# Conference lauds women religious' role in fighting human trafficking

ROME (CNS) — The Catholic Church and especially women religious are playing a crucial role in the global battle against human trafficking, said participants in a June 17 conference sponsored by the U.S. Embassy to Holy See.

Between 600,000 and 2 million people each year are smuggled across international borders as cheap labor, sex workers, child soldiers and organ donors, according to the International Organization for Migration. A disproportionate number of victims are women and children, the organization said.

Religious orders offer "spiritual, material and social support to victims of human trafficking, whose psychological and physical health has been jeopardized" by the experience, said Stefano Volpicelli of the organization's Rome bureau.

"Religious play an important role" in exposing trafficking networks, protecting victims' rights and giving victims a way out of forced labor, Volpicelli said.

Volpicelli works with religious superiors in training nuns who already have had experience in social work and human trafficking.

Italian Sister Eugenia Bonetti, who was honored recently by the U.S. State Department for her work in the fight against trafficking of sex workers, said men religious felt uneasy talking about an issue that mostly affects women.

"They don't feel they can get involved because they have ideas that this is a woman's problem," said Sister Bonetti. "But instead it is a man's problem, too ... trafficking in human beings is destroying families," she said.

"It's logical bishops' conferences or other faith-based religious structures should be involved" in the battle, said Sister Mary Ellen Dougherty, a School Sister of Notre Dame and project administrator for the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services grant on human trafficking.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is offered in the chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass until Saturday at 9 a.m. Adorers are needed, particularly during the hours of midnight-6 a.m. For more information, call Charles and Bernice Kish at (704) 8 46-7387.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is forming a group at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Elizabeth Ministry offers confidential, one-to-one contact, information, comfort and healing for women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death. Please call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — *Fun and Fitness after 50* classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is available for all members of the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any parishioner interested in the Apostolate and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail Terri at terridugan@earthlink.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Jim McCullough, director of faith formation of Our Lady of Grace Church 2205 W. Market St., will present *"Key to the Scriptures,"* a new way to read the Bible with understanding. Classes will meet Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. in the library. To register, leave your name, address and phone number with Mary-Ann DipPaola at (336) 274-6520, ext. 33.

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic High School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug 14, 2004. For more information, call Nicholas Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mail nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentle Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low impact aerobic workout. For more information call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope: God is refuge, especially in times of danger and fear

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God is always with us to help us, especially at times of great danger or fear, said Pope John Paul II at his weekly general audience.

The pope focused his catechesis June 16 on Psalm 46, which he said "expresses an indestructible faith in God who 'is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help' in our distress."

The psalm celebrates the city of Jerusalem as "the city of God, 'the holy place where the most high dwells,'" he said.

It is God's presence there that reaffirms the psalmist's conviction that despite any chaos or trouble, "Jerusalem 'will not be disturbed; God will help it,'" the pope said.

"Despite the turmoil which makes peoples shudder and kingdoms totter, the faithful find in Zion the peace and serenity that come from communion with God," he said.

The pope read only a small portion of his one-and-a-half-page catechesis to the more than 10,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

With God, wars end in peace and "wartime instruments of death turn into tools for the development of mankind," he wrote.

"The Lord from his throne in Zion intervenes with great vigor against wars and establishes the peace that all people long for," the pope said.

The Christian tradition then turns to Christ as "our peace and liberator from evil through his death and resurrection," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, the pope gave his greetings in eight different languages and spent more than an hour offering his blessings to the long line of people who came to greet him.

# Pope urges people to give 'gift of life' and donate blood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged people worldwide to give "a gift of life" and donate blood.

At the end of his Angelus prayer June 13, the pope said blood donors perform an act of "great moral and civic value."

"Donating one's own blood voluntarily and without compensation is a gesture of great moral and civic value," he said. "It's a gift for life."

"May blood donors, to whom all are grateful, increase in every part of the world," he said.

The pope made special mention that June 14 marked World Blood Donor Day — an event organized in part by the World Health Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and world blood donor organizations.

A large majority of the world's people have no access to safe blood supplies, according to the World Blood Donor Day Web site. Of the millions of units of blood donated every year, 38 percent of them are collected in developing countries where more than 80 percent of the world population lives, it said.

World Blood Donor Day is meant to pay tribute to the anonymous donors who give blood voluntarily and with no compensation. According to the Web site, voluntary unpaid blood donors offer the safest blood supplies as they have shown to be less likely to carry potentially life-threatening viruses such as HIV and hepatitis.

# Cruz-ing toward Athens

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Brazilian Olympian Joaquim Cruz poses with the Olympic torch atop Corcovado Mountain in front of Brazil's famous "Christ the Redeemer" statue June 13 in Rio de Janeiro. The Olympic torch relay made its 10th stop in the Brazilian city while crossing through five continents en route to the 2004 summer games in Athens Aug. 13-29. Cruz won the gold medal in the 800-meter run at the 1984 Los Angeles games.

ASHEBORO — Franciscan Father Jude Winkler will speak on *Negative Gifts* July 26 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 512 W. Wainman St. We think of gifts as our talents, our best qualities and the best times, but more often it is our struggles, both those within ourselves and the difficult circumstances of our lives, that bring us closer to God. We learn to see these struggles as gifts and allow God to use even our weakness. Father Jude has written hundreds of articles and books on Sacred Scripture for adults and children. He conducts missions and retreats throughout the U.S. and Europe. Call (336) 629-0221 or email stjoe@triad.rr.com for more information.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

LENOIR — *Summer Faith Formation Catechesis* will be offered each Sunday, 10:20-10:50 in the school building of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 328-B Woodsway Ln. NW. There will be an opportunity for discussion of the day's Gospel. All are invited to share their thoughts. For more information, call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

NEWTON — A *Pastoral Care Training* program will be offered July 24, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. The program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in a variety of facilities. Volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts: parish ministry, eucharistic ministry, senior sensitivity and confidentiality/compliance/consistency. Deadline for registration is July 20. Call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Kathy Mott at (828) 322-2397 to register.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or e-mail questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child* of any age meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

HAYESVILLE — The *Cherokee and Catholics* conversation will continue July 20 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, U.S. Highway 64 West. Tribal archeologist Russ Townsend will discuss the history of the Cherokee. For more information, call the church office at (828) 837-2000 or (828) 389-3758.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Eucharistic Adoration* every Wednesday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and Benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**June 27**
North Carolina Black Catholic Conference
Greensboro

**July 5-8**
Meeting of the bishops of the Atlanta province
Atlanta, Ga.

# NCCC presents service award to Greensboro parishioner

### JOHNSON EXEMPLIFIES DIVERSITY, RICHNESS OF COUNCIL

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina Council of Churches presented a distinguished service award to Bridget Brown Johnson, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Given in recognition of an exceptional and extended record of service to the council, the award was presented at the council's house of delegates' annual meeting in Greensboro. Johnson and fellow former council president Rev. Joseph Brown, pastor of the AME Zion Church in Wilmington, were honored with the award.

"I'm glad that we can recognize Bridget and Joe together. They embody many of the diversities that contribute to the richness of the N.C. Council of Churches — differences in church, race, gender, geography, even in leadership styles," said George Reed, the council's executive director.

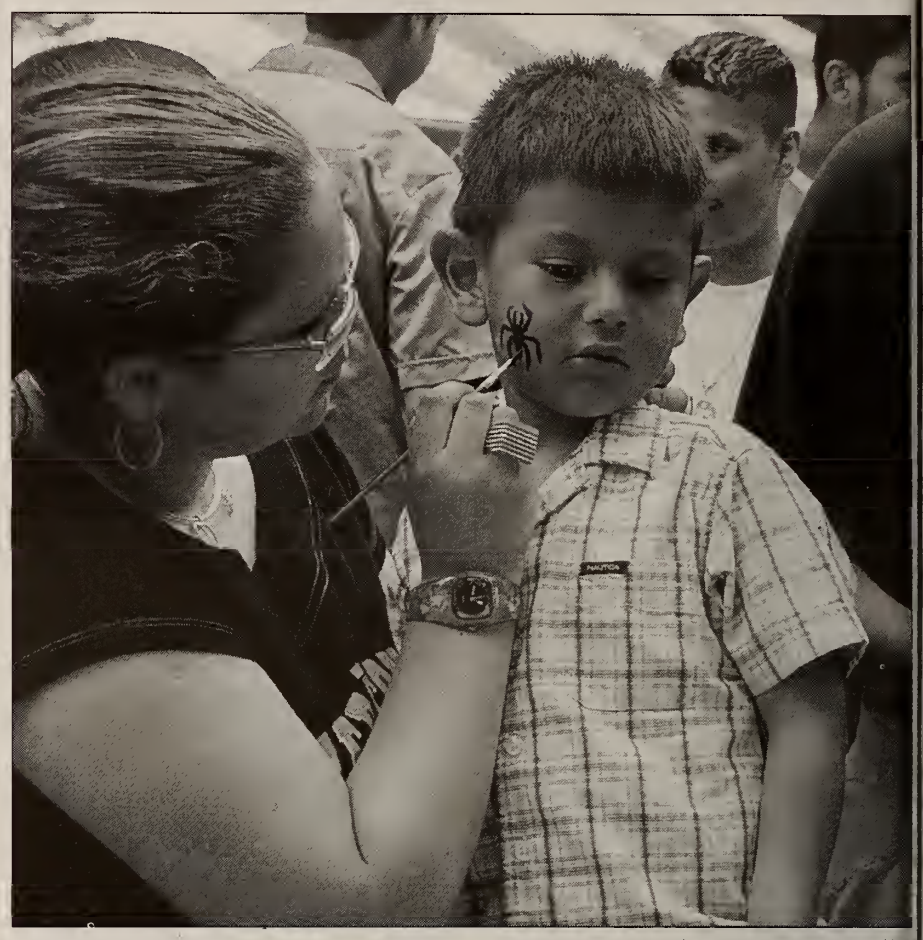
"They have in common a strong personal faith, a deep commitment to the Council's work for Christian wholeness, and a rich longing for justice — racial justice, economic justice, gender justice," said Reed.

Johnson served as president from 1999 to 2001. Her service included work with the Caring Program for Children, which was a precursor to the state's Health Choice program, and service on the Equal Rights Amendment Committee and on the advisory board for Jubilee. She worked for several years for Catholic Social Services in Greensboro.

Previous recipients of the award include Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville; and Christian Community Sister Evelyn Mattern, founder of the Diocese of Raleigh's Peace and Justice Department.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is a statewide organization representing 15 Christian denominations and committed to the twin goals of ecumenism and social justice. More than 1.5 million North Carolinians are members of congregations under the Council's umbrella.

# Painting on Pentecost



COURTESY PHOTO BY FATHER JOSEPH MACK

A boy patiently waits while his face is painted at Asheboro's Frazier Park during St. Joseph Church's annual picnic May 30. Almost 650 people attended the parish's 7th annual bilingual Mass for Pentecost and picnic, which featured multicultural food, music, games and face painting. The event, designed to bring the English- and Spanish-speaking cultures together, is staffed by the parish Knights of Columbus council, the Hispanic youth group and other parish volunteers.

# Leading catechesis

PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, northern region coordinator of diocesan faith formation, hands out materials during a parish catechetical leaders' meeting at the Franciscan Center in Greensboro June 10.

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# Outstanding outside the classroom

## *Charlotte Catholic students serve homeless, special-needs athletes*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Students at Charlotte Catholic High School spend hours in the classroom, on athletic fields and at extracurricular activities. They also spend hours helping their fellow Charlotteans in a variety of ways.

Throughout the winter months, students work the first and second Tuesdays of each month at Charlotte's Emergency Winter Shelter.

Since 1981, Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) has operated from December through March, serving as the overflow from the Uptown Men's Shelter on North Tryon St. As many as 1,400 men receive food and shelter at the EWS each winter.

"The students are our main workforce (of the volunteers from St. Patrick Church)," said Dick Kelly, a parishioner of St. Patrick Church and volunteer at the shelter. "They have a strong Christian faith and devotion to this work."

The students work serving food, entering identification information into the computer for recording purposes, distributing blankets and other miscellaneous duties.

"These students should be praised for all their good work," he said. "Working with these young people has been, and I hope will continue to be, the greatest satisfaction of my life."

In addition to their on-going work at the shelter, 75 students spent the first three days of their summer vacation volunteering at the Special Olympics Athletic Retreat (Camp SOAR), held at the Jewish Community Center in south Charlotte June 9-11.

More than 180 athletes of all ages participated in the fourth annual SOAR games. The event gives people with special needs an opportunity to try activities they don't normally participate in during Special Olympics games, including golf, tae kwon do and horseback riding. Participants also enjoyed cheerleading, arts and crafts and bingo. A dance for athletes and volunteers concluded the days' festivities.

The camp also emphasizes that all participants are winners, regardless of how fast they run a race.

Camp SOAR is the dream and vision of Bob Bowler, Special Olympics volunteer, coach and "jack-of-all-trades" for more than 20 years.

"(The athletes) deserve a camp of their own, and they deserve to be the stars of the camp and have a good time, meet new friends, meet new families," said Bowler.

Some of those "new friends" were the volunteers from Charlotte Catholic High School.

"At first I was really nervous, but over the days, I had a lot of fun," said Chris Needham, a rising sophomore.

"It was a great experience to help other kids," said Megan Reynolds, a rising senior.

"All of our volunteers were terrific this year and the more than 50 students from Charlotte Catholic ... they not only had a great experience but were a credit to their school with the exemplary way they pitched in to do whatever needed to be done," said Al Tinson, media relations volunteer for Special Olympics Mecklenburg County.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

SOAR campers and volunteers, many of whom are students at Charlotte Catholic High School, enjoy a dance to conclude the fourth annual Camp SOAR at the Jewish Community Center in Charlotte.

COURTESY PHOTO BY AL TINSON

A Camp SOAR athlete and volunteer share an enthusiastic "high five" during the three-day event designed to expose Special Olympics athletes to a variety of sports and activities.

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# Students enriched by unusual pen pal

*Long-haul trucker sends cards, letters to Our Lady of Mercy School*

WINSTON-SALEM — Fourth-graders at Our Lady of Mercy School have been "traveling" the highways and byways of the United States without leaving the classroom.

The class has been corresponding with Lee Tibbets, a truck driver, as part of the Wal-Mart Trucker Buddy Program for the last five years.

Tibbets, also known as "Lost Navigator" over citizens band (CB) radio, has sent more than 100 postcards and letters to the fourth-graders, allowing them to track his travels throughout the country. On several occasions, Tibbets has driven to the school to visit the class.

Barb Burke, fourth-grade teacher, said the pen pal experience has enriched the lives of her students by not only allowing them to see the world as a long-haul trucker, but by opening the eyes of the students "to the immense size of the United States."

"He has been very dedicated to the children," said Burke. "He has been very influential in broadening the students' horizons."

Burke said Tibbetts recently joined the National Guard and may be joining the U.S. Armed Forces in the Middle East. The class with stay in touch with him and pray for him, she said.

# Out and about

COURTESY PHOTO

Third-graders from St. Gabriel School in Charlotte enjoy a walking tour of downtown Matthews May 25. The students visited the library, government center, Post Office, community center, a hardware store and then picnicked in Stumptown Park.

# Graduation blessing

COURTESY PHOTO

Eighth-graders offer a blessing to their parents during a graduation awards assembly at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro June 2. Members of the graduating class were: Tiffany Ngoc Diem Bui, Lloyd Cheek III, John Cochran, John Curnes, Brenna Currie, Mary Donahue, Leland Evans, Ryan Farrington, Della Farthing, Leslee Villalu Flores, Tyler Frankenberg, Lauren Hill, Heather Hofmann, Melissa Horne, Christophe Jackson, Andrew Justice, Benjamin Kirby, Kyle Krasicky, Alexandra Leonard, Jonatha Leonard, Laura Luempert, Tracy Martin, Christina McDonald, Kelly McGee, Ell Merrill, Neil Miller, Mary Mooney, Travis Murphy, Bruce Murray, Jordan Nunez Patrick Oechsli, Ashley Chinasa Oha, Kenneth Pagliei, Valentina Pavone, Jose Ricard Ruiz-Hernandez, Mariamme Sadri, William Scott Jr., Conner Sherwood, Corinne Smith Bryan Spencer, Daniel Spottl, John Valitutto and Samuel Wharton.

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CNH

# 'A great devotion'

*Parishioner endows funds for St. Joseph Church*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

NEWTON — Charles Harold Carpenter was a self-described "true Southern gentleman."

Many who knew Carpenter, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Newton before his death on June 4, 2003, adored him.

"He was the last of the aristocracy," said Denny Schell, a fellow parishioner and friend.

Descendant of a pioneer family in Lincoln County, Carpenter had ancestors who participated in both the Revolutionary and Civil wars. As such, the former professor in higher education had a great love of and respect for history — he was a member of Sons of the Revolution, Sons of the Confederacy, Organization of American Historians and Catawba County Historical Association, among others.

Born in 1924 and a lifelong bachelor, Carpenter converted to Catholicism at age 70 at an Easter Vigil Mass in 1994. It was then that his love of Catholicism truly began to blossom.

"He had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother and the rosary," said Schell.

It was Carpenter who was instrumental in establishing a monthly rosary service after the Sunday Mass.

"He initiated it before I came to St. Joseph and even though he's gone, it still continues today," said Father Jim Collins, pastor. "He was a great motivator, and he will definitely be missed because he made his presence very known."

Carpenter also served as a lay minister, a Prime Timer (seniors group) and as a greeter in the parish.

"He took his role as greeter at St. Joseph very seriously," noted Schell.

Carpenter also supported numerous Catholic organizations, including the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the Legion of Christ in America, the Church of St. John in New York City, the Salesian Missions of the World and the Society of St. Jude (his patron saint).

Carpenter's love of his church motivated him to continue assisting it after his death.

"In his will, he instructed that $200,000 of his assets be used to set up a trust for the benefit of St. Joseph Church," said Schell, whom Carpenter named executor of his will.

"The endowment was very generous," said Father Collins. "I never expected it. I was very surprised."

"He lived in a humble home and drove a simple car," said Schell. "The only sign of his being well-to-do was his generosity."

The Alma Mae Hoover Carpenter and Charles Harold Carpenter Endowment Fund for the Benefit of St. Joseph Parish was soon established through the Foundation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The endowment was named after both Carpenter and his mother, Alma Mae, who died in 1995. The endowment's name "was his way to honor his mother," said Schell.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in a person's estate plan or in an endowment agreement, according to Jim Kelley, foundation director.

Currently, the diocesan foundation has 118 endowments.

The Carpenter endowment will assist in the general, non-budgeted needs of the parish, said Schell.

"We hope to use proceeds from the endowment for things like repairs, maintenance or other non-budgeted items, or for outreach programs to help the community," said Father Collins.

"Anyone from the parish can contribute to the endowment, and thereby continue to give perpetually to the needs of the parish," said Schell.

The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

People in the diocese are giving not only of their current income, said Kelley, but more and more people are taking another step in stewardship by giving their cumulative assets to take care of the church.

Carpenter's endowment will continue to take care of St. Joseph Church for a long time to come.

"He left his mark on the church, and we will not be able to forget him," said Father Collins.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

**ENDOWMENTS AND PLANNED GIVING**

In addition to a bequest in a will — in which you can stipulate that the diocesan foundation or named endowment receives a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or remainder after other bequests are filled — there are five other primary ways to donate an endowment to the diocese, according to Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving. They are:

— Gifts of cash, securities or real estate.

— Gifts of life insurance, which allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can donate a paid policy that you already own or you can purchase a policy to donate.

— Life income arrangements, which allow you to make a gift during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. These include trusts and charitable gift annuities.

— Gifts from retirement plans, which you can designate your endowment as the remainder beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or annuity to receive what is left in your retirement plan after your death.

— A gift of life estate in real property, which allows you to enjoy your home or vacation property during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your church will benefit from the gift after your death.

To learn more about planned giving or to set up an endowment, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org, or Gina Rhodes at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail gmrhodes@charlottediocese.org.

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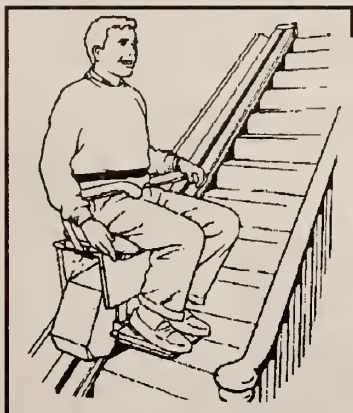
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# A decade of devotion

## *Ten years of perpetual adoration celebrated at Maryfield Chapel*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HIGH POINT — The feast of Corpus Christi, this year celebrated June 13, marked the 10th consecutive year of perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Maryfield Chapel at Pennybyrn at Maryfield, a continuing care retirement community founded by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

"It is truly unbelievable that 10 years have passed since perpetual adoration started here at Maryfield," said Sister Lucy Hennessy, chief executive officer of Maryfield Inc.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass in honor of the feast of Corpus Christi and the anniversary of perpetual adoration in the Maryfield Chapel.

Perpetual adoration is a practice in some parishes and religious communities of exposing the Eucharist 24 hours a day in a chapel for continuous adoration. Communities that establish perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are expected to assure that there is always someone present in prayer before the exposed Eucharist.

The sisters, staff and residents of Pennyburn at Maryfield and laity from the Triad area spend at least 720 hours per month in silent prayer and devotion to Jesus, who is present in the Eucharist. The volunteers are present both day and night, including the early hours of the morning.

"Perpetual adoration has drawn people from the surrounding Triad area to greater prayer life," said Sister Hennessy.

"Adoration has been a blessing to Maryfield. People have opened up to the spiritual side of what we have to offer," she said. "Maryfield is more than a care center. It is, more importantly, a prayer center."

"The body and blood of Christ is, indeed, the center of the Catholic faith," said Bishop Jugis. "That is why the tabernacle (the repository for the Eucharist) is placed in a prominent place in the church."

The bishop said the Eucharist was born out of Jesus' suffering and death, and it is the living memorial to his sacrifice.

"'This is my body' connects the sacrifice with the words 'which is given up for you,'" said Bishop Jugis. "'This is my blood' connects the sacrifice with the words 'which will be shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'"

"Jesus wanted all of his followers from then (the Last Supper) until the end of the world to share his sacrifice. Through the Eucharist, we are all present at the cross," he said.

The paschal mystery is the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, said Bishop Jugis.

"Jesus said, 'He who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life.' This shows that eternal life begins now," said the bishop, "yet it comes to fullness on the last day at the Resurrection. Through the Eucharist, we look forward to the fulfillment of the promise of eternal glory."

After the Mass, Bishop Jugis led a eucharistic procession around the facility's rose garden. He was accompanied by Rev. Mr. Joseph Smith, permanent deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point; Rev. Mr. David King, permanent deacon at Pennyburn at Maryfield; Msgr. Joseph Showfety, retired; Father Robert Ferris, pastor of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro; Father Andrew Lasko, retired; Father Patrick Gavigan, retired; Father Joseph Kelleher, retired; Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro; and Father Jonathan Hanic, parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

Following the procession was a blessing of the sick and infirm, as well as a Benediction, a service consisting of prayers and hymns with the Eucharist displayed.

*Contact Correspondent Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay at (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.*

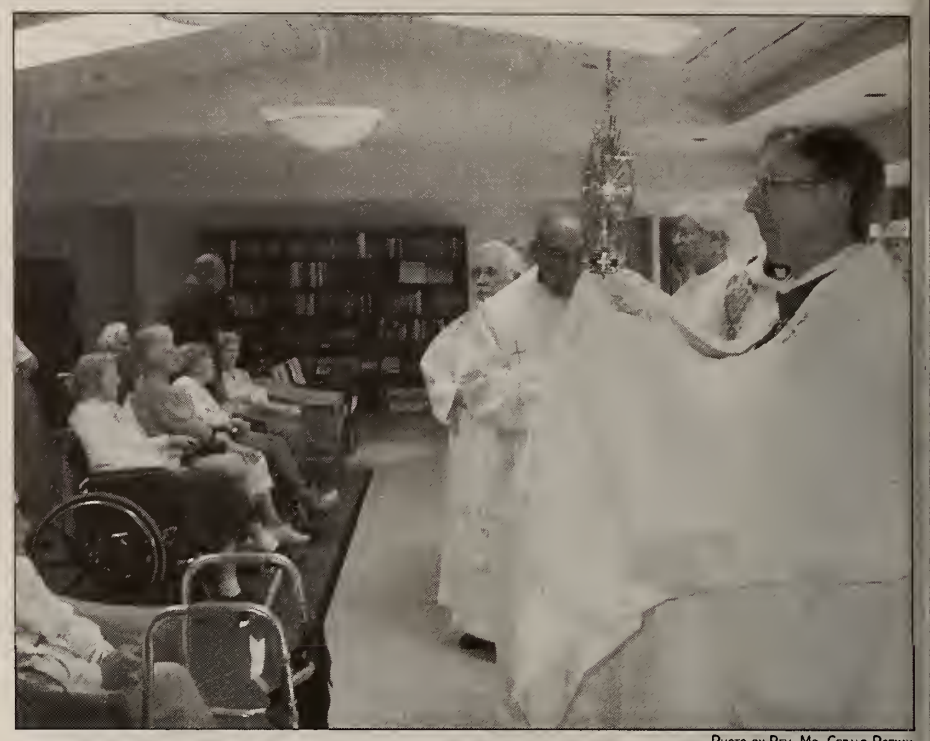

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses residents of Pennybyrn at Maryfield during the 10th anniversary celebration of perpetual adoration at Maryfield Chapel in High Point June 13.**

# Pope announces year dedicated to the Eucharist for 2004-2005

### YEARLONG DEDICATION FOR FAITHFUL TO 'START AFRESH FROM CHRIST'

ROME — Pope John Paul II announced a special year dedicated to the Eucharist, saying the church needs to highlight its importance for spiritual life and missionary tasks of the 21st century.

The eucharistic year will begin with the International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, this Oct. 10-17 and will end with the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist in Rome Oct. 2-29, 2005.

The pope made the announcement June 10, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, during a Mass at the Rome Basilica of St. John Lateran. Afterward he led a traditional eucharistic procession through the streets of Rome, while seated in the back of a modified flatbed truck.

The pope last year wrote an encyclical on the Eucharist, emphasizing its centrality for every aspect of church life.

At the Rome Mass, he said there was a close connection between the Eucharist and announcing Christ. To enter into communion with Christ in the Eucharist means becoming missionaries of the message of his sacrifice, he said.

"All those who come worthily for nourishment at his table become living instruments of his presence of love, mercy and peace," he said.

At his noon blessing June 13, the pope said the eucharistic year was part of a pastoral project for the whole church, in which he was inviting the faithful to "start afresh from Christ."

A better understanding of Christ's presence in the Eucharist will lead to a better prayer life, which in turn will favor evangelization, the pope said.

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CELEBRATING CORPUS CHRISTI

COURTESY PHOTOS BY TOM STOCKER

Billy Stocker leads the eucharistic procession to the Abbey Basilica during the diocesan Corpus Christi celebration at Belmont Abbey College June 12.

# Eucharist unites Christians to Jesus, says bishop

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Youth from around the diocese and as far away as Lexington, N.C., learned they all make up the body of Christ.

The diocesan offices of youth ministry, campus ministry, young adult ministry and Hispanic youth and young adult ministry sponsored a Corpus Christi celebration at Belmont Abbey College June 12.

More than 100 youths participated in the bilingual celebration, which featured a keynote address from Bishop Peter J. Jugis, workshops in English and Spanish, games, a eucharistic procession and a Benediction.

During the opening prayer, participants brought together pieces of a banner to form a giant image of Jesus. The banner was then displayed on the gymnasium wall as Bishop Jugis gave his address.

The bishop said he was delighted to attend the event, "especially considering the beautiful theme we have chosen for the day — Corpus Christi."

"The body and blood of Christ is the center of our lives as Catholics," said Bishop Jugis. "It is the center of the life of our parishes. Even physically speaking, the tabernacle is placed at a prominent place in the church where the body of the Lord is reserved for adoration."

The bishop said it was Jesus who made the Eucharist the center of the church's life.

"He told the Apostles at the Last Supper, 'Do this in remembrance of me,' and in that way indicated that he wanted this sacred rite to be the principal worship of his church," said Bishop Jugis.

"Here, in the sacrament, his real presence remains in the church in a physical, tangible, substantial way — Jesus remaining in his church all days until the end of time, uniting all of us in himself, and uniting in himself all the generations of Christians who have received the holy Eucharist since the first century," he said.

Bishop Jugis said, "Holy Communion wipes away venial sins, increases Christ's grace in us, makes us grow in our union with Christ, preserves us from future mortal sins and is the promise of eternal life."

"This is the love of Christ in which we are allowed to participate in a most profound and personal way — a love that goes to the end, a love that knows no measure," said the bishop.

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UNITED IN CHRIST

# Corpus Christi conference educates, nourishes Catholics

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi with the Corpus Christi Conference June 11-12.

The event, the first such conference held in the diocese, was sponsored by Catholics United for the Faith, Catholic Scripture Study and The Friends of St. John Vianney, a group of diocesan priests.

More than 800 people attended a day and a half of worship and presentations at Charlotte Catholic High School. Many of those in attendance were young married couples and families with young children.

Two of the featured speakers for the conference were Catholic apologists Dr. Scott Hahn and Kimberly Hahn.

The purpose of the Corpus Christi Conference is "to educate, nourish and fulfill," said Gail Buckley, sponsor and organizer of the conference.

Specifically, organizers of the conference wanted "to proclaim the Gospel and to bring into a mission territory (the Diocese of Charlotte) a Catholic conference to help shape the culture here in the South," said Father Patrick Winslow, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

Father Matthew Kauth, administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, said one of the initial goals of the conference was to create "counter presence."

"You can't simply denounce the evil going on in the world," he said. "You have to offer an alternative."

"Rather than just condemning the present culture, (the conference) is an attempt to lift the people up by the beauty of their Catholic faith," said Father Kauth.

Other diocesan priests involved in the initial planning of the conference were Father John Putnam, diocesan judicial vicar and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church in Sylva; Father Christopher Roux, parochial vicar of St. Mark Church in Huntersville; Father Christopher Gober, administrator of Saint Lucien Church in Spruce Pine; Father Matthew Buettner, parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte; Father Roger Arnsbarger, pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden; Father Frank Seabo, administrator of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa; and Father John Allen, vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We are called to faithfulness ... first and foremost in our relationship with Jesus and because of that, our relationship with the Catholic Church," said Kimberly Hahn, who addressed the subject of "The Eucharist as Life-Giving Love."

"The greatest discovery for us (in becoming Catholics) ... was the idea of family — that God is our father, Christ is the firstborn among many brothers and sisters, and that through the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary becomes our mother," said Scott Hahn, who spoke on the topic of "Swear to God, the Bible and the Sacraments."

"The flesh and blood of Christ united us (with the saints and Christians)," he said.

Father Winslow, Father Kauth and Buckley all hoped participants left the conference with a great confidence in the veracity of their Catholic faith and a renewed interest in Catholic Scripture study.

"This weekend has been an absolute joy," said Father Winslow.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

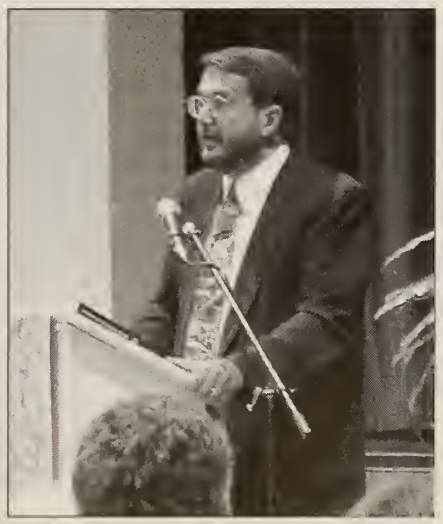

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Dr. Scott Hahn speaks to participants at the Corpus Christi Conference at Charlotte Catholic High School June 12.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Surprise! Priests are happy

*Book compiles research on priesthood*

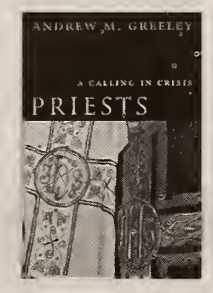
REVIEWED BY
FATHER DAN DANIELSON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Catholic priests in the United States are "on average happy, mature and self-fulfilled men." They like being priests and doing what priests do. And the vast majority would do it again if they had to do it over.

Those are sociologist Father Andrew Greeley's conclusions in "Priests: A Calling in Crisis."

Father Greeley has been a controversial writer and opinion-giver on Catholic issues for decades. But to my knowledge, no one has ever disputed his justified reputation as a sociologist.

"Priests: A Calling in Crisis" is




above all a book of sociology. Those looking for inspiration, spirituality or personal testimony will be disappointed. While there are plenty of Father Greeley's tentative conclusions and recommendations — enough to stimulate controversy — above all, he establishes a scientifically verifiable view of the priests of the United States today, one that is not drawn from anecdotal evidence or personal opinions.

In the light of the scandals created by the sexual abuse crisis, all sorts of theories of causation are trotted forth, focusing usually on the clergy's low morale. Father Greeley takes a careful, critical look at those untested assumptions and, as a social scientist, finds them wanting.

Using research data from as far back as 1970 and as recent as the two *Los Angeles Times* studies in 1993 and 2002, he establishes the church sexual abuse scandal's cause is not the celibacy requirement for priests nor homosexuality.

He dwells on some related matters, such as the laity's dissatisfaction with the clergy's professionalism, especially with their sermons and liturgy. He also notes the clear majority of the lower clergy and laity hold views that are at considerable variance from the official Roman position on such matters as the ordination of married men, artificial birth control and the election of bishops by the people.

He makes a number of recommendations that have some basis in the data. They touch on seminary and ongoing formation programs, on the appointment of bishops and on the vocation shortage.

Father Greeley does an admirable job of giving objective data from which to discern the appropriate responses and actions regarding the future of priestly ministry in the United States.

Along the way, he offers his suggestions, all of which deserve to be considered, though they need to be balanced by other factors that Father Greeley does not consider. There are also many issues regarding multiculturalism among priests and parishioners that have a major impact on priestly ministry today.

There is no simple set of answers, but Father Greeley has contributed an important piece of the framework within which the answers need to be worked out. For that we can only be grateful.

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*Presented by Ms. Dianne English, Exec. Director, Community Building Initiative*

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How do we envision Charlotte will look in the future? Do we want to shape this future or just let it happen? Crossroads Charlotte is a project designed to engage the community in building a future based on intentional choices and creative foresight. On July 9, we will examine four scenarios for the Charlotte metro region based on current demographic, social and economic trends. It is hoped that participants will reflect on the scenarios and respond.

Sponsored by the Office of Justice & Peace, CSS, in partnership with St. Peter Church.
Doors open at 12:30. Cold drinks provided. For info call 704-370-3225.

## WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 4, 2004

### *July 4, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Isaiah 66:10-14c
   Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
2) Galatians 6:14-18
3) Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It gives one pause in reading this week's Gospel to see the Lord — the one to whom we look for protection and care — saying, "Behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves."

Why? Why would Jesus purposely send his beloved disciples among the wolves? But then, having just emerged from another season of high school and college graduations, I see the same scenario: parents, families, close friends sending their innocents like lambs among wolves — and seemingly pleased to be doing it!

(I remember the words of my daughter: "Mom, if Dad says 'Welcome to the NFL' one more time I'm going to scream.")

Why do we send them? Because it's the next step in their journey through human life. The wolves are out there, and it's time to go.

The notes I wrote on graduation cards to my young friends this year spoke to each one's responsibility to her or his own giftedness, values and faith:

"You are going to do great things," "You will touch many people," "You have a lot going for you," "You will make a difference in the lives of those you meet," "Stand by what you know to be true and right," "Be attentive to the needs of people around you," "You will be a role model for your peers."

Why did I say these things? Because that's who they are and that's who we, their community, need them to be — because they are going among the wolves.

God's abundant harvest awaits. But the laborers are few. Jesus needed his disciples to grow up and take the next step, to continue the work for which he'd prepared them. His advice suggested that they would be OK if they followed it.

It was much the same as what we tell our grads: Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals (you're good; be yourself — no need for pretense). Go in peace. If people reject your values, stand by those values anyway — but don't hang around. Stay where you find welcome, accept what God will provide there and care for everyone in need.

Show people God's love, and let them know it is theirs to have. And you'll be happy.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 27 - JULY 3**

**Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-18, Luke 9:51-62; **Monday,** Amos 2:6-10, 13-16, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday (Sts. Peter & Paul),** Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Wednesday,** Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday (Bl. Junipero Serra),** Amos 7:10-17, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday,** Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday (St. Thomas),** Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 4 - JULY 10**

**Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 66:10-14, Galatians 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20; **Monday (St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria),** Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday (St. Maria Goretti),** Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday,** Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday,** Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday (St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions),** Hosea 14:2-10, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday,** Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 10:24-33

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# 'The Notebook' sparks poignant love story

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "The Notebook," North Carolina-based author Nicholas Sparks' best-selling first novel, is the latest to be translated into a major motion picture.

Like the previous two films, "Message in a Bottle" and "A Walk to Remember," "The Notebook" is an endearing love story.

"'The Notebook' is a very simple story," said Sparks, a Catholic, in a telephone interview. "It's a story about a couple who fell in love, and then stayed in love through thick and thin through the rest of their lives, no matter what life threw at them."

The film opens in a nursing home with an elderly man (James Garner) visiting a fellow resident — an Alzheimer's patient (Gena Rowlands). Reading from a well-worn notebook, he tells her the story of Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton, who meet as 17-year-olds in the small town of Seabrook, South Carolina.

Switching between past and present, Garner's character narrates this extraordinary love story throughout the film.

Noah (Ryan Gosling) is instantly attracted to Allie (Rachel McAdams), who is spending the summer in Seabrook. When they meet at a carnival in early June 1939, he sets off to win her heart.

Despite their differences — Allie is the daughter of a refined Southern family and Noah works in a lumberyard — they begin the kind of whirlwind courtship of which romantics dream — laughing, arguing, kissing in the Atlantic surf — and Noah and Allie seem destined for a happy ending.

Allie's parents and World War II step in, however, and drive the young couple apart.

After Allie's mother forbids her to see Noah, the teen-agers argue over whether they are right for each other or if it is just a summer romance.

Before Noah and Allie can reconcile, the Hamiltons return home to Charleston. A heart-wrenching scene shows Allie rushing to the lumberyard to see Noah, only to learn that he is not there. Later, a heartbroken Noah drives into the locked gate of the Hamiltons' now-deserted home.

Allie tries to forget Noah by immersing herself in studies at Sarah Lawrence College. Noah does the same, moving to New York City to find work, then enlisting in the army to fight on the European front in World War II.

Soon after the war, Allie finds herself swept into a relationship with Lon Hammond (James Marsden). As a member of a well-to-do Southern family, Lon, unlike Noah, is quickly accepted by Allie's parents.

Although Noah and Allie each fill their lives with distractions, the other is never far from mind. Just weeks before her wedding to Lon, Allie seeks out Noah.

Seven years after they first met, their passions reunite. Allie is faced with a difficult choice — return to Charleston and marry the man who fits so well into the life she had always known, or stay with the man who has never left her heart.

Relative newcomers to film, Gosling and McAdams create a convincing on-screen chemistry and transition well from their portrayals of naïve 17-year-olds to worldly young adults. Equally captivating are veterans Garner and Rowlands, as well as Joan Allen and Sam Shepard as Allie's mother and Noah's father.

Ultimately, "The Notebook" is about everlasting, unconditional love, says Sparks.

"It's a relevant story, because it's universal," Sparks said. "It's a story that will be timeless a hundred years from now."

Sparks said he believes that dating in the 21st century is not different from the past and that it is realistic for people to look for a love story like Noah and Allie's in their own lives.

"People have changed less than people think they have," he said.

Sparks said his Catholic faith affects his writing in a number of ways.

"It impacts the things I will write and the things I won't write," he said. "I won't write stories of adultery ... or stories I think are wrong — an older man and a young girl, for instance."

"If I do include a love scene, it's very tame," Sparks said. "There is always a sense that the couple is going to end up together."

"Film is an entirely different medium (from novels)," said Sparks. "There are certain things that, although I could try to capture them with words on paper, they're not quite strong enough to resonate as well as any picture could."

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

Allie Hamilton (Rachel McAdams) and Noah Calhoun (Ryan Gosling) stroll down the streets of Seabrook, South Carolina in the film adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' "The Notebook." The film tells the story of Allie and Noah, who reunite seven years after their summer romance, on the eve of Allie's marriage to another man.

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**1123 South Church Street**
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# Bishops approve audits

AUDITS, *from page 1*

on the causes and context of the clergy sex abuse crisis. The study is called for by the bishops' policies contained in the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," but the financing has to be approved by the bishops.

"The National Review Board is pleased with the decision to move forward with the audits and to begin further research into the causes and context of these crimes," said Justice Anne M. Burke, interim chairwoman of the review board.

"The message is clear: Children will be safe from harm in the Catholic Church and the bishops and lay people will work together on this," said Burke, an Illinois Appellate Court judge.

The 2004 audits will be the second yearly report on how dioceses and eparchies are complying with policies. The 2003 audits showed 90 percent compliance.

The bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection has been directed to conduct this year's audits and any future national audits pending the outcome of the policy review.

Praising the vote was Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis, chairman of the sexual abuse ad hoc committee.

The bishops' actions were "a clear indication of our commitment to the charter and to the protection of children and young people," said Archbishop Flynn.

Agreeing was Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, who had previously supported 2004 audits and said that opponents were a minority among the bishops.

In a separate news release, the cardinal said that the audit vote "indicates that the bishops are serious about continuing the important task of making sure that our church is safe for everyone, especially for children and youth."

Burke said the bishops also agreed to do further studies with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York based upon the data the college collected last year for its massive statistical study on the nature and scope of the crisis during the years 1950-2002.

John Jay researchers, using detailed questionnaires sent to dioceses and eparchies, reported last February that 4,392 priests and deacons were credibly accused of child sex abuse involving 10,667 people during the time period.

Burke said that the review board will meet June 27-28 to chart its future work, make suggestions for the bishops' November policy review and prepare guidelines for new members.

## Classifieds

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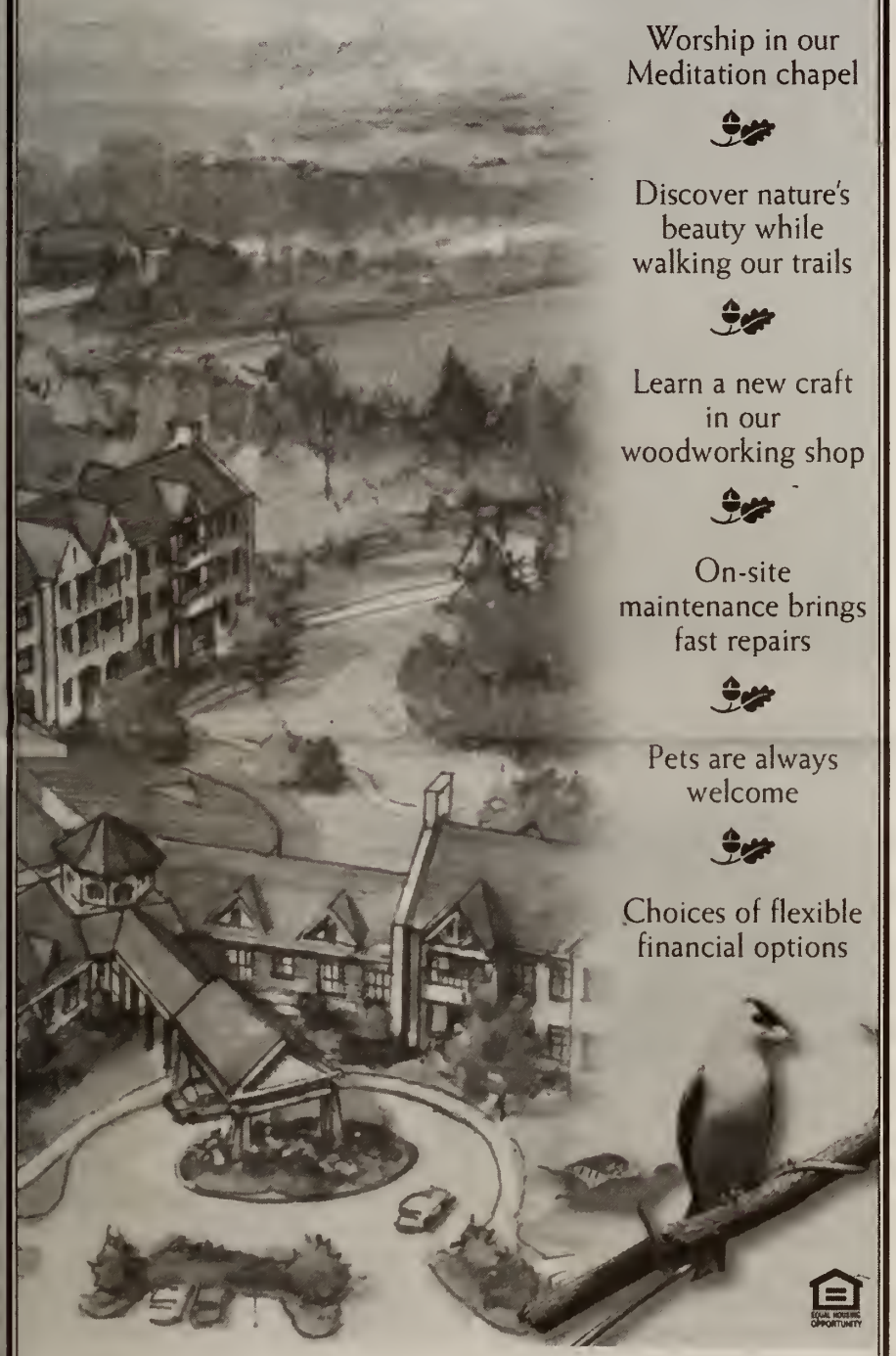

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# Works of Mercy

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Youth from Saint Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem don safety vests and rubber gloves to join city workers in cleaning up the river and streets surrounding Hanes Park June 9. Other youth passed out flyers throughout the neighborhood informing residents of the effects that trash and storm drainage have on park. This activity was part of the "Works of Mercy Week" organized by the parish's youth ministry for middle school-age youth. Delivering Meals on Wheels, visiting shut-ins, working at the local food kitchen and providing free babysitting were other helpful projects of the week. Several teens from the senior high youth group assisted John Egan, parish youth minister, in organizing and supervising the weeklong activities. Father Thomas Kessler, pastor, celebrated Mass for the group toward the end of the week.


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Caught in a cyclone

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

In September 1989, I was a television reporter assigned to cover a hurricane. I thought I was going to have an easy couple of days because I was sent to Charleston, S.C. The storm was projected to make landfall farther north. A little wind, a couple of nights in a hotel and I would return home.

But Hurricane Hugo was a monster Category 4 storm. It would hammer both Charleston and me before heading inland.

Around 11:30 p.m., the worst winds of the storm came ashore — 140 miles per hour and I unfortunately found myself out of doors, trying to find my hotel after a failed attempt at doing a live report for my station. I had just crossed Market Street in the heart of Charleston and thought my hotel was a few feet to my right.

The hotel was hard to find because I couldn't see — there was no electricity and it was pitch black. Because of the wind, the rain was falling horizontally and pummeling my eyes shut. No matter what direction I turned, I could not open them wide enough to orient myself. I was helplessly caught up in something that overwhelmed me.

I thought of that terrible night recently when I was introduced to an information campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called "Renewing the Mind of the Media" — the topic of this year's campaign is pornography and violence in the media.

Thanks to things like cable television and the Internet, America is being overwhelmed with violent and pornographic images. We are surrounded, pounded and shocked to numbness on a daily basis by media-delivered images of sex, sex and more sex. Like the hurricane, the images come at us from every direction — network television presents images of hotel heiress Paris Hilton mockingly seducing a boy; "Sex and the City," a raunchy HBO show, is celebrated as it moves to a more widely available tier of cable TV.

These examples are the rule, not the exception. The development of the Internet and cable television are the two horns on this Satan that have moved pornography from the back alleys of America to its living rooms.

Remember the day of the seedy "adult" bookstore? Cesspools of crime and perversion, they were raided regularly by police who donned rubber gloves to remove videotapes and magazines while leading small-time owners away in handcuffs.

The stores, for the most part are gone. But pornography is far more pervasive than it ever was. Why do we have fewer porn shops but more pornography? Because our country is woven with the wires of cable and the Internet and is now sprayed with wireless access that puts the images of violence and porn at our fingertips on computers and TVs, anytime we get bored with surfing the 150 or so other channels.

How far down this slippery slope have we gone? The touchstone of modern porn is the magazine "Hustler." Larry Flynt, the magazine's publisher, once said in an interview that the kind of images that were appearing in his magazine in 1974 could now be found on network TV.

Whom do we blame? AOL Time-Warner, AT&T and General Motors are a few of the companies that built the cable, Internet and satellite infrastructure that delivers this garbage. Should the CEOs of these corporations, who make millions in profits from porn, be dragged away in handcuffs like the adult bookstore owners?

It's tempting to point a finger of blame, but first maybe we should look at ourselves. How much porn is in our lives because it is just so easy, so convenient and so private? How often do we breeze by designer clothing ads that debase women and young girls?

The "Renewing the Mind of the Media" campaign is a good place to start. Check out the video and other information at www.renewingmedia.org and consider signing the pledge.

No one can stop the force of nature that is a hurricane, and I was lucky the night I was trapped by Hugo to find the shelter of my hotel. Thankfully, there are things we can do to stop the twisted cyclone of violence and pornography that comes at us from every direction. We can stop watching TV shows and avoid offensive, pornographic Web sites. We can write the sponsors and the above-mentioned mega-corporations and tell them to stop spreading smut.

Yes, you may feel like a candle in the wind, but given time a positive, prayerful force that is an example of the Lord's love will prevail. The alternative, to simply live with these sad images that confront us on a daily basis, is simply unacceptable.

*David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottdiocese.org.*

# Only Christ fulfills humanity's thirst for justice, truth, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Justice, truth and love are desired by all cultures and religions, but only Christ can fully satisfy those needs, said Pope John Paul II.

"All the nations will come and worship before the Lord" to recognize his "righteous acts or rather the interventions throughout history of staunching evil and praising good," the pope said at his June 23 general audience.

Some 8,000 pilgrims from all over the world packed into the Paul VI audience hall, where the weekly audience is held during Rome's hot summer months.

The pope focused his catechesis on Chapter 15 of the Book of Revelation. He said the book's canticle was "beautiful" in its "universal breath of religiousness and hope."

The chapter speaks of the seven last plagues through which "God's fury is accomplished." The pope said the plagues symbolize "a judgment upon evil, oppression and violence in the world."

"For this reason it is also a sign of hope for the righteous" who are "the just of this earth who stand before the risen Lamb of God," he said.

Having conquered the beast, the enemy of God, the chosen ones raise up to the Lord a hymn of praise, the pope said.

"True prayer, in fact, other than asking for something, is also praise, thanks, a blessing, celebration, a profession of faith in the Lord who saves," he said.

## ASK THE BISHOP

Do you have a question for Bishop Peter J. Jugis? *The Catholic News & Herald* is starting a new feature in which Bishop Jugis will answer questions that are submitted via regular mail or e-mail.

Questions about the faith and the Diocese of Charlotte that have a broad appeal will receive priority consideration for response in the newspaper.

When submitting a question, please include your name, address and a daytime telephone number. Questions may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send your "Ask the Bishop" question to Ask the Bishop, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28203, or e-mail askthebishop@charlottediocese.org.

# Care of refugees — a faith-based response

## Guest Column

JOE PURELLO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF JUSTICE & PEACE

According to U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers, there are 17.1 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons worldwide. Though this number reveals a horrendous level of suffering, it is 22 percent less than three years ago. Part of the decrease is that relative peace has come to once war-torn areas (e.g. Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Balkans) and refugees are returning home.

The decrease may appear as just a statistic in what seems to be an endless, unsolvable problem; yet Lubbers recently stated that the decrease represents for more than 4 million people "the end of long years in exile and the start of a new life with renewed hope for the future."

The theme of World Refugee Day (June 20) was "A Place to Call Home." It honors both the considerable efforts to improve some pressing refugee situations (such as the lengthy ordeal of the Sudanese "Lost Boys," many of whom have found a new home in North Carolina) and challenges wealthier nations that much work is left to be done to aid refugees seeking "a place to call home."

After Sept. 11, 2001, refugee admissions into the United States and other nations slowed dramatically, with U.S. admissions falling from approximately 70,000 per year to fewer than 30,000 per year. This drop is one of Sept. 11's terrible aftereffects, as tens of thousands of refugees in camps throughout the world saw their dreams of finding a new home crushed as the United States and other governments grew more cautious about whom they admitted.

While our government is bound by the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees to assist refugees, the non-profit work of faith communities receives inspiration to care for refugees from a standard higher than any international agreement. The dignity and value of people transcends any governmental policy, for all people are created in the likeness of God.

The prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures call the people of Israel to care for the "anawim" — a Hebrew word meaning the "little ones," or those without power. Traditionally, "anawim" is used to identify "the widow, the orphan and the stranger."

That the Hebrew people were once strangers in foreign lands is used as a teaching point by Moses and the prophets: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt." (Leviticus 19:33-34)

The Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to reach out in kindness to those not of our land. The Holy Family, seeking safety in Egypt to escape King Herod's wrath, knew firsthand the fear and struggles of those fleeing for their lives and what it meant to depend on the kindness of strangers. In Matthew 25, Jesus says our eternal fate will be determined by how we treat those who suffer — "as you do to these little ones [anawim] you do unto me."

The Catholic Church resettles nearly one-fourth of all refugees admitted to the United States each year, a ministry offered regardless of the race, nationality or religion of the refugee. The Refugee Resettlement Office (RRO) of Catholic Social Services is the largest provider of refugee resettlement services in the area served by the Diocese of Charlotte.

Over the past two years, the RRO has resettled more than 300 Montagnard refugees from Vietnam. This summer, the RRO is preparing to receive more than 100 Hmong refugees from Laos and an additional 110 Bantu refugees from Somalia (51 Bantu refugees have already arrived). Some of these refugees have only known life in camps circled by barbed wire, even raising families in confinement.

Please remember refugees in your prayers, and especially consider prayers for the Montagnard, Hmong and Bantu refugees currently resettling in our diocese. May our prayers help us to see in the struggles of our refugee brothers and sisters the struggles of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt.

**WANT TO HELP?**

**In addition to your prayers, newcomers to our diocese will need different types of assistance: furniture, household items, food vouchers, English language training and employment opportunities that offer benefits. Those interested in making financial or other types of donations, or willing to offer volunteer assistance, please contact the Refugee Resettlement Office at (704) 370-3283 or (704) 370-3277.**

# The crowning of Mary

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. A local Catholic high school is embroiled over a May crowning that some parents want to observe with the students. The head of the religion department objects that this ceremony started in the Middle Ages to entice nonbelievers into adoration of Mary and that this ritual was denounced at Vatican Council II.*

*What is the church's position? Is there a reason not to have them? (New York)*

A. I realize this response will not reach you during May, but I have no idea why this woman would think Vatican II "denounced" May crowning ceremonies. Just the opposite. If it is a form of devotion to the mother of Christ that enhances honor for him, the rite is encouraged.

The Council of Ephesus (431) defended the teaching that Mary is the Mother of God, not first to honor Mary but to clarify Catholic belief that Jesus is one (divine) person with two natures, human and divine.

Following this council, Catholic honor of Mary increased greatly, a fact which the church generally saw as fulfilling her words in the Magnificat, "From now on will all ages call me blessed; the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Through the centuries certain forms of devotion to Our Lady tended to cloud the vital distinction between her role and the role of her Son. Some prayers appeared, for example, seeming to place her on an equal footing with Jesus as redeemer of the world.

So it is true that Vatican II told theologians and preachers to be alert to treat correctly the unique dignity of the Mother of God. They should, said the council, "equally avoid the falsity of exaggeration on the one hand, and the excess of narrow-mindedness on the other" (Constitution on the Church, No. 67).

It insists, however, that traditional practices and exercises of devotion toward her be treasured, as approved by the church through the centuries, since "Mary shines forth on earth ... as a sign of sure hope and solace for the pilgrim people of God" (No. 68).

If there's a problem with Mary being called, or crowned as, queen, that too is unfounded.

The concept of Mary as Queen Mother, a prestigious title often given to the mother of a king in ancient times to signify her particular influence with her son, has good scriptural and traditional roots. (See, for example, Solomon and his mother Bathsheba.)

The church, of course, has a feast of the Queenship of Mary, celebrated now on Aug. 22.

There is no need, therefore, to see May crownings as anything more than a legitimate form of paraliturgical prayer, a way of appropriately honoring the mother of Jesus.

Almost any devotions, from the Stations of the Cross to novenas, can be abused, distorted or misunderstood. But that is only a reason to be thoughtful and careful that these celebrations fit within authentic Catholic tradition and teaching. It is not a reason to forbid them.

# Moment shared with bishop a blessing

## Guest Column

VERONICA ANTHONY
GUEST COLUMNIST

I am a parishioner of St. John Baptist de La Salle Church in North Wilkesboro and have been for more than three decades. I attended the ordination of Bishop Peter J. Jugis in Charlotte in October 2003, and our vicariate Mass in Boone with the bishop in November 2003. Both the ordination and vicariate Masses were spiritually uplifting experiences for me and they strengthened my faith in the Catholic Church.

I requested a few minutes after the vicariate Mass to speak to the bishop, and he very kindly talked to me for several minutes. I told him about my mom, Razia Anthony, who converted from Islam to Catholicism and sacrificed a lot for her faith. My mom is ailing and is in a nursing home, and I requested the bishop pray for her. He listened very attentively and asked for her name and assured me of his prayers.

After a confirmation Mass at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church June 9, 2004, I saw Bishop Jugis and he asked me about my mom. I do not have the words to express my happiness and pleasant surprise that the bishop remembered her, despite the fact that he meets thousands of people in the Diocese of Charlotte.

After the confirmation reception, Bishop Jugis visited my mom at the nursing home in Wilkesboro. He prayed the rosary and gave her the most holy blessing. I deeply appreciate that Bishop Jugis took time from his busy schedule to make an unplanned visit to bless my mom — we are very fortunate to have had this unique experience. The director of nursing commented that this was the first time a bishop had visited the nursing home.

I later shared my experience with parishioners of St. John Baptist de La Salle Church before the Saturday Mass. They thanked me for narrarating this story; one parishioner commented that it renewed his faith in the Diocese of Charlotte.

I regretted not having a camera to capture the image of the bishop blessing my 84-year-old mother, but I am sure the spiritual image, as well as Bishop Jugis' piety, meekness, humility and simplicity, will interminably be embedded in my mind. I will never forget Bishop Jugis and will always remember him in my prayers.

God bless Bishop Jugis, now and always.

# Parishioners build hope, homes

MISSION, *from page 1*

widow; the other team stained and sealed a wheelchair ramp and installed a new roof on the home of an 84-year-old widow.

The group's efforts were inspired by the youth of St. Aloysius Church, who have made mission trips for the past five summers. The adult group wanted to stay in North Carolina, and Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, recommended the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville.

A mission agency of the United Methodist Church, the center is a resource and advocate for rural and smaller membership churches in the Southeast. For 10 weeks of the summer, adult and youth groups come to the center to repair 80 to 90 houses in Clay and Cherokee counties in North Carolina and Union Towns County in Tennessee.

The Office of Economic Opportunity, a program of the diocesan Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace, partners with the center on a number of grants and projects.

The St. Aloysius Church group became more aware of the economic problems in western North Carolina. During the trip, they met with Joan Furst, program director of the Office of Economic Opportunity; Father Kloster; and a center representative and learned about the collaborative efforts of the above agencies and projects undertaken in some of the poorest counties of North Carolina.

The group shared their experiences during a prayer reflection on the last workday of the trip. Many felt they had left a loving legacy in the homes that were rehabilitated and the lives of their inhabitants.

"I got so much more out of this week than I gave," said parishioner Carol Rasmussen.

"It was a privilege to be literally the hands, feet and eyes of Jesus in service to others," said parishioner Mark Sinclair.

"I believe that these mission trips are a wonderful opportunity for urban Catholics in our diocese to see what the Catholic Church is doing in Appalachia," said Furst.

"We hope that Catholics from around the diocese will continue to visit this beautiful region and volunteer their time serving others," she said. "There is much to be done in these poverty stricken counties and the volunteers' hours are so very much appreciated by the people out here."

*Thea Sinclair is a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. Staff Writer Karen A. Evans contributed to this story.*

**CONSIDERING A MISSION TRIP?**

If your parish is interested in a mission trip in far western North Carolina, contact Joan Furst at (828) 835-3535.

COURTESY PHOTO BY THEA SINCLAIR

Michael Richard and Carol Monohan, parishioners of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, apply siding to a house during the parish's adult mission trip to western North Carolina June 6-11.

# Ad Altare Dei emblems

COURTESY PHOTO

After two years of study, five Catholic Boy Scouts from St. Aloysius Church in Hickory received their Ad Altare Dei emblems at Mass May 22. Pictured above are: Matthew McDonald, Phillip Corsi, Miles Dunning, Max Karaffa and Peter McAnulty. The Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program, developed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, helps Catholic Scouts develop a fully Christian way of life in a faith community. Dick McDonald, adult Scout leader and parishioner at St. Aloysius Church, served as counselor for the program that is organized in chapters based on the seven sacraments. Rev. Mr. James Johnson, diocesan Scout chaplain, presented the emblems to the scouts. A special reception honoring this achievement was held at St. Aloysius Church following the Mass.

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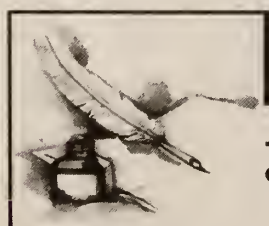

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JULY 9, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 37

**Pastoral Assignments**

*Latest pastoral changes listed*

| PAGE 6

## Vatican looks to speed up processing of sex abuse cases

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Two U.S. canon lawyers are expected to arrive this fall for work at the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, part of an effort to speed up processing of sex abuse cases, church officials said in early July.

The move responds to

See CASES, page 13

# Putting faith into action

**TEENS VISIT CHARLOTTE AREA FOR VOLUNTEER WORK**

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Hundreds of teen-agers recently traded a week of summer vacation for volunteer service around the Charlotte area.

A dozen teens volunteering at Holy Angels in Belmont were among more than 400 high school students from Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York and

See HEART, page 7

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

## *Spreading smiles*

Sandra, a resident at Holy Angels in Belmont, enjoys a visit from teen-agers participating in the Catholic HEART Workcamp 2004 in the Diocese of Charlotte June 27-July 2. Charlotte Catholic High School served as one of the 24 Catholic HEART (Helping Everyone Attain Repairs Today) camps throughout the United States and Jamaica.

## Empowering leaders

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Participants in the Faithful Servant leadership program engage in the laying on of hands during the closing commissioning June 25. Faithful Servant is a weeklong leadership institute blending Catholic theology, spirituality and leadership skills sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry. See story page 9.

**ROOTED IN FAITH**

## Black Catholics gather for interdiocesan conference

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Black Catholics from Asheville to Wilmington gathered for the first North Carolina Black Catholic Conference at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro June 25-27.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together Catholics of African descent for inspiration and collaboration and to promote and accomplish on a local level the goals set by the National Black Catholic Congress, according to conference organizers.

A secondary goal was to empower and encourage Catholics of African descent to

See CONFERENCE, page 5

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A display with the Book of the Gospels placed on kinte cloth at the first North Carolina Black Catholic Conference in Greensboro June 25-27.

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**Cleansing spirits**
*College students spread God's love in Costa Rica*
| PAGE 8

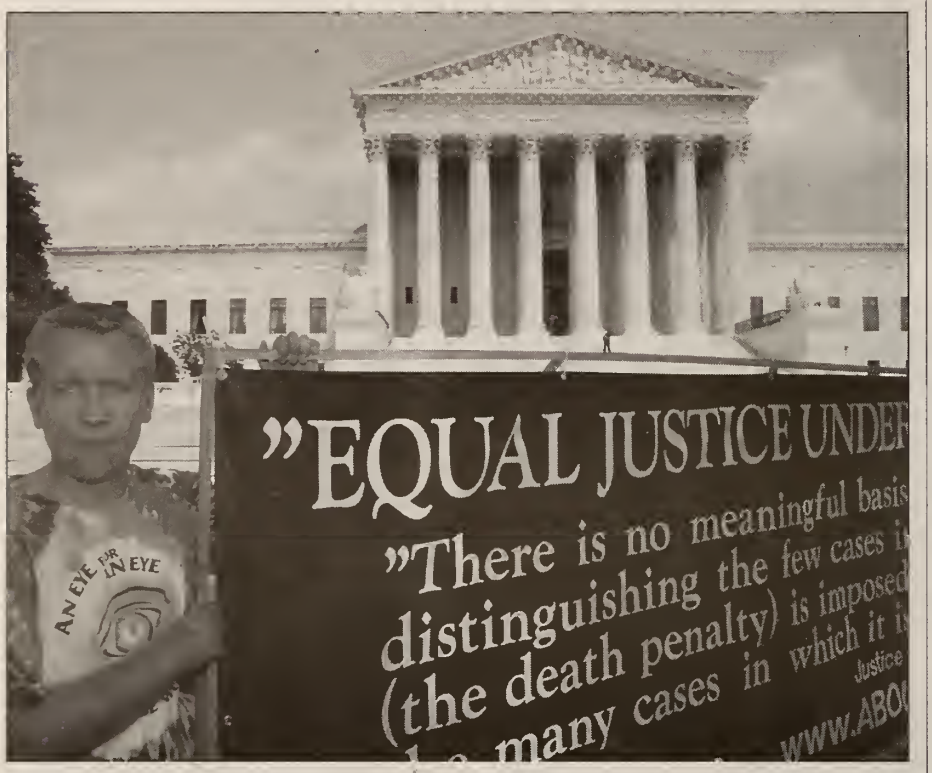
**Culture Watch**
*'Fahrenheit 9/11,' WWII chaplains*
| PAGES 10-11

**Perspectives**
*Abortion vs. war, baptizing children*
| PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## 'STARVIN' FOR JUSTICE'




CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Marianist Brother Brian Halderman demonstrates against capital punishment in front of the Supreme Court building July 1. Brother Halderman and 30 other abolitionists participated in the annual "Starvin' for Justice '04" fast and vigil.

# Marianist brother protests death penalty with fast at Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just as "Mary stood at the cross as Christ was killed in a state-sanctioned execution," Brother Brian Halderman said he was at the Supreme Court to stand with those on death row who face what he feels is a violent and unjust death.

"The death penalty creates more victims," said the Marianist brother June 30, after he had begun a four-day fast in front of the court to protest the death penalty.

Brother Halderman, along with about 30 other abolitionists, began the annual fast and vigil, "Starvin' for Justice '04," with songs, prayer and sharing of stories at midnight June 29.

The abolitionists carried large signs with quotes from former Supreme Court justices, and handed out educational pamphlets. They also were selling ball caps and T-shirts and talking with hundreds of Washington residents and tourists as they passed by the Supreme Court.

Brother Halderman said he was "asking people, 'Hey, look at this for yourself,'" because he thinks too often news accounts present a sterilized version of executions.

The Abolitionist Action Committee organized the vigil in association with other sponsoring groups, including Journey of Hope, an organization founded by relatives of murder victims who oppose the death penalty.

Brother Halderman, a board member of Journey of Hope, began protesting the death penalty while he was a student at the University of Dayton after a "powerful experience" he had at a vigil outside an Ohio penitentiary on the eve of an execution.

He counts the inspiration of Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille and prominent death-penalty opponent, as one of his reasons for joining the Society of Mary and for opposing capital punishment.

People's reactions to the fasters were varied, Brother Halderman said. "Some people pat you on the back and stop and thank you." As for those in favor of the death penalty who stopped to talk, he said, "It's good that people want to debate."

He said his goal is to educate people and let them know that he believes the death penalty is a violent solution that contributes to evil in the world.

The dates of the vigil, June 29-July 2, mark the anniversaries of two landmark Supreme Court cases, in 1974 and 1976, that required states to rewrite their death penalty laws and resulted in sentence reductions for about 600 death-row inmates.

# Jewish leaders fear anti-Semitism among Hispanic immigrants

ROME (CNS) — U.S. Jewish leaders met with Vatican officials in late June to raise what they consider a growing problem: anti-Semitism among Hispanic immigrants to the United States.

According to surveys, new Hispanic arrivals in the United States are "44 percent infected" with anti-Semitic attitudes, reflecting lower sensitivity to the problem throughout their Latin American countries of origin, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League.

The rate of anti-Semitism among the immigrants is more than twice that of U.S.-born Hispanics, Foxman said. A high percentage of the immigrants believe the Jews were responsible for Christ's death, he said.

"For us, this is very important, because the Hispanic community is growing in the United States. And at the end of the day that will also have an impact on the Catholic Church," Foxman said.

Foxman and other ADL leaders spoke with reporters after meeting with Vatican officials. Foxman said he believes anti-Semitism is more prevalent in Latin America in part because of poverty and lack of education, and in part because the church hasn't promoted its recent pronouncements on Judaism as effectively as it could.

Because the vast majority of Hispanics coming into the United States are Catholic, the ADL believes the church can use its leverage to sensitize these communities to the strong teaching against anti-Semitism that has come out of the Vatican over the last 40 years.

The Jewish leaders think a particular teaching moment in Latin America may be offered by next year's 40th anniversary of the landmark decree of the Second Vatican Council, "Nostra Aetate," which condemned all forms of anti-Semitism and affirmed the continuing validity of God's covenant with the Jews.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Everyone is invited to attend a Conference for Catholic Laity *"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus: Living as Eucharistic People"* Aug. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Immaculata School, 711 Buncombe St. Father Frank Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley will give the keynote address. Workshops will be offered on using the lectionary; prayer and skills and theory for catechists. For more information or to register contact Elizabeth Girton at (828) 252-8816 or faithformation@bellsouth.net.

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Where is your faith journey taking you? Join Dorothy, the Scarecrow and friends for this grand adventure on "The Yellow Brick Road" featuring music by Kathy and David with Redeemed, food and coffee. St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Teen Coffeehouse* July 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. All high school teens are invited to join us for this very special evening. Please call Erin Dunne at (704) 543-7677 for details.

CHARLOTTE — The *Diocesan Ministry for Gay and Lesbian Catholics* invites family and friends to celebrate the annual LBGT Mass July 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. for Mass with a reception afterwards in Biss Hall. For more information, call Kevin Melody at (704) 596-3845.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meetings take place on the first and third Monday of each month 7-9 p.m. in the conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 576-0456.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Jim McCullough, director of faith formation of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., will present *"Key to the Scriptures,"* a new way to read the Bible with understanding. Classes will meet Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. in the library. To register, leave your name, address and phone number with Mary-Ann DipPaola at (336) 274-6520, ext. 33.

ASHEBORO — Franciscan Father Jude Winkler will speak on *Negative Gifts* July 26 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 512 W. Wainman St. We think of gifts as our talents, our best qualities and the best times, but more often it is our struggles, both those within ourselves and the difficult circumstances of our lives, that bring us closer to God. We learn to see these struggles

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope praises transfer of power in Iraq, expresses hope for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised the transfer of power to an interim government in Iraq and expressed hope that peace, freedom and prosperity would soon come to the nation.

The message came in a telegram sent on behalf of the pope by the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano. It was addressed to Iraq's new president, Ghazi al-Yawer.

"On the happy occasion of the transfer of power to the interim government of the state of Iraq, the Holy Father sends his cordial greetings to your excellency and to the citizens of your country," the telegram said.

The pope said that, "as a new chapter begins in the life of the nation," he was praying that "the hopes of the Iraqi people for peace, freedom and prosperity will soon be fulfilled."

The U.S.-led coalition government formally handed over power June 28 to an interim government with limited powers led by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. Elections slated for January will install a transitional government charged with drawing up a constitution before full elections are held by the end of next year.

As the new caretaker government and the president take up their offices, the pope said, "the Catholic Church throughout the world offers you every support and encouragement in the task of building a new Iraq."

He said he was "confident that all religious groups within the country will be able to make their voices be heard and to play their rightful part in forging a new society committed to true freedom of conscience, to justice for all and to peaceful dialogue."

# Summer days: No signs of slowdown as pope prepares for vacation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II may have been packing his bags for a summer vacation, but events at the Vatican showed no sign of winding down in late June and early July.

From ecumenical encounters to liturgical celebrations, from political pronouncements to pastoral messages, the Vatican was bubbling over with activity.

Passing through the Vatican were groups of U.S. bishops, Jewish leaders, the Spanish prime minister, a Spanish royal couple, the Maltese president and others.

The pope welcomed Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to the Vatican, where the two professed the faith and shared a sermon during a liturgy for the distribution of palliums to new archbishops.

Meanwhile, the Vatican released a papal letter on sports, a message on globalization, a message on the family and massive documentation from the Vatican's World War II archives. It also issued an unusual public complaint about the arrest of bishops in China.

At the Vatican Observatory, some 13 scientific and theological experts gathered for a major conference on evolution. Creationism didn't even come up; these experts view religion and science as complementary, not rivals, and were looking for a balance between scientific discoveries and metaphysics.

The pope was to head for a two-week stay in northern Italy's Aosta Valley on July 5. No public activities are planned, and no stream of visitors will be visiting his wood-and-stone chalet.

Then the pope returns to his summer villa at Castel Gandolfo until the end of September. In Castel Gandolfo, aides try to keep his audiences to a minimum, but it's not unusual for the pope to meet with three or four sets of people in a single morning.

# Forty-one Ferraris on the Fourth

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Ferrari circles St. Peter's Square at the Vatican July 4. Pope John Paul II blessed a group of 41 Ferrari cars after his Sunday Angelus prayer. In the United States, July 4 celebrations marked the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

## A SAINT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680) was the first person born in North America to be beatified. The daughter of a Christian Algonquin woman, Kateri was moved by the words of missionaries and at age 19 converted to Christianity. She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. For three years she grew in holiness giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, charity and strenuous penance. She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. She died the afternoon before Holy Thursday and was beatified in 1980. Her feast day is July 14.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1968, Pope Paul VI issued his landmark encyclical letter Humanae Vitae ("Human Life"), which reemphasized the church's constant teaching that it is always intrinsically wrong to use artificial birth control — contraception — to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. This includes sterilization, condoms and other barrier methods, spermicides, coitus interruptus (withdrawal method), the Pill and all other methods of artificial contraception.

as gifts and allow God to use even our weakness. Fr. Jude has written hundreds of articles and books on Sacred Scripture for adults and children. He conducts missions and retreats throughout the U.S. and Europe. Call (336) 629-0221 or email stjoe@triad.rr.com for more information.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — *Summer Faith Formation Catechesis* will be offered each Sunday, 10:20-10:50 in the school building of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 328-B Woodsway Ln. NW. There will be an opportunity for discussion of the day's gospel. All are invited to share their thoughts. For more Information, call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

NEWTON — A *Pastoral Care Training* program will be offered July 24, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 720 W. 13th St. The program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in a variety of facilities. Volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts: parish ministry, eucharistic ministry, senior sensitivity and confidentiality/compliance/consistency. Deadline for registration is July 20. Call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Kathy Mott at (828) 322-2397 to register.

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

HAYESVILLE — *"Cherokee History and the Trail of Tears: Catholics and Cherokees Continuing Dialogue"* will host Russ Townsend, archeologist, interim director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Townsend will share the story of the Cherokee people before the coming of the Europeans, what was happening in Europe before Columbus and others began their explorations, and the events leading up to the Trail of Tears and the impact it still has on people today. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to discuss ways to apply Catholic social teachings and address justice issues of the Cherokee people today. The workshops will take place July 20 at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 37 Sunrise Place, Hwy. 64 in Hayesville and Aug. 7 at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 316 Main Street in Bryson City. For more information or to register, call Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or email maryherr@dnet.net.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with The Couple to Couple League. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching and the method is as effective as the Pill with none of the side effects of unnatural methods. A four-part series of classes will start Aug. 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center of Saint Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For more information and registration, call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., celebrates *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Friday until 7:00 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 for more information.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the DeSales House behind the church. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following event:*

**July 11 — 12 p.m.**
Mass of dedication for new parish center
St. Mary Church, Greensboro

RESOUNDING WITH FREEDOM

COURTESY PHOTO BY G.G. HAMPTON

Marge Thomas (left), state secretary for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, presents a check to Michael Keleher (with mother Jann), a parishioner of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, for placing first in the Catholic Daughters' Education Contest in May.

# Teen's artwork wins Catholic Daughters education contest

ASHEVILLE — Michael Keleher, a 13-year-old parishioner of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, knows how to let freedom ring.

In May, Michael's pencil-drawn artwork won first place on both the local and state levels for "Let Freedom Ring," a theme of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education Contest. Court St. Joan of Arc No. 2471 sponsored the contest on the local level.

"He really did capture the essence of the theme," said G.G. Hampton, vice regent and education coordinator of Court No. 2471. "You can tell he put a lot of thought and effort into it."

The court awarded Michael $25 for winning the local contest. Marge Thomas, state secretary for the Catholic Daughters, presented Michael with a certificate for winning the state competition.

Michael's artwork has been submitted for the national contest. If he wins, he will receive a $100 prize.

"This young man has a gift, and I hope he'll pursue it," said Hampton. "Maybe by being in and winning this contest, he'll be encouraged to do so."

SOUL FOOD

# Catholic women teach children about Eucharist, sacraments at retreat

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Think "summer" and "food" and most people probably picture hot dogs, watermelon and ice cream cones. The sons and daughters of members of the Charlotte Catholic Women's Group (CCWG), however, were thinking about food for the soul, specifically the Eucharist, during a retreat June 24.

