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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 3, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 1

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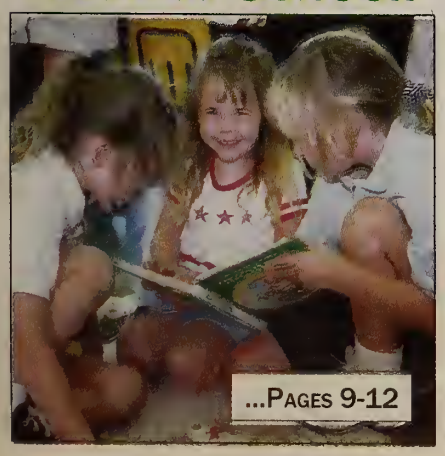

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Priests' Retirement Fund is a financial and spiritual benefit to all

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — Father Bernard Manley lives in an apartment in his hometown of Asheville now that he is retired and uses his time for his hobbies.

Father Dean Cesa is not thinking about retirement anytime soon. He was ordained in 1998 and now serves as the parochial vicar of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

It would seem that these two men would not have much in common, but actually, both are "second-career" priests. Father Cesa was an electrical engineer for 12 years before deciding to go to seminary, while Father Manley was an architectural and building engineer and the general manager of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce before he went to seminary in Connecticut.

Moreover, both agree that the Priests' Retirement Fund is important not only for priests but for the lay community as well.

The money that parishioners will give during the second collection on the weekend of Sept. 11 and 12 will provide for the future retirement of current diocesan priests, support the pension fund of order priests, and supply other benefits for diocesan priests. Retired diocesan priests receive a monthly pension to help with their living, medical, and miscellaneous expenses after having served various church communities for many years.

This year's target amount for the diocese is $705,183. Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the diocese, stated that approximately $568,000 of the amount collected will be contributed to the diocesan clergy retirement fund and the retirement funds of religious order priests serving in the diocese.

In order to determine the annual amount needed to fund the diocesan plan, an actuarial firm is hired to perform an actuarial valuation of the plan. This involves projecting the future retirement benefits of all diocesan priests based on anticipated benefit levels and projected years of retirement.

This insures the funds will be available when a priest become eligible for retirement benefits. Each parish and mission is assessed 3 percent of its yearly offertory to fund the priests' retirement and benefits program. This means that if the amount is not raised on that weekend, then the money will have to come from parish operating funds.

Father Cesa, at age 40, is years away from retirement but is aware of the importance of the fund to the priests.

"The consciousness that we have to raise is that all that we have is from God, so we must be generous with whatever we have and be grateful with what we have."

— *Father Dean Cesa*

"We need to make funds available for retirement, and this collection should serve as one's loving response for the service of priests and the loving response to God for what he has generously given that people are called to share," said Father Cesa.

He continued, "The consciousness that we have to raise is that all that we have is from God, so we must be generous with whatever we have and be grateful with what we have."

Father Cesa talked about Father Ray Berg, another retired second-career priest, and Father Ken Whittington, who both inspired him while he was in seminary.

Father Cesa said, he "really got an appreciation of the celebration of Mass from Father Whittington." Through Father Berg, he realized it was possible to be a priest after being an engineer because Father Berg had been an engineer also before becoming a priest.

Father Cesa's decision to become a priest was a gradual one, fostered after he began attending daily Mass which he says "will change a person's life."

Father Manley served the diocese for several years even though he was ordained when he was 65. After his wife passed away and his daughters were grown, he thought about becoming a deacon. Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley suggested he think about being a priest. That started the

See Manley, page 18

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Father Bernard Manley carves his latest project, a ceremonial mask, in his woodshop in his Asheville apartment. Some of his other projects include a Civil War soldier, a knight in armor, and plaques from his wood burning class.

New testimony points to army in Guatemalan bishop's murder

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — New testimony from a former member of the Guatemalan army about military involvement in the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City has provided important evidence in the case, said investigators and church officials. "This is going to be a great help in clearing the crime up. It will help us piece together the whole jigsaw puzzle," said the director of the archdiocesean human rights office, Nery Rodenas. "I am more optimistic now we have this evidence," he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Aug. 26 from Guatemala City.