"The Eucharist is the center of our faith," said Mary Summa, president of the CCWG. "We start there to teach the other sacraments."

Margaret Gustafson, chair of the retreat, wrote the entire program, which linked the biblical events of the Hebrews receiving manna in the desert to the Last Supper.

The mothers of CCWG put new twists on old games to teach the children about the Ten Commandments and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They participated in races, hopscotch and a "fill-in-the-blank" Ten Commandments relay.

In addition to the physical activities, the children learned about the origins of the Eucharist by making "manna" and "pots" out of clay.

"Manna is the pre-figuration for the parable of the Loaves and Fishes and Christ's statement 'whoever eats this bread will live forever' in the Gospel of John," said Summa.

Also on hand to offer spiritual guidance and the sacrament of reconciliation were Father Paul Moreau and Father Eamonn Shelly, members of the Legionaries of Christ. CCWG has been associated with Legionaries of Christ priests since the group's inception in 2000. The priests visit monthly to provide catechesis and spiritual direction to the members of CCWG.

"We're teaching the children to know and love Christ and how to use their knowledge to serve Christ," said Summa.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVA

Mary Summa, center, demonstrates how to make "pots" and "manna" from modelin clay during the children's retreat held by the Charlotte Catholic Women's Grou June 24.

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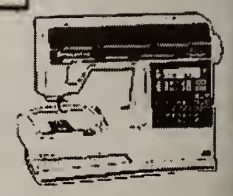

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CNH

# Black Catholics gather for interdiocesan conference

CONFERENCE, *from page 1*

become more involved in their parishes and diocesan programs.

The conference, which drew 250 black Catholics from the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, featured keynote addresses, workshops, Mass and other liturgical activities.

Keynote speaker Nancy J. Mays, an intern with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, said it is the right and responsibility of black Catholics to "make sure our black Catholic culture is present in our churches."

"Our faith lies in the cotton fields, picket lines, sit-ins and at home with our mothers and fathers," said Mays, echoing the theme of the conference, "Rooted in Faith — Transformed by the Spirit — Empowered for Ministry."

Mays, who also works with the archdiocesan offices of youth ministry and African American ministry, spoke of "transformation in the midst of hardship."

"Transformation of the Spirit tells us we must not only be rooted in the faith but be ready to move when God says move.'"

"Young Catholic adults need to affirm themselves as young people in the Catholic Church, so that they will not only stay in the church, but take leadership in the church," said Father Charles Smith, administrator of St. Rita Church in Indianapolis, who, with his brother, Father Chester Smith, conducted a workshop on building a church of leaders and empowering Catholics of all ages to active church leadership, parish life and stewardship.

"We must take ownership in the church and feel good about who we are," said Father Charles Smith.

Msgr. Raymond G. East, director of the Office of Black Catholics in Washington, D.C., led an afternoon workshop addressing the issue of "Incorporating your Culture and Traditions into the Liturgy."

"Culture was the first thing to be eliminated when Africans were brought to America," he said. "Is culture something to be checked at the door when you come to worship?"

Msgr. East encouraged the participants to incorporate their cultures into the Catholic liturgy through language, dress and music.

"Merging is good, but we've lost our cultural identity and tradition and (the Catholic Church) has lost people because of it," said Lettie W. Polite, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. Polite was one of 12 individuals who received a recognition award for outstanding contributions to black Catholics in the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

The conference emphasized how black Catholics can be a more integral part of the Catholic Church.

"The Catholic Church has to be inclusive in her evangelization and in her personnel and programs," said Msgr. Thomas P. Hadden, vicar for African Americans in the African Ancestry Ministry of the Diocese of Raleigh. Msgr. Hadden was also a recognition award recipient.

"The church has to present an inviting appearance to people seeking a church home," he said.

"It's nice to see so many black Catholics in the state of North Carolina — from both the dioceses — put on a conference together," said Veronica Sartor, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

"All God needs from us is a willing spirit," said Mays. "As long as we say 'yes,' he will always transform us."

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Keynote speaker Nancy J. Mays, an intern with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, addresses the participants of the North Carolina Black Catholic Conference June 26.

> The conference was designed "to bring together Catholics of African descent for inspiration and collaboration and to promote and accomplish on a local level the goals set by the National Black Catholic Congress."

**Outstanding contributions**

Twelve individuals received recognition awards for outstanding contributions to black Catholics in the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh. They were:

**Diocese of Charlotte**

**Mary McDonald Turner**
St. Benedict the Moor Church, Winston-Salem
**Willis Joseph**
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte
**Lettie W. Polite**
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
**Carl O. Foster Jr.**
St. Mary Church, Greensboro
**Barbara Gregory Gardin**
St. Helen Church, Spencer Mountain
**Msgr. Mauricio W. West**
Vicar General and Chancellor, Diocese of Charlotte

**Diocese of Raleigh**

**Bishop F. Joseph Gossman,**
Bishop of Raleigh
**Mariebeth Banks**
**Roosevelt Elivert**
**Msgr. Gerald Lewis**
**Judith Nixon**
**Msgr. Thomas P. Hadden**


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# Pastoral Assignments

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis, bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, announces the following pastoral changes, effective July 6, 2003:*

**APPOINTMENTS OF PASTORS**

**Rev. Msgr. Richard M. Bellow**
From: Pastor, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

**Rev. James W. Cassidy, OSA**
From: Administrator, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe
To: Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe (effective March 3, 2004)

**Rev. Robert M. Ferris**
From: Administrator, St. Benedict Church, Greensboro
To: Pastor, St. Aloysius Church, Hickory

**Rev. Peter Fitzgibbons**
From: Administrator, Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle
To: Pastor, Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, Albemarle

**Rev. Kurt M. Fohn**
From: Administrator, St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville, and Holy Trinity Mission, Taylorsville
To: Pastor, St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville and Holy Trinity Mission, Taylorsville

**Rev. Christopher M. Gober**
From: Administrator, St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine, and St. Bernadette Mission, Linville
To: Pastor, St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine, and St. Bernadette Mission, Linville

**Rev. Matthew K. Kauth**
From: Administrator, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin
To: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin

**Rev. Mark S. Lawlor**
From: Administrator, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

**Rev. Matthew Leonard**
From: Administrator, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir
To: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir

**Rev. Shawn O'Neal**
From: Administrator, St. Joseph Church, Bryson City, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Cherokee
To: Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Bryson City, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Cherokee

**Rev. M. Manh Nguyen, CM**
From: Administrator, St. Mary Church, Greensboro
To: Pastor, St. Mary Church, Greensboro

**Rev. Adrian Porras**
From: Parochial Vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons
To: Pastor, St. Andrew the Apostle, Mars Hill, and Sacred Heart Mission, Burnsville (effective July 27, 2004)

**Rev. William J. Ruhl, OSFS**
From: Assignment in Diocese of Raleigh
To: Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

**Rev. Frank Seabo**
From: Administrator, St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa
To: Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Swannanoa

**Rev. Edward J. Sheridan**
From: Pastor, St. Aloysius Church, Hickory
To: Pastor, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

**Rev. Joseph C. Zuschmidt, OSF**
From: Administrator, Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont
To: Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

**APPOINTMENTS OF PAROCHIAL VICARS**

**Rev. C. Morris Boyd**
From: Administrator, St. Francis Church, Jefferson, and St. Frances of Rome Mission, Sparta
To: Parochial Vicar, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

**Rev. Matthew R. Buettner**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton

**Rev. Robert R. Conway**
Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

**Rev. Joseph L. Dinh**
From: Parochial Vicar, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

**Rev. Duc H. Duong**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

**Rev. Timothy S. Reid**
Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

**Rev. John F. Starczewski**
Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

**APPOINTMENTS OF ADMINISTRATORS**

**Rev. José Antonio Juya**
To: Administrator, St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton, while continuing as Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the Gastonia Vicariate

**Rev. Msgr. Anthony J. Marcaccio**
To: Administrator, St. Benedict Church, Greensboro, while continuing as Pastor of St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

**Rev. Philip J. Scarcella, PhD, JCD**
To: Administrator, Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

**Rev. Patrick J. Winslow**
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte
To: Administrator, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Jefferson, and St. Frances of Rome Church, Sparta

**OTHER ASSIGNMENTS**

**Rev. David T. Brzoska**
From: Administrator, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill, and Sacred Heart Mission, Burnsville
Released to: St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pa., as Director of Pastoral Formation and Director of Hispanic Ministries

**Rev. Thomas Murphy, OSFS**
From: Pastor, St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro
To: Assignment by Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

**MEDICAL LEAVE**

Rev. Richard P. Hokanson
Rev. Thomas D. Stott

**CELEBRATING THE CALL**

# Three sisters commemorate milestones in ministerial service

*Jubilee ceremony held at St. Gabriel Church*

CHARLOTTE — Three Sisters of Mercy recently celebrated milestones as women religious.

Mercy Sisters Mary Louise Wiesenforth, Bessie McCarthy and Patricia Ann Pepitone celebrated their respective platinum (70), golden (50) and silver (25) jubilees at St. Gabriel Church June 26.

Born Mary Ann Wiesenforth in Troy, N.Y, in 1913, Sister Wiesenforth decided upon finishing high school that she wanted to become a sister to serve God.

"I kept trying to tell myself I didn't have a call," she said. "It was hard to think that I wouldn't have my own family."

After listening to what seemed to be a persistent call from God, Sister Wiesenforth said the most profound moment of her life was her profession of vows Feb. 3, 1939.

She began teaching in parochial schools in North Carolina in the early 1940s until she was assigned to help form a community of sisters in Guam in October 1946. Within a year of arriving, Sister Wiesenforth, serving as director of postulants and novices, helped receive 10 young women as postulants and had 10 more applicants waiting to be received as Sisters of Mercy. She also taught religion, church history and home economics.

She returned to the convent in Belmont 19 years later, where she served as principal of Sacred Heart Elementary School.

Sister Wiesenforth returned to Guam for her 50th anniversary in 1996. She is now retired.

Born Bessie Florence McCarthy in Newport News, N.J, in 1933, Sister McCarthy entered the Sisters of Mercy in August 1953. While earning nursing degrees in the 1960s, she was known as Sister Mary Camillus. Following Vatican II, she became known as "Sister Bessie."

COURTESY PHOTOS BY KRIS REICH

**Mercy Sister Bessie McCarthy, Mercy Sister Mary Louise Wiesenforth and Mercy Sister Patricia Ann Pepitone celebrate jubilees June 26.**

She has spent 50 years with her heart dedicated to helping the poor, sick and uneducated. She's hoping to learn Spanish with the possibility of ministering in a Spanish-speaking country.

Born in Jamaica, N.Y., in 1955, Sister Pepitone heard God's call while attending Sacred Heart College with the Sisters of Mercy.

"The idea gnawed at me and when I would lean toward entering [the convent], it gave me a sense of peace," she said.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in August 1977 and currently serves as principal of St. John the Evangelist School in Pensacola, Fla. She gives workshops on discipline and teacher observation, oversees a popular children's choir and is one of the first five principals in Florida to be involved in the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

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THESE KIDS HAVE HEART

COURTESY PHOTO

Nineteen teens from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro participated in a Catholic HEART Workcamp in Atlanta, Ga., June 6-12.

# Teens travel to Georgia for Catholic HEART workcamp

GREENSBORO — While some teen-agers went on vacation, a group of Greensboro teens spent a week of their summer sleeping on the floor and helping the needy.

Nineteen youths from St. Pius X Church participated in a Catholic HEART Workcamp in Atlanta, Ga., June 6-12. The workcamps, which are held in dioceses around the United States, were established to offer service projects and evangelical programs for Catholic youth, and typically involve helping improve low-income families, children and the elderly within the host diocese.

The St. Pius X group helped raise the money to attend the workcamp by offering carwashes and babysitting services and assisting at parish events.

Projects during the workcamp included painting, yard work, home maintenance, helping at daycare centers for low-income families and distributing food to the needy. In the evenings, the youth attended programs featuring personal testimonies, motivational speakers and skits to inspire them in their efforts.

Many in the group felt the week was a positive, faith-filled and community-building experience.

# Teens visit Charlotte area for volunteer work

HEART, *from page 1*

Maryland who participated in Catholic HEART Workcamp 2004 in Charlotte June 27-July 2. Charlotte Catholic High School served as one of the 24 Catholic HEART (Helping Everyone Attain Repairs Today) camps throughout the United States and Jamaica.

Based in Orlando, Fla., the summer camps are in more than 20 states with between 300 and 500 teens at each camp. The camps offer service projects for Catholic youths by working with local agencies in needy neighborhoods.

This was the fifth year the Diocese of Charlotte hosted a camp. Service projects around Charlotte included working with agencies such as Holy Angels, House of Mercy, Catherine's House, Love Inc., Room at the Inn and Catholic Social Services, among others.

Evenings were filled with sharing, prayer, skits, games and fun.

At Charlotte Catholic, the students were divided into 58 teams that painted, built wheelchair ramps, and assisted with daycare and yard work, among other duties.

At Holy Angels, a nonprofit organization providing services for child and adult residents with varying degrees of mental retardation, the 12 youths, ages 15-17, and two adults spent the week offering much-needed manual labor; primarily, emptying storage buildings to prepare for upcoming construction around the facility.

"They've been extremely helpful in getting that done," said Mercy Sister Nancy Nance, community relations director for Holy Angels. "They're an awesome group with a lot of energy."

"What we did in three days saved them important time with the residents," said Kristen Espinoza, 15, from Woodbridge, Va. "I've had so much fun. The hard work really pays off."

Sister Nance said it's a common misconception that teen-agers are lazy and self-centered. "For them to come in and do hard labor is very impressive," she said.

The group also provided classroom help by interacting with the residents, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile. Sister Nance said the residents benefited from having personal contact with the teen-agers.

"I was at first discomforted and insecure (around the residents), but I knew God wanted me to be there," said Erin French, 15, from Woodbridge. "It was a worthwhile experience. I realized they're like me, but we have different needs."

"They have special talents like anyone else," said Tom Bennington, 14, from Annapolis, Md. "I wish we had more time with them."

"The residents gave me a better appreciation for life, and not to take things for granted," said Kristen.

Sister Nance said the group shared their experiences during lunch hours. "They're a very spiritually-based group," she said.

"The experience has exceeded my expectations," said Kristen.

"I thought this would be a good way to spend my summer vacation," said Erin. "It definitely helped my relationship with God."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Teen-agers construct a crucifix out of clothespins at Holy Angels in Belmont during the Catholic HEART Workcamp 2004 in the Diocese of Charlotte June 27-July 2.

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CLEANSING SPIRITS

# College students spread God's love in Costa Rica

BY JULIE OSTERGAARD
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

ALAJUELITA, Costa Rica — While many college students relaxed at home for the Christmas holidays, several collegians from the Diocese of Charlotte ventured to make a difference in Costa Rica.

Eleven students from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem helped refurbish and improve the neglected Tejarcillos Elementary School Jan. 2-11. The school serves more than 1,000 children of undocumented immigrants to the Central American country.

The trip was conceived by Catholic students at Wake Forest University who wanted an international service trip with a Catholic flavor. Participating students were required to help raise funds for the trip and ask 30 people to pray for them while away. A Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl mini-grant from the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace helped purchase supplies.

Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services.

Accompanying the students were their Catholic campus ministers, Conventional Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo and Julie Ostergaard, along with Karen Anderson, a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem.

Alcoholism, domestic violence and family abandonment are common among Alajuelita's population of 10,000, which consists mostly of undocumented immigrants from Nicaragua. Homes in the area are mainly shacks of corrugated metal and scraps.

"I saw just a glimpse of how much poverty and suffering there is in the world and how easy, and how much fun, it is to put a smile on so many people's faces," said sophomore Will Brown.

The students learned that Nicaraguans are largely looked down upon by the Costa Rican population. They felt that working at the school was a good way to make a positive difference in the immigrant children's lives.

COURTESY PHOTO

**Julie Ostergaard, a Catholic campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, holds a child during the ministry's mission trip to Costa Rica.**

"There were graffiti-riddled bathrooms where the sanitary conditions were unfathomable," said Jim Fitzpatrick, who graduated from Wake Forest University in May. "Sinks did not function, toilets were broken, gutters were filled with dirt and trash. The walls looked like they hadn't been painted in decades."

"It was our goal to do what we could for this school," he said.

Despite the daunting task, Fitzpatrick said no one in the group complained about the work.

The students cleaned and painted three sets of bathrooms and walls, cleaned out gutters and cut grass.

"We left the school looking nothing like the place we entered," said Fitzpatrick.

The true testament to their work, he said, was the principal's reaction.

"As she looked around at the work we had done, she was astonished," said Fitzpatrick. "Unable to contain her emotions, she cried."

In addition to fixing up the school, the college students colored, painted and played soccer with the children on an uneven field called los Pinos ("the Pines").

Pedro, the first child encountered on the walk from Tejarcillos to los Pinos, led the group to the central area in the Verbana Community, where kids burst out of their shacks to play soccer.

"I don't know exactly how it will affect my future plans, but that trip definitely planted a seed in the back of my mind," said Brown. "I will never forget those kids."

Evenings on the trip were spent in prayer, reflection and celebrating the Eucharist.

"Those things, coupled with the experiences at the school and with the kids, made me feel so intimate with God," said Fitzpatrick. "I have never felt more intimate with God than during those 10 days."

Wake Forest's Catholic Campus Ministry plans to return to Costa Rica with another group of students in January 2005.

"There are so many people out there that need help. It can get overwhelming at times when you think about how much poverty is actually out there," said Fitzpatrick. "Those kids in Tejarcillos were not looking for money, but they need help. They need someone to believe in them, to love them, to let them know that they are special."

"I never thought I would find an abundance of love in Alajuelita, Costa Rica, but that is exactly what I found," he said. "Love opened my eyes and my heart."

*Julie Ostergaard is a Catholic campus minister at Wake Forest University. Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

**WANT MORE INFO?**

For more information on the CRS Operation Rice Bowl program, contact Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3234, e-mail thjarina@charlottediocese.org or visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

## 2004 ORB MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

Each Lent, diocesan parishes and schools participate in Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), the Catholic Relief Services' program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. The majority of funds distributed from the ORB collection goes to the national CRS office for anti-poverty programs worldwide, and a smaller portion remains in this diocese, which the diocesan CRS committee sponsors a mini-grants program for local initiatives on international issues or projects. The project or program can be part of a larger initiative.The 12 recipients received $500 each for a total of $6,000.

*Hispanic Bible Study Youth Group*
Hispanic Center, Ellerbe
Bible study materials for youth of migrant families.

*"Go Where They Are" Hispanic Faith Formation Program*
St. James Church, Hamlet
Materials for faith formation and sacramental preparation classes to serve the children of Hispanic families where they live.

*"Go Where They Are" Hispanic Faith Formation Program*
Sacred Heart Church, Wadesboro
Materials for faith formation and sacramental preparation classes to serve the children of Hispanic families where they live.

*English as a Second Language Program*
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte
ESL materials for Our Lady of the Assumption School students.

*Jornada Juveniles (Youth Evangelization Retreat)*
Hispanic Ministry, Salisbury and Albemarle vicariates
Supplies for faith retreats for Hispanic youth.

*Spanish Faith Formation Programs*
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury
Bible study materials for Hispanic youth and adults.

*La Mariposas Catholic Outreach*
St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill
Educational and social opportunities for Hispanic women.

*Vicuna Project in Campo del Rosario*
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro
Supplies to build a fence to contain vicuna animals for members of the sister parish in Manázo, Peru.

*After School Tutoring Program*
St. Joseph Church, Asheboro
Educational supplies for Hispanic children's tutoring program.

*Pastoral Spanish Immersion Course Preparation*
Diocesan Hispanic Ministry
Preparation materials for a Spanish Immersion Course for priests and deacons.

*Costa Rica Mission Trip*
Wake Forest Catholic Campus Ministry, Winston-Salem
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*Medical Terminology and Cultural Sensitivity Prep Course*
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BECOMING FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF CHRIST

# Youths, young adults immersed in Catholic leadership institute

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic leaders of tomorrow spent an intense week of work and worship at the "Faithful Servant" retreat held at Queens University June 20-25.

Fifty-eight youths, young adults and adults from the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh and Johnson City, Tenn. participated in the annual retreat, which was sponsored by the dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

"'Faithful Servant' is an institute blending Catholic theology and spirituality with universal, secular leadership skills," said Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry.

The retreat is designed "to provide an opportunity to develop leadership skills through an intense week of experiential learning within the context of Christian community," Kotlowski said.

The Diocese of Charlotte is a pioneer in the creation of the weeklong leadership conference, said Kotlowski. The conference originated as the Christian Leadership Institute about 27 years ago.

Participants were divided into seven small "communities" that focused on skills such as organization, communication, leadership styles, group dynamics, planning, diversity training and consensus seeking.

Members then exercised those skills through the planning of Christian experiences for the large group, Kotlowski said.

"The leadership qualities workshops were amazing," said David Robertson, a rising junior at North Durham High School and a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Durham. "I learned so much to take back to my youth group."

"Faithful Servant" is rooted in being Eucharist, said Kotlowski.

"At the center of the week stands a theological session on the body of Christ," he said. "Just as the Eucharist stands at the center of our lives as Catholic Christians."

"I grew closer to Christ and learned how to become a better leader in ministry," said Jonathan Bradburn, a rising junior at Science Hill High School and a parishioner of St. Mary Church, both in Johnson City, Tenn.

Kotlowski said the purpose of the retreat is "to assist young people in realizing the beauty, rights and responsibilities of their baptism."

"It is also constructed to equip them with skills that will enhance the quality of their lives when they utilize them," he said.

"Even though everyone is from different places, in coming together, we are whole and stronger," said Kiersten Shelton, a rising senior at University of North Carolina-Charlotte and a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

COURTESY PHOTO BY JIM RICHMOND

**Participants in the adult community assemble a poster representing individual personalities coming together to form a community of faith for the week during the opening evening of the Faithful Servant leadership program June 20.**


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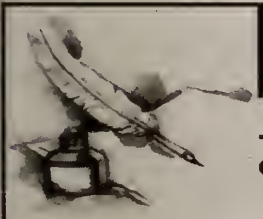

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## The story of four chaplains who died together in World War II

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"No Greater Glory" is the story of four World War II U.S. Army chaplains who died together when their troop ship sank in the freezing North Atlantic.

The Dorchester, a U.S. Army troop ship, was carrying 900 men to Greenland from Nova Scotia when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat near midnight on Feb. 3, 1943. More than 600 men died that night — some from wounds but most from drowning or freezing in the cold, rough seas.

Many of the survivors witnessed the calm bravery of the four chaplains — Catholic, Methodist, Dutch Reformed and Jewish — who helped others to safety and were last seen standing together and praying as the ship went down.

The four men came to symbolize interfaith understanding, selflessness and heroism. They were commemorated on a postage stamp issued shortly after their deaths, while the war was still going on. It read: "These immortal chaplains: Interfaith in action."

Dan Kurzman, former foreign correspondent for The Washington Post, interviewed dozens of witnesses who saw what happened that night as well as friends and families of the four chaplains.

He brings alive the truly admirable qualities of these four men. All four were educated and gifted; they had spent years preparing for their professions and then years in ministry, with little financial reward. They had bunked together only a short time, but the character that showed when they were in crisis was the result of a lifetime of preparation.

The four immortal chaplains were a Methodist minister, the Rev. George Lansing Fox, 41, from Gilman, Vt.; Rabbi Alexander Goode, 31, of York, Pa.; a Dutch Reformed minister, the Rev. Clark Poling, 32, from Schenectady N.Y.; and a Catholic priest, Father John Washington, 33, of Kearney, N.J. The rabbi and the two ministers were all happily married with children. Father Washington, a gifted musician, was close to his recently widowed mother. He was one of three sons she lost in the war. She never recovered from her grief over his death.

The book also includes photos of the four chaplains and survivors, the U.S. and German ships, the postage stamp and church stained-glass windows memorializing the men. Most striking is a photo of a reconciliation ceremony between German and American veterans who survived that night. The now elderly survivors were brought together in 2000 by the Immortal Chaplains Foundation, a fitting end to an inspiring story.

*Daly is book review editor for Catholic News Service.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 18, 2004

## July 18, Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

***Cycle B Readings.***
1) Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15:2-5
2) Colossians 1:24-28
3) Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

BY JEFF HENSELY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I've been blessed to know people who possessed a tremendous sense of hospitality and generosity, like that displayed by Abraham in the Genesis reading.

Scripture doesn't tell us why Abraham begged the three strangers passing by to stop so he could refresh them. But they acquiesced and one guest, identified in the passage collectively as God, offers a prophecy.

In a year, when he passes that way again, Sarah will have a child. This is an impossibility in the eyes of men, but very much possible if your guest and prophet happens to be God himself.

So have the rules changed in the Mary and Martha story? Is Martha doing wrong by doing right; Mary doing right by neglecting the duties of hospitality? No, it's a matter of timing, discernment and recognizing who the guest is. Mary, who takes "the better part," sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him, basking in his presence, is doing the right thing at the right time.

Perhaps that's why the Colossians reading points us to the centrality of Jesus. Paul speaks of his suffering for Christ on behalf of his body, the church, and makes it clear how important, how central, Jesus and his incarnation are.

Martha missed out on an opportunity to attend to Jesus, God's Word made flesh, instead of cooking for him.

Perhaps the next time we entertain guests, we'll get more out of their visit if we use at least part of our time to seek out the presence of Jesus in them. Perhaps it was recognizing and honoring that divine presence in the wanderers that moved Abraham to his great acts of hospitality in the first place.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 11 - JULY 17**

**Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37; **Monday,** Isaiah 1:10-17, Matthew 10:34—11:1; **Tuesday (St. Henry),** Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha),** Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday (St. Bonaventure),** Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-30); **Friday (Our Lady of Mount Carmel),** Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday,** Micah 2:1-5, Matthew 12:14-21

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 18 - JULY 24**

**Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Genesis 18:1-10, Colossians 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42; **Monday,** Micah 6:1-4, 6-8, Matthew 12:38-42; **Tuesday (St. Apollinarius),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Matthew 12:46-50; **Wednesday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi),** Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10, Matthew 13:1-9; **Thursday (St. Mary Magdalene),** Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13, John 20:1-2, 11-18; **Friday (St. Bridget of Sweden),** Jeremiah 3:14-17, Matthew 13:18-23; **Saturday (St. Sharbel Makhluf),** Jeremiah 7:1-11, Matthew 13:24-30

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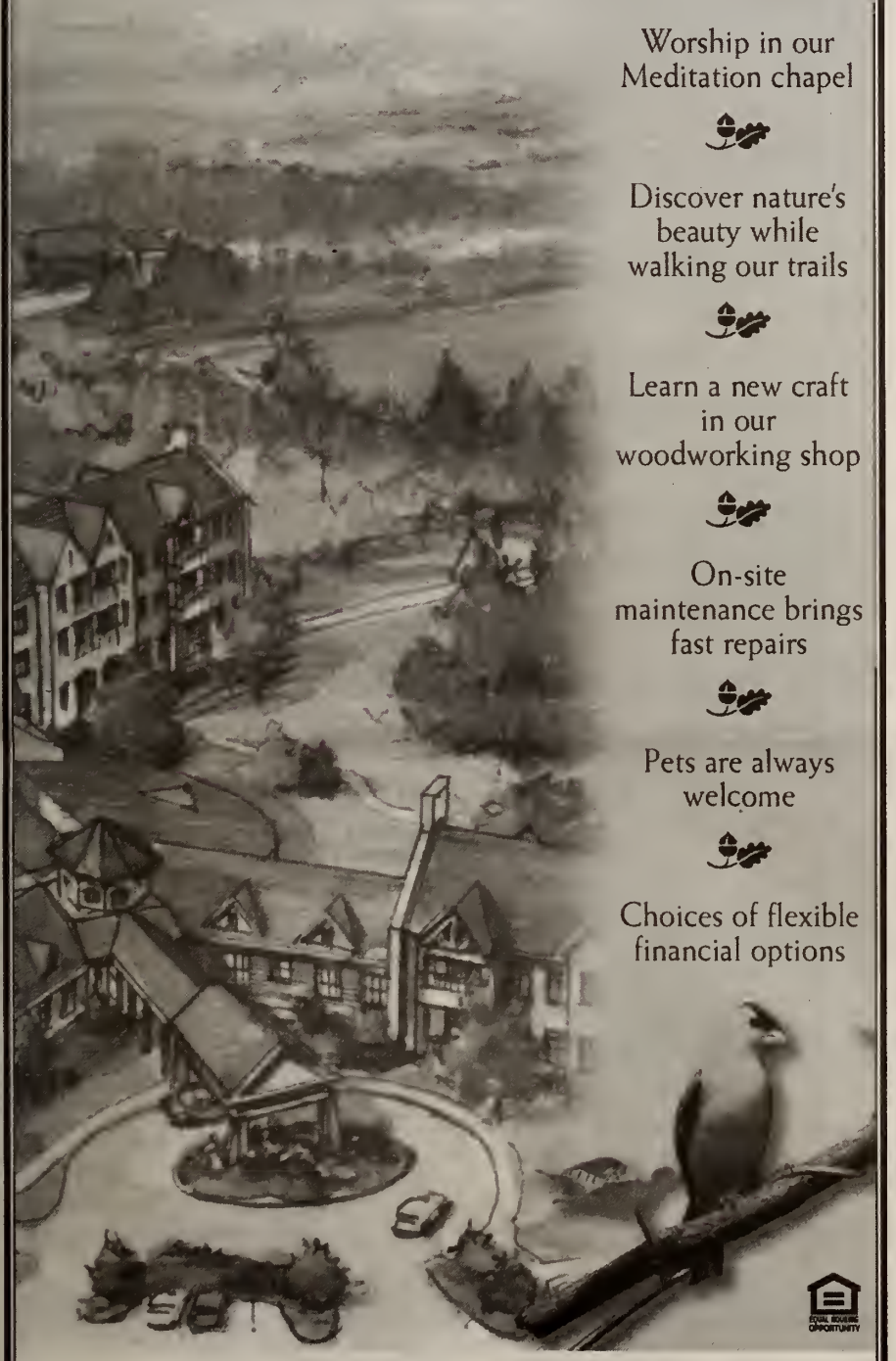

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# 'Fahrenheit 9/11' generates heat, little light

BY DAVID DiCERTI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Michael Moore's documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" is a scathing indictment of the Bush administration's domestic and international policies leading up to and following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Unabashedly biased in its inflammatory assertions, the controversial film is certain to provoke strong reactions from bashers and backers alike of President George W. Bush.

However, in mounting such a one-sided ad hominem attack, director Moore walks a perilous line between investigative journalism and partisan propaganda. And, though artfully packaged, as a political polemic the case made by Moore ultimately falls short of convincing.

The terrain covered by "Fahrenheit 9/11" is as sprawling as it is contentious. The film revisits the events surrounding the hotly disputed presidential election of 2000, then rushes into a relentless pillorying of Bush, who is caricatured throughout as a lazy, incompetent buffoon.

Moore's livid litany consists mainly of warmed-over accusations, leading him to investigate territory already charted in exposes by Bush insiders like Richard Clarke and Paul O'Neill. While Moore lands some body blows on Bush, his rant offers little in the way of new information or stop-the-presses revelations.

In a nutshell, Moore contends that Bush sought to capitalize on Sept. 11 by fanning the flames of fear in order to stifle dissent and hoodwink the American public into an immoral war with Iraq. Moore also rehashes allegations that Bush both profited from and was influenced by his family's financial ties to prominent Saudi oil sheiks, including members of the ultra-wealthy bin Laden clan.

The film soon loses focus, unraveling into a shapeless and discursive diatribe that goes everywhere and nowhere. The accompanying analysis is superficial at best. Its title notwithstanding, while the film has certainly generated much heat, it provides little light.

Moore hits viewers over the head with an angry screed of statistics, jettisoning any pretense of impartiality. Nowhere is this lack of objectivity more evident than in his choice of interviewees, all of whom are in lockstep agreement with the film's overriding thesis. Such an unbalanced approach mutes the credibility of his arguments, a pitfall that could have been avoided by a more evenhanded inclusion of voices from both sides of the political divide.

The film unfairly subscribes to a blame-Bush-for-everything attitude that fails to take into account wider geopolitical realities, including the foreign-policy missteps of previous administrations.

Moore buttresses his version of the story with carefully selected images and sound bites — strung together without context or, in some cases, even sources — which conveniently support his oversimplified conspiracy theories, resulting in a misleading, manipulative and at times self-contradicting interpretation of facts.

Viewers will most likely leave with the same political baggage that they came in with. To critics of Bush, Moore's hoop-jumping is simply preaching to the choir. However, the question remains: Will the choir loft become more crowded as a result?

From a filmmaker with his evident passion and satirical skill, one would have expected more.

*Due to footage of battlefield violence, graphic images of combat casualties including children, and some rough language, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.*


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SO LONG, FAREWELL, ADIEU

# Three diocesan principals embark on new journeys

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The principals of three diocesan Catholic schools have bid farewell to their students, faculty and staff as they seek new challenges and opportunities.

Bob Wehde, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, left the post to become principal of Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, Idaho, the state's only Catholic high school.

Boise will be a homecoming of sorts, as Wehde earned his master's degree from Idaho State University and an educational specialist doctorate from University of Idaho.

Wehde said the greatest asset to his job as principal was "the people that I was blessed with, to work with supporting parents, parishioners and the loving students and families of Immaculate Heart of Mary."

As principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Wehde initiated a collaborated curriculum for the Triad Area Catholic Schools.

"Bob left his mark here, even after only one year with the diocese," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

Walt Przygocki, principal of St. Mark School in Huntersville, left the diocesan schools after 35 years of service as a teacher, administrator and coach.

In June, he had a manuscript addressing teacher retention in Catholic schools published in the research journal Catholic Education: A Journal of Inquiry and Practice.

This accomplishment led him to make the decision to pursue a full-time writing career, while continuing to teach at University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Przygocki earned his bachelor's degree in history from Belmont Abbey College and a master's degree in educational administration and a doctorate in education leadership from University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

"We have wonderful students here at St. Mark School," he said. "That's been the real joy — to see the halls fill up with 470 students who are excited to be here."

Ginny Hutton, principal of Asheville Catholic School, is departing after a lifelong career in Catholic education to enter "semi-retirement."

"I'll be spending the summer in Florida with my seven grandchildren," she said. "After that, I'll look for a position in lay ministry, such as in faith formation or as a pastoral associate."

"I am truly impressed by and amazed by (Asheville Catholic School teachers') love, dedication, experience and their strong academic backgrounds," she said. "We have tremendous support and involvement of the parents, who bring a wealth of gifts, talents, enthusiasm and joy."

"I now look forward to working with adults and children of all ages," Hutton said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Vatican looks to speed up processing of sex abuse cases

CASES, *from page 1*

concern by both U.S. bishops and Vatican officials that more manpower is needed to break through the logjam of abuse cases at the Vatican.

Since new norms went into effect last year, hundreds of cases have arrived at the doctrinal congregation, which has oversight responsibility for all priestly sex abuse cases involving minors. The congregation has added some staff, but the workload has been described by some as overwhelming.

The result is that it may take months to remove even an acknowledged abuser from the priesthood, and longer if an extensive investigation or church trial is involved. U.S. Catholics should be aware that as the cases are reviewed and investigated, the priests are not in active ministry.

Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley of Boston was the latest U.S. prelate to express frustration at what he called the "very slow" pace of processing abuse cases. Speaking to Boston media in Rome, he cited two causes for the lag: lack of Vatican personnel, and reluctance by alleged victims of abuse to share their allegations with church investigators.

Archbishop O'Malley told Catholic News Service that the plan to bring over U.S. canon lawyers should help address the problem.

"I think that will be a big help, because they're understaffed," he said of the Vatican congregation.

The archbishop said the Vatican was very open to the idea of sending the U.S. experts, and that it looked like it would happen this fall.

A Vatican official confirmed that two church U.S. canon law experts were expected in Rome this fall to help prepare clerical abuse cases for processing. They were likely to be assigned for an 18-month period.

"We are getting extra help, and we are doing everything we can to handle these cases fairly. It is important that we do things as quickly as possible; it is also important that we ensure protection of everyone's rights," said another informed Vatican source.

The source emphasized that because of the nature of the abuse cases, many cannot be handled quickly. Allegations often are made many years after the abuse occurred, making it difficult to gather evidence and interview witnesses, and the allegations sometimes are denied — by an accused priest or, more rarely, by a victim.

# Review board's interim head sees more cooperation with bishops

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The outgoing interim chairwoman of the bishops' National Review Board said that she expects more collaboration between the lay board and the bishops now that the board has demonstrated its independence.

Another aid to cooperation is that the board has shown the high quality of its work in helping the bishops implement policies to prevent clergy sex abuse of minors, said Justice Anne M. Burke.

Burke, an Illinois Appellate Court judge, spoke to Catholic News Service after the review board met June 27-28 to plan future activities.

Because the board was appointed by the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "we worked hard at autonomy" from the hierarchy to establish credibility, she said.

Initially, the board needed a wall between it and the hierarchy "to avoid the view that we are a rubber stamp for the bishops," said Burke.

"The board will remain independent but be more collaborative," she said.

Burke said that in a June 11 letter to her, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, praised the work done by the board as an example of lay cooperation with the bishops.

The cardinal's letter came in response to her offer for board members to hold a second meeting with the cardinal to discuss the U.S. situation, she said.

The doctrinal congregation has overall church authority in clergy sex abuse cases.

She quoted the cardinal's letter as saying: "Your offer is most generous and is also appreciated, especially in light of our conviction regarding the benefit to be derived from a close collaboration between bishops and the lay faithful on issues such as those dealt with in the National Review Board's two reports."

The two reports were a statistical study on the nature and scope of the crisis and a report on some of the possible reasons behind the scandal.

At its June meeting, the review board discussed future activities such as the planned study on the "causes and context" of the crisis, Burke said.

The study will include an in-depth look at "what was the nature of the environment that allowed victims and perpetrators to come together," said Burke.

She estimated that the study would take three to four years and involve interviews with numerous victims and perpetrators as well as control groups such as priests not guilty of abusing children.

The board is working with the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse to have a detailed proposal for the study ready in September so that qualified research centers can bid to do the report, she said.

The study also aims to inform the general public about child sex abuse that Burke called "a public health crisis" and "not just a Catholic Church problem."

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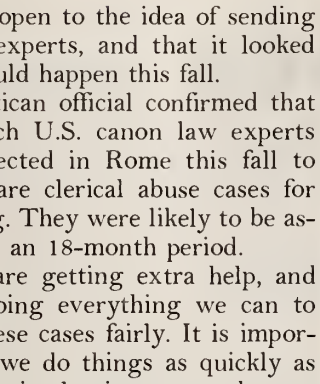

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# Perspectives

**A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints**

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# Abortion vs. War

## *Targeting of innocent life makes all the difference*

**Guest Column**

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

This column requires extra effort to explain what it is not. It is not an evaluation of the war in Iraq or of any national leaders.

It is, however, an observation, on the level of moral principle, about the relationship between abortion, war and being pro-life. And even there, I am limiting myself to a couple of very simple and specific points and not an exhaustive analysis.

In his historic speech to the United Nations in 1965, Pope Paul VI cried out, "War never again, war never again!" The world must heed these words. They don't just mean, "Don't fight." They mean that we have to make justice and human rights so secure that the need to fight disappears.

Many ask whether one can be a good Catholic or be pro-life and support the war. The answer is yes, which is to say that Catholic and pro-life teaching do allow for circumstances in which war is justified, because sometimes war has to be waged precisely for the defense of life.

Even when war is justified, life is always lost in the process. But innocent life is never targeted, and that makes all the difference in the world. How many innocent lives, and how many children, have been deliberately targeted for destruction in the current war?

By comparison, every abortion deliberately targets and destroys a child; otherwise, it isn't even an abortion.

The purpose of war is not to kill the enemy, but rather to deprive the enemy of his ability to wage war and to destroy others' rights. There's a big difference between targeting military and communications equipment to disrupt the operations of the enemy and just trying to kill as many people as we can.

No doubt, some will read this column and begin arguing with me that the war in Iraq is not justified. The column is not arguing with them, but precisely pointing out that it is OK for them to come to that conclusion. It is also OK for someone else to come to the conclusion that the war is justified.

What is not OK is for someone to say, "You are not pro-life because you support the war." In fact, one may support the war precisely because he or she is pro-life and concludes that in this case, force is the only way to protect human life, human rights and human freedom from the hands of those who would destroy it. Others may disagree, which is fine — but don't deny the other person's right to come to a different conclusion.

And do not miss the profound difference with abortion. There is no room for interpretations or evaluations of whether abortion may be justified. It cannot be, because its very essence is the deliberate targeting and destruction of a child. In war, we do not target a single child, whereas every abortion targets a child.

Catholic teaching allows more than one position on war, but it does not allow more than one position on abortion.

*Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.*

# Pope begins northern Italian vacation, says all need time for rest

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: There will be no weekly general audiences while the pope is on vacation until July 17.*

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

INTROD, Italy — Pope John Paul II began his mountain vacation in northern Italy under heavy security, stopping briefly to listen to local schoolchildren recite a poem of welcome.

After a flight from Rome, the pope arrived July 5 in Les Combes, near Introd in the Aosta Valley. His chalet-style residence was fenced off and dozens of Italian police guarded the perimeter.

Passing through the village, the pope's car stopped briefly so he could accept flowers, listen to the mayor's greeting and hear the children's poem. Other than recital of the Angelus July 11, the pope had no public activities planned before his return to Rome July 17.

Before leaving Rome, the pope wished everyone a happy vacation, saying people need an annual period of "serene relaxation." He said those who cannot take a real vacation should at least be able to break up their work schedule to include recreation and leisure activities.

Speaking at his noon blessing July 4, the pope also reflected on the three-day visit to the Vatican of Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

The pope said his various encounters with the patriarch, including a major liturgy in St. Peter's Square, had "confirmed and advanced the commitment of Catholics and Orthodox to the service of the great cause of full communion among Christians."

He said they had both agreed to continue and intensify doctrinal dialogue and practical cooperation. Their encounters, he said, represented an example of "how Christians can and should always cooperate, even in the presence of divisions and conflicts."

The pope said their talks were especially fruitful on the issue of Catholic-Orthodox cooperation in Europe, a continent that "should not forget its Christian roots."

The pope did not give other specifics of his talks with the patriarch, but he ended his reflection by saying: "May God bring to fulfillment the proposals formulated in these meetings."

In his final major audience before beginning his vacation, the pope met July 3 with European church leaders meeting to discuss Catholic education on the continent.

The pope said he was concerned that the increasing focus on scholastic formation and professional training was leaving too little space for the "full development of young people." This has left many young Europeans confused, he said.

He said Europe has a rich humanistic tradition that should not be sacrificed in an age when educational programs are often driven by economic interests. Europe's educational traditions also have strong Christian elements, he said. By emphasizing "being" and not just "having," the traditional Christian approach helps young people mature, he said.

## Letter to the Editor

# Roosevelt quote unfairly edited

In the politically correct climate that continues to wreak havoc on our nation and in our families and churches, here is but another flagrant example of our efforts not to offend anyone.

Part of Roosevelt's speech is engraved on the Pacific side of the WW II memorial in Washington ("Catholic World War II vets on new memorial: It's about time," May 28), but in our country's grandiose efforts to be tolerant, the final words of his proclamation have not been included — Roosevelt's speech to the nation ends with "so help us God."

Roosevelt's words are engraved on the hearts of those who heard them but each year there are fewer of them. How long will we rewrite history to the detriment of our children and our nation?

— Mary Pat Arostegui Matthews

# 'The center of God's will'

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Anytime I'm able to pass along a complimentary word about a fellow priest, I'm glad to do so even when I don't personally know the priest in question. In this case, though, I do know people who know him well, and they've convinced me that he's the kind of priest, and the kind of man, who rates a special mention.

I can't think of a better time to do this than right now, as the country is about to come together to celebrate the Fourth of July. It's a wonderful time to salute this priest and his special calling, and what it means to every one of us.

His name is Father Tim Vakoc, a priest of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese. More important, for our consideration at the moment, he is an Army chaplain. His men have known him as Father Tim, or Maj. Vakoc, and just plain "Padre." Late in May, he was seriously wounded in Iraq, the first chaplain to suffer that fate.

He was returning to his barracks after celebrating Mass for some of the troops. He was driving his Humvee when a roadside bomb went off, leaving him with some terrible wounds. He came home to the United States early in June, but those who tried to visit him at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., were frustrated. He was still heavily sedated, and early attempts at communication were not successful.

This is a man — a priest, a hero — who needs our prayers. By all accounts he will continue to need them for some time to come.

One thing that Father Tim Vakoc said stands out above all others, and helps me to explain why I'm singling him out here. In a letter to his sister during an earlier deployment in Bosnia, here's what Father Tim, the Padre, had to say: "The safest place for me to be is in the center of God's will — and if that is in the line of fire, that is where I will be."

What a testimony of faith that is, and what an eloquent expression of service. Here's how the Wall Street Journal treated this all-embracing commitment: In our sardonic age, the Journal reflected, "the phrase 'for God and Country' may be greeted in some quarters with cynicism. But we take the measure of Father Tim and fellow chaplains by their willingness to put their lives on the line for these words. Where others see a mass of troops, they see individuals with souls and troubles that need tending."

And that, of course, is what military chaplains are all about. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Military Archdiocese, which oversees the spiritual care of Catholic men and women in the armed forces and those who serve them as chaplains, said Father Tim is a perfect example of what a good chaplain should be.

"I've known him fairly well from his earlier assignments," Archbishop O'Brien said. "He impresses you as any good parish priest would. He loves his work and he loves the people assigned to his care. He's mature and he's agreeable. To sum it up, he's perfectly at home in the role that God gave him."

Maj. Vakoc is part of a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of this nation, when the Continental Congress authorized a corps of chaplains to serve the newly formed Army. Then as now, chaplains of all faiths would remind soldiers and sailors at war that they were still responsible to a higher calling. As the Wall Street Journal put it, the chaplain is the unarmed soldier whose job it is to serve those who serve.

Maj. Vakoc is one of those chaplains, and as it happens he is one of the very best. He and others like him have been serving with distinction ever since the United States came into being. As once again we prepare to celebrate all that our nation's independence has meant to us, that's a thought worth remembering.

# Pastors' decisions on baptizing children

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Our pastor gave a beautiful homily recently on baptism, saying children have a right to baptism as soon as possible after birth. However, this seems to vary from pastor to pastor.*

*Certain pastors refuse baptism to an innocent child if they judge parents are not "Catholic" enough. Others welcome infants with open arms, even if their parents are out in left field of their faith. How do you explain this? (Illinois)*

A. I think we need first to clarify the church's policy on the matter. When Catholic parents (or a Catholic partner in an interfaith marriage) are seriously deficient in their Catholic practice, the pastor is obliged to delay baptism until he can help the parents rethink their faith.

True, children should be baptized "within the first weeks" after birth (Canon 867). The law assumes, however, that parents are practicing their faith, prepared to raise their children as faithful Catholic men and women.

Thus, the same law requires that immediately after birth or before, the parents go to their parish priest to request the sacrament of baptism and to be properly prepared for it. A priest may not, in fact, lawfully baptize a child unless he has a solidly founded hope that the baby will be raised properly as a member of the Catholic religion.

If evidence for this hope is lacking, he should delay the baptism and explain the reason to the parents (Canon 868).

The ritual for baptism emphasizes the point. At least twice during the ceremony, Catholic parents profess adherence to the faith in which the child is being baptized and promise to give the example needed for the child to be raised in their faith.

Normally, this promise cannot be made unless the Catholic parents themselves are faithful in their Catholic practice and are not simply bringing the child for baptism because of family tradition or a vague feeling that "it's the right thing to do."

In other words, the church is concerned that parents not be placed in the position of making a profession of faith they do not honestly believe.

But — and this is a crucial point — the story does not end there. The parish priest is obliged to help parents who are not yet ready genuinely to profess their faith, to assist them in assuming responsibility for the religious education of their children and then to decide the right time for baptism.

I realize this may startle some Catholics. But being realistic, our situation is vastly different from when we almost automatically baptized children of baptized Catholic parents.

Anyone familiar with Catholic history of the last few centuries knows that by automatic baptisms, first Communions and confirmations, whole populations of people remained at an almost primitive level of faith. One generation of baptized, nonpracticing Catholic parents succeeded another. Few were called to open themselves to the possibility of growth to a fuller Christian Catholic life.

As someone put it well, a church which never says "no" to parents who are seriously deficient in their belief and practice of their faith never will allow them to become deeply believing parents.

Obviously various subjective judgments come into play here, which could be one reason for the differences you experience. It's also possible that sometimes these concerns of the church are neglected.

It remains vital that Catholic parents desire in their own hearts that the baptism of their child will be what it was meant to be, an earnest recommitment of all their family to the faith they hope to share with their child.

# What is the right way to reconcile

## The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

During the Prayers of the Faithful at daily Mass two days before the April 25 women's pro-choice march on Washington, a woman prayed in a vengeful tone: "May this weekend's march end in disaster! Let us pray to the Lord."

There was dead silence among those present. Then a few parishioners quietly whispered, "Lord hear our prayer."

The next morning another woman prayed, "Let us pray that those marching, for purposes contrary to God's will, will have a change of mind and heart." The response from the congregation was a loud, "Let us pray to the Lord!"

In the book "The Idea of a University," Cardinal John Henry Newman gave a profound definition of a gentleman as a person who avoids all vengefulness, cutting remarks or anything that will discomfort another. This reflects Christ, the Suffering Servant.

When Christ stood trial and saw the injustice of it all, he could have lashed out and brought the curse of God down upon the Romans and Jews. Rather, he remained silent and suffered injustice out of love for us. He turned the other cheek and in doing so taught us the peaceful way of bringing about reconciliation.

Christ is a martyr who witnesses to what he believes and loves, and because of that belief and love our hearts have been changed forever.

In the proverb, "You can attract more bees with honey than with vinegar." If we substitute the words "love" and "self-sacrifice" for "honey," we have the model of reconciliation that Christ foremost used to bring about our salvation.

Yet, the Scriptures tell us to be vigilant, not to put our light under a bushel basket and to stand steadfast.

In baptism we receive the gift of prophecy, and like the prophets we are expected to speak out boldly when we experience people ignoring God's will. In his public life, Christ often spoke out boldly when people were breaking God's law. In fact, he was rather ferocious with the money changers in the Temple.

One of the biggest challenges the church faces in catechizing its people is understanding when we all are called to be Christ the Suffering Servant and when we are called to be Christ the vigilant, bold prophet.

We need to better reconcile these two approaches, an important challenge for the church in a society where citizens hold such diverse views on matters of great concern.

# Mourners, including former U.S. president, remember Mattie Stepanek

BY HENRIETTE GOMES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WHEATON, Md. — Former President Carter told the congregation at a Wheaton church June 28 that he had met kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, but the "most extraordinary person I have ever known in my life is Mattie Stepanek."

Thirteen-year-old Mattie, who died June 22 in Washington after battling a rare form of muscular dystrophy, was remembered as a peacemaker, poet and philosopher during his funeral Mass at St. Catherine Laboure Church in the Washington suburb of Wheaton.

Included among the hundreds of mourners were two of his friends and heroes, Carter and talk-show host Oprah Winfrey.

Mattie met the former president as one of his final wishes three years ago on television's "Good Morning America." The two of them had an "instantaneous bond," said Carter.

Knowing the boy, he said, "literally changed my life for the better." When Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize, he said, he remembered feeling that Mattie had shared in the award.

Mattie suffered from dysautonomic mitochondrial myopathy, a rare form of muscular dystrophy that disrupts heart rate, digestion and breathing. He used a motorized wheelchair with an attached ventilator to assist his breathing.

He gained international acclaim as a peace advocate and captured the hearts of many with his "Heartsongs" — a five-book series of poetry. Three of the books reached *The New York Times'* best-seller list.

In his homily, Father Isidore Dixon, pastor of Most Holy Rosary Parish in Rosaryville, where Mattie and his mother, Jeni, were longtime parishioners before moving to Rockville, said, "Mattie gave us a great example of embracing the cross."

Mattie shared, he said, in the sufferings of Christ and made many sacrifices. The priest told the crowd, which included hundreds of firefighters, some Harley Davidson riders and people from all walks of life, that Mattie "gave us a great example of what it means to be a believer."

CNS PHOTO COURTESY MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

**Mourners gathered at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Wheaton, Md., to honor 13-year-old Mattie Stepanek, who died June 22 after battling a rare form of muscular dystrophy. He was remembered as a peacemaker, poet and philosopher during his funeral Mass. Mattie is pictured with one of his five best-selling books of poetry.**

While at Most Holy Rosary Parish, Mattie had served as a lector and member of the choir along with his mother.

Mattie also raised awareness of muscular dystrophy and appeared on the "Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon" to help raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, which named him good-will ambassador two years in a row. Displayed at the front of the church near the bouquets of flowers were pictures of Mattie smiling from ear to ear.

Winfrey said when she first met Mattie, as a guest on her show three years ago, "I fell in love with him."

"I found him to be magical," she said. He appeared on her show to spread the message of peace and hope, as the second of his final wishes.

Continuing their friendship through e-mail, they discussed, among other things, their feelings about death. She told the standing-room-only crowd in the church that Mattie had taught her a lot and had given her a lot of advice.

Those who were lucky enough to have met Mattie, said Winfrey "will feel the glow." She added, "His heart song has left a heart print in my life."

One of Mattie's most important philosophies was to "always remember to play after every storm."

"He had adult thoughts, but he was a child," said Murray Pollack, chairman of the Division of Pediatric Services at Children's Hospital in Washington.

He said Mattie was a "world-class prankster." At his request, Mattie had with him in his casket a favorite stuffed animal and his remote-control whoopee cushion.

In his remarks, Carter noted that, just as Jesus was fully human and fully divine, Mattie had the character of an adult but was still a child.

"Mattie was an angel of God," he said.

The youngster, who believed in peace, justice, humility, service, compassion and love, was concerned about a legacy, Carter said. "His legacy is forever because his heart songs will resonate in the hearts of people forever."

In one poem, Mattie wrote he would continue to be a peacemaker in heaven.

Instead of a hearse, a fire truck carried Mattie's body to the cemetery as he had requested and was escorted by bikers he had met at the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon.

Mattie was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring next to his siblings, Jaime, Katie and Stevie, who as toddlers died of the same disease Mattie had. His mother suffers from the adult form of the disease.

After the service at the cemetery, family and friends gathered at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds for a reception to celebrate his life.

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JULY 23, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 38

**Nurses in the house**

*Parish nurses provide vital links*

| PAGE 5

# Harvesters of sorrow

**MIGRANT CAMP VISITS EXPOSE 'HORRID LIVING CONDITIONS'**

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA — Soon the 10 empty trailers would fill with Hispanic migrant tomato pickers.

Located in a "park" in Bryson City, a couple of trailers had boards piled inside and looked as if they were getting new floors. Others weren't that fortunate. In at least one trailer, rat droppings littered the floor and the kitchen ceiling was falling in.

"These (trailers) are among the worst I've ever seen," said Hector Rodriguez, executive director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network (CMFN), an Idaho-based organization of farmworkers and their pastoral agents.

Rodriquez toured camps in Bryson City, Cullowhee and

See CAMPS, page 7

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Hector Rodriguez (right), executive director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, chats with Rafael Guido (left) who transports tomatoes from Hendersonville to markets elsewhere. With them are Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvas, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and Antonio Garcia, Hispanic Ministry Coordinator for the Asheville Vicariate.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Chickens penned behind the trailers in Cullowhee are slated for migrants' dinners.

**PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN**

## Assistance coordinators ready to help in Diocese of Charlotte

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — As a part of its commitment to support the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," the Diocese of Charlotte has appointed three coordinators to assist survivors of sexual abuse.

The charter, adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2002, calls for every diocese to have proper procedures and personnel in place for handling allegations of child abuse, to reach out to survivors, to remove abusive clergy and to adopt comprehensive safe-environment programs.

The assistance coordina-

See HELP, page 8

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HAINS

Nancy Miller-Campbell is one of three assistance coordinators in the Diocese of Charlotte.

## Marriage amendment fails first Senate vote

CATHOLIC LEADERS RALLY SUPPORT FOR THE 'TRADITIONAL FAMILY'

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Senate's attempt to approve a constitutional amendment banning homosexual marriages July 14 lost a first round on a 48-50 procedural vote, 12 short of what was needed to keep the measure open for discussion and a vote on the legislation itself.

The Federal Marriage Amendment had been endorsed at press conferences earlier in the week by the gen-

See MARRIAGE, page 13

## Pope says relaxing part of observing Lord's day

'SILENCE' IS A WAY TO HEAR GOD'S WORDS, SAYS POPE

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — While attending Sunday Mass is the most important part of observing the Lord's day, moments of rest, reflection and recreation with friends and family also are helpful, Pope John Paul II said.

"Listening to the word of God is the most important

See SILENCE, page 16

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**Another chapter**
*Women religious elect leaders, set goals*
| PAGE 6

**Autonomous entities**
*Vatican, diocese budget relationships*
| PAGE 9

**Culture Watch**
*Mother Delille book; 'Passion' impact measured*
| PAGES 10-11

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SHORTS? NO SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY VALERIE MCGUIRE

A visitor wearing shorts looks over the dress requirements for entering St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in mid-July. Adults wearing shorts or those with uncovered shoulders are not permitted in the basilica.

# Vatican conference underscores universal issues of tourism industry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As long lines of tourists were waiting to clear security to get into St. Peter's Basilica, a Vatican office was discussing short pants.

The Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers' Sixth World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Tourism, held July 5-8 in Bangkok, Thailand, included talks about paid annual leave as a benefit or a right, the human need for rest and relaxation, the benefits of traveling abroad, the obligation to respect local laws and customs, and the responsibility of host communities to be welcoming.

But a much-discussed Vatican custom, but one which still takes many visitors by surprise, is that people wanting to enter St. Peter's Basilica as sightseers or pilgrims must dress appropriately.

The long-standing rule is that adults are not permitted to enter wearing shorts and that shoulders must be covered — no tank tops or spaghetti straps.

Those responsible for preserving the decoration as well as the decorum in the basilica, however, have rescinded a 2003 decision that, for women, "shorts" include the mid-shin-reaching slacks known variously as capris or pedal pushers.

"This year short pants are OK, as long as the knees are covered," an official at the basilica said. Men are still asked to wear full-length slacks.

Three young nurses visiting from Denver were disappointed that the one wearing shorts could not go into the church, but as Michelle Lancaster said, "I don't want to offend anyone. When you travel, you should try to blend in as much as possible."

At the Bangkok conference, retired Indian Archbishop Raul N. Gonsalves of Goa and Daman identified a lack of modesty as one of the chief offenses of individual tourists visiting his diocese's famed beaches.

Too often, he said, "the permissive lifestyle of foreign tourists, nudity, massages on the beaches, infatuations and drug use induce local youths to experiment with drugs and sex."

The archbishop said that in sending and receiving tourists, in working with local officials and in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, Catholics should promote a "renewed tourism in which people can enrich themselves culturally by promoting the dignity of others, respecting their differing cultural baggage, protecting and promoting the safeguarding of the earth, thereby encouraging harmony and peace."

Another topic at the Bangkok conference was the human need for rest and relaxation, the development of paid leave policies and the consequent expansion of foreign travel among people who are not seriously rich.

# Pro-life official praises vote on funds for U.N. population agency

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The defeat in a House committee of a proposal to give $25 million in U.S. funds to the U.N. Population Fund was "a victory for women and children around the world, and for the U.S. taxpayer," said the U.S. bishops' chief spokeswoman on pro-life issues.

Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information in the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, praised the July 12 vote in the House Appropriations Committee on an amendment proposed by Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y.

The committee vote was 32-26 against Lowey's amendment.

"The United States should remain out of the business of financing the exploitation of women through coercive programs supported" by the U.N. population agency, Ruse said in a July 12 statement.

She pointed out that in July 2002 Secretary of State Colin Powell said the U.N. Population Fund's support of China's population planning activities "allows the Chinese government to implement more effectively its program of coercive abortion."

As long as the U.N. agency "supports these barbaric policies imposed on families, it must remain ineligible for U.S. funding, period," said Ruse.

Gail Quinn, executive director of the pro-life secretariat, had asked committee members in a letter to oppose the amendment.

"Current federal policy ... reflects a broad international consensus among member nations of the United Nations" which have "condemned 'forced sterilization and forced abortion' as 'acts of violence against women,'" Quinn wrote.

# Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Just Second Fridays (JSF) will take place Aug. 13, 1-2 p.m., in the Atrium Room of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Rev. Dr. Ben Bushyhead, director of community and recreation services for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will speak on *"Myths, Misconceptions and Stereotypes of Native Americans."* JSF is a monthly lunchtime speaker series sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, in partnership with St. Peter Church. Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. Bring your lunch; cold drinks are provided. Call (704) 370-3225 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — Where is your faith journey taking you? Join Dorothy, the Scarecrow and friends for this grand adventure on "The Yellow Brick Road" featuring music by Kathy and David with Redeemed, food and coffee. St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Teen Coffeehouse* July 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m. All high school teens are invited to join us for this very special evening. Please call Erin Dunne at (704) 543-7677 for details.

CHARLOTTE — The *Diocesan Ministry for Gay and Lesbian Catholics* invites family and friends to celebrate the annual LBGT Mass July 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. for Mass with a reception afterwards in Biss Hall. For more information, call Kevin Melody at (704) 596-3845.

CHARLOTTE —The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is offered in the chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass until Saturday at 9 a.m. Adorers are needed, particularly during the hours of midnight-6 a.m. for more information, call Charles and Bernice Kish at (704) 846-7387.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is forming a group at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Elizabeth Ministry offers confidential, one-to-one contact, information, comfort and healing for women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death. Please call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 for more information.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope offers prayers for victims of school fire in India

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered prayers for the victims of a school fire that killed 90 children and left another 100 injured in southern India.

In a telegram sent to Indian authorities in the pope's name, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, said, "The Holy Father was deeply saddened to learn of the devastating school fire in Kumbakonam which has taken the lives of so many young children and has left so many others injured."

Told of the tragedy while vacationing in the Alps, Pope John Paul "was particularly struck and prayed" for the children, spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Police said the July 16 blaze at the Lord Krishna Middle School started in a makeshift kitchen and quickly spread through the school. More than 30 of the victims were burned to death, while the others were killed in a stampede. A witness said the school's main door was locked when the blaze began, but was unlocked by the escaping teachers. Most primary schools in India keep the main door locked to keep children from running out into the street, The Associated Press reported.

In a July 17 statement, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India asked for "more safety measures for schools, especially in the rural areas of the country." It said government should provide the best facilities for education "so that a similar tragedy may not be repeated."

The school students came from all faiths. Some Catholics said they enrolled their children there because church schools had refused them admittance, UCA News reported.

CHARLOTTE — *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is available for all members of the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Charlotte at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any parishioner interested in the Apostolate and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail Terri at terridugan@earthlink.com

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

**GASTONIA VICARIATE**

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

GREENSBORO — All young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s, single or married, are invited to *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics. Theology on Tap is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. Sessions consist of a social hour at 7 p.m. and speakers beginning at 8 p.m., Aug. 17, 24, 31 and Sept. 7 at Anton's Restaurant, 1628 Battleground Ave. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic High School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug. 14, 2004. For more information, call Nicholas Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mail nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

HAYESVILLE — *"Cherokee History and the Trail of Tears: Catholics and Cherokees Continuing Dialogue"* will host Russ Townsend, archeologist, interim director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Townsend will share the story of the Cherokee people before the coming of the Europeans, what was happening in Europe before Columbus and others began their explorations, and the events leading up to the Trail of Tears and the impact it still has on people today. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to discuss ways to apply Catholic social teachings and address justice issues of the Cherokee people today. The workshop will take place Aug. 7 at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 316 Main Street in Bryson City. For more information or to register, call Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or email maryherr@dnet.net.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Vatican seminar looks at ways to meet U.N. anti-poverty goals by 2015

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In support of the U.N.-defined millennium development goals, Pope John Paul II encouraged efforts to drastically reduce poverty, debt and poor health conditions in Third World nations by 2015.

The pope's backing for the U.N. objectives came at a time when many were questioning whether achieving the millennium goals 11 years from now was realistic.

The pope's remarks, in a letter to Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, were made public during a July 9 Vatican seminar, "Poverty and Globalization: Financing for Development, Including the Millennium Development Goals."

The Vatican's minisummit brought together government leaders, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, U.N. development directors and financial strategists who discussed ways of financing the development goals.

The millennium development goals, endorsed by world leaders at the U.N. Millennium Summit in September 2000, set several concrete objectives to be achieved by 2015; they included reducing by half the number of poor around the world and improving health and education in the developing world.

Cardinal Martino said the pope's support of the project would spark greater international support at a time of growing skepticism that the U.N. goals can be met.

In his letter, the pope said that while much work has been done to reduce the debt of poor countries, "more is needed if developing nations are to escape from the crippling effects of underinvestment and if developed countries are to fulfill their duty of solidarity with their less fortunate brothers and sisters in other parts of the world."

"In the short to medium term, a commitment to increase foreign aid seems the only way forward," the pope said.

Other solutions discussed at the seminar included plans to create an international tax on the trade of armaments and high technology, a strategy balked at by some, such as Germany, Japan and the United States.

Cardinal Martino, citing a remark made by Pope John Paul on another occasion, said that "to make promises to the world's poorest and then break them is unpardonable." He said the U.N. goals should be reassessed every 15 years after 2015.

# Unholy weather

CNS PHOTO BY RICK MUSACCHIO, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Mother Rose Marie Masserano, left, Sister Mary Justin Haltom, center, and Sister John Mary Fleming, who are Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, examine the damage to their motherhouse in Nashville, Tenn., after a storm ripped a section of a newly installed roof from the building July 13. No one was injured when debris crashed into the roof section of the structure, which was built in 1887.

JOURNEYING DOWN UNDER

# High schoolers explore ancient cultures in South Pacific

KERNERSVILLE — For many in the group, it was the trip of a lifetime.

"I climbed the Sydney Harbor Bridge, surfed at Bondi Beach and scuba dived in the Great Barrier Reef," said Teddy Lynch, a sophomore at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. "When will I ever get to do that again?"

Teddy was one of 38 Bishop McGuinness students and parents to take the "Journey Down Under" June 16-July 2, an educational adventure trip that included stops in New Zealand, Australia and Hawaii.

The group first explored the Maori culture at Rotorura on New Zealand's North Island. Attending a Maori "hangi," the travelers enjoyed a traditional feast while experiencing the Maori creation story in song.

Later, the group attended Mass at St. Michael's, a predominantly Maori parish. A lasting impression was a Maori Communion song, sung by congregation members, said Mike Streich, a history teacher at Bishop McGuinness who was on his fourth South Pacific tour.

The trip continued to cosmopolitan Sydney, Australia, where the group toured the world-famous Opera House and enjoyed a harbor cruise. Students also scaled the landmark Harbor Bridge and learned to surf at Bondi Beach.

The tour continued to tropical Cairns, Australia, where the Great Barrier Reef meets the rain forest. The group spent two days at the remote Fern Tree Resort and explored the aboriginal community at Kuranda and Tjapukai near Cairns.

They then departed for Honolulu, Hawaii, where they visited Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona Memorial.

Tentatively, the 2006 South Pacific sojourn will include Raratonga, Cook Islands.

COURTESY PHOTO

Students and parents from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville pose atop the Harbor Bridge in Sydney, Australia, a stop on their "Journey Down Under" June 16-July 2.

# Lounging at the luau

COURTESY PHOTOS

Although once thought to be the domain of only Protestant Churches, Vacation Bible Schools are now common in Catholic parishes and teach children about their faith through Bible stories. At St. James Church in Hamlet (above), forty children entertained their parents with Bible verses and songs at the July 9 luau closing of the Lava Lava Island Vacation Bible School. At Holy Family Church in Clemmons (below), more than 160 children (and 70 volunteers) participated in this year's Vacation Bible School.

Pictured above are: (back row, from left) Brad Bradley, Isle Castellanos, Alicia English, Michael Whitley; (middle row, from left) Gabrielle Stephens, Hayley Wilson, Kathie English; (front row, from left) April Whitley, Segio Chappero, Kristopher Phillips, Angeliz Hernandez and Daniel Lucero.
Pictured below are (from left) Victoria Murray, Joanna Shaw, Tim Sharp, Nick Griffin and David Griffin.

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# Is there a nurse in the house?

## *Parish nurses provide vital link between parishioners, health services*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In the earliest days of the Catholic Church, members of the community would first go to their parish priest for healing.

Throughout the centuries, as medical practices improved and became more accepted, people turned to physicians for health services.

Over the past 20 years, churches have begun to return to their historical status as a link between parishioners and the healthcare community through parish nursing programs, also known as congregational nursing.

As a member of a church's ministry team, a parish nurse combines professional nursing expertise with faith concepts to facilitate the healing mission of a congregation. A parish nurse is also a pastoral connection between faith and health, helping people connect what they believe with life choices.

Several churches in the Diocese of Charlotte have parish nurses, most of whom are not paid for their time. Most parish nurse programs are funded through hospital grants and parish assessment.

"We serve as educator, advocate and facilitator," said Linda Sheridan, parish registered nurse for St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson. The church is one of 12 members of the Ashe Congregational Health Ministry Program.

Sheridan said she works with parishioners to counsel them about medications, to educate them on healthcare issues and to connect them with various health and service agencies.

Another major part of her parish nurse ministry is home and hospital visits to the sick and dying, for whom "I facilitate the administration of the sacraments of anointing of the sick and the Eucharist by a priest," she said.

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

**Parish nurses act as personal health counselors to discuss health concerns with parishioners and make home/hospital/nursing home visits.**

"Our role (as parish nurses) is to promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention based on the whole person — body, mind and spirit," said Christine Judge, parish registered nurse at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Established in 1998, the Congregational Nurse Program in Greensboro initially had 10 churches as members. Today, 31 faith communities, including the Jewish congregation, are members. Ten more communities will begin participation in 2005.

Because they do not operate under the supervision of a physician, parish nurses do not perform "hands-on" nursing care, such as providing wound care or injections. Rather, they serve as a health educator to promote an understanding of the relationship between lifestyle, attitudes, faith and well-being.

Nurses in the parish setting also are referral sources to help people utilize community resources and services and are facilitators to recruit and coordinate volunteers and support groups within the congregation.

Cheryl Fleming is the parish registered nurse coordinator for the Belmont parish nurse ministry and serves as the parish nurse for three Belmont-area churches including Queen of the Apostles Church.

Fleming sees herself as a "champion of the underdog" for people having a difficult time navigating the increasing complex healthcare system.

"(Parish nurses) wear many hats — we're not just educators, not just counselors — we do a bit of everything," she said.

Fleming's work as a parish nurse extends beyond the church into the community at large. With a $2,000 grant from the diocesan development office, she has organized a health and safety fair for the Belmont community to be held July 31.

"We hope to find ways to build bridges between faith and ethnic communities," said Lelia Moore, congregational nurse coordinator of Moses Cone Health System.

Moore said she is trying to make connections within the Hispanic, Montagnard and Korean communities to serve their medical needs.

One way to accomplish this bridge building is events such as the Festival of Health and Hispanic Culture, held at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro in October 2003. The festival featured cultural exhibits and activities as well as health and wellness exhibits.

According to Caring Congregations, Inc., an educational nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and support parish nurses and other health ministers, the goal of parish nursing is "to allow God to comfort another person through the nurse, to put the person being cared for in a position to be conscious of the presence of God in his or her life and current situation."

"In the early Christian Church, the Catholic community took care of its own people," Judge said. "Now, we're getting back to those roots."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


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# Sisters of St. Joseph set priorities, elect congregational leaders

PHILADELPHIA — More than 400 Sisters of St. Joseph, including several from the Diocese of Charlotte, gathered at Chestnut Hill College for sessions of Chapter 2004.

Every five years, the sisters convene a Chapter of Affairs and Chapter of Elections to establish priorities, set directions for the foreseeable future and elect congregational leaders.

During the June 25-July 4 sessions at the Catholic liberal arts college, the sisters adopted a five-point chapter document, calling themselves to realize its goals over the next five years through processes involving contemplation, education, conversion and courageous action.

Attending from the Diocese of Charlotte were Sister Joan Pearson, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Hickory Vicariate; Sister Mary Karalis, a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem; and Sister Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte.

During the gathering, delegates elected Sister Patricia Kelly to a second term as congregational president. Sisters Anne Myers, Mary Barrar, Mary Dacey and Dorothy Urban were elected to serve on the General Council of the Congregation.

Sisters who are residents of Saint Joseph Villa, the congregation's nursing home, adopted delegates as prayer partners and, bearing the "wisdom of the elders," five residents attended a morning session to address the delegates. Sister Florentine Scanlon, who at 101 claims the title of "Eldest Resident," shared her words of wit and wisdom in an endearing, handwritten letter.

# Graduating cheers

Courtesy Photo

Graduates receive their certificates during the diocesan Lay Ministry Program graduation and commissioning ceremony at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory June 6. Pictured are (from left) Marie Cordero, Robin Brooks, Susan Britt and Bill Barr and Randal Romie.

# Sisters of Mercy elect leadership team, set goals

BELMONT — With the conclusion of their Chapter of Assembly July 24, the Sisters of Mercy have announced their new leadership team and its 2004 Chapter Actions to be implemented over the next four years.

A Chapter of Assembly is conducted and attended by Sisters of Mercy delegates once every four years. They prayerfully consider actions that will call the community to specific action as well as elect its new leadership team for the next four years.

Those elected to the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina Leadership Team for 2004-2008 include Mercy Sister Paulette Rose Williams as president and Mercy Sister Pauline Mary Clifford as vice president.

Three councilors were also elected to the leadership team: Mercy Sisters Mary Angela Perez, Donna Marie Vaillancourt and Jill Katherine Weber.

The new team will assume office Sept. 24.

Sister Williams, a native of Concord, spent much of her life within the Catholic educational system. She has served as vice president of the regional community and at Charlotte Catholic High School as assistant principal and principal.

A native of Ireland, Sister Clifford served as president from 1988 until 1996 and as vice president from 1996 until 2000. She recently worked in Ireland at Mercy International Center.

Sister Perez, a native of Guam, has taught in North Carolina and Guam and served in Guam as a councilor. In 1996, she was elected president of the Guam Region of the Regional Community of North Carolina.

Sister Vaillancourt was born in Asheville and has served in many ministries, including education, director of formation, novice and vocations director, and co-director of a spiritual sanctuary for adults.

A native of Mount Vernon, N.Y., Sister Weber has served as a teacher and principal. She later began ministering as a home health physical therapist in addition to her primary ministry at Holy Angels. She also serves as co-chair of Life Development and Life Planning for her regional community.

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# Tour exposes 'horrid' camp conditions

CAMPS, *from page 1*

Hendersonville July 7 to assess the situation faced by migrant farmworkers.

The group on the tour in Bryson City and Cullowhee included Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley; Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry; and Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

Escorting the group was Josie Ellis, a registered nurse with Vecinos Incorporados (VI), which provides healthcare and advocacy for migrants.

VI ministers in five counties and camps throughout the area that are just as bad as these, Ellis said.

"We've done clinics in these trailers and actually had rats running across the floor," Ellis said. "We asked the landlord to put screens in the windows last year because so many of the babies were covered with flies, and he said, 'We don't beautify.'"

Ellis had high praise for Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee. He's willing to go to the camps, she told Rodriguez.

"(Father Shawn) came out here and sat on the floors of these nasty trailers and talked to them and talked to the children and gave them all the instruction they needed (to be baptized)," Ellis said.

### *Critical conditions*

Last year, Ellis said, 147 men stayed in the 10 trailers. The landlord charged $600 to $800 per month per trailer.

At a park in Cullowhee, the few people already in residence were away or staying indoors. Other trailers, now unoccupied, would soon house migrant tobacco pickers. Those trailers — with broken, screenless windows — looked just like they did last year, Ellis said.

"They're just hardworking, nice people trying to survive," Ellis said. "It's profound. It's really profound."

PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Hector Rodriguez (left), executive director of the Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, chats with year-round residents in Hendersonville July 7. Roberto Morales (sitting nearest the wall) is a gardener; Ruben Lopez works in construction.

"The lack of healthcare, the horrid living conditions, the degradation of the human spirit, it's the most immoral situation I've ever seen ..." — Josie Ellis

Trailers with broken windows, just as they were when migrants lived in them last year, will soon house migrant tobacco pickers in Cullowhee.

Ellis was sometimes moved to tears as she described to Rodriguez the conditions faced by migrants.

"The lack of healthcare, the horrid living conditions, the degradation of the human spirit, it's the most immoral situation I've ever seen, and I see it 12 hours a day," Ellis said. "We're all culpable. Everyone who eats is culpable."

### *Meeting the needs*

Founded in 1986, CMFN works to bring the Catholic Church's pastoral presence to thousands of migrant farmworkers throughout the country.

Rodriguez will add what he learns at camps in the Diocese of Charlotte (and later in the Diocese of Raleigh) to data collected by CMFN.

"In 1995, the network had its first national consultation," he said. "We had done a survey to assess the needs of migrants. One of the needs was for pastoral formation."

CMFN is conducting surveys of diocesan Hispanic ministry directors and migrants to develop its next national gathering.

"The data will serve as the basis for reflection on the migrant reality today and for planning how to address those needs," said Rodriguez.

### *Welcoming the stranger*

Although it was his first visit to North Carolina, Rodriguez said he already had a "very favorable impression of Hispanic ministry in this diocese."

"I'm fascinated by all these coordinators," he said. "In many dioceses, it's a one-person office. So, we have these leaders ... and they have leaders (that they are developing in the Hispanic community)."

The Diocese of Charlotte has nine Hispanic ministry coordinators who serve its 10 vicariates; but helping migrants is a job for all, not just the diocese's coordinators, Rodriguez pointed out.

"It's [everyone's] vocation as baptized Christians," he said. "It's their vocation as a Christian to love their neighbor; that's straight from Jesus' mouth, not from me."

"Welcoming the stranger is what true religion is all about, and as people who consume food, it wouldn't be a bad idea for them to know who puts it on their plates," he said.

That evening, Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvas, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, escorted Rodriguez to visit migrant fieldworkers and permanent residents in Henderson County.

Father Salvas said that there are about 10,000 permanent Hispanic residents in Henderson County. Mid-July through October each year, 5,000 migrants arrive to pick apples, peppers, string beans and tomatoes.

Workers, some of them as young as 15 or 16, were unloading boxes of tomatoes at a distribution point in another area of the county. Two of the men asked Father Salvas for a blessing. They dropped to their knees on the loading dock while he extended his hands and prayed over them.

"The overall challenge is church being church," Rodriguez said later. "We need to be who we would be to any of our brothers and sisters, and yet these folks are so hidden that for the most part we pay them no mind because we don't know they're there."

"It is up to (Sister) Andrea and Eduardo and others to educate us; they're the facilitators to help us get out of our pews and into the camps," he said.

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# Assistance for victims

HELP, *from page 1*

tors are located in each of the three regional offices of Catholic Social Services. David Harold is the assistance coordinator for the Winston-Salem region, Michele Sheppard serves the Asheville area and Nancy Miller-Campbell works out of the Charlotte office.

So far, each assistance coordinator has worked with two victims — some have reported incidents that took place within the diocese; others said they were abused elsewhere and later moved to the diocese.

In either situation, the assistance coordinators work to help the survivors of sexual abuse — they ensure both civil and diocesan authorities review their cases; coordinate appropriate therapy, for which the diocese pays; and help the survivors cope with their experiences.

"It takes a tremendous amount of courage to come forward, because there is such confusion about sexual abuse," said Miller-Campbell.

Survivors are revisiting a crime, she said, and at the same time many feel "they are speaking out against their church."

But the assistance coordinators want to assure any survivors who have not come forward that their cases will be handled with: confidentiality, to ensure privacy; thoroughness, to assure that the case is properly investigated; and resolve that will bring reconciliation and the proper therapeutic solution to the victim.

Harold has counseled hundreds of sexual abuse survivors during his career as a counselor, although none have been victims of sexual abuse at the hands of clergy.

"I guess that gives you an idea of how rampant the problem is for our society and not just the church," he said.

Although all three assistance coordinators are qualified to counsel victims of sexual abuse, their role as an assistance coordinator prohibits them from offering counseling. Miller-Campbell said there is often a fine line between assisting and counseling.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID HAINS

**Assistance coordinators work with victims of sexual abuse to ensure both civil and diocesan authorities review their cases; coordinate appropriate therapy; and help the victims cope with their experiences.**

"When we are contacted, we offer counseling services through a non-diocesan counselor. We also ask the victim to give us a written statement of the incident that took place. This is then presented to the chancery, the (diocesan) Review Board and to civil authorities," she said.

"Some people just need to be told 'I'm sorry,'" said Sheppard. "We are here to stand by them and help them get the services they need. Some people just need someone to listen to them. They have been afraid to step forward, they are worried that no one will listen."

"The good news is that there are therapies available that are very effective" in helping survivors cope with their trauma, said Harold.

Cognitive behavior therapy, for example, teaches survivors to relax when they recall traumatic events, he said. The technique removes the pain and suffering associated with the event.

"A third to one half of the survivors are able to achieve significant relief after four to six sessions with a therapist," said Harold.

The assistance coordinators agree that the diocese puts the concerns of the survivors first and acts quickly to investigate allegations that are made. But they also worry that there are other's out there who are suffering needlessly because they are afraid to come forward.

"Sex abuse is a taboo subject to begin with, but these people often feel they are speaking out about a priest who tends to be put on a pedestal," said Miller-Campbell. "And so it takes a tremendous amount of courage for them to come forward when the dynamic of religion is included."

The Diocese of Charlotte reported no incidents of sexual abuse at the hands of clergy during the 2003-04 fiscal year. Future plans to remain vigilant in the protection of children and young people include the publication of a guide for victims and survivors. This guide will be distributed to churches in the diocese.

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at (704) 370-3336 or e-mail dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

The assistance coordinators are located in diocesan offices in Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Asheville. They can help survivors of abuse whether the incident took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese. If you want to contact an assistance coordinators, call or e-mail:

Charlotte: Nancy Miller-Campbell, (704) 370-3217 or nmcampbell@charlottediocese.org;

Asheville: Michele Sheppard, (828) 255-1970 or mmsheppard@charlottediocese.org;

Winston-Salem: David Harold (336) 714-3202 or dwharold@charlottediocese.org.

# Catholic efforts to prevent child sex abuse needed in public schools, says educator

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Because of the prevalence of child sex abuse, public schools must develop prevention programs that include educating staff, parents and students, said an educator who prepared a federally mandated study for Congress on the issue.

Sex abuse of students by teachers and other adults in the public school system "is a problem that needs to be taken care of," said Charol Shakeshaft, professor of educational policies at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Her study, commissioned in June by the U.S. Department of Education, estimated about 4.5 million public school students have been abused by public school employees or adult volunteers.

When informed of child sex abuse prevention programs that involve educating children, parents and employees in Catholic dioceses, Shakeshaft praised these as a "good idea" and a "good step" toward curbing child sex abuse.

Her study showed that 9.6 percent of public school students from kindergarten through 11th grade reported unwanted sexual harassment or abuse by public school employees. Students listed teachers and other educators as being responsible for 57 percent of the incidents.

Shakeshaft hopes her report will lead to a national survey devoted exclusively to gathering data on child sex abuse in public schools.

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has said that child sex abuse is a national problem and has expressed hope that efforts to curb it in the church will spur similar efforts by other organizations.

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AUTONOMOUS ENTITIES

# As some U.S. dioceses face financial crisis, Vatican has own problems

## *Church hierarchy prevents intervention in diocesan budgetary affairs*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — When the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., filed for bankruptcy in early July, some people wondered why the Vatican didn't bail it out.

The head of a sex abuse victims group in Portland said the Vatican needs to "sell a few paintings if they think they can't afford to pay for this." The archdiocese had been hit hard by sex abuse settlements totaling more than $50 million.

But the Vatican is highly unlikely to start selling its paintings or statues in order to rescue a diocese from financial ruin. The Vatican does not see its role as that of overseeing diocesan budgets or financial crises.

And besides, the Vatican doesn't think it's rich.

"I wish we were. If we had so much money, we wouldn't have to go around holding out our hands to the world's dioceses," said Cardinal Sergio Sebastiani, head of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See.

As for selling part of its artistic patrimony, the cardinal said, "The Vatican's paintings have no commercial value. There are a lot of fables about the riches of the Vatican ... but the reality is much more prosaic."

In fact, a popular saying among Vatican number crunchers is one attributed to a Latin American archbishop: "I can do more with one dollar than the pope can do with Michelangelo's 'Pieta.'"

While the universal church's hierarchical structure can mean direct Vatican intervention in pastoral and dogmatic affairs, budget problems are left to the local church to resolve. The Vatican does not assume responsibility for diocesan financing in nonmissionary countries, although it may be called upon to approve major sales of church properties.

Even the budget for the Diocese of Rome — the pope's own diocese — is managed independently of the Vatican.

The Portland bankruptcy was being followed by some Vatican offices, but not with a view toward financial intervention.

"The Vatican would never get involved in the budget affairs of a diocese. Financially, a diocese is an autonomous entity. If it were a case of gross mismanagement by a bishop, the Vatican could intervene, but not to resolve a budget crisis," said one Vatican official.

The Vatican has enough problems managing its own budget these days. In 2003, the Holy See ran a sizable deficit for the third straight year, despite cutting back costs. It blamed the falling dollar and sluggish investment markets for the shortfall.

CNS PHOTO BY ED LANGLOIS, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

**Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., along with his cabinet and advisers, announces July 6 that the Archdiocese of Portland is filing for bankruptcy. It is the first U.S. Catholic diocese to seek the legal protection of Chapter 11.**

What's often overlooked when the Vatican discloses its annual financial figures is the size of the total numbers. The Vatican has only a yearly operating budget of just $260 million.

That's less than half the budget of major universities like Notre Dame, and about one-third the budget of U.N. specialized agencies like the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Vatican's net worth is difficult to gauge, but has been estimated at close to $1 billion. That would be less than the endowment funds of many major universities in the United States.

In the wake of huge settlement payments on abuse cases, a few U.S. dioceses have announced plans to sell off property. At the Vatican, property sales are never seriously considered. Most of its choice property lies inside the Vatican walls; the buildings used for institutional purposes are listed as having no commercial value.

The pope's six-story Apostolic Palace, with its gilt ceiling and frescoed walls, is entered as a debit, reflecting cleaning and upkeep costs.

The perennial problem at the Vatican is generating income, so the Vatican asks dioceses to pitch in. Despite the abuse scandals, donations from Catholics, dioceses and religious orders in the United States have remained steady in recent years, Vatican officials said.

To spur more generosity, the Vatican in the 1980s began publishing a consolidated financial statement, detailing expenses and income.

The Holy See financial statement covers the costs of running the Roman Curia — congregations, councils, tribunals, commissions, media, and several educational and cultural institutions, along with 118 nunciatures around the world.

But figured separately are the budgets for Vatican City State, the administration of St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican bank, the Vatican's missionary aid societies, and several other institutions connected with the Holy See.

There is one major oversight body for all the Vatican's financial operations, the 15-member "Council of Cardinals for the Study of the Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See." Pope John Paul II established it as a type of "wise men" panel to provide guidance on a host of issues, including the Vatican bank scandal of the early 1980s.

In early July, the council met to review the Vatican's latest deficit figures and suggest ways to resolve the problem.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Priest's decade of research yields book on Mother Henriette Delille

### *Sisters of the Holy Family founder may become first African-American saint*

BY FLORENCE L. HERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS — Henriette Delille, a free black woman born in New Orleans around 1810 and descended from a long line of free black women, set aside the life expected of her and made a courageous choice to live for God, said her biographer.

She founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a religious community for black women.

Researching and writing the biography of Mother Henriette Delille was like putting together the pieces of a jig-

saw puzzle, said Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis.

His forthcoming book, "Henriette Delille, Servant of Slaves, Witness to the Poor," chronicles her life.

Father Davis, a professor of church history at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana, said he wanted the book to be a "serious scholarly work" and has spent the past 10 years assembling the various pieces of Mother Henriette's life.

In 1994 the Sisters of the Holy Family chose Father Davis to write the biography of their foundress, whose canonization cause was accepted in 1988 by the Vatican. If her cause advances, she could become the first African-American saint.

Because there were few letters or diaries, Father Davis found his information in civil records, church records and financial records, and in the archives of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

In the middle of some bookkeeping records, Father Davis found Mother Henriette's rules for the sodality or confraternity that she was planning to form.

The Delille family became free because Mother Henriette's great, great grandmother, Nanette, who was brought to America as a slave, was freed after the death of her owner. Years later, Nanette had amassed enough money to buy her daughter and two of her grandchildren out of slavery.

In about 1836, Henriette underwent a religious experience during which she wrote, "I wish to live and die for God."

"She was active in baptizing slaves and encouraging marriages among them," said Father Davis.

Additionally she was active in the St. Claude School, an establishment for the education of young girls of color.

During the 1840s, Mother Henriette began assembling the group of women who would become the Sisters of the Holy Family, who received full ecclesiastical approval in 1851.

Judging by the sisters' library and archives, Father Davis concluded that the fledgling group was made up of educated and literate women.

Mother Henriette had been sick periodically during her life. In 1852, she drew up a will in which she left a gift to help "continue the charitable works that I have founded."

Mother Henriette died in 1862, probably of tuberculosis, Father Davis said.

Father Davis said he enjoyed doing the research for his book.

"Trying to put it all together was more difficult," he said. "I don't think of this as definitive, because I think others can continue digging and go further."

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 1, 2004

### *Aug. 1, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***

1) Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-14, 17
2) Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
3) Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Pausing in the midst of a busy day to go to lunch has become part of the fabric of American life. For harried workers, lunch, though it may be quick, provides a bit of peace in an otherwise hectic day. Friends who infrequently see one another find that lunch provides a time to catch up on each other's lives.

Whether the eatery drips with high-dollar elegance or caters to those living on a shoestring, meeting for lunch has the ability to nourish the body and, surprisingly, sometimes the soul.

Two of my friends and I meet frequently. On any one day our luncheon discussion can lead to side-splitting laughter, a time to safely vent or misty, tear-clouded eyes. Sometimes the thread of conversation leads us into little trips down memory lane where we begin to shed light on the persons we have become.

One of us grew up in a middle-class Texas family, one grew up in poverty, one grew up with everything money could buy. During this particular meal we came around to discussing our divergent backgrounds and what life had been like for us as children who had everything or its opposite.

Out of such divergence we discovered that in each of our lives there was a person of wisdom who mentored us, laughed with us and loved us when we were impressionable children. The loving wise one in each of our lives was a grandparent who took the time and had the patience to help us discover the kind of treasure that lasts forever.

In the Gospel reading for this Sunday, we find a member of the ever-present crowd trying to get Jesus to settle an inheritance dispute between two siblings. Jesus removes himself from the argument, but also uses this feud over possessions to teach a greater lesson with the familiar parable of the wealthy farmer whose only solution for a bountiful harvest is to build bigger barns rather than to share his wealth.

This familiar parable is sandwiched between two admonitions, one from Jesus to the crowd and one from God to the rich farmer: "Life does not consist of possessions," but "in what matters to God."

Both of these admonitions found their way into the wisdom that our grandparents shared with us long ago.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25 - JULY 31**

**Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13; **Monday (Sts. Joachim and Anne),** Jeremiah 13:1-11, Matthew 13:31-35; **Tuesday,** Jeremiah 14:17-22, Matthew 13:36-43; **Wednesday,** Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday (St. Martha),** Jeremiah 18:1-6, Luke 10:38-42; **Friday (St. Peter Chrysologus),** Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (St. Ignatius of Loyola),** Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 7**

**Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23, Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11, Luke 12:13-21; **Monday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard),** Jeremiah 28:1-17, Matthew 14:13-21; **Tuesday,** Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22, Matthew 14:22-36; **Wednesday (St. John Vianney),** Jeremiah 31:1-7, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday (The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome),** Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 16:13-23; **Friday (Transfiguration of the Lord),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Luke 9:28-36; **Saturday (St. Sixtus and Companions, St. Cajetan),** Habakkuk 1:12—2:4, Matthew 17:14-20

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# Survey: Impact of 'Passion' doesn't match viewers' enjoyment of it

## ONLY 18 PERCENT OF MOVIEGOERS SAID FILM CHANGED RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOR

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A telephone survey examining the attitudes of moviegoers who saw "The Passion of the Christ" found that while a solid majority liked the film seeing the movie brought about few changes in individuals' faith or beliefs.

"The Passion" has become the eighth-biggest domestic-grossing film of all time, with receipts of $370 million.

Nine out of 10 viewers rated "The Passion" as either excellent or good, according to a survey conducted by the Barna Group of Ventura, Calif. Barna called 1,618 adults chosen at random; of those, 646 respondents had seen the movie.

But only 18 percent of the moviegoers said they had changed their religious behavior as a result of the film; 16 percent said they had changed their religious beliefs because of the movie's content; and 10 percent said they had done both.

"Among the most startling outcomes drawn from the research is the apparent absence of a direct evangelistic impact by the movie," the survey said. "Despite marketing campaigns labeling the movie the 'greatest evangelistic tool' of our era, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of those who saw the film stated that they made a profession of faith or accepted Jesus Christ as their savior in reaction to the film's content."

The survey added, "Equally surprising was the lack of impact on people's determination to engage in evangelism. Less than one-half of 1 percent of the audience said they were motivated to be more active in sharing their faith in Christ with others as a result of having seen the movie."

Only 6 percent of those surveyed said they had seen a movie in the past two years that led them to change something they believe about the Christian faith. Of that group, "The Passion of the Christ" was cited by 53 percent, while "Left Behind," "A Walk to Remember" and "Joshua" all registered 7 percent or less.

According to the survey report, when "pressed to describe specific shifts in their spiritual perspectives," those who said their religious beliefs changed because of the film listed: the perceived importance of how they treat other people; more concern about the effect of their life choices and personal behavior; and a deeper understanding of, or appreciation for, what Christ had done for them through his death and resurrection.

Those who said their religious behavior changed said they prayed more often, attended church services more often and/or became more involved in church-related activities.

"Immediate reaction to the movie seemed to be quite intense," said Barna Group research director George Barna in a statement, "but people's memories are short and are easily redirected in a media-saturated, fast-paced culture like ours."

"The typical adult had already watched another six movies at the time of the survey interview, not including dozens of hours of television programs they had also watched," he said.

But Barna added, "Don't lose sight of the fact that about 13 million adults changed some aspect of their typical religious behavior because of the movie and about 11 million people altered some pre-existing religious beliefs because of the content of that film. That's enormous influence."

Of those surveyed who saw "The Passion of the Christ," 53 percent said they were born-again Christians. If those numbers are reflective of the moviegoing public, the Barna survey said, then 36 million born-again adults saw the movie, as did 31 million adults who do not define themselves as born-again.

According to the survey, 68 percent of Catholics who saw "The Passion" rated it as excellent, as did 78 percent of born-again Christians. The movie was judged excellent by 67 percent of all surveyed who saw it.

The survey, conducted during the last week of May, claims a 2.4 percent margin of error among all respondents, and a 3.9 percent margin of error among "The Passion" viewers.

## A supreme film is 'Bourne'

CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL

Matt Damon and Julia Stiles star in "The Bourne Supremacy," a frenetic film about a CIA amnesiac assassin struggling with disturbing memories of a violent incident in which he may have played a part. Fine performances but extremely fast editing take this a couple of notches below the excellence of the first film, "The Bourne Identity." Scenes of intense action violence and a brief instance of crude language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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# Farewell blessing

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Father Joseph Long Dinh offers a blessing to Rupert and Donna Muana during a farewell brunch in his honor July 4 at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, where he had served as parochial vicar for two years. Father Dinh was assigned as a parochial vicar of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte July 6. Father C. Morris Boyd was assigned as parochial vicar of the basilica.

# Abbey honors former N.C. senator and local artist

*Marshall and Jeanne Rauch receive 2004 Grace Award*

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College presented its annual 2004 Grace Award to Marshall and Jeanne Rauch in a special ceremony celebrating their accomplishments May 27.

More than a hundred guests attended the event at the college, including members of the Rauch family; Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, then-interim president of the college; and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Named for Charles L. "Chuck" Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc., of Charlotte and a longtime supporter of Belmont Abbey College, the Grace Award honors an individual in the Gaston/Mecklenburg County area who has made significant contributions to the college and the community.

The Rauches were selected by the Belmont Abbey College Associates and the Belmont Abbey College Board of Advisors in recognition of their public service and commitment to the community.

Recipients of the Grace Award include Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and Msgr. West.

Loyal and devoted friends of the college, the Rauches have dedicated their lives to improving not only ties between Gaston County and the greater Charlotte area, but also communities across the state. From the N.C. Senate floor in Raleigh (where Marshall served as a senator for the 25th District for 23 years) to the Country Art and History Museum (where Jeanne served as its first president in 1976), Marshall and Jeanne Rauch continue to leave their mark and make a difference.

As spiritual leaders, the couple serves as examples with their committed ministry and service to their Jewish faith.

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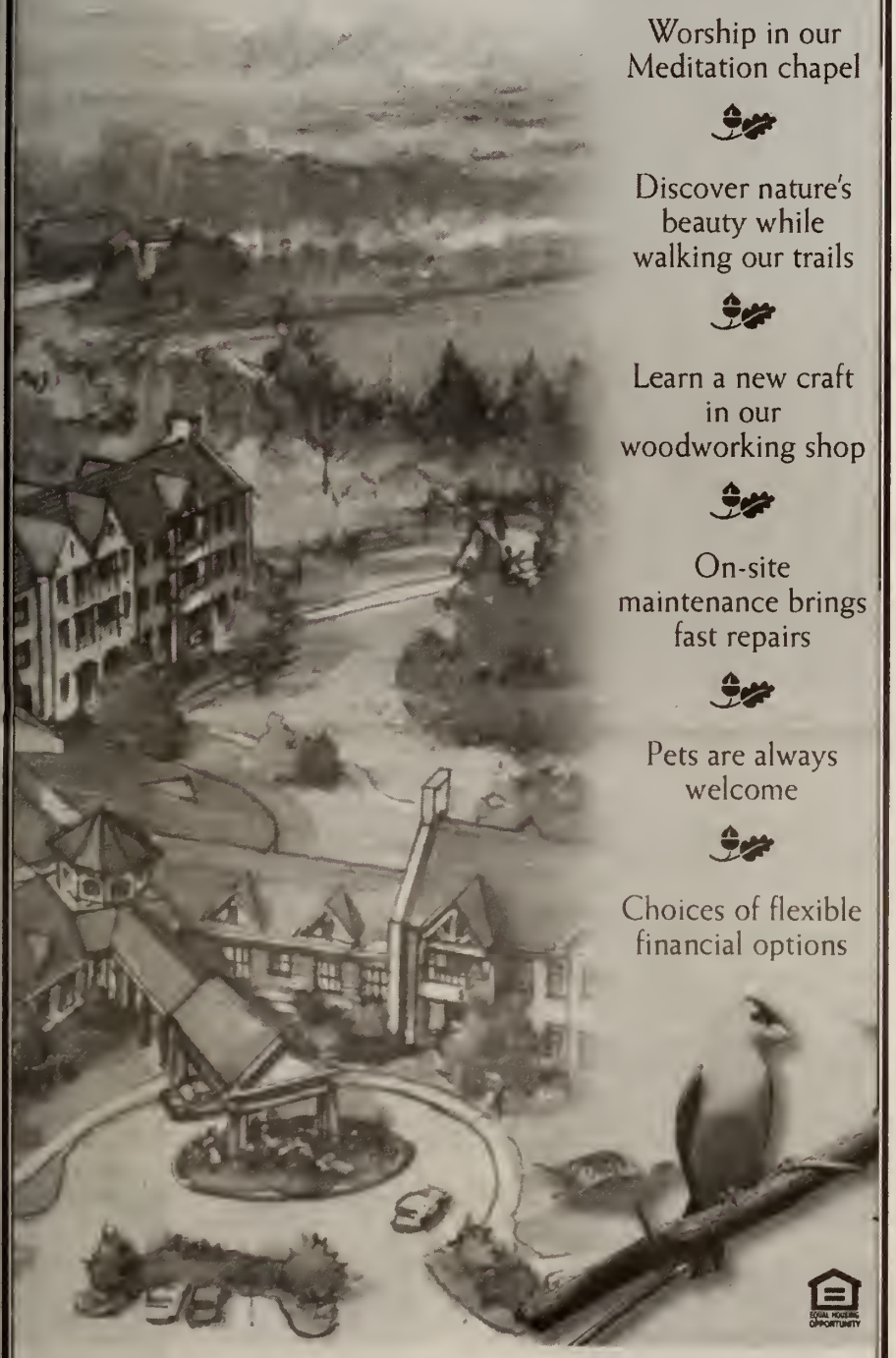

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# Marriage amendment fails

MARRIAGE, *from page 1*

eral secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference and a panel of clergy and activists.

"Marriage is not an arbitrary social arrangement that can be altered by either the church or the state," said Msgr. William P. Fay at a July 12 Capitol event.

"It is God's will for humanity and the keystone of every human community," he said.

Msgr. Fay was among a dozen speakers, including Christian and Jewish clergy. But even supporters of the amendment had conceded it was unlikely to pass on its first hearing.

"The protection of marriage is essential to the health and well-being of our nation, and the vast majority of Americans know it," he said. "The truths about marriage that we seek to protect are truths that are present in the order of nature and can be perceived, even without faith, by the light of natural reason."

After the vote July 14, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, said the bishops were disappointed that the Senate failed to keep discussion open and ultimately hold a vote on the legislation itself.

Senate backers of the bill said they would bring the issue back at a later date.

Many of the speakers at the July 12 event said the marriage amendment is not about legislating discrimination against homosexuals, as some opponents of the effort have said.

***Defining a marriage***

In a July 6 letter to U.S. senators, Bishop Gregory said preserving marriage as the union of one man and one woman "is not simply a Catholic concern" but "part of the common moral heritage of humanity" shared by "believers and nonbelievers, Christians and non-Christians alike."

"It is precisely this moral heritage that must be protected today from the small but vocal minority that would alter the definition of marriage by making same-sex unions the legal equivalent of marriage," he said.

"A same sex union is not equivalent to marriage," added Bishop Gregory. "It is not based on the natural complementarity of male and female; it cannot cooperate with God to create new life; it cannot be a true conjugal union."

"The institution of marriage has been weakened and eroded by many forces," he wrote. "The social cost is already too high."

Support of the amendment is necessary, he had told the senators, in order "to preserve and protect this vital institution that undergirds the well-being of spouses, children, families, communities and society itself."

***Defending traditional families***

Last September, the bishops' Administrative Committee issued a formal statement calling for efforts at all levels of government to support traditional marriage, including a federal constitutional amendment.

Bishop Gregory encouraged other bishops to use that statement, "Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers About Marriage and Same-sex Unions," as an educational resource in dioceses and as a source of background information for pastoral leaders.

In a July 2 statement, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson called on all Knights of Columbus to contact their senators and express support for the proposed marriage amendment.

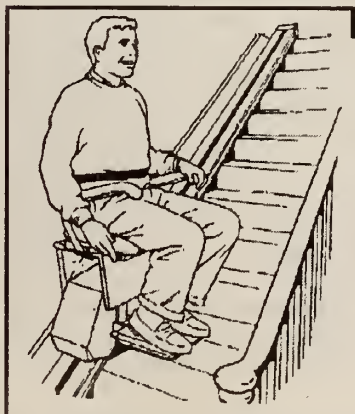
"Amending the Constitution is something that we should never take lightly," Anderson said. "But the recent same-sex marriage decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court leaves no alternative. The danger that other state or federal courts will adopt their reasoning and strike down laws protecting traditional marriage is now very great."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services will explore ways to encourage advocacy aimed at state and national levels for the preservation of traditional marriage.

"As we do on a variety of other issues, an important part of the mission of the Family Life Office is to support the advocacy efforts of the church," said Gerard Carter, Family Life Office director.

"In this case, we will be involved in ensuring that parishioners are made aware of the church's statements on the threat to traditional marriage posed by recent judicial decisions on same-sex marriage," he said.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray and Nancy Frazier O'Brien contributed to this story.*

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# The problem with being first

## *Church scrutiny leads fight against abuse*

**Catholics & the Media**

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

The first time a human solo and non-stop flew across the Atlantic Ocean, it was a news event of epic proportions. Everyone knew how lucky Lindy was and for the rest of his life, based on a single 33-hour airplane flight, Charles Lindbergh was a cultural icon.

Today, crossing the great pond that separates us from Europe is as newsworthy as a sunrise. It happens every day.

Who was the next person to make that flight? Who knows? Who cares?

It is a given with the news media that being first is noteworthy and that being second doesn't matter because repetition is boring. Nowhere is this "star factor" for being first more amply demonstrated than the recent release of a report about the sexual abuse of minors at the hands of adults.

I'm not referring to the February release of the John Jay study that detailed sexual abuse in the Catholic Church over a 50-year period. This new study was released on June 30. Its findings are far more shocking than those of the John Jay study and its application is much broader, but it has received very little attention from the media. The Charlotte Observer buried the story on page three; the article did not show up in an archive search of newspapers in Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Asheville.

The study, entitled "Educator Sexual Misconduct: A Synthesis of Existing Literature," was ordered by the U.S. Congress. The author, Charol Shakeshaft of Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., reviewed hundreds of scholarly reports on sexual abuse of minors by adults in the public schools.

Using accepted statistical practices, she found that 4.5 million children — 10 percent of all who are in public schools — have been abused by public school employees or adult volunteers. The majority of abuse, 67 percent, takes place at the hands of teachers and other educators with the remainder of the offenses committed by adult volunteers.

The abuse includes inappropriate language and touching, pedophilia and sexual activity of every description. By contrast, the John Jay study found approximately 10,600 cases of abuse involving clergy.

This would be a good place for Catholics to say something like, "See, I told you it wasn't only our problem." Some might assume that the lack of coverage is proof of a media plot to protect public schools or degrade Catholics. But all of that overlooks the greater good that was accomplished through the Catholic Church's commitment to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" — it brought a serious social problem into the open.

Even though the findings of the Shakeshaft study are shocking, they may be only a peek beneath the covers. One of its recommendations is that a more comprehensive, nationwide study be undertaken to determine the full scope and nature of the problem. If that sounds like the description of a John Jay study for public schools, it's because the John Jay report is the beacon that lights the way to other institutions investigating the serious problem of the abuse of children. Presumably, the public schools will also take the bold steps necessary to root out the sinful crimes.

Scouting, organized sports, private schools and summer camps, to name a few, are likely to have sordid stories in the closet that should, for the sake of the children, be brought into the light of day. In the coming years, these institutions either will examine themselves or be called upon to do so.

As Catholics, we can be proud of the fact that our church led the way in identifying and removing a serious problem that affects defenseless children. Because the church was first to be so forthcoming about this problem, it will be remembered more than the second or the third institution that does the same.

But don't expect the media or the public to forgive or forget the sins that were uncovered in the John Jay study. Given the media preference for titillation over a substantive response to a serious problem, Catholics are likely to be reminded over and over of the sin and not of the reconciliation. Being first may make the Catholic Church the brunt of crude jokes on late night television for years to come, but that is a small price to pay for a world in which children are safer.

Something good arising from suffering — that has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it?

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at (704) 370-3336 or e-mail dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# Following God's word brings strength, serenity, says pope

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — Following God's word faithfully and consistently brings strength and serenity to one's life, said Pope John Paul II.

The Lord's teachings and commandments are "clear and give light" to the faithful as they face the sometimes dark moments in life, he said in his July 21 weekly general audience.

By being "wholly faithful to the will of God ... one will find peace in one's soul and will be able to overcome the dark entanglements in life's trials and reach true joy," he said.

The large number of people requesting free tickets to this week's general audience prompted the pope to briefly leave his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo and hold his weekly catechesis back in Rome.

The courtyard of his summer residence — some 18 miles southeast of the capital — holds about 1,000 people. More than 5,000 people packed into the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall to hear the pope give his July 21 address and blessings.

The Vatican said other Wednesday audiences also may be held in the air-conditioned auditorium as the need arises.

Pope John Paul focused on verses 105-112 of Psalm 119, which gives praise to God's law.

The psalmist swears to accept, safeguard and follow God's commands, saying, "Your decrees are my inheritance forever; the joy of my heart they are," the pope said.

The pope said this "peaceful conscience is the strength of the believer; his consistency in obeying divine decrees is the source of serenity."

Just as a father's "bidding is a lamp and teaching a light," God's laws are "a lamp for one's feet and light to one's path," he said.

Christ, too, offered this same image when he revealed, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life," the pope said.

## ASK THE BISHOP

Do you have a question for Bishop Peter J. Jugis? *The Catholic News & Herald* runs a feature in which Bishop Jugis answers questions that are submitted via regular mail or e-mail.

Questions about the faith and the Diocese of Charlotte that have a broad appeal will receive priority consideration for response in the newspaper.

When submitting a question, please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Questions may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send your "Ask the Bishop" question to Ask the Bishop, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail askthebishop@charlottediocese.org.

# Children's status after an annulment

**Question Corner**

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Recently I had a conversation with a 42-year-old divorced friend who never receives Communion. I asked if she ever thought of seeking an annulment. She answered, "No. I love my children [both grown], and was told by 'others' that they would be labeled illegitimate." Is this true? (Wisconsin)*

A. No, it is not true. If the couple were free to marry in the first place, children born during their legal union are considered legitimate, even after an annulment.

Even in civil law, such a union is called a "putative marriage." That is, everyone thought it was a marriage, and there was no overt reason to think otherwise. The fact that some condition was present that enabled the marriage to be annulled years later does not change the fact that this couple was thought to be married by everyone, including even themselves.

Their children are legitimate for all purposes of church law.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# What is greatness?

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

The death of President Ronald Reagan has begun an animated discussion about his life and legacy. The coverage of his passing was monumental. In fact, it put so much emphasis on his administration and his style of leadership that many have been reminded of what they lived through but had forgotten.

At so many levels, this was a remarkable man. Reagan's childhood was difficult. His father struggled with alcohol. Money was never plentiful. As Reagan himself said: "I guess we'd be called poor people, but we truly didn't even know that we were."

He was blessed with a "can do" spirit and eternal optimism, and much is now being written about his strong faith and dedicated Americanism.

Ronald Reagan's success in getting the former Soviet Union to consider a change of structure and approach would seem to be his high point as president. Surely his efforts for a lasting peace did work to alter a world too long on the brink of nuclear annihilation.

But with all due respect to his many national and international accomplishments, I'd like to focus on one central strength that, for me, made Ronald Wilson Reagan a truly great person. He was someone who made mistakes. And some of them were sizable.

For example, as governor of California, Reagan signed into law one of the most permissive abortion standards ever. But rather then defend his mistake, or simply blame it on being badly advised by others, he did something remarkable. He owned up to the wrong decision.

And more to the point, he spent the rest of his life proclaiming the absolute sacredness of human life. He was, for his eight years as president, unapologetically pro-life.

The same trait revealed itself when it came to deficits. Reagan had been elected based on a platform of shrinking government, lowering taxes and balancing the budget. But, in truth, of the three goals, he only achieved the lowering of taxes. Government grew under his leadership and the deficit soared.

Again, others might have blamed those around him, but not Reagan. His farewell address as president was notable for its honesty. The president, after outlining his successes, also voiced his sorrow over his failures.

On a personal level, Reagan lived more of the same. Being a champion of family values doesn't mean that living those values is easy. Clearly, Reagan had a difficult time relating to his own four children. That's not uncommon in any family. But what he did to correct the estrangement is, I believe, uncommon.

We're told that Reagan spent his early retirement years rebuilding bridges to his children. Before Alzheimer's Disease incapacitated him, he worked at trying to fix that which had been broken. In other words, he accepted the failure and then saw to it that it was never too late for reconciliation.

In each of these situations we find a remarkable leader. We find someone who can admit error, attempt to heal the problem, and keep on learning and growing until the end. For me, more then any international accolade, this is where the greatness of President Ronald Reagan is most clearly reflected.

Ronald W. Reagan, R.I.P.

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

# Catholic commitment to Christ

## Ask the Bishop

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

*Q: Thirty years ago, I responded to a call at a Billy Graham Crusade and made a commitment to Christ. Are Catholics given a similar opportunity to respond to the full Gospel via a personal commitment to Jesus Christ? (Ronald Schuck, Cornelius)*

A: Our commitment to Christ and our response to him begin at our baptism.

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church" (CCC) reminds us that through baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God. Baptism configures us to Christ, and seals us with the indelible spiritual character of belonging to Christ. (CCC 1213, 1272)

At baptism, we first become committed to Christ. The grace of baptism accomplishes in us this unique belonging to Christ.

Confirmation, in turn, completes baptism and seals us with the Holy Spirit. The grace of confirmation unites us even more firmly to Christ, and thus strengthens our belonging to Him. We receive a special strength from the Holy Spirit to be a witness to Christ and to our faith. Our commitment to the Lord and his teaching is a lived daily reality. (CCC 1303, 1304)

Holy Eucharist further increases our belonging to Christ, for in the holy sacrament is the real and substantial presence of Christ himself. When we enter into sacramental communion with the Lord, we share in a most intimate way in Christ's life.

It is a belonging to Him, and a being with Him, which Christ promised at the Last Supper: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." (Jn. 6:56)

These are the sacraments of initiation, which establish and increase the life of grace in us. These and the other sacraments root us in Christ.

Each day, our commitment to Christ is also nurtured through prayer, spiritual reading, works of charity and sacrifices. Our commitment to Christ is demonstrated in a most public way by our participation in the celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday.

## Life Issues Forum

CATHY CLEAVER RUSE, Esq.
GUEST COLUMNIST

# The problem of pain

## *Babies feel it, abortion doctors don't*

In the 17th century, Philosopher Rene Descartes was notorious for believing that animals do not feel pain. Some Descartes scholars argue that what he denied was not the animal's ability to be conscious of pain, but rather its ability to be self-conscious about it — that is, to sense that the feelings are associated with that animal's own self.

In America today, there are federal animal welfare laws because we recognize that animals do feel pain, regardless of whether they experience what some call existential suffering. There are laws on the humane slaughter of farm animals and on how research laboratory animals may be treated, among others.

But this compassion does not reach the unborn human baby. One culprit here is the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, which requires the U.S. government to be blind to the unborn child's claim on life where abortion is concerned. This has encouraged many to be blind to the child's pain and suffering as well.

Every year 20,000 unborn children are killed in abortions done at 21 weeks' gestation or beyond, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute and the Centers for Disease Control.

Yet testimony from recent federal trials regarding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act made known to the general public a fact that has been known to researchers for years: that unborn children can experience pain at 20 weeks, if not before. Pain expert Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand testified that abortions at this stage will cause pain to the unborn child, and "it will be severe and excruciating pain."

Witnesses from the abortion industry made it clear they didn't know the research on fetal pain, and what's more, they didn't care.

Judge Richard Casey asked Dr. Stephen Chasen, a plaintiff in a New York lawsuit, "Does it hurt the baby?" He answered, "I don't know." Later in the exchange, Judge Casey asked, "I asked you if you had any care or concern for the fetus whose head you were crushing." His answer: "No."

Testimony also revealed that the very women making the decision to abort are kept in the dark about this important information. An exchange between Judge Casey and Dr. Marilynn Fredriksen is illustrative:

THE COURT: Do you tell [the women] whether or not it will hurt the fetus?

THE WITNESS: The intent [is] that the fetus will die during the process of uterine evacuation.

THE COURT: Ma'am, I didn't ask you that. You will deliver the baby partially and then insert a pair of scissors in the base of the fetus' skull. ... Do you tell them whether or not that hurts the fetus?

THE WITNESS: I have never talked to a fetus about whether or not they experience pain.

Thankfully, Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Chris Smith have begun efforts to right this wrong by introducing the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act, requiring that mothers be notified about the pain caused by abortions at 20 weeks. If the United States has enough compassion to pass laws on the well-being of animals, surely it can find the compassion to acknowledge the pain that abortion causes to human children.

*Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

## THE SOUND OF SILENCE

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II looks out at the view of Mont Blanc from northern Italy July 16. The pontiff described the area where he spent 12 days of vacation as an "enchanting place." During his holiday, the pope preached on the value of silence.

# Pope, back from vacation, says relaxing part of observing Lord's day

SILENCE, *from page 1*

thing in our lives," the pope told hundreds of visitors gathered July 18 in the courtyard of his summer villa south of Rome.

The pope arrived at the villa in Castel Gandolfo July 17, after a 12-day vacation in the northern Italian Alps. The pope spent his days there taking drives through the mountains and putting the finishing touches on a book about philosophy.

He also spoke to some 6,000 people who gathered in a field near Les Combes, and told them the communications overload of modern society has reduced the space for silence and contemplation.

It sometimes reaches the point of "making people incapable of reflecting and praying," he said.

"In reality, only in silence can man listen deep in his conscience to the voice of God, which truly makes him free. And vacations can help people rediscover and cultivate this indispensable inner dimension of human existence," he said.

Reciting the midday Angelus prayer with pilgrims at the villa July 18, the pope said, "Christ is always among us and wants to speak to our hearts."

"We can listen to him by meditating with faith on the sacred Scriptures, gathering ourselves in private or community prayer and pausing in silence before the tabernacle where he speaks to us of his love," the pope said.

The commandment to keep the Lord's day holy, he said, must include participating in a Sunday liturgy, "but other moments of prayer and reflection, of rest and brotherhood can contribute to sanctifying the day of the Lord."

Pope John Paul told the visitors he was happy to be at Castel Gandolfo, where he will be spending most of his time until late September.

The pope will leave Castel Gandolfo Aug. 14-15 for a trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France.

Before leaving his vacation spot in Les Combes, a village in the Aosta Valley, the pope met with the local mayor and city council and with a variety of police and forest service agents.

He told the law enforcement personnel, "you have been like guardian angels, who with efficiency and discretion" ensured the vacation went smoothly.

In his remarks to the mayor and city council, the pope thanked the area's residents for the care and concern they showed him.

Describing the area as "an enchanting place," the pope prayed that "the Lord, whose omnipotent providence is very evident in these Alpine landscapes, continue to protect the community."

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ALL ARE WELCOME!
WEEKEND SCHEDULE

| Thursday, Aug. 12 | Friday, Aug. 13 |
|---|---|
| **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **First Baptist Church West** Charlotte, NC | **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **St. Mark United Methodist Church** Charlotte, NC |
| **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida | **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida |
| **Saturday, Aug. 14** | **Sunday, Aug. 15** |
| **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **Emmanuel Baptist Church** Winston-Salem, NC | **11 am** **Closing worship** *Music by:* **The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir** Charlotte, NC |
| **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida | *Celebrant and Homilist* **Msgr. Mauricio W. West** **Chancellor and Vicar General** *Diocese of Charlotte* |

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**Catholic Daughters**

*Thirty-nine women join new court in Sylva*

| PAGE 5

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Diocese of Charlotte,*

This week, two other bishops of the South and I are jointly issuing a statement entitled, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion." In this statement, we are addressing the question of pro-abortion Catholic politicians and the reception of Holy Communion.

The consistent support of abortion legislation by some Catholic public officials is a gravely sinful act. This public stance precludes the politicians from being admitted to Holy Communion as long as they persist in their pro-abortion stance. The reception of Holy Communion by pro-abortion Catholic public officials is a scandal to the Catholic faithful, which risks leading them into error regarding the true teaching of the Church on the intrinsic evil of procured abortion.

At our Special Assembly in June, the bishops of the United States discussed the topic of "Catholics in Political Life." In that statement, we reminded Catholic politicians of the moral teaching of our church in regard to abortion: "... The killing of an unborn child is always intrinsically evil and can never be justified."

We also appealed to pro-abortion Catholic politicians to have a change of heart and stop supporting abortion legislation:

"It is with pastoral solicitude for everyone involved in the political process that we will also counsel Catholic public officials that their acting consistently to support abortion on demand risks making them cooperators in evil in a public manner. We will persist in this duty to counsel, in the hope that the scandal of their cooperating in evil can be resolved by the proper formation of their consciences."

I ask that you pray, as I do, for all those involved in the political process, and that you pray also for a greater respect in our country for the dignity of the life of the unborn child.

Wishing God's blessings upon each of you, I promise you a remembrance in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis*
*Bishop of Charlotte*

**"WORTHY TO RECEIVE THE LAMB"**

**TO READ THE STATEMENT, "WORTHY TO RECEIVE THE LAMB: CATHOLICS IN POLITICAL LIFE AND THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION," PLEASE SEE PAGE 8.**

# Bishops offer 'Faithful Citizenship'

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Miami man casts his vote in the 2000 elections. To summarize the Catholic Church's teachings on public policy issues that have moral and ethical dimensions, the U.S. bishops released the document, "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility."

## Document to serve as guide for party platforms

STATEMENT PROMPTS HOW BASIC VALUES SHOULD SHAPE POLITICAL CHOICES

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops offered guidance to the committees drafting election-year platforms for the Democratic and Republican parties in the form of their 2003 document, "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility."

The document, approved by the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "summarizes the Catholic Church's teaching on public policy issues that have important moral and ethical dimensions," said Msgr. William P. Fay, USCCB general secretary, in nearly identi-

See FAITHFUL, page 9

**FINDING CHRIST**

## Salisbury youths work with Jamaica's poor

SALISBURY — Members of Sacred Heart Church's youth group and their chaperones worked to help change people's lives in Kingston, Jamaica, as part of an annual mission trip June 24-July 1.

"Some of us, not fully understanding what we were go-

See JAMAICA, page 6

COURTESY PHOTO

Sacred Heart Church's youth group made their annual mission trip to Kingston, Jamaica, June 24-July 1. Members pictured are (clockwise from top) Michael Vaeth, Gregory Hicks, Brynne Beal and Erin Dinse.

## Vatican says battle of sexes not part of God's design

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The battle of the sexes and, particularly, the subjugation of women are the result of original sin and not of God's original design for creation, said the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Attempts to advance the

See BATTLE, page 12

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**Many ministries**
*Sister Schmidt leaves N.C. after 40 years*
| PAGE 4

**Rachel's Vineyard**
*Leadership conference inspires masses*
| PAGE 7

**Up to the challenge**
*Youth ministers receive training resource*
| PAGE 16

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## PROCESSING FOR PEACE

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Misael Vacca Ramirez of Yopal, Colombia, and Father Jose Juya, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Gaston Vicariate, lead a procession at St. Michael Church in Gastonia Sept. 13, 2003. Bishop Vacca was recently kidnapped but freed unharmed July 27 by a leftist group in Colombia.

# Kidnapped Colombian bishop released unharmed by captors

## *Bishop Vacca attempted to foster unity in Colombia and Diocese of Charlotte*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Colombian bishop, who visited the Diocese of Charlotte last year, was kidnapped by armed rebels in Colombia but freed unharmed by his captors the same day Pope John Paul II appealed for his release.

Bishop Misael Vacca Ramirez of Yopal was set free July 27 after he was taken prisoner three days earlier by members of the leftist rebel group, the National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish initials of ELN.

"I was treated well and there was never any lack of respect," said the bishop, according to a July 28 report.

Bishop Vacca walked for three hours after he was released to reach the Diocese of Trinidad. Bishop Vacca was then flown by helicopter to his residence in Yopal and, after a medical examination, was found to be tired but in good health.

The bishop thanked all those who worked for his release, including Colombia's church leaders and Pope John Paul, who had urgently appealed for his immediate liberation.

In September 2003, Bishop Vacca visited St. Michael Church in Gastonia to help promote unity among Colombians and other Hispanic parishioners and to encourage prayers for Colombia, which has struggled with civil war for decades.

The Vatican had called the bishop's capture "an unjustifiable criminal act."

In a July 27 written statement, the Vatican said it was "extremely distressing and objectionable" for a bishop to be "impeded from freely exercising his pastoral ministry in such a despicable manner."

Bishop Vacca and two other priests were kidnapped by ELN members July 24 while on a pastoral visit in the town of Morcote, northeast of Colombia's capital, Bogota.

The mayor of Nunchia also was kidnapped by the same group of armed abductors.

After the two priests and the city official were released the next day, the priests said the rebels planned to release the bishop after giving him a message for the government.

The National Liberation Army is Colombia's second-largest rebel group with at least 3,500 guerrillas. They and the larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have been locked in a 40-year armed struggle against the government and right-wing death squads.

In June the government offered to stop operations against the ELN and restart stalled negotiations if the groups called a cease-fire. The Catholic Church has long acted as a channel for dialogue between left- and right-wing groups and the government. It has helped negotiate previous peace deals and guarantee the release of civilian hostages.

Bishop Vacca had been involved in peace efforts among rebels, paramilitary groups and the government that are vying for control of the petroleum-rich regions of Casanare and Boyaca.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

## New program provides Catholic priests on two cruise lines

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new program under the Apostleship of the Sea's direction is providing approved and certified Catholic priests on board two cruise lines operating in the United States — Celebrity and Holland America.

An announcement of the program said the two companies "can now promise their guests and crews that they will have an approved Roman Catholic priest on every one of their cruises."

Other cruise lines are being encouraged to join the priest program for cruise ships "so that they too can provide the best quality of Catholic pastoral care and ministry to guests and crews," the announcement said.

## Priesthood Sunday set for Oct. 31 this year

CHICAGO (CNS) — Priesthood Sunday, a celebration of the American priesthood set for Oct. 31 this year, will be marked in Catholic parishes throughout the United States with prayer, dialogue and social events.

Father Robert J. Silva, president of the Chicago-based National Federation of Priests' Councils, said the purpose of the day is to engage "a national conversation about the priesthood."

Priesthood Sunday was first observed in October 2003 as a reaction to the shadows cast over all priests by the sex abuse crisis.

Ten percent of U.S. parishes took part in the event last year, but as many as 25 percent are expected to be involved this year.

Lay people at each parish and school are asked to develop their own way of marking the day and honoring both the priesthood and their own priests. A Web site — www.priestsunday.org — offers ideas.

There are about 44,000 priests in the United States, and only 4,000 of the 19,000 U.S. parishes currently have more than one priest.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Everyone is invited to attend a Conference for Catholic Laity *"Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus: Living as Eucharistic People"* Aug. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Immaculata School, 711 Buncombe St. Father Frank Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley will give the keynote address. Workshops will be offered on using the lectionary; prayer and skills and theory for catechists. For more information or to register contact Elizabeth Girton at (828) 252-8816 or faithformation@bellsouth.net.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Aug. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — Just Second Fridays (JSF) will take place Aug. 13, 1-2 p.m., in the Atrium Room of the Annex Building of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Rev. Dr. Ben Bushyhead, director of community and recreation services for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, will speak on *"Myths, Misconceptions and Stereotypes of Native Americans."* JSF is a monthly lunchtime speaker series sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, in partnership with St. Peter Church. Parking is available in the underground garage next to the church. Bring your lunch; cold drinks are provided. Call (704) 370-3225 for further information.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* will have an informational meeting Sept. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sept. 8 through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course, *"Moving On,"* based on Susan Miller's book "After the Boxes are Unpacked." We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes begin Sept. 15 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Call Gigi at (704) 895-3310 or Merry at (704) 947-9547 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — All couples married 25 or 50 years this year will be honored at an *Anniversary Mass* Oct. 24 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Please call your church office if you wish to be included.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for *caregivers of a family member with memory loss* meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Notre Dame Catholic High School* is planning an alumni reunion for Aug. 14, 2004. For more information, call Nicholas Schnyder at (336) 333-3456 or e-mail nicholas.schnyder@bellsouth.net.

### HICKORY VICARIATE

LENOIR — *Summer Faith Formation Catechesis* will be offered each Sunday, 10:20-10:50 in the school building of St. Francis of Assisi Church,

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Pope calls on Muslims, Christians to unite after Iraqi church attacks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Deploring a string of deadly car bomb attacks on five Catholic churches in Iraq, Pope John Paul II called on Muslims and Christians to unite against "all forms of violence" and to work together to bring peace and stability to the country.

The pope said Aug. 2 he was saddened and "deeply struck" upon hearing the news of the Aug. 1 attacks that left at least 11 people dead and 50 others wounded.

A wave of explosions ripped through churches in Baghdad and the northern city of Mosul early Aug. 1 just when parishioners were attending or leaving their places of worship. Iraq accused a terrorist group linked to al-Qaida with the attacks.

"At this time of trial, I am spiritually close to the church and the Iraqi people," read the pope's message, which was sent to the head of the Assembly of the Catholic Bishops of Iraq, Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel-Karim Delly.

The pope renewed his "heartfelt solidarity with priests and the faithful," assuring them of his prayers and "constant commitment to a climate of peace and reconciliation being established in this beloved country, as a soon as possible."

He called on Muslims and Christians, "all believers in the one compassionate and merciful God, to unite and deplore every form of violence and to cooperate for the return of harmony on Iraq's tormented soil."

Vatican and Iraqi church leaders condemned the latest attacks. A top Iraqi church official in Rome said those responsible for the blasts were intent on "demolishing the new Iraq and its new freedoms."

# Bishop says pope to visit Lourdes to praise God, not seek healing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will make an Aug. 14-15 pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, not to seek physical healing but to praise God for his great gifts, including the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"Lourdes is not just a place to seek healing, it is a place where people demonstrate their faith in God and their devotion to Mary," said Bishop Renato Boccardo, the papal trip organizer.

The 84-year-old Pope John Paul has billed his trip to the shrine in the French Pyrenees as part of his commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the solemn proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

"The Holy Father is not going to Lourdes because he is sick," Bishop Boccardo said. "He is going because he is the pope, and he will carry the whole church with him to offer adoration to Mary and to God."

In 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous claimed she had seen Mary 18 times in a grotto near Lourdes. When Bernadette asked her name, Mary replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

In the Lourdes apparitions, Mary called for prayer and penance, and she told Bernadette to drink the water of the small spring in the grotto. Five days later, a friend of Bernadette's bathed her injured arm in the spring and was healed.

The pope will drink water from the Lourdes spring upon his arrival at the grotto Aug. 14.

"The water is a sign of reconciliation and of baptism," the bishop said.

Bishop Boccardo said that Pope John Paul will not bathe in the waters of the spring, which is a ritual of faith and hope carried out by more than 300,000 ailing people each year.

"I can exclude that the pope is going to ask for healing" while at Lourdes, the bishop said. "Rather, he will praise God for his great works, one of which was Mary."

According to the shrine's official Lourdes Magazine, 66 healings have been recognized as miraculous since the time of the apparitions.

328-B Woodsway Ln. NW. There will be an opportunity for discussion of the day's gospel. All are invited to share their thoughts. For more Information, call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

MAGGIE VALLEY — *Rachel's Vineyard* aftercare/follow-up meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month. These meetings are for anyone who has attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat for post-abortion healing, and are designed to help us continue on our healing journey and to grow spiritually. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 15, 2-4 p.m. Please call Shelley at (828) 684-4330 or (828) 230-4940 for details

MAGGIE VALLEY — If you are struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion, there is help. *Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreats* for healing after abortion are a beautiful opportunity to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into love and hope. The next retreat is scheduled for Sept. 17-19. Confidentiality is strictly maintained. Please call Shelley at (828) 684-4330 or (828) 230-4940 to register.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with The Couple to Couple League. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching and the method is as effective as the Pill with none of the side effects of unnatural methods. A four-part series of classes will start Aug. 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Bishop Begley Parish Center of Saint Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For more information and registration, call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Ride of a lifetime

CNS PHOTO BY JEFF ROACH/DEFAB IS PHOTOGRAPH

Franciscan Sister Rita Vukovic prepares to take a ride in an Indy car at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The venture was made possible when supporters of Cardinal Ritter High School had the winning $2,000 bid for the ride, donated by Sinden Racing, during a school benefit. The fund-raiser brought in money for scholarships and financial aid for the Indianapolis interparochial high school. Sister Rita has taught English and religion classes at Cardinal Ritter for 35 years.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Aug. 7 — 5:30 p.m. Mass**
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**Aug. 9 — Priests' Continuing Education Day**
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

**Aug. 10 — Priests' Continuing Education Day**
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

**Aug. 11 — Priests' Continuing Education Day**
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

**Aug. 14 — Lighting the Fires of Faith Conference**
Bishop McGuinness High School, Kernersville

**Aug. 15 — 11 a.m. Mass**
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

**Aug. 21 — 6 p.m. Mass**
Dedication of new church
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

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MANY MINISTRIES

# Sister Schmidt leaves North Carolina after four decades of service

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — After nearly 40 years in North Carolina, Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt is moving on.

Sister Schmidt, director of diocesan young adult ministry, is beginning a new ministry as vice president for mission and values at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown, Pa.

"The Catholic Church has a specific mission in health care — caring for the poor and those who can afford to pay," said Sister Schmidt. "It's a constant balancing act, and attention between caring for the poor and making sure the mission endures."

Sister Schmidt, who will be chairing the ethics and bio-ethics committee at the hospital, looks forward to ensuring a respect for life from conception to death. Her new duties in Pennsylvania are similar to those she had at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville in the 1990s.

"You have ethical directives that must be applied to sometimes very difficult medical decisions," she said. She will also be responsible for ensuring the "respect for the dignity of each person — staff and patients. You treat everyone with dignity."

Sister Schmidt said she would miss the sense of community among Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The interconnectedness has been a wonderful gift," she said. "You get to know people who are as committed to the Kingdom of God as you are."

Moving up North will be "very exciting. It will be different working in a diocese that's old and established," said Sister Schmidt. "But it is my home — it's where I came from."

A "great deal" of her family still resides in Pennsylvania.

"It (the transition) is not as unsettling as going somewhere where there is no family present," she said. "But I will miss my sisters in community. I'll miss the proximity to the sisters I have literally become an adult with."

Growing up in Berwyn, Pa., Sister Schmidt heard her calling to the life of a woman religious in the form of a whisper in her head at the age of 10 or 11. She was at Benediction and looking at the monstrance when she heard the words, "I want you."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt chats with diocesan personnel during her farewell party at the Pastoral Center July 27.**

As a child, she was aware of the meaning of the words, but did not understand their significance for her life. She heard the call again in high school.

"I was sitting there, and the thought came, uninvited and intrusive," she said. "I said, 'go knock on someone else's door.' I was clear about wanting to be married and wanting to have children."

She became a Catholic schoolteacher but could not ignore her calling. After serious soul-searching, she spoke with a sister in a local community.

"She told me to look for a community that had teaching as a ministry, and I happened to be working with the Sisters of Mercy at the time," said Sister Schmidt.

In 1965, Sister Schmidt entered the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community in North Carolina when she was 21.

"I remember being homesick only once. I had the feeling that I was home; it was where I was meant to be," said Sister Schmidt, who professed her final vows in 1971 at her childhood parish.

Living and working in the Diocese of Charlotte has been a great experience, she said.

"Service in a mission diocese is filled with possibilities for spreading the Word and ministry," she said. "I've been blessed in being able to serve in many ministries."

She continued with her first love of teaching for more than 22 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Sacred Heart College in Belmont in 1973 and a master's degree in religious studies from LaSalle University in Philadelphia in 1980.

She studied for a year in Rome and received an advanced certificate in Scripture and theology and had diocesan training for spiritual direction.

She worked as a retreat director at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley during the summers from 1986 to 1991, and as a hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville from 1990 until 1998 after receiving certification in clinical pastoral services from Carolinas Medical Center.

In 2000, she became a member of the American Red Cross' Spiritual Response Team for national incidents involving mass casualties.

In addition to her work in young adult ministry, she served as co-director of McArthur Spirituality Center for youth and young adults and House of Hospitality for young adults, both in Belmont.

She said that she can see a continuous thread throughout her work and ministry.

"I have always tried to communicate the wonder of God's love through my ministry. I really believe that's my mission," she said.

The diocesan Education Vicariate gave a farewell party for her at the Pastoral Center July 27.

"The Diocese of Charlotte has been blessed greatly by her spiritual leadership in relation to the young adults of the diocese," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

"As she leaves for new areas of ministry, we are so deeply grateful for her unique contribution here in the diocese by her generous, gracious, competent and consistent service to the young adults," he said.

"I hope I leave behind the impression that one can be a woman who thirsts for God and enjoys life," said Sister Schmidt. "No matter what I did, I hope that would be what I leave behind."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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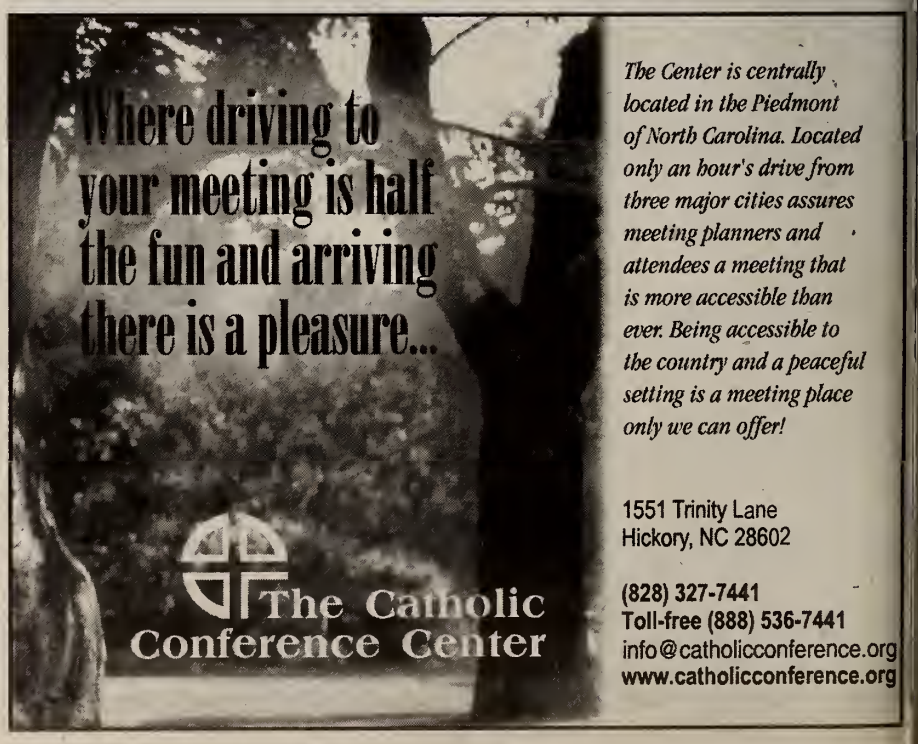


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# Catholic Daughters add new court

## *Thirty-nine women from three parishes join national organization*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

SYLVA — The North Carolina Catholic Daughters of the Americas recently added to its roster with the institution of a new court at St. Mary Church.

Thirty-nine women from three churches — St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee and St. Mary Church — have joined the new court since its inception June 27.

During the June 27 ceremony, 30 women were received by Joyce Rachid, state regent, into the national organization of Catholic Daughters. Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Mary Church, became the court's first chaplain.

Additionally, two women were inducted July 4 and seven women were inducted July 11.

"There was a very generous response from the women in the parishes," said Father Williams. "It shows there is a real need for women in a cooperative role. They've launched something that is going to take off."

COURTESY PHOTO

**Thirty women from three parishes were inducted into the newly established Court St. Mary, Mother of God during a June 27 ceremony at St. Mary Church in Sylva. Father Williams, center, is the court chaplain.**

### *Many benefits*

The new court, Court St. Mary, Mother of God, joins a dozen other Catholic Daughters courts (chapters) in North Carolina; there are now six courts in the Diocese of Raleigh, seven in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We meet to see what is needed at the three parishes," said Sandy Beauchemin, court regent. "Many ladies were already helping with their church's needs, but now we have an umbrella under which to operate."

"We have a group of women who are organized," she said. "With an organized group, you can do so much more."

Both Beauchemin and Father Williams said that the court, in addition to assisting the parishes, offers socialization for women.

"It's something we did for the churches and something we did for ourselves," she said. "Since the court's inception, the women are so motivated."

Beauchemin credits Rita Goffinet, the court's recording secretary, for Court St. Mary's existence. After attending the funeral of a local Knight of Columbus, Goffinet, whose mother was a Catholic Daughter, thought it would be ideal to have a local court to support grieving widows.

"She decided it needed to be done and she did it, with my blessing," said Father Williams. "She's done a marvelous job."

"She was instrumental in getting the 38 women together," said Beauchemin.

A court needs 15 members before it can be founded, but Goffinet didn't stop there.

"She was always shooting for more," said Beauchemin.

Recruiting and retaining members were topics discussed during the North Carolina Catholic Daughters of the Americas' leadership seminar at the Catholic Conference Center in August 2003. The seminar was not part of their biennial convention — since 1956, the state's Catholic Daughters have met every other year for a conference that is part business meeting, part spiritual retreat.

"(The) seminar was something new to try and get new members," said Ruth Carlisle, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and Catholic Daughters state treasurer.

### *Helping others*

From its inception in 1903, Catholic Daughters of the Americas has grown and developed into the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas. Headquartered in New York with 100,000 members in the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic and Mexico, Catholic Daughters of the Americas' purpose is to help the church in its religious, charitable and educational works.

The organization, open to Catholic lay and religious women 18 years of age or older, supports Covenant House, which provides shelter and services to homeless and runaway youths; Support Our Aging Religious, a national agency that helps religious orders meet retirement needs; Holy Cross Family Ministries; the U.S. bishops' Apostleship of the Seas; Teachers of Exceptional Children in conjunction with the National Catholic Educational Association; Morality in Media; Catholic Relief Services; and Habitat for Humanity.

It also provides scholarships and support for seminarians.

The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the national program for girls ages 6-18, was founded in 1925.

Court St. Mary, Mother of God will be having a luau and auction as a fundraiser in late August, but Beauchemin was looking forward to the court's first official charitable work, a local Habitat for Humanity project that was held June 31.

"We're providing lunch for the workers and homeowners," she said. "We got the call and we responded. It's all falling into place."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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YOUTH REVOLUTION

COURTESY PHOTO

Teens from St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem ride on the bus to the "Rise Up: A Catholic Revolution" high school youth conference in Steubenville, Ohio, June 25-27.

# Teens 'rise up' at conference

WINSTON-SALEM — The Life Teen youth ministry from St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem recently participated in "Rise Up: A Catholic Revolution," the high school youth conference held June 25-27 on the campus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

Fifty teens and adults from St. Leo the Great Church were among 2,300 participants from the United States and Canada who experienced speakers, music and skits. Their weekend was highlighted with a procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

A growing number of participants from St. Leo the Great Church have been attending the Steubenville conferences for six consecutive years. The teens say they come back home on fire for their love of God and ready to live their faith every day.

# Youth help Jamaican poor

JAMAICA, *from page 1*

ing to do, had yet to experience this wonderful opportunity to reach out to others in need," said Brynne Beal, youth group member. "However, many of the boys that went in years past have continued to attend this trip every year, fund raising and saving their money in order to go."

The group spent the week living at a Franciscan Sisters of Allegheny convent while working during the day with the Missionaries of the Poor, an international monastic order of brothers started in 1981 by Father Richard Ho Lung.

The group worked in teams at four of the five centers run by the brothers; the shelters were mainly for homeless men, women and children, while one was for the homeless and AIDS patients and children.

"We had a chance to see them all, and spend time where we felt most called," said Brynne.

The days began with a Mass celebrated by Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

"For me, the highlight of the day was Mass and receiving the grace necessary to fulfill what was asked of us throughout the day," said Chris Beal, parish youth minister.

Brynne said her first day at Bethlehem House was overwhelming.

"As we walked in the door children surrounded us. They were longing for attention and glowing from ear to ear, extremely happy to see us," she said. "...Seeing the children brought a tear to my eye. They embraced us and even called some of us women 'mommy.'"

Teams reported similar experiences at all the shelters.

"Everyone wanted to play a game with you, hold your hand and talk to you," said Brynne. "... You wanted to be there with all of the people doing whatever they needed."

Needed tasks at the centers included bathing, clothing, diapering, feeding, applying lotion, clipping nails and dressing wounds.

"You end up doing things you never imagined you could or would do," said Brynne. "It is a lot of hard work that cannot be accomplished without prayer."

"One of the brothers told me, 'In whatever you do, remember that you are doing it for Jesus, and do it to the best of your ability,'" said Brynne. "This stuck with me and it was in the back of my mind the whole trip."

Each night, group members would share the day's events and how they saw Christ in the people and each other.

"I found out many things about myself. I went to Jamaica on a mission trip to help others, but in reality I was the one that was helped," said Brynne.

"I was humbled by my experience," she said.

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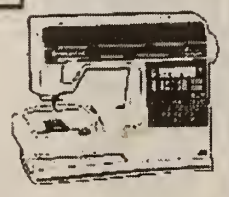

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FIGHTING FOR LIFE

# Rachel's Vineyard leaders attend conference

*Post-abortion ministry help healing process*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Helping women who have had abortions receive forgiveness and healing is an important ministry in the fight for life.

Approximately 100 people from the United States, including the Diocese of Charlotte; Ireland; and Canada spent five days in June receiving in-depth training, learning how to minister to women and men who have been affected by abortion and how to continue the fight for the unborn.

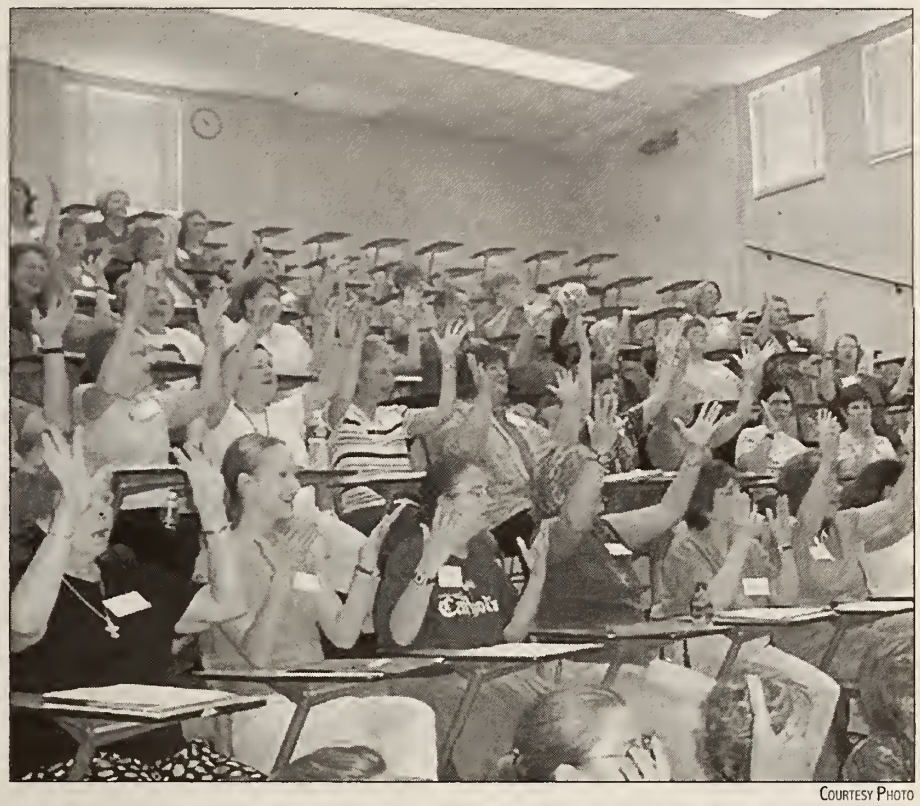
The Rachel's Vineyard-Rachel Network Leaders in Ministry Conference was co-sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life Office and Rachel Network and took place at Greensboro College June 20-25. The event provided training sessions for pastors, lay ministers, Christian counselors, pregnancy care center volunteers and peer counselors involved in respect life ministries.

"The conference was primarily designed to help leaders of post-abortion ministries be better leaders," said Dr. Martha Shuping, a volunteer with Rachel's Vineyard and a member of its board of directors. "It also helped post-abortive women be better equipped to speak publicly about their abortion if they want to."

Five simultaneous tracks offered specialized training for various ministries: those new to post-abortion ministry or to Rachel's Vineyard; therapists and other clinicians; those wanting training in team development; those wanting to learn how to speak to groups, write a press release or conduct a press conference; and childbirth educators, doulas and nurses.

Key topics discussed at the conference included abortion and post-traumatic stress disorder; men and abortion; the effects of trauma; the "disenfranchised grief" of abortion; forgiveness; after-care resources; "telling your story"; and managing the media.

"There are so many, both men and women, suffering from the emotional, spiritual and physical damage caused by abortion," said Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life director. "Rachel's Vineyard is a beginning in the journey to forgiveness and healing."



COURTESY PHOTO

**Participants use sign language to sing during a worship and praise session at the International Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference at Greensboro College in June.**

"People often do not realize that men are affected by abortion as well as women," Shuping said. For that reason, a workshop was presented by two men who shared their stories about their involvement in abortion.

Rachel Network is a ministry set up to provide a range of post-abortion services. Rachel's Vineyard retreats are centered around Scriptural meditations, called "Living Scriptures," during which people listen to a passage of Scripture, imagine themselves in that story and then are directed to the healing it represents.

"As people of faith, we are fortunate to be able to turn to a loving God, who calls us to healing," said Nadol.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*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# Bishops warn politicians who consistently back legal abortion

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good," the U.S. Catholic bishops said in a June statement released in Washington.

"Those who formulate the law" are obliged in conscience "to work toward correcting morally defective laws," they said in a 1,000-word statement titled "Catholics in Political Life."

"The killing of an unborn child is always intrinsically evil. ... To make such intrinsically evil actions legal is itself wrong," they said.

Noting that "the question has been raised" whether it is necessary to deny Communion to Catholics in public life who support abortion on demand, the bishops said that "all must examine their consciences" about their worthiness to receive Communion, including with regard to "fidelity to the moral teaching of the church in personal and public life."

They added that "given the wide range of circumstances involved in arriving at a prudential judgment" in that matter, the bishops "recognize that such decisions rest with the individual bishop in accord with established canonical and pastoral principles."

"Bishops can legitimately make different judgments on the most prudent course of pastoral action" in confronting individual cases, they said, but the bishops share an "unequivocal commitment to protect human life and dignity."

They urged Catholics in public life to oppose legal abortion "lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil" — which in Catholic teaching is itself sinful.

The statement said respect for the Eucharist "demands that it be received worthily and that it be seen as the source for our common mission in the world."

They cited the First Letter to the Corinthians, in which St. Paul warns that "whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord."

**WANT MORE INFO?**

"Catholics in Political Life" can be found on the USCCB Web site at http://www.usccb.org/bishops/catholicsinpoliticallife.htm.

# 'Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion'

As bishops, we have the obligation to teach and guide the Catholic Faithful whom we shepherd in the Body of Christ. A fundamental teaching of our Church is respect for the sacred gift of life. This teaching flows from the Natural Law and from Divine Revelation.

Life is a gift bestowed upon us by God, a truth underscored by the commandment: "You shall not kill" (Deut 5: 17). The Old Testament also teaches us that human life in the womb is precious to God: "...I formed you in the womb..." (Jer 1: 5). The right to life is a value "which no individual, no majority and no State can ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote" (Pope John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, 71a).

A law, therefore, which legitimizes the direct killing of innocent human beings through abortion is intrinsically unjust, since it is directly opposed to the natural law, to God's revealed commandments, and to the consequent right of every individual to possess life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

Catholics in political life have the responsibility to exemplify in their public service this teaching of the Church, and to work for the protection of all innocent life. There can be no contradiction between the values bestowed by Baptism and the Catholic Faith, and the public expression of those values. Catholic public officials who consistently support abortion on demand are cooperating with evil in a public manner. By supporting pro-abortion legislation they participate in manifest grave sin, a condition which excludes them from admission to Holy Communion as long as they persist in the pro-abortion stance (cf. Canon 915).

Holy Communion is where Catholics meet as a family in Christ, united by a common faith. Every Catholic is responsible for being properly prepared for this profound union with Christ. Participation in Holy Communion requires certain dispositions on the part of the communicant, namely, perseverance in the life of grace, and communion in the faith of the Church, in the sacraments, and in the hierarchical order of the Church (Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 35-38).

The Church also recognizes that there is a manifest lack of a proper disposition for Holy Communion in those whose outward conduct is "seriously, clearly, and steadfastly contrary" to the Church's moral teaching (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 37b). A manifest lack of proper disposition for Holy Communion is found to be present in those who consistently support pro-abortion legislation. Because support for pro-abortion legislation is gravely sinful, such persons should not be admitted to Holy Communion.

We also take this opportunity to address all Catholics whose beliefs and conduct do not correspond to the Gospel and to Church teaching. To receive the great gift of God — the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ — we must approach Holy Communion free from mortal sin. Those who are conscious of being in a state of grave sin should avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to Holy Communion. To partake of the Eucharist is to partake of Christ Himself, and to enter into sacramental communion with our Lord we must all be properly disposed.

Because of the influence that Catholics in public life have on the conduct of our daily lives and on the formation of our nation's future, we declare that Catholics serving in public life espousing positions contrary to the teaching of the Church on the sanctity and inviolability of human life, especially those running for or elected to public office, are not to be admitted to Holy Communion in any Catholic church within our jurisdictions: the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the Dioceses of Charleston and Charlotte. Only after reconciliation with the Church has occurred, with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop, and public disavowal of former support for procured abortion, will the individual be permitted to approach the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

We undertake this action to safeguard the sacred dignity of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, to reassure the faithful, and to save sinners.

+ John F. Donoghue

Most Reverend John F. Donoghue
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# 'Faithful Citizenship' to guide platforms

## *Statement prompts how basic values should shape political choices*

FAITHFUL, *from page 1*

cal letters to party leaders.

The letters were addressed to Bill Harris, convention chairman and CEO for the Republican National Committee, and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., who chairs the platform drafting committee for the Democratic National Committee.

Msgr. Fay said the church teachings summarized in "Faithful Citizenship" are "rooted in a commitment to defend the life and dignity of every human being and to further the common good."

"We believe they can inform the choices of all people who share our commitment to justice and peace in our nation and world," he added. "We ask that you review the statement, including the final section which focuses on specific issues, and take these ideas into consideration as you carry out your work."

The 8,500-word document, designed to offer a blueprint for electoral decisions based on Catholic social teaching, calls on American Catholics to "participate now and in the future in the debates and choices over the values, vision and leaders that will guide our nation."

A similar document has been issued before every presidential election for the last 28 years.

In his letter, Msgr. Fay said "hundreds of thousands of copies" of "Faithful Citizenship" have been distributed in Catholic parishes and organizations and downloaded from the USCCB Web site since last fall.

"Through the introduction of 'Faithful Citizenship' in classrooms, workshops and other events across the country, we are prompting Catholics and non-Catholics alike to contemplate how basic values should shape political choices," he added.

***Reflecting values***

In the document, approved unanimously by the 47-member Administrative Committee, the bishops said the U.S. Catholic Church must be "engaged but not used."

"We welcome dialogue with political leaders and candidates, seeking to engage and persuade public officials," they said. "But we must be sure that events and 'photo ops' are not substitutes for work on policies that reflect our values."

The Administrative Committee — made up of the executive officers of the USCCB, elected committee chairmen and elected regional representatives — is the highest policy- and decision-making body of the bishops apart from the entire body when it meets twice a year in general assembly.

Much of the document is devoted to a discussion of issues that church leaders would like to see taken up in the presidential campaigns.

"As bishops, we do not wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates," it said. "We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on a full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy and performance."