Papal trip to Iraq still not finalized, Vatican says

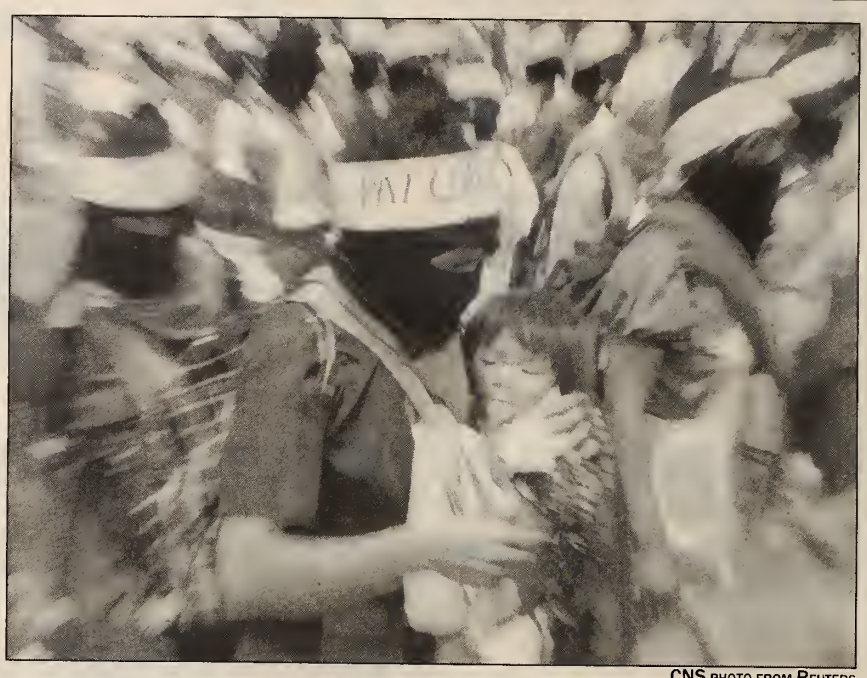
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Responding to persistent reports that Pope John Paul II will travel to Iraq this fall, the Vatican said such a visit is still awaiting final approval. "This trip to the Middle East, which — as is known — the Holy Father intensely desires to make, has not yet been defined," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Aug. 26. The pope has said that as part of a biblical pilgrimage, he wants to visit the site of ancient Ur, birthplace of Abraham, the ruins of which are in southern Iraq.

Britain proposes anti-terrorism law include clinic attacks

LONDON (CNS) — The British government proposed amending the anti-terrorism law to include attacks such as those at abortion clinics, which would normally be handled under criminal law. The Home Office document, "Legislation Against Terrorism: A Consultation Paper," raises the prospect of attacks on abortion clinics, and doctors and nurses on staff, as have happened in the United States, though it says not a single case has occurred in Great Britain.

U.S. bishop tours Honduran site for clues on U.S. priest

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit toured the ruins of a U.S.-built military base in eastern Honduras, looking for clues about what happened to Father James Carney, a U.S. priest who disappeared in Honduras in 1983. Bishop Gumbleton inspected a small building Aug. 26 reportedly used as a torture center by the Honduran military and the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, known as contras, during the 1980s. The structure is located on the El Aguacate base, 80 miles east of Tegucigalpa, the capital. Bishop Gumbleton said Father Carney may have been held in the building, which has walls stained by blood and marked with scribbled writing.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Masked Zapatista

Masked Zapatista women march out of the highland town of Altamirano in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas Aug. 25. During a protest they demanded that Mexican soldiers leave the towns of Chiapas and halt construction of a road in the jungle region.