The document described "a consistent ethic of life" as the "moral framework" from which Catholic voters should address all issues in the political arena. It quoted extensively from the "Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life," issued in January 2003 by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"For Catholics, the defense of human life and dignity is not a narrow cause, but a way of life and a framework for action," the bishops said. "As Catholics, we need to share our values, raise our voices and use our votes to shape a society that protects human life, promotes family life, pursues social justice and practices solidarity. These efforts can strengthen our nation and renew our church."

***Table of life***

The bishops asked Catholics to look at the political arena in light of the question: "Who has a place at the table of life?"

"Where is the place at the table for a million of our nation's children who are destroyed every year before they are born?" they asked. "How can we secure a place at the table for the hungry and those who lack health care in our own land and around the world? Where is the place at the table for those in our world who lack the freedom to practice their faith or stand up for what they believe?"

The document reviewed Catholic social teaching on a wide range of topics — abortion and assisted suicide, same-sex marriages and school vouchers, affordable housing and foreign aid, workers' rights and the Middle East.

The bishops said some Catholics, looking at the array of issues, "may feel politically homeless, sensing that no political party and too few candidates share a consistent concern for human life and dignity."

"However, this is not a time for retreat or discouragement," they said. "We need more, not less, engagement in political life. We urge Catholics to become more involved — by running for office; by working within political parties; by contributing money or time to campaigns; and by joining diocesan legislative networks, community organizations and other efforts to apply Catholic principles in the public square."

**WANT MORE INFO?**

To read the entire statement, and for more information on "Faithful Citizenship," visit the USCCB Web site at http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/index.htm.


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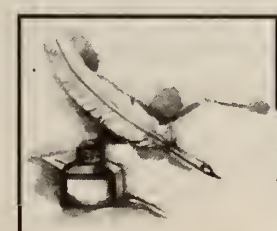

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Poetry as a way to prayer

REVIEWED BY
JEFF JOHNSON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Contemporary poetry is a form of prayer in these two recent books from St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Poetry offers "a way to hope in violent times," writes Peggy Rosenthal in "Praying Through Poetry: Hope for Violent Times."

Rosenthal, a Catholic convert who holds a doctorate in English literature, offers a method of poetry-based prayer developed in response to the violent terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Her four-step method is modeled on "lectio divina," an ancient method for reading and meditating on Scripture.

Rosenthal's prayer method consists

of four movements.

Upon first reading the poem, she asks, "How does the poem lead me to hope?" Next, she enters into a more reflective mode by suggesting "And so I might pray —." Third, she moves to the invitation: "And, finally, I might ponder —." The fourth step brings Rosenthal back to the original poem as she looks for images or phrases that offer themselves up for contemplative reflection.

By way of 10 example poems, Rosenthal demonstrates her prayer method. Rosenthal provides the full text of poems by Daniel Berrigan, Scott Cairns, Denise Levertov, Jane Hirshfield, Yehuda Amichai and others. She gives an account of her own interior, spiritual reactions to each poem, followed by explanations of where these poems "took" her spiritually and literarily.

Rosenthal's method for meditation on poetry could be very useful for individuals or groups who seek new ways of praying. While I know that response to poetry is highly subjective, I felt that her examples were not as helpful as they could have been.

Her choice of poems is also disappointing. Rather than selecting poetry for quality, she opted to let content and subject take precedence.

Meanwhile, Franciscan Father Murray Bodo's collection, "The Earth Moves at Midnight and Other Poems," provides a generous sampling of accomplished poetry in the tradition of some of America's best confessional poets. The poems, written over the past 20 years, are dedicated to Denise Levertov and show her influence in both style and subject.

The poems are chiefly about loss and the experiences of faith, change and growth. Father Bodo primarily uses free verse as he directly engages nature and his childhood home of New Mexico. The strongest poems in the collection are those speaking of loss — deeply interior, lyrical elegies.

Combined with Rosenthal's prayer method, Father Bodo's poems would serve well those who grieve loss and are looking for a way to develop their prayer. Father Bodo's treatment of his deeply personal experiences of faith and loss, although at times a bit wordy, are never sugarcoated.

There are plenty of good poems out there that would work well with Rosenthal's method. Poems that ably offer transformative visions stand ready to clear or, better yet, till the interior ground, leaving it open for prayer.

Begin with Seamus Heaney's "Glanmore Sonnets," whose opening line best explains how poetry can lead to prayer: "Vowels ploughed into other: opened ground."

*Johnson is a Jesuit scholastic and a graduate student in English at Fordham University in New York.*

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 15, 2004

## *Aug. 15, The Assumption of the Virgin Mary*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab
Psalm 45:10bc, 11-12ab, 16
2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-27
3) Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

### Mary's assumption gives hope in Christ's victory over death

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When picking a girl for the coveted role of Mary in my childhood parish's annual re-enactment of the Christmas story, the director instinctively ruled out talkers, the brash girls, the challengers of the status quo. She wanted a placid girl who knew how to be silent.

The incompleteness of this image of Mary, reinforced through centuries of artistic representations, is evident in Sunday's Gospel for the Feast of the Assumption.

The feast honors Mary's unique role in human salvation, and it glorifies the fidelity and saving power of God which freed her "from the corruption of the tomb" so that "when the course of her earthly life was finished, [she] was taken up, body and soul, into the glory of heaven" (Pius XII, "Munificentissimus Deus," 1950).

The doctrine of Mary's assumption gives us hope in Christ's absolute victory over death through resurrection and the promise of an entirely transformed way of living, not only in the spiritual dimension of our lives, but in our totality — "body and soul."

It is noteworthy that the church chooses for this feast a passage stressing not only Mary's humble receptivity, but her triumph and victory over injustice as well: the mighty cast down, the lowly lifted up; the rich sent away empty, the poor gathered in and fed.

Some might call such language an example of "class warfare." Catholic tradition recognizes it as the truth, the "good news" about God's priorities, about faithfulness to his promises of mercy.

It is a topsy-turvy world Mary proclaims here, and it reflects powerfully the revolutionary hope of Christ's Gospel and the kingdom of God which his coming inaugurates. There, not only do the blind see and the deaf hear and the imprisoned walk free, but death itself becomes a pathway to life for the whole person, body and soul.

***Questions:***
In which aspects of your life do you relate to the poor, the humble, the downtrodden? In which do you relate to the rich, the privileged, the proud?

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8 - AUGUST 14**

**Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 12:32-48; **Monday (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross),** Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday (St. Lawrence),** 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Wednesday (St. Clare),** Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22, Matthew 18:15-20; **Thursday,** Ezekiel 12:1-2, Matthew 18:21—19:1; **Friday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus),** Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday (St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe),** Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32, Matthew 19:13-15

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15 - AUGUST 21**

**Sunday (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; **Monday (St. Stephen of Hungary),** Ezekiel 24:15-24, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday,** Ezekiel 28:1-10, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (St. Jane Frances de Chantal),** Ezekiel 34:1-11, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (St. John Eudes),** Ezekiel 36:23-28, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Bernard),** Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday (St. Pius X),** Ezekiel 43:1-7, Matthew 23:1-12

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## A near-perfect 'Candidate'

CNS PHOTO FROM PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Denzel Washington and Meryl Streep star in "The Manchurian Candidate," a pulse-pounding political thriller involving a conspiracy about a soldier running for U.S. vice president. The film is a tautly paced tapestry of spine-tingling suspense that falls short of the 1962 original film's masterpiece status. Several scenes of graphic violence and torture, as well as some crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

# Film industry chief's legacy will be movie ratings system

### *Valenti, a Catholic, to step down in September*

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — If anything, Jack Valenti will be remembered as the man behind movie ratings.

Valenti, a Catholic, is stepping down Sept. 1 as head of the Motion Picture Association of America after spending 38 years at the helm of a fractious industry that has survived not only occasional congressional and consumer revolts over content and regulation, but plenty of infighting from its member studios.

The ratings took shape in 1968.

The concept of ratings, Valenti said, was "to put the authority of which kid goes to which movie in the hands of parents, and not anyone else, because parents are responsible for the behavior of their children, not the government. I think the school and the church have a lot to do with that, but in the end parents make that decision."

Valenti, 82, managed to get virtually all Hollywood studios to voluntarily submit their films for ratings, and to get the National Association of Theater Owners to enforce the system's guidelines and keep children from seeing certain movies unaccompanied by adults or from seeing them at all.

One of the people Valenti consulted in constructing the ratings system was Father Patrick J. Sullivan, head of the old National Catholic Film Office (now known as the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops). The film office, like its successor, evaluated movies in terms of their moral suitability, a role first taken on by the Legion of Decency.

The Legion of Decency may best be known by its "C" rating, which stood for "condemned."

"When I was a small boy growing up Catholic and going to Mass in Houston," Valenti said, "I have to tell you that when the priest said a certain picture was condemned, that made me want to see it."

Valenti said the indispensable need of the rating system is to have integrity.

"I have no problem with a misjudgment where people think we gave a film the wrong rating," he said. "But I want no mistakes to come from malfeasance or pressure or something that has a nefarious ring to it."

A recent study by the Harvard University School of Public Health, which examined 1,906 movies between 1992 and 2003, criticized "ratings creep," the phenomenon whereby more violent and sexual content and racier dialogue are getting into more leniently rated films.

Valenti said he hadn't seen the methodology behind the study.

"Has the society changed in the past 15 to 20 years? I think it has," he said. "I think that you're seeing things on television today that 15 or 20 years ago you didn't see. I don't know whether that's good or bad. All I know is that it's change, and I don't fight change. I try to live with it and adjust to it."

The USCCB has been joined by several other organizations in issuing their own ratings based on a movie's content and quality.

"I have no problem with that," Valenti said. "I always say find out all you can about a movie from anybody else. Expand your knowledge of movies."

Valenti, who got a job at age 15 at a theater in Houston doing a little bit of everything, noted that at movies, "I eat popcorn. I'm like Pavlov's dog. I salivate every time I go into a movie theater. I need popcorn."


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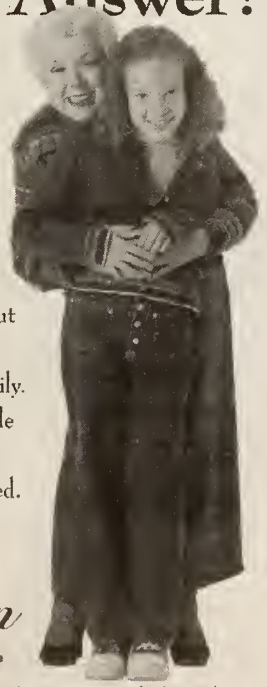

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# Vatican: Battle of sexes not part of God's design

BATTLE, *from page 1*

cause of women by seeing men as enemies to be defeated or by claiming that no real difference exists between male and female have had "lethal effects," particularly on the family, the congregation said.

The congregation's "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World" was released July 31.

Rather than compete for power or ignore the God-given differences between men and women, "the church, enlightened by faith in Jesus Christ, speaks instead of active collaboration between the sexes," said the document, approved by Pope John Paul II.

In the United States the same day, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, called the letter "a timely reminder of both the equality of men and women and also of the distinctive difference between them with which God endowed them in creation."

Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who heads the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, said that "too often in our contemporary society the differences between men and women are minimized in the apparent belief the sexes must be the same to be equal."

He said an "us versus them" attitude and an emphasis on the individual and individual rights above all else also are addressed by the letter.

Cardinal McCarrick said the letter reminds the world that "God created men and women as equals, not to oppose each other, but to collaborate and work together in mutual respect for the good of each other and of society."

Only by embracing, valuing and respecting the differences between men and women "do we have the humanity that is in the 'image of God,'" he said.

"It is through respect for and collaboration with each other that we can best develop social policies to eliminate sexual discrimination, support the gifts of all people and, in particular, support women who, as the givers of life, are so often caught trying to successfully balance family and work," the cardinal said.

Collaboration is needed in the world, particularly in formulating political and social policies to help the poor and advance the cause of peace, the document said.

The church, too, needs collaboration in order to bring "feminine values" of listening, faithfulness, humility, understanding and caring more to the forefront, it said.

While reaffirming church teaching that only men can be ordained priests, the doctrinal congregation said the role of women in the church is not "a passivity inspired by an outdated conception of femininity."

The Blessed Virgin Mary, held up in the document as an example of discipleship for all Christians, is a model of the proper power of femininity, it said.

The document said attempts to convince people that differences between men and women are simply cultural have inspired ideologies "which, for example, call into question the family in its natural two-parent structure of mother and father."

The affirmation that differences are only social constructs also "make homosexuality and heterosexuality virtually equivalent in a new model of polymorphous sexuality," it said.

The doctrinal congregation also said that although potential motherhood is a key part of a woman's identity "this does not mean that women should be considered from the sole perspective of physical procreation," an attitude which often is "accompanied by dangerous disrespect for women."

By upholding the vocation of virginity, it said, Christianity "refutes any attempt to enclose women in mere biological destiny."

**WANT MORE INFO?**

The document can be found on the Vatican's Web site at: http://www.vatican.va

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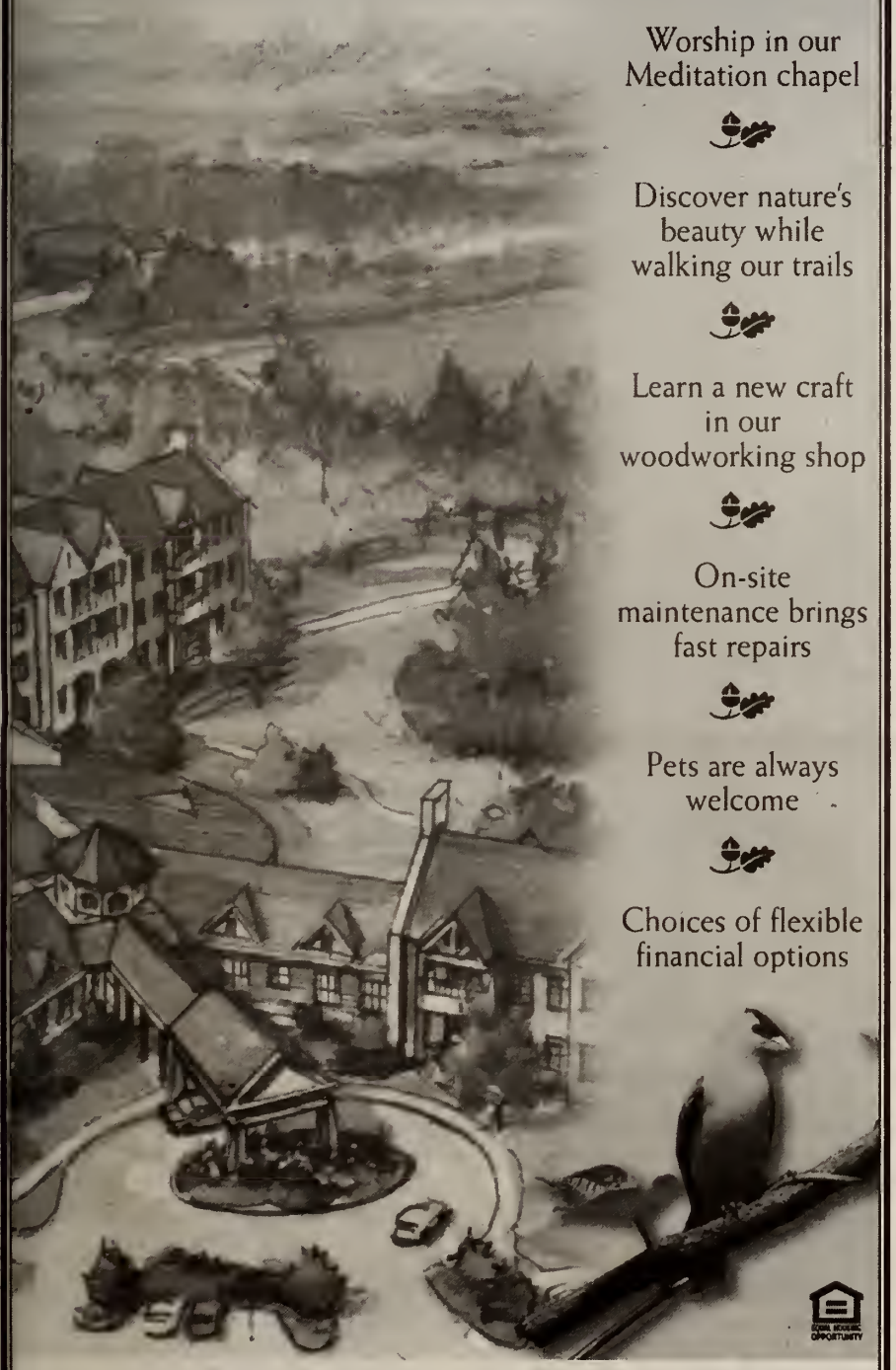

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# Breaking new ground

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Michael J. Buttner, pastor (center right), and Father Adrian Porras, former parochial vicar (center left), break ground for the new Holy Family Church in Clemmons June 5. Joining the priests in manning the shovels were Rev. Mr. Jerry Schumacher; Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, diocesan property manager; Bill Lawler and Ray Miller representing the Capital Campaign committee; and Jerry Long, chairman of the Building Committee.

Father Buttner and Father Porras concelebrated a Mass of thanksgiving to celebrate the progress towards the new church prior to the groundbreaking. The Knights of Columbus led a procession at the beginning of the Mass; escorted the offertory gifts to the altar, including a gold shovel and a hardhat; and led the procession out to the site of the new building for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Parishioners of Holy Family Church brought small, decorated stones that will become the part of the building's foundation under the altar in the completed church.


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# A call to prison ministry?

## Guest Column

REV. MR. JIM JOHNSON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Why would we go to visit someone in jail or prison — a criminal, a person who broke the law and deserves whatever punishment the court gives them? What if we caught something from one of them? What if they tried to hurt us, hold us hostage or, heaven forbid, tried to rob us? You know how "they" are.

We are too busy doing God's work to be bothered with "them." Let someone else do it. After all, they have chaplains that are paid to take care of them. We don't know what to say to one of them. We hear that some of them cannot speak English.

Do any of these thoughts come into your mind when you are asked to visit or minister to someone in prison? Matthew tells us what Jesus expects from us: "I was in prison and you visited me. Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me."

We cannot all be actively involved in prison ministry. For many, our schedules do not allow us to take on additional ministries. Many people have indicated that they would go to a prison if needed but not regularly. This would definitely fill a need that occurs from time to time and can make a difference in someone's life.

My prison ministry began more than 16 years ago at the request of a brother deacon, Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan. He asked me to visit the son of a fellow parishioner who was in the youth prison in Morganton. This young man was a joy to visit each week. Both of us looked forward to the visit.

I did not catch anything from him and he did not rob me. I did not solve any of his problems, but I did a lot of listening. I think that the most important thing I did was just be present for him. The person I was when visiting the young man was not me but Jesus ministering through me.

I have learned things through the years at the prison. I have learned that each inmate is a unique person; all are on faith journeys, are at different points in their lives and have different needs. Some are satisfied having a visit once a month; some would like a Bible and a rosary and know that if they wanted a visit, someone would come. Some would like to be baptized and/or confirmed, while others would like a visit from a priest.

In some inmates, I have planted seeds; in others, I have watered and nourished seeds that were planted by others; and in some, I have been there for the harvest. I think it is not so important, although it is very satisfying, to be a harvester. I think that more of us are seed planters and waterers.

In our work, many young inmates, 14–18 years of age, seem to just want someone to give them some attention and show some concern. This is something that many of the young men have never had in their lives.

In this ministry, I have been fortunate to have the support and encouragement of Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton. There are several volunteers from the parish who teach Bible studies and share their faith with prisoners. In addition, Hispanic volunteers minister to the Spanish-speaking inmates by offering a weekly Bible study for them.

The chaplain at the prison has become a good friend and is very cooperative and supportive in our Catholic ministry at the prison. And last, but not least, we have the blessing, support and prayers of our bishop.

*Rev. Mr. Johnson is the permanent deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.*

# Pope, at audience, adapts to relaxed pace of August in Italy

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — Pope John Paul II welcomed an estimated 3,500 visitors to the courtyard of his summer residence, hosting a shortened, almost intimate version of his weekly general audience.

For the Aug. 4 audience, the courtyard of the villa at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, was packed. While the pope continued his series of talks about psalms and canticles used in the church's evening prayer, the Vatican decided to shorten the gathering by skipping the usual summaries of the pope's talk in French, English, German, Spanish and Polish.

In his audience talk, Pope John Paul offered a meditation on a canticle from the Letter to the Philippians about Jesus, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness."

The pope told his guests that the canticle shines a light on the Christian understanding of who Jesus is: He is "recognized and proclaimed our brother in humanity, but also Lord of the universe."

While he truly was God, the pope said, Jesus "stripped himself and almost emptied himself of that glory," becoming "similar to human beings and going so far as to assume that sign of limitedness and finiteness which is death."

But through his cross and resurrection, Jesus ascended "from humiliation to exaltation," offering all human beings a chance to be saved, the pope said.

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

# Letters to the Editor

## Hardball would better benefit harvesters

Regarding the "Harvesters of sorrow" story (July 23), rather than telling about what a great ministry the church has for the migrants, would it not have been more productive to expose those responsible for the "horrid" conditions?

— John O'Malley
Pisgah Forest

*Editor's note: We shared the details of "Harvesters of sorrow" with other newspapers in the region and encouraged them to pursue this worthy story.*

## History won't be kind

David Hains' guest column ("Church scrutiny leads fight against abuse," July 23) seeks to compare the February release of the John Jay study detailing sexual abuse in the Catholic Church with a June study on sexual misconduct by educators.

Hains says the church's acknowledgement of this "serious social problem" will be remembered more than that of subsequent institutions because the church was "first to be so forthcoming about this problem." And he says, "As Catholics, we can be proud of the fact that our church led the way in identifying and removing a serious problem that affects defenseless children."

Indeed, the church will be remembered more — not because it was first but because it was supposed to be better.

In this sorry scandal, Mr. Hains there is absolutely nothing of which our church can be proud.

— Joan Lail
Hickory

## War in Iraq not justified

In regard to Father Frank Pavone's column ("Abortion vs. War," July 9), I do agree that every abortion does in fact target innocent life and is always morally unacceptable. However, I cannot agree with him on the point that it is "OK for someone else to come to the conclusion that the war (in Iraq) is justified."

Faithful Catholics need to look no farther than the Catholic Church's teachings on just war to see "the Church has raised serious moral concerns and questions about preemptive or preventative use of force" (pg. 19 of "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," by the USCCB).

I would urge every person in our community to read No. 2309 in our Catholic Catechism to plainly see that the rigorous conditions for moral legitimacy have not been met.

— Linda Flynn
Charlotte

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

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# The vineyard of the church

## *Rachel's Vineyard offers Christ's healing power for abortion*

**Guest Column**

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

"I cannot think of another work of this kind so well done," Father Benedict Groeschel has written of Rachel's Vineyard. "A most difficult and painful human problem is engaged with faith, psychological insight and trust."

Having been involved for years in these retreats for people wounded by abortion, I could not agree more with the above assessment. That is why I was so pleased when Theresa and Kevin Burke, the founders of Rachel's Vineyard, approached me at the end of last year with the request that this retreat program become a ministry of Priests for Life.

As such, it is now becoming even better known by the priests of the nation and provides yet another way for them to extend the healing power of Christ through the sacrament of reconciliation, through counseling and through preaching. Moreover, the Rachel's Vineyard retreat can also be conducted in an ecumenical format, allowing Christians of all denominations to take part in a way that is consistent with their own background.

Rachel's' Vineyard is a weekend retreat experience for women and men who have lost children through abortion. With the assistance of counselors and clergy, they explore the emotional and spiritual pain of their abortion in the presence of the Lord and in a confidential and supportive atmosphere.

Because the wound of abortion is compounded by its secrecy and in fact consists of a destructive isolation of the individual, the person on the retreat finds a new freedom by sharing his or her pain with the others on the retreat, who have all had similar experiences, and benefits from their understanding, acceptance and additional insight.

One of the most powerful and unique aspects of the retreat is the use of "Living Scriptures." This is essentially a group reflection on various Scriptural events, utilizing a traditional method of meditation on Scripture by which a person imagines him- or herself present at the event and involved in it.

But instead of having this reflection within oneself and only in thought, the group dramatizes it together, again utilizing a very traditional Catholic approach; namely, using signs, symbols and gestures to make spiritual realities more tangible.

A simple example of this is the healing of Bartimaeus in chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel. At Rachel's Vineyard, this passage is read in the presence of all; the priest then goes to each person, along with a team member, who says, "Have courage, he is calling you." The person says, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." The priest then says Jesus' words: "What do you want me to do for you?" The person then makes her request, in his or her own words. The priest bestows an individual blessing.

Thousands of Rachel's Vineyard retreats are taking place around the United States and around the world. Many dioceses have officially adopted this program for their abortion healing ministry. As more and more people come forward, breaking out of their guilt and shame-filled isolation, let us welcome them together to the Vineyard of the Church!

See related story on page 7.
For more information, visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

# Communities of joy

## *Jesus challenges us to accept his gift*

**Spirituality for Today**

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS GUEST COLUMNIST

Since joy is the infallible sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit, creating a community of joy should be the goal of every parish. Every pastor should do his best to foster this atmosphere of joy and emotional comfort, so that his people can worship God joyfully. In the Holy Spirit, we pray with one voice.

Joyful worship is the best way to participate in the life of the Trinity. By sharing in God's Trinitarian life, we become an "Easter people, and Alleluia becomes our song" (St. Augustine).

Second Vatican Council documents teach us that the church is the people of God. It is not primarily an institution or a group of buildings. The church is essentially a community of joy; a community different from all other human groupings because the joy of the Holy Spirit informs and inspires it.

The mystery of the church transcends human life. Two of the three branches of the church are already living joyfully. The members of the church who are in heaven and purgatory lift us up to greater heights.

The church triumphant consists of those who have attained the bliss of heaven, namely, the beatific vision.

The church suffering consists of those in purgatory. This title is a misnomer because those in purgatory have the deep joy of knowing that they are exceedingly close to the beatific vision. They experience God's presence as never before, and are confirmed in grace.

Though they still await the fullness of joy, they know a happiness that they have never known before. St. Thomas Aquinas said that the worst day in purgatory is better than the best day anyone could spend on earth.

We on earth are called the church militant. We know we are saved by the sacrificial death of Jesus, but we are not yet free of the woes of this world. We are still capable of sin. The tensions we experience in trying to combat evil is a constant source of pain, emotional and physical.

Jesus said, "I am the Way." When we follow him, we receive in us a joy that this world cannot give.

The people of joy consist of those in heaven, in purgatory, as well as those on earth who participate in God's life. The church militant must live in a sea of human hatred and violence. Jesus predicted it, "In this world you will have many troubles but cheer up, take heart, for I have overcome the world."

All three parts of the church share in the life of the blessed Trinity, which is a life of intense love and joy. As members of the church militant we do not as yet have the fullness of joy, but by faith we can claim a greater share of it.

Jesus told us that he wants our joy to be full. We must rise to his challenge and accept his gift. And we can do a better job by not trying to go it alone — by forming little cells of joy we can make progress. Prayer groups can find prayers and readings, which lift the spirits.

By forming little communities of joy, we can become carriers of Divine Joy. This is our goal: to choose joy over sorrow because joy is our vocation and our destiny.

# Openly discussing another's wrongdoing

**Question Corner**

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

## *Destroying a person's good name is sinful*

*Q. I'm an old senior, still typing on my manual typewriter, but I am concerned about some "forgivers" who insist on telling others about the persons and deeds that need forgiveness. Twice this has happened recently that the one doing the forgiving tells friends about it, and the offender's reputation is destroyed.*

*Even if you're willing to forgive, isn't it wrong to expose someone's faults? Perhaps the person who has been hurt "feels better" emotionally after talking about the problem, but it still sounds like pure gossip to me. (Illinois)*

A. Your instincts are correct. There is something wrong with a person who feels that willingness to forgive bestows the right to discuss what happened with everyone else.

It is true that forgiving and forgetting are not the same. If someone deliberately injures us or someone we love, it is possibly beyond our power to totally forget. Despite our best intentions, the memory may resurface often, especially if later circumstances create the opportunity for a repeat of the injury.

An essential element of authentic forgiveness, however, is willingness to give up resentment and ill will, to let go of the desire to "get even" and take revenge on the person who has done us wrong. To willfully destroy another's good name is a serious injury and sinful. The fact that the other person has done harm to us doesn't change that.

*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Up to the challenge

## *Youth ministers to receive training resource*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Diocesan youth ministers now have a comprehensive resource to aid them in their ministries.

Promulgated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis in April 2004, "The main purpose of the new 'Youth Ministry Handbook' is to have a resource for every youth minister, whether they are experienced or new to the job," said Peg Ruble, associate director for the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry.

More than three years ago, realizing that the need for such a resource was far-reaching in the diocese, Paul Kotlowski, director for the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, and Ruble set about forming a team of volunteers to compile the resource for all youth ministers in the Diocese of Charlotte.

A team of youth ministers consisting of Marilyn Kravitz, Mary Herr, Steve Bernardi, Marie Martino, Debbie Kovachik, Connie Cupello and Maryann Poli set about to develop the handbook.

Although each volunteer took charge of one section of the book, Ruble said it was a collaborative effort as they critiqued the work-in-progress, everyone adding their own input.

According to Ruble, Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte, also provided valuable editorial support.

After countless hours of writing, discussion and editing by the team of volunteers, the "Youth Ministry Handbook" was completed in Spring 2004.

"In part, what Bishop Jugis promulgated for the Diocese of Charlotte is a ministry formation process which adopts the recently published 'National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers,' approved by the U.S. bishops' Commission on Certification and Accreditation," said Kotlowski.

The national standards were developed by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, the National Association of Lay Ministers and the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership, three organizations which advocate and support Catholic ministry on the national, diocesan and local levels.

The National Federation has developed a code of ethics for youth ministry leaders that outlines the obligations of youth ministers, including their ministerial role, liability, accountability and conduct.

Each parish within the diocese will receive a handbook for use by their youth minister. The book will also be available online on the diocesan Web site and the learning platform Blackboard.com.

The handbook will serve as a learning tool to help youth ministers meet the national standards, Kotlowski said. The handbook may be the first of its kind, in that it contains the competency-based formation.

Kotlowski said the basis of youth ministry training and formation is derived from the Code of Canon Law 231,

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Paul Kotlowski, director for the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, and Peg Ruble, associate director for the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, examine the new "Youth Ministry Handbook."

which states, "Lay persons who devote themselves permanently or temporarily to some special service of the church are obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly and to carry it out conscientiously, zealously and diligently."

"What's exciting about competency-based formation and certification based on nationally approved standards is that it introduces accountability born through evidence as people demonstrate their proficiency and knowledge," said Kotlowski.

"This is the dawn of a brand-new era in the area of ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte and the United States," he said. "We're happy to be a part of this emerging formation process."

"Heretofore, having a degree (in ministry) has been good enough, without demonstrating the ability to assimilate that degree into ministerial practice," said Kotlowski.

What these competency standards call for is a demonstration of skills, not just a diploma, said Ruble.

"Youth ministry is challenging," said Kotlowski. "All too often people are asked to take part in youth ministry with little or no training."

"This is a learner-driven practice that calls people to national standards," said Kotlowski. "Ministers will be able to set their own pace as they work toward achieving the standards."

"I welcomed the opportunity to promulgate the 'Youth Ministry Handbook,'" said Bishop Jugis. "It is a rich resource that addresses three vital areas of ministry to youth: the call to and promotion of holiness; the creation of a safe and secure environment; and the formation of the ministers as persons commissioned to teach the truth in love."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*


# REVIVAL

**"REVIVAL OF THE SPIRIT 2004"**

*Sponsored by*

**African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte**

**To be held at: Our Lady of Consolation Church**
**2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte, NC**

**Thursday, August 12**

*through*

**Sunday, August 15**

**The Revival is an opportunity to publicly worship our God in the spirit of the black church while at the same time breaking down traditional misconceptions of Catholicism by our Protestant brothers and sisters.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

| Thursday, Aug. 12 | Friday, Aug. 13 |
|---|---|
| **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **First Baptist Church West** Charlotte, NC | **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **St. Mark United Methodist Church** Charlotte, NC |
| **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida | **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida |
| **Saturday, Aug. 14** | **Sunday, Aug. 15** |
| **7pm** **Gospel Concert** *Music by:* **Emmanuel Baptist Church** Winston-Salem, NC | **11 am** **Closing worship** *Music by:* **The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir** Charlotte, NC |
| **8pm** **Preaching** **Sr. Patricia Haley, SCN** Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida | *Celebrant and Homilist* **Msgr. Mauricio W. West** **Chancellor and Vicar General** *Diocese of Charlotte* |

**For more information, please call 704-370-3339**

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972 by Pope Paul VI

# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

AUGUST 20, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 40

**Parish Profile Returns**

*St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine*

| PAGE 16

## Feedback, support for bishops' Communion statement

*Statement inspires discussions of church teaching*

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Priests, laity and pro-life advocates throughout the Diocese of Charlotte are applauding Bishop Peter J. Jugis' stance on Catholic teaching and abortion.

The bishop has joined with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston in a statement that Catholic politicians or candidates who persistently support abortion may not be admitted to holy Communion in their dioceses.

See STATEMENT, page 8

## Uncovering faith

CNS Photo by Reuters

Archeologists working west of Jerusalem have discovered a cave that may have been used by St. John the Baptist. The entrance leads to an underground cistern, where pottery shards believed to be remnants of small water jugs used for baptism were discovered. For the full story, see page 7.

REVIVING THE SPIRIT

## Power, love of God affirmed during annual revival

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Above: Gospel music and song filled Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte during the annual "Revival of the Spirit" Aug. 12-15, inspiring many to stand, clap their hands and sing along. Below: Sister Patricia Haley, this year's revivalist, speaks about the power of the Holy Spirit Aug. 12.

### *All are carriers of the divine, says speaker*

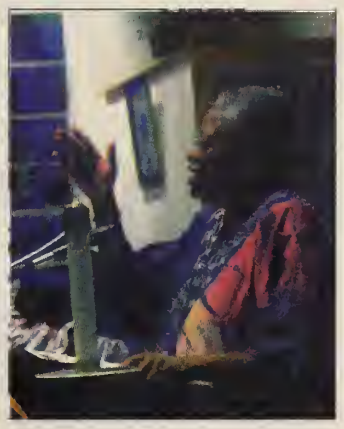
By KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The "breath of life" resonated in the music and people at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"The breath of life — the spirit of God — was breathed into us. We are carriers of God's spirit, carriers of the divine," said Sister Patricia Haley.

The Sister of Charity of Nazareth was the featured speaker at "Revival of the Spirit 2004," the fifth annual revival sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, held at Our Lady of Consolation Church Aug. 12-15.

"It is a time of encouragement and a renewing of our commitment to service," said Sister Haley, coordinator of the Black Catholic Ministries office in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., and a faculty member of that diocese's adult formation program.



See REVIVAL, page 6

*A BANNER YEAR*

## DSA may reach $4 million mark

By KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The 2004 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) will likely raise $4 million by the year's end, according to Barbara Gaddy, associate director of diocesan development.

The goal for the 2004

See DSA, page 4

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**Lighting the Fires of Faith**
*Hundreds brave weather for annual event*
| PAGE 5

**Fighting for Life**
*Pro-life stand doesn't impede religious freedom*
| PAGE 9

**Culture Watch**
*Vatican book; 'Passion' tops Pro-Catholic films*
| PAGES 10-11

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## SYNCHRONIZING IN ATHENS

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Amanda Laird and Leonie Nichols of the Australian synchronized swimming team perform during a training session at the Olympic swimming complex in Athens, Greece, Aug. 8. Pope John Paul II urged that the Olympics be used "to promote peace and understanding among all peoples" during his Sunday Angelus message delivered at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 8.

## Pope says Olympics can show good relations among nations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II invoked God's blessings on Olympic participants and said the international games can show the world that violence does not have to mark relations among different nations.

In an Aug. 11 telegram to President Constantinos Stephanopoulos of Greece, host of the Aug. 13-29 Summer Games, the pope invoked "divine blessings" on everyone participating in or watching the games, including television viewers around the world.

"I hope these games will be an occasion of fraternity between peoples and cultures, because sports are a universal language of human relations," the pope wrote in the telegram released Aug. 12 at the Vatican.

Through international sporting events, he said, people can develop "a familial spirit," which can help "overcome the violence that marks the modern world."

The athletes' Catholic chaplains gathered in Athens' Roman Catholic cathedral Aug. 11 for a concelebrated Mass before the games began.

Archbishop Nikolaos Foscolos of Athens told Vatican Radio Aug. 10 that he hoped that, at least during the games, "all people would feel like brothers and sisters and that throughout the world there would be an armistice as there was during the ancient Olympic Games."

The archbishop said the Olympic Village includes an ecumenical chapel where Orthodox and Catholic priests will celebrate their liturgies each morning and evening and where Anglican and Protestant ministers will offer services.

Separate rooms alongside the Christian prayer space have been set up for Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist athletes, he said.

Msgr. Carlo Mazza, director of the Italian bishops' office for leisure, tourism and sport, traveled to Athens as Italy's official Catholic chaplain.

He carried with him 1,500 copies of a special booklet developed just for Italian Catholic athletes.

The booklet, he told the Catholic newspaper Avvenire, contains a copy of a papal prayer from the 2000 Jubilee for Athletes, the Scripture readings for the last three Sundays of August and five prayers for "spiritual accompaniment."

"Entrusting yourself to God during a sporting competition is both human and spiritual," Msgr. Mazza said. "During all our human adventures and, therefore, even in sports, as God's creatures we entrust ourselves to the Father who created us."

He said even missing a bronze, silver or gold medal could bring spiritual benefits: "It is experiencing our weakness and our need for God."

## San Francisco gay marriages 'misguided,' says archbishop

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — The California Supreme Court said Aug. 12 that the nearly 4,000 same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco earlier in the year were void because the city's mayor lacked statutory authority to approve them.

All seven justices said that in authorizing the city to issue marriage licenses and perform ceremonies, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom violated a 1977 California law that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada in February called the mayor's recognition of gay marriage "misguided."

"To extend the meaning of marriage beyond a union of man and woman, their procreative capacity, and their establishment of family represents a misguided understanding of marriage itself," the archbishop said Feb. 12.

Lawsuits over the constitutionality of same-sex marriages in California are working their way through the state courts.

## Priest, former congressman gets ABA honor

ATLANTA (CNS) — Jesuit Father Robert F. Drinan, a Georgetown University Law Center professor and former Congressman, received the American Bar Association's 2004 ABA Medal, the association's highest honor, Aug. 9.

The medal, which recognizes exceptional distinguished service to the cause of American jurisprudence, has been given since 1929 to some of the most important legal figures in American history, including eight Supreme Court justices.

"In an amazing career that has spanned more than half a century, Father Drinan has never faltered in his extraordinary humanitarian efforts and support for justice under the law," said ABA president Dennis Archer.

A professor at the Georgetown University Law Center since 1981, Father Drinan represented the Fourth District of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1981.

# Diocesan planner

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation will present *"Hearts on Fire,"* a catechist enrichment day, Aug. 28, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. To register, call Pat Tomlinson at (704) 541-8362.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father John Starczewski will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders,* a peer support group for separation and divorce, will host an open house at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Since 1992, Pathfinders has offered support, education and fellowship for anyone experiencing separation and divorce. Please call Nancy Cardo at (704) 752-0318 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — A *Healing Mass for Generational Healing* will be celebrated Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. at Maryfield at Pennybyrn 1315 Greensboro Rd. At this Mass our prayer is to heal the impact that the actions of our ancestors has had upon us for healing of generational predispositions, etc. Alumni of the School of Healing Prayer should review Lesson XII in the workbook. Prepare the family tree and bring to the Mass to put on altar. For more information, call Maryfield at (336) 886-2444.

HIGH POINT — The Evangelization Commission at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will offer *free Spanish classes* Sept. 9-Nov. 11. Classes meet Thursday evenings 7-8 p.m. All materials will be provided. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204.

GREENSBORO — Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry and St. Pius X Church will sponsor *"Pastoral Care Training for the Elderly"* Aug. 28, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. The Pastoral Care Training Program is designed for parish volunteers who provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and the homebound. Through this one-day workshop volunteers will be exposed to the

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Cardinal says Vatican ready to help mediate end to Iraqi standoff

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it was ready to help mediate a solution to a standoff between U.S. troops and Shiite militants in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf.

"If it is asked of us, the pope will very willingly agree to (support) a mediation," whose "aim is for all sides to come round the table to talk," said the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

The Vatican "is always available. The pope would certainly never back away" from helping disputing parties sit down to talks, he said Aug. 15.

Since Aug. 5, U.S. troops backed by Iraqi government forces in Najaf have been locked in intense fighting with militants supporting Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Much of the fighting has centered on the Shiite Imam Ali Shrine, where many of the militants have been hiding; al-Sadr is also believed to be inside the shrine. The Shiite Muslim cleric called for followers to rise up and fight against what he has called the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

The Imam Ali Shrine represents one of the holiest places for Shiite Muslims, who consider Ali the true successor of the prophet Mohammed. For centuries, Shiites have flocked to Najaf and Ali's tomb to pay their respects.

Meanwhile, the U.N.'s special envoy to Iraq also said the United Nations is willing to help negotiate a solution to the fighting in Najaf if all sides agree.

# Pope shares physical weakness of pilgrims while praying at Lourdes

LOURDES, France (CNS) — Sharing the physical weakness of thousands of his fellow pilgrims at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Pope John Paul II prayed for comfort for those who suffer, for the protection of every human life and for peace in the world.

Although fine for most of the Aug. 14-15 pilgrimage, when temperatures tipped toward the 90s, the pope's initial visit of the weekend to the Massabielle grotto, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, was emotional and difficult.

Pushed in his wheeled throne to the grotto and helped to his knees, the pope was able to stay erect for less than a minute. He began to slump over, and his private secretaries came to his assistance, lifting him back into his chair.

In his text read by retired French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the pope said he always has relied on and benefited from the prayer offerings of those who suffer. He asked the sick to join him "in offering to God, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, all the intentions of the church and the world."

During Mass Aug. 15, the pope struggled through his long homily, even gasping "help me" in Polish at one point and muttering, "I must finish." When the pope seemed to run out of breath, the crowd estimated at 250,000 applauded their encouragement.

In his homily, Pope John Paul asked others — especially women — for signs of faith and courage.

"Appearing here, Mary entrusted her message to a young girl, as if to emphasize the special mission of women in our own time, tempted as it is by materialism and secularism: to be in today's society a witness of those essential values which are seen only with the eyes of the heart," he said.

"I appeal urgently to all of you, brothers and sisters, to do everything in your power to ensure that life — each and every life — will be respected from conception to its natural end," he said. "Life is a sacred gift, and no one can presume to be its master."

The pope emphatically repeated the phrase calling on people "to ensure that life — each and every life — be respected."

following concepts: parish ministry, senior sensitivity, confidentiality, compliance and consistency. Register by Aug. 24 by calling Glenn Spivey at (336) 272-4681, ext. 106 or Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

GREENSBORO — All young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s, single or married, are invited to *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics. Theology on Tap is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. Sessions consist of a social hour at 7 p.m. and speakers beginning at 8 p.m., Aug. 24, 31 and Sept. 7 at Anton's Restaurant, 1628 Battleground Ave. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — *Bring a Friend to Mass!* Do you have friends that ask you questions about the Catholic Church or know someone who used to attend? Invite them to Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. Reception following in Helfrich Hall.

SALISBURY — What is the meaning of life? What happens when we die? Why does God allow suffering? Are you searching for answers to the questions of life? Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., is sponsoring ALPHA course beginning Aug. 25. Contact Lee and Peggy Fisher (704) 633-3594 or Gary and Ricki Mancil (704) 279-9126 for more information.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

MURPHY — Father Paul Vuturo will lead the 2004 summer mission at St. William Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville Aug. 23-25. The theme of the mission will be *"Parables: Windows into the Kingdom of God."* Services will alternate between the two churches at noon and celebration of Mass in the evening. For more information, contact Howard Platz at (828) 389-0335 or Judy Lott, (828) 835-3359.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Monday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in the DeSales House behind the church. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Aug. 21 — 8 a.m. Mass**
Missionaries of Charity, Charlotte

**Aug. 21 — 6 p.m. Mass**
Dedication of new church
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

**Aug. 22 — 10 a.m. Mass**
St. Helen Church, Spencer Mountain

**Aug. 24 — Presbyteral Council meeting**
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

**Aug. 26 — Foundation for the Diocese of Charlotte meeting**
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

**Aug. 27 — 10 a.m. Mass**
Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Kernersville

**Aug. 28 — 2 p.m. Mass**
Catechist Conference for the Southern Region
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

**Aug. 29 — 10 a.m. Mass**
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

# Tragic embrace

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Angel Sampson, left, hugs her mother-in-law, Helen, after seeing the damage to their mobile home in Windmill Village in Punta Gorda, Fla., Aug. 16. At least 19 people were killed in southwest Florida and thousands left homeless after the storm ripped through the area Aug. 13.

# Fund to assist hurricane recovery efforts

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Charities USA is collecting financial donations to help communities recover from devastation brought on by Hurricane Charley.

Donations will be used to fund local Catholic Charities agencies' emergency and long-term disaster recovery efforts in areas hit by the Category 4 hurricane.

Catholic Charities USA, commissioned by the U.S. bishops to represent the Catholic community in times of domestic disaster, responds with emergency and long-term assistance as needed. Its Disaster Response Office connects the church's social service agencies and disaster planning offices across the nation.

Catholic Charities USA is unable to accept contributions of food, clothing, blankets and other relief supplies. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting financial contributions to the Hurricane Charley disaster relief fund, which will be forwarded to Catholic Charities USA.

To contribute, make checks payable to the Diocese of Charlotte (with Hurricane Charley Disaster Response on memo line) and send to:

Diocese of Charlotte
Hurricane Charley Disaster Response
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, N.C. 28203

# High notes in High Point

Courtesy Photo by Ann Kilkelly

Children play violins during for parents at St. Mary's Episcopal Church's Music Academy in High Point. The performance was the culmination of a three-week summer camp sponsored by St. Mary's and Catholic Social Service's Hispanic Center in High Point July 12-July 31. During the camp, 40 Hispanic children spent two weeks learning academics and social skills, and one week of music instruction on the violin, guitar and piano. Tania Castillero, Hispanic Center director, said the camp will need volunteers next summer; those interested may contact her at (336) 884-5858.

# *Diocesan Support Appeal may reach $4 million mark*

DSA, *from page 1*

DSA campaign was $3,775,000. As of Aug. 16, $3,992,168 had been pledged.

"Being over our goal indicates that more people are embracing stewardship as a way of life beyond their own parish," Gaddy said.

To date, 18,137 people within the Diocese of Charlotte have contributed to the DSA campaign.

Fifty-two parishes and missions have surpassed their goal in pledges. Seventeen more churches have reached at least 90 percent of their goal in pledges and actual contributions.

"A few parishes in the diocese have gone over their goal for the first time in several years," said Gaddy.

According to Gaddy, those parishes that had a layperson coordinating their DSA campaign had "great success" in meeting or surpassing their goal.

"A major advantage to putting a layperson in charge of the campaign is that it frees the pastor to shepherd the parish and focus on the spiritual health of his parishioners," she said.

The DSA provides partial funding for the 36 outreach ministries of the diocese, including multicultural ministry, education, vocations and social services.

"DSA monies have a direct impact on our brothers and sisters in the diocese," said Gaddy. "Good things are happening in the diocese right now because of the DSA — programs like Hearts on Fire catechist training and the Lighting the Fires of Faith educational program."

"Being part of the Catholic Church calls us to look beyond our own personal and parish needs and respond with prayer and generosity to everyone in the diocese," Gaddy said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Lighting the Fires of Faith

## *Hundreds brave weather for annual event*

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

KERNERSVILLE — With the threat of Hurricane Charley looming off the Eastern coastline, nearly 200 faithful and determined catechists still gathered at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School for the 10th annual Lighting the Fires of Faith conference Aug. 14.

"I wanted to be here and the hurricane couldn't stop me," said Faby Solis, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville.

Solis, who teaches fourth- and fifth-grade faith formation students, said she came to the event "to learn more about Jesus so I can teach my children better."

Lighting the Fires of Faith, a bilingual event sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, was designed to bring easy means for obtaining certification and commissioning as required by the Diocese of Charlotte for people serving Catholic youth and children. The event was also open to all interested adults.

"The purpose of the Fires of Faith is two fold," said Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, northern region coordinator of faith formation. "First, it brings us into compliance with the general directive, which says the people should be prepared for their work. Then, we give easy access to those who need courses that are recommended for their certification in faith formation."

The keynote speaker, Oratorian Father David Valtierra of The Oratory in Rock Hill, S.C., said he was impressed by the dedication of the participants who braved the possible hurricane.

"Those who are lifted up in the Spirit are both affirmed and challenged by their life experiences," he said.

During his talk on adult spirituality, Father Valtierra tied life experiences — such as the Olympics, the Easter vigil and the burning bush experienced by Moses — into the effects and symbolism of fire and water.

"Jesus is transparent in all of what we do (and) when we see the light of faith through the eyes of a child," said Father Valtierra.

The Word of God inspires, especially through the sharing of faith and in the central sacramental rituals, he said.

"The Word of God is fuel to fire our faith," he said.

Thus, the catechist, so inspired, lights the fire of faith in those who will carry on the truth after we are gone, he said.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who addressed the participants in both English and Spanish, said they, as Catholics and catechists, were stewards of God's gifts. Catechists are responsible for forming children and their consciences as they become better acquainted with the faith, he said.

"You are assisting the bishop in his duty," he told them.

Bishop Jugis reaffirmed his Aug. 4 statement, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion," which he signed with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston.

"As Catholics, we must speak clearly about good and evil," said Bishop Jugis. "That when distance is placed between public life and teachings of the church ... this is a contradiction."

Bishop Jugis said that his public announcement gives the youth in the diocese a means to learn more about their Catholic faith.

"It is an opportunity to share our teachings and to evangelize," he said.

The event also featured workshops on ecumenism, the sacraments, contemporary moral issues and other topics. Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams conducted a workshop on "The Call to be a Catechist."

"I especially liked the way that Sister Laretta included how we can encourage children when we give classes by incorporating different aspects of the faith, like the Stations of the Cross, while being open to the fact that they may not even know what the Stations are," said Carol Leach, a catechist at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville.

"At the same time she stressed that, as catechists, we cannot go against the magisterium (the teaching authority of the Catholic Church)," she said.

*The Office of Faith Formation is one of 36 ministries that benefits from the Diocesan Support Appeal.*

PHOTOS BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Nearly 200 people participating in the Lighting the Fires of Faith X conference at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Aug. 14.**


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# Reviving the spirit

REVIVAL, *from page 1*

"It's also an opportunity to get rejuvenated to stay in the ministry and give thanks and praise for God's good gifts," she said.

The revival is designed to be reminiscent of the early days of outdoor preaching and is an opportunity to publicly worship in the spirit of the black church, according to Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs Ministry.

"The revival is open to all people, regardless of ethnicity or religious preference, to break down existing misconceptions about the Catholic faith and black Catholic worship," he said.

In addition to three nights of preaching by Sister Haley, the revival featured invigorating gospel music by Our Lady of Consolation Church's Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and choir members from First Baptist Church West in Charlotte and other Protestant churches.

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, was the celebrant and homilist of the closing Mass on Sunday.

Sister Haley said everyone was a divine image of God.

"In the divine image we are made. Precious in God's sight we are," she said.

As such, each and every person has been promised and been given the Holy Spirit. "That spirit will renew your strength," said Sister Haley.

People need the Spirit's strength to endure and be saved, she said.

"The Word enables us to remain strong on this journey we call life. It is by faith that we are able to move so that new graces, blessings and possibilities can happen to us," said Sister Haley. "Every moment in our lives is a new opportunity to be blessed."

Jesus suffered and died for all our sins, she said.

"By the power of the spirit, if we were not worth it, he (Jesus) wouldn't have come," said Sister Haley. "Jesus died for good folks, for our essence is good."

"Christ left us with his spirit, knowing we have the power and authority to live a more Christ-like life," said Rev. Mr. Todd.

Good people sometimes perform actions that are not good, said Sister Haley. "But any behavior less than good is not worthy of God's image."

Because we are endowed with the Spirit, we can reject Satan, who provides choices, said Sister Haley.

"If we sin, it's by choice. God's spirit is better than anything. If we'd listen to that spirit, it would give us the power to tell Satan 'no,'" she said. "There's nothing the devil can offer us that God hasn't already promised us."

A choir member from First Baptist Church West performs during "Revival of the Spirit 2004."

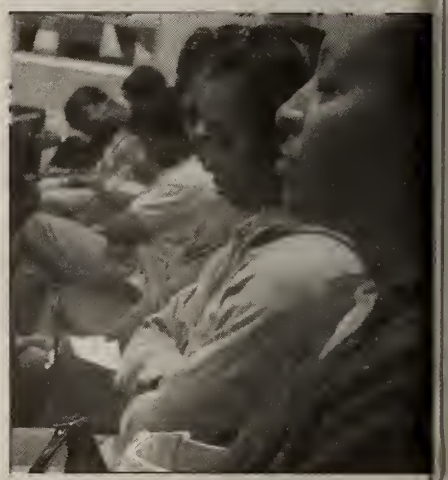
Photos by Kevin E. Murray

**Choir members from First Baptist Church West perform during "Revival of the Spirit 2004" at Our Lady of Consolation Church Aug. 12.**

"In the Bible, the first definition of power is the ability to make change. And we, through the power of the Spirit, can change," said Sister Haley. "No matter what we have done in or with our lives, we can change. Any moment, we can change, and that's the grace."

"You can run this race called life, reach landmark after landmark, moment after moment, from grace to grace," she said. "In this hope is our salvation."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*



Prayer and reflection are part of the annual revival.

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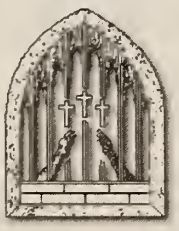

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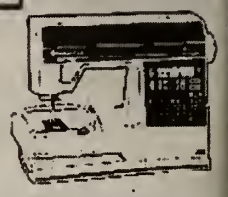

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UNCOVERING FAITH

# Archaeologists say John the Baptist might have used Israeli cave

*Carvings, foot-washing stone constitutes evidence, says expert*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Archaeologists believe a cave they uncovered in the Judean Hills south of Jerusalem may have been the cave used by St. John the Baptist, The Associated Press reported.

Although some scholars dispute the claim, the archaeologists say it is at least the oldest baptismal site yet discovered.

"The site we've uncovered is seemingly the connecting link between Jewish and Christian baptism," British archaeologist Shimon Gibson was quoted as saying in the Israeli Ha'aretz newspaper Aug. 17.

Gibson is the director of the private Jerusalem Archaeological Field Unit and supervises the dig. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte helped sponsor the dig.

Though the cave houses a huge water cistern decorated with Byzantine-era wall carvings that the excavation's archaeologists believe depict John the Baptist and others, some archaeologists say there is no actual proof John the Baptist ever used the cave, said Ha'aretz.

The carvings include the image of what the archaeological dig team says is John the Baptist and a cross-shaped carving, reported Ha'aretz.

Among the findings was an imprint of a foot which archaeologists believe would have contained oil and where early Christians would have placed their right foot for cleansing after descending 28 stone steps, said Ha'aretz.

Gibson told AP that the carvings, the foot-washing stone and other finds, taken together with the proximity of John's home town, constituted strong circumstantial evidence that the cave was used by St. John.

The cave is located some 2.5 miles from Ein Kerem, the traditional birthplace of John the Baptist. The French Catholic monastery of St. John in the Wilderness is also located nearby.

Archaeologists also pulled about 250,000 pottery shards — the apparent remnants of small water jugs used in the baptismal rite — from the cave, AP reported.

Gibson said the cave — 80 feet long, 13 feet wide and 13 feet deep — was originally formed in the Iron Age, somewhere between 800 and 500 B.C., and was apparently first used by the Israelites as an immersion pool.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Archeologists working west of Jerusalem recently unearthed this cave they believe was used by St. John the Baptist. The entrance, shown in this Aug. 16 photo, leads down 28 steps to an underground cistern. Archeologists uncovered about 250,000 pottery shards from the cave, which British archeologist Shimon Gibson, who headed the dig, believes are remnants of small water jugs used for baptism. Wall carvings of a man with a staff and wearing animal skin also point to John the Baptist.**

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— John lived as a hermit in the desert of Judea until about A.D. 27. He began his ministry around age 27, wearing a leather belt and a tunic of camel hair, living off locusts and wild honey, and preaching a message of repentance to the people of Jerusalem. He converted many, and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

— He baptized Christ, after which he stepped away and told his disciples to follow Jesus.

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— Feast day is June 24.

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# Communion statement inspires discussions on church teaching

STATEMENT, *from page 1*

In a joint letter issued Aug. 4, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion," the bishops said that only after the politician's "public disavowal of former support for procured abortion" and "with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop" can the politician be admitted to holy Communion.

"We undertake this action to safeguard the sacred dignity of the most holy sacrament of the altar, to reassure the faithful and to save sinners," they said.

"It's a good teaching moment for the bishops," said Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "It's a very courageous statement because not everyone in the church and the general public will understand it."

As of Aug. 17, the diocesan Pastoral Center had received numerous phone calls and nearly 200 letters and e-mails — 112 in support of the bishops' statement and 81 opposed.

Bishop Jugis said he also has received numerous personal expressions of support from lay people and clergy around the diocese where he has been attending Masses, meetings or other gatherings since the statement's release.

In his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Aug. 7, the bishop said he was grateful for the responses.

"Some people have also reminded me not to forget the other important moral issues — euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, death penalty, preemptive war, health care," said Bishop Jugis. "I assure you the church will continue to speak on all these moral issues, while realizing that not all moral issues have the same moral weight."

"Procured abortion is always intrinsically evil and can never be justified. It is a direct attack on an innocent human life," he said. "The pope wrote in the encyclical on the Gospel of Life in 1995 that today many people have lost a sense of how grave abortion is."

"Because it is accepted in the popular mind, in behavior, and in the law, people are losing the ability to distinguish between good and evil, even on so fundamental an issue as the right to life of the unborn," said the bishop.

**Reception of Communion**

As stated in "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Politics and Reception of Holy Communion," Catholic politicians or candidates who support keeping abortion legal will be admitted to Communion after their "public disavowal of former support for procured abortion" and "with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop."

### *State of grace*

Father Herbert Burke, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City; Father Christopher Davis, pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville; and Father Lawlor reported mostly positive feedback and support from their parishioners regarding the statement.

"A few people didn't understand it. I think they were listening to the secular media or didn't read the statement," said Father Lawlor.

In their letter, the bishops admonished "all Catholics whose beliefs and conduct do not correspond to the Gospel and to church teaching" that they "must approach holy Communion free from mortal sin."

"Those who are conscious of being in a state of grave sin should avail themselves of the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion," they added.

"The statement is not a penalty," explained Father Lawlor. "Communion means a union with Christ. The statement addresses that all Catholics need to be in a state of grace ... free from mortal sin ... prior to receiving Communion."

"Certain people have chosen to be outside of the union," he said, "but the church has reconciliation to help people reconcile with past errors."

"Catholics in political life have the responsibility to exemplify in their public service" the church's teaching against abortion, "and to work for the protection of all innocent life," the bishops' statement said.

"It is the Catholic politician's choice to accept or deny basic Catholic teaching," said Diane Hoefling, Respect Life coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul Church. "Denying the Eucharist is a last resort after attempts to counsel."

Some critics of the statement accused it of being political.

"It's not about politics, it's about church teaching," said Father Burke.

"In the eyes of the world, there's a difference between the killing of a 5-year-old girl and a 5-month-old in the womb," he said. "In the eyes of God, there is no difference. It's our job to take this stand."

"The bishops, as successors of the Apostles, stand up for life as a precious gift from God," said Father Lawlor.

"The problem with the United States is that we are so individually-minded. We don't want people telling us what to do or think," said Father Davis. "This leads to a breakdown of morality in society."

"In a world where we don't see the sand, the bishop's statement draws the line in it. And that's a good thing," he said.

### *Cooperating in evil*

"For over 30 years, pro-abortion Catholic politicians have strongly supported partial-birth abortion, abortion for minors without parental consent, abortion-funding worldwide and, most recently, embryonic stem cell research and human cloning, to name a few of their positions contrary to church moral teaching," said Hoefling.

"As a Catholic pro-life activist, I have witnessed the confusion and discord among Catholics caused by allowing these politicians to continue their anti-life leadership without public reprimand," she said. "I greatly appreciate the courage of Bishop Jugis, Bishop Baker and Archbishop Donoghue who now want this deadly scandal to end."

At their June meeting near Denver, the U.S. bishops approved a statement on Catholics in political life that said politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

In that statement, approved by a 183-6 vote, the bishops said that "all (people) must examine their own consciences" about their worthiness to receive Communion, including with regard to "fidelity to the moral teaching of the church in personal and public life."

But decisions about any sanctions to be imposed rest with each bishop in his own diocese, the statement concluded.

"In the cases of Iraq and the execution of criminals, these are gray areas," said Father Burke. "You can't compare a guilty criminal being executed or the Iraqi war, where you can possibly apply the just-war theory, with the murder of an innocent child. That is always a black-and-white issue and always wrong."

"Because of the bishops' leadership, Catholics are beginning to realize that, while many issues are important, the right to life is the foundational issue making all others conditional," said Hoefling.

"The destruction of human embryos for stem-cell research is also intrinsically evil, as is euthanasia, and can never be justified because all these directly target and destroy innocent human life," said Bishop Jugis.

"The encyclical on the Gospel of Life reminds us: The death penalty may be justified in very limited instances: 'in cases of absolute necessity ... when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society ... (and today) such cases are very rare, if not practically nonexistent (Gospel of Life, 56)," said the bishop. "War also may be justified under certain defined conditions (Catechism, 2309)."

"But procured abortion may never be justified. Euthanasia may never be justified. Destruction of human embryos for stem-cell research may never be justified," said Bishop Jugis. "There is a lot of work for the church to do on many fronts."

"I'm proud of the bishop for taking a stand when so few people are willing to stand up for what's right," said Father Davis. "It says much for the kind of leader he is and the example he wants us to follow."

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

**Want More Info?**

Please see Bishop Jugis' Ask the Bishop column on page 14.

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# Vatican official says pro-life stand doesn't impede religious freedom

PARIS (CNS) — A pro-life stance does not infringe on the freedom of religion; rather, all governments have a duty to protect life from the moment of conception to its natural end, said a top Vatican official.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said protecting human life "is not a position of faith"; it is an obvious fact born from reason. His remarks appeared Aug. 13 in a magazine of the French newspaper *Le Figaro.*

However, anyone opposed to protecting the right to life also would be acting against the Catholic faith, said the cardinal.

"A politician who takes a different position, who does not respect the image of God (in man) and the inviolability of the human person, is also in opposition to the rational elements of faith" and to the "fundamental elements of the Christian conscience," he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger's comments follow an ongoing debate within the Catholic community on whether a priest or bishop should deny Communion to a Catholic politician who supports public policies that stand in opposition to church teachings — particularly on right-to-life issues.

In June, U.S. bishops approved a statement that said politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

They determined that "all must examine their consciences" about their worthiness to receive Communion, including with regard to "fidelity to the moral teaching of the church in public and private life."

The bishops also added that decisions about any sanctions to be imposed, such as denying Communion, rest with each bishop in his own diocese.

Cardinal Ratzinger's congregation published a document in January stating that Catholics must not promote or vote for any laws that would lead to attacks on human life.

The "Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life" said that, while the freedom of conscience leaves Catholics free to choose among political parties and strategies for promoting the common good, they cannot claim that freedom allows them to promote abortion, euthanasia or other attacks on human life.

Cardinal Ratzinger said that document and its teaching do not seek to infringe on political or religious freedom, but favor pluralism.

He added that the church is "convinced that faith is a light for reason" and that the Catholic politician must shed that light in the political realm.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Pope John Paul II smiles at a child after delivering his Sunday Angelus prayer at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 8. The pope greeted five mothers who decided against abortion and their children after the prayer.**

# Pope meets with women who decided against abortion, kept children

CASTEŁ GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met with five women who decided against an abortion and chose to deliver and keep their babies.

Before thousands of pilgrims gathered at his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, the pope gave an "affectionate greeting" to "some mothers who refused an abortion and to their children."

After the pope's Aug. 8 Angelus prayer, the five women and their toddlers were part of the procession of well-wishers who lined up to greet the pope.

The women — two from Albania and one each from Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Italy — were part of the "Opera Mater Dei" community in Castel Gandolfo.

With the encouragement of the pope, the community was asked by its bishop four years ago to help pregnant, disadvantaged women.

While the number of Italian women requesting an abortion has steadily declined over the years, the number of foreign women in Italy requesting the procedure is on the rise.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported the number of women undergoing an abortion in Italy has dropped more than 44 percent since 1982. For the past decade, the average number of women terminating their pregnancies has hovered around nine out of 1,000 women each year.


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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Blackouts to vaccinations: Book records Vatican activities

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Most of what happens at the Vatican never makes the newspapers, but a lot of it is published.

The "inside story" about the Vatican and its operations is reported and put on sale each summer in the "Attivita della Santa Sede" ("The Activity of the Holy See").

The tome summarizing the work of every Vatican congregation, council, office and tribunal in 2003 ran to more than 1,400 pages — excluding the 31-page, full-color "photo chronicle" inserted in the middle.

The 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election, the beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the naming of 30 new cardinals dominated the book's introduction as well as the reports of 2003 activities of the master of papal liturgical ceremonies and the Vatican press office.

Big news of the year included the Sept. 28 electrical blackout that left all of Italy in the dark and cut off power to the Vatican. The Vatican's backup systems have since been reinforced.

The first 611 pages of the book are devoted to a day-by-day account of the activities, meetings and appointments of Pope John Paul.

The book also includes reports on documents published or being worked on by Vatican offices, major restoration work on Vatican buildings and art, and reports on roadwork, telephone traffic and visitors' passes.

The 2003 edition, unlike some earlier volumes, did not provide figures for the liters of milk produced by the cows at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo or the tons of garbage collected within Vatican City State.

The following information gleaned from the book includes:

— The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith continues to consult with local bishops and bishops' conferences about "presumed 'apparitions' and 'supernatural' phenomena."

"The first case that comes to mind," the report said, is that of Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the bishops have said, "it is not possible to affirm" that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared there and, therefore, parishes or dioceses should not organize pilgrimages to the site.

On the other hand, it said, the congregation has worked with the Rwandan dioceses of Butare and Gikongoro, and the local bishops have recognized as authentic the apparition of Mary to three young women in the town of Kibeho.

— The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments confirmed the designation of Our Lady of the Street (in Italian, "Madonna della Strada") as the patron saint of Rome's street sweepers and taxi drivers.

No mention was made about a patron saint for taxi passengers, and nothing was reported about the ongoing search for a patron of the Internet.

— In addition to witnessing the canonization of 12 saints and the beatification of 21 other holy men and women, the Congregation for Saints' Causes received: 39 formal diocesan reports on miracles attributed to a candidate's intercession; seven diocesan investigations of presumed martyrdom; and 48 diocesan reports on the life and heroic virtues of men and women being considered for sainthood.

— Three Oblate Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus clean, mend and iron the pope's liturgical vestments and the linens used for papal Masses. Members of the order began offering the service to Pope Innocent XI in 1688.

— Experts responded to a "biological attack" — described only as leaving a white film over frescoes — in the Catacombs of St. Callistus. The catacombs are part of a major international study on treating bacterial attacks on rocks in underground burial places.

— In St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican parish of St. Anne, 658 baptisms were celebrated during the year, 391 people were confirmed, and 105 weddings were performed.

— The Vatican telephone service registered 3.9 million calls within Vatican City State, 3.6 million telephone calls to Rome and 1.7 million long distance calls during the year.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 29, 2004

## *Aug. 29, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm 68:4-7, 10-11
2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
3) Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last summer I was invited to be the vocalist at the out-of-town wedding of a cousin. After the wedding liturgy, we all adjourned to the reception hall for the dinner and dance.

Because of the large crush of guests, my family and I had to scramble to secure seats at the same table. I was kept busy for the next several minutes fetching beverages and appetizers for my parents and aunts.

Just as I was sitting down to enjoy my own plate, I was startled by an invitation to join the wedding party at the head table. Much to my surprise, I was ushered to a place near the bride and groom and served by a waiter — something I hadn't experienced since my own wedding years earlier.

My hosts' intent was to "exalt" me to a place of honor, but my introverted self was challenged by the move. I would be surrounded by people I had never met or barely knew. How could I push beyond my comfort zone and make conversation when the people I was most comfortable with were seated several tables away?

The situation presented a dilemma that was both pleasant and problematic.

Eventually I was able to relax, socialize with my tablemates, and make some new acquaintances in the process — a reward I had not expected.

In today's Gospel, Jesus relates a parable set in the context of social situations common to people of his place and time. He emphasizes that simplicity and humility are desirable traits for the disciple — if for no more noble reason than to avoid social embarrassment!

Even more importantly his story points out the importance of the virtue of hospitality toward those you don't normally associate with. This kind of hospitality requires you to move beyond your comfort zone and extend yourself without expectation of return.

Of course, the ultimate outcome of such generosity is repayment at the "resurrection of the righteous." But ask anyone who invites displaced college students to Thanksgiving dinner or takes in foster children or serves the poor, the infirm, and the marginalized in their own surroundings, and they will tell you that the reward begins here and now.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22 - AUGUST 28**

**Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30; **Monday (St. Rose of Lima),** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday (St. Bartholomew),** Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Wednesday (St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz),** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18, Matthew 23:27-32; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday (St. Monica),** 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday (St. Augustine),** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 25:14-30

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4**

**Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24, Luke 14:1, 7-14; **Monday,** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday,** 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday (St. Gregory the Great),** 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 4:6-15, Luke 6:1-5

***Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of September***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Rev. Edward F. O'Doherty* | *1998* |
| *Rev. James King* | *1978* |
| *Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan* | *1981* |
| *Rev. John J. Murray* | *1997* |
| *Rev. Msgr. Arthur Duncan* | *2002* |
| *Rev. Msgr. Thomas Burke* | *2001* |

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# Gibson's 'Passion' tops readers' list of 'pro-Catholic' films

## *Anti-Catholic movies rated poor at box office, says NCR editorial*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NORTH HAVEN, Conn. — Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" topped a list of "pro-Catholic" films submitted by readers of *Faith & Family* magazine and the *National Catholic Register* newspaper.

Readers of the two publications, sponsored an online poll, which garnered responses from more than 1,000 people, according to Father Owen Kearns, a priest of the Legionaries of Christ who is publisher of the two periodicals.

An eight-member panel of critics was also asked to nominate what it felt were the most "anti-Catholic" movies.

The panel's top choice was last year's "The Order," a thriller about intrigue at the Vatican over an arcane medieval ritual known as "sin eating," a heretical rite by which a person takes on the sins of another.

For readers to nominate a film for the pro-Catholic list, guidelines stipulated that the film had to "explicitly show Catholic customs and beliefs and had to be unambiguously positive," according to a *National Catholic Register* editorial. The editorial also pointed out that the poll was "unscientific."

"The Passion of the Christ" received more votes from readers than the next three films on the list combined: "The Sound of Music," "A Man for All Seasons" and "The Song of Bernadette."

Rounding out the 10 most pro-Catholic movies were "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Ten Commandments," the made-for-TV movie "The Scarlet and the Black," the TV miniseries "Jesus of Nazareth," "Schindler's List," and "The Bells of St. Mary's."

Anti-Catholic films following "The Order" was "The Magdalene Sisters," "Sister Mary Explains It All," "Chocolat," "Stigmata," "Dogma," "Elizabeth," "The Last Temptation of Christ," "Priest" and "Agnes of God."

"Look at the list of pro-Catholic movies, and you'll see some of the top-grossing movies of all times," the *National Catholic Register* editorial said. "Look at the list of anti-Catholic movies, and you'll see films moviegoers largely rejected."

Of the anti-Catholic films on the list, six were classified O for morally objectionable by the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting. The office had given three films A-IV classifications, for adults, with reservations — indicating films that, while not morally offensive in themselves, are not for casual viewing because they require some analysis and explanation to avoid false impressions and interpretations.

Five of the pro-Catholic films were given A-I classifications, for general patronage; one was classified A-II, for adults and adolescents; two were classified A-III, for adults.

"A Man for All Seasons," "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Schindler's List" also made the Pontifical Council for Social Communications' list of the top 45 films of the century deemed to have special artistic and religious merit. The list was issued in 1995 to mark the 100th anniversary of cinema.


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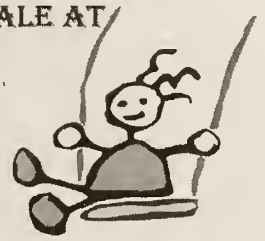

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# Secular Franciscans elect new council

Courtesy Photo by Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott

Members of the Brother Francis Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order met and elected their new executive council at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir Aug. 8. New council members are: (standing, from left) Bill Borst, vice-minister; Carole Marmorato, secretary; Marilyn Dunphy, formation director; Ruth Thoni, minister; Dr. John Martin, treasurer; (seated) Becky Snow and Frank Cogger, appointed members to the council. Fraternity meetings are usually held 2-4:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.


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| 6:45 | Mass | |
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| Saturday | | |
| 7:30 | Registration | |
| 7:45 | Mass | |
| 8:30 | Evangelization by the Ounce | Paul Thigpen |
| 9:30 | Coffee and doughnuts | |
| 9:45 | First workshop session | |
| | Diocesan priests speak on various topics, including the sacraments, prayer, and inculturation | Fathers Williams, Kauth, Gober, Buetttner, Seabo, Winslow |
| 10:45 | Second workshop session (Life Hour) | |
| | Family Honor: An Introducton | Brenda Jurkis, Chair |
| | Rachel's Vineyard: Silent No More | Shelley Glanton & Vicki La Brecque |
| | Marriage Preparation | Nazareth House of Asheville |
| | The Battle For Life | Maggie Nadol, Diocese of Charlotte |
| | Panel for teens | |
| 11:30 | Lunch | |
| 12:30 | The Rapture Trap | Paul Thigpen |
| 1:30 | Third workshop session | |
| | Called to Pray | Cynthia Blum |
| | Church State Relations: | Tom Ascik |
| | Fundamentalism was not Enough | Richard Edwards |
| | A Look at Catholic Literature | John Keats, Christendom College |
| | Saturday Matinee: Catholic Film | Jeff Minick |
| 2:45 | Saints' Guide to Fishing For Men | Paul Thigpen |
| 3:45 | Closing remarks | |

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# Staubach CEO announces massive Belmont Abbey development plan

## *New college president presents award to former NFL quarterback*

BELMONT — The Staubach Company has announced a plan for a large complex mixed-use development on property adjacent to Belmont Abbey College.

Roger Staubach, chairman and CEO of The Staubach Company, offered details of what will be one of the largest land development projects in the Southeast at the college July 29.

It was the result of a six-month study by the Southern Benedictine Society of North Carolina, Inc.; Pharr Yarns, Inc.; Parkdale Mills, and R.L. Stowe Mills, Inc. The study examined land along Interstate 85 in Gaston County that is adjacent to Belmont Abbey College and runs from the Catawba River to McAdenville.

The Staubach Company, a global, full-service real estate advisory firm, said the development could ultimately include up to a million square feet of office space and more than a million square feet of retail space, with the remainder dedicated to residential and medical development. The magnitude of the project will place it as one of the largest developments in the Charlotte/Gastonia region.

The development project also is expected to help bring jobs and property tax revenue sources to the local economy.

"It has always been important for us, as the Southern Benedictine Society and as Belmont Abbey College, to continue our careful stewardship of the land entrusted to us, but also to be good members of the community, with an important commitment in mind — to keep the members of the greater Gaston/Mecklenburg community updated on our efforts," said the Abbot Placid Solari, abbot and chancellor of Belmont Abbey.

The land, consisting of connected tracts of about 1,100 acres, has belonged for generations to the four member organizations, which represent some of North Carolina's most respected historic corporate citizens.

Staubach said it has been important for him to sit down with the group to discuss the regional and national importance of this key property.

"We are committed to assisting these great organizations in the creation of a development which will be a strong benefit to the area and region," said Staubach. "We are excited about the strategy and look forward to great success with this project."

Belmont Abbey College also took the opportunity to honor the former Dallas Cowboy quarterback with a special award, The Pope Pius XII Sport at the Service of the Spirit Award, presented by Dr. William Thierfelder, college president.

"We're trying to recognize something often neglected in today's society, an individual who is actually living today's virtues," said Thierfelder. "It may be hard to believe Mr. Staubach could surpass his greatness off the field as a role model — a father, a husband, a business professional. But remarkably he's done exactly that."


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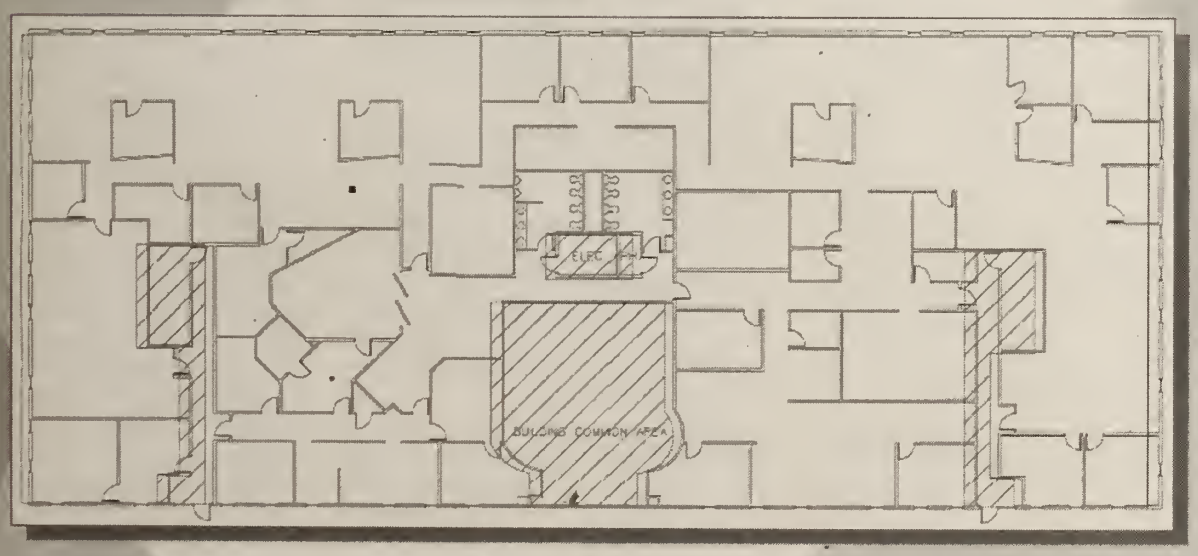


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Catholic and Protestant crosses

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Why do Catholics have crucifixes, with the image of Jesus on the cross, and Protestants have plain crosses? Some friends told me this is because Protestants emphasize the resurrection of Jesus, and Catholics emphasize the suffering and death of Jesus. Is that true? (Michigan)*

A. I don't think so. The answer to your question involves a bit of history about how veneration of the cross was viewed by Christians through the centuries.

We Catholics are so accustomed to having crucifixes that we assume it was always that way. This is not true. For most of the Christian era, until about 800 years ago, Christian art and devotion rarely showed the suffering Jesus on the cross. In fact, during the first 500 years or so after Jesus' death and resurrection, the body of Christ in any form was almost never portrayed on crosses.

Crucifixion was a shameful death, and remained so for centuries in the cultures in which Christians found themselves. In spite of St. Paul's claim that we are proud of, we boast in, the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14), willingness to embrace that truth, especially to publicly depict Christ crucified in art and worship, didn't come easily or quickly.

The conviction that our Lord's passion and death were part of the whole paschal, or Easter, event was so deeply imbedded in the church that heaviest emphasis was placed on the resurrection.

When crosses finally came to be more widely used, in the late fifth and sixth centuries, they were adorned with color or jewels (the "crux gemmata," jeweled cross) for the same reason. Jesus is risen, our faith climaxes in the glory of the resurrection.

When the body of Christ itself did begin to appear more frequently on crosses, it was usually some portrayal of the risen Lord, rather than the dying or dead Christ that became common later.

Around the 1200s, the suffering of Christ came dramatically more to the front in European theology and spirituality. The wars, crusades, plagues and other sufferings of that period brought Christianity to a greater awareness of their share in the suffering and death of Jesus, an awareness that showed itself in all forms of Christian art and devotion, including the way they saw the cross.

From then on, crosses displaying the suffering Christ with stark realism, often in grisly detail, were widely popular, and remained so until our own time.

With today's renewed emphasis on the resurrection and its focal place in the history of salvation, something like jeweled crosses and crucifixes with the body

of the risen Lord are again seen more in Catholic Churches.

I'm not sure anyone has a final answer to your question. Perhaps the reason you give is part of it, in light of the long tradition of the cross without the body, which I just described. The emphasis on the intensity and horror of the suffering of Christ was certainly at least as strong, however, in the theologies of the Reformation as in the Catholic Church of those days.

Probably the feelings of many early Protestants against the presence of any statues or other images in church buildings had something to do with it, along with a perhaps inevitable tendency of leading Protestant figures at that time to define themselves in opposition to the traditional faith, contrasting their beliefs and practices to those of the Catholic Church.

Crucifixes are not completely unknown in Protestant churches even today. Some Lutherans and parts of other Protestant communities habitually still use the crucifix.

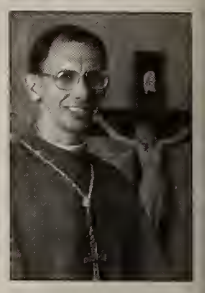
*A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Who is 'Worthy to Receive the Lamb'?

## Ask the Bishop

MOST REV. PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE



*Editor's note: Bishop Peter J. Jugis responds to readers' questions regarding his recent statement, "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion."*

*Q. Why does the statement only deal with abortion? What about the other sanctity-of-life issues, such as capital punishment, euthanasia and pre-emptive war?*

A. The statement intentionally addresses only a very specific issue: pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers and holy Communion. It is the result of reflection that Archbishop John F. Donoghue, Bishop Robert J. Baker and I engaged in after the June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The matter of pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers and holy Communion was discussed by all the bishops at that June meeting. After the meeting, the USCCB issued a statement, "Catholics in Political Life," in which the U.S. bishops noted that the decision not to admit pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers to holy Communion was to be left to the individual bishop.

Archbishop Donoghue, Bishop Baker and I decided to address, by means of our own statement, only the specific issue that was brought up at the June meeting, namely pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers and holy Communion.

There are many moral issues which our Church is addressing in our society today. We wish to bring our teaching on the inviolable dignity of all innocent human life, from conception to natural death, into the public arena for the betterment of our society.

The killing of an unborn child is always intrinsically evil and can never be justified. Likewise, euthanasia and the destruction of human embryos for stem cell research are always intrinsically evil and can never be justified. Each of these practices involves a direct attack on innocent human life. They are directly contrary to the moral law.

Capital punishment, however, may be justified under certain clearly defined conditions, even though such instances "are very rare, if not practically non-existent" today (Gospel of Life, 56). War, for instance, may also be justified under certain clearly defined conditions (CCC 2309).

Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia and destruction of human embryos for stem cell research.

The Church has a lot of work to do on many different fronts.

*Q. If this is an important church teaching, why didn't it come from the Vatican?*

A. In November 2002, the Vatican did issue, with the approval of the Holy Father, a document entitled, "Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life." This document was issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The document addressed the matter of Catholic lawmakers in political life, stating that "those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a 'grave and clear obligation to oppose' any law that attacks human life" (n. 4). The document drew upon the 1995 encyclical, The Gospel of Life, in which the Holy Father addressed the same problem of support for abortion legislation (n. 73).

Canon 915 of the Code of Canon Law provides that those "who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion." This canon applies to the situation of pro-abortion Catholic lawmakers: they "obstinately persist" in promoting evil in a very public way by their support for abortion legislation. Their public support for what is objectively a grave sin, i.e. abortion on demand, is the reason for the application of canon 915 to their particular situation.

The teaching on the absolute inviolability of innocent human life, of course, does come from the Vatican. It is the teaching of the universal church. It is the responsibility of the bishop to apply the teaching to particular situations in his diocese.

### ASK THE BISHOP

Do you have a question for Bishop Peter J. Jugis? *The Catholic News & Herald* runs a feature in which Bishop Jugis answers questions that are submitted via regular mail or e-mail.

Questions about the faith and the Diocese of Charlotte that have a broad appeal will receive priority consideration for response in the newspaper.

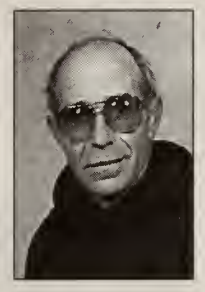
When submitting a question, please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Questions may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send your "Ask the Bishop" question to Ask the Bishop, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail askthebishop@charlottediocese.org.

# Back to school: Engaging the world

## Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap



The beginning of a new academic year is never routine: somebody is new, the students of last year will be challenged by a higher grade and new frontiers will be explored.

Education, after all, is not simply an academic exercise of knowledge; it is, most of all, a growing process in knowledge, wisdom and faith. We are engaged in changing the world; otherwise the world will change us.

When looking at our world, I never cease to be amazed at its beauty and grandeur. While I strongly believe in the magnificence of this world, I also recognize that this world is still in the process of being redeemed, so there is some misery, sin, pollution, drugs, child abuse, murder, rape, war and terrorism somewhere.

Our youngsters are actively engaged in returning the original beauty to this ugly world. The institutions of school and church have the specific mission to engage the world, recognizing all the while that it is a world that belongs to God. He possesses it by virtue of being its creator. God loves this world, even though sinners have turned beauty into ugliness and magnificence into misery.

This world is in desperate need of better education and stronger faith. The school has the task of freeing from prejudice, delivering moral values and releasing the power of knowledge to recover the lost treasures.

How do we do that? By learning from our glorious and sometimes humiliating history of the world, by loving and forgiving, and by setting priorities not according to selfishness, but according to goodness.

Students know that good schools teach us that this is still a beautiful world, and when it is made ugly by terrorism, we don't want to react with terrorism, or worse, with hatred. When life closes in or gets blocked by hatred, we open it up with love.

The walls of cynicism, prejudice, hatred, fear, must crumble or be jumped over. Labels, divisions, intolerance, ignorance will engage our new generation of student to change all of the above into hope and success. Do we engage in discrimination every day? Yes we do and we should not.

I remember the lovely lady who went to the U.S. Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas Cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The woman says, "God help us. Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholics, 12 Presbyterians, 10 Lutherans and 22 Baptists."

*Capuchin Father Aurelia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.*

# From DIA to OSA

## *Augustinian friar leads fight on many fronts*

## Working Matters

JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Counterterrorism analyst turned Augustinian friar studying for the priesthood, Brother Joseph Narog has undergone a major career change.

Known as Brother Joe to parishioners of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, he's spent this summer at the church in a pastoral internship required for his master of divinity degree at Washington Theological Union.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said of the parish, "but from the day I got here I've been overwhelmed by how warm and spirit-filled this place is."

Shadowing Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor, Brother Joe's observed "the amount of things you have to be conversant in, everything from keeping the budget to ministering to the sick to being involved in the broader community. If you're really going to put your heart into it, you'll find things to become involved in, because you're not in a little enclave."

Brother Joe, 45, holds degrees in international relations and foreign affairs. During 15 years with the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and the Joint Special Operations Command, Joe became a counterterrorism analyst, then a training manager for the DIA's counterterrorism training project. Worldwide, he trained analysts from the military services and civilians from the FBI and CIA.

"I loved what I was doing," Brother Joe said. "I'd studied foreign affairs. I got to apply my degree. I got to work at the (1996 Atlanta) Olympics, but when I came back from that trip I had this nagging feeling that something was missing, that I wasn't doing what I was supposed to do."

Raised Catholic, "I'd always go to church on Sunday; I always prayed. People told me I would be a priest, but I'd say, 'No, no way. This is what I studied for. I'm doing my thing.'"

He met with an Air Force chaplain for guidance and spiritual direction, who told him, "If I didn't know better, I'd think you were being called to the priesthood or religious life."

"I thought, 'Oh, my God, I'm 38. What does this mean?" he asked himself.

Hiking in the Rockies, he found out.

"One day in the mountains," he said, "I had one of those aha moments: God is incredible — look at all these mountains. Look at all God has done for me. How can I not respond?"

A friend put him in touch with friars at Augustinian College, the house of formation of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in Washington, D.C. Joe began attending Mass there and getting to know the friars.

He entered the Order of St. Augustine in 1998.

It hasn't been all smooth sailing. In his third year of formation, he learned that his mother was dying of cancer and took a leave of absence to be with her. She died the day after her 54th wedding anniversary. Joe remained at home with his father, who became ill three weeks after the funeral and died 11 months later.

One of Joe's deepest memories is of his mother's commitment to her marriage — so strong that she refused to remove her wedding ring, even in the hospital. It never left her finger until the day of her funeral. As a symbol of his own vocation commitment, Joe had his mother's ring incorporated into the ring he receive at his solemn profession of vows last October.

In counterterrorism, he said, "I felt that I was helping people, protecting lives, but what was missing was the spiritual dimension. If I was going to work with people, I wanted it to be on the spiritual level. Working in counterterrorism, I was working with the negative — bombings, kidnappings and threats. Even then I couldn't help believing there was goodness in people."

He's bringing that vision to his Augustinian life.

"More than anything," he said, "I want to help people see the goodness in themselves and others. We are part of the body of Christ and are there not only to help one another but to reach out to the broader community, and to be with people in the sacramental life of the Church, to be with them in baptism, Eucharist, marriage, death — the key moments in people's lives."

# Pope thanks God for allowing him to make pilgrimage to Lourdes

## The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy — Pope John Paul II offered God thanks for allowing him to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, and offered special thanks to his fellow Poles for "having supported me with your prayers" during the Aug. 14-15 trip.

The pope, appearing a bit tired, read only about a quarter of the main Italian text prepared for his Aug. 18 weekly general audience, although he did read the entire texts of his messages of thanks in French and in Polish.

The audience was held in the courtyard of the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo and, as in weeks past, did not include the usual multilingual summaries of the pope's main address.

Greeting French speakers, the pope said, "This morning I want to give thanks to God who, in his benevolence, allowed me to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes," the town in the French Pyrenees where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1858 to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

Pope John Paul also thanked Mary for "the climate of profound recollection and intense prayer" that surrounded his visit.

He told an estimated 3,500 people gathered for the audience that he would remember "with emotion" the huge crowds that joined him, especially the sick, "who came seeking comfort and hope."

The pope also remarked on the thousands of young people present at Lourdes as volunteers and as pilgrims and prayed that they would use the experience "to draw the strength to become free men and women in Christ."

"May the Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception, watch over each one of you, accompany you and guide your journey to the encounter with her son," he told the French pilgrims.

Addressing Polish pilgrims, the pope said, "I thank you for having supported me with your prayers during my pilgrimage to Lourdes. From the first day of my pontificate, I have asked you for them, and I know I can always count on them."

# St. Lucien Church epitomizes Catholic Church in N.C. mountains

SPRUCE PINE — A small number of Catholics lived in the Spruce Pine area during the 1920s, but one of the faithful in particular, who had family ties in Tennessee, was indirectly responsible for bringing regularly scheduled Masses to the mountain town.

Margaret Wilson Tappan, a resident of Johnston City, Tenn., and grandmother of Spruce Pine citizen Jack Tappan, suggested to a local priest to make weekly train trips from Tennessee to Spruce Pine to celebrate Mass. The priest began in 1928, celebrating Mass at a hotel in town. On a monthly basis, a Jesuit priest from Revere, N.C., also celebrated Mass at the hotel.

In March 1935, Bishop William J. Hafey of North Carolina received a gift of property from Ella Clapp Thompson, an Episcopalian from New York, on which the present church stands. A house on the property was remodeled to ready it for a chapel and priest's residence.

Originally named St. Bernadette, it became the first Catholic church to serve Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties. The first Mass was celebrated there June 28, 1935, by Father Thomas Carney, the administrator appointed by the bishop.

When Father Stephen Sullivan assumed the pastorate at St. Bernadette Church, he began making plans to build a new church and rectory. Construction began in November 1939, and the church was completed in April of the next year.

At the order of the bishop, the church was renamed St. Lucien because the principal donors placed as a condition of their gifts that the church be christianed in memory of their daughter, Lucien Price. The new church and rectory were dedicated and blessed Aug. 17, 1940.

No sooner than Spruce Pine had its church, a 30-seat chapel was being built in nearby Linville. In March 1942, Linville's new St. Patricia became a mission of the Spruce Pine parish.

Father Walter Higgins was named pastor of the Spruce Pine and Linville churches in 1951, and was celebrating Mass in Burnsville by mid-decade.

Glenmary priests took responsibility for the churches in 1956. An energetic period of evangelization and building followed: Sacred Heart Church was constructed in Burnsville; St. Lucien Church was renovated; and catechetical classes and preaching took place in communities throughout the area.

The Glenmary priests remained until 1968. Diocesan priests have served the Spruce Pine parish since.

The church was again remodeled in the late 1960s, and in the years following catechetical classes were begun and expanded. Two years later, Father John Pagel was appointed to the parish and he immediately expanded the faith formation programs and other parish and community-level activities.

Increasingly larger crowds at Mass — both residents and visitors — led to a building program in 1985, which involved the construction of a new rectory and an expansion of the church. Ground was broken for the rectory in 1987 and it was completed within six months. The former rectory was transformed into the parish social hall, complete with offices and classrooms.

Meanwhile, Father Pagel also turned his attention to building a new church in Linville. The diocese purchased land facing Grandfather Mountain in November 1984, and three years later construction was begun. The first Mass at the new 300-seat church named St. Bernadette was celebrated on New Year's Eve in 1988.

The Spruce Pine pastorate assumed responsibility for the new Linville mission. Burnsville's Sacred Heart Church was elevated to parish status in September 1986, while the St. Patricia facility, which no longer adequately provided for Catholics in the area, was returned to its donating family by the diocese.

St. Lucien Church experienced continued growth over the next decade. Expansion and renovations to the church more than doubled its seating capacity and improved the facility. Also, a house adjacent to the property was purchased and the parking lot was paved.

During the pastorate of Father Aloysius D'Silva in the 1990s, an active faith formation program was developed and continues today — every fourth Sunday, the parish youth lead a pro-life rosary to pray for an end to abortion and a deeper respect for the gift of human life.

Other active ministries include a Rosary Makers Group and a Women's Guild, and many parishioners assist with Habitat for Humanity. St. Lucien Church also offers adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and First Friday devotions.

Father Christopher Gober became administrator of St. Lucien Church in July 2003 and was appointed pastor by Bishop Peter J. Jugis July 6, 2004.

Nearly 80 years have passed since a Tennessee priest celebrated those first Masses in Spruce Pine. Since then, St. Lucien Church has both epitomized and promoted evangelization of the Catholic Church in the North Carolina mountains

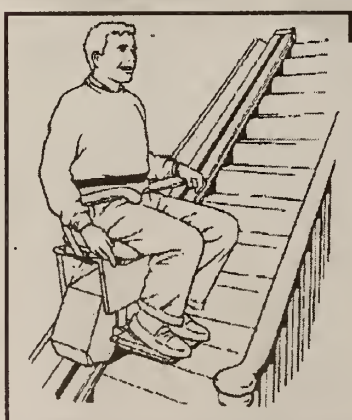
**ST. LUCIEN CHURCH**
695 Summit Avenue
Spruce Pine, N.C. 28777
(828) 765-2224

**Vicariate:** Boone
**Pastor:** Father Christopher Gober
**Number of Households:** 85
**Mission:** St. Bernadette Church, Linville

Father Christopher Gober

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Lucien Church, dedicated in 1940, has experienced both growth in parishioners as well as expansions and renovations over the years, doubling its seat capacity.



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SEPTEMBER 3, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 41

**'Faithful Service ... Grateful Hearts'**

*Upcoming collection to benefit priests' retirements*

| PAGE 5

## American nurse sees other side of Abu Ghraib prison

**TIME IN IRAQ SHOWS HOPE, COMPASSION ON BOTH SIDES OF WAR**

BY MONTE MACE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

*Editor's note: This story contains descriptions of war wounds.*

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — While world headlines have blared the mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. guards at the Abu Ghraib prison outside Baghdad, Iraq, there's an-

See NURSE, page 17

# Home away from home

*Divino Redentor provides spiritual, cultural homecoming for Mexican immigrants*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

BOONVILLE —. A late afternoon rain shower soaked the new church just minutes before its dedication, but the rain clouds soon parted, revealing a rainbow in the distant sky.

Following two decades of Masses celebrated in a former hardware store and a former restaurant, and 18 months after the church's completion,

See DEDICATION, page 12

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates the dedication Mass for Divino Redentor Church, the only Catholic church in Yadkin County, Aug. 28.

# Santore's shoes

COURTESY PHOTO BY DEBBIE SANTORE

Kelly Santore and a young parishioner of Our Lady of the Americas Church show off a new pair of athletic shoes July 29. Santore collected 142 pairs of new shoes for the members of the Biscoe church.

FOR STORY SEE PAGE 7

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

## Students return to new, expanded Catholic schools

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For students across the Diocese of Charlotte, it's that time of year again.

More than 7,000 students donned uniforms and backpacks for the start of another year at the 18 diocesan Catholic schools by Aug. 16.

"As I visit the schools, I realize more and more the importance of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Linda Cherry, superintendent

See SCHOOLS, page 8

COURTESY PHOTO

Students return to Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.

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**Setting faith ablaze**
*Catholics explore faith at conferences*
| PAGE 6

**Summer's over**
*More back-to-school coverage from around the diocese*
| PAGES 8-11

**Labors of faith**
*Scout earns award for work at bishop emeritus' house*
| PAGE 13

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## ALTERNATIVE ALTAR BREAD

CNS PHOTO BY JOE CORY, CATHOLIC KEY

Benedictine novice Kathy Becker prepares low-gluten hosts at the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration convent in Clyde, Mo., in March. The U.S. bishops' liturgy secretariat said the convent provides the only "true, low-gluten altar bread ... approved for use at Mass in the United States."

# Gluten-Free Living endorses nuns' low-gluten Communion hosts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A magazine devoted to people with celiac disease has endorsed a low-gluten Communion host made by Catholic nuns in Missouri as "perfectly safe" for celiac sufferers.

Gluten-Free Living came out shortly before a public controversy emerged over a New Jersey mother's fight this summer to change the Catholic rules for such hosts. The church requires bread made from wheat, containing at least some gluten, for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Gluten is a protein in wheat, rye, barley and oats that binds the baked bread. In people who have the genetic disorder known as celiac disease or celiac sprue, gluten causes an immune reaction that can lead to severe damage of the intestinal lining and a number of other health problems.

In the magazine, a nun-pharmacist wrote that she analyzed the low-gluten hosts produced by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Mo. Her conclusion: "On average, a whole host could contain no more than 37 micrograms of gluten."

Two experts from the University of Maryland's Center for Celiac Research told the magazine that a celiac sufferer could consume that much gluten daily with no ill effects.

The article's author, Sister Jeanne Patricia Crowe, is a member of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and professor at Immaculata University in Pennsylvania. She is a doctor of clinical pharmacy and is on Gluten-Free Living's editorial advisory board.

In an editorial on Sister Crowe's article, Gluten-Free Living editor Ann Whelan said she easily understands the concern of Catholics with the disease, and especially parents of children who have it, about the church's insistence on at least some gluten in hosts.

"To help Catholic celiacs keep their concern in perspective, I went to the experts to ask them if it would be safe to consume a host that might contain up to 37 micrograms of gluten," Whelan wrote.

"It's the daily exposure to gluten that counts" for those with celiac disease, the editorial said. "The best current information shows that 10 milligrams a day should be safe."

Since 10 milligrams is 10,000 micrograms, someone consuming no other gluten would have to eat 270 of the low-gluten wafers a day to reach that threshold, it said.

Sister Crowe described the low-gluten hosts as "very, very light" wafers, about an inch in diameter, yellowish and weighing a little more than one-quarter gram each. "They remind you of a bubbly potato chip," she said.

The Benedictine convent's hosts are the only ones the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Liturgy has approved as a true low-gluten wheat bread suitable for liturgical use.

# Respect Life program kits ready for dioceses, parishes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has published the 2004-05 Respect Life Program kit materials in English and Spanish for use in Catholic dioceses, parishes and organizations.

The theme for this year's observances is "Made in His Image," or, in Spanish, "A imagen de Dios los creo." Most U.S. Catholic parishes observe the first Sunday of October — Oct. 3 this year — as Respect Life Sunday.

The 2004-05 kit includes a poster in English and Spanish, fliers on the theme in English and Spanish, six educational essays on life issues, clip art for church bulletins or newsletters, a liturgy guide and a catalog of pro-life publications and resources.

The fliers, essays and liturgy guide are also available online at www.usccb.org/prolife, along with electronic versions of essays and other resources from past programs going back to 1996.

Essay topics are suicidal behavior by youth, advances in surgery for unborn patients, a critique of assisted reproductive technologies, effective strategies for pro-life advocacy, the human dignity of those in a "vegetative" state and a discussion of sex and marriage from sociological and theological perspectives.

The printed kit includes the essays only in English, but they are available online in English and Spanish.

In addition to homily tips and sample intercessions for life for use at Mass, this year's liturgy guide includes a novena to Sts. Anne and Joachim and offers rosary meditations on the five "mysteries of light," based on events in Christ's public life, that Pope John Paul II introduced in 2002.

# Diocesan planner

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer support group for separation and divorce, will host an open house at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Since 1992, Pathfinders has offered support, education and fellowship for anyone experiencing separation and divorce. Please call Nancy Cardo at (704) 752-0318 for more information.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to a 10-week course, *"Moving On,"* based on Susan Miller's book "After the Boxes are Unpacked." We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes begin Sept. 15 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Call Gigi at (704) 895-3310 or Merry at (704) 947-9547 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father John Starczewski will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Walt (704) 535-7723.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Citizenship Sessions* will be held at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Oct. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.; and Oct. 17, 12:30-2 p.m. in the Parish Family Center. Each session will cover politics, elections, candidates and issues. No pre-registration or fees, just bring yourself, and a friend, too! For details, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, x 26

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* announces the start of its 2004-2005 fiscal year with a luncheon on Sept. 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Cardinal Country Club. The speaker will be Jan Laughinghouse, clinical director at Mary's House. All ladies are welcome. For more information, please contact Marie VanKleef at (336) 644-1142.

HIGH POINT — The Evangelization Commission at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will offer *free Spanish classes* Sept. 9 - Nov. 11. Classes meet Thursday evenings 7-8 p.m. All materials will be provided. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204.

GREENSBORO — Jim McCullough, director of faith formation of Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., will present *"Key to the Scriptures,"* a new way to read the Bible with understanding. Classes meet Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. in the library. To register, leave your name, address and

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican refuses to comment on reports it won't be terrorist target

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican press office would not comment on reports that a terrorist group linked to al-Qaida allegedly said the Vatican would not be a target when it attacks Italy.

The Vatican, while declining comment Aug. 30, pointed to an Aug. 28 statement by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, saying that he hoped everyone would recognize that Pope John Paul II has been an untiring supporter of peace and of human rights for all peoples.

In a statement posted on an Islamic Web site Aug. 29, the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades-European Battalion — the same group that claimed responsibility for the March train bombings in Madrid — repeated its earlier threats to turn Italy "into hell" unless the government withdraws its troops from Iraq.

"We declare that the Vatican will never be one of our targets," said the posting, translated from the Arabic by a French news agency.

It was impossible to verify if the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades really posted the message.

While it is Vatican practice not to comment on security matters, Vatican officials have said the Italian government keeps the Vatican informed when threats are received.

The Vatican increased security during the 2000 Holy Year celebrations, making visitors who attended large ceremonies with Pope John Paul pass through airport-style metal detectors. The scanning became a fixture for public events after Sept. 11, 2001.

Since late 2003, all visitors to St. Peter's Basilica have had to pass through the metal detectors whether the pope was present or not.

# Pope condemns wave of terrorism, says violence unworthy of any cause

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned a wave of terrorist actions in Iraq, Russia and Israel, saying recourse to violence was "unworthy" of any cause.

The papal appeal was read at a general audience Sept. 1 as another hostage drama was unfolding in southern Russia, where armed attackers seized a school full of children and teachers.

The pope said he was pained at the recent bombings in Russia and Israel, which left many "defenseless and innocent" victims. Russian authorities suspected Chechen rebels were behind the explosion of two passenger jets in late August and a suicide bombing outside a Moscow subway stop Aug. 31.

Officials said the attack on the school in the southern Russian republic of North Ossetia also bore the hallmarks of Chechen rebel actions. More than 15 attackers, some strapped with explosives, were believed to have mined the school and threatened to kill those inside. The Itar-Tass news agency said the militants were demanding the release of imprisoned Chechen fighters.

In Israel, two suicide bus bombings in Beersheba Aug. 31 left 18 people dead. The Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the blasts.

The pope said that in Iraq there has been no end to the "chain of blind violence that prevents the return to civil harmony." He condemned the "barbarous execution" of 12 Nepalese workers kidnapped in late August in Iraq and expressed worry for the fate of two French journalists seized by militants there.

"I make a pressing appeal that everywhere there be an end to the recourse to violence, which is always unworthy of any good cause, and that the two French journalists be treated with humanity and returned unharmed to their loved ones as soon as possible," he said.

The executed Nepalese were reportedly were working for a Jordanian services company; Nepal does not have armed forces in Iraq.

phone number with Mary-Ann DiPaola at (336) 274-6520, ext. 33.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study* beginning Sept. 15. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will offer a program designed to provide encouragement for women who have relocated. This is an opportunity to meet others and exchange insights. The 10-week session, containing biblical advice and clear-headed counsel, is based on the book *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* by Susan Miller beginning Sept 8. Both morning and evening sessions will be offered with baby-sitting provided at the morning sessions. For further information, contact, contact Lois Yaniero at (704) 892-4326 for morning sessions and Connie Evans at (704) 658-0521 or Tori Springate at (704) 662-9122 for evening sessions.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

MAGGIE VALLEY — If you are struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion, there is help. *Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreats* for healing after abortion are a beautiful opportunity to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into love and hope. The next retreat is scheduled for Sept. 17-19. Confidentiality is strictly maintained. Please call Shelley at (828) 684-4330 or (828) 230-4940 to register.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John's Catholic Community meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — In celebration of the World Day of Peace, Sister Kathy Ganiel and David Harold, director of Catholic Social Services, will lead prayer and reflection on the *Assisi Decalogue*. The Decalogue is a 10-point commitment made to work together for peace. The 10 statements read by the leaders in 10 different languages are a moving framework for prayer, reflection and discussion. Come join us at 6 p.m. on Sept. 21 at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 W. 3rd St., for a light meal, prayer and reflection. For more information, call Joanne Jacovec at (336) 765-8892 or e-mail sfojmj@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Sept. 8-19 —**
Colloquium for newly appointed bishops
Rome, Italy

**Sept. 23 — 9 a.m. Mass**
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte

**Sept. 25 — 5 p.m. Mass**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

# Pope blesses Salisbury couple

COURTESY PHOTO

*Chris and Brynne Beal, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, receive a blessing from Pope John Paul II during his weekly audience at the Vatican June 16. Chris, director of religious education at Sacred Heart Church, and Brynne, a fifth-grade teacher at Sacred Heart School, were married at Belmont Abbey College June 12. The couple had recently returned from a parish youth group mission where they worked with the poor in Kingston, Jamaica, June 24-July 1.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Angels are spirits without bodies who are sometimes sent as messengers from God. The feast of the Archangels is Sept. 29, which honors the three archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. Michael is revered as the leader of the angelic army. He has always been the warrior angel, fighting first Satan and his demons and then in the course of time all enemies of God's people. Gabriel is the messenger angel who appears in the Old and New Testaments; he announced the birth of John the Baptist and later told Mary she would become the mother of Jesus. Raphael cured the Old Testament hero Tobit of his blindness. Raphael acted as a guide to God's people and healed others.

# N.C. Catholic Daughter visits convention, memorial

## *Members called to 'feminine genius'*

TACOMA, Wash. — A local Catholic Daughter recently ventured across the country on a trip of exploration and affirmation.

Marjorie Thomas, N.C. state secretary and past regent of Court St. Joan of Arc, attended the 50th Biennial National Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Nearly 1,000 members, speakers and guests from 40 U.S. states, Guam and Puerto Rico attended the organization's convention July 18-23 in Tacoma.

Resolutions adopted by delegates to the convention expressed support for keeping the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance; affirmed that marriage is between a man and a woman only; agreed to promote breast cancer awareness during October; backed the U.S. bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" program for political action by Catholics; and supported the National Safe Kids Campaign to prevent accidental deaths and injuries among children under 15.

Invoking the words of Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett told the Catholic Daughters July 22 that every woman's mission "is to recognize and live her vocation of feminine genius."

The Seattle archbishop spoke at a Mass at St. Anne Church in Tacoma marking the installation of new officers for the Catholic Daughters, which describes itself as the oldest and largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas.

In his homily at the convention's opening Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Tacoma, Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, the organization's national chaplain, urged the Catholic Daughters to be like Martha and Mary in the New Testament.

"Today's Gospel reading of Martha and Mary is right on target with the CDA," he said. "Mary is often remembered as a sinner, which troubles some people. Martha is not as controversial, but we all know Marthas — upset, complainers, pointing fingers, but they get things done."

Reminding the congregation that "if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves," the cardinal added. "The greatest heroes in the church are sinners who repent."

During a post-convention trip to Hawaii, Thomas, a World War II veteran and charter and lifetime member of the Catholic War Veterans Post in Asheville, visited the USS Arizona Memorial. The USS Arizona was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

COURTESY PHOTO

Marjorie Thomas (right), N.C. state secretary for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, visits the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii after attending the Catholic Daughters biennial convention in Tacoma, Wash., in July. Pictured with Thomas are (from left) Joan McKenna, national regent from Boston, and Claudia Busch, national first regent from Dickinson, N.D.

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# Officers installed

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Father Francis O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, and Ruth Carlisle (right), N.C. state treasurer of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, stand with newly inducted officers of local Court 1199 after Mass Aug. 29. Officers pictured are (back row from left) Mary Jane Wheaton, secretary; Alice Schmidt, vice regent; Alice Gottschalk, treasurer; (front row from left) Maryann Grabosky, regent; and Laurene Kerivan, financial secretary. The court also inducted two new members, Carmella Scutti and Martha Stepkowski (not pictured).

**Friday, Sept. 10, from 1-2 PM**

JUST SECOND FRIDAYS

*presents*

"Looking at the HIV/AIDS Epidemic through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching"

Presented by

Rev. Robert J. Vitillo

*Executive Director, Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and Special Advisor on HIV/AIDS for Caritas Internationalis*

**Atrium Room, Annex Bldg, St. Peter Church** *(behind the church on College Street)*

Fr. Robert Vitillo has been the Executive Director of CCHD since January of 1997. CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. As a Special Advisor on HIV/AIDS for Caritas Internationalis (a federation of Catholic social service and development organizations in 203 countries), Fr. Vitillo represents this federation at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

**Also, on Saturday evening, Sept. 11, from 7 - 8:30 PM, Fr. Vitillo will lead a CCHD information session at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.** The non-profit CHANGE, a CCHD National Grant funded group, will also present their work. Each November, diocesan parishes hold a special collection to fund the work and grants of CCHD. Come and learn more about CCHD and its fight against poverty in the USA. The 2004 CCHD Collection will take place on Sunday,

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Events are sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace, in partnership with St. Peter Church and St. Pius X Church. Cold drinks are provided. **For info call 704-370-3225.**

# 'Faithful Service ... Grateful Hearts'

## *Upcoming collection to benefit priests' retirements*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte soon will have the opportunity to show they care about the priests who have faithfully served the Diocese of Charlotte.

The annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection will be taken up in every parish the weekend of Sept. 11-12.

The collection helps provide monthly benefits for the 26 retired diocesan priests, including Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

"These men have served us for years, they've given their lives to us, so it's important for us to support them, now and in their retirement," said Father Tim Reid, who was ordained by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at Our Lady of Assumption Church in June this year.

Father Reid appears with Msgr. William Pharr on this year's poster and brochure promoting the collection.

"The collection is a tremendous help," said Msgr. Pharr, who was ordained in May 1960 and retired in July 2001.

"It's important for retired priests so they can take care of their needs in retirement," he said. "It gives us a sense of independence and ability to do things we were unable to do in the past due to lack of time or finances."

Since retiring, Msgr. Pharr has been involved in chaplaincy work and assisting parishes, as well as a travel study program.

"It also helps us be charitable to parishes and institutions that we'd like to help out," he said.

Contributions also help provide for the future retirements of the 82 diocesan priests currently involved in active ministry, as well as the retirement funds of the 53 religious order priests serving in the diocese.

"I have been privileged to serve as parochial vicar, deacon or seminarian under many of our retired priests," said Bishop Jugis. "Others have served as pastor in my own home parish during my childhood and youth. They are all very dear to me."

The campaign's goal is to collect $1,120,000 — $782,500 to fund the diocesan priests' retirement and benefits plans; $320,000 to support the retirement funds of religious order priests currently serving in our diocese; and $17,500 to cover campaign expenses.

Each parish is assessed 3.5 percent of its annual offertory collection to raise funds needed to support the Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection. In most parishes, that amount is slightly less than two times the regular Sunday offertory.

Proportionate contributions on the weekend of Sept. 11-12 will help parishes pay the assessment.

"The people of the diocese have been very generous," said Msgr. Pharr. "We do feel that we've been appreciated."

PHOTO BY TIM FARAGHER

Msgr. William Pharr, retired diocesan priest, and Father Timothy Reid, parochial vicar at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, are seen here in the photo used for the poster and brochure promoting the annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection. The collection will be taken up in every parish this year the weekend of Sept. 11-12.

# Capturing clergy

## *Priests become models for photo shoot*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Two men in black suits walked back and forth, back and forth outside the diocesan Pastoral Center in early July.

The men were priests, but they were posing for a camera.

"Okay, that's great, but can we try it a little slower this time?" asked the photographer.

Despite the sweltering heat July 8, the two priests nodded and got back into position for another take.

"I'm thinking, 'It's hot out here. Can't we do this inside?'" joked Father Timothy Reid, parochial vicar at St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

Father Reid, ordained in June 2004, and Msgr. William Pharr, who retired in July 2001, were modeling for a poster and brochure to promote the annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection. The collection will be taken up in every parish this year the weekend of Sept. 11-12.

The poster, depicting a new priest passing a retired priest, was sent to parishes across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte.

"I had some people mention they saw it and that it came out nicely," said Msgr. Pharr, who mused about his new "modeling career."

"They took so many pictures, I figured one or two would have to come out decent," he said.

"My parishioners are having a good time with it, and I'm getting calls from other priests in the diocese," said Father Reid of the feedback. "But as a newly ordained priest, it's nice to help out our retired priests any way that I can."

Contributions also help provide for the future retirements of the 82 diocesan priests currently involved in active ministry, as well as the retirement funds of the 53 religious order priests serving in the diocese.

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

### DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE RETIRED PRIESTS

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Father Francis M. Cintula
Father Thomas Clements
Father Francis Connolly
Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Father Aloysius D'Silva
Father Vincent Erb
Father Patrick Gavigan
Father Raymond Hourihan
Father Joseph Kelleher
Msgr. Joseph Kerin
Father Conrad Kimbrough
Msgr. Anthony Kovacic
Father Andrew Latsko
Father Bernard Manley
Father Richard McCue
Father Gabriel Meehan
Msgr. William Pharr
Father Charles Reese
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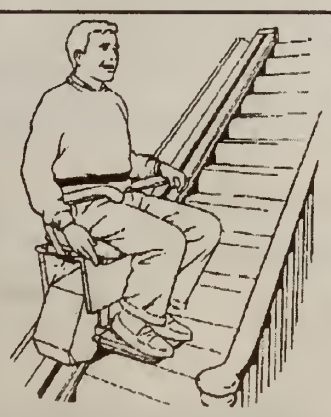

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IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

# Catholics explore strengths of Eucharist, liturgy at annual conference

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Catholics in western North Carolina were encouraged recently to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Approximately 60 people attended the "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus: Living as Eucharistic People Conference" held at Immaculata School Aug. 21. The Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team sponsored the annual conference.

"We hoped everyone could find in their daily lives a way to live as Jesus did," said Elizabeth Girton, a team member and faith formation director at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

"We looked at ways to become like Christ and gather our strength from the Eucharist," she said.

Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church and a staff member of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, gave the keynote address on walking in Jesus' footsteps.

"In living our daily lives, we are living sacred lives that play a roll in fulfillment of God's promise that all would be one," said Father Doyle.

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of Christian life," said Father Doyle, and a "sense of fullness and completion is achieved" when a person heads toward this summit.

Workshops were also held for the conference participants.

Ann Stowe, an Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team member and parishioner of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill, led a workshop on prayer.

Prayer has "a healing effect because we cannot meet the living God and not be affected," she said.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

**Elizabeth Girton, an Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team member, speaks during the "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" conference at Immaculata School Aug. 21.**

Elaborating on the types of prayer — praise, petition, intercession and contrition — Stowe said the most important aspect of prayer is to remember that "we are on a journey to God."

Girton offered a session on the liturgy.

"I spoke about how the Catholic liturgy is framed and the history of how it developed into its present form," she said.

Through proclamation of the Word, Christ is encountered in the liturgy of the Word, one of four signs of God's presence, said Girton.

"The other signs are creation, the liturgy of the Eucharist and the ecclesiastical community," she said.

Girton said it is Christ who speaks when Scriptures are read, and he is always present, especially at liturgical celebrations. For example, she said, when someone is baptized, it is Christ who is baptizing.

"We get grace even when we are not aware of it. If you open up your heart, you get more grace," said Girton. "We can choose to just get by or fill up the whole room with grace. Christ is there whether we put anything in or not."

In addition to the conference, Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team also sponsors an annual catechist reflection day in January and a catechist appreciation Mass and dinner in May.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

SETTING FAITH ABLAZE

# Workshop educates, enriches diocesan catechists

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — More than 400 catechists in the southern region of the Diocese of Charlotte attended the "Hearts on Fire" workshop at St. Matthew Church Aug. 28.

Sponsored by the southern region of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, the workshop provided catechists and other ministers with enrichment and education for adult education, youth ministry and RCIA ministries.

"The workshop provided spiritual enrichment, creative approaches and sound methods for enriching our faith formation programs in our parishes," said Franciscan Sister Ann Lyons, southern region coordinator of faith formation.

Breakout sessions addressed topics including teaching religion and the Bible; fostering a Catholic identity in young people; helping adults learn about and live out their faith; multiculturalism; and prayer labyrinths.

Norbertine Father Alfred McBride presented the keynote address, "A Season of New Beginnings: Bringing Faith and Love to Your Faith Formation Programs." Father McBride teaches homiletics at Pope John XXIII Seminary and is the author of several books.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the closing liturgy.

"The day served as an energizing force and gave catechists information for the new school year," said Sister Lyons.

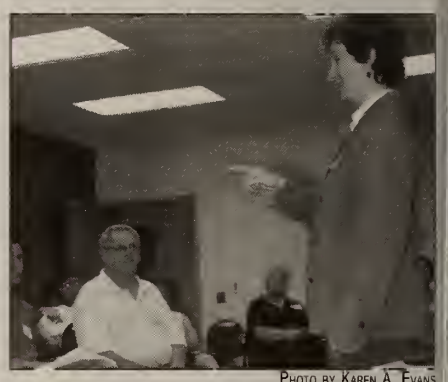

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Cathy Rusin speaks to participants at the "Hearts on Fire" workshop held at St Matthew Church Aug 28.**

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# How she spent her summer

*Teen-ager collects shoes for Biscoe parishioners*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

MATTHEWS — While her classmates worked at fast food restaurants or sunned themselves on Myrtle Beach, Kelly Santore spent her summer collecting 142 pairs of shoes.

Most didn't fit her feet. Many weren't her style. And none of them were added to the 20 pairs already in her closet.

Instead, Kelly and her family sorted each pair by size and style, packed them in the family car and drove to Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe Aug. 8.

Kelly, a sophomore at Piedmont High School and a parishioner of St. John Neumann Church, decided in mid-June to collect shoes for the children of Our Lady of the Americas Church, most of whom are Hispanic.

"They don't have what we have — many of them can't go back-to-school shopping," Kelly said.

When she first considered the idea for a shoe drive, she asked Father Thomas Meehan, pastor of St. John Neumann Church, if she could ask the parishioners for donations of new shoes.

Father Meehan encouraged Kelly to "go for it" said Debbie Santore, Kelly's mom.

"He was proud that a teen-ager would want to do something like that," Kelly said.

Initially, she made 60 shoe-shaped tags and posted them on a bulletin board in the church. Within a week, all the tags were gone and Kelly made 50 more. When those disappeared as well, her aunt made a sign for the church saying that although the tags were all taken, Kelly was still taking donations.

Connie Milligan, director of religious education at St. John Neumann Church, was impressed that Kelly took the initiative to start the shoe-drive project.

COURTESY PHOTO BY DEBBIE SANTORE

Kelly Santore sits among the 142 pairs of new shoes she collected for Our Lady of the Americas Church during the summer. "I knew they needed shoes when they went back to school," she said of the school-age parishioners of the Biscoe church.

"I hope that other teen-agers will be inspired to follow Kelly's example and take steps toward helping others."

-- Connie Milligan

"I hope that other teen-agers will be inspired to follow Kelly's example and take steps toward helping others," said Milligan.

Kelly is planning on collecting shoes again next summer, and hopes to accumulate even more pairs by including her neighbors as well as the parishioners of St. John Neumann Church.

"I'd like to get 150 or even 200 pairs next year," she said.

"They were so grateful," said Kelly of the approximately 200 parishioners who came to Mass early to select a pair of shoes. "A bunch of the kids thanked me for them and their parents were so happy."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Back to school in diocese

SCHOOLS, *from page 1*

Numerous staff meetings were held over the summer for new principals, new teachers and all teachers' assistants. Additionally, all new teachers attended a religious in-service day with Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious education in schools.

"When meeting so many of the new teachers in the diocese in early August, you can't help but be re-energized by their enthusiasm," said Cherry.

"Overall enrollment is up in the diocese again, and we expect this trend to continue," she added.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools saw its highest enrollment in its 14-year history, with Charlotte Catholic High School at more than double its enrollment when the MACS system began in 1992.

Other Catholic schools in the diocese are growing also. A pre-kindergarten class has been added to Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte and a seventh-grade class has been added at St. Mark School in Huntersville.

"What a privilege it is for our community to ensure that Catholic schools continue to flourish as centers of faith, hope and love within the Diocese of Charlotte," said Father James Hawker, vicar of education and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

"Our Lady of Mercy School has gotten off to a wonderful start," said Sandra McMonagle, principal. "Open houses were well-attended, orientation of new parents eased the transition into their new school community and a second second-grade class was opened."

The new school year also features three new principals to the diocesan school system.

Asheville Catholic School has Donna Gilson, formerly a teacher at Asheville Catholic; Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point has Wanda Garrett, formerly a music teacher at the school; and St. Mark School has Debbie Butler, who was previously assistant principal at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte.

***Broadening horizons***

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) reports 34 new Catholic schools opened during the last school year, while 123 were closed or consolidated for a net loss of 45 schools. Although the national Catholic enrollment declined by 2.7 percent during last year, 2,801 Catholic schools — more than one-third of the total — have waiting lists.

Michael Guerra, NCEA president, said that the closings come at a crossroads in the history of Catholic schools.

"This past year, NCEA marks its centennial celebration and is observing 100 years of U.S. Catholic education," he said. "For more than a century, Catholic schools have been a force in the nation, providing a strong academic and Christian education for students. The loss of these schools is a significant loss for our country."

"The Charlotte Diocese is proud of our increase in enrollment and no school closings on the horizon," said Cherry. "The Catholic community continues to grow in the diocese and that is reflected in a growing interest in our Catholic schools."

***Catholic education***

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte "propose to create an environment in which the teachings of Jesus are promoted and proclaimed as the basis of values they teach and uphold," as stated on the diocesan Web site.

"It is important in today's society for students to have a safe haven to practice their religious beliefs," said Roberta Hutchcraft, principal of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro. "A Catholic school offers such an opportunity within an environment of excellent academic education."

"The Catholic school is a graced environment in which the participants are invited and enabled to grow in their knowledge and love of God," said Father Hawker.

"At the same time, students are assisted to cultivate their talents and gifts even as they are challenged to respond to the needs of others," he said. "There is no doubt, then, that the Catholic school contributes uniquely to the educational mission of the Catholic Church."

*Contact Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

# School smiles

COURTESY PHOTO

**Sully Alvis and Anita Parker, first-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte, pose for a photo during their first day back to school Aug. 16.**

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PREPARING FOR CLASS

# New teachers learn Scripture, Catholic identity at in-service days

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — Preparations for the 2004-05 Catholic school year recently brought new teachers in the diocese together.

In-service workshops for teachers on Scripture and Catholic identity were held at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem Aug. 5 and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Aug. 6.

Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, joined the gathering of 17 teachers at St. Leo the Great School.

"Mrs. Cherry encouraged teachers in their responsibility to share the Catholic faith," said Georgette Schraeder, principal.

Danita McDonald, a workshop presenter and religion teacher at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, felt that Cherry was the real "star of the show."

"How many superintendents of school systems took the time to attend their new teacher meetings?" asked McDonald. "It was a great blessing that Mrs. Cherry could be there with us."

The in-services, organized by Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of diocesan religious education in schools, featured presentations by Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Maudlin, associate professor of mathematics and religion at Limestone College in Gaffney, S.C.

"Sister Maureen arranged a very informative program for beginning teachers to our Catholic school system, especially for those who are not Catholic," said Mercy Sister Emma Yondura.

Sister Yondura, first-grade teacher and religion coordinator at St. Leo the Great School, addressed the primary grade teachers about the Sadlier Religion Program.

Similar workshops were offered at both in-services by McDonald at St. Leo the Great and by Mary Jane Dawson, campus minister at Charlotte Catholic, at Holy Trinity.

The workshops addressed sixth- through 12th-grade teachers on the diocese's youth ministry model for working with adolescents. McDonald and Dawson outlined the characteristics of the "Net generation" and augmented it with examples of a student-directed model for learning.

Sister Meehan will hold additional workshops for Catholic schoolteachers throughout the school year, including several simultaneous workshops with nationally known speakers at various locations in the diocese Sept. 17.

# Spirited maneuvers

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Father Johnathan Hanic (background), parochial vicar at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, joins students in the Chicken Dance between a students vs. priests volleyball game at St. Leo the Great School Aug. 20. The match was part of the school's "Olympic Spirit Games" during the first week of classes.

WELCOME BACK MASS

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Hands are extended during a blessing of Asheville Catholic School's faculty and staff during a welcome back Mass at St. Eugene Church Aug. 20.

# Students learn importance of being 'blessed and happy'

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The back-to-school buzz was evident at Asheville Catholic School's "welcome back" Mass for students, faculty and staff Aug. 20.

During the evening Mass, the congregation extended their hands to join in the blessing of the school's faculty and staff. Each class also chose a symbol and placed it before the altar to be blessed by Father Francis Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church. The symbols will be kept in each classroom to remind the students of God's love for them.

The new school year's theme is the beatitudes — students will explore the eight beatitudes both in and out of the classroom.

In his homily, Father Cancro urged the students "to begin the school year knowing that work is blessed and happy."

"You will learn more about yourselves, your teachers; have new opportunities; make new friends; learn new things and how to show others God's presence by showing how blessed and happy God makes all of us," said Father Cancro.

After Mass, students, parents, faculty and staff adjourned to the school cafeteria for a catered dinner.

## IHM athletic director receives DSA

HIGH POINT — The North Carolina Athletic Officials Association has honored Kathy Brasiskis with its 2004 Distinguished Service Award.

Brasiskis, physical education and athletic director at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, is a member of the Triad Volleyball Officials Association. She received the award for her more than 10 years of officiating middle and high school volleyball matches throughout the Triad area.

# Catholic school cookout

COURTESY PHOTO

The first day of classes at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point let out early for a back-to-school cookout for students, parents and staff at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Aug. 18. The cookout, sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Organization, offered a chance for all involved to reconnect and share fellowship.

## IHM student essays win LAOH competitions

HIGH POINT — An essay written by Austin Grant, a student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, recently represented North Carolina at the national Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) Irish history competition.

Grant's essay on Maureen O'Hara won first place in the middle school category at the LAOH's state competition earlier this year.

Elizabeth Sheffield, also a student at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, won third place in the middle school category of the state competition for her essay on Anne McCaffrey, which was also presented at the national competition.

## IHM students' poetry published

HIGH POINT — The poetry of seven students from Immaculate Heart of Mary School has been selected for publication in the 2004 edition of the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans.

Submissions are selected based on originality, rhythmic sounds, rhymes and audience appeal. This is the 14th year the book has been printed by Anthology of Poetry, Inc.

The students are Christa Dolan, Elizabeth Gooding, Hope Griffin, Katie Shank, Zachary Scott, Kara Walker and Liza Watkins. All are students of Lynn Hamilton, sixth-through-eighth-grade English teacher.

Best wishes for the 2004 - 2005 school year

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# Parochial play

COURTESY PHOTO

Debby Heaton's kindergarten students enjoy their first day back at school with some fun on the playground at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem Aug. 20.

## OLM student accepted to leadership conference

WINSTON-SALEM — One student at Our Lady of Mercy School will soon experience a unique enrichment opportunity.

Sixth-grader Amanda Gavin has been accepted to participate in the Congressional Youth Leadership Council in Washington, D.C., Oct. 16-21. The conference offers education leadership conferences for outstanding young people from across the country who exhibit strong scholastic merit, maturity and responsibility.

Amanda was nominated by her fifth-grade teacher, Jean Degnan, for her academic achievements and potential leadership ability. Amanda will spend the week at the program for rising sixth- and seventh-graders and have the opportunity for leadership development, educational experiences and personal growth. She will also be able to visit national monuments and museums.

## OLG teacher bears witness to anti-Semitism

GREENSBORO — A middle school teacher at Our Lady of Grace School recently got an eye-opening look at anti-Semitism.

Bobbie Gaski, an arts and literature teacher at the school, participated in the five-day 2004 Bearing Witness Summer Institute in Washington, D.C., June 25-30.

The institute is offered to Catholic schoolteachers to help them become better equipped to teach not only about the Holocaust, but also about the evils of prejudice, hatred and bigotry. The program's objectives include understanding the core components of anti-Semitism after the Holocaust, acquiring tools to recognize anti-Semitism and understanding the continued need to fight anti-Semitism.

Gaski and all other Bearing Witness participants were invited to travel to Poland to visit the concentration camp sites and to participate in the Holocaust Memorial March on May 5, 2005. The trip is fully funded by the institute.

# Olympics, song and fish during OLG's first week

GREENSBORO — It was a busy back-to-school week at Our Lady of Grace School.

Middle school students held an Olympic celebration Aug. 25. Teams dressed in the colors of the Olympic rings and enjoyed an afternoon of tossing Frisbees, softball, relays and other tests of athletic prowess.

The Olympic torch and United States flag were brought into the gymnasium by eighth-graders Ross Diachenko and Matthew Armstrong to the cheers of the participants and spectators.

The school choir, composed of second-graders and higher, performed during the opening Mass of the school year, celebrated by Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church, Aug. 29. The liturgy for the Mass was provided by the eighth-grade class.

Students and parents enjoyed the film "Finding Nemo" during Back-to-School Movie Night in the cafeteria Aug. 20. A highlight of the evening, sponsored by the school's Parent-Teacher Organization, was a drawing for "Nemo's cousin," Nomo, a fish swimming in his own fishbowl.

COURTESY PHOTO

Middle-school students dress in the colors of the Olympic rings, which they form in the gymnasium of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Aug. 25.

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# Divino Redentor dedicated in Boonville

DEDICATION, *from page 1*

Divino Redentor Church was dedicated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis Aug. 21.

"It's a blessing to dedicate our church to the holy Eucharist," said Father Fidel Melo, pastor.

The establishment of Divino Redentor (Divine Redeemer) unites the mission churches of La Iglesia del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus in Dobson and Christo Rey Hispanic Center in Yadkinville.

"(This church) is very important for this area," said Gabriel Carvajal, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte and a native of Mexico. "It is a great opportunity for Hispanics to express their faith while keeping the values of their culture."

During the two-hour bilingual Mass, more than 600 parishioners and special guests watched as Bishop Jugis blessed the church with holy water, holy chrism oil and incense, "to signify the superabundant grace and holiness of the sacrifice of Christ."

By the early 1980s, a significant number of Hispanics had arrived in Yadkin County to work in the tobacco and textile industries.

This population was predominately Catholic, and the Diocese of Charlotte responded by establishing a migrant ministry, eventually named Cristo Rey (Christ the King), in Yadkinville in the summer of 1982.

In 1985, La Iglesia del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus Church) was established 20 miles north in Dobson. The local community converted a former housing facility for migrant workers into a church.

"We are very happy and humbly proud to be here and to be part of the pioneers in this area as Catholics and Hispanics," said Father Melo.

PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Above: More than 600 parishioners gather outside Divino Redentor Church in Boonville dedication Mass Aug. 28. Below: Bishop Jugis annoints a church door.**

Within a few years, the Hispanic population had grown so significantly that the parishioners of Sagrado Corazon de Jesus and Christo Rey had outgrown their facilities. By 2000, plans were underway for a new 18,000 square-foot facility that would serve as worship, educational and gathering space for Yadkin County's Catholics. Twenty acres of land were purchased in Boonville, at the midpoint between Cristo Rey and Sagrado Corazon de Jesus.

The $1.5 million facility was completed in January 2003 and Father Melo began celebrating Mass soon after. Following the episcopal ordination of Bishop Jugis in October 2003, the process of selecting a name for the new Hispanic center was underway.

To keep in line with the largely Hispanic population, the Spanish name Divino Redentor was chosen for the church.

Father Melo said the new church was designed to make the Hispanic parishioners, most of whom are natives of Mexico, feel at home. The exterior features stucco walls and a red tile roof. The crucifix and altar that adorn the church were crafted in Mexico.

"We have a heavy responsibility to be a strong presence of the Catholic Church, especially by showing what is the essence of us as Catholic Christians," said Father Melo. "We must communicate the kindness of God to each of us through the way we behave within our relationships with others."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT MORE INFO?**

For more on the history of Divino Redentor, please see the Parish Profile on page 20.

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## Survey: Hispanics want to keep culture while integrating into U.S. life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many Hispanics believe that they can be a part of the U.S. mainstream and still retain a distinctive culture and language, according to a national survey.

The poll of 2,288 Hispanic citizens and noncitizens showed that 83 percent view the United States as made up of many cultures. Only 10 percent agreed that "the United States has a single core Anglo-Protestant culture."

Regarding assimilation, 38 percent said it is very important for "racial and ethnic groups to change so that they blend into the larger society, as in the idea of a melting pot of cultures" and 35 percent said that such blending is somewhat important.

However, 66 percent said that it is very important for Hispanics to maintain their distinct culture and 63 percent said that it is very important that future generations of U.S. Hispanics speak Spanish.

The national survey, conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation to report on Hispanic political views, was based on telephone interviews conducted April 21-June 9. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.83 percent.

Roberto Suro, Pew Hispanic Center director, said the results indicate a "seeming paradox" in the willingness to blend in and the desire to maintain a distinctive culture and preserve Spanish.

But these are not perceived as mutually exclusive by Hispanics, said Suro.

"There is a perception that this is a country where it is possible to be in the mainstream and maintain a distinct identity," he said.

Regarding what an immigrant has to do to be part of U.S. society, 79 percent said an immigrant has to believe in the Constitution; 65 percent said vote in elections; 55 percent said speak English and 54 percent said be a citizen.

A parallel survey of all Americans showed that 92 percent believed the United States is made up of many cultures and only 5 percent said it has a single Anglo-Protestant culture.

LABORS OF FAITH

COURTESY PHOTO

Clayton Strickland, a member of Boy Scout Troop 174 at St. Gabriel Church, and his father, Erving, stand in front of the prayer garden patio they constructed at Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin's house.

# Scout earns award for work at bishop emeritus' house

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Clayton Strickland, a member of Boy Scout Troop 174 at St. Gabriel Church, earned his Eagle Scout award by doing some unique handiwork at Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin's house.

"My Eagle Scout project was to build and construct a prayer garden patio, including an arbor to house a statue of Mary," said Clayton, 17, a Charlotte Catholic High School senior.

In late 2002, Clayton approached Msgr. Richard Bellow about doing work at the parish to earn the award. Instead, Msgr. Bellow spoke about the "perfect project" at Bishop Curlin's house, said Clayton.

Clayton and his father, Erving, then met with Bishop Curlin.

"The bishop was very open to everything. He had a few suggestions and we went from there," said Clayton.

The Scout took photographs and measurements of the backyard. In addition to doing research, Erving advised his son to discuss the project with his troop's leaders who had assisted other Scouts with their service projects.

Clayton also researched the Charlotte area to find other grottos and arbors to measure and photograph for reference.

"I looked in magazines and landscaping books for inspiration and ideas on the design and layout of patios and arbors," he said. "From our initial meeting and through my research, I attempted to incorporate in my design and plan the wishes and ideas of Bishop Curlin."

Clayton compiled the ideas and formulated a plan.

"I developed a three-dimensional computer generated model of the project and presented it to Bishop Curlin for his approval," said Clayton. "From there, I set out to compile a list of materials and contact people to assist on the project."

The enterprising teen-ager gathered volunteers at troop meetings. "I sought the advice of Eagle Scouts from our troop, whom I have helped previously, for assistance with my project," he said.

With his team assembled, Clayton served on the project as organizer and leader of the other Scouts, making sure everyone was assigned a task that fit his ability.

"I was responsible for making sure that the tasks were being completed in a safe, satisfactory and efficient manner," he said.

Clayton had planned to complete the project by September 2003. But the project's scale increased along with other challenges, such as coordinating schedules. In the end, the project, completed in January 2004, cost almost $2,000 and involved more than 300 hours of labor.

Clayton, who plans to become an officer in the U.S. military, didn't mind all the hard work.

"My life purpose is to help others," he said. "I have learned from firsthand experience that a strong faith and family on which you can depend are most critical to personal happiness and the inner strength to face all of life's challenges."

Clayton is proud of his project, and said the bishop has received many compliments on his handiwork.

"The final appearance of the grotto has greatly added to the beauty of the backyard," he said. "The project is the focal point of the backyard and can been seen from any of the windows at the back of the house, especially the living room through the glass doors.

"It is very durable and will last for many years," he added. "It turned out better than we could have imagined."

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Irish cardinal says action needed to prevent environmental disaster

BY CIAN MOLLOY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DUBLIN, Ireland — Effective action must be taken soon at the international, national and local levels to prevent an environmental catastrophe and growing interracial conflicts, said retired Cardinal Cahal Daly of Armagh, Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the launch of his new book, "The Minding of Planet Earth," in Belfast Aug. 23, the cardinal said: "Much of what has been done up to now is mere tokenism, given the scale of looming crisis. There must be changes of life and lifestyle, and these do not come without cost."

"Life in accordance with the Gospel

of Jesus Christ is relevant to the survival of life on this planet, as much as it is relevant to the salvation of souls," he said. "Christian conversion and ecological 'conversion' converge."

The book has been in development for a long time, the cardinal said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

"My interest began when teaching philosophy in Queens," he said, referring to the 21 years he spent as a lecturer in scholastic philosophy at Queen's University, Belfast, before becoming a bishop in 1967.

"My interest increased when I became bishop, because of my pastoral duties," he said. "I was very concerned during my ministry about the problem of poverty and the link between poverty and violence in Northern Ireland."

The cardinal said poor people are not violent, but when people perceive themselves as excluded from society or that society is hostile or an enemy to them, it is easier for those who wish to foment violence to find an audience.

The cardinal said he takes Pope John Paul II's 1990 World Day of Peace message as a call for "positive action," and that message motivated him to write his book. He said he could not begin writing regularly until his retirement in October 1996.

"There was a great deal of reading, preparation and reflection required," the cardinal said.

In his book, the cardinal argues that religion and science are not incompatible.

"Contemporary culture has inherited a centuries-old mind-set, to the effect that religion, and specifically Christianity, is inherently hostile to science," he said at the book launch. "My book questions this mind-set. It contends that, on the contrary, Christianity made a vital contribution to the birth of modem science."

The cardinal said the last chapter of his book challenges the idea that humans have been given dominion over the planet.

"Men and women are stewards, not masters, of the universe. They are given a duty to care for the planet, not a plunderer's license. Stewardship implies justice within and between nations, and especially between rich and poor nations, and between rich and poor citizens within the same nation," he said.

### ENGLISH EDITION OF POPE'S BOOK DUE IN U.S. BOOKSTORES SEPT. 28

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Rise, Let Us Be on Our Way," the English edition of Pope John Paul II's latest book, is due in U.S. bookstores at the end of September.

The book is an autobiographical reflection on the pope's 20 years as a bishop in communist Poland, from 1958 to 1978.

Released in the original Polish and several other languages on the pope's 84th birthday May 18, the book's title was originally translated into English as "Get Up, Let Us Go."

The book goes on sale Sept. 28.


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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 12, 2004

## *Sept. 12. Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17
3) Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I hadn't thought much about John since he dropped out of the confirmation program months ago. But when I saw his mom after Mass the other day, the mixed emotions he'd left me with, the parish youth director, all came back.

For the first two years of high school, John had been excited about his growing relationship with God. He was active in youth ministry and emerging as a leader among his peers. Encouraged in his faith journey by both adults and youth, who described him as "on fire" with his faith, he was chosen for the leadership team of a diocesan retreat program. Then he slipped away.

He dropped out of religious education class and quit the retreat team because of work (to pay for a car) and athletics. Then he decided he didn't need to be confirmed. He never talked to me about it — he e-mailed. In his chip-on-the-shoulder complaint about confirmation, he said he didn't need the church's approval of his faith or the tiresome classes in which he learned nothing new.

I immediately fired back that he hadn't learned anything in class because obviously he'd never listened to the discussions about sacrament and church, as his ill-informed comments demonstrated.

I deleted the message without sending it.

It was just emotion, written out of my angry disappointment that we had failed to reach him.

Not two days later, another youth minister asked about him, and we wondered what had pulled John away from our community. As I said the words, "I don't think we'll get him back," I had the feeling I was abandoning an innocent young man.

And when I said, "At least not anytime soon," I sensed that I was failing to trust God's desire for John's companionship.

Today, I read the Scripture passages for this commentary and saw the angry, disappointed Old Testament God at first desiring to punish his people for giving his invitation a cold shoulder. Then I saw Jesus, the New Covenant, lovingly doing whatever it takes to bring in the lost sheep. Finally, I saw the senior class, and me — going to find John.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 11**

**Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33; **Monday,** 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday,** 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday (Nativity of Mary),** Micah 5:1-4, Matthew 1:18-23; **Thursday (St. Peter Claver),** 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday,** 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 2:39-42; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Luke 6:43-49

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 18**

**Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. John Chrysostom),** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (Exaltation of the Holy Cross),** Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Sorrows),** 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, John 19:25-27; **Thursday (St. Cornelius, St. Cyprian),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15


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# A 'Hero' of a movie

CNS PHOTO FROM MIRAMAX

Zhang Ziyi stars in a scene from "Hero," a stunning tale set in war-torn ancient China. Combining spectacular martial arts sequences with multilayered storytelling, "Hero" is dramatically involving and imparts a strong anti-violence message. Recurring martial arts violence, an implied sexual encounter and a ritual suicide. Subtitles. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

# Film calls Bush presidency 'most faith-based' in history

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — A new film about the religious life of President George W. Bush calls his presidency "the most faith-based administration in American history."

"George W. Bush: Faith in the White House," offered for preview by reporters and delegates at the Republican National Convention in New York, is advertised as "an alternative program" to Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."

At a press conference and showing Aug. 30, producer/director David W. Balsiger of Loveland, Colo., said he decided to do the film because Bush "seemed to be walking the talk of his faith more than others." He did not consult anybody in the Bush administration, he said.

Balsiger said people in the Christian community wanted to know if Bush actually lived the faith he professed, and felt more comfortable when they learned the president was a man who began his day with prayer and Bible reading, and who was a "caring and compassionate person."

Janet Parshall, a Washington-based talk-show host, narrates the film, and declares Bush's view of the role of religion is "right in line with the Founding Fathers."

The official release date is Oct. 5, but Balsiger said the film would be shown at the American Film Renaissance film festival Sept. 10-12 in Dallas. It is also available for sale in DVD and VHS formats.

Balsiger, who said he had done 85 biblical programs as well as other "family-friendly shows," described himself as a "secular commercial" producer. But he said he attended Resurrection Fellowship, a congregation of the Assemblies of God, and an independent congregation, Crossroads Church.

Financing for the film, estimated at nearly $400,000, was put up by Ted and Audrey Beckett, land developers in Colorado Springs. There, Balsiger said, he attends New Life Church, a congregation led by the Rev. Ted Haggard.

Rev. Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, is among numerous individuals the film shows commenting favorably on Bush's religious life.

Balsiger said that although some presidents had depended on one religious adviser, Bush drew on the counsel of many, including Rev. Haggard.

Expressing a desire to maximize impact on the election, Balsiger said the film would be shown on Christian TV stations in September and October, and a marketing effort was under way to get it into each of the nation's churches for viewing in connection with the presidential campaign. He expects to sell a million DVDs, he said.

It was produced under the auspices of Grizzly Adams Productions, a company named for an NBC-TV series it once produced and plans to revive.

The film emphasizes the change in Bush from the time he was a heavy drinker to his later decision to give up that and other bad habits such as cursing. But it also stresses his inner religious change.

In an opening scene, "George W. Bush: Faith in the White House" shows candidate Bush saying his favorite philosopher was Christ and explaining that "he changed my heart."

According to the film, a 1984 meeting with a visiting evangelist in Midland, Texas, was the beginning of Bush's "born-again Christian experience."

The experience culminated the following year, the story continues, in a meeting with the Rev. Billy Graham at the Bush family home at Kennebunkport, Maine.

During a walk on the beach, Rev. Graham reportedly asked Bush, "Are you right with God?" and got the answer, "No, but I want to be."

Calling Bush's religious commitment today a "tough faith," Parshall concludes in the film that Christians should engage in the religious and cultural conflicts of the 21st century, and will prevail "if we all join our faith to his."

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# Depiction of religion on TV goes in cycles, says newspaper TV critic

BY CHUCK MOODY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PITTSBURGH — Everything in television goes in cycles, and that includes the depiction of religion and the religious lives of TV characters, said Rob Owen, TV editor of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

"Sometimes we can find it in the most unlikely of places," said Owen of religious content on series.

"For instance, that episode of 'The West Wing' ... entitled 'Two Cathedrals,' where President (Josiah) Bartlet is cursing at God inside the National Cathedral in Latin," he said. "A powerful scene."

"It dealt with religion in a way that real people deal with it," Owen said. "Real people get angry at God. Real people have doubts about God. But too often on television you don't see that depicted. Instead, you see the saccharine 'Touched by an Angel' quasi-spiritual element of purported relationships with God."

"There are ways that religion deals with TV that are both obvious and simplistic, and perhaps not as obvious and a little more complex," he said.

Owen, who also is the lead TV writer for Scripps-Howard News Service, said TV shows tend to deal more with spirituality and less with religion.

"'Joan of Arcadia' doesn't really deal with a religion specifically," he said. "It deals more with an idea of God that comes out of probably Judeo-Christian tradition, but it deals more with God than it does with the idea of organized religion certainly."

"'Joan,' though, is a show that actually has a little of both ways," he said. "It's often a feel-good show, but it's not saccharine sweet like 'Touched by an Angel.' Therefore, because of that, I actually think that makes it a little more relatable. The idea of seeing God's influence on people's lives is more in line with what some people actually can experience than (to) have someone appear to them claiming to be an angel."

In addition to "Joan of Arcadia" and "The West Wing," Owen said other television series that have had at least somewhat of a religious theme from time to time include: "7th Heaven" on the WB, "The Sopranos" on the HBO pay-cable channel, "The O.C." on Fox and "NYPD Blue" on ABC.

He said he knew of no new series on the fall schedule in which religion is a recurring theme.

Owen said he tends to pay more attention to how prime-time entertainment shows cover religion than how broadcast network news shows do. However, the news media in general tend to cover religion more from a "what's wrong" rather than a "what's right" perspective, he said.

"To some degree, that's the definition of news," Owen said. "When something's right, you don't report it. When something's wrong, that's what makes it news."

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# Nurse sees other side of Iraq prison

NURSE, *from page 1*

other story as well, says 1st Lt. Deanna Steinmetz, an Army nurse stationed there.

The Abu Ghraib story that everybody knows, of course, is that of American soldiers, some of whom now face prosecution, taunting and abusing naked prisoners. Photos of the abuse shocked the world when they were published in May.

Steinmetz, 24, who comes from Holy Angels Church in Basehor, Kan., said there are also stories of hope from Abu Ghraib. She is part of Task Force Oasis, a medical unit from the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Wurtzburg, Germany, which was deployed to Iraq early this year to serve the medical needs of the prisoners and guards at Abu Ghraib.

While many Iraqi prisoners openly express their hatred of Americans, Steinmetz said in an e-mail interview with The Leaven, Kansas City archdiocesan newspaper, that she went to Iraq with a commitment to treat those prisoners just as she would any other patient — with concern and professionalism.

She said it wasn't easy at first, especially since she knew that many of the prisoners had possibly targeted — and maybe even killed — U.S. soldiers.

"My Catholic faith definitely has guided me through this experience," said Steinmetz, a nursing school graduate of Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Neb.

She said that after she arrived in Iraq she had many talks with her chaplain and e-mail discussions with her former pastor at Holy Angels, Father Anthony Williams, reflecting on her work with the prisoners.

"I realized that it is not my position to judge these people," she said.

And it's paid surprising dividends.

She recalled the time an Abu Ghraib prisoner was brought to the intensive care ward vomiting blood.

"I got a washcloth, started dabbing his forehead, and wiped the tears from his eyes — as my mom would do for me when I was sick," Steinmetz said. "The patient started saying, 'I will never forget this. ... No, no, I will not forget.'"

In mid-June, she said, a 30-year-old Iraqi man injured by U.S. troops was brought to the prison's hospital with wounds to his abdomen, back and left arm. Despite the fact that the surgery was not yet completed when the anesthesia wore off, the Iraqi profusely thanked Steinmetz and her fellow nurses for the good care he had received.

"He kept saying, 'I love America,' and 'America is good,'" Steinmetz said. "Just a few weeks ago, he disliked the United States enough to harm us, but now he's praising us. It is knowing that I'm able to change the views of a few that keeps me going out here."

One of her worst experiences was on April 20, when insurgents hit the prison with a mortar attack. She and her fellow doctors and nurses escaped injury, but 22 detainees were killed and 93 injured. "I have never seen so much blood in my life," she said.

Steinmetz admits to being homesick, but sees continued importance in her work in Iraq.

"It's imperative," she said, "to stay and finish the job we started."

"Americans do not realize all that is being done out here because the media only focuses on the bad," she said. "They need to realize that the Iraqis are finally getting a choice. ... We need to provide support for the Iraqis until they are ready to do that for themselves."

Her parents, Tom and Debbie Steinmetz, said their daughter has always been compassionate and quick to put empathy into action. They said she spent her first summer after nursing school as a nurse in the Dominican Republic, helping provide health services to those without any.

"Her feeling is that the Iraqis are human beings and need to be cared for," her father said simply.


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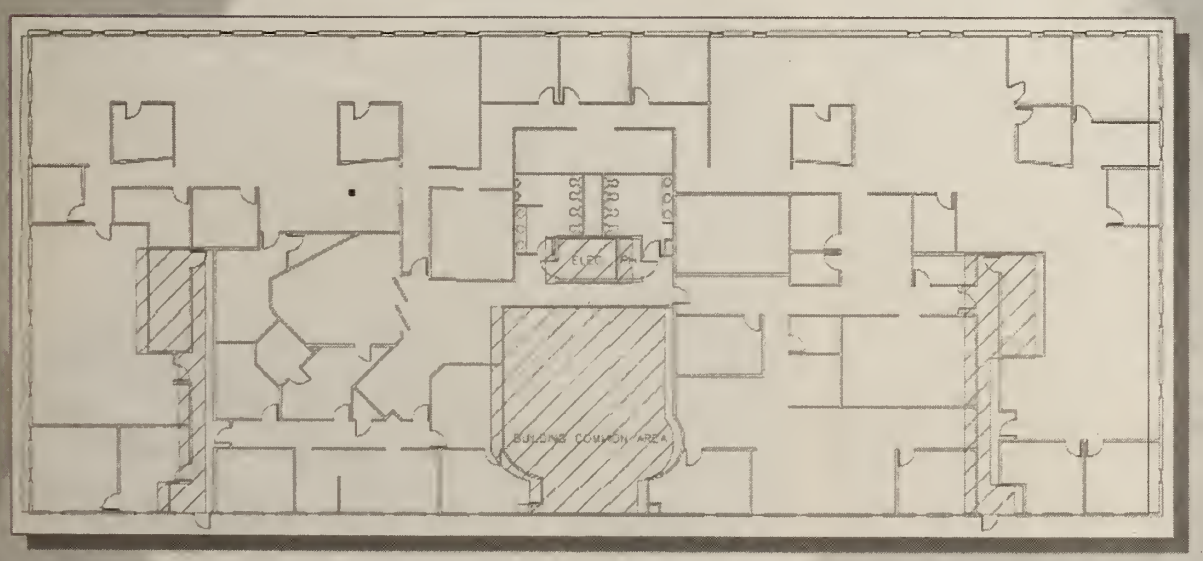

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Jesus, Father Wally and Auntie Mame

**Evangelization Matters**

FRANK VILLARONGA
GUEST COLUMNIST

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. Isaiah 25: 6-8*

I would venture to say that few of you have heard of Father Wally McGowan. Father Wally, who died Aug. 14 at the age of 81, was both a friend and a mentor to me when I was living in Miami.

He was a man of unconventional wisdom who had a spirituality which, though seemingly simple, revealed a remarkable depth. He was a man who enjoyed life and found beauty in all things. On Gaudete and Laetare Sunday, he wore not only a rose chasuble, its removal would reveal a pink liturgical shirt and a pair of pink socks.

There are many things I will remember about him, but the one that stays in my mind deals with a homily he once delivered. When preaching on the heavenly banquet passage from Isaiah, he opened with a line that Rosalind Russell delivers in the film "Auntie Mame": "Life's a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death!"

So what does this have to do with evangelization? Everything.

For me, this line captures not only the spirit of a dear priest friend who embraced life in all its artistic splendor, it also captures one of the great, yet easily ignored, truths about our faith: God's overabundant love is truly good news for everyone, yet so many people don't realize this.

Our challenge is to bring this good news to everyone — but first we must believe it ourselves.

For me, evangelization is about sharing the joy of our faith; relishing the fact that God's inclusive love is unconditional, and inviting others to experience the fullness of joy God offers us. Yet so many people choose to starve.