Archbishop seeks church share of Peru's birth control budget

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne of Lima asked Peru's health minister to give the Catholic Church 30 percent of the budget the ministry earmarks for birth control. Speaking on a national radio program, the archbishop said the way the budget is used is "arbitrary and biased, since 99 percent of the money goes to promote artificial birth control." "With only 30 percent of the budget, we can show that Peruvians are capable of using well the natural methods of family regulation, because they are not the uncontrollable animals the current birth control program assumes they are," said the archbishop.

Report urges better pastoral care for cohabiting couples

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A report sent to the U.S. bishops Aug. 20 says the wide practice of cohabitation poses major pastoral challenges for church marriage preparation programs. It says marriages preceded by cohabitation are less likely to succeed than others, but pastoral ministers should approach a cohabiting couple's decision to marry as "a teachable moment." "Here is a unique opportunity to help couples understand the Catholic vision of marriage. Here, too, is an opportunity for evangelization," the report says. The 27-page report, "Marriage Preparation and Cohabiting Couples," was prepared by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family, headed by Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix.

Asian theologians say pluralism means recognizing other religions

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — The Christian mission amid Asia's religious pluralism must acknowledge other religions' existence and their legitimate role in their believers' lives, said a report at the interdisciplinary Congress of Asian Theologians. The diversity of religions in Asia is a "coresponse to God's creative design," said a report from the theologians who studied mission work at the second Asia theologians' congress, held Aug. 9-15 in Bangalore. The mission group report was received well, with no objections raised, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Of the 104 theologians from 12 Asian countries and elsewhere who attended, 10 Catholics represented the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

New Kansas standards won't affect Catholic teaching on evolution

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A compromise version of science education standards passed by the Kansas Board of Education won't affect how Catholic schools there teach evolution, said an official of the Kansas Catholic Conference. Mary Kay Culp, the conference's associate director of education, said passage of the compromise means that each school district, including Catholic ones, "will be able to teach whatever we want on the subject of evolution." "The Catholic schools will teach Darwin's theory of evolution, they always have," she said. "And they will teach other valid scientific views that oppose evolution."

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 10
Mass
Bishop McGuinness High School
Winston-Salem

September 13 - 17
Directing priest retreat
for Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

September 17
Evening meeting
With Prior General of the
Augustinian Order

September 18
Provincial FIRE Rally
Belmont Abbey

Diocesan planner

September

7 GREENSBORO — Rev. David McBriar, OFM, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Durham, will present "Partnership with the Community: Practical Efforts that Can Make a Difference in People's Lives" at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Green St., today from 12:10-1 p.m. For information about lunch and preregistration, call (336) 273-2554.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Catholic Home School Educators' Opening School Year Mass is being celebrated this morning at 10 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 355 Springdale Ave. For details, contact Mary Matheson at (336) 768-1276.

8 CHARLOTTE — A support group for persons separated, divorced, or those remarried outside the church meets tonight at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Road, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center. For details, call (704) 376-1503.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets today at 10:30 a.m. Mayor Pat McCrory is the special guest speaker. For details on the upcoming Florida trip, call Stephen Ferraro at (704) 455-2528. For other information, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

10 CHARLOTTE — Tonight from 8-10 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Parkway, Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej is the facilitator of the "Nite of Joy," a time for sharing of faith and reflection through contemporary Christian music and reading the Gospels. Open to all and free to the public.

CONCORD — All are invited to a Mass for home-schoolers at 11 a.m. at St. James Church, 251 Union St. North. A potluck lunch follows in the church hall.

11 CHARLOTTE — There is a HOPE group meeting held tonight in the St. Luke Church Family Center, 13700 Lawyers Rd. For questions, call Sister Ann at (704) 537-3831.

Hispanics find amigo in Father Aschmann

By JONATHAN WATSON

KANNAPOLIS — They come from south of the border to a place where they don't understand the language and the people don't understand their culture.

Sometimes the reception they get from locals is downright frosty.

But St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Kannapolis is a place where area Hispanics have found warmth — a place to worship and a friend and helping hand in Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann, who worked as a priest for 35 years in Paraguay.

Aschmann conducts two masses each Sunday, one in Spanish and one in English. He has seen his congregation grow by leaps and bounds in the last three years — more than 400 attend his Sunday noon mass, which is held in Spanish.

He baptized 12 children last month, and has conducted several weddings at St. Joseph's. His congregation has grown out of the modest church building on St. Joseph Street and into the church's nearby fellowship hall, converted into a temporary chapel. On its door hangs a paper on which Aschmann wrote the names of the children who will be baptized this month, on Aug. 28.

Hispanics do not deserve the negative characteristics sometimes attributed to them, says Aschmann. "I've found them to be wonderful people," he says of his parishioners. "They're good workers, and they want our friendship."

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Kannapolis is a place where area Hispanics have found warmth — a place to worship and a friend and helping hand in Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann, who worked as a priest for 35 years in Paraguay.

Many are here because of economic or political troubles in their home countries, Aschmann says. They work hard, make money, and send it back to family members where they're from.

Another thing: "they want to learn our language," Aschmann says. English classes at St. Joseph's grew so much they had to move to Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's south campus.

"This year, we'll be at A. L. Brown," he says.

Aschmann, who is 76 years old, was ordained to the priesthood in 1950. In 1952, he went to Paraguay, the landlocked South American country he would call home for 35 years.

Shortly after he got to Paraguay, Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, a ruthless dictator, seized control of the government, Aschmann said. Under Stroessner, who ruled the entire time Aschmann was in Paraguay, Paraguayans had few rights and little hope for peace and prosperity.

Elections in Paraguay were a farce, Aschmann said. There was no middle class. High officials in the ruling party were very rich, but most of the people were poor. The ruling party took what it wanted.

Even his sermons were reported back to the government. Once in a sermon, he told his congregation to pray for greater peace in Paraguay and throughout the world.

He was approached later by a well-dressed woman, who repeated verbatim some of the words he spoke. "Those were strong words, Padre," she said.

"Don't we need more peace?" he asked the woman, a government spy.

"Yes," she said, "but you can't say that here."

The climate in Paraguay was tropical. Aschmann served a parish that was probably 100 miles long and 30 miles wide, he said. He got around by Jeep sometimes and horses when the roads, almost all unpaved, were impassable.

"The mosquitoes came in squadrons," he says. Dysentery was a frequent problem. Numerous highly poisonous snakes inhabited the jungles around the villages.

Father Carl Aschmann

In spite of the political oppression and difficulty of life, the people of Paraguay managed to be happy, he says. "Paraguay was a place of joyous people." And they kept to their faith. As a priest, Aschmann was revered.

"They loved God. God was very important in their lives."

His years in Paraguay taught Aschmann to love the people there for their simplicity, humility and generosity, he said. He sees the same traits in the Hispanics who come to Kannapolis, that he serves at St. Joseph's. "They don't have much, but they give what they have," he says. ▼

Jonathan Watson is a staff writer for the Concord & Kannapolis Independent Tribune. This story is reprinted with permission.

Mass to honor Mother Teresa, Sept. 5

A memorial Mass commemorating the two-year anniversary of Mother Teresa's death will be celebrated Sept.5 at 11:00 a.m. in St. Patrick Cathedral.

Bishop William G. Curlin will serve as celebrant and homilist. The bishop, a personal friend of Mother Teresa for more than 25 years, worked with her and her sisters in establishing shelter for the homeless and dying. The public is invited.

On June 13, 1995, Mother Teresa visited Charlotte and spoke at an ecumenical prayer service.

"She had a deep love for Christ... She came to help those in need of special assistance, especially the poor. For Mother Teresa, there was no child, woman or man on earth who was unlovable," said the bishop. ▼

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

12 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East, at 4 p.m. Prayer teams available at 3 p.m. with a potluck dinner to follow. For information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St., will be holding six-week dance classes starting today and continuing Sept. 19 and 26 and Oct. 3, 10, and 17. Classes held in the gym on Sun. evenings 6-7 p.m. for adults and 7-8 p.m. for children. Call the parish office for more details at (336) 722-7001.