We can begin to look at these "starving suckers" in our pews and I bet we will find many who are there out of duty or obligation, worshipping a God who is "keeping tabs" on what we do and waiting to punish our minute faults, instead of one who, as Jesus proclaims in John 10:10, offers us fullness of life. As Pope Paul VI affirmed and Pope John Paul II has echoed, "the church begins the work of evangelization by evangelizing herself."

We can then look outward to those who have not fully heard the good news of the Gospel message. Perhaps they have not heard of God's love through the divine plan of salvation. More importantly, perhaps they have not witnessed the inclusiveness of God's love because all they have seen or heard from the church or its members is condemnation.

Our task is to mirror the compassion we have received while staying true to Gospel values. Evangelization, in this case, consists not only of preaching, but also of living out our faith.

We can continue to look and find those who are unable to live the abundant life of the good news because they are enslaved through some of the many evils and injustices in society. In this case, our task is to remove those shackles which society itself creates.

Put another way, the goals of evangelization, as stated by the U.S. bishops in the document "Go and Make Disciples," include: to bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others; to invite all people in the United States, whatever their social or cultural backgrounds, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith; to foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family and the common good of our society so that our nation may continue to be transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ.

At times the task may seem daunting; however, it makes sense when one remembers Jesus' parable about the king who gives a feast in which the invited guests turn down the invitation and refuse to attend. He then orders his servants to invite all those out in the streets. I often wonder why someone would turn down the invitation, yet marvel at how the banquet is not cancelled, but rather other guests are sought out and found.

Such is the love of God — he does not want all those "poor suckers" to starve, but, rather, to enjoy the fullness of life which he offers. It is a lesson that Jesus taught, Auntie Mame proclaimed and Father Wally lived.

*Frank Villaronga is the director of evangelization and ministry formation in the Diocese of Charlotte.*

## Pope says people lose human dignity by worshiping false idols

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Anyone who worships the idols of wealth, power and success loses human dignity, said Pope John Paul II.

"He who turns to the vanity of idols is transformed to become like that which he worships, becoming stone," the pope said Sept. 1 at his weekly general audience.

The pope was driven from his summer residence of Castel Gandolfo to hold the audience in the Vatican's air-conditioned Paul VI hall. The Vatican hall allows for more pilgrims to attend the public audience while the smaller, outdoor courtyard in Castel Gandolfo holds just a few thousand people.

In his catechesis, the pope focused on Psalm 115, which speaks of "the greatness and goodness of the true God."

The psalm compares the pagan gods which "speak not ... see not ... and hear not" with the living God of the people of Israel.

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Lifeless idols do not intercede to help their believers while those faithful to the Lord "know they have in the living God their help and their shield," the pope said.

The Lord is "the omnipotent creator" of heaven and earth, "love and truth" are his virtues, and "the cosmos and history are under his sovereignty of love and salvation," he said.

Even though "idolatry is a temptation for all of humanity in every place and at every time," those who look to the one true God "receive the characteristics of the divine and the strength to reject the enticement of worldly idols," said the pope.

# A crisis of awareness

## Guest Column

JOE PURELLO
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF JUSTICE & PEACE

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is at the forefront of keeping our nation's leaders aware of the atrocities and humanitarian crisis taking place in the Darfur region of western Sudan (go to www.catholicrelief.org for up-to-date information).

CRS estimates that this crisis has displaced 1.2 million people and that total deaths exceed 50,000. The death toll could increase exponentially if the refugees do not receive essential food supplies and medicines, clean water and shelter, and if the killing does not stop.

The horror that is taking place in Sudan is racist, systematic and targets the innocent. The situation threatens to destabilize the entire region of north-central Africa. The nation of Chad, one of the poorest nations in the world, has already received nearly 200,000 refugees.

Even though the crisis in Darfur has been raging for many months, as of mid-July 2004, a majority of Americans were unaware of the situation. A national poll conducted July 9-15 by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland revealed some startling results. Asked how much they had heard about the situation in Darfur, Sudan, "where there is a conflict between the local black African Darfuris and the central government, dominated by Arabs," only 14 percent said "some or a lot," 28 percent said "not very much" and 56 percent said "nothing at all."

Another crisis facing Africa is the epidemic of HIV/AIDS. Nearly 30 million Africans are infected with HIV/AIDS (70 percent of people infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide) and the disease kills more than 2 million people a year in Africa. Medicines widely available in well-to-do nations are financially out of reach for most African nations. The disease has decreased economic production, created a demographic surge in orphans throughout Africa, and exhausted government resources that could have been spent on education, sanitation, and other public services.

While most Americans are aware that AIDS in Africa is a very serious problem and agree that the United States should offer support to address HIV/AIDS there, a June 13-23, 2002 poll by the Kaiser Foundation/Washington Post/Harvard Poll revealed that 50 percent of Americans feel the United States is spending either too much (16 percent) or about the right amount (34 percent) to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in developing countries (with 20 percent saying they did not know).

This same poll reported that 56 percent of Americans also believe the United States spends too much on overall foreign aid, and 22 percent think the right amount of foreign aid is being distributed. Given the need for a far greater response to address the extent of poverty, disease, suffering and conflict in Africa, the wealthier nations of this world must raise their awareness of the cry for help from Africa.

The September Sunday Gospel readings have the common theme that, in order to be faithful disciples and gain God's favor, we must use our possessions in a just and compassionate fashion. In the Gospel parable of Lazarus (Sunday, Sept. 26), Jesus teaches us that our surplus resources are to be used in service to the poor as called for by the Law of Moses.

On Sept. 10, Father Robert J. Vitillo will speak at the Just Second Fridays program at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. In addition to being the executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Father Vitillo serves as the special advisor on HIV/AIDS for Caritas Internationalis (a federation of Catholic social service and development organizations).

He will speak on the topic "Looking at the HIV/AIDS Epidemic through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching." Please come and learn more about the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa.

*Joe Purello is the director of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.*

**WANT TO GO?**

September's Just Second Fridays will be 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 10, at St. Peter Church (Annex) in Charlotte.

# The fifth commandment

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Is the proper translation of the fifth commandment "Thou shalt not kill" or "Thou shalt not murder"? An evangelist was answering a question of whether God condones war or not. The actual commandment, he said, was not to murder. I never heard that, but thought about it much when I was in the Marines. (Illinois)*

A. The commandment, as passed down in Hebrew tradition, probably does mean murder, the deliberate immoral killing of another human being.

First of all, to claim it prohibits all killing would fly against what were understood as the teachings of God throughout Old Testament times. Killing animals (ritually or for food) and sometimes even humans (in war, tribal retribution, etc.) often was seen as not only approved but required.

There is more to it than that, however. The Decalogue (Ten Commandments) did not make up the whole body of law for the Jews. For example, they do not touch on many personal moral responsibilities. Rather they focus on actions that protect the needs and good of the community, the violation of which could injure the covenant between God and his people or between the people themselves.

Thus, apart from the obligation to keep the Sabbath and the prohibition of images, the commandments are in fact similar to the general human experience we find echoed in the laws of other ancient communities. A society whose members routinely lie, murder, violate marriages, steal or destroy another's property or reputation will soon destroy itself.

The fifth commandment must be understood in that context. When ancient Hebrews killed a rebellious slave, for example, or killed another in revenge for killing one's relative, it was not considered immoral. Just as the commandment itself was meant to protect human life in Israelite society, so murder was not a private affair; it weakened the whole Hebrew community, and in the name of that community could be avenged.

What is forbidden, therefore, is all killing that is not explicitly authorized within the framework of God's commands. The commandment has no direct connection, for example, with killing animals, killing enemies in war or capital punishment.

I hope it doesn't need saying that our attitude, at least as Christians, toward these latter killings has gone far beyond ancient Israel. The teaching, example and laws imposed on us by Jesus Christ drastically change the way we see our obligations to our human brothers and sisters as common children of God.

In addition, we have learned much in human society over the centuries about other, more humane and effective ways of dealing with human wrongdoing than resorting to "an eye for an eye." It is revealing that the United States is now the only country in the developed, civilized world that still imposes the death penalty. It is, others have discovered, not only inhuman, but counterproductive.

As you likely have discovered, there are several forms of enumerating the Ten Commandments, mostly based rather loosely on the two major listings in the Hebrew Scriptures, Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. In Roman Catholic tradition the prohibition against killing is No. 5. For other Christians, including most Protestants and ancient and modern Greek churches, that commandment is No. 6.

# The pain of painkillers

## Faith & the Marketplace

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH

Danny knew pain most of his life from a chronic ear disease. He found relief with antibiotics, but he lived with a dull pain inside his head. In 1990, he suffered a gunshot wound and his doctor prescribed a pill containing the opiate oxycodone to treat the pain. The painkiller unwittingly gave Danny his ticket to a life-long roller coaster ride.

When the medicine wore off, the pain returned, and with it came Danny's eight-year quest for more and better painkillers.

As his addiction advanced, Danny visited doctors seeking painkillers for one malady after another — stomach trouble, insomnia, ear pain, the gunshot wound, vertebrae or nerve problems. In his final hours, Danny locked himself in the bathroom and snorted OxyContin, a potent time-released oxycodone hydrochloride.

Then with a single blast from his hunting rifle, Danny administered his last painkiller.

Nearly a half million people in 2000 — 43 percent of those coming to hospital emergency rooms from drug overdoses — were treated for misusing prescription drugs. Federal statistics in 2002 estimated that 6.2 million Americans misused prescription drugs, compared to 2 million misusing cocaine and 700,000 misusing ecstasy.

Part of the increase of prescription drug use lies with the pharmaceutical firms whose relentless marketing creates an appetite for the promised nirvana of pain-free living. The largest drug companies now spend nearly three times more money marketing and promoting their products than doing basic research and development.

In today's medical climate, patients expect a pill to relieve their pain. The culture of instant gratification seizes on the allusion of pain-free living to deny the life struggle from birth through death.

Given that harsh pain might require chemical intervention, an increasing number of folks are seeking holistic alternatives to drugs with their unwanted side effects and possible addiction.

Judy, a woman with severe allergies, quit western medicine for acupuncture and herb therapy. Jeanie, with lupus, found pain relief through foot and hand massage. Agnetta, suffering acute pain from lymphadema, abandoned morphine for reflexology, the application of alternating pressure causing a physiological change in the body.

Alternative folks train themselves to accept the daily pain of life by visioning a serene place without pain rather than sedating themselves with chemicals. Treating pain apparently requires a balance between mind, body and spirit.

# Two united churches serve growing Catholic community

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

**Divino Redentor Church, the only Catholic church in Yadkin County, is the spiritual home for Yadkin County's 2,100 Catholics, as well as a cultural "home away from home" for its 1,800 Hispanic parishioners.**

**Divino Redentor/Divine Redeemer Catholic Church**
209 Lon Ave.
Boonville, N.C. 27011
(704) 531-8471

**Vicariate:** Boone
**Pastor:** Father Fidel Melo
**Deacon:** Father Mr. Harold Markle
**Number of Parishioners:** 1,500

Father Fidel Melo

During the 1980s, a significant number of Hispanics arrived in Yadkin County, northwest of Winston-Salem, as migrants working in the tobacco industry.

This population was predominately Catholic, and the Diocese of Charlotte responded by establishing a migrant ministry, eventually named Cristo Rey (Christ the King), in Yadkinville in the summer of 1982 to serve families in Yadkin and south Surry counties. The four Catholic parishes of Winston-Salem — Our Lady of Mercy, St. Leo the Great, St. Benedict the Moor and Our Lady of Fatima — founded the ministry in a joint effort.

In 1985, La Iglesia del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus Church) was established 20 miles north in Dobson. The local community converted a former housing facility for migrant workers into a church. Although the structure had no running water and relied on kerosene heater for warmth, it was utilized as the church for eight years.

Father Joseph J. Waters, a pioneer in ministry to Hispanics in the Diocese of Charlotte, was appointed director of diocesan migrant ministry in 1982. He led a search for Spanish-speaking priests to celebrate Mass for the Hispanic communities in the western Piedmont.

For several years, the Hispanic community of the Yadkinville area gathered in the American Legion Hall in nearby East Bend for Masses.

By 1986, the growth of Hispanics in the area prompted the Diocese of Charlotte to purchase a former hardware store just south of Yadkinville to provide a permanent pastoral center for the local community.

Father Joseph Mack, then-pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, celebrated the first Mass in the hardware-store church July 8, 1990. In August, Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott was hired as director of the center, and in December then-Bishop John. F. Donoghue blessed the facility, giving it the name Cristo Rey.

The number of migrant families permanently settling the Yadkinville area continued to rise. By 1995, the number of people attending Sunday liturgies was such that some worshippers were forced to stand on the porch or outside on the property.

Cristo Rey served as a church and as a place of assisting Hispanics by offering interpretation and translation needs, English classes and cultural and practical orientation.

Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff joined the Cristo Rey staff in August 1992, and also assisted in Hispanic ministry with Father Waters in nearby Dobson and Wilkesboro.

For the next several years, they promoted lay leadership, participation in lay ministry and formation of small Christian communities.

An acre of land and a building that once housed a restaurant were purchased along Route 601 south of Dobson. The Hispanic community renovated the building, and on Dec. 12, 1993, members gathered for the first Mass celebrated there.

Msgr. John McSweeney, then-diocesan administrator, blessed and dedicated the chapel in January 1994. Mass attendance increased with the dedication of the new church facility, and a faith formation program was begun for children.

Father Waters worked diligently with migrant settled families in the area, traveling to Dobson to celebrate Saturday evening Mass, visiting families, preparing parishioners for the sacraments and transporting members to and from the church.

Soon, the Hispanic population outgrew both the Sagrado Corazon de Jesus and Cristo Rey facilities. Both communities commenced plans to unite the two parishes and construct a new church between the two existing centers of worship.

By 2000, plans were underway for a new 18,000 square-foot facility that would serve as worship, educational and gathering space for Yadkin County's Catholics. Twenty acres of land were purchased in Boonville, at the midpoint between Dobson and Yadkinville.

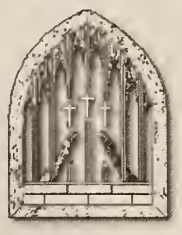
The new church was designed to make the Hispanic parishioners, most of whom are natives of Mexico, feel at home. The exterior features stucco walls and a red tile roof. The crucifix and altar that adorn the church were crafted in Mexico.

The $1.5 million facility was completed in January 2003 and Father Fidel Melo, pastor, began celebrating Mass soon after. Following the episcopal ordination of Bishop Peter J. Jugis in October 2003, the process of selecting a name for the new Hispanic center was underway.

To keep in line with the largely Hispanic population, the Spanish name Divino Redentor (Divine Redeemer) was chosen for the church. On Aug. 21, 2004, Bishop Jugis formally dedicated the church in the presence of nearly 600 worshippers during a Mass celebrated in English and Spanish.

Father Melo says Divino Redentor will strive to be a spiritual home to Yadkin County's 2,000 Catholics as well as making its Mexican parishioners feel at home in North Carolina.

**DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE**
**PRISON MINISTRY APPRECIATION DAY**



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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMBER 10, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 42

**Scroll Mass**

*Equestrian Order of Holy Sepulchre welcomes members*

| PAGE 5

# Bringing faith to a new home

## *Visiting nuns spread Gospel to North Carolina Hispanics*

**SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES INVITE FAITH INTO LIVES, HOMES**

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ANDREWS — Nearly 20 people crowded into Daniel Hernandez's living room, filling two white-sheet-covered sofas and a love seat and overflowing into the trailer's kitchen.

An Our Lady of Guadalupe wall hanging, covering the front of the television, was anchored to the TV's top with tall glass votives depicting religious figures. As the service began, Jose Martinez played his guitar and everyone sang of God's magnificent love.

It was the evening of Aug. 21, and the people had come for a prayer service led by Mother María Trinidad Villaran, mother superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mercy.

Eduardo Bernal, Hispanic ministry

See VILLARAN, page 7

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Mother María Trinidad Villaran, mother superior of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mercy, visits with Hispanics in Andrews during a prayer service Aug. 21. Mother Villarin and another nun from El Salvador spent several weeks in August ministering in western North Carolina.

TERROR OF WAR

## Vatican official says terrorism has unleashed 'fourth world war'

*Christian to respond with God's love, says cardinal*

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MILAN, Italy — Defining the Cold War as the "third world war," Cardinal Renato Martino said terrorism appears to have unleashed the "fourth world war" in a way that touches almost everyone in every part of the globe.

See TERROR, page 13

## Suffering in Sudan

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Sudanese child reaches for a medicine bottle in a refugee camp in Sudan's Darfur province. Thousands of Sudanese children suffer from malnutrition because obstacles are delaying vital food.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 8.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Debi Gaffey communes with a green-cheeked conyer. Enrolled in the Office of Economic Opportunity's ABLE matched-savings program, Gaffey expanded her business of selling jewelry and birds.

SOMETHING TO SQUAWK ABOUT

## OEO assists many in western N.C.

*Center to celebrate fifth anniversary this month*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — Debi Gaffey's independence is growing.

"When I was down and out, people didn't treat me very well," she said. "It was almost like they wanted me to be needy and to ask for help. As I get more independent, they're much nicer."

Her change is based on her own initiative and the help she's receiving through

See OEO, page 9

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**Celebrating heritage**
*Hibernians convene, elect officers*
| PAGE 4

**In Our Schools**
*Asheville teacher to visit Japan; programs benefit schools*
| PAGE 6

**Perspectives**
*Bible's 'hidden' books; value talk*
| PAGES 14-15

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## MOURNING AFTER

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Local residents walk past flowers Sept. 6 and view the gym where heavily armed rebels held hostage hundreds of school children and adults in the town of Beslan in the Russian province of North Ossetia. At least 335 people were killed in the siege that ended Sept. 3 in a firefight between the hostage-takers and police. The pope called the school takeover a "vile and heartless act."

# Pope prays for siege victims, calls deaths 'cruel epilogue'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed for the more than 330 victims of the Russian school siege, calling their deaths a "cruel epilogue" to a savage attack.

In a telegram Sept. 4, the pope said the takeover of the school in the North Ossetia province town of Beslan was a "vile and heartless act of aggression against defenseless children and families."

The pope once again condemned "every form of terrorism" and said he hoped that a "spiral of hatred and violence would not prevail."

The school siege ended Sept. 3 in a shootout between police and the hostage-takers, believed to be Chechen rebels. More than 700 people were injured and some 450 hospitalized. About half of the dead and injured were children.

Some feared the tragedy could set off revenge attacks in the area. Most residents of North Ossetia are Orthodox Christians, while the neighboring breakaway republic of Chechnya is predominantly Muslim.

The papal telegram offered prayers for the eternal repose of the victims and words of comfort for the families. He also expressed his affection for the Russian people "in this moment of anguish."

He prayed that the Virgin Mary, "so deeply venerated by the Christians of Russia," would inspire wisdom and efforts toward reconciliation in the region.

At a papal Mass in Loreto, Italy, Sept. 5, the pope and others offered prayers "for the Russian people, stricken by the inhuman violence of this tragic hostage-taking, for all the dead, for the wounded, for the many innocent young victims, and for the families so sorely tried."

When reports of the death toll began to arrive at the Vatican Sept. 3, the pope, who was staying at his residence outside Rome, went to a private chapel to pray, a spokesman said.

In Milan, Orthodox Bishop Teofan of Stravropol and Vladikavkaz, the Russian Orthodox diocese that includes the town of Beslan, described to hundreds of religious leaders from around the world how he personally carried wounded and dead children away from the school.

The bishop spoke Sept. 5 at a meeting on religions and peace sponsored by the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio.

"How can they claim to be fighting for freedom when they kill children?" he said.

The bishop asked all people of good will to unite "against the evil of terrorism, which can strike in New York as well as in Madrid or in Beslan or anywhere."

## CORRECTIONS FROM SEPT. 3 ISSUE

Rev. Mr. Harold Markle was incorrectly identified as "Father."

The Aug. 21 dedication of Divino Redentor was misdated in photo captions.

The date when Christopher Columbus planted a cross in San Salvador should have read 1492.

# Election materials available for students, parishes, individuals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three religious organizations have produced nonpartisan materials to educate voters about political responsibility.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services and the Interfaith Alliance each has made election-related materials available recently.

The USCCB released a bulletin insert that summarizes the bishops' teachings on the role of Catholics in the public arena, drawn from their document: "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility."

It can be ordered by calling USCCB Publishing at (800) 235-8722 or online at www.usccb.org/publishing.

CRS is offering a 12-week program to guide college students through political issues addressed in "Faithful Citizenship." The program includes election issues such as trade and foreign aid and how they relate to church teaching.

The online sessions are designed for students, campus ministers or university faculty and staff. Materials can be printed from the Web site, at www.crscampusconnection.org. Information also is available by calling Kevin Kostic, CRS campus ministry coordinator, at (410) 951-7430.

The Interfaith Alliance, a nonpartisan, grass-roots public advocacy organization of more than 75 faith traditions, has produced an election year program, "One Nation, Many Faiths. Vote 2004."

It offers five questions for candidates about faith, religious liberty and pluralism. There also are guides for candidates and houses of worship on how churches, synagogues and mosques may be involved in the election process without violating U.S. law and tradition.

Information can be found online at www.interfaithalliance.org or by calling (202) 639-6370.

# Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — Join us as we pray the rosary and support our sidewalk counselors who offer real help to women going in for abortions at FEMCARE in Asheville, at 62 Orange St., Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m., Saturdays at 8 a.m. No prayer is ever wasted. The *Culture of Life* needs you. Call (828) 689-9544 for more information and directions.

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *For Better, For Worse* — a marriage enrichment workshop to strengthen healthy marriages will be offered by Catholic Social Services Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. Contact Sherry Luc at (704) 370-3232 to register or for additional information.

CHARLOTTE — A *Women's Talk* will be held Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father John Starczewski will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Peggy at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* will host a four-session Spiritual Growth Seminar this fall. The sessions will meet Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and 28 and Nov. 4, 7-8 p.m. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is forming a group at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Elizabeth Ministry offers confidential, one-to-one contact, information, comfort and healing for women who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death. Please call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — *Fun and Fitness after 50* classes are being offered at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. This program of gentle exercise promotes joint flexibility and muscle strength. Registration is not necessary. For more information, call Maureen Benfield at (704) 362-5047, ext. 221.

CHARLOTTE — *Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is available for all members of the clergy and laity at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Any parishioner interested in the Apostolate and who would like to make a firm commitment to adoration for one hour a week is welcome to join the Perpetual Adoration Society. For details, call Kathleen at (704) 366-5127 or e-mail at terridugan@earthlink.com

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Vatican official says, especially on kids, assisted suicide is murder

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church believes assisted suicide is murder, especially when discussing patients under the age of 12 who, in no way, can be said to make an informed request for help in dying, a Vatican official said.

Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, wrote an article for L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, Sept. 3 condemning attempts to extend the Netherlands' assisted suicide law to patients under the age of 12.

Italian newspapers in late August reported a judge had authorized a pediatrics clinic to extend assisted suicide to children, something outlawed under Dutch law enacted in 2002.

The current law allows assisted suicide for patients 12-16 years old suffering from an incurable disease or uncontrollable pain if the patient and the patient's guardians formally request it.

Bishop Sgreccia said children under age 12 are not capable of making an informed request, nor are they "capable of evaluating or defining 'unsupportable' suffering."

When doctors and parents find a child's level of pain to be too much, "is it not perhaps their suffering" and not the patient's that they find overwhelming? he asked.

In the case of children, Bishop Sgreccia said, "one cannot talk about 'helping them to die' or of 'assisted suicide,' but rather death inflicted to 'free them from pain,' which is precisely euthanasia" and not assisted suicide.

Extending the assisted suicide laws, he said, is a misguided attempt to deal with suffering "with the violence of an early death."

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Prayer Group of St. Matthew Church will host a *Prayer Service for the Sick* at St. Matthew Chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians,* St. Brigid Division 1, an Irish-Catholic group of women dedicated to their faith, country and Irish heritage, meet the third Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in membership, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554 0720.

**GASTONIA VICARIATE**

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentle Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low-impact aerobic workout. For more information, call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

NEWTON — The *Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group* is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

HICKORY — A *Grief Support Group* meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. For more information, call the church office at (828) 327-2341.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

CONCORD — Discover how beautiful God's plan for marriage really is! *Natural Family Planning* classes are being offered at St. James Church, 251 Union St., Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Learn a natural method that is just as effective as the Pill and is in accord with Catholic teaching. Contact Susan Chaney at (704) 720-0772 for more information or email questions to sujo94@aol.com.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., will hold their annual *parish picnic* Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. There will be entertainment for the kids and adults with plenty of great food for all. We will gather on the picnic grounds. The Stewardship committee will have tables set up so that they can share information with the parishioners.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Thursday. Exposition begins at 6 p.m. and benediction is at 9 p.m.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Sept 8 — 19**
Colloquium for newly appointed bishops
Rome, Italy

**Sept 23 — 9 a.m. Mass**
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte

**Sept 25 — 5 p.m.**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

# Not on the radar: No one at Vatican asks about Bush, Kerry

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the race for the White House under way, U.S. bishops at the Vatican for their "ad limina" visits found it strange than no one asked them for their opinions on who the next president will be.

"It's just not on their radar," said Bishop John B. McCormack of Manchester, N.H., Sept. 2, the last day of the Republican National Convention in New York.

"I'm really surprised no one is asking," said Ukrainian Bishop Basil H. Losten of Stamford, Conn.

While the presidential race did not come up with Vatican officials, the bishops from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut did talk about it among themselves, Bishop Losten said.

Although specific candidates were not named during their Sept. 1 visit to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the bishops did discuss publicly denying the Eucharist to Catholic politicians who support abortion.

"The Holy Office thinks the statement the U.S. bishops made (in June) does agree with and complement the statement of Cardinal (Joseph) Ratzinger, even though some people want to believe it doesn't," Bishop McCormack said.

Cardinal Ratzinger, congregation prefect, sent the bishops a letter before their June meeting outlining the circumstances under which a bishop or priest could deny Communion to Catholic politicians who consistently support abortion.

A few days later, the U.S. bishops approved a statement saying that politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

While making it clear that those who cooperate with evil should not present themselves for Communion, the bishops said that the decision to publicly impose sanctions on a person, such as denying Communion, rests with each bishop in his own diocese.

While the Republican convention and politics topped the news at home, the New England bishops were focused on prayer, their meetings with Pope John Paul II and their discussions with Vatican officials.

"We are not here to give a business report, but to express our faith, have our faith strengthened by the successor of Peter and to return home, in turn, to strengthen the faith of others," said Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn.

# Remembering a missionary

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Orphaned children cared for by the Missionaries of Charity walk past a portrait of Blessed Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, Sept. 5, the seventh anniversary of her death. Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II last October.

CELEBRATING HERITAGE

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the LAOH's St. Brigid Division in Charlotte meet with Father Joe Pierce, the organization's new chaplain. Pictured are (from left) Julie Byrne, financial secretary; Janice Donaghue, president; Father Pierce; Jeanmarie Schuler, vice president; and Mary Kay Crotty, mistress at arms.

# Hibernians meet in Philly, re-elect officers

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

PHILADELPHIA — Several members of the Diocese of Charlotte attended the Ancient Order of Hibernians' 92nd biennial convention in Philadelphia in July.

"It was quite an experience," said Jeanmarie Schuler, vice president of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians' St. Brigid Division 1, based in Charlotte.

Schuler attended the convention with women from her division and the Our Lady of Knock Division in Greensboro.

"The sisterhood among the members was evident," said Schuler. "Although I came home exhausted, I am also inspired to try and live up to our motto: Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

The AOH, founded in 1836, describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States. The organization promotes Irish culture and defends the Catholic faith.

Held every two years, the Hibernian conventions include business meetings, elections and other social activities.

"This wonderful gathering of over 1,200 Irish Americans ... was truly an inspiration to me and to the other officers to continue our work," said Ned McGinley of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., who was re-elected as AOH president.

The LAOH, a nonprofit organization comprised of Catholic women of Irish descent, was founded in 1884 as the Daughters of Erin to protect young immigrant Irish girls. The group officially became the LAOH in 1984.

Schuler was one of the original founders of North Carolina's first LAOH division in June 1998. The St. Brigid Division 1, which meets at St. John Neumann Church, has more than 20 members from around the Charlotte area.

The convention was overshadowed in part, however, when Father Patrick Healy, senior priest at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Scranton, Pa., and deputy national chaplain of the Hibernians, became ill July 8, the first day of the convention, and died the next day. He had been a priest for 53 years.

"That naturally put a bit of a sadness on the convention," said Schuler.

Two former mayors of Belfast, Northern Ireland, attended the meeting to praise the work of Father Aidan Troy, chairman of the board of governors of Holy Cross School in North Belfast, who received the Hibernians' JFK Medal.

At the convention, delegates approved resolutions opposing Senate ratification of the proposed extradition treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom and reaffirming the organization's opposition to abortion.

The closing Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul was concelebrated by more than a dozen priests and followed with the installation of both the AOH and LAOH national officers.

*Catholic News Service contributed to this story.*

# Gathering of faith

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis offers Communion to Bill Tennant during the first Mass on the new property of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville Aug. 1. Some 150 parishioners lined up with their folding chairs on the 13.3-acre site located on Asbury Road.*

*In his homily, Bishop Jugis reflected on the day's readings focusing on the necessity to "seek what is above."*

*"Keeping busy about matters of the spirit, and that's exactly what we're doing today as we celebrate the first Mass on this new property," Bishop Jugis said. "The Eucharist will be the central focus of life on this new property. ... Everything we do as a parish family flows out from this altar into our daily lives, in everything we do. And everything is brought back to the altar of the Lord, the center of our spirituality."*

*Concelebrating Mass was Father John Pagel, pastor. Assisting was Rev. Mr. Rudy Triana, permanent deacon.*

*For more on St. Joan of Arc Church, read the Parish Profile on page 16.*

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The road we have to travel is different for each of us. The only certainty is that we all must end the journey some day.

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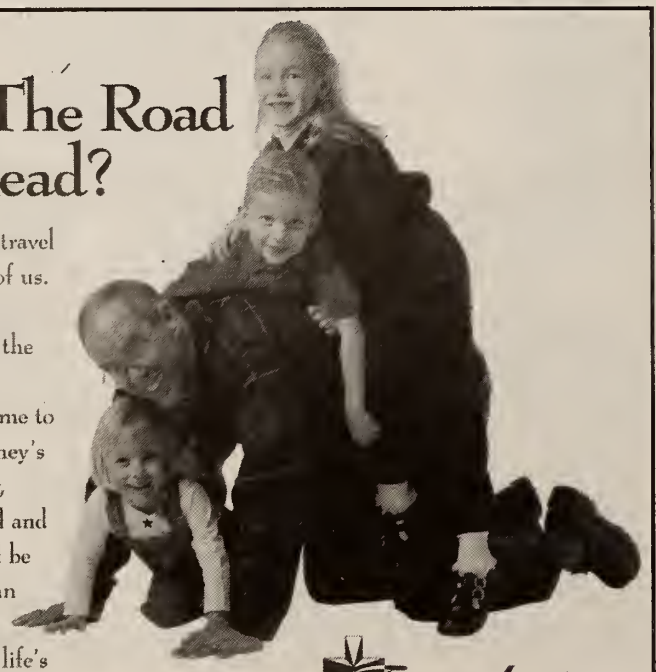

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# Long-standing order

COURTESY PHOTO

Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem gather Aug. 7 for a Mass and reception welcoming and honoring members. Bishop Peter. J Jugis, Father Paul Gary and Father John Putnam concelebrated the Mass. All are members of the order.

## *Scroll Mass confirms membership into Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Scrolls were recently presented to seven Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The scrolls are significant in welcoming and honoring members in the long-standing lay order.

The Scroll Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral Aug. 7 was concelebrated by Bishop Peter. J Jugis; Father Paul Gary, rector of the cathedral; and Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. Bishop Jugis, Father Gary and Father Putnam are all members of the Holy Order.

Bishop Jugis and Lieutenant John Piunno presented four scrolls from Rome confirming admission to Kerney and Jane McNeil of Asheville and Raymond and Lois Paradowski of Salisbury.

Promotion to the rank of commander was confirmed to General Albert Esposito and Theresa Esposito of Winston-Salem; and Joseph A. Tronco, Jr. of Charlotte.

Thirty-five area Knights and Ladies attended the Mass and reception, as well as the 2004 nominees for investiture, William Augerot, Jane and Michael Balbirnie and Philip Witt, all of Charlotte.

The history of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre dates to 1099, when the Knights were established by Godfrey de Bouillon to guard and protect the Holy Sepulcher, the tomb in Jerusalem in which Jesus is believed to have been buried.

According to Alice Cella, regional representative for the Diocese of Charlotte, the Order, whose members must be invited to join, continues its work in the modern world. The weapons of today are prayer and funding aimed at supporting and aiding the church and the Catholic faith in the Holy Land. The propagation and preservation of the faith are coupled with assistance to the Catholic missions in that area.

It sustains the efforts of Catholic working to exist in a land torn by strife and bloodshed, laboring to make their lives more tolerable. Generous aid to the weak and those without protection, striving for justice and peace are the characteristic virtues of the Order of Holy Sepulchre.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

HOLY ROLLING

# Donated cart allows Holy Angels to cruise the outdoors

BELMONT — Holy Angels now has a new set of wheels.

A specially designed wheelchair-accessible limousine golf cart has been donated to Holy Angels, a nonprofit corporation that provides programs and services for child and adult residents with varying degrees of mental retardation.

The cart, named "Holy Rollers" and donated by Carolina Golf Cars, will take residents for trips around the campus while enjoying the built-in radio system.

Gary Babcock, president of Carolina Golf Cars and longtime supporter of Holy Angels, worked on this cart since before Christmas 2003. He, his family and staff took the time and effort to ensure the comfort and safety of the residents in the cart.

He also wanted to make sure they have a great time and experience unique opportunities.

"When I was in college, I visited a place for children with disabilities. Ever since then, it is important for me, my family and company to do something special for people that are less fortunate," said Babcock.

After meeting with Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels, and the staff and residents, Babcock said he conceived a "stretch golf cart designed for wheelchairs that would be fun and something different."

"To have the kids get outside and have an opportunity to ride around and see a few different sights appealed to me and hopefully to all the people and staff of Holy Angels," he said.

"We are so grateful to Mr. Babcock and his family and staff for their dedication and personal commitment to the residents of Holy Angels," said Moody. "He has demonstrated a generous and kind spirit with his donation of this cart and his attention to every detail about the cart."

"Holy Angels is dedicated to providing unique opportunities for our residents to experience the highest quality of life regardless of disability," she said. "We are able to do this because of the generosity and thoughtfulness of our friends such as Mr. Babcock who understands our mission."

Holy Angels was founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy. Holy Angels' residents have varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, and many are medically fragile.

Programs include the Holy Angels Residential Center, four Community Group Homes, four Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded group homes, Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures, Camp Hope and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets in downtown Belmont.

COURTESY PHOTO

Residents and staff of Holy Angels in Belmont enjoy a spin on the new "Holy Rollers" wheelchair-accessible limousine golf cart.

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NIHON WA IKIMASU

# Asheville Catholic teacher to visit Japan

ASHEVILLE — Pamela Budd, librarian at Asheville Catholic School, will be among 200 educators from across the United States to attend a three-week program in Japan this November.

"I can't wait. It's something that I've been preparing for," said Budd. "I read every night about the country."

Budd was selected from a national pool of more than 2,000 applicants by a panel of educators to take part in the Fulbright Memorial Fund (FMF) Teacher Program, which allows distinguished primary and secondary educators in the United States to travel to Japan in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations.

In total, 600 educators from all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia will visit Japan (in groups of 200) in June, October and November this year. Upon their return, the educators will share what they have learned about Japan with their students and communities through a variety of outreach programs.

"I feel this is such a great opportunity for me professionally, as well as for personal growth," said Budd.

Beginning in Tokyo, Budd and her group will receive a practical orientation to Japanese culture and meet officials and educators. Next, they will travel in groups of 20 to prefectures (states) outside of Tokyo to meet with local teachers and students at primary and secondary schools.

"When I return, I'll target the seventh-grade, which is studying Japan," said Budd. "I hope to make Japan more real because I've been there."

She plans to compare and contrast U.S. schools and Japanese schools, religion, food and other cultural aspects. She said she also would take "hundreds of photos" to "give the students a sense that Japan is a real place as opposed to a faraway place."

Budd's group is scheduled to visit cultural sites and local industries; in addition the educators will spend a night with Japanese families.

"I'll be taking Japanese at a local community college, so hopefully I'll be able to communicate with the family," said Budd.

The program is sponsored by the Japanese government and was launched in 1997 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. government Fulbright Program, which has enabled more than 6,000 Japanese citizens to study in the United States on Fulbright fellowships for graduate education and research.

The program is administered by the Japan-United States Educational Commission. The Institute of International Education, the nation's largest nonprofit educational and cultural exchange agency, coordinates FMF in the United States.

To date, more than 4,000 primary and secondary educators have visited Japan through the FMF Teacher Program.

Educators throughout the United States can apply to take part as guests of the Japanese government in one of the three scheduled trips to Japan in 2005. Teachers and administrators of all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Applicants are not required or expected to have prior knowledge of Japanese culture.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pamela Budd, librarian at Asheville Catholic School, discusses a quilt with student Jessica Kuehl. The quilt is similar to one third-graders will make for Budd to present as a gift to a third-grade class in Japan during Budd's three-week visit in November as part of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program.

**WANT TO GO?**

Educators may apply online at www.iiee.org/fmf, or call (888) 527-2636.

FREE MONEY

# Community programs provide valuable support for Catholic schools

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Candles, magazines, wrapping paper. For almost as long as children have attended school, their loving parents, grandparents and even cash-strapped aunts and uncles have been asked to purchase such items during annual fundraising campaigns.

There are many items people can purchase to help schools, including bread, milk, cereal and juice.

Bread, milk, cereal and juice?

Through programs such as Harris Teeter's Together in Education, Bi-Lo's A+ for Schools, Food Lion's LionShop & Share, Campbell's Labels for Education and General Mills' Box Tops for Education, contributing to schools can be as easy as buying a loaf of bread or a gallon of milk.

"It's a simple way to make a donation without opening your checkbook," said Lisa Kehoe, a parent of a second-grade student at St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

Through the store-sponsored programs, every time a customer purchases certain products, the store contributes a portion of the proceeds to the schools that customer has registered to support.

These programs are available to schools throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, but individual schools must register with each store to receive contributions.

Customers need not live in the same city as the school they are supporting. For instance, someone shopping in Boone, where no Catholic school exists, can sign up to support Sacred Heart School in Salisbury.

Customers can also collect the labels from Campbell's products and box tops from General Mills products and turn them into the school they want to support. Schools then redeem Campbell's labels for supplies to be used in the classroom. For each box top received, General Mills contributes 10 cents directly to the school.

In the six years since it instituted the Together in Education program, Harris Teeter has donated $5,049,604.

Each supermarket program works differently in terms of how many schools a customer can sponsor, how long each enrollment period lasts (from three to nine months) and which products qualify for donations.

Harris Teeter contributes a portion of the sale of select non-perishable Harris Teeter products. Customers can designate up to five schools they want to support by "linking" their VIC card to those schools and must re-link their VIC cards annually.

Each time a customer shops at Food Lion and uses the MVP card, LionShop & Share donates a portion of the total grocery purchase to the school, church or other local not-for-profit organization the customer selected. Customers may register for one organization per quarter, but have the option to change the organization they wish to support before each new quarter begins. There is a limit of $350 per organization per quarter.

Bi-Lo customers can support up to three schools using their Bi-Lo BONUSCARD. Like Food Lion, Bi-Lo contributes a portion of the total grocery purchase.

Customers can designate their schools for Together in Education in the store or online. Enrollment for LionShop & Share and A+ for Schools can be done online or by calling a toll-free phone number.

Angela Montague, principal of St. Patrick School, estimated they received $3,500-$4,000 from the various programs during the 2003-04 school year. This school year, their goal is to collect $8,000.

Joe Puceta, principal of St. Michael School in Gastonia, said the school's Parent-Teacher Organization uses the donations to purchase science equipment and materials for teachers.

"These programs provide an unexpected income that always helps, especially for enrichment activities for our students," Puceta said.

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**WANT TO HELP?**

To enroll in Harris Teeter's Together in Education program, visit your local store or www.harristeeter.com. To enroll in the Bi-Lo A+ for schools program, call (800) 862-9293 or visit www.bi-lo.com. To enroll in the Food Lion's LionShop & Share, call (704) 633-8250 or visit www.foodlion.com.

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"The need for outreach to our own people and to others who speak Spanish is very great."

# El Salvador nuns spread Gospel to N.C. Hispanics

VILLARAN, *from page 1*

coordinator for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, invited Mother Villaran and one of her nuns, Sister Maribel Ruiz, from El Salvador to work in western North Carolina Aug. 4-23.

Mother Villaran spent her time in Andrews in Cherokee County. Sister Ruiz worked in Cashiers, Sapphire Valley and Glenville Lake in Jackson County. They visited several families or groups each day.

"We announce the Gospel of Jesus," Mother Villaran said. "It's a very good experience for me (here) because this is my work in El Salvador — to announce the Gospel, the salvation from Jesus Christ."

"The need for outreach to our own people and to others who speak Spanish is very great," said Father Carl T. Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and its mission, St. Jude Church, in Sapphire Valley.

The small faith communities in the United States engage mainly in faith sharing, but in Latin America, they also train people for various ministries such as music and Eucharistic ministers.

"Everything is guided by the church," Mother Villaran said.

In El Salvador, a nun from the Franciscan Missionaries of Mercy visits a community for a week to invite the residents to start a small Christian community (SCC), a parish-based group that meets to pray, study Scripture and help others. The nuns spend about 15 weeks establishing the community, after which they have a conversion-to-Christ retreat.

PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Mother María Trinidad Villaran leads a small faith community prayer service in Andrews Aug. 21. Jose Martinez plays guitar for the opening hymn. Also attending are Claudia Huerta and her son Guadalupe.

Mother Villaran listens as Claudia Huerta makes a point during a discussion of the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus at a prayer service Aug. 21.

Following that retreat, SCC members can evangelize others.

While Martinez and others at the prayer service attend Holy Redeemer, many feel having an SCC is important.

Martinez explained that people are in church for an hour a week, but the small faith community is where they live their faith the rest of the time.

"In the small communities, we are here to hear not only the word of God but to hear the needs of others," he said.

"It's a way to bring people's faith and their relationship to Jesus right into their homes," said Father Michael Kottar, administrator of Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews and Prince of Peace Church in Robbinsville. "It makes it very personal."

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mercy, an order formed three years ago, have seven sisters, who work in Santa Tecla and Mizata, El Salvador. They minister to the very poor, including war refugees and farmworkers looking for urban jobs. They give food and clothing to the unemployed, but their main work is evangelization.

During the Aug. 21 meeting, Martinez read the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19), while the others followed along in their Bibles. They reread the story in silence, then discussed it.

Mother Villaran explained that it's not enough to hear God's word, but that one must act upon it. Zacchaeus, she said, didn't keep Jesus to himself but invited others to share, so those present at this meeting should not keep Jesus just for themselves but should invite others to the community.

Claudia Huerta said she did not read the Bible much in Mexico because she didn't understand it, but the discussions she has heard in the small faith community have helped her to understand it more.

The small Christian community, she said, is a unique experience and has a spirit she hasn't felt before.

"It was a great help what (Mother Villaran) was doing with the evangelizing, visiting the trailer parks and bringing God's word (to people)," said Father Kottar.

"It was nice to see the presence of a Spanish-speaking nun, and she worked with some of our core people in the Hispanic community," he said.

The prayer service concluded with everyone joining hands in a circle, praying for special intentions and saying together the "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and "Glory Be to the Father."

Afterward people stayed to chat and share a meal of roast pork and spicy refried beans.

This SCC started on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, celebrated on June 19 this year, so the community took that as its name. Another SCC, composed of about a dozen men, has formed since Mother Villaran's visit.

"When Mother comes back," said Guadalupe Martinez, Jose's uncle, "I hope she will find two or three communities established."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*

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# In northeastern Chad's heat and rain, refugee graves are added daily

## *Thousands flee war, devestation*

BY STEPHEN STEELE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FARCHANA REFUGEE CAMP, Chad — About 100 graves of Sudanese refugees line the cemetery of the Farchana refugee camp in northeastern Chad.

New bodies are added every day, with most of the deceased being young children or the elderly who have succumbed to the harsh conditions of the African desert. The young adults buried there are women.

Missing are the young men: The bodies of those who were killed are buried or rotting throughout the Darfur region of neighboring Sudan, where government-backed Arab militias have waged a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the black Africans who inhabit the region.

"This cemetery is the symbol of our suffering," said Abdullah Abdulaye.

In northeastern Chad, temperatures reach 130 degrees. Dirt roads washed away by unrelenting rains prevent food and other supplies from reaching the refugees.

In Farchana and Bredjing, the refugees say they do not receive enough food and that their children suffer from chronic diarrhea and other maladies. Their tents are no more than 8-feet-by-10-feet, with new arrivals — families as large as 11 — placed in 4-foot-by-6-foot tents.

U.N. officials describe conditions in Farchana as "good."

One Doctors Without Borders official said 30 percent of the 1,200 patients the agency sees each week in Bredjing suffer from chronic diarrhea. The official said those numbers were "alarming" and could indicate a potential for more serious maladies, such as dysentery or cholera.

"We want to give them more food, but we can't," said Couldjim Madibe, camp director of Farchana. "We have to work within the (U.N.) guidelines," he said.

Those guidelines include per-person-per-day servings of 425 grams of cereal; 50 grams of beans; 25 grams of a corn-soy mix; 25 grams of oil; 15 grams of sugar; and 5 grams of salt.

More than 12,000 refugees are in Farchana. In Bredjing, the numbers have swelled to more than 40,000, with new refugees arriving every day.

About 200,000 Sudanese refugees are in Chad, with a million more displaced within Sudan. The United Nations estimates that about 30,000-50,000 people have been killed since early 2003.

The World Health Organization said Aug. 31 that in Darfur hepatitis cases have increased due to insufficient clean water and poor sanitary conditions, with more than 2,400 cases and more than 40 deaths reported since late May. In Chad, about 30 deaths have been linked to hepatitis, the U.N. agency reported.

Sudan is under intense international pressure to control the Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed. A U.N. deadline to improve the situation in Darfur expired Aug. 30, leaving Sudan facing international sanctions.

The United Nations says Darfur is the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Farchana was the first refugee camp for Sudanese in Chad. Now 11 camps are under the direction of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and other unofficial camps have been established along the Chad-Sudan border.

Abdulaye said he arrived at Farchana in late May. He fled his village of Guerendi in February during a late-night ambush by the Janjaweed and government forces.

He drew lines in the sand to describe how Sudanese soldiers in vehicles surrounded his village while the Janjaweed on camels attacked. Government aircraft shot at fleeing villagers.

"If you succeed in escaping, the planes follow and shoot at you," he said.

His story is similar to the stories other refugees and the displaced have told humanitarian aid workers for months. Sometimes the government aircraft dropped bombs on villages, followed by a militia raid. Others say the Janjaweed arrived first, with government aircraft finishing the job.

Many of the Farchana refugees said they wanted to return home, but realized it might be a long time before peace is restored to Darfur.

"How do we forget what we witnessed? People killed by planes, women and children shot. How do we forgive such a thing? It is clear in my mind, I want revenge," he said.

"Every day we are dying as a people," Abdu Gammar said Aug. 28 as he pointed to the grave of a young mother buried earlier that morning in Farchana.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Sudanese refugees wait for aid near the Kounoungo camp in Chad Aug. 30. About 200,000 refugees have fled from western Sudan into Chad to escape Arab militias who have killed more than 30,000 non-Arab Africans.**

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# OEO assists many in western N.C.

OEO, *from page 1*

the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) at the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development in Murphy.

Gaffey is enrolled in the OEO's Assets Building Matched Savings Program (ABLE), which will help her to expand her small businesses: selling silver jewelry at a local flea market and building an aviary to house the cockatiels, macaws and conyers she raises and sells.

ABLE — which promotes economic self-sufficiency through training and savings programs for schools, businesses and housing — is just one way that the OEO reaches out to residents of Cherokee, Swain, Graham and Clay counties.

Since Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte founded it in 1999, the OEO has given grants totaling $101,000 to 47 nonprofit and faith-based organizations and community groups.

The OEO will celebrate its fifth anniversary this year with a festival in the pavilion behind St. William Church in Murphy Sept. 24-25.

### *Granting community*

The OEO, said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville, is "a visible sign by the Catholic Church that we are concerned about the people in this area, especially the poor, who have been left behind in many ways."

The OEO, he said, shows that the Catholic Church wants to partner with people to help them achieve better lives.

"This region is being forced to make an adjustment from a traditional wage labor economy to a service-oriented '9 to 5' career track," an ABLE brochure states. "Without some assistance through this transition period, families are left behind."

The "adjustment" is forced by the fact that there is little industry in the four western counties.

"The growth areas (now) are small entrepreneurs and heritage tourism," said Joan Furst, the OEO's director.

"OEO does a wonderful job," said Claudie Burchfield of the Graham County Travel & Tourism Authority (GCTTA). "Joan (Furst) and (Father) George (Kloster) are really involved. It makes a difference in these small western communities."

The GCTTA in Robbinsville and the Cherokee County Cooperative Extension Service in Murphy received grants this year toward fairs that help preserve the area's heritage and bring needed dollars into the community.

A $2,500 grant helped revive the Graham County Heritage Festival, held July 4. More than 1,000 people attended, some from as far away as Florida. Events included logrolling, Appalachian music and dance, vendor booths and booths focused on activities of local community organizations, a Native American exhibit and a "taste of Robbinsville," with tickets sold to allow purchasers to sample food at various restaurants.

Any money taken in, over and above festival costs, went back into the community, this time to buy beds for Emergency Medical Service workers to use during their long shifts.

"We've really had nothing that's used to grow community," Burchfield said. "It was just a wonderful event. It brought people together, and we've already had a spinoff. We've having a festival of trees, which will be held in conjunction with our Christmas parade."

During the three-day tree festival, people will buy and decorate trees for display in the town. Tree-purchase proceeds will buy Christmas gifts for needy children and groceries for the local food pantry.

"People were really skeptical about what the festival could be — until after the event," Burchfield said. "Now, everybody's talking about how much bigger and better it can be next year."

PURINA

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

**Debi Gaffey feeds baby jenday conyers. Handfeeding makes the birds easier to handle. Enrolled in the Office of Economic Opportunity's ABLE matched-savings program, Gaffey expanded her small business by saving money and completing training programs.**

A $1,700 grant helped the continued revival of the Cherokee County Heritage Fair, held Sept. 4.

"We're trying to rekindle what we used to have," said Jessica Roberson, family and consumer agent with the Cherokee County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. "I remember growing up here in the '70s when we had a county fair."

In the early 1980s, the fair was discontinued. Last year, though, it returned, combined with the county's third annual heritage walk. More than 3,000 people attended the combined event.

At least as many came this year. Ribbons went to the best vegetables and canned goods, flowers, needlework and woodcarving. A cakewalk and auction were held; clubs and homemaker groups were exhibited.

"It went very well," Roberson said. "Everybody seemed to like the fair and the walk. People kept pouring in."

Gaffey hopes that people will pour into the businesses she's expanding through ABLE. When an ABLE participant has saved $1,000 — to start or expand small businesses, build a house, or further his or her education — ABLE doubles that with another $2,000. Participants can save more but only $1,000 is matched.

### *Matching success*

Gaffey, divorced and raising a 12-year-old daughter, suffers from fibromyalgia and mild lupus.

Nothing has stopped her entrepreneurship, however. Despite setbacks, including the driver who crashed into her front yard about 18 months ago, taking out her car, well and pump and damaging a storage shed, she's forging ahead.

"I make jewelry and I'm planning things all the time that I would like to do if I had the resources," she said.

Those resources would include a computer so that she could expand her jewelry business. At present, she has to use the computer at the local public library to order her materials. She could advertise her products if she had a Web site.

Gaffey enrolled in ABLE, began saving and completed the small-business training program through the Consumer Counseling Service of Western North Carolina Inc. that ABLE requires of all participants. The course teaches a variety of skills, including budgeting and money management, and each participant completes a business plan. Those who don't complete the training get back their savings but without the matching funds.

The materials Gaffey acquired during her training have helped her organize her businesses. "I know where I am at any time," she said. "I never did that before."

ABLE requires participants to save at least $20 a month. Gaffey is saving $20 a week and will finish saving in March 2005, just in time to buy birds for spring breeding.

"There have been a couple of weeks," she said, "when I thought, 'I can really use that money for something else, but I haven't taken it; I've put it in (the bank)."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net*

**WANT TO GO?**

The Office of Economic Opportunity will celebrate its fifth anniversary in the pavilion behind St. William Church in Murphy 6-9:30 p.m., Sept. 24, and 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sept. 25. The event, free and open to the public, will include storytelling, music, arts and crafts, children's games, face painting, food and drink.

Directions: Take Hwy. 64 to Murphy. Turn off Hwy. 64 on Bulldog Drive (road between Murphy High School and the BP station). At the bottom of the hill, turn left at traffic light. Go about 300 feet and turn right into the church parking lot. Follow the signs to the rear of the church.

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## U.S. bishops back FCC bid to make stations tape their shows

### *Procedure to help fight indecency in television broadcasts*

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A representative of the U.S. bishops said the bishops back a Federal Communications Commission proposal to compel radio and TV stations to keep tapes of what they've broadcast in case citizens make complaints against them for airing indecent material.

"The current procedure for indecency complaints, which puts the initial burden on listeners and viewers to obtain a transcript from the broadcaster of the program at issue but does not require the broadcaster to provide it when requested by the listener or viewer, inhibits the appropriate enforcement of indecency rules," said Katherine Grincewich, assistant general counsel to the U.S. bishops, in testimony delivered Aug. 27.

"Absent a transcript or tape, the (Federal Communications) Commission is forced to make its initial decision based on a listener's or viewer's memory alone, a situation unfair to the complainant, the broadcaster and the commission," Grincewich added.

"The fleeting nature of indecent broadcast programs — and the need for the proposed new program archives — has, of course, been known from the incipiency of the commission's regulation of indecent broadcasts," she said.

Archiving programs would help community groups determine whether to challenge the renewal of a broadcaster's license, Grincewich said. She asked for rules to be developed "so that citizens will have much-needed information" on which to base such a challenge.

In its drive to deregulate broadcasting, the FCC in 1981 and 1983 "eliminated much of the documentation formerly required of broadcast renewal applicants," according to Grincewich. Since then, she said, "the public must rely instead on time-consuming and elaborate viewer — or listener — logs of programs or on broadcasters' vague quarterly program/issues lists."

The FCC itself, Grincewich added, "has recognized that licensees can easily defeat petitions to deny based on the quarterly lists by providing information they did not include on those lists."

Should the FCC approve the new archiving rule, Grincewich suggested "on-air, primetime announcements and notices on station Web sites are two methods of educating the public of its right to acquire copies of programs."

Grincewich asked the FCC to "take the next necessary step by defining what 'program content' will satisfy the statutory requirement that broadcasters serve the public interest."

"The commission must move decisively ... to establish clear, enforceable requirements that broadcasters determine the needs and interests of their communities of license, air at least a minimum amount of public affairs, news and independently produced programs which meet those needs and interests, and report to the public their actions," she said.

In a July interview with Catholic News Service, FCC Commissioner Michael Copps said the proposed rule became necessary because broadcasters did not respond to an FCC request to voluntarily make and keep tapes.

"The industry could do so much more if it would voluntarily step up to the plate," he said.

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 19, 2004

### *Sept. 19, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.*

***Cycle C. Readings:***

1) Amos 8:4–7
Psalm 113:1-2, 4-8
2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
3) Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Political candidates all seem to want voters to see them as champions of the middle class. Since most Americans consider themselves part of this socio-economic group, it's unsurprising when candidates situate themselves as tireless defenders of middle-class rights and privileges.

Most of us have worked hard for what we have, and a candidate who makes defense of our hard-won comfort is appealing.

But that's not the kind of thinking that motivates the Hebrew prophets, especially not Amos, tree-surgeon-turned-incendiary prophet, who speaks in the first reading of Sunday's liturgy.

For Amos — as for Jesus and an unbroken line of his followers up to the present day pope — those needing courageous and plainspoken defense against the depredations of unjust and corrupt power are the most voiceless among us. In Amos' time, about 750 years before Christ, the scandal of Israel was the heartless treatment of widows, children, servants, tenant farmers, laborers, peasants. Such people had no voice in the corridors of power.

Those who held the reins of economic and social and religious influence had grown so deaf to the cries of the poor that they not only ignored their plight, but actively exploited their powerlessness. Even the byproducts of agricultural production — chaff from threshed wheat — were denied the hungry, for the sake of profit.

Amos' fiery prophecy aimed to shake the privileged from their complacency and confront them with the God who is the champion not of the comfortable and secure, but of the poor.

In the remaining days of the political campaign, let Amos shake us from our complacency as well. Let us mirror God's passionate concern for the defenseless — children (born and unborn), the elderly poor, the mentally handicapped, all those with little or no access to political and economic clout. Let us challenge candidates at every level to be champions of those most in need.

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 - SEPTEMBER 18**

**Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. John Chrysostom),** 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (Exaltation of the Holy Cross),** Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Wednesday (Our Lady of Sorrows),** 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13, John 19:25-27; **Thursday (St. Cornelius, St. Cyprian),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 - SEPTEMBER 25**

**Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang & Companions),** Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Wednesday,** Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday,** Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday,** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday,** Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8, Luke 9:43-45

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# These 'Clouds' are dreary

CNS PHOTO FROM SONY CLASSICS

**Stuart Townsend and Charlize Theron star in "Head in the Clouds," about the unorthodox relationship of a free-spirited photographer, a Cambridge graduate and a Spanish model in Europe in the 1930s and '40s. Overall freewheeling attitude toward sex, a fleeting orgy tableau, intense sexual encounters, some rough and crude language, nudity, sadomasochism, torture, a gory shooting and a crude episode of urination, the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

# Missionary's fight against Mexican drug dealers made into film

BY GEORGINA STARK
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Prayer was often all Oblate Father Ted Pfeifer could fall back on while working as a missionary among poor communities in the mountainous state of Oaxaca in southern Mexico.

When he arrived in 1963, he never imagined the area would be taken over by gun-toting drug traffickers, who forced his dirt-poor parishioners to grow heroin poppy and marijuana.

His defiance of their violence and manipulation eventually led to the drug traffickers, known as "narcos," turning their AK-47s on him.

He survived the attack. "Only the Eucharist and prayer are what kept me going. I had nothing else," said Father Pfeifer, now 71.

Father Pfeifer's story has been made into an independent film, "The Oath," which was shown in a private screening Aug. 6 at the Texas Independent Filmmakers Festival in San Antonio.

Father Pfeifer began working with the poor Zapotec Indians in the town of San Pedro Martir di Quiechapa in Oaxaca a few years after his 1959 ordination in San Antonio as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest.

The area was home to around 25,000 Catholics, scattered in small villages across a large mountain range. The villagers had never seen electricity or running water, and had not had a priest in more than 40 years.

More than 30 missions "needed to be visited, by mule or on foot because there were no roads at that time and they were scattered," said Father Pfeifer.

The residents had no health care facility or doctors, so he became a paramedic and set up a clinic. He eventually lost count of the hundreds of babies he delivered and baptized.

"We saved a lot of lives, especially infants who often suffered from diarrhea which could kill them in hours," he said.

In 1975, the priest started noticing visits from northern Mexicans looking forv families to grow the red heroin poppy.

The priest said the families did not know what they were involved in by growing the drugs, except that it paid them 10 times what they could make from their vegetables and beans.

The traffickers had confiscated the Indians' choicest lands, leaving them little acreage to grow the food they subsisted on. The traffickers used violence against those who complained, whose drug crop was not up to par or who disagreed over payment.

In an area with no police force and no telephones, they abused the women and started assassinating the local people.

Father Pfeifer began keeping a record of his murdered parishioners — up to 150 names in 10 years.

Father Pfeifer turned in information of the murders to the attorney general in Mexico City and the district attorney in Oaxaca. He even turned in the names of traffickers believed to be responsible, but complained that officials did little.

In 1987, six traffickers attempted to assassinate the priest on a mountain road. Word had already gone around the villages that the "narcos" had a contract out on the priest.

Father Pfeifer wondered how the townspeople would react to the shooting. His answer came when the parish called a meeting to ask their priest what they could do for him. He offered to leave, knowing that they might also be targeted just to get to him. But they begged him to stay, and he did for eight more years.

The violence continued, along with Father Pfeifer's efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.

But he saw little being done. He suspected many of the officials to whom he turned in names were involved in the drug trade or had been bribed.

The stress, paranoia and lack of sleep from living in fear took its toll on Father Pfeifer's health. "My blood pressure shot way up and I'm like a walking pharmacy with all the stuff I have to take," he joked.

Maria Luisa Zapata, the director and writer of the film, "The Oath," said she was inspired after hearing him give an account of his missionary work in San Antonio. Plans for release of the movie are still in the works.

"It's an exciting story of someone who truly believes in the Gospels, of God working through a dedicated missionary," said Father Pfeifer's brother, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo.


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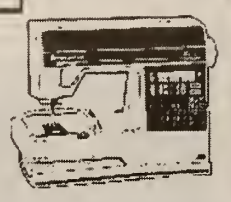

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# Vatican official: Terrorism has unleashed 'fourth world war'

TERROR, *from page 1*

The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, spoke Sept. 6 at an interreligious meeting for peace sponsored by the Rome-based Community of Sant'Egidio.

Terrorism on the scale seen since Sept. 11, 2001, has become a type of war outside the bounds of "all of the political and juridical canons consolidated by a very long tradition" for defining war and regulating combat, he said.

The reaction, the cardinal said, particularly in the "preventative war" on Iraq proclaimed by the United States and its coalition partners, is also outside the bounds of traditionally accepted definitions of national self-defense.

Cardinal Martino previously has said that the war on Iraq was not justified, but that once the coalition forces invaded they had an obligation to stay and to provide security while the new Iraqi government is formed and consolidated.

The cardinal said two aspects of "the war of terrorism and the war on terrorism" are completely new.

The first regards the ability of terrorists to strike in one place, yet make an "interruption" into the daily lives of people around the globe, he said.

The immediacy of news coverage brings images of the attacks into everyone's homes, the cardinal said, and the unexpected and horrifying acts make people feel that they may not be safe anywhere, including their offices or their schools.

> "The war ... is particularly disturbing because these acts sometimes are committed in the name of God."
>
> Cardinal Renato Martino

"With terrorism, war is no longer a far-off event, but is terribly close," Cardinal Martino said.

The cardinal also said that, while war always has been horrible and has "sinisterly shone light on the abyss" of human hearts, "the war we are living through at this moment is particularly disturbing because these acts sometimes are committed in the name of God."

Cardinal Martino said neither politicians nor people of faith could afford to be simplistic when looking at what triggers or contributes to terrorism.

The new world tensions combine more than one motivation: historical tensions among peoples, "economic recriminations caused by great poverty," the search for new political assets, "the vindication of cultural diversity," or other factors, he said.

The cardinal said people also cannot ignore the fact that the international arms trade makes it easy for disgruntled groups to get weapons, frequently using them against the country that provided them.

Because the factors contributing to terrorism are so complex, he said, the response must be as well. Because the causes are complex, "they can be removed only with joint action by a number of local and international actors," he added.

The Christian contribution, he said, must be a more concerted effort to teach and live the truth that God is love and demands that those who believe in him love all men and women.

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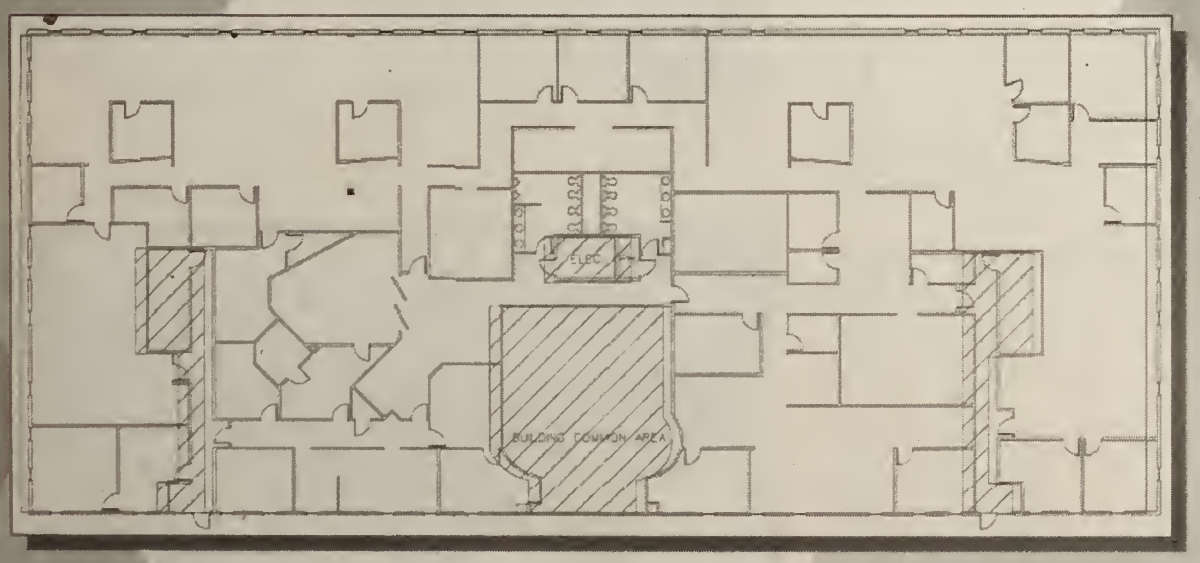


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Cathedrals and stadiums

*Modern structures share similarities with ancient churches*

**Catholics & the Media**

DAVID HAINS
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Bank of America football stadium is a short punt from the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte. Driving by its concrete and steel majesty makes me wonder: What does this building remind me of?

Maybe it is elegance on a grand scale, like an ocean liner that has somehow docked itself in the center of a city, ready to take on passengers for a weekly excursion into a fantasy war game. Other times, when I am hungry, it looks more like a giant cereal bowl, waiting for its breakfast of champions. And then I thought of a cathedral. Whoa! Now there's an interesting comparison.

In the Middle Ages when Europe went on a church construction binge, cathedrals were the stadiums of the day. Cathedrals represented the collective wisdom and state of the art engineering skill of people who wanted to create a monument to the most important thing in their lives — their relationship to God. Inspiring spires built by puny men and women, without the benefit of a sky crane or a welding torch, soared hundreds of feet to the heavens. A cathedral was at the center of a community. It was its most important structure.

If you look at the skyline of a modern American city, the monuments are made of steel, glass and concrete, nearly all of them erected to further commerce. Thanks to media hype, community pride is literally and figuratively built upon the foundation of these structures.

Like the cathedrals of yore, the stadiums of today are built with large amounts of donated funds. In modern times, we refer to these contributions as taxes and municipal bonds.

But then the similarities between the two structures drift. Craftsmen often labored a lifetime without seeing their cathedral completed. Modern work crews erect a stadium in 30 months after condemning the houses, usually of poor people, to "progress."

But the big difference between the two structures is, oddly enough, the chief reason for the existence of each. Both were built for worship. It is a fitting tribute to our Lord that as soon as humans had the wherewithal to envision something as grand as a cathedral, they were being built. Cathedrals are a way of saying, "Thanks, God, for giving me the brains to dream this up and pull it off."

On the other hand, a stadium only says, "Let's have a tailgate party and then watch some wealthy muscular men beat the stuffing out of one another." Sports, unfortunately, are a religion for many.

Perhaps the best thing about our faith when comparing cathedrals to the frenzy of the new religion of sports is the fact that the cathedrals have withstood so much. Stone statues of the Apostles are built into the facade of the front entrance of Salisbury Cathedral in England. Peter, James and John and all the rest are weathered by time but they still peer out to all who enter. And once inside a cathedral, what did the people, whose lives were short and hard, do? They knelt and prayed.

On the other hand, to be admitted to a stadium you must first pass through a metal detector. Once inside, video screens flicker images that change every few seconds. Your space within is a comfortable seat complete with its own cup holder.

Perhaps the trump card in this discussion is the fact that the cathedrals have survived. Salisbury Cathedral is more than 775 years old. Most stadiums are described as hopelessly outdated after 20 or 30 years and the wrecking ball is called.

I like football and tailgate parties and the Carolina Panthers. But an awesome game isn't even close to the awe I feel when I attend Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral a mile and a half away or even at the gymnasium that serves as a church at St. Mark in Huntersville.

So if your plans this fall include attending a big game, enjoy the weather and the spectacle that unfolds before you. But don't forget that every church in the Diocese of Charlotte is a cathedral to God's glory. Don't miss out on the awesome miracles taking place there.

*David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# Pope says slaughter of children 'cannot leave anyone indifferent'

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY — The slaughter of Russian schoolchildren and the countless examples of the killing and exploitation of children around the world "cannot leave anyone indifferent," Pope John Paul II said.

Marking the Sept. 8 feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the pope called on Catholics to stand before her cradle and take seriously "the obligation we all have to safeguard and defend these fragile creatures and to build for them a future of peace."

The pope turned his weekly general audience into a prayer service for the more than 320 children and adults killed Sept. 3 at a school in Russia's North Ossetia province and for all children around the world who suffer at the hands of adults.

Celebrating Mary's birth, he said, "How can we not think of the many defenseless little ones from Beslan, Ossetia, who were barbarously taken hostage and tragically slaughtered?"

"They were in a school, a place for learning the values that give meaning to the history, culture and civilization of peoples: mutual respect, solidarity, justice and peace," he said.

"But, instead, within those walls, they experienced abuse, hatred and death — tragic consequences of a ruthless fanaticism and of an insane contempt for the human person," Pope John Paul said.

The pope asked the estimated 7,500 people at his audience at the Vatican to be mindful of "all the innocent children who, in every part of the world, are the victims of the violence of adults."

He prayed for children who are forced to take up weapons "and educated to hate and to kill," for children forced to beg, for those who are physically or sexually abused, for those who are abandoned, for those killed in war and for those who die of hunger each day.

An official of the Vatican Secretariat of State then led the assembly in prayers, first for the children killed in Beslan, for their parents and friends. More than 1,200 people were taken hostage in the incident, and more than 700 were injured.

Audience participants also prayed that "the Lord would soften the hardness of heart" of those who make children suffer.

They also prayed for the increasing number of civilians kidnapped in Iraq, including two 29-year-old Italian women working for a volunteer organization who were kidnapped Sept. 7 in Baghdad.

The pope closed the service with his own prayer: "God, our father, you created men and women to live in communion with each other. Make us understand that every child is a richness for humanity and that violence is a dead end that does not lead to the future."

# All this talk about values!

## The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

First it was George Bush, then John Kerry, and then it was just about every media commentator. Doing what? Talking about values.

I was maybe one of the few listening Americans who rather liked the idea that candidates for the nation's highest office were talking about values. I have long taken that word, in its spiritual meanings, quite seriously.

On the other hand, in the term's material definitions, like "value investing," or monetary worth — such as "this house, furniture, jewelry, etc, has a value of...," I have been left quite cold. There's a simple reason why. It's because such value can change with the wind. What was valuable one day might be trash the next.

Not so with spiritual values. These are enduring, and, boy, do we need enduring values like honesty, respect for others, justice, forgiveness, nurturing care for the earth and praise for the God who gave us life and everything needed to maintain it.

In the presidential campaign now entering its final weeks, we're probably going to hear less about values. My guess is that the media has made such fun of the presidential candidates' use of that word that they won't want to take the risk. We'll probably hear about "American values" a few times because that sounds patriotic. But I doubt we'll hear anyone get up and say, "Hey, values are important because the quality of our lives depends on the values of the society we live in."

I really got interested in this matter of values back in the late '60s when society was undergoing quite a shake-up. The question of values was coming up then in high volume. Family life was shaken by what was called the "authority crisis" resulting from the "generation gap."

Teens were "rebellious," many becoming "hippies," and no one knew where the "new sexual freedom" was taking us. Anti-Vietnam war protesters were challenging national leaders and the whole political system, and seriously questioning what many felt were the overwhelming material values of our society.

As a reporter for the Long Island Catholic, I did some major stories on the question of what values are and why we should be concerned about them.

I interviewed a university student who said, "You have to question the material values of a society where millionaires get off tax free and the poor get the basics of life slashed to an impossible minimum, as in the recent New York state welfare cuts. It's human sacrifice all over again for the preservation of the 'haves.'"

That was written 35 years ago.

Back then I asked a philosophy professor, Stephen Pepper, why we should be concerned about values. We "had better" study them, he said, because the basic question always challenging humans as we confront each new situation, individually and in society, is, "What is a more just and moral society, and how are we going to get it?"

That's a values question.

Columnist Sidney Harris once wrote about values, saying that the crucial questions are "'What does it mean to be a human person?' And, 'What kind of society will best fit the needs of this person?'... Unless these two [questions] are worked out, society will extinguish itself by the ignorant mishandling of the very tools technology has provided us with."

I hope our candidates are equally insightful when they speak of values.

# What? No special place for campers at Mass?

## Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

If you are an inveterate camper like myself, you have probably wondered the same thing I have: If parishes can have "crying rooms" for families with youngsters prone to tantrums during Mass, why could we not also have a "Campers' Room"?

They could be equipped with things like bandages, fish-lure resistant pews, Handi Wipes and breath mints.

I was wondering that last Sunday when an unfamiliar family arrived at our church. I suspected they had come to Mass during a camping vacation in that the 5-year-old's hair was matted with burned marshmallow, and there was a slight scent of campfire smoke and mosquito repellent surrounding the group.

The father's eyes looked like two tiny pepperoni pizzas and the mother's hair was tied into a ponytail with 10-pound fishing leader. The toddler was playing with a plastic tent peg, doing his best to stick it into his brother's ear.

It sure took me back to the days when we camped with our children. We would desert life's comforts for the thrills of sleeping with small boulders jammed against our kidneys, cooking-kerosene flavored pancakes and slapping mosquitoes on our foreheads. It was great.

The family sat in front of us.

"Daddy," whispered the 10-year-old, "Jason's breath smells like fish guts."

"Does not," responded the accused.

"Shh you two," said the mother.

"Mommy," said Miss Marshmallow, "is it OK to say 'fish guts' in church?"

"Only if you're the priest," said dad. "Be quiet and pray."

Three seconds of silence, then: "I pray that Killer doesn't get sick in the van like he did when we left him in there the last time we went to church when we were camping," one of the kids said.

"Is that him I hear barking?" the mother whispered.

"Does the priest really say 'fish guts'?" giggled Miss Marshmallow.

"Jason, go check on Killer," instructed the father.

"But don't breathe on him or you'll make him sick," said his sister.

"Can I go with Jason?" asked Miss Marshmallow.

"No" and "Yes" said mom and dad simultaneously.

I loved it. Maybe a Campers' Room would not be such a good idea after all.

Oh, Killer was just fine.

# Examining the Bible's 'hidden' books

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. In our interfaith Bible-study group, we frequently run into problems with the apocrypha, books that are in the Catholic Bible but not in the Protestant Bible. If one of us refers to the book of Maccabees, for example, someone else will say that's not really part of the Bible.*

*What exactly are these books? Why do some Bibles have them and others don't? (Florida)*

A. Catholic Bibles contain all or part of several books in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) that are not recognized in Protestant biblical tradition. These books include Tobias, Judith, Baruch, First and Second Maccabees, Ben Sirach (Ecclesiasticus), Wisdom, and parts of Daniel and Esther.

Typically, Protestants refer to them as apocryphal ("hidden") books. Catholic biblical literature generally calls them deuterocanonical, or second canon, books.

Most of the Old Testament was, of course, written in some idiom of Hebrew. Eventually a Greek translation was needed because of the growing presence of Greek people and culture in Jewish territories.

Probably around 130 B.C., the most influential translation of the Old Testament into Greek, called the Septuagint, was completed in Alexandria, North Africa, and it included the so-called apocryphal books. This was the version widely accepted by the early Christian church. Most quotations from the Old Testament in the Gospels, for example, whether spoken by Jesus or someone else, are based on the Septuagint.

The aprocryphal books were not accepted, however, by the Pharisees, who, about the year 100 A.D., established the list of canonical books for dispersed Jewish communities. Because they were written in Greek and because they originated rather late in the Old Testament period, perhaps 150 or 200 years before Christ, it was not considered proper to include them in the Jewish Scripture.

The history of these apocryphal books in Christianity is long and complex. Eventually, however, in the 16th century, the Protestant reformers desired to return as much as possible to biblical purity. Accepting only the Hebrew canon of the Old Testament, without the books in the Greek version, seemed one way to do that. Thus began this difference between "Protestant" and "Catholic" Bibles.

Interestingly, the aprocrypha often found their way into Bibles published under Protestant auspices. Martin Luther himself included them as an appendix to his translation, noting that they "are useful and good to be read."

Early English Bibles, including the King James version, regularly contained the apocrypha at least in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments. Only in 1644, under Puritan influence, were these books excluded.

All the books discussed above are considered apocryphal by Protestants and recognized as authentic Scripture by Catholics.

It is important to distinguish these, however, from a host of other writings which both Catholics and Protestants view as nonbiblical, apocryphal literature. A number of them originated in the centuries before our Lord, but many were written by early Christians. Some are Gospels (the Gospels of Thomas, Peter, Nicodemus, James, for example), some are Acts (Acts of John, Paul, Andrew, Peter, purporting to portray certain aspects of Christian life and teaching); others are letters or apocalyptic writings.