WINSTON-SALEM — There is an informational meeting at Joseph's House, a house of prayer and spirituality center and a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church, at 1903 S. Main St., tonight from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for old, new, and future volunteers to paint, hold workshops, make and serve refreshments, and other activities. Call (336) 722-0028 for information.

14 CHARLOTTE — Father Anthony Marcaccio will be telling the public about "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Mass but Were Afraid to Ask." The 7 p.m. sessions are being held in St. John Neumann Church parish hall, 8451 Idlewild Road, tonight and on Sept. 21 and 28. Babysitting will be provided, and for details, call Donna Rayle at (704) 366-3218.

GREENSBORO — A "Day of Reflection" happens this morning at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church hall. Father Frank Connelly will be presiding during the program which includes Mass and the Rosary. Lunch will be provided. For details, call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099.

GREENSBORO — The Young at Heart Group is participating in a program with the CRISM group at 9:15 a.m. at St. Pius X Church Meeting Hall, 2210 N. Elm St. The program, presented by Father Frank Connelly, includes Mass and a luncheon. The event is free for Young at Heart members. Call the church office at (336) 274-6520 for more details and reservations.

16 CHARLOTTE — "Exodus from Strongholds," a 12-week Bible-based seminar focusing on overcoming personal strongholds, begins tonight at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, at 7:15 p.m. For information and registration, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

HIGH POINT — There will be a charismatic Mass held at 7: 30 a.m. at Maryfield Nursing Home in the chapel at 1315 Greensboro Road. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

17 HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be today through Sept. 19 at the Catholic Conference Center. For registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424 and for information, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

18 BREVARD — The Jack Driscoll Council Knights of Columbus are having a garage sale today at Sacred Heart Church Fellowship Hall, 4 Fortune Cove, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Donations are being accepted at the rectory on Sept. 11 and in the Fellowship Hall on Sept. 17 from 12-4 p.m. For information or transportation of items, call Richard Hucker at (828) 885-2154 or Winston Churchill at (828) 884-7456.

24 GREENSBORO — Along with 15 other area churches including Our Lady of Grace Church and St. Paul the Apostle Church, St Pius X Church is sponsoring "Entering More Deeply into the Healing Light of Christ"presented by Rev. Flora Slossan Wuellner. The session begins tonight at 7 p.m. and continues all day Sat., Sept. 25 from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 3600 W. Friendly Ave. For more information, call Kitty or Frank Rodgers at (336) 288-4584.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says loss of sense of sin strengthens social evils

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II warned of an erosion of the sense of personal sin, which in turn has strengthened "frightening" forms of social evil in the modern world.

"The drama of the contemporary situation, which seems to abandon several fundamental moral values, depends in great part on the loss of the sense of sin," the pope said at his weekly general audience Aug. 25.

"There exists a frightening attraction of evil that has made people judge many forms of behavior as 'normal' and 'inevitable.' Evil grows and presses with devastating effects on consciences, which remain disoriented and unable to judge," he said.

The pope said the weakened awareness of sin was caused in part by a widespread religious indifference and outright refusal to accept revealed truths and commandments. It is a theme the pontiff has developed in two encyclicals in recent years.

"Very often, human responsibility is obscured by the pretext of an absolute freedom, which is said to be threatened and conditioned by God as supreme legislator," he said.

The pope emphasized that social sin — including economically and politically oppressive structures — flows from individual sin. Even when personal sin is interior, he said, it leaves a mark on society.

He said it was undeniable that powerful structures of injustice condition many people's lives today. At times the economic wrongs imposed on disadvantaged populations give rise to moral discouragement, he said.

"So many people feel a sense of powerlessness and confusion in the face of a cruel situation that seems to offer no way out," he said.

But he said Christians should be convinced by their faith that even the strongest structures of evil can be defeated and replaced with structures of good. He said the upcoming jubilee year offers an opportunity to reawaken awareness of personal and social sin.