Nearly all of these apocryphal writings betray the influence of gnosticism or other heretical tendencies which beset early Christianity. While they often provide valuable windows into conditions under which the first Christian generations lived, they are not part of Scripture.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# St. Joan of Arc Church celebrates 76 years of Catholic ministry

**ST. JOAN OF ARC CHURCH**
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**Vicariate:** Asheville
**Pastor:** Father John Pagel
**Number of Households:** 252

Father John Pagel

PHOTO BY GEORGE K. COBB

St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville began as a 12-room house purchased in 1927.

ASHEVILLE — In its 76th year, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church is breaking the mold.

On Aug. 1, 2004, Bishop Peter J. Jugis came to a farm field west of town — the site for a new St. Joan of Arc Church — to both celebrate Mass and lend his support to what the parish calls "Our Journey of Faith."

The first Catholic churches in the eastern United States and their attendant parochial schools were built in the urban centers by first- and second-generation European immigrants.

As these families worked their way up into the suburbs, they rebuilt their churches where they lived. The continuing migration of Catholics meant overcrowded parishes had to expand or relocate — a process that continues today.

The difference with St. Joan of Arc Church is that it is moving in advance of the demographic wave. The reasons lie rooted in the history of the parish.

In 1927, to serve the growing Catholic population in west Asheville, a group of St. Lawrence Church parishioners, under the leadership of Father Louis Bour, purchased the 12-room Gardner House at Blue Ridge Avenue and Haywood Road.

One room was remodeled as a chapel; the rest served as the first parochial school in western North Carolina. Bishop William J. Hafey of Raleigh named it for St. Joan of Arc. About 70 youngsters comprised the student body.

A year later, Father Frank Gallagher was appointed as St. Joan of Arc Church's first pastor.

In 1936, St. Joan of Arc Church built an auditorium that became the temporary chapel, the plan being to build a permanent church "within a year or two." But the remodeled and expanded "auditorium" remains the worship area today.

In 1950, the first part of the present brick building — four classrooms and an auditorium — was built.

In 1955, St. Lawrence Church opened its own parochial school in north Asheville. The bishop decided to split the St. Lawrence parish, establishing St. Eugene Church next door to the school and changing the school's affiliation to St. Eugene.

In 1960, Bessie Prime, an elderly St. Joan of Arc parishioner who lived in a stately home, bequeathed her residence to the church. The house, a block from the church and school, became a convent for the sisters teaching at St. Joan of Arc School.

During the 1962-63 school year, St. Joan of Arc School built a brick addition that housed additional classrooms, a kitchen and gymnasium/cafeteria to serve the 210 students in kindergarten through eighth grades. The Gardner House was demolished for a parking lot.

In 1968, the Franciscans could no longer shoulder the financial strain of operating St. Anthony School in south Asheville for African-American children. St. Joan of Arc School accepted all the children who wanted to continue with their parochial education.

A decline in religious available to teach in the parochial school led to St. Joan of Arc School's closing in 1980; students transferred to the renamed Asheville Catholic School at St. Eugene Church.

The convent became offices for Catholic Social Services after the school closed and later became the church's rectory when CSS moved their offices in 1997.

Although St. Joan of Arc Church was the smallest of Asheville's three parishes, it continued its tradition of reaching out — to Hispanics and other minority Catholics, to seniors, to gay and lesbian Catholics and to AIDS and HIV-positive individuals — through its Caring Hearts ministry.

Father John Pagel, assigned as St. Joan of Arc Church's 23rd pastor in 1998, balanced the parish budget but discovered that the former school buildings constituted a large and continuing financial drain on the parish.

A parish planning committee organized "listening" sessions to discern the hopes of the parishioners and launched an evaluation of the options facing the parish.

Doing nothing meant the eventual demise of the parish, but money was not available to renovate the obsolete buildings or rebuild in place.

Although there is a great deal of affection for the "little brown church," the parish agreed that relocating was the only viable option. It will become affordable with help from the diocese and the sale of the commercially valuable property on Haywood Road.

By moving 10 minutes to the west, St. Joan of Arc Church will be centrally located to serve what the diocese expects to be an explosive growth in Catholic families, making it one of those rare parishes that is ahead of the demographic wave rather than swamped by it.

The parish's "Journey of Faith" capital campaign kicks off this fall.


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**Gathering of faith**

*Secular Franciscan Order discusses Eucharist, spirituality at annual gathering*

| PAGE 5

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

## New facilitators ready to train employees, volunteers

*Program instituted to prevent child sexual abuse in diocese*

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — New facilitators have been trained to help others protect children in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Susan Chestnut, a consultant for VIRTUS, led an intensive two-day training session at the diocesan Pastoral Center for the facilitators Sept. 9-10.

The twelve facilitators are now certified to present

See TRAINING, page 4

## Bringing faith behind bars

PRISON MINISTERS ATTEND INAUGURAL GATHERING

BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Those who bring God to prison inmates recently gathered to reflect and share.

"Today we see the fruits of our ministry," said Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, coordinator of the diocesan permanent diaconate. "This is the first of many times we will get together. We are here to share our stories."

More than 30 permanent deacons and others involved in

See PRISON, page 8

'A GLOBAL EMERGENCY'

## CCHD director speaks on HIV and AIDS

*Disease affects entire planet, says priest*

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Robert Vitillo speaks on HIV and AIDS at Just Second Fridays in Charlotte Sept. 10.

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Since the first case of AIDS was diagnosed more than 20 years ago, some 20 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses and 37.8 million more are living with the disease.

"The spread of the pandemic continues at an unabated pace and destroys the lives of individuals and families as well as causes serious

See AIDS, page 9

STUDENT STORM TRACKERS

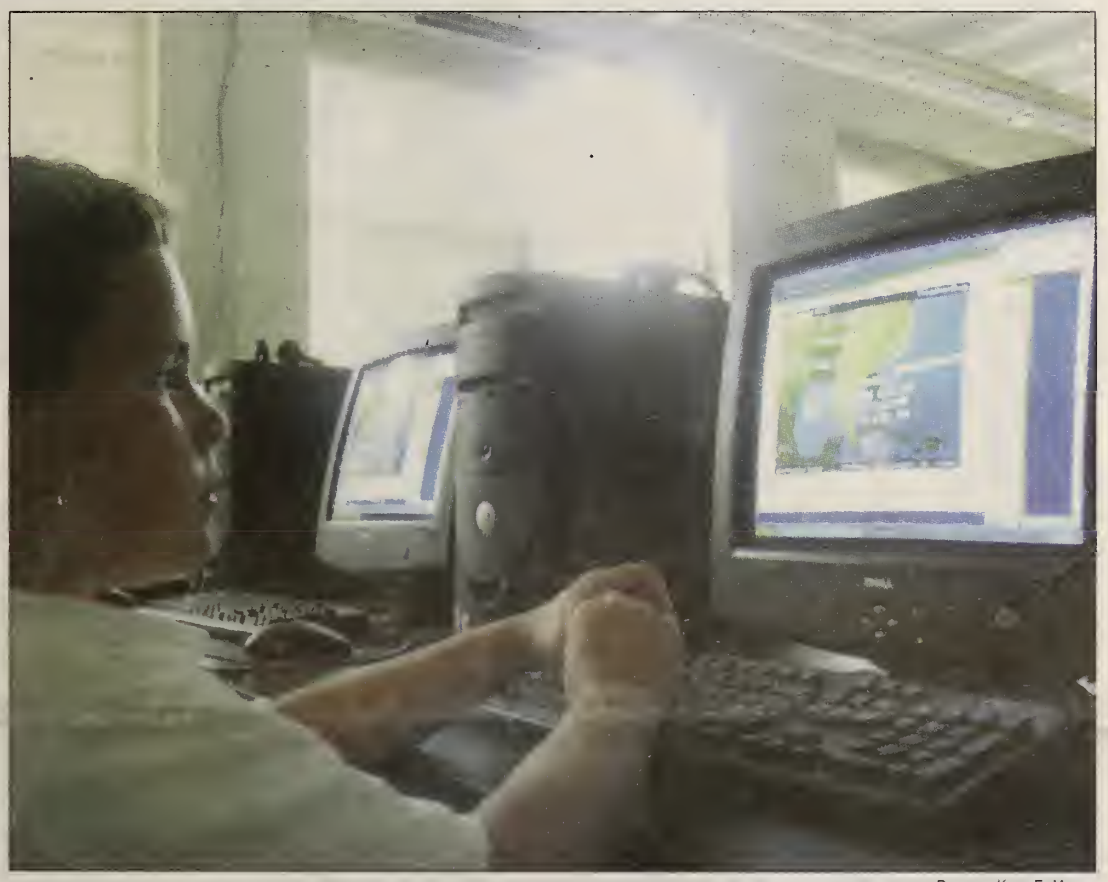

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A student tracks Hurricane Ivan on St. Ann School's WeatherNet computer system Sept. 13. St. Ann School is one of two schools in Mecklenburg County to become a WeatherNet reporting station.

## Catholic students use technology to monitor hurricanes

DATA COLLECTED HELPS LOCAL TV NEWS, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

BY PEGGY ANDERSON
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — As remnants of Hurricane Frances whipped through Charlotte Sept. 7, students at St. Ann School tracked the storm on the school's WeatherNet computer site.

On the roof of the south Charlotte school, a sophisticated set of instruments collected weather data and transmitted it to the American Weather Service (AWS), the world's largest private weather network.

A year ago, St. Ann School and Providence Day School in southeast Charlotte became the only two elementary schools in Mecklenburg County to install AWS WeatherNet reporting stations.

"My fourth grade students were able to follow Hurricane Frances and see how it changed from a hurricane to a tropical storm," said Lisa Horton, St. Ann School computer science teacher. "They were so excited. It gives them real, hands-on science that they can touch and feel. You can't get that from a book."

The weather instruments at St. Ann School measure temperatures, wind speeds, rainfall amounts, humidity and air pressure. Data is collected automatically and fed

See WEATHER, page 7

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**In Our Schools**
*CCHS teacher visits NASA; Catholic students help Florida school*
| PAGES 6-7

**Common faith**
*Polish priest visits Arden parish, celebrates feast day*
| PAGE 13

**Remembering 9/11**
*Catholic schools pay tribute to victims, heroes*
| PAGE 16

# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## THE WRATH OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A child stands near his family home destroyed by Hurricane Ivan outside Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 12. At least 68 people lost their lives to the violent storm as it made its way across the Caribbean.

## Grenada bishop says after Hurricane Ivan diocese must be rebuilt

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (CNS) — The bishop of the Caribbean island of Grenada said the entire diocese will have to be completely rebuilt after being devastated by a powerful hurricane churning its way toward the United States.

Bishop Vincent Darius of St. George's in Grenada said all church structures there had been damaged following the passage of Hurricane Ivan, the most powerful storm to hit the region in a decade.

"Like all the other buildings here, our churches, presbyteries, convents and schools have received structural damage," he said Sept. 12.

Ivan, traveling through the Caribbean, killed at least 68 people, including 19 in Grenada and 19 in Jamaica. Ninety percent of Grenada's buildings were flattened or badly damaged, and the Red Cross estimated 60,000 of the island's 90,000 people were left homeless.

Bishop Darius said the roof of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in St. George's had caved in. The eye of "Ivan the Terrible" — as the hurricane has been dubbed by locals — passed directly over the capital Sept. 7.

More than 200 inmates of the island's prison escaped during the hurricane as its roof blew away; some were recaptured. Looting of businesses and homes persisted, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed.

Bishop Darius said few parishes celebrated Mass Sept. 11-12 because of the damage, but many hoped to resume services the weekend of Sept. 18-19.

He described the situation as "chaotic" because electricity, water and communications had not yet been restored.

"I think people are still in a state of shock," he said. "Many are concerned about what will happen tomorrow in terms of their survival."

Bishop Darius said he was currently working on putting together a diocesan disaster relief committee to coordinate the distribution of incoming relief to parishes on the predominantly Catholic island.

He said residents might be shaken but "we have not lost our faith."

"Life has changed, and people are now talking about living as one in community," he said.

After leaving Grenada in its wake as a Category 3 hurricane with winds in excess of 100 miles per hour, Ivan gathered strength over the Caribbean Sea and clipped Jamaica Sept. 11. On Sept. 13, it had strengthened to a Category 5 hurricane and was headed for western Cuba and, eventually, the United States.

## Judge's decision against partial-birth abortion ban called 'callous'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Terming it a "callous opinion," a spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops criticized a federal judge's Sept. 8 ruling that the law prohibiting the procedure known as partial-birth abortion is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf in Nebraska said the 2003 law should have included an exception allowing that type of abortion to be used in cases where the woman's health is in danger. The only exception to the ban is when the mother's life is at risk.

In a statement, Cathy Cleaver Ruse, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said Kopf's decision shows the reach of an "abortionist's veto" that she said was established by the Supreme Court in a ruling four years ago.

In a 5-4 decision June 28, 2000, the high court struck down Nebraska's law banning partial-birth abortion.

She said with their majority decision, the five justices ruled "that the Constitution will allow no legal protection for children from the violence of partial-birth abortion, as long as there are abortion doctors who favor it. Judge Kopf's ruling shows this 'abortionist's veto' in action."

She said the Supreme Court "should be untainted by abortion ideology and respectful of the right to life of every human being without exception."

Kopf is the third federal judge this summer to declare the law unconstitutional.

The partial-birth abortion cases are expected to be appealed eventually to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court typically declines to take appeals where lower courts are in agreement.

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the rectory building at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Beverly Reid at (423) 6338-4744 or bebereid@adelphia.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills' Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The Women's Guild of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., will host its *Annual Tea Party* Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Msgr. Pharr Center. For For more information, contact the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — The 57th Semi-Annual *Family Rosary Day* will be held Oct. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Philip Scarcella, pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, will be the speaker. For more information, contact the church office at (704) 554-7088.

HUNTERSVILLE — The Newcomers Women's Ministry of St. Mark Church invites women who are new or still feel new to the area to *"Moving On,"* based on Susan Miller's book "After the Boxes are Unpacked." We will talk about the spiritual, emotional and practical needs associated with moving. Classes meet Wednesdays through Nov. 17 in Room 200 of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. Call Gigi at (704) 895-3310 or Merry at (704) 947-9547 for more information.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Women's Catholic Scripture Study* meets Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. The class will focus on the book of Exodus and will meet through May 2005. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

CHARLOTTE — A support group for *caregivers of a family member with memory loss* meets the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is offered in the chapel of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., each Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass until Saturday at 9 a.m. Adorers are needed, particularly during the hours of midnight-6 a.m. for more information, call Charles and Bernice Kish at (704) 8 46-7387.

CHARLOTTE — *Thank God It's Friday* (TGIF), a weekly support group for separated and divorced women, meets every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the New Life Center building, room 114, of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., including a potluck dinner. Divorced men are invited every third Wednesday of the month. TGIF is a healing ministry sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office and St. Matthew Church. For details, call Karen Wepasnick at (704) 541-1891 after 3 p.m.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Citizenship Sessions* will be held at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Oct. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.;

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Nuncio says resumed Israeli-Vatican negotiations result in progress

ROME (CNS) — Stalled negotiations between Israel and the Holy See resumed in Jerusalem and resulted in "considerable progress," said the region's papal nuncio.

"A few difficulties persist, but I hope the willingness to fulfill the 'fundamental agreement' fully continues," Archbishop Pietro Sambi said Sept. 10.

Israel and the Holy See signed the "fundamental agreement" in 1993; they established diplomatic relations in 1994.

Concordats within the agreement were to follow to guarantee the rights and freedom of the Catholic Church in Israel, but Israel has not enacted the agreement.

Further negotiations over the bilateral accord came to a standstill when Israel withdrew its delegation from talks in August 2003.

Archbishop Sambi, the pope's representative to Israel and the Palestinian territories, headed the Vatican delegation in the resumed talks with Israel's Foreign Ministry Sept. 6-9. But two major sticking points still persist: guaranteeing church property rights and tax exemptions.

"All the Catholic Church wants is for the agreement to include a sentence that says, as a property owner, the church has the right to access to the courts" to protect any of its property, said Franciscan Father David Jaeger, an expert on church-state relations in Israel.

U.S. government officials helped persuade Israel to restart negotiations with the church this year, and Father Jaeger said the United States must continue to encourage Israel to resolve the current impasse.

The next round of talks between the Holy See and Israeli delegates is scheduled in late October.

# Remembering Sept. 11, Vatican says enemies of humanity won't prevail

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under the banner headline, "Darkness in the history of humanity," the Vatican newspaper remembered the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States and subsequent terrorist attacks around the world.

"But the enemies of humanity can never prevail," said the subheadline in the Sept. 11 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper.

The newspaper, distributed to journalists Sept. 10, called for acts of courageous peacemaking and reconciliation around the globe.

"Hope is the only real force that can lead the world toward a future of peace where terrorism is only a sad memory," the front-page editorial said.

"Now more than ever, there is a need for authentic peacemakers, for men and women who have the courage to build bridges and not to dig ditches between peoples. It is a courage that only hope can increase," the newspaper said.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, a threatening shadow was spread over humanity, darkening it," the newspaper said.

In addition to the attacks on New York and Washington, the newspaper highlighted later terrorist attacks: the October 2002 bombing in Bali, Indonesia, which left 202 people dead; the March bombing of several trains in Madrid, Spain, in which 191 people died; and the deaths of more than 320 people, mostly children, Sept. 3 after they were taken hostage in a school in Russia.

To the terrorists, "it matters little if the victims are tourists or commuters on their way to work," the newspaper said. "The important thing, in the terrorists' perverse strategy, is to spread a generalized feeling of panic."

The newspaper quoted what Pope John Paul II said at his general audience the day after the U.S. attacks: "Even if the forces of darkness seem to prevail, believers know that evil and death will not have the last word."

The certainty that goodness will triumph, the newspaper said, must be the force that "sustains humanity at this troubled moment of history."

and Oct. 17, 12:30-2 p.m. in the Parish Family Center. Each session will cover politics, elections, candidates and issues. No pre-registration or fees, just bring yourself, and a friend, too! For details, contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at teallfleming@yahoo.com or (704) 825-9600, x 26

### GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* announces the start of its 2004-2005 fiscal year with a luncheon on Sept. 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Cardinal Country Club. The speaker will be Jan Laughinghouse, clinical director at Mary's House. All ladies are welcome. For more information, please contact Marie VanKleef at (336) 644-1142.

GREENSBORO — Terry Aiken will present a *"Protecting God's Children"* workshop Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 605 Barber Ave. "Protecting God's Children" is a program designed to heighten awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse. Participants will be informed of potentially dangerous situations with specific suggestions to reduce the risk of children becoming victims of such abuse. To register for this free workshop, visit www.Charlottediocese.org and click on "Protecting God's Children."

### HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The *Fraternity of Brother Francis* will present two spiritual events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi — the stigmata and transitus — Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. Refreshments and a biographical video will follow. For more information, contact Ruth Thoni at (828) 466-1664.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study* beginning Sept. 15. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes will be held each at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or email stalscss@charter.net.

### SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Beginning Sept. 8, St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will offer a program designed to provide encouragement for women who have relocated. This is an opportunity to meet others and exchange insights. The 10-week session, containing biblical advice and clear-headed counsel, is based on the book *"After the Boxes are Unpacked"* by Susan Miller. Both morning and evening sessions will be offered with baby-sitting provided at the morning sessions. For further information, contact, contact Lois Yaniero at (704) 892-4326 for morning sessions and Connie Evans at (704) 658-0521 or Tori Springate at (704) 662-9122 for evening sessions.

### WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans will host the *Blessing of the Animals* at Winston Square, adjacent to the Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall Street, on Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. All family members and their pets are welcome to attend. For more information, call (336) 725-3751 or email p-lstudio@webtv.net

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., celebrates *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Friday until 7 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 for more information.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

# Ranger Rosaries

CNS PHOTO BY DON BLAKE, THE DIALOG

Father Steven McDermott from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia blesses the men and women of the 945th Service Company at the Army National Guard Armory in Milford, Del., Sept. 8. Members of the 945th received rosaries from the Ranger Rosaries group before leaving for Iraq Sept. 10. More than 100 people from nine parishes joined forces recently to put together what are called Ranger Rosaries — they are made of parachute cord and plastic beads and crosses.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Sept. 23 — 9 a.m. Mass**
Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte

**Sept. 25 — 5 p.m. Mass**
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

## A SAINT YOU SHOULD KNOW

MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

Matthew was probably born in Galilee and was working as a tax collector when Christ called to him, "Follow me." He became one of the chosen Twelve Apostles and author of the first Gospel. It is said that he preached in Judea and then in the East. Matthew is venerated as a martyr, although the circumstances of his death are unknown. His feast is Sept. 21.

# Facilitators to train adults to protect God's children

TRAINING, *from page 1*

three-hour Protecting God's Children awareness programs, mandatory for all employees and volunteers in the diocese. The course is designed to strengthen faith communities through education, awareness and training on sexual misconduct prevention.

"Our goal is to train our diocesan employees and volunteers, especially those who work with children," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and director of diocesan Human Resources. "We want the people of the Diocese of Charlotte to take steps, recognize, report, prevent abuse and ensure it doesn't happen."

"We teach the warning signs of an offender, and teach adults how to protect children through a five-step process," said Chestnut.

That process, she said, involves: knowing and recognizing warning signs related to sexual abuse of a minor; knowing who has access to children; monitoring programs attended by children; encouraging people to communicate with children; and communicating concerns to children.

VIRTUS is affiliated with the National Catholic Risk Retention Group, an insured, not-for-profit insurance company of which the diocese is a shareholder. Chestnut said it was important to note that VIRTUS' Protecting God's Children program began in the late 1990s in an effort to further the work of God's kingdom.

"It was not established as a result of difficulties befallen on the Catholic Church in the last two years," she said.

And, she said, the Diocese of Charlotte was one of the first dioceses to institute the program.

It was the fulfillment of a promise made by then-Bishop William G. Curlin who, in April 2002, announced the implementation of the nationally recognized program to train all diocesan employees and volunteers to identify and correctly address aspects of sexual misconduct.

In June and July 2002, priests and principals serving in the Diocese of Charlotte were the first to receive the training. Then in August 2002, the first group of diocesan facilitators, comprised of 30 diocesan employees and volunteers, was trained and certified; they in turn began training the more than 7,000 clergy, volunteers and employees of the Diocese of Charlotte.

VIRTUS' training raises awareness in the adult community, "so it's not on the children to protect themselves but on the adults," said Chestnut. "If we know the signs of an offender, as a faith community we are all better informed and can better protect children."

"Those who work with children, no matter what age, must be aware of the signs and the things that can happen to them," said Mercy Sister Emma Yondura, newly trained facilitator and first-grade teacher at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem.

"The training will help people to think deeper and not take things for granted (when it comes to children's safety)," she said.

During the first day of training, videos and in-depth discussions helped the facilitators learn about VIRTUS' programs, history and online continuing education for employees and volunteers.

"After the three-hour awareness session, people can get more information (on VIRTUS' Web site) about how to protect children," said Chestnut.

On the second day, the group covered policies and procedures, challenges that may be encountered during an awareness session and how to present VIRTUS' online continuing education components.

"One of the great things about this training is we now have people in key locations around the diocese to train others," said Shannon Ganoe, a Protecting God's Children program facilitator and human resources assistant with the Diocese of Charlotte.

"By having more facilitators in the parishes, it will make a big difference," said Barbara Kohler, newly-trained facilitator and coordinator for kindergarten-through-eighth-grade faith formation at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

"It's imperative and most appropriate for all people who work with children to take this class," she said. "It's a wonderful awareness program and one from which we can all benefit."

"We needed a facilitator in our area," said Migdalia Ortiz, newly trained facilitator and director of religious education at St. Mary Church in Greensboro.

Ortiz, who is bilingual, will be able to present the training for both English- and Spanish-speakers.

"We have lots of volunteers who need the class. Now, we can hold the training here at St. Mary Church," she said.

Chestnut, a non-Catholic with a master's degree in counseling psychology, has seen first-hand how abuse can affect people. She believes the Catholic Church is setting the standard when it comes to combating sexual abuse of minors.

"In five years, the Catholic Church will be a model for protecting children," she said.

In a Feb. 19, 2004 letter to members of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis pledged his ongoing determination to stamp out the sexual abuse of children.

"Please be assured that I am personally committed to the safety of children," he wrote, "and that our diocese is adhering to the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People that was adopted by the (U.S.) bishops in June of 2002."

**WANT MORE INFO?**

More information about Protecting God's Children can be found on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org by clicking on the link "Protecting God's Children."

# Digging faith

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis breaks ground during a ceremony for a new community life center at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 29.*

*Bishop Jugis concelebrated the outdoor Mass with Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor; Capuchin Father Vincent Fortunato, provincial minister of the Province of Stigmata of St. Francis; and Capuchin Friars serving Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. Diocesan representatives and city and county government officials were in attendance.*

*The 14,000-square-foot facility will be used for community outreach programs such as English as a Second Language, Boy and Girl Scouts, senior citizens' events, Bible study and other educational and cultural enrichment activities.*

*To be completed in July 2005, the building will house parish offices, a gymnasium, kitchen, youth lounge and meeting rooms.*

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GATHERING OF FAITH

# Secular Franciscans discuss Eucharist, spirituality

## *Council elected during annual gathering*

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Singing "I Shall Praise the Savior's Glory," 170 Secular Franciscans followed the Blessed Sacrament to the adoration chapel.

Although the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region (BSSF) of the Secular Franciscan Order had had meditation chapels at previous Annual Regional Gatherings, this was the first year for around-the-clock adoration.

Conventual Franciscan Father Linus DeSantis, regional spiritual assistant, placed the Eucharist, in its golden monstrance, on a white-covered table for adoration during this year's gathering held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Charlotte Sept. 10-12.

The twelve folding chairs in front of the Eucharist were often full, both with those who had signed up for specific hours and others who dropped in to spend some time. Many visited more than once.

"Franciscan spirituality is marked by a great devotion to Jesus present in the Eucharist," said Father DeSantis. "[St. Francis'] love for the Eucharist was rooted in his admiration for the humility of God. He was overwhelmed that God would deign to humble himself and to become present to us under the form of simple bread and wine."

"I think that the Blessed Sacrament has been neglected in many of our churches for too many years," said Rev. Mr. Dennis Arcand, SFO (Secular Franciscan Order), chosen leader of St. Benedict the Moor Reactivating Fraternity in Macon, Ga.

"We as Secular Franciscans should start here and move from here to changing that in our parishes," he said. "I hope we do this every year."

During the gathering, Father DeSantis spoke about the Eucharist's power and as the basis of community.

"The Eucharist is what truly allows us to live in community," he said. "All things are capable of making Christ present. The bread and wine are transformed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ Jesus. ... When we receive the body and blood of Christ, we are transformed. We must proclaim that transformation."

In a breakout session, the Secular Franciscans divided into 12 groups to discuss the Eucharist and other key points of Franciscan spirituality: Incarnation, love of Scripture, reliance on the Holy Spirit, devotion to the mother of God, dedication to prayer, communal life, poverty and simplicity, humility, joyful spirit, peacemaking and solidarity with all creation.

The BSSF region encompasses all of North and South Carolina and areas of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. BSSF has 328 professed Secular Franciscans, 71 candidates and 70 inquirers among 24 established fraternities, a reactivating fraternity, an emerging community and six newly forming groups.

Six fraternities are in the Diocese of Charlotte: St. Clare, Asheville; St. Maximilian Kolbe, Charlotte; St. Francis of the Living Waters, Franklin; Franciscan Family of Greensboro; St. Francis of the Hills, Hendersonville; Fraternity of Brother Francis, Hickory.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

**Minister-elect Judy Haupt lights a candle for Flossie Stewart while Bill Stewart waits his turn during the annual gathering of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in Charlotte Sept. 10-12. The candlelighting was part of a presentation on apostolates. The Stewarts are members of the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville; Haupt is from Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity in Hilton Head Island, S.C.**

At the annual gathering, the group celebrated their Franciscan spirituality and community through Eucharist, prayer and fellowship by learning more about apostolates and through spiritual talks. Candles were lighted in honor of 11 Secular Franciscans who had died within the last year and for 31 others who had made their perpetual professions since last year's annual gathering.

Talking about the Franciscan virtues of poverty, simplicity and humility, Father DeSantis compared Jesus' and Franciscan poverty.

"The purpose of your promises, my vows, is so that nothing gets in the way (of focusing on God)," he said. "Jesus blesses poverty. We empty ourselves so that we can keep a keen eye on what's really important. Jesus comes to the shepherds because the shepherds are the lowliest. Who did Francis meet? The leper."

Franciscan spirit in encountering "the poor, the fragile, the leper," he added, "provides an opportunity to know God through a genuine caring presence. Francis mirrors Christ. He sees the beauty, the wealth of each person."

Father DeSantis; Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center in Greensboro; and Conventual Franciscan Father Terry Pescatore, spiritual assistant to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity in Burlington, concelebrated Mass on Saturday and the Mass of installation of the newly-elected regional council on Sunday.

This year's gathering included election of the new BSSF council. Every three years, the region elects a minister (president), vice minister, secretary, treasurer, formation director and area councilors. Voters are the fraternity ministers or their designated representatives.

From the Diocese of Charlotte, Skyler Harvey, SFO with the St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity, was elected to a second term as regional secretary, and Pat Cowan, SFO with the St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, was elected as an area councilor.

"It's a chance to serve my family," Harvey said. "Franciscans believe in servant leadership."

"I think that holding us up to the Blessed Sacrament has made all the difference in the world," Rev. Mr. Arcand said. "I think this will be a momentous start for the new leadership that's coming in."

*Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.*


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SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

COURTESY PHOTO

Libby Lerner, a math teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School, meets Barbara Morgan, who was teacher Christa McAuliffe's backup in 1986 and is now expected to be the first teacher in space when she rides the space shuttle in 2005. Lerner placed among the top-ranking applicants for the NASA Educator Astronaut position.

# CCHS teacher earns top marks at NASA

CHARLOTTE — A math teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School has caught the attention of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Libby Lerner placed among the top-ranking applicants for the NASA Educator Astronaut position and also participated in the NASA Educator Astronaut Program's first Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers (NEAT) workshop in June.

"The workshop was a wonderful experience," said Lerner. "There were some of the top teachers in the country. We had a lot of sharing of ideas."

NASA launched the Educator Astronaut Program in January 2003 to recruit and select the best educators from around the United States to become full-fledged astronauts.

"These Educator Astronauts will use the combination of their educational background and astronaut experience to truly ignite the curiosity and desire to learn within our students," said Adena Loston, NASA chief education officer.

"I would like to get students excited about mathematics, science and technology, and show them the opportunities that are there," said Lerner.

A team of experts reviewed the credentials of thousands of applicants against specific criteria exhibited by exemplary educators, said Loston. Lerner was among the 197 applicants referred to the NASA Johnson Space Center Astronaut Office to be evaluated by the Astronaut Selection Board for consideration.

Three of the 197 applicants were selected in May for the Educator Astronaut position. While Lerner and the other 193 applicants remain in the "top tier of applicants," Loston said they are not alternates for the position and would have to reapply during additional selection phases to be considered for a future class of astronaut candidates.

NASA began its first NEAT workshop at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, June 15. The event provided Lerner and the other applicants with knowledge of NASA resources, special access to NASA facilities, strategies for utilizing NASA content in the classroom, components of astronaut training and other NASA mission and education activities.

"During the NEAT workshop, educators also exchanged strategies and ideas with representatives from NASA field centers across the country," said Loston.

Upon completion of the training, the teachers become active NEAT members.

"The active NEAT teachers have expressed a willingness and commitment to share the NASA information they have acquired with their colleagues and communities," said Lofton. "They have the potential to foster a remarkable collaborative relationship with NASA Education Specialists that will benefit their assigned schools, school districts and communities."

"We'll be working with NASA to develop curriculum for teachers who want to bring NASA into their classroom," said Lerner.

# Dressing down to help out

## *Catholic students raise funds for Florida school devastated by hurricanes*

CHARLOTTE — Students at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte recently raised funds to help a Catholic school in Florida.

Hurricane Charley hit the Florida peninsula Aug. 13 as a Category 4 storm, with winds reaching 145 mph and a surge of sea water 13 to 15 feet. It devastated the communities of Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte.

St. Gabriel School students gave voluntary donations totaling $541 to wear clothes of their choice instead of their uniforms on a dress-down day Sept. 14. Money raised will go to St. Charles Borromeo School in Port Charlotte, just eight miles from Punta Gorda.

"The devastation hit close to home," said Sharon Broxterman, principal of St. Gabriel School, referring to Michele Snoke, a new first-grade teacher.

Snoke just relocated to North Carolina from Punta Gorda. Her daughter had attended St. Charles Borromeo School in Port Charlotte.

"They lost half the school," said Snoke. "Many books, teacher resource materials and classrooms were destroyed."

Snoke shared the devastation with her class; her daughter, a student at St. Gabriel School, shared it with her teacher and class.

"By putting names and faces with the situation, the students know who they are helping and it makes a bigger impact for them," said Snoke.

She said the students' donations will go a long way at St. Charles Borromeo School.

"Many of the teachers lost their homes but came back to work right away to help set up makeshift classrooms," she said. "The students' donations will help the school get back up and running."

*Is your Catholic school or Catholic student doing something to help hurricane victims? We want to know. E-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.*

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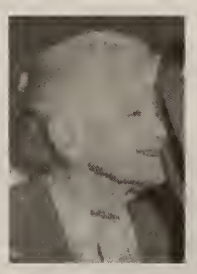

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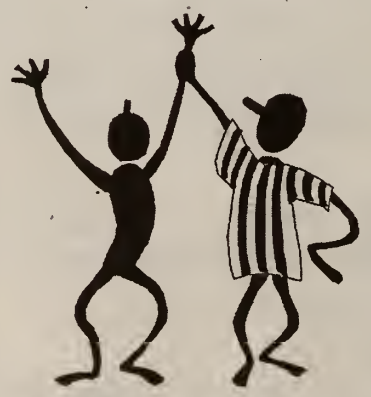

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The Catholic Conference Center

# Students track hurricanes

WEATHER, *from page 1*

through a computer to AWS, which shares the information with more than 6,000 school sites and 100 television stations across the country, including WBTV in Charlotte.

"We use the data from St. Ann School several times a day during our broadcasts," said Al Conklin, WBTV meteorologist.

"During the heavy rain with Frances, we were able to gauge how much rain was falling in different parts of the city," said Conklin. "Charlotte is such a huge place, these school sites help us fill in the gaps."

AWS also has weather stations at WBTV, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Charlotte Douglas International airport.

St. Ann School applied for a grant from the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Foundation to cover the $5,000 cost of the WeatherNet equipment. Along with the measuring equipment, the WeatherNet program offers a wide-ranging curriculum of on-line activities for students of all ages.

"I've used it with all our classes, from kindergarten to fifth grade," said Horton. "It's not just for teaching science, either. We work on math, computer skills, history, geography, graphing. It's a wonderful tool."

Last week, a group of third-grade students were eager to share their experiences with a visitor.

"We've learned a lot about hurricanes," said third-grader Nicole Balas. "The wind and water start spinning and it picks up speed and makes a hurricane."

Classmate Ella Little pointed to rainfall estimates on the computer screen.

"You can see where the storm took water from the ocean and left it somewhere else," she said.

Since AWS coordinates efforts with the National Weather Service, the WeatherNet station also provides an opportunity for St. Ann School to assist the U.S. Homeland Security Department in the event of a national emergency, such as a chemical/biological airborne attack.

"In an emergency, our weather station will feed our wind coordinates to the police and fire department, so they can create evacuation routes based on wind speed and direction," said Horton.

St. Ann School flies a flag below the American flag, which identifies it as a member of the Homeland Security WeatherNet Network.

Last week, as the tornado warnings were cancelled for Mecklenburg County, students at St. Ann were watching and learning.

"You can see that the storms are moving to the north," said third-grader Caroline Bryson.

Scott Moore, another third-grade student, checked the screen and nodded his head.

"I like knowing that I'm safe," he said.

*Peggy Anderson, a Charlotte-based freelance writer, has two sons at St. Ann School.*

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

**Lisa Horton, computer science teacher, works with St. Ann School students on the school's WeatherNet computer system.**

# High school students invited to enter poster contest

## *More than $2,000 in prizes to be awarded*

NEW YORK — Attention all teens! The Christophers invite all high school students to share their unique ideas and creative talents by entering the Fifteenth Annual Christophers Poster Contest for High School Students.

Students are asked to interpret the theme "You Can Make a Difference" in an original poster.

Last year's contest drew a record-breaking 2,752 entries from public, private and parochial schools across the United States and around the world, including Uganda, Bulgaria and Hong Kong. Winning posters included paintings, photographs and computer-generated work.

"This contest is a great opportunity for young people to express themselves creatively and, we hope, think about The Christophers' message," said Dennis Heaney, president of The Christophers. "Each year, the obvious work they put into their entries shows us that they really want to make the world a better place."

Students in grades nine through 12 are eligible to enter. Posters must be 15 by 20 inches and include the words, "You Can Make a Difference." They will be judged on overall impact, effectiveness in conveying theme, originality and artistic merit. Eight prizes will be awarded, with a first prize of $1,000.

Entries must be received by Jan. 21, 2005. Winners will be announced April 22, 2005. Posters become the property of The Christophers and will not be returned.

The Christophers, a nonprofit organization founded in 1945, uses mass media to encourage all individuals to recognize and use their unique abilities to raise the standards of public life. The Christophers' motto is: "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

**WANT TO ENTER?**

Complete rules and entry forms are available by writing to: High School Poster Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; by calling (212) 759-4050; or online at www.christophers.org/contests.html.

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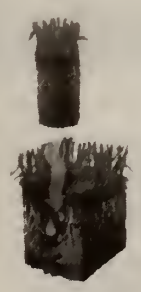

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***$10.00 fee per person — Make checks payable to Catholic Social Services***
*Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.*

# Prison ministers hold inaugural gathering

PRISON, *from page 1*

prison ministry gathered for the inaugural Prison Ministry Appreciation Day held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Sept. 11.

During the gathering, the new prison ministry logo was unveiled and the Deacon John Gallen Award was presented.

"This ministry is about never ever turning your back on any prisoner because they are not Catholic," said Rev. Mr. Jim Johnson, permanent deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton and coordinator of diocesan Prison Ministry.

Prison Ministry was established in the Diocese of Charlotte by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue in February 1991. Ongoing services and programs include the distribution of Bibles, reading and writing materials and greeting cards to inmates imprisoned throughout the diocese; as well as Bible studies and Communion services.

Bill Matevie, who serves as a full-time chaplain in the Mecklenburg County Jail and as a liaison between the diocese and the North Carolina Division of Prisons, spoke about the various aspects of diocesan prison ministry for both inmates and their families, including meeting their spiritual needs, creating and expanding educational opportunities, and one-on-one visits.

Rev. Mr. Johnson, who has served for about 10 years at both the Western Youth Institute and the adult Foothills Correctional Institute in Morganton, has a range of duties as diocesan prison ministry coordinator, including: acting as conducting ongoing training seminars for Catholic clergy and volunteers; assisting in resolving issues involving Catholic inmates, clergy (including permanent deacons involved in prison ministry) and prison administrators; and soliciting funding for and distributing of inmate resource materials.

During his presentation, Rev. Mr. Johnson shared a letter he received from a young inmate who expressed appreciation for the deacon's presence at the prison. Rev. Mr. Johnson emphasized that one of the most important aspects of prison ministry was being Jesus to those in need.

"We can bring something positive (for the inmates) to hold on to as they leap into the unknown," said Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan, permanent deacon at St. Joseph Church in Newton, who has been visiting prisoners at Newton's Catawba Correctional Center for more than three years.

Rev. Mr. Gilfillan said he meets with inmates on a weekly basis and, as a lead sponsor, is permitted to take out prisoners with "leave passes" to attend Mass and have breakfast afterward. He also teaches 40-hour re-entry classes to inmates who are ready for release. Topics include interviewing skills, filling out applications and setting career goals.

He also preaches on Sunday nights at prison religious services.

"You cannot go in and not be changed by those you minister to," he said. "You become intertwined in their lives. You are there with them."

"We cannot meet every need," said Rev. Bill Hall, chaplain at the Western Youth Institute in Morganton. "Our main goal is trying to help the inmates to understand who they are in relation to God."

The John Gallen Award was presented to Mary Ann Sullivan of St. Peter Church in Charlotte for her work in prison ministry.

Rev. Mr. Gallen, explained Matevie, had dedicated his ministry to promoting the development of the diocesan prison ministry before his death in 1991.

"His ministry is best described as one called to minister to the unloved, the unwanted, and the unknown," said Matevie.

Present at the award ceremony were Mary Gallen, Rev. Mr. Allen's widow, and his sons and daughters.

"This is very humbling," said Sullivan. "It is not easy to try to bring the love of God and hope into the lives of these men and women. You are special and each of you merits this award and eternal awards for choosing to serve God in this ministry."

Rev. Mr. Wenning unveiled the new prison ministry logo, which is in the shape of a shield and designed by inmate Sergio Gomez to expresses the essence of the prison ministry. The logo includes prison walls; praying hands symbolizing the ministers who meet the spiritual needs of the prisoners; a dove symbolizing God's grace; an altar symbolizing the presence of the Catholic Church to the inmates; a broken chain symbolizing the freedom gained through God's Word; and a cross with a heart in the center showing that God loves all peoples, including inmates.

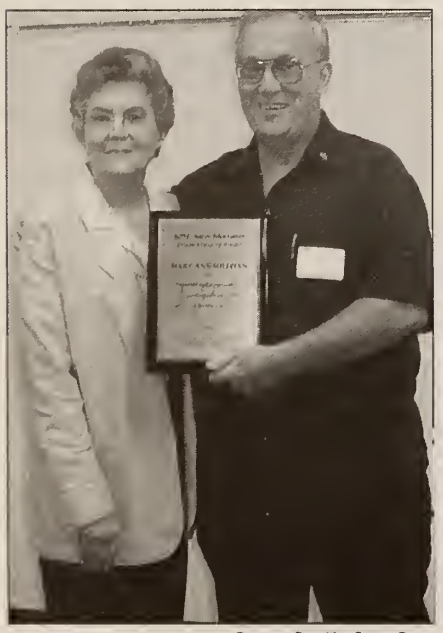

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALO POTKAY

Bill Mativie, a Catholic lay chaplain for the Mecklenburg County Jail, presents the first John Gallen Award to Mary Ann Sullivan for her work in prison ministry at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 11.

# Newly elected

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, center, stands with the newly elected officers of his presbyteral (priests') council at the diocesan Pastoral Center Aug. 24. From left: Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt, council chair and pastor of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont; Father John Putnam, secretary, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and vicar forane of the Salisbury Vicariate; Bishop Jugis; Father John Schneider, treasurer and pastor of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone and Church of the Epiphany in Blowing Rock; and Father Francis O'Rourke, vice-chair, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and vicar forane of the Greensboro Vicariate.

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# AIDS affects entire planet, says priest

AIDS, *from page 1*

tears in the very fabric of society," said Father Robert Vitillo at the Just Second Fridays event at St. Peter Church Sept. 10 in Charlotte regarding "The Human and Pastoral Challenges of HIV and AIDS."

Father Vitillo is the special advisor on HIV and AIDS to Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic organizations working to improve living and working conditions in more than 200 countries and territories. He also is the executive director of Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty, social justice program.

***An epic pandemic***

In sub-Saharan Africa, 10 percent of the world's population is home to nearly two-thirds of all people living with AIDS. So great is the pandemic that two generations of orphans have been created, Father Vitillo said. Twelve million children have lost one or both parents to the disease.

"In many cases, these children are cared for by grandmothers, but these women themselves often suffer from severely limited resources," said Father Vitillo.

Although AIDS affects every socio-economic segment of the world population, the poor and hungry suffer most, Father Vitillo said.

"In Southern Africa and Zambia, studies of AIDS-affected households found that monthly income fell by 66 to 80 percent," he said. "In Thailand, households that saw the AIDS-related death of one of their members showed an overall lifetime income loss of 20 percent."

HIV and AIDS also have a significant impact on the educator and health care worker populations of Africa.

According to the newspaper *The Correspondent*, 30 percent of all Zimbabwean teachers are living with HIV; such rates in Zimbabwe and other sub-Saharan nations will severely affect the future supply of trained teachers in the region. If Namibia continues to train teachers at its current rate of 1,000 per year, it will have a shortfall of more than 7,000 teachers by 2010.

HIV and AIDS have similarly affected the health sector, said Father Vitillo. AIDS-related illnesses have caused 19 to 53 percent of all deaths among health care workers in several African countries.

***God's unconditional love***

Father Vitillo expressed his concern at the stigmatization and marginalization of HIV-infected people.

"Attempts to cast out those affected by the disease ... have been experienced in virtually all parts of the world and among all racial and ethnic groups, as well as in all social and economic classes," he said. "Sadly, some priests and ministers have refused pastoral care and church burial to the HIV-infected."

Such discriminatory behavior creates fear and secretive activity, Father Vitillo asserted. In some countries with a high prevalence of HIV, women refuse to be tested, or fail to return for their test results.

Research conducted in Nigeria showed that one in 10 care providers refused to serve HIV-positive patients, Father Vitillo said. In addition, 20 percent believed that many people living with HIV had "behaved immorally and deserved to be infected."

"Pope John Paul II has made frequent and emotional appeals to avoid discriminatory treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS," he said. "In his 1989 visit to AIDS patients in the United States, he held out the unconditional love of God himself as the guideline to be followed: 'God loves you all, without distinction, without limit. ... He loves those of you who are sick, those suffering from AIDS. He loves the friends and relatives of the sick and those who care for them.'"

Bishops of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference stated in 2001, "AIDS must never be considered as a punishment from God. ... It is for us a sign of the times challenging all people to inner transformation and to the following of Christ in his ministry of healing, mercy and love."

"Despite the fact that the rejection and scapegoating of people affected by HIV and AIDS finds no basis in theological scholarship, such incidences continue to occur," said Father Vitillo. "I believe that members of the hierarchy, clergy and laity alike have the responsibility to stop such poor pastoral practices as soon as they occur."

***Turning the tide***

While HIV and AIDS are spreading most rapidly in Africa and Asia, 40,000 Americans are infected each year, Father Vitillo said. Many of these newly infected are young, heterosexual and/or African American. African Americans are infected at 11 times the rate of their representation of the general population.

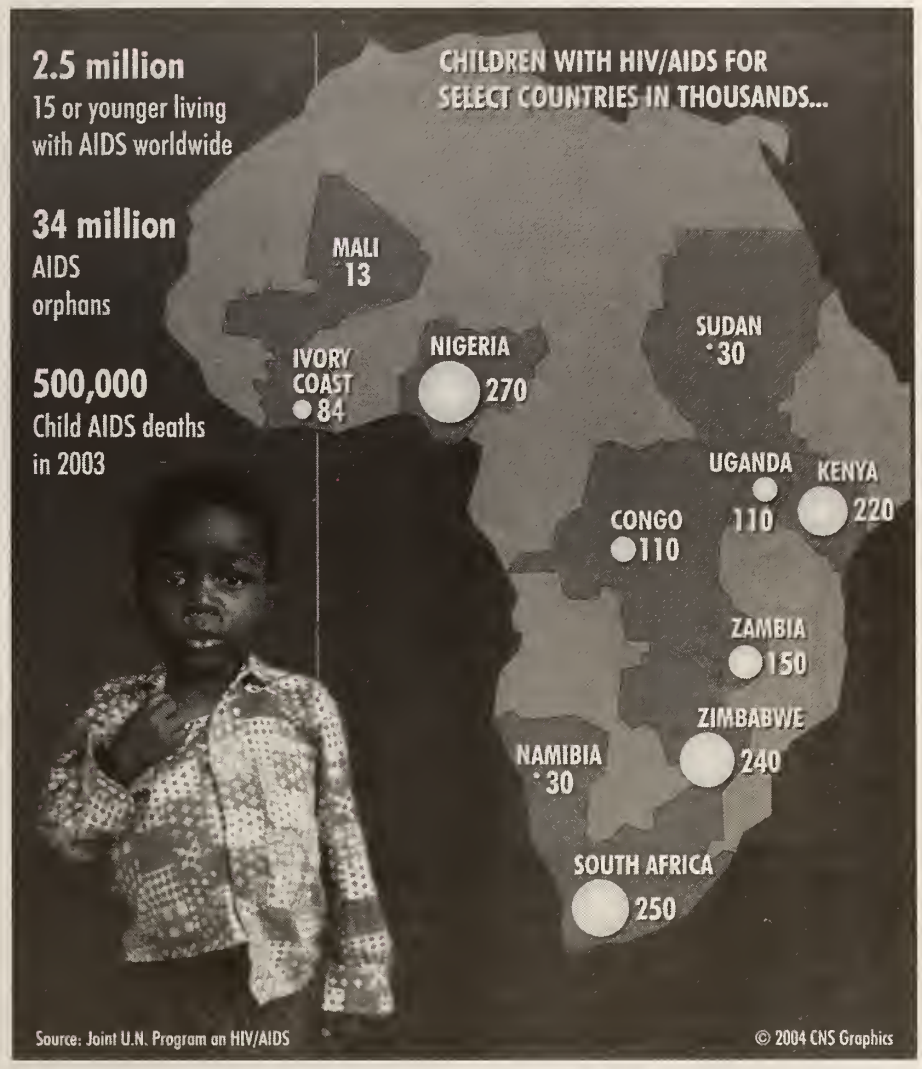
Although scientists have long advocated the use of latex condoms to prevent the spread of HIV, Father Vitillo emphasized that the sole guaranteed method of prevention is abstinence outside of a marriage between two uninfected spouses.

"The strong and public positions taken by the (Catholic) Church against promoting condom use have led to a mistaken perception among AIDS educators, some governments, health care professionals and the media that the church is obstructing HIV and AIDS prevention efforts and therefore might be a 'promoter of death,'" said Father Vitillo.

"The fact is that the Catholic Church sponsors some excellent educational programs designed to prevent the sexual transmission of AIDS," he said.

"Chastity is the only safe and virtuous means to put an end to the tragic plague of AIDS," Pope John Paul II told Ugandan youth during a 1993 visit.

Recent research indicates the most effective means of reducing the prevalence of HIV and AIDS are methods in line with Catholic teaching: partner reduction, delayed onset of sexual activity and, most importantly, abstinence outside of marriage.




"Our Catholic Church has taken a tremendous leadership role in responding to HIV and AIDS," said Father Vitillo. "In many countries, the Catholic Church is responsible for up to one-half of the health care (provided)."

According to Father Vitillo, the Catholic Church has been on the forefront of providing home care and orphan care programs; helping families to take of people with AIDS; helping HIV-infected people, many of whom have lost their jobs, to start their own businesses; and, most recently, helping to get anti-retro-viral medications into developing countries.

***Global epidemic, local consequences***

"With our globalized world, no matter how much some Americans want to have this 'island mentality' — 'who cares about those other people?' — everything that is done anywhere in the world affects other parts of the world, including us," he said.

"The more the workforces in those countries are affected (by AIDS), the less they're going to be able to produce for us," he said.

An example of the effect of this workforce depletion can be found in Zambia, whose population of copper miners has the highest infection rate in the country. With copper extraction as a primary economic source, the economy has been shattered.

Father Vitillo said Americans should lobby pharmaceutical companies to work toward making anti-retroviral medications more affordable and more widely available, especially in the poorer nations of the world.

"We must dedicate more of the Church's economic and human resources to eliminating poverty as well as the tragic consequences of HIV and AIDS," said Father Vitillo. "Individual Christians and church institutions must, in the words of Pope John Paul II, give not just of their 'surplus' but of their 'substance.'"

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## Catholics aim to inform voters by Web sites, booklets, advertisements

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — This year's election campaign, with religious issues frequently front and center, has prompted a variety of voter guides, booklets and advertisements which aim to inform Catholics on topics they should consider in the voting booth.

For starters, the U.S. Catholic bishops' document, "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," outlines the bishops' teachings on the role of Catholics in the public arena. The bishops have also recently released bulletin inserts summarizing key issues of contemporary politics in the form of 10 questions for Catholics to consider during the campaign.

Meanwhile, a lay group in San Diego called Catholic Answers published a 10-page booklet, "Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics." The booklet, which is also available online at www.catholic.com, identifies five issues the group describes as non-negotiable — abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem-cell research, human cloning and homosexual marriage.

If a candidate supports any of these issues, according to the guide, that person should not be considered. A copy of the voter guide ran as a full-page advertisement in the Aug. 31 issue of *USA Today*.

In some races, the guide points out, "each candidate takes a wrong position on one or more of the five non-negotiables." When this occurs, the guide suggests that voters choose the candidate "who takes the fewest such positions or who seems least likely to be able to advance immoral legislation, or you may choose to vote for no one."

Jimmy Akin, director of apologetics and evangelization for Catholic Answers, said the voter's guide has generated a lot of interest and has been purchased in bulk by parishes and a few dioceses.

The guide has been criticized by some who say it does not comply with the Internal Revenue Service guidelines for voter materials that are provided by nonprofit groups.

Akin told Catholic News Service Sept. 3 that Catholic Answers had sought legal advice for this matter and had determined that the guide is "well within U.S. laws and regulations."

He said the group had never produced a voters' guide before, but did so this year to help educate Catholics about the need to elect candidates who support "fundamental human rights and values."

Another Catholic voter guide became available online Aug. 30 at www.votingcatholic.org. The guide, produced by the Catholic Voter Project, a nonpartisan group of lay Catholics, shows how the presidential candidates match up with Catholic social teaching and public policy issues outlined by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The site includes a quiz to help users evaluate how their views compare with the candidates and the U.S. bishops on a wide range of issues including abortion, the death penalty, war, global trade, nuclear weapons, health care, worker rights, immigration and poverty. It also has a forum to encourage discussion about the upcoming election.

Chris Korzen, a spokesman for the Catholic Voting Project, told CNS that this kind of guide could play an important role in helping Catholics determine how they might vote.

He said it is clear from the bishops' "Faithful Citizenship" document that "the decisions Catholics face in determining how to vote are incredibly complicated," and trying to narrow down Catholic doctrine to only a few issues "ignores the integrity and fullness of the Catholic faith."

John Hartz, who also worked on the Web site, stressed that what they have done with a handful of volunteers provides a "resource for Catholics everywhere in the United States — to help them make sense of this election."

Religious views in politics have also been appearing in recent full-page newspaper advertisements. The same day *USA Today* ran the full-page ad by Catholic Answers, *The Washington Times* published an advertisement sponsored by the American Life League that accused some Catholic politicians of "fraudulently claiming Catholic faith" while supporting laws favoring abortion.

And on Aug. 30, a full-page ad with the headline "God is not a Republican or a Democrat" appeared in *The New York Times*.

The advertisement was sponsored by Sojourners, a Christian organization based in Washington that publishes a monthly magazine and is dedicated to social justice issues. The advertisement stressed that Christians and people of other faiths were not single-issue voters, but instead were concerned about poverty, the environment, war, human rights, the response to terrorism and a consistent ethic of human life.

It said religious leaders who called on Christians to re-elect President George W. Bush were promoting "bad theology and dangerous religion."

It also published hundreds of names of the 50,000 people who have signed the advertisement, including Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, N.M., and Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, founder and head of Benet Vision, a spirituality center in Erie, Pa.

# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 26, 2004

## *Sept. 26, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146:7-10
2) 1 Timothy 6:11-15
3) Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I stood by the coffin of a good and godly man last night. Cycil Adrian was a Nazarene pastor of a small church on the West Side of Fort Worth.

Above his casket was a Bible, and it was open to a passage in Timothy — it may have been the one in this week's reading; the tone and message were, at the least quite similar. The passage consisted of Paul's instructions to his disciple and fellow minister to God's people, Timothy.

Cycil had underlined a portion of the Scripture and claimed it for his own. More importantly he had lived out his service to God and his people in his little church, a life of fervent devotion, preaching of the Gospel, and attending to the needs, physical and spiritual, of the people he pastored, all the while not neglecting his love for his wife and children.

It is being said by those who knew him and his ministry that Cycil will be impossible to replace, that he "spoiled" his people, rushing to their bedsides whenever illness laid them low.

May we all have the privilege of "spoiling" those we love and serve.
May we all at our own deaths find that we have been worthy of the instructions Paul gave to Timothy: "Fight the good fight of faith. Take firm hold on the everlasting life to which you were called when, in the presence of many witnesses, you made your noble profession of faith."

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 19 - SEPT. 25**

**Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang & Companions),** Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Wednesday,** Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday,** Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday,** Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday,** Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:8, Luke 9:43-45

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 26 - OCT. 2**

**Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Amos 6:1,4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Job 1:6-22, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions),** Job 3:1-3, 11-7, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; **Thursday (St. Jerome),** Job 19:21-27, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday (St. Therese of the Child Jesus),** Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Psalm 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14; Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday, (Guardian Angels),** Exodus 23:20-23; Psalm 91:1-6, 10-11; Matthew 18:1-5, 10


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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

# Vatican presents German director with spiritual filmmaking award

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VENICE, Italy — A top Vatican official presented German director Wim Wenders with a spiritual filmmaking award during the annual Venice Film Festival.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, praised "the director's courage in asking the essential questions about man's existence," as he presented Wenders with the annual Bresson Prize Sept. 8.

Wenders' films "offer a starting point for constructive reflection" and "show that cinema is an appropriate instrument for spreading values and culture," the archbishop said in his speech.

The 59-year-old cinematographer is best known for the films "Paris, Texas" in 1984, "Wings of Desire" in 1987, and the "Buena Vista Social Club" in 1998.

Wenders was attending the northern Italian film festival to present his recent film, "Land of Plenty," which deals, Wenders said, with "poverty, paranoia and patriotism" in present-day America.

Archbishop Foley told Vatican Radio Sept. 8 it was "important the church take part in a showcase like the one in Venice."

"It is even more important to recognize the role film directors play in cinema, since they can touch people's hearts," he added.

In his speech, the archbishop said Wenders' work helps "people reflect upon the needed task all people are called upon to spread — the universal values which humanity still requires" for its progress.

The Bresson Prize, named after French director Robert Bresson, was established in 2000 to recognize artists who "give significant witness" in the spiritual meaning of life.

The award is organized by the Italian Magazine of Cinematography and the pontifical councils for Culture and Social Communications.

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CNS PHOTO BY ZADE ROSENTHAL, NEW LINE CINEMA

**Film and television director Sean McNamara has made his living appealing to young viewers. McNamara, a Catholic, said it's possible, despite the target age of 9-12 for most of his TV series and movies, to present relevant issues in understandable ways. He is pictured on a movie set.**

# Catholic TV director says touchy topics can be made relevant to youth

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Film and television director Sean McNamara has made his living appealing to young TV viewers and moviegoers.

McNamara, a Catholic, said it's possible, despite the target age of 9-12 for most of his TV series and movies, to present relevant issues in understandable ways.

He said he's been able to tackle prejudice, junk food and body image on different episodes of the current Disney Channel series "That's So Raven."

In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from his car in Hollywood, McNamara pointed out that TV and film can tackle sensitive subjects "by couching it in a way people can understand."

One episode of "That's So Raven," he said, featured kids congregating in a mall's food court and chowing down exclusively on its fast-food fare. By episode's end, they were sick — and sick of the fast food. McNamara said he was inspired by the recent documentary, "Super Size Me," in which its filmmaker-subject ate every meal for 30 days at McDonald's restaurants.

McNamara got his start in this line of work 20 years ago as a producer on a series called "Kids Incorporated." Nearly a decade later, he said, "we did a pilot called 'The Secret World of Alex Mack' (for) Nickelodeon. And it's just taken off from there."

He's also been associated with the kids' series, "Even Stevens," which gave Shia LaBeouf his start, and "Phil of the Future." He's part of the creative team of Brookwell McNamara Entertainment, which creates and produces TV series for kids on various cable channels.

McNamara also gave current teen sensation Hilary Duff her first starring role six years ago in the movie sequel "Casper Meets Wendy." Now, they've teamed up again in the upcoming feature film, "Raise Your Voice."

He waxes enthusiastic about the young star, saying she's come a long way in just six years.

When he first directed her, she was just learning to act, he recalled.

"I would give her direction in one scene to 'hug the couch and hit your mark,' and every time she did, she'd fall out of the (camera) frame," McNamara said. "When I got out from behind the camera to see what was going on, I found that she would kneel down and hug the couch, literally," not walking really close to it as he had meant.

Another scene in "Casper Meets Wendy" called for a goat. The goat's real name was Meaner. When the goat was in the same scene as Duff, McNamara tried to give the goat direction by calling its name, he said. But when he called out "Meaner, Meaner" about five times, he said, "I turned to Hilary and she's got this scrunched-up, mean look on her face!"

Back then, McNamara said, Duff "was so cute, she got by on that." Now, as an established singer and actor, he added, "I think she's going to be like Sally Field and win an Academy Award one day."

McNamara is a member of St. Agatha Church in Los Angeles, which is also the parish of fellow director Tom Shadyac ("Bruce Almighty"). McNamara said he knew Shadyac first through the parish, then later as a fellow filmmaker.

Shadyac's latest venture isn't movie-related, but a fund-raising venture, McNamara said. Shadyac sells "H to O" (Help to Others) bottled water, with proceeds going to dig water wells and combat AIDS in Africa.

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# Development down under

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

*Tony Sanders (center), fund manager for the Diocese of Wollongong in Australia, consults with Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development, and Jim Kelley, director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, at the Pastoral Center Sept. 9. Sanders came to learn about how Kelley and Gaddy conduct effective development and stewardship efforts. The Office of Development serves parishes, agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Charlotte in their development efforts. Services reflect a spirituality of stewardship as a way of life — a response to Jesus' call to discipleship. Kelley and Gaddy have been keynote speakers at stewardship conferences in dioceses in the United States, Canada, Australia and Jamaica. They have also spoken at various five-day stewardship institutes sponsored by the International Catholic Stewardship Council, as well as every national stewardship conference since 1986. Additionally, Kelley and Gaddy have co-authored and co-edited two of ICSC's stewardship publications for adults and children.*


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COMMON FAITH

# Visiting Polish priest celebrates feast day in Arden

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church recently celebrated the feast day of St. Maximilian Kolbe with a little help from a Polish priest.

Approximately 100 parishioners celebrated the feast day with Mass and breakfast Aug. 14. The breakfast featured both American and Polish foods in honor of Father Pawel Rytel-Andrianik, visiting from the Diocese of Drohiczyn in Poland.

Father Rytel-Andrianik, who is studying sacred Scripture in Rome, visited St. Barnabas Church June 28-Sept. 3. Both Father Rytel-Andrianik and Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor, are involved in promoting the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a wealthy Italian who gave his money and goods to the poor but maintained an active faith life with his peers in early 20th-century Italy.

As Father Rytel-Andrianik's bishop wanted him to practice English and experience pastoral life in a U.S. parish, Father Arnsparger invited Father Rytel-Andrianik to visit.

After breakfast, Father Rytel-Andrianik gave a talk on St. Maximilian, the Polish Conventual Franciscan who gave his life to save another prisoner at the former Nazi-run concentration camp of Auschwitz in 1941, and founded in 1917 his Militia of the Immaculate to work for the evangelization and sanctification of all peoples through the mediation of Mary.

COURTESY PHOTO

**Father Pawel Rytel-Andrianik, a visiting priest from the Diocese of Drohiczyn in Poland, enjoys Polish and American food during a celebration on the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe at St. Barnabas Church Aug. 14.**

Father Rytel-Andrianik also explained the influence of St. Maximilian on Pope John Paul II.

St. Maximilian's action had "a profound resonance in the environment of that concentration camp where every human being was treated with deep contempt and was trampled upon," said the pope to some 10,000 youths and young adults during a prayer vigil at the Vatican April 1, 1999.

The Polish saint acted in imitation of Christ, the pope said. But while St. Maximilian's sacrifice saved the life of one fellow Pole, Christ's death on the cross brought life to all men and women.

After his stay at St. Barnabas Church and a visit with his family in Poland, Father Rytel-Andrianik was scheduled to return to Rome for his second year of studies.

## NOTE TO READERS

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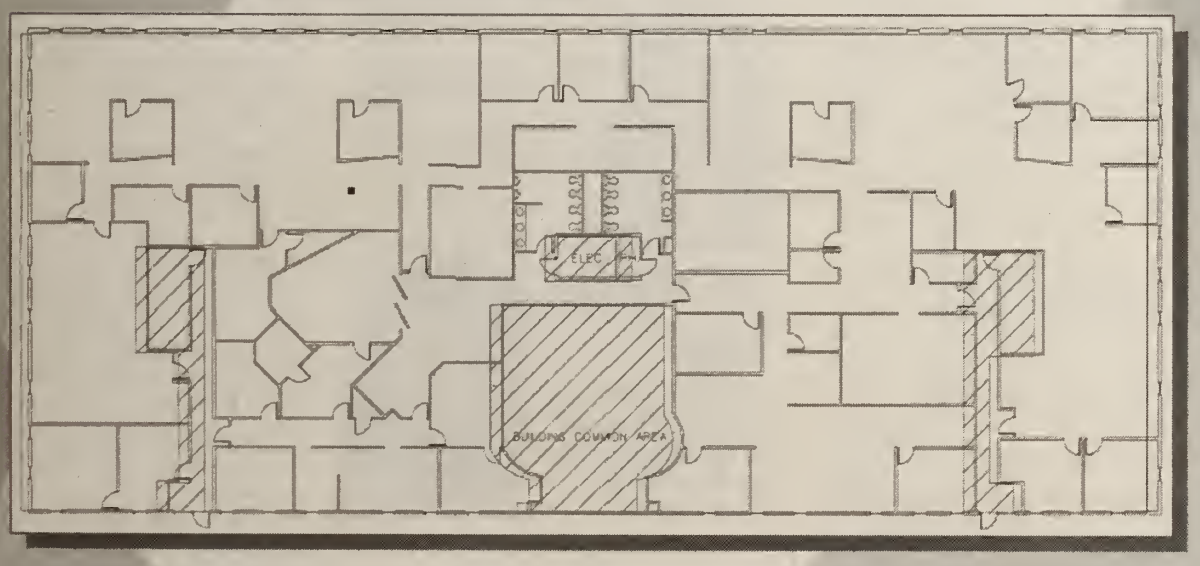


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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

## Despite evil, God's plan leads toward people's redemption, says pope

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — No matter what destruction is brought about by evil in today's world, God's plan leads toward humanity's redemption, said Pope John Paul II.

"The Lord has established his reign, intervening in history with supreme authority," he said in his Sept. 15 weekly general audience.

Though God has entrusted mankind to be free "to generate good and evil," history "has as its ultimate seal the choice of divine providence," said the pope.

No matter what "storms, wounds and devastation" are wrought by evil, "the book of the Apocalypse celebrates the end toward which history is guided through the efficacious work of God," he said.

For the first time since mid-June, the pope's weekly general audience returned to St. Peter's Square, where some 10,000 pilgrims gathered under dark clouds and a sprinkling of rain.

During Rome's hot summer months, the Wednesday audience is held either in the Vatican's air conditioned Paul VI hall or in the small outdoor courtyard of the pope's apostolic palace in Castel Gandolfo, in the hills south of Rome.

The pope focused his Sept. 15 audience talk on a Book of Revelation canticle that looks at the link between history and eternity.

**The Pope Speaks**

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Through the word "Alleluia," the faithful on earth join their "song of praise" of the Lord "with that of the righteous" in heaven, said the pope.

"This establishes a channel of communication between history and eternity" that unites the earthly and heavenly liturgies in a common song of praise, he said.

With this "communion of praise," the faithful celebrate God's saving power and glory, his "divine plan of redemption" and the "nuptial meeting of the lamb, who is Christ, and the purified bride," which is humanity redeemed, said the pope.

During greetings in Italian at the end of the audience, the pope recalled that Sept. 15 was the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, "who faithfully stood by the cross of Jesus."

He asked that people "be able to find in her consolation and help to overcome all the obstacles" in their daily lives.

## Reflections on marriage and divorce

**Our Turn**

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

Boy, it's a bad time to be a newlywed, particularly if you're looking to couples in the news for guidance on how to make it to your silver or golden anniversary. This summer and fall have seen a flurry of pretty horrific examples.

First Mark Hacking reportedly confesses to family members that he shot his wife in her sleep and dumped her in a landfill.

Scott Peterson is accused of murdering his wife Laci and their unborn child while wining and dining his mistress, Amber Frey.

Robert Howard, the Olympic triple jumper, is believed to have stabbed his wife, Robin Mitchell, before he jumped to his own death from a window out of a University of Arkansas dormitory.

And let's not forget New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey's shocking announcement that he is, in fact, gay, and had been involved with another man whom he hired. The governor confessed all this to the public with his wife, mother to their children, by his side.

Of course, you need not open the papers or turn on the tube to learn about cheating, lying and the other rather big termites that eat into a healthy relationship. About half of American marriages end in divorce. One need only show up at a high school or college reunion to see those statistics at work or talk to some neighbors and friends.

"She changed into a different person," one friend of mine told me when I, being the nosy Barbara Walters that I am, asked him why his marriage fell apart.

How specifically did she change?

"She got lazy, fat and selfish," he told me.

Another couple I know just split because, immediately after uttering the words "I do," he failed to hold a stable job. They went to marriage counseling, they prayed, but the damage was done.

"It's scary. You roll the dice when you marry," says a marriage psychologist friend of mine who counsels couples experiencing marital problems. "You don't know how that person is going to change."

His words scare me because I know how true they are. Just the other day my husband and I discussed the marriages of our friends (since we ourselves are so perfect). We classified them as "happy," "unhappy" and "ask again in a few years."

We didn't predict any imminent divorces, but then we realized that in most of the marriages at least one of the partners had been married before, the first marriage lasting anywhere from six months to three years.

There are those statistics again!

As products of two divorced families, my husband and I took our vows pretty seriously. The words "until death do us part" weren't spoken on a whim but after a period of discernment and deliberation. For nowhere in the Catholic sacrament of marriage are these words written or understood: "unless you or I change too radically or we decide we want something else in life."

What you see is fortunately or unfortunately what you get.

## Small is beautiful

*Fulfillment, meaning gained by taking less for ourselves*

**The Human Side**

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

When I asked my German friend about his impressions of Americans, he replied, "You have big appetites!"

This remark turned our conversation toward the philosophy of E.F. Schumacker, who wrote "Small is Beautiful," a book that challenges the ideas that bigger is better, more is desired over less.

It is very true that a great many people strive for the bigger, the better and more. How many, for example, have a love affair with big cars, SUVs and fast sports cars that guzzle gas? To accommodate all this, we have the largest highways ever experienced by humankind.

Our moderately sized homes that once housed large families are now becoming tear-downs and being replaced by luxury homes that house much smaller families.

Shopping malls are glutted with enormous inventories that never are depleted.

Most restaurant food is twice to three times what we should eat.

Sporting events are jammed by thousands of fans, and each year's Super Bowl outdoes the past in enormity.

TV screens are now wall size, and their sound systems create noise louder than our ears can endure.

The yearning for bigger, better and more is not solely American. With the exception of poor nations, most countries equal us in this category.

In light of this propensity, what would philosophers like Schumacker have us do?

We should first remember that throughout history civilizations never have been satisfied with the status quo. They forever were expanding.

Even Christ spoke of expansion when he pointed us to the mustard seed that grows to great size. As it did, so did the church, its monasteries and followers.

Philosophy would counsel us that the quest for bigness is an integral part of human nature that, like a new set of tires, needs to be balanced lest they vibrate and self-destruct.

The best way to maintain balance is to block the quest for bigness and more from possessing us and governing our lives. This must not be the primary factor giving meaning to our lives. If it is, we, like so many before us, will wake up and find that we have lived an empty life.

True fulfillment and meaning are gained primarily by taking less for ourselves so that others less fortunate will have more.

Philosophy would also counsel us not to lose our sense of true satisfaction. Constantly striving for what is bigger, seeking to acquire more, never leaves us time to be satisfied and enjoy what we have.

Yes, small is beautiful when seen through the eyes of philosophy and lived in our everyday lives.

# Get out the vote

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

It's time to vote.

If that message seems to be a couple of months early, you're half right. Election Day in the United States this year falls on Tuesday, Nov. 2. However, as you probably know, you can't vote if you aren't registered.

What's gotten me excited about this right now are some facts I came across from the U.S. Census Bureau. They concern the election of 2000 and they really bother me. Only 60 percent of eligible voters in this country registered to vote, and of that number only 86 percent actually went to the polls.

While I wish that 100 percent of eligible Americans would vote (OK, 99 percent to allow for emergencies), what amazes me is the 40 percent who aren't even registered. I cannot for the life of me figure out how people justify that apathy.

Every vote counts, not just in the so-called "swing" states, not just in presidential election years. Every vote counts in every election for every office. This is your chance to hire the people who run our local, state and federal governments. If that isn't worth making a little time on your schedule, I don't know what is.

Too busy? Don't like the candidates? Just not interested? There is too much at stake in your community, in your country, in your world to excuse your absence from any election.

If you're a regular voter, good. Keep it up. If you need to register, do it.

Most states have a deadline about a month before each election. Your local library is a great resource; so is the League of Women Voters and the Web, of course. And when you get the information, spread it around. Surely, you have relatives, friends or coworkers who either boast about not bothering to vote, or make excuses for not voting. Not this year. This year you're going to have your own "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

Why?

Each of us has a personal responsibility to be an intelligent, involved and active voter. Educate yourself about issues and candidates; make decisions about what really matters. Accept your obligation to go beyond personal interests, to consider the welfare of others, both now and in the future. Whatever your political party, whatever candidates or issues you favor, how you vote is between you and your conscience, you and God. Yes, your vote, your involvement as a citizen does matter.

James Madison, fourth president of the United States, known as the Father of the Constitution, said, "We have staked the whole future of America, not on the power of government — far from it — but on the capacity of mankind for self-government."

If I sound a little like a cheerleader for getting out the vote, so be it. But, frankly, how can some people be only too happy to express their opinions, and then not take the time to reinforce their words with a thoughtful decision inside a voting booth.

It seems to me that no citizen has the right to complain — or be complaisant —on Nov. 3, if he or she did not exercise the right to vote on Nov. 2.

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Citizenship 101: Awareness, Commitment, Action," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Giving is an important part of every Catholic's life

## Guest Column

GINA RHODES
GUEST COLUMNIST

Giving is an important part of every Catholic's life. It is through giving that we grow as Christians and are able to carry out Christ's work in the world.

Many people don't feel they have the financial resources to give as much as they would like, while also carrying out their responsibilities to their loved ones and others.

If you have ever felt this way, I believe you will be interested in information and assistance offered by the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Planned Giving. In fact, every Catholic interested in making the best use of his or her resources will want to know more about gift planning.

***What is gift planning?***

Quite simply, gift planning is a process that helps you identify ways of giving that suit you best. Some methods are familiar, such as giving by cash or check, while others may be new to you, such as giving through life insurance or in your will.

The gift-planning process helps you form a giving strategy so that you, your loved ones and others for whom you care will be provided for as you desire. At the same time, you may discover new ways of giving to your parish, Catholic schools, Catholic agencies, the diocese or the foundation that you never realized were possible.

For example, by giving through your will, you can fulfill a desire to make a special gift without diminishing financial security for yourself or your loved ones. A bequest can be arranged as part of the will-making process. That simple addition can speak volumes about your faith.

***A stronger mission***

Why does the diocese offer information and assistance with gift planning? First, as people grow in their stewardship life, they realize that limiting their stewardship of treasure to just their income doesn't really reflect all that they have. Hence, more and more people are including their assets in their long-range plans related to stewardship of treasure.

Second, the diocese hope to provide information that will be helpful to you and your loved ones as you make plans for your future security.

Third, we are ever mindful of the needs for future financial stability to carry out the church's mission in our diocese and know that gift planning can help strengthen the base of financial support for parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic agencies, the diocese and the foundation.

***Ready to help***

The diocese also has a responsibility to Catholics in our area to provide information about ways to enhance their stewardship. The Office of Planned Giving will be happy to answer questions you may have about methods of giving (at no obligation, of course). We can also work with you and your attorney or other financial advisor as you consider a particular method of giving.

The size of a gift to the church is not what is important. But all believers are called upon to participate in the act of giving and the exercise of good stewardship. Our gift-planning program can assist you to that end.

You may discover surprising benefits for yourself and Christ's mission.

*Gina Rhodes is the director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.*

# The length of time Christ is present in the Eucharist

## Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. Your article several weeks ago concerning how long Christ is present with us after Communion was somewhat similar to what a priest told me last year.*

*After Communion, he said, Christ continues present with us for 15 or 20 minutes. This must have been personal conjecture on his part. I had always assumed our Lord remained in us until we lost sanctifying grace by mortal sin. Is there a church teaching on this? (Louisiana)*

A. Your priest was talking about how long the sacramental presence of Jesus remains after Communion, not how long grace endures.

Catholic doctrine is that when bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist, our Lord's Eucharistic presence remains as long as the species (appearance) of bread and wine remain.

This means that whenever, for whatever reason, the consecrated bread and wine no longer look or taste like bread and wine, Christ is no longer present as a sacrament.

Obviously, once we receive the consecrated wine and bread in Communion, our digestive processes affect them just as other food, until they are no longer identifiable as the bread and wine we consumed. When that happens, after maybe 15 or 20 minutes, Christ is no longer present as a sacrament.

However, the relationship with the life and person of Christ, which we call grace, is greatly enhanced by our celebration and reception of the Eucharist. It is a major way God invites and unites us to an ever greater friendship with him.

This intimate presence of Jesus, which grows also through the other sacraments, prayer, charitable works and a good life, does not cease when the sacramental presence of our Lord ceases. It continues to develop unless it is diminished or lost by sin, which is a deliberate turning away and rejection of that relationship.

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Churches, schools commemorate anniversary of terrorist attacks

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Memorial services in churches across the country Sept. 11 marked the third anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan concelebrated a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York in remembrance of firefighters who died while attempting to rescue people in the rubble of the World Trade Center, brought down when terrorists crashed two planes into the center's twin towers.