Pope seeks clemency for two Arkansas death-row inmates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, appealed in the name of Pope John Paul II for clemency for Arkansas death-row inmates Mark Gardner and Alan Willett, whose executions were set for Sept. 8. The appeal was sent by letter to Republican Gov. Mike Huckabee. Archbishop Montalvo wrote, "The Holy Father, while praying and expressing deep sympathy for the victims, for their families and friends, prays nevertheless that the life of Mr. Gardner and Mr. Willett themselves may be saved through your compassion and magnanimity."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

A quarter century of writing to friends

I have a lot to celebrate this September. It is the 25th anniversary of a very special event for me — the invitation from Catholic News Service to become one of its columnists.

It started with a phone call from Angela Schreiber, then a features editor for CNS, on Sept. 18, 1974. I remember the exact date since this is my birthday. Using the strategy of flattery, she seduced me into saying yes, I'd take on the responsibility of writing a weekly column.

The agony and the ecstasy began immediately. Every week for these 25 years I have asked myself: What shall I write that is important enough — inspiring, informative or entertaining — to justify people giving their time, a chunk of their lives, to read it? This is not something I take lightly.

Without question, writing this column has had a profound growth effect on me. You cannot spend so much time contemplating ideas and researching facts without using the muscles of your mind and heart. The column has forced me to exercise every iota of discipline I have within me in order to write accurately and with style in hope that the reading would be easy and satisfying.

I have shared much of my personal life with my readers — stories of my children, my motherhood, my tragedies, my philosophies, values and faith. I have looked at issues and sometimes, with my social commentaries, stepped on toes. Occasionally, I have tried, and I hope succeeded, to bring a smile into the lives of my fellow Christians across the country.

People often ask me why I write and I answer: Why does anyone opt for the expressive arts like writing, art, music, dancing, acting? Sometimes I jokingly respond that I write because I am egotistical enough to think I have something to say that someone else would want to read. But that's only partly true. Most of the time I write because I hope to express an idea powerfully enough to get others to see a subject in a fresh way and then feel better informed or inspired.

Many of you have written and called me "friend," and this has been for me a privilege and an honor. It is hard to express how humble and proud I have felt when someone writes just to say, "Your story lifted me out of the blues" or, "Your column today revived my faith."

I have written this column not to be a teacher, preacher or model, but an empathetic friend, getting together with you to get to the bottom line: out of isolation and into communication. I have opted for a connection of mind and spirit. I hope this is what has happened and will continue to happen.

From my heart, thank you for making my life so much richer this past quarter century.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

The message we're fed about sex

"It was open season on virgins."

So went the assessment, short and to the point, of an acquaintance's daughter's first experience of public high school.

After eight years in Catholic grammar schools, she'd chosen to attend the local bells-and-whistles public high school for academic reasons. What we old folks used to call health class provided the first encounter with this brand-new world.

It wasn't that the sexually inexperienced in the class were held up as direct targets. No, it was subtler than that, at the level of assumptions and atmosphere.

Quite simply, this class, which considered sexual issues, treated the students as if there were no options for them other than sexual activity.

Abstinence was not mentioned once. Ribbed condoms, yes. Abstinence, no.

It was too much of a radical shock to this girl's system, so she ended that experiment in terror and went back to Catholic schools.

I'm not writing to condemn public schools. That's not the purpose here at all, since I attended public schools for all but four years of my own student life.

No, I'm describing this girl's experience as a way of getting at a bigger point. What happened in health class is just one element of a consistent, pervasive message you're being fed everywhere you turn: that sexual activity is no more meaningful than walking down the street. But it's not true. I don't care if adults are the ones communicating that to you. They're wrong, plain and simple.

I thought about this again the other night when, unable to sleep, I stumbled into the living room and turned on the television. Flipping through the channels, I paused at MTV.

Now, when MTV first entered the world years ago, it was met with some concerns and protests. Various parents, worried about its content, demanded that it be taken off cable menus, and so on.