The same day, Washington Auxiliary Bishop Kevin J. Farrell told the congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington that the Gospel invites people to create "a new culture of peace."

"The challenge before us is to bring peace back into the world," he said.

He also said that terrorism exists because of "terrible situations of injustice" and that terrorism will cease when there is equal distribution of benefits in the world.

But he added that no matter how great the injustice, it does not justify violence, pointing out that "violence engenders more violence."

Bishop Farrell called on individuals to seek peace in their daily lives and in their relationships and to remain tolerant and respectful of views that differ from their own.

The Knights of Columbus called on people of all faiths to join in making Sept. 11 a Worldwide Day of Prayer for Peace. The Catholic lay fraternal organization sponsored full-page ads in *Time* magazine and *The Washington Post* that showed hands folded in prayer. With the image was a message calling Sept. 11 "a day we can all pray for peace."

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said the 2001 terrorist attacks "produce many emotions, ranging from anger to profound sorrow. But as we recall the losses of that awful day and honor those who died, we should also remember that peace and understanding, not revenge and retribution, must be our ultimate goal."

"We can best achieve that goal," he said in a statement, "by raising our voices to God, reminding him that we share his deep and abiding desire for peace on earth, and asking his divine guidance and help."

*L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, remembered the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States with the banner headline, "Darkness in the history of humanity."

The front-page editorial called for acts of courageous peacemaking and reconciliation around the globe, saying that "hope is the only real force that can lead the world toward a future of peace where terrorism is only a sad memory."

In addition to the attacks on the United States, the newspaper also highlighted other terrorist attacks including: the October 2002 bombing in Bali, Indonesia, which left 202 people dead; the March bombing of several trains in Madrid, Spain, in which 191 people died; and the deaths of more than 320 people, mostly children, Sept. 3 after they were taken hostage in a school in Russia.

To the terrorists "it matters little if the victims are tourists or commuters on their way to work," the newspaper said. "The important thing, in the terrorists' perverse strategy, is to spread a generalized feeling of panic."

## Faith and freedom

COURTESY PHOTOS

**Faculty and students of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro held an outdoor "remembrance ceremony" marking the third anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed 2,985 people in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Sept. 11, 2001.**

## Parochial pledge

COURTESY PHOTO

**Elizabeth Green, student council president, and Mythily Isaac, science teacher, recite the Pledge of Allegiance during St. Leo the Great School's Sept. 11 memorial ceremony. Faculty, staff and students gathered around the Winston-Salem Catholic school's flagpole to pay tribute to the victims of the 2001 terror attacks and all who fight to protect the United States. Several students, as representatives of each grade, carried handmade flags. Principal Georgette Schraeder led the gathering in prayer and Elizabeth Green led them in singing "God Bless America."**

**NOTICE TO READERS**
**The Parish Profile will return.**

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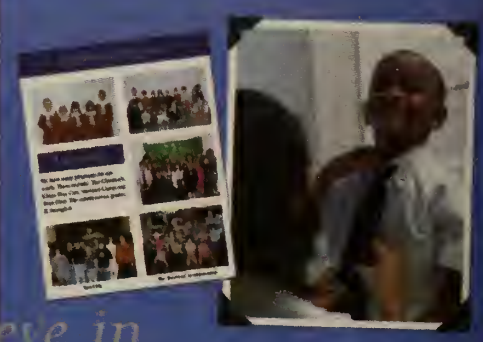

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# THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMBER 24, 2004 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 13 Nº 44

**PARISH PROFILE**

*Our Lady of Consolation Church serves spiritual needs in Charlotte*

| PAGE 16

STANDING FIRM

## Canonist says bishops must deny Communion to dissident politicians

**SEMINAR EXAMINES MERITS OF TOPICS, CHURCH LAW**

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — According to a canonist and other theologians, Bishop Peter J. Jugis' recent statement on Communion is in line with church law.

Franciscan Father John J. Coughlin, a civil and canon lawyer, said church law obliges bishops to deny Communion to politicians who obstinately refuse to budge from a public position upholding legal abortion despite warnings and efforts to educate them on why their view is contrary to church teaching.

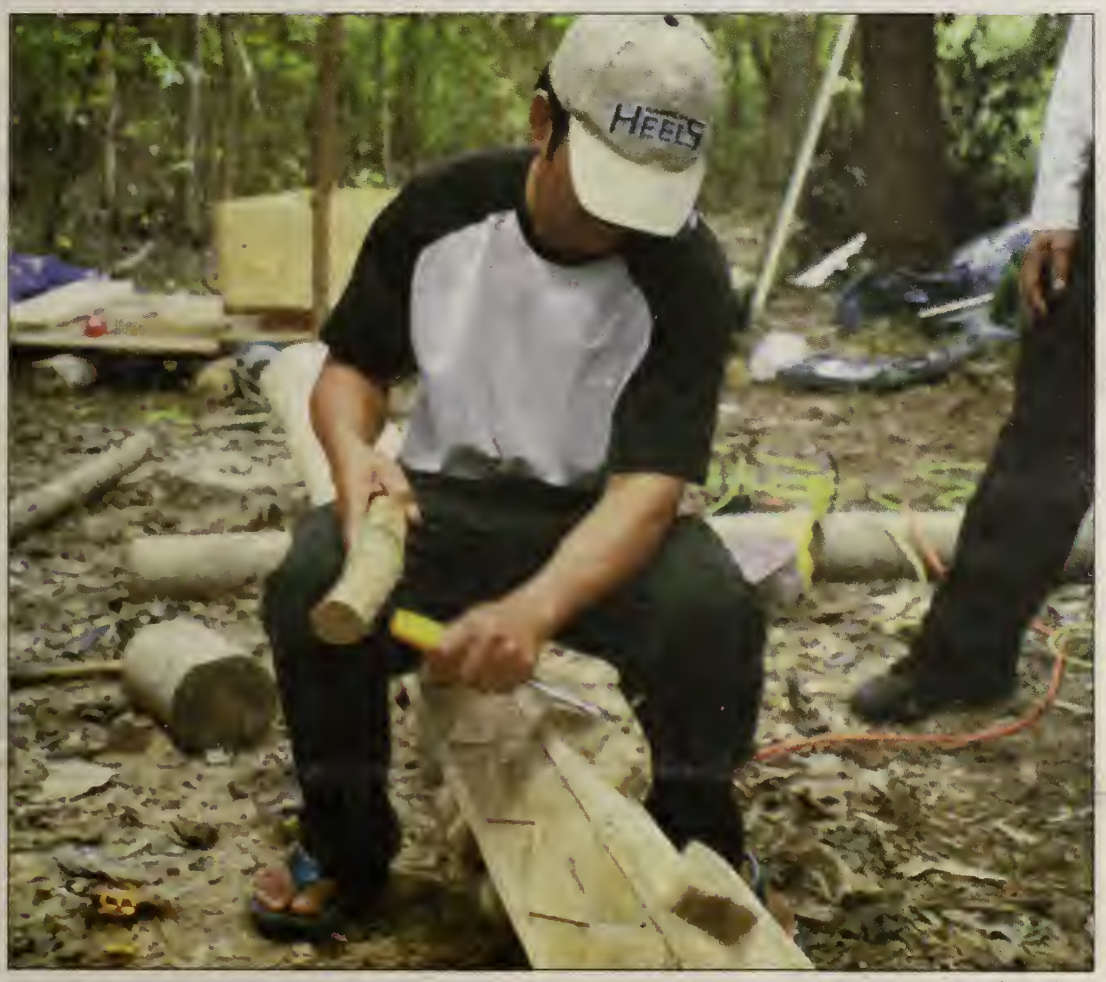
Bishop Jugis, along with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert

See ABORTION, page 8

**More Coverage**

**page 9 |** Memo on politicians touches nerve in U.S. campaign

**page 9 |** Believing unborn are of less value bears 'false witness' at altar




COURTESY PHOTO

A member of the Montagnard community carves a totem pole in preparation for Dega Days on Sept. 18, the Montagnard's cultural memorial day.

## A hand up, not a handout

*CCHD-funded projects empower the poor, refugees*

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — According to the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "You always have the poor with you."

"That doesn't mean that is what God wants or Jesus wants," said Father Robert Vitillo. "It's due to our own sinfulness."

"It's not until we all look deep into our own behavior and see how we benefit by keeping other people poor that we will make changes," he said.

Father Vitillo, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), recently spent four days in the Diocese of Charlotte visiting projects funded in part by CCHD and speaking to various groups.

CCHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic bishops. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in the United States through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and education.

While Father Vitillo does not believe CCHD alone can or will make significant changes in eliminating poverty alto-

See CCHD, page 5

## Back to basics: Pope begins renewed focus on Eucharist

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

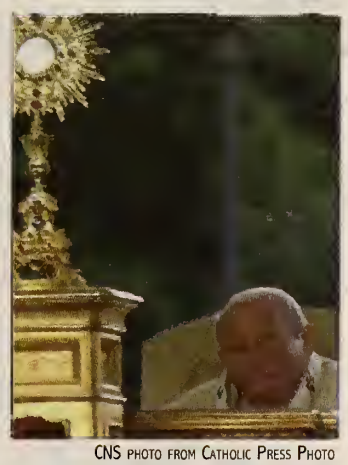
VATICAN CITY — After an intense quarter-century of teaching, writing and traveling, Pope John Paul II is going back to the basics with a renewed focus on the Eucharist.

He has convened a special eucharistic year that begins in October. Last year he wrote an encyclical extolling the Eucharist as the source and culmination of the church's life. He has convened a Synod of Bishops on the same topic for the fall of 2005.

And more frequently he speaks of the importance of the Eucharist in the life of each Catholic.

The Eucharist has a "transforming power" that provides the courage to live the faith and to spread the Gospel, the pope said in June before leading a eucharistic procession through downtown Rome.

See EUCHARIST, page 7



CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II celebrates the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ at the Rome Basilica of St. John Lateran June 10.

**Around the Diocese**
*'Musical Ambassadors,' pet blessings coming to diocese*
| PAGE 6

**Culture Watch**
*'Da Vinci Code' banned; film portrays Dachau struggle*
| PAGES 10-11

**Perspectives**
*Icons and plagiarism; being stewards of God's gifts*
| PAGES 14-15

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# In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

## REGULATING RELIGION

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

U.S. Muslim pilgrims pray at Mount Arafat, Saudi Arabia, in this March 15, 2000, file photo. The U.S. State Department's International Religious Freedom Report cited Saudi Arabia for severe abuses of religious freedom.

## Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Eritrea cited for religious freedom abuses

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Eritrea were among the countries singled out for the first time by a U.S. State Department report for severe abuses of religious freedom.

Myanmar, China, Iran, North Korea and Sudan again were designated as "countries of particular concern" in the State Department's sixth International Religious Freedom Report, issued Sept. 15.

Under the International Religious Freedom Act, a "country of particular concern" designation can lead potentially to sanctions or other penalties.

"Millions of people around the world live under totalitarian regimes where religious belief and practice are tightly controlled," the report said.

It said states use varying methods of restricting religious freedom, from enforcing discriminatory laws and policies or by forcing religious adherents to join "state-approved" churches.

The report said that Saudi Arabia denies religious freedom "to all but those who adhere to the state-sanctioned version of Sunni Islam."

"Freedom of religion does not exist" in Saudi Arabia, with the government prohibiting all public non-Muslim religious activities, the report said. Mosque preachers, whose salaries were paid by the government, were cited for frequently using violent anti-Jewish and anti-Christian language in their sermons.

Preeta D. Bansal, chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, said that since 1999 the commission has recommended that the State Department cite Saudi Arabia for its abuse of religious freedom.

"This has been based not only on the Saudi government's violations of religious freedom within its own borders, but also on reports of its propagation and export of an ideology of religious hate and intolerance throughout the world," Bansal said in a statement.

Walt Grazer, the U.S. bishops' policy adviser for religious liberty and human rights, said the report focuses needed attention on religious liberty.

"It's helpful to have these types of reports because it keeps the issue of religious liberty in the forefront and holds it up as a foundation for human rights," he said.

Grazer said that, although the United States has never acted against countries cited in its own report for violations of religious liberty, he believed that the U.S. report influences offending nations to improve their record on religious rights.

"The report moves religious liberty to an international norm," he said. "Countries don't want to be labeled 'countries of particular concern' or seen that they don't respect human rights, even as they're violating those same rights."

## Appeals court judges reject attempt to reopen Roe vs. Wade decision

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — A federal appeals court has rejected an attempt to reopen Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

The case was brought before a three-judge panel in the 5th U.S Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans Sept. 14 by Norma McCorvey, the woman known as Jane Roe in the Supreme Court case 31 years ago, who now publicly speaks out against abortion.

A law firm representing McCorvey filed a motion last year asking the federal courts to overturn the Roe decision, saying it was not "fair or just" and submitting evidence claiming that abortions harm a woman's mental and physical health, including nearly 1,000 affidavits from women who had abortions and claim they've suffered emotional damage and impaired relationships as a result of their decision.

In its ruling, the court said McCorvey's appeal was moot because it was based on the case challenging Texas law that made abortions illegal, but that law no longer exists.

Judge Edith Jones, one of the panel judges, concurred with the ruling, but acknowledged that McCorvey's appeal brought up some legitimate issues and she noted that the U.S. Supreme Court may one day re-evaluate its Roe decision.

Jones said that if the courts were to "delve into the facts underlying Roe's balancing scheme with present-day knowledge, they might conclude that the woman's 'choice' is far more risky and less beneficial, and the child's sentience far more advanced, than the Roe court knew."

She concluded that the "perverse result of the (Supreme) Court's having determined through constitutional adjudication of this fundamental social policy, which affects over a million women and unborn babies each year, is that the facts no longer matter."

## Diocesan planner

### ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* on the first Friday of each month following the 12 p.m. Mass with Benediction at 5 p.m. For information call (828) 686-8833.

### BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Rosary Chain* at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. The Rosary Chain is a sizable group and all requests and volunteers are welcome. For details, call Marianna de Lachica at (336) 667-9044.

### CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — *The Living Creed*, a four-week series about the Catholic faith, will begin Sept 29, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Registration is free but required. For details, call the church office at (704) 948-0231.

MINT HILL — *"Protecting God's Children"* workshops will be presented Oct. 2, 12-3 p.m. and Oct. 19. 6:30-9 p.m., at St. Luke Church, 17300 Lawyers Rd. "Protecting God's Children" is a program designed to heighten awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse. Participants will be informed of potentially dangerous situations with specific suggestions to reduce the risk of children becoming victims of such abuse. To register for this free workshop, visit www.charlottediocese.org and click on "Protecting God's Children."

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* will host a four-session Spiritual Growth Seminar this fall. The sessions will meet Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and 28 and Nov. 4, 7-8 p.m. For more information, call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 541-5026.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* invite all to join them in the transitus, the passing of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, call Jenny Taylor Johnson, SFO, at (704) 319-5343.

CHARLOTTE — The *Life Chain* will form in front of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., Oct. 3. English and Spanish signs will announce the Catholic Church's stand against abortion. For details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is offering *Catholicism 101*, a free yearlong course for adults covering the basics of the Catholic faith, including the sacraments, scripture, tradition, prayer and morality. Classes meet Mondays at 7 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center. For details, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *Cancer Support Group* for survivors, family and friends meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For more information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

### GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — All middle and high school youths are welcome to join Dennis Teall-Fleming for *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Tuesday, 5-6 p.m. in the Adoration Chapel at Belmont Abbey College for an hour of prayer and devotion. For details, contact Dennis at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

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FROM THE VATICAN

# Fight against poverty needs greater funding, Vatican official says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More funding is needed in the global fight against hunger and poverty, the Vatican's secretary of state told world leaders at the United Nations.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano said there is a "lack of sufficient funds for a worldwide food security program to make headway" during a Sept. 20 gathering of government leaders who met to discuss ways to eradicate hunger and poverty in the world.

In September 2000, all 191 U.N. member states pledged to cut by half the number of people suffering from hunger and living on less than $1 a day.

In order to implement these goals by 2015, nations promised to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national product as development aid to poor nations.

But out of 24 donor nations, only Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Luxembourg actually reached or surpassed the 0.7 target.

Cardinal Sodano reminded nations of their funding commitments, and said that while world efforts to alleviate hunger caused by natural disasters and wars were "praiseworthy," the problem of hunger was "much more vast."

The fight against food insecurity must include investments in health care, education, technology and in "guaranteeing fair international trade," he said.

In a separate ceremony the same day, Cardinal Sodano was presented with the 2004 Path to Peace Award, presented by the Path to Peace Foundation.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, said Cardinal Sodano was being honored as a way of "recognizing the important contribution that papal diplomacy has made to the international community."

**GREENSBORO VICARIATE**

HIGH POINT — The Evangelization Commission at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will offer *free Spanish classes* Sept. 9 - Nov. 11. Classes meet Thursday evenings 7-8 p.m. All materials will be provided. To register, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or Larry Kwan at (336) 882-7204.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., offers free *"Gentle Fitness"* classes Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The classes are structured to the fitness levels of seniors and anyone wanting low-impact aerobic workout. For more information, call Deana Collis at (336) 885-7029.

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Kloster Center, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. RSVP to Elaine McHale, president, at (336) 292-1118.

**HICKORY VICARIATE**

HICKORY — The *Fraternity of Brother Francis* will present two spiritual events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi — the stigmata and transitus — Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE. Refreshments and a biographical video will follow. For more information, contact Ruth Thoni at (828) 466-1664.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

**SALISBURY VICARIATE**

MOORESVILLE — A special Holy Hour including the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* will be held 3-4 p.m. Oct. 2 at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. For further information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — The *St. Therese Book Club* meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:45 a.m. October's book will be "Eden Found" by Steve Hart. For details, call Joan Fesko at (704) 664-9722.

**SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE**

WAYNESVILLE— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Friday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:15 p.m. For information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707 or Christine Ryan at (828) 926-1331.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* the first Saturday of every month following the 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For information, call (828) 586-9496.

**WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE**

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans will host the *Blessing of the Animals* at Winston Square, adjacent to the Sawtooth Building, 226 N. Marshall Street, on Oct. 2 at 11 a.m. All family members and their pets are welcome to attend. For more information, call (336) 725-3751 or email p-lstudio@webtv.net

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., celebrates *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Friday until 7 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 for more information.

MT. AIRY — Holy Angels Church, 1208 N. Main St., offers *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* every Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and every Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Please submit notices for the Diocesan Planner at least 15 days prior to the event date in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

## Episcopal calendar

*Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:*

**Sept. 27 — 10 a.m.**
St. Mark School, Huntersville

**Sept. 28 — 11 a.m. Mass**
St. Matthew School, Charlotte

**Oct. 1 — 9 a.m. Mass**
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

**Oct. 2 — 10 a.m. Mass**
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Mocksville

# Commission warns new technology threatens human biological integrity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a new document on the created world, the International Theological Commission warned that science and technology today offer the dangerous ability to "alter man himself" and destroy the biological integrity of human beings.

The 46-page document, "Communion and Stewardship: Human Persons Created in the Image of God," said the biblical call to "stewardship" over the natural environment extends in a special way to safeguarding human life, which is created in God's image. This understanding clearly rules out human cloning, destruction of embryos, genetic enhancement, abortion or euthanasia, it said.

The International Theological Commission is headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's chief doctrinal official.

In discussing people's relationship with creation, the document emphasized Christian teachings against unrestrained economic development and environmental damage. It also said evolutionary explanations of biological development were acceptable as long as they did not exclude God as a transcendent cause or exclude the universe as a setting for "a radically personal drama" involving God and man.

Addressing the question, "How far is man allowed to remake himself?", the document said while human beings are agents and not just passive subjects of evolutionary development, they do not have a "right of full disposal" over their biological natures, it said.

"Man is created in the image of God, but he is not God himself," it said.

The document cited several areas where the biological integrity of human beings may be threatened, including:

— Human cloning is "an infringement of the identity of the person."

— Genetic engineering aimed at producing a "superhuman" is radically immoral.

— Assisted suicide, direct euthanasia, and direct abortion — however tragic and complex the personal situations may be — wrongly sacrifice physical life for a "self-selected finality."

— Birth control and sterilization render "incomplete" the mutual gift of men and women.

The document views these issues through the lens of "imago Dei," a theology that affirms that humans are created in "the image of God" in order to enjoy personal communion with God and among themselves and in order to exercise responsible stewardship of the created world.

This theology emphasizes that man is not an isolated individual and that he cannot be made subservient to systems that are of this world only.

# Sweeping away Ivan

CNS PHOTO BY DOUGLAS KAUP, PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC

Morgan Pogel, a fifth-grader from All Saints School in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, cleans up the mud that accumulated in the classrooms after the remnants of Hurricane Ivan swept through the area Sept. 17. More than 100 people lost their lives in the violent storm as it made its way across the Caribbean and into the United States.

# Computer grandpa honored by Catholic students

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great School recently celebrated a special grandparent.

Joe Carella, a grandfather of three students, was honored during the school's Grandparents Day Sept. 9. Carella maintains the school's computers and computer network.

"If not for Joe's computer expertise, our school might still be technologically behind the times," said Donna Birkel, administrative assistant.

Students presented Carella with three gifts: a golf shirt embroidered with the St. Leo lion head and the words "St. Leo Computer Grandpa"; a certificate recognizing his many hours of selfless dedication and a chain adorned with a computer mouse; and a photograph of all of the St. Leo the Great School students holding a large sign that read "Thank You."

COURTESY PHOTO

Joe Carella is honored during Grandparents Day Sept. 9.

# Sharing the faith

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Elizabeth Girton, director of faith formation at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, explains about baptism during the monthly Catechesis Sunday meeting Sept. 5. After the children and parents watched a video about baptism, Girton explained the significance of the baptismal candle, holy water, stole and sacramental oils, allowing the children to touch the items and smell the oils.

Breaking into small groups, the parents and children chose symbols that represented their love for Jesus. Each group designed a small square to be added, along with a square depicting the basilica, to baptismal stoles to be given to babies during their baptisms at the basilica.

# Catholic student's short story to be published

*Elliot joins seven other IHM students to feature works*

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary School will soon have another published writer in its student body.

A short story by seventh-grader Donna Ashley Elliot has been selected for publication in the 2004 edition of the Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans. Elliott's story, "Haunted Mansion," was selected as "one of the most creative submissions."

Now in its third year, the Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans was created by Anthology of Poetry, Inc. in Asheboro in response to requests by teachers in almost every state to assist in the development of young writers, according to the organization's Web site.

The publications of Anthology of Poetry, Inc. are "a forum for young poets to see their work and the work of other young poets published in an actual book," the site states. "The encouragement and confidence gained by seeing their work published will help fuel the enthusiasm needed to develop the writing skills so necessary in adult life."

As reported in the Sept. 3 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, seven other students at Immaculate Heart of Mary School will be published in another company publication, the 2004 edition of the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. They are seventh-graders Christa Dolan, Elizabeth Gooding, Hope Griffin, Katie Shank, Zachary Scott, Kara Walker and Lynn Hamilton.

Donna Ashley Elliot

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"When poor people get together and they learn how to advocate for themselves, they do tremendous things."

# CCHD projects empower the poor, refugees

CCHD, *from page 1*

gether, he said the funding CCHD provides does break the cycle of poverty for many families.

"These programs form poor people into leaders in the community — they teach them how to analyze the problem, to research laws and policies and to propose and advocate for solutions," said Father Vitillo. "CCHD works with the poor, rather than for the poor."

CCHD supports local groups as they create jobs, improve neighborhoods, train adults for employment at a living wage, keep schools safe and enriching for children and raise leaders for the future.

Father Vitillo and members of the diocesans committee for the CCHD visited the Montagnard Agricultural Project south of Asheboro and the Boys and Girls Club of Asheboro Sept. 11.

The Montagnard Agricultural Project, which received a $1,500 CCHD local grant in 2004, consists of 101 acres of land south of Asheboro. Volunteers teach Montagnard refugees to use modern farming techniques on land purchased by veterans of the U.S. Army Special Forces, who were aided by Montagnards during the Vietnam War.

"Our goal is to teach them to be self-sustaining by raising crops and poultry and sell to other Montagnards," said George Clark, president of Save the Montagnard People, the organization that established the Montagnard Agricultural Project.

"We're empowering them to run the property," he said. "Ultimately our job is to put ourselves out of a job."

COURTESY PHOTO

**Father Robert Vitillo and members of the diocesan CCHD committee speak with George Clark, president of Save the Montagnard People, at the Montagnard Agricultural Project Sept. 11.**

Clark regards other important goals of the project to be the preservation of the Montagnard culture and mutual cooperation among the various tribes.

During its 30-year history, CCHD has funded more than 4,000 self-help projects developed by grassroots groups of poor persons. Each year CCHD distributes national grants to more than 300 community-based projects. In addition, hundreds of smaller projects are funded through the 25 percent share of the CCHD collection retained by dioceses.

The success of CCHD is due to Catholic parishioners whose contributions to the annual parish appeal have made possible meeting CCHD's objectives over the years. Eighty-five cents out of every dollar received by CCHD goes directly to community empowerment, economic development and education programs that work to break the cycle of poverty.

In the United States, 33 million people, or 11 percent of the total population, live below the poverty line, earning less than $18,100 a year for a family of four, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"When poor people get together and they learn how to advocate for themselves, they do tremendous things," said Father Vitillo.

While in Randolph County, Father Vitillo also visited the Boys and Girls' Club of Asheboro. The East Side Improvement Association, Inc., which sponsors the club, received a $2,000 CCHD local grant to help defer the operating costs of this safe haven for at-risk youth.

"This program is desperately needed," said Addie Luther, a retired teacher and social worker who was instrumental in the forming of the East Side Improvement Association. "These teen-agers have nowhere else to go."

For a yearly $2 membership fee, Boys and Girls' Club members can take advantage of a variety of enrichment activities — "Power Hour," which provides tutoring; programs to teach leadership skills and self-sufficiency; "Smart Moves," a pregnancy prevention program; and physical fitness activities.

"I was very pleased with the work of volunteers and staff at both projects," said Patricia Vasil, a member of the diocesan CCHD committee who accompanied Father Vitillo on his visits. "They have used their resources very wisely."

"It was affirming of the importance of the good work going on in the world, and CCHD is a big part of that," said Mark Siler, another member of the diocesan CCHD committee. "There aren't many funds like the CCHD that see the importance of a community taking charge to solve their own problems."

*Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.*

**Want More Info?**

Terri Jarina, CCHD diocesan director: 704-370-3234

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/CCHD

Save the Montagnard People: (336) 879-5014 or www.montagnards.org

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# Hispanic ministry a 'great pastoral challenge,' says priest

## *Father Brzoska to oversee pastoral formation, Hispanic ministry at seminary*

LATROBE, Pa. — Father David Brzoska, former administrator of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill and Sacred Heart Church in Burnsville, has been named director of pastoral formation and director of Hispanic ministries at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

Father David Brzoska

Father Brzoska was ordained to the priesthood in June 2000 after earning a master's degree in theology with a concentration in Sacred Scripture in 1999 and a master of divinity degree in 2000 from St. Vincent Seminary.

He was the recipient of the Honorable Judge Bernard F. Scherer Award from the seminary in 1999.

"I'm excited to join the staff of St. Vincent Seminary and to be directly involved in the priestly formation of the seminarians," said Father Brzoska. "I had a very enriching experience at St. Vincent and I hope to contribute to a similar experience for those currently in formation."

"I believe that an important role in the formation of future priests is their gaining practical experience and their implementing this, along with their learning, into their priestly and pastoral identity," he said.

Many dioceses such as the Diocese of Charlotte are experiencing rapid growth in Hispanic Catholics, which poses a "great pastoral challenge," said Father Brzoska, whose parish and mission in North Carolina included significant Hispanic communities.

"One challenge is to be able to minister to their particular needs and situation and to find ways to integrate this community into the existing community," he said. "Therefore, pastoral formation in Hispanic ministry is a great necessity."

# U.S. Air Force Band to perform free concert at Charlotte Catholic

CHARLOTTE — One of the most traveled musical organizations in the world will perform soon in Charlotte.

The U.S. Air Force Band will appear in a free concert at Charlotte Catholic High School Oct. 17. The performance is in cooperation with Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation and the MACS Band Program.

The band, comprised of the U.S. Air Force Concert Band and the Singing Sergeants, has represented the nation as "America's International Musical Ambassadors" in 55 countries on five continents during 12 international goodwill tours.

The 65-member concert band is a world-class symphonic wind ensemble; the Singing Sergeants is a 23-voice chorus performing a variety of musical selections.

The band is conducted by Col. Dennis Layendecker, who joined the band in 1983. After being commanding the U.S. Air Force's Europe Band at Sembach Air Base in Germany in 1995, Col. Layendecker returned to command the Air Force's "musical ambassadors" in 2002.

**Want to Go?**

The concert is at Charlotte Catholic High School at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17. Tickets are free. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Air Force Band Tickets, 9013 Raintree Lane, Charlotte NC 28277, or e-mail stanmichjr@aol.com.

# YOUTH INVITED TO HELP ANIMAL BLESSINGS

WINSTON-SALEM — A Blessing of the Animals will take place in Winston Square Park Oct. 2.

The Secular Franciscans' Fraternity of St. Clare, which is hosting the event, is looking for local youth to help plan and assist with the event.

"We are looking for young artists, actors and helpers of all kinds who like photography, animals, and assisting our priests and faith community," said Betti Longinotti, one of the organizers.

Third Order Regular of St. Francis Father Andrew Draper, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, will perform the blessings. All people and their pets are welcome to attend.

Each year on the feast day of St. Francis, Oct. 4, churches around the world hold pet blessing ceremonies. St. Francis, patron of ecology, lived in central Italy in the 12th century. His love of animals and all of creation has endeared him to people of many faiths.

**Want to Go?**

The blessing will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2, at Winston Square Park, N. Marshall St.. For more info or to assist, contact Betti Longinotti at (336) 725-3751 or e-mail p-lstudio@webtv.net.

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# Pope refocuses on Eucharist

EUCHARIST, *from page 1*

"There's a very close connection between the Eucharist and announcing Christ," he said.

In fact, said Cardinal Jozef Tomko, who heads the Vatican's committee for international eucharistic congresses, the pope is convinced that unless Catholics have a firm understanding of the Eucharist, the church's many missionary and social activities lose meaning.

"More and more, the Holy Father is turning back to the central mysteries of the faith," Cardinal Tomko said in an interview Sept. 8.

"He is focusing now on the Eucharist as the special presence of Jesus Christ among us. But this is a mystery — the idea that Christ has given his own body for us to eat. It is a very hard language for people to accept," he said.

Cardinal Tomko will be the pope's personal representative at the International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 10-17, when the eucharistic year is inaugurated. The pope would have liked to go, but his poor health makes the trip impossible. Instead, he'll speak to the assembly via a TV link.

In the United States, most discussion of the Eucharist this year has revolved around the controversy over Catholic politicians who disagree with church teaching on abortion. Some bishops have said they would refuse to give Communion to such politicians, including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who in August, along with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta and Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, issued "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion."

Despite the risk of politicizing the Eucharist, many observers in Rome and at the Vatican are not unhappy the Communion issue has been raised.

"The whole question of being in a proper disposition to receive the Eucharist is something that's been practically untouched for decades in many parts of the world," said U.S. Father Thomas D. Williams, a member of the Legionaries of Christ who teaches at Rome's Regina Apostolorum University.

"In the aftermath of the political debate, I think the coming year will be an opportunity for instruction on what this means," he said.

Father Williams said he also expects deeper reflection on other questions — for example, what the host is made of. Controversy was stirred in August when a New Jersey bishop said a local girl's first Communion was invalid because it used a no-gluten wafer made of rice instead of wheat.

After reading blogs — Web journals — full of people slamming the church on this issue, Father Williams said, "There's a lot of ignorance out there, and I think this will be a year of instruction."

Of course, the pope's focus will go beyond liturgical details. He is most concerned that Catholics understand how the Eucharist embodies fundamental truths for the church, including Jesus' redemptive sacrifice and his continued presence in the world.

"It's part of his continual hammering of the theme: 'The world needs Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ comes to us in an exceptional way through the Eucharist.' I think he sees this as essential," Father Williams said.

Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, N.J., said his archdiocese has begun preliminary planning for the eucharistic year. He said most of his parishes already have regularly scheduled eucharistic adoration, and some have perpetual adoration. It's part of a U.S. trend that owes something to the pope's consistent teaching on this issue, he said.

During a visit to Rome, Archbishop Myers said that in his experience the more the Eucharist is integrated into parish and diocesan life "the more fruitful the vocations, the more confessions are heard and the more the life of the church is enriched."

The Eucharist in all its implications seems a perfect theme for the final years of this papacy, but it's been dear to the pope his whole life.

As an archbishop in Poland, he would complain loudly and publicly every year that authorities had kept the annual Corpus Christi procession out of Krakow's central square. It wasn't right, he said, that the Eucharist — the body of Christ — should be carried over the "uneven and potholed roads" of the city's periphery.

And, addressing a vast crowd at the procession in 1978, he deftly linked the Eucharist with a call for recognition of the church's legal status. The church "is building itself on the Eucharist," he said, and the nation's authorities cannot deny that truth.

Father Williams predicted the 2004-2005 year of the Eucharist would have a ripple effect throughout the church. He said it's very much in keeping with the pastoral style of this pope, who has dedicated years to Mary, the rosary and the family, among other things.

"He just keeps throwing out the net, and every time these things affect a lot of people positively," he said.

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

**Bishop Peter J. Jugis leads a eucharistic procession during the 10th anniversary of perpetual adoration at Maryfield Chapel in High Point on the feast of Corpus Christi June 13.**

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# Church law: Bishops may deny holy Communion to dissident politicians

ABORTION, *from page 1*

J. Baker of Charleston, issued in August 2004 "Worthy to Receive the Lamb: Catholics in Political Life and the Reception of Holy Communion," a letter stating that Catholic politicians who persistently support abortion may not be admitted to Communion in their dioceses.

Franciscan Coughlin was one of several speakers at a daylong conference, "Public Witness/Public Scandal," on "the controversy over Catholic politicians who consistently advocate and vote against pro-life positions." The conference was held at the National Press Club in Washington Sept. 16.

Father Coughlin, who teaches law at the University of Notre Dame, said that while bishops should deny Communion to pro-abortion politicians, there might be good pastoral reasons for not doing that during an election campaign.

The question has led to a national controversy this year, sparked in large part by the candidacy of the Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. John F. Kerry, a Catholic who supports keeping abortion legal.

Father Coughlin said the relevant law for most Catholics is Canon 915 in the Code of Canon Law, which says that Catholics "obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to holy Communion."

### *Documenting church law*

Father Coughlin said recent Vatican documents make it clear that Catholic politicians are in "manifest grave sin" if their voting record "shows a definite pro-abortion or pro-euthanasia position."

He cited this summer's statement of principles, "Worthiness to Receive Holy Communion," by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as a key document spelling out the theological and canonical principles for the determination that Catholic politicians who support legal abortion are in manifest grave sin, as well as the procedures to be followed by church authorities for dealing with those politicians.

The cardinal sent the statement in a confidential letter to Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, head of a task force of U.S. bishops examining that issue, shortly before the bishops' June special assembly, at which the question was discussed.

At the June meeting near Denver, the U.S. bishops approved by a 183-6 vote a statement on Catholics in political life that said politicians who act "consistently to support abortion on demand" risk "cooperating in evil and sinning against the common good."

"In that statement, we reminded Catholic politicians of the moral teaching of our church in regard to abortion: '... The killing of an unborn child is always intrinsically evil and can never be justified,'" said Bishop Jugis.

In "Worthy to Receive the Lamb," Bishops Jugis and Burke and Archbishop Donoghue said that only after the politician's "public disavowal of former support for procured abortion" and "with the knowledge and consent of the local bishop" can the politician be admitted to Communion.

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

**Father Richard John Neuhaus discusses Catholic politicians and church teachings at the National Press Club Sept. 16.**

"We undertake this action to safeguard the sacred dignity of the most holy sacrament of the altar, to reassure the faithful and to save sinners," they said.

### *Turning point for Americans*

During the conference Sept. 16, Father Richard John Neuhaus agreed that Catholic politicians who persist in supporting legalized abortion should be denied Communion.

Father Neuhaus, a New York priest and editor in chief of *First Things* magazine, described the current debate over how bishops should deal with Catholic politicians who dissent from church teachings in public policy stands on fundamental issues "a turning point of considerable consequences in American history."

How the bishops handle the issue with have significant implications for "the future of Christian witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ" in the United States, he said.

Father Coughlin said Cardinal Ratzinger's "Worthiness to Receive Holy Communion" presents an "authoritative protocol" for pastors to follow in confronting politicians who publicly dissent from church teaching on abortion or euthanasia, seeking to persuade them to change their views, but ultimately denying them Communion if they obstinately persevere in their position.

Both Fathers Coughlin and Neuhaus praised Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis who last winter, when he was still bishop of La Cross, Wis., communicated with three local politicians whose voting records he judged to be pro-abortion. When the politicians declined to change their positions, he issued a formal canonical notification, made public in January, that they should not present themselves for Communion and must be denied the sacrament if they did present themselves to receive it.

Those who disagree with Archbishop Burke's position "disregard church law," Father Coughlin said.

When politicians who publicly oppose church teaching on abortion are permitted to receive Communion, "it is a source of scandal for all devout believers," he said.

### *Always the prominent issue*

Father Neuhaus noted that some people have accused those bishops who have followed Archbishop Burke's lead of "speaking recklessly" by addressing the issue in the midst of a presidential campaign.

But with Kerry, who supports keeping abortion legal, as the first major-party Catholic presidential nominee in 44 years, the priest said, "it is precisely because of this moment that this issue needed to be addressed now."

"Rome has made it clear. ... It's intrinsically evil to take innocent human life," he said, adding that the abortion issue "is singular and it does have priority" over issues like the minimum wage, capital punishment or the war in Iraq.

Among the U.S. bishops "the center has moved dramatically," he said.

"The issue now is not whether this will be publicly addressed," he explained, but how to address it and to make policy decisions "in the case of persistent, unrepentant, public and scandalous defiance of the church's teaching that will range from urging the person not to present himself or herself for Communion to publicly refusing Communion (to that person). That is a great move on the part of the bishops. That is the range of discussion. That was not true a year ago."

Father Neuhaus said he has "great sympathy for the politicians and other public figures who are asking the question, 'Why, all of a sudden, is it a big deal?'"

"The answer, of course, is that it was always a big deal," he said. "But the bishops were negligent, and in some cases timorous and in some cases, perhaps it is not kind to say, cowardly."

Father Coughlin offered several observations in defense of bishops who may not seek to bar dissident politicians from Communion immediately.

"Canon law was never intended to influence an election," so it might be pastorally prudent to wait until after the current elections to begin the process of educating and warning dissenting politicians. He reminded the audience that when Archbishop Burke acted in Wisconsin, it was not during an election period.

"A bishop must consider the effect on his diocese," he said.

Noting that Kerry comes from Boston, he said that with the church in Boston embroiled in two years of turmoil over the clergy sexual abuse scandal, he said, Boston Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley "could reasonably conclude that it was not realistic at this time" to begin the process to bar the Democratic candidate from Communion.

He suggested bishops might begin to give dissident politicians notice that "after a certain time" they are going to begin enforcing the provisions of Canon 915 — "outside the context of an election contest" and in the pastoral context of seeking to get dissenting politicians to understand and accept the church's teaching.

In an August letter, Bishop Jugis asked the people of the Diocese of Charlotte to "pray, as I do, for all those involved in the political process, and ... also for a greater respect in our country for the dignity of the life of the unborn child."

*Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this story.*

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# Vatican dismay: Memo on politicians touches nerve in U.S. campaign

*Bishops struggle to preserve church teaching*

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger sent out a brief memo in June about politicians and Communion, he probably never imagined it would ignite a heated discussion about Catholics and voting.

The document, leaked to an Italian reporter but never officially acknowledged by the Vatican, focused on the grounds for denying Communion to pro-abortion Catholic politicians.

Almost as an afterthought, it added two sentences about Catholic voters:

First, it said, a Catholic who deliberately voted for a candidate precisely because of the candidate's pro-abortion (or pro-euthanasia) stand would be guilty of "formal cooperation in evil" and should exclude himself from receiving Communion.

Second, when a Catholic does not share a candidate's stand in favor of abortion but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered "remote material cooperation," which is "permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons."

Reaction to those two sentences has been simmering all summer, fueled in part by election-year politics.

One self-styled "traditional" Catholic publication criticized Cardinal Ratzinger, who heads the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, saying his words would be taken as a "license to vote for pro-abortion politicians."

In a *New York Daily News* column headlined "Catholics can vote for Kerry," Father Andrew Greeley said Cardinal Ratzinger had correctly underlined that Catholics should not be single-issue voters, but should weigh all the issues.

Other conservative Catholic Web sites have criticized Father Greeley's column and disputed the idea that Cardinal Ratzinger has given a green — or at least yellow — light to Catholic voters who intend to vote for pro-abortion candidates.

Vatican officials are dismayed because a private communication was leaked. Moreover, they say, the ensuing discussion has mixed up two very different issues — the public actions of Catholic politicians and the private moral decisions faced by Catholic voters.

Vatican officials also are concerned that the discussion of "leeway" in voting for pro-abortion candidates may eclipse a more important point Pope John Paul II and others have been hammering home for years: That Catholics are morally obligated to try to limit the evil of abortion and euthanasia, and that those life-and-death issues should have unique moral weight with Catholic voters.

### *'Moral object' of voting*

The one-page memo that started the discussion was sent with a letter from Cardinal Ratzinger to Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, who heads the U.S. bishops' Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians. Sources described the memo as an unsigned "staff document" aimed at summarizing basic principles.

They said it did not begin to explore the complexity of voting and sin, which, in the words of one official, is pretty much "terra incognita" for moral theologians.

"The memo was certainly not intended to clear the way for Catholics to vote for candidates who are in favor of laws permitting abortion or euthanasia, but rather to clarify that the simple act of voting for such candidates might not per se justify one's exclusion from holy Communion," said U.S. Dominican Father Augustine DiNoia, undersecretary of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation.

The problem is that it's difficult to determine the purpose, or "moral object," of an act of voting, Father DiNoia said.

"The only thing we could say is, a person might come to be in the state of mortal sin and therefore unworthy to receive Communion if they voted precisely with the moral object of extending abortion or the provision of abortion," he said.

### *Formal vs. material cooperation*

For the church, there's no question about the sinfulness of abortion, but there are serious questions about how far culpability extends beyond those directly involved in abortion.

That's where the concepts of "formal" and "material" cooperation come in. These are traditional terms in theology, although their application to the act of voting is quite new.

Cooperation in evil concerns people who are drawn into the bad act of another person. In general, "formal" cooperation means culpability, whereas "material" cooperation — being more remote — does not, Father DiNoia said.

In the case of abortion, the church considers as the principal agents the person procuring it and the doctor performing it. In his 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae," Pope John Paul II spoke at length about cooperation in acts against human life — but did not mention voting.

"Christians, like all people of good will, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law," the pope said.

"Such cooperation occurs when an action, either by its very nature or by the form it takes in a concrete situation, can be defined as a direct participation in an act against innocent human life or a sharing in the immoral intention of the person committing it," he said.

### *'Proportionate reasons'*

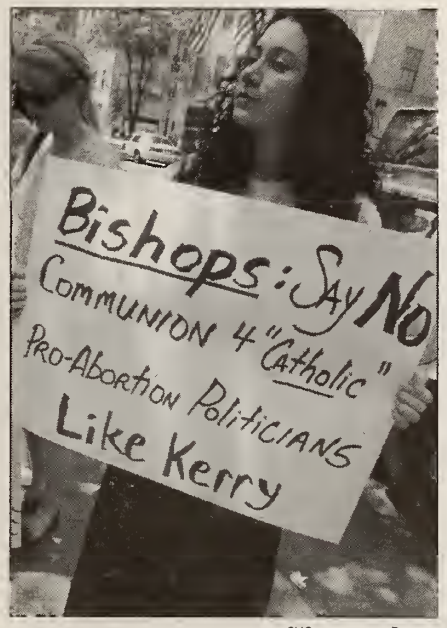
The recent doctrinal memo's mention of "proportionate reasons" has led some people to suggest a set of reasons that could justify voting for pro-abortion politicians — or to argue that no "proportionate reason" can exist in such a case.

Father DiNoia said one obvious proportionate reason would be when, as often occurs, Catholic voters must choose between two candidates who support legalized abortion but to widely differing degrees. In that situation, not to vote at all would seem to go against a Christian's responsibility to participate politically.

But further defining what may or may not be "proportionate reasons" in these cases is extremely difficult, Father DiNoia said. The situation of individual Catholic voters is different, so it's impossible to have a standard list of acceptable reasons, he said.

In the end, theology is not able to say categorically in every circumstance when a Catholic voter sins or does not sin. What it can do — and what the recent memo attempted to do — is offer principles that are applied to the different situations.

Vatican officials have been reluctant to comment at all on the voting issue, saying it is a complex question that is easily muddled. They say the best thing that could come out of the recent discussion is that Catholics in general think more seriously about their worthiness for Communion.




CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

**Jenni Login, right, demonstrates with a small group in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City June 16. The group was asking Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York and other bishops to withhold giving Communion to Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, a Catholic, due to his support of efforts to keep abortion legal.**

# Believing unborn are of less value bears 'false witness' at altar

## Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

An important perspective to consider on the question of whether pro-abortion politicians should receive Communion is Jesus' teaching about the need to reconcile with our brothers and sisters before coming to the altar.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5:23-24)

Those who allow abortion are not reconciled with their unborn brothers and sisters. To fail to see the equal dignity of children in the womb with children outside the womb is prejudice. To consider the unborn as "non-persons" and unworthy of Constitutional protection is an insult. And to consider one's unborn brothers and sisters as "tissue" or "parasites" is name-calling of the worst kind.

Those who do this must first be reconciled with their unborn brothers and sisters before they can present their gift at the altar.

Communion is bestowed in the context of the Sacrifice of the Mass. That sacrifice is not only the sacrifice of Jesus, but of each of us along with Jesus. We offer him everything — our thoughts, our opinions, our choices. At the altar, we want to be reconciled to God, but we must be one with our neighbors — all of them.

To do so, we first have to recognize them. The command "Love your neighbor as yourself" actually means, "Love your neighbor as a person like yourself." Recognize that no matter how different your neighbor may seem, he or she has equal dignity to you, and therefore demands your respect and love. Failure to protect the unborn is rooted in the failure to recognize them, which is the most fundamental kind of failure to love.

We have to respond appropriately to our neighbor's needs. "How can God's love survive in one who has enough of this world's goods but turns his back on his brother when he sees him in need?" (1 Jn. 3:17) Is there anyone more in need than the child in the womb?

To be reconciled to our neighbors, we must avoid false witness. To hold that the unborn are of less value than the rest of us, is to "bear false witness against your neighbor." If we are doing that, we are not ready to present our gift at the altar.

Communion means union, which requires reconciliation. How much more does it apply to those who, as public officials, have the opportunity to pass laws that either grant or remove protection from their most vulnerable neighbors?

*Father Pavone is the national director of Priests for Life.*

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# Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

## 'The Da Vinci Code' banned in Lebanon based on Catholic input

*Best-selling novel attempts to destroy church history, says Maronite priest*

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BEIRUT, Lebanon — "The Da Vinci Code," Dan Brown's best seller, has been banned in Lebanon at the recommendation of Catholic officials.

A government spokesman said that "as a standard procedure, any book or publication that may offend the Christian or Muslim faith is referred to the religion's appropriate leadership for commentary."

"We have the power, under the law, to stop any book or publication from coming into the country if it might provoke any feelings against a religion," the government spokesman added.

"The Da Vinci Code" was referred to the Catholic Center for Information, which serves as a clearinghouse for the church in Lebanon.

Maronite Father Georges Rahme, professor of theology at the Lebanese and Antoine universities, said government authorities asked him to read the book and submit a report.

Father Rahme said that, after careful review, the church recommended that "The Da Vinci Code" not be sold in Lebanon. The General Security Department's office then issued an order to booksellers to pull the book from their shelves.

"I gave my evaluation with all the documentation to back it up after carefully reading the book, and we (the church) are conscientious that, with Dan Brown and other authors, there are sects who are working in the world, even today, to make Christ out to be an ordinary man and to destroy the church," said Father Rahme.

"We must remember that we are in an area (the Middle East) in which Muslims are the majority," said Father Rahme. "Meddling with the core of the sacredness of Christianity in such a way as this book does is blowing up the foundation of Christianity.

"What has been said in Dan Brown's novel is very far from the historic truth," said Father Rahme.

The Virgin Megastore in Beirut has sold several thousand copies of "The Da Vinci Code" in English, French and Arabic, said Assaf Boulos, assistant manager of the book department.

"This is censorship," he said. "People should read what they want. It's fiction, not a religious book."

"The Da Vinci Code" begins with the premise that Leonardo da Vinci used his art to communicate secret knowledge about the Holy Grail. It then claims that early Christians did not see Jesus as divine and criticizes the church for keeping secret thousands of texts that detail Christ's humanity.

The book has been criticized for its claims of historical accuracy.

As of Sept. 21, "The Da Vinci Code" had been on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for 78 weeks.

## CD features Christian hymns in Native American languages

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In conjunction with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, the Smithsonian Institution's Folkways Recordings has released a compact disc of Christian music in native languages.

"Beautiful Beyond: Christian Songs in Native Languages" includes 33 songs performed by people from tribes across North America, each recorded in the group's native language.

It includes familiar songs, such as "Rock of Ages," sung by three Oneida women; "Silent Night," sung by the Kykotsmovi Mennonite Church Choir in the Hopi language; "In the Sweet By and By," sung by the Ojibwe Hymn Singers; and "Amazing Grace," sung in Navajo by the TeecNosPos Gospel Melody.

The CD is available for sale at the museum's gift shop or on the museum's Web site — www.nmai.si.edu — by clicking on "bookshop," then on "CDs."

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# WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 3, 2004

## *Oct. 3, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

***Cycle C Readings:***
1) Hebrews 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
3) Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend Carole and her husband Frank have been dynamos at the heart of their parish for most of their adult years. Their children are grown now, and Frank has a degenerative muscular disease, ALS, one of the most difficult blows that can come to a human being — and those close to him.

Carole and her hubby have responded with a courage that is inspiring to all who know them. They laugh a lot, and in the silence of their rooms, I am sure, they cry a lot.

But the other day Carole was sharing with a group of her co-workers how much she missed being active in the service of others in her parish. She had so internalized the message of Jesus in the passage from Luke in this week's readings — "When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty'" — that even in the most stressful and stretched of circumstances, she was looking to serve her Lord in his people.

Little does she know that each time she opens her mouth, displaying her courage, she is living out the response to Timothy's exhortation from Paul in this week's reading from 2 Timothy: "For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God bestowed when my hands were laid on you. The Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise."

The call to service of God's people that comes to both the ordained and all the baptized comes with the anointing with oil and the touch of the Holy Spirit.

# WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 2**

**Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Amos 6:1,4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Job 1:6-22, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions),** Job 3:1-3, 11-7, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael),** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; **Thursday (St. Jerome),** Job 19:21-27, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday (St. Therese of the Child Jesus),** Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (Guardian Angels),** Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16, Matthew 18:1-5,10.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 9**

**Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time),** Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday (St. Francis of Assisi),** Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25:37; **Tuesday,** Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday,** Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday (Our Lady of the Rosary),** Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday,** Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday (St. Denis & Companions, St. John Leonardi),** Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28.

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# German film portrays priest's struggle with conscience in Dachau

BY MICHAEL SWAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO — The German-language film "The Ninth Day" might seem on the surface to be another film trying to burn the memory of the Holocaust onto celluloid, but it is really about a man faced with temptation.

Director Volker Schlondorff said he made the movie "not because it is morally important; it's just because the human story is so deep and so suspenseful."

The film is the true story of Msgr. Jean Bernard, the prewar head of the International Catholic Film Organization and postwar editor of the Luxembourg daily *Luxemburger Wort.* In between, Msgr. Bernard was arrested and sent to the Dachau concentration camp in 1941.

He was one of nearly 2,600 priests sent to Dachau as punishment for speaking out against Nazi policies. More than half of them died there.

The diary Msgr. Bernard kept of his 20 months in Dachau became a best seller in Luxembourg in 1945. A strange episode from the diary forms the basis for "The Ninth Day."

Msgr. Bernard was released from Dachau and sent home to Luxembourg for nine days, during which Nazi occupation forces wanted him to persuade his bishop to endorse cooperation with the occupying force and agree to Nazi policy on the church.

If Msgr. Bernard went underground, tried to escape or failed to persuade his bishop, the Gestapo promised to start killing occupants of Dachau's priest cellblock.

In the film, Msgr. Bernard becomes Father Henri Kremer. He is tempted to violate his conscience by Gestapo Untersturmfuhrer Gebhardt, a baby-faced ex-seminarian who forsook the priesthood for a career in Nazi administration just two days before his ordination.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF PROGRESS-FILM VERLEIH

**August Diehl plays Gestapo Untersturmfuhrer Gebhardt and Ulrich Matthes plays Father Henri Kremer in "The Ninth Day," a film based on the true story of Msgr. Jean Bernard, a Dachau concentration camp survivor imprisoned for speaking out against Nazi policies. Msgr. Bernard died in 1994.**

Gebhardt combines Nazi ideology with Catholic theology to present an argument for accommodating Nazi ideals.

Jesus may have been a Jew, but it was his will to overcome his Jewishness that makes Jesus a model for humanity, Gebhardt says in dialogue scriptwriters lifted from the writings of Nazi propaganda master Joseph Goebbels.

"By defeating the Jew in me, I am doing the Lord's work," Gebhardt says. Then he tries to persuade Father Kremer to make Judas his model.

"I claim Judas was pious," he says. Without Judas there would have been no Catholic Church, according to the Nazis.

The arguments form the basis of the film. Will Father Kremer choose the comfort of doing what he is told or the uncertainty of following his conscience?

"The Ninth Day" is an intimate movie that takes place mainly in conversations between two men.

"The church as an institution is not my subject," Schlondorff said after the Toronto screening. "I think it's more interesting to tell the story of individuals."

Schlondorff, a Protestant, was educated for three years in France by Jesuits, who encouraged the young man to become a filmmaker.

For the film, Schlondorff went back to his Jesuit friends for advice about how to dramatize the theological puzzle of temptation.

After seeing Alain Resnais' 1955 documentary on the death camps, "Night and Fog," a young Schlondorff vowed never to try to dramatize a concentration camp. He said that at the time he thought, "This is one thing that is beyond staging." Now he has made a film that begins with a crucifixion in a Nazi camp.

"Fifty years later you think better of it," he said.

No North American distributor has been announced for the film.

Schlondorff is known for directing "The Tin Drum," which tied with "Apocalypse Now" for the 1979 Cannes Palm D'Or and won an Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1980.


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Or e-mail to: faithdev@stmichaelcary.org

# Broadening horizons

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

*Kevin Murray, editor of The Catholic News & Herald, gives a presentation to a group of visitors from Kazakhstan at the diocesan Pastoral Center July 28.*

*Visitors from the Central Asian country deep in the Eurasian continent visited Charlotte as part of the U.S. State Department's Community Connections program and Charlotte's International House's Citizen Diplomacy program.*

*The group visited the Pastoral Center to learn more about religious diversity in the United States and toured the diocesan newspaper to learn how a U.S. religious publication is managed and financed.*

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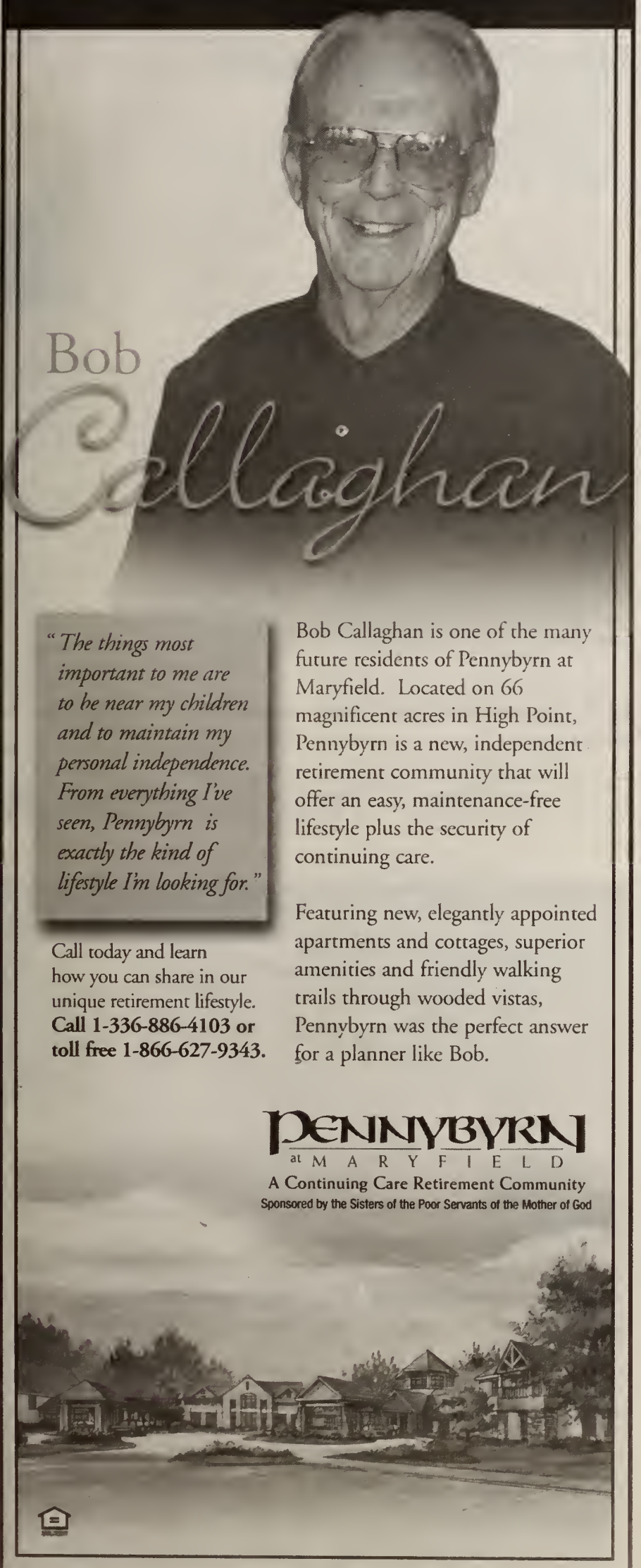


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# Editor honored at awards dinner

Courtesy Photo

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, presents Kevin Murray, editor of The Catholic News & Herald, with a 2004 Irish in Media award during the inaugural Irish American Awards Dinner at the Palmer Building in Charlotte Sept. 16.

## *Event raises funds for upcoming parade*

CHARLOTTE — The editor of *The Catholic News & Herald* was honored recently for his work.

Kevin Murray received the Irish in Media award during the inaugural Irish American Awards Dinner at the historic Palmer Building, also known as Fireman's Hall, Sept. 16.

The dinner was held to recognize local Irish Americans and raise funds for Charlotte's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will be March 12, 2005.

"The parade is getting huge and we thought this dinner would be a nice way of helping raise money, and honoring some of the leading Irish Americans in our community," said Linda Dyer Hart, an organizer of both the dinner and parade.

Other award winners were Moira Quinn, chief operating officer of Charlotte Center City Partners, as Irishwoman of the Year; Jim Babb, president of Babb Communications, as Irishman of the Year; Pat Mumford, Charlotte city councilman, as Irish Civic Leader; Marty Hurney, general manager of the Carolina Panthers, as Irish in Sports; Tommy Timmins and Kevin Devin, owners of Connally's Irish Pub, as Irish Philanthropists; and Ronan Cleary, of Connally's Irish Pub, as Irish Bartender.

Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory received the Irish Hall of Fame Award.

"I think the awards and dinner are a great idea," said Murray, who has been with the diocesan newspaper since February 2002.

"They show that there are a lot of Irish in our area doing great things," he said. "I'm honored to be included among them."

**WANT MORE INFO?**

For more information on Charlotte's ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade to take place March 12, 2005, visit www.charlottestpatsday.com.

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# Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

# Of icons and plagiarism

*God's Word, spirit should not be copyrighted*

## Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
Guest Columnist

It was front-page news recently when the pastor of a non-denominational Christian church in Charlotte resigned his position. His crime was that he admitted to plagiarizing someone else's sermons. He borrowed the words of other ministers and proclaimed them without giving credit.

In a secular sense, the pastor had committed the crime of plagiarism. News organizations, which have a vested interest in protecting the value of the written word, are very sensitive to this topic. Not surprisingly, a local editorial said the resignation was justifiable punishment.

But the incident raises the question: Can anyone own the Word of God? The Bible isn't copyrighted, but what about the words and thoughts that are derived from God's Word? Can man lay claim to those? The answer can be found on an icon.

Before the software giants co-opted the word so we would know what to call those little trash bins on our computer screens, an icon referred to a piece of religious art. Icons are traditionally associated with Russian and Eastern Orthodox churches. They may look like a painting on a piece of wood, but they aren't. Icons are a form of prayer that connects the artist and those who gaze upon the icons to the divinity of Jesus and the spirituality of the Blessed Virgin or the saints. As our prayers are conversations with God, so too is an icon a dialogue with the Almighty.

So how are icons connected to plagiarism? Icons are also beautiful works of art; many are considered masterpieces. Who painted them? Who should get the credit? Should icon artists, iconographers, profit from their work?

In most cases the artist of an icon is unknown. Credit for an icon, a signature, is purposely left off the finished work. The artist, knowing he or she was entering into a prayerful act when applying the paint, accepted no credit for the inspiring work that followed. Occasionally, a master iconographer might sign with words such as "Through the hands of ...", meaning that the icon was not an individual expression so much as it was a representation of God's will.

And once an icon was created, dozens, if not hundreds, of other iconographers copied it. In the art world that is considered forgery. In the church, repeating something that gives praise to God is called prayer.

Icons and the way in which they are freely copied are admissions that the things we accomplish here on earth are possible only because of the love of God. Should commercial artists like Picasso not profit from their work? What about music composers, or structural engineers? Shouldn't they benefit from their talent and their years of training, hard work and experience?

You can make an argument that God-given talent should praise God and not an individual. But in an age in which paintings sell for millions of dollars, you would have a hard time convincing anyone, other than an iconographer, of the value of your argument.

Pope John Paul II made headlines recently when he returned an icon to the Russian Orthodox Church. The 18th century relic, The Mother of God of Kazan, was a copy of an icon created hundreds of years earlier. It depicts the Blessed Mother and the infant Jesus. The original and the copies have been credited with working miracles, including the repulsion of an invasion of Russia by a Polish army.

How different is the work of an iconographer from that of a priest or pastor or any layperson who reads Scripture, contemplates God's sacred Word and then writes about it in such a way that the audience gains a better understanding of God's will? Shouldn't we all benefit from the gifts of wisdom that God has given to the few who are able to put that wisdom into words?

The person who has the courage to repeat the words spoken by another, in praise of God, shouldn't have to worry about lawsuits and exposure as a thief when the result of the act of repetition gives praise to God.

Like copying an icon, sharing insight into God's Word is an act of prayer that should be celebrated, not branded as a criminal act.

*David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.*

# Justice is found through redemption by God, not revenge, pope says

## The Pope Speaks

POPE
JOHN PAUL II

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Broken by violence or injustice, humanity can find justice not through revenge, but by trusting in God's saving power, said Pope John Paul II at his weekly general audience.

Christ walked toward "the fierce path of his passion without objecting to the injustice and violence, without recrimination and complaint, but by delivering himself and his painful circumstances 'to the one who judges justly,'" he said.

The pope's Sept. 22 audience in St. Peter's Square centered on a canticle from the First Letter of Peter, which presents "the suffering face of Christ" and the Christian example in a hostile world.

Before a crowd of some 13,000 pilgrims, the pope struggled through the reading of his catechesis, skipping over large portions and gasping for air after almost every word.

But his perseverance, despite the increased difficulty in reading aloud, made more poignant his message of God's healing power.

Christ "endured our sufferings, he bore our infirmities ... by his wounds we have been healed," said the pope's written catechesis.

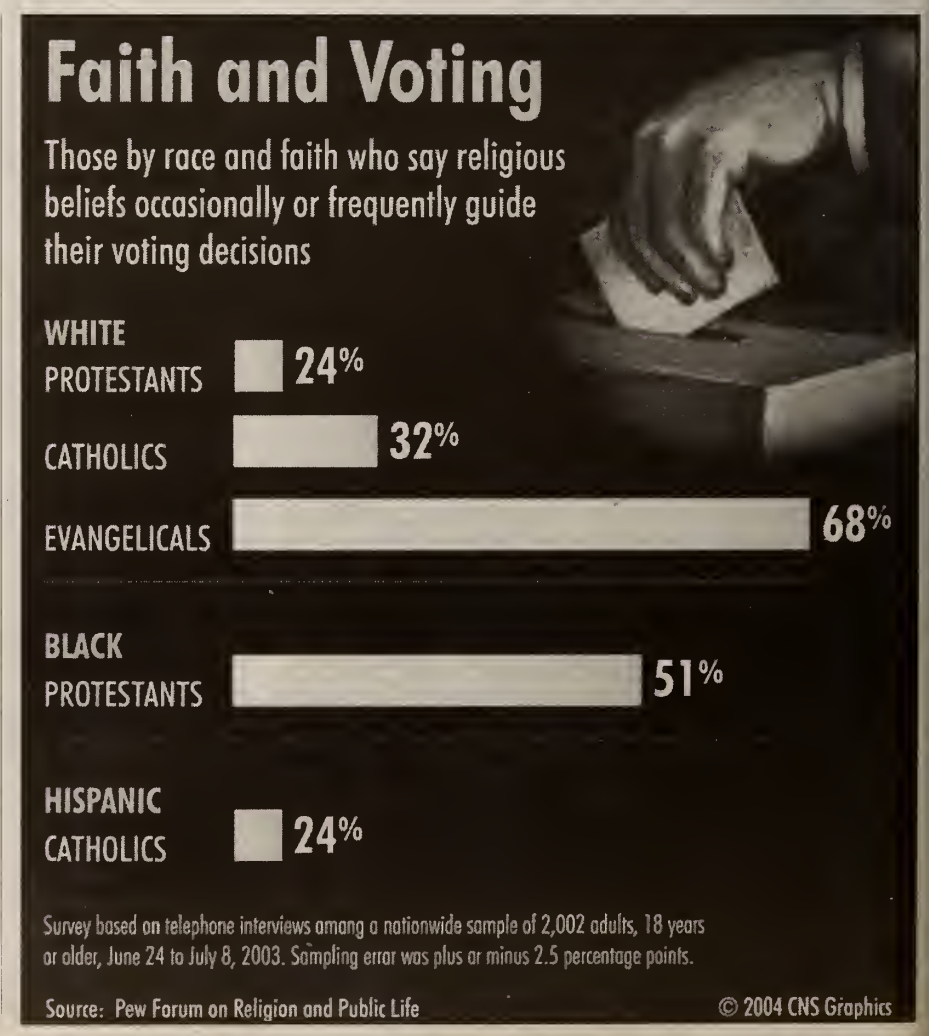
Christ suffering with patience did not represent "blind and passive resignation," but reflected "courageous trust, destined to be an example to all disciples who will travel the dark road of tribulation and persecution," he said.

By being born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus became our brother so he could "be near us, share our pain," and "carry our sins," the pope said.

Through Christ's solidarity, a poor and weakened humanity is "snatched from mistaken and evil pathways and brought back to 'justice,' that is, to God's beautiful plan" for our lives, he said.

At the end of the two-hour audience, the pope offered his greetings in eight different languages and met with hundreds of pilgrims as is his practice.

He was later driven back to his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside of Rome, where he is scheduled to remain until the end of September.



# Gaining from gratitude

## Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

I find it remarkable that a person can appear to have so much — family, home, health, affluence, talent, success — and it still isn't enough. Time and again, people who should literally be counting their blessings seem to be so dissatisfied with their lives.

Yet every day I meet others who have far less in many ways, but who are obviously far happier. The only way I can account for the difference is that the second group has a spirit of gratitude that the first lacks.

People who have a sense of entitlement, as though they somehow deserve good things — either because they earned them or because they are innately worthy of being treated well by life — strike me as having a sadly immature attitude. It's a way of thinking which refuses to take into account how much we actually owe to other people — to say nothing of the gratitude we should feel for God's unceasing generosity.

But it is the gratitude of those who have little success by the world's standards or who have suffered greatly that is truly extraordinary to witness.

Two spiritual writers I admire have looked at what gratitude means — and how it affects us. The first is the late Rev. Henri Nouwen who wrote an account of his experiences in Peru and Bolivia in Gracias: "A Latin American Journal." He found a great sense of gratitude among people whose difficult, often destitute lives would seem to give them every reason to feel despondent.

"I saw thousands of poor and hungry children, I met many young men and women without money, a job, or a decent place to live," he said. I spent long hours with sick, elderly people, and I witnessed more misery and pain than ever before in my life. But in the midst of it all, that word lifted me again and again to a new realm of seeing and hearing: Gracias! Thanks!"

Father Nouwen found that his Latin American friends received as gifts things that he took for granted. Through them, he came to realize that "everything that is, is freely given by the God of love."

The second author also believes that gratitude is "the fundamental religious emotion." In his latest book, "The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-third Psalm," Rabbi Harold Kushner says, "God would have us develop the habit of gratitude for all the blessings of our lives, not because He needs our thanks but because when we acknowledge those blessings we come to feel differently about His world and live happier lives as a result. ...

"Reading between the lines, we can infer that the author of the Twenty-third Psalm did not have a life free from pain and problems. He has had to confront enemies. He has known the feeling of finding himself in the valley of the shadow of death. He can praise and thank God for all that God has done for him, not because his life has been easy but precisely because his life has often been hard and God has seen him through the hard times."

Rabbi Kushner concludes, "Our ability to receive God's blessings with thanksgiving will never outstrip God's ability to bless us. For those who have cultivated the habit of gratitude, no matter how large a bowl we set out to receive God's blessings, it will always overflow."

Beyond every other gift God has given us, he has given us himself. If each one of us were to truly believe that "the Lord is my shepherd" — how could we want for anything else?

*For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Gifts of the Spirit, Gifts From the Soul," write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.*

# Stewards of God's gifts

## *Adult learning should be cultivated in parishes*

## Guest Column

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

What an inspiring sight! Recently, dozens of catechists from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill gathered in the parish family life center. Within a matter of weeks, the children, youth and young adults would be initiating another year of catechetical formation. It was fitting, then, that their teachers should meet for prayer, reflection and conversation.

What a privilege to be in their presence. It was abundantly clear to me that these people were open to being touched and transformed by the spirit of the Lord so that they might be faithful to their calling to teach as Jesus did.

In surveying this magnificent mosaic of selfless stewards, the image of those gathered in the upper room on Pentecost came to mind. Those disciples of the risen Christ were enveloped as by a great wind and tongues of fire rested on each. As community, they were one in the Spirit, one in the Lord. As unique, valuable witnesses of Jesus, each was permeated by the Holy Spirit so that all might manifest by their words and works that they were faithful friends, devoted disciples and wonder-filled witnesses of Jesus himself.

Just as the spirit of God was present in power in that upper room, so is that same spirit with catechists today to enrich and encourage, refresh and renew, strengthen and support each of them. Those who would be stewards of God's gifts, as they teach the truth in love, appreciate that their strength is rooted in and sustained by the spirit of the Lord.

There is no doubt that the children, youth and young adults within our parishes must be formed in the vision and values proclaimed and lived by Jesus Christ. Catechists, then, are commissioned to echo the message of our teacher both by the fidelity of their words and the example of their works. It is in that manner that they teach with authority. They are called and enabled to proclaim a culture of life rather than a culture of death, to share a message of hope instead of despair, to be bearers of light within a milieu of darkness.

When one considers the complexity of contemporary society, is it any wonder that the formation of adults should be perceived as a priority within the Catholic Church's catechetical mission? Individualism (all that really matters is the "I"), relativism (there really isn't any objective morality) and materialism (things are more important than people) are all too present and pervasive phenomena in the fabric of our culture. It is essential, then, that every parish incorporates adult education in the faith as integral to its catechetical experience.

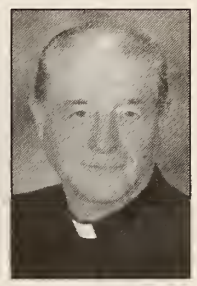
One of the most fruitful adult formation experiences at St. Luke Church is entitled "Enrich." Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sister Veronica Grover, together with a team of collaborators, meets weekly with parents while the children are attending their classes. During these sessions the parents pray, reflect on Scripture and discuss the relevance of church teaching to their daily lives. The degree of enthusiasm manifested by the participants is truly inspiring.

As the leadership in each parish exemplifies a commitment to being stewards of God's gifts, surely the creation and cultivation of a learning environment for adults should be viewed as an essential component of a parish's catechetical program.

*Father Hawker is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.*

# Caskets for funeral Masses and cremation

## Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

*Q. In your recent column on cremation, you said it is possible for the body to be taken to church for the funeral Mass before cremation. My husband died not long ago, but in order to have the body present for Mass in church I had to purchase a "disposable" casket at a cost of $600, which was then also cremated. The funeral director told us this is state law. I thought you should know of this ramification. (Ohio)*

A. The law, in your state and most others, states that the body being cremated must be in a sturdy container box that is burned during cremation. Simple containers for this purpose, usually cardboard of some sort, cost anywhere from $50 to $200.

These containers, however, are normally not appropriate for viewing the body at a visitation or for presence at a funeral liturgy in church. At least two options are possible in this case. A more attractive casket, which is burned at the cremation, may be purchased for several hundred dollars. This apparently is what happened in your case.

Or a more traditional coffin, specially designed to hold the simpler box in which the body will be cremated, may be rented for public viewing and funeral services. Afterward, the body with the box are removed for cremation.

State laws generally call for 24 or 48 hours delay after death before cremation can take place.

Those considering cremation for themselves or a loved one should check with a funeral director well in advance. Options, procedures and costs may vary and can get a bit complicated.

In addition, Catholics should check with their parish priest about arrangements for funeral rites, especially for Mass with the body or cremated remains present.

*A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.*

*Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.*

# Our Lady of Consolation Church serves spiritual needs in Charlotte

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

**Our Lady of Consolation Church is the only African American Catholic parish in Charlotte. The church was established when Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and St. Mary Church were combined in 1955.**

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte's only African American parish, was founded in 1955, but the roots of the parish go back to the 1940s when the Redemptorist Fathers came to Charlotte.

In those days, 13 black Catholics made up the congregation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Years passed and the number of Catholics in the area grew to the extent that a second church, St. Mary, was added to the area. In 1955, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Mary were joined, establishing Our Lady of Consolation Church on Dec. 15 of that year.

In the spring of 1956, construction began on the current parish buildings, consisting of the rectory, school, auditorium and convent for the Oblate Sisters of Providence, who arrived the next year. In attendance at the dedication of the new church on March 25, 1957, were Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicogani, apostolic delegate to the United States; Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh; Father Clarence Howard, the first black North Carolina native to be ordained a priest; and Bishop James J. Navagh, auxiliary bishop of Raleigh and the first pastor of the church.

Of special note is the fact that three bishops have come from the Our Lady of Consolation congregation. The founding pastor, Bishop Navagh, later became bishop of Ogdensburg, N.Y. and then bishop of Patterson, N.J. One of the parish's assistant pastors, Father Moss Anderson, became auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Detroit. Another assistant pastor, Father Joseph Howze, became auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Miss. and later the first bishop of Biloxi, Miss. when that diocese was established, making him the first African American to function as ordinary in the United States.

In 1999 the Capuchin Friars assumed administration of the parish, and Capuchin Father Jude Duffy was named as pastor.

According to former pastor Father Cecil Tice, one of the aspects of the parish mission statement is to blend the richness of the African American culture with that of Catholicism. Keeping that goal in mind, and using the African principles of Nia (purpose) and Imani (faith), the parish established Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir in 1980.

Other activities in the parish that have large participation are the African Drum and Dance group Kabaka and the Shepherd's Care Ministry, a program that addresses the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS.

Our Lady of Consolation Church also has active Boy and Girl Scouts programs, Knights of St. John and Knights of Columbus, a food pantry and St. Martin de Porres outreach to the poor.

Father Tice said these and other groups make the congregation unique.

"These groups have gone out in the name of the parish to show not only the blending of the cultures, but also how they both become richer by proclaiming the name of Jesus, " he said. "We are truly a blessed and grateful people."

In recent years, Our Lady of Consolation Church has hosted an annual revival sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. Designed to be reminiscent of the early days of outdoor preaching, the revival is an opportunity to publicly worship in the spirit of the black church while breaking down misconceptions about the Catholic faith and black Catholic worship.

As the congregation grew, the parish desperately needed more space to better serve its current 600 families.

"We have no facility where we can adequately gather as a family or use as outreach to the community around us," said Father Duffy.

To meet these needs, the parish broke ground on a new 14,000-square-foot community life center Aug. 29. Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Capuchin Friars serving Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte; diocesan representatives and city and county government officials were in attendance during the special outdoor Mass.

The building, expected to be completed in July 2005, will be used for community outreach programs such as English as a Second Language, Boy and Girl Scouts, senior citizens' events, Bible study and other educational and cultural enrichment activities.

With an ever-growing population of more than 600 families worshipping at Our Lady of Consolation Church each weekend, Father Duffy said the parish hopes to build a new church in the near future.

**OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION CHURCH**
2301 Statesville Avenue
Charlotte, N.C. 28206
(704) 375-4339

**Vicariate:** Charlotte
**Pastor:** Capuchin Father Jude Duffy
**Parochial Vicar:** Capuchin Father Martin Schratz
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Charles Knight
**Number of Households:** 600

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