At the time, I didn't pay too much attention. I was just starting to teach high school then, and I'd watch MTV occasionally so I could understand my students and their interests. I didn't think it was terrible. Stupid, yes. Waste of time, yes. But pernicious and damaging? Nah. Well, time changes, and I don't think it's just my aging tastes.

The show is called "Undressed." It weaves three stories of various forms of teen-age lust together in a half-hour format, complete with cheesy sets, truly lame acting and absolutely no boundaries of taste or responsibility.

All you need to know is this: One of the stories focused on two girls getting a verbal lesson from a male friend on how to give a boy oral sex. Clinical names for body parts were never used, but it was perfectly clear what they were talking about.

Let's not fool ourselves on the target audience: It's teen-agers. I could go a lot of directions with this, and rail against those who profit from exploiting the vulnerable, but I won't. I promise.

Instead, I'll just remind you again that it doesn't matter if you're hearing this at school, on television and in the magazines you read: Sex is not a mere physical activity, and if you treat it that way, thinking that the only things that matter are contraceptives and technique, you are setting yourself up for tremendous harm and experiences that you will, without question, deeply regret when you're older and you look back at the gift you treated so carelessly.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Write on!

The great American editor George Horace Lorimer observed: "Writing is like religion. Every man who feels the call must work out his own salvation." Indeed, writing as a profession is a noble vocation that offers men and women tremendous opportunities to spread light where there is darkness.

Just a few weeks ago, I had a delightful conversation with Angela Masconi, a respected, award-winning reporter with the New York Post, who covers some of the city's toughest crime stories. She explained, "In the midst of even the most sordid details there is always some personal lesson to be extracted that might help readers gain a moral perspective that can make a positive difference in their lives."

We are influenced by the books, magazines, newspapers, and advertisements we read, by the copy that comes over the radio and television and Internet. All of these leave their imprint on us as individuals. They help influence our thoughts, mold our tastes and affect our judgments.

Increasingly the charge is made that the various communications media are producing too much that is cheap and immoral, too much that is materialistic and profane. There is alarm that literary and social standards have been radically lowered. Realistically, we can not expect "the cream of the crop" in all our sources of entertainment and information; but we should expect that the "milk" will not turn sour. For example, most of us do not object to occasional stories about violence. But we do resent a continuous and deliberate appeal to our baser instincts.

There is value, of course, in refusing to buy offensive literature, in turning off vulgar broadcasts, and in ignoring tawdry movies. But the real cure does not lie there, for it is like objecting to bad food without providing anything better. Good cooks must replace the bad ones, and in this case the cooks are the writers and communicators.

They are the people who write, produce or direct television programs or movies; the journalists and news anchors who talk to millions; the authors of stories, articles, plays and books. My experience with the Christopher movement tells me that God-given talent is much more generously distributed than most people realize. And it is of no use to protest, as some do, "Perhaps you're right, Father, but the industry still doesn't want worth-while people in the writing field." That is neither fair nor accurate.

There are a great number of sound, sensible communicators like Ken Burns, Bill Moyers, Mark Shields, Tim Russert, Cokie Roberts, and many more who are articulate in their beliefs and have changed their profession for the better.

It is my belief that more like them will come from those adults and young people among us who are not content to merely complain about quality, they are willing to do something about it. I am not saying that this is an easy career path. On the contrary, that is why we all have a responsibility to encourage people to develop the best that is within them. They will know the deep and lasting joy of creative work, and will play a part in bringing to others some of the true, the good, and the beautiful that the Creator of all intends for all.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Different religions in marriage

At a "PreCana" marriage preparation seminar last weekend an engaged couple were concerned about being of two religions. "Sometimes I visit his church; sometime he visits mine" said the soon-to-be bride. "But, shouldn't we choose one church?" Many couples find themselves in the dilemma of belonging to different worshiping communities. We think that what may be first seen as a problem can become opportunities for growth.

Ironically, religion should be a medium by which marriage finds strength. Yet, for many it is a stumbling block. For the couple mentioned above, their issues were less about doctrine than about their connections to particular communities of worship — membership. We suggested that they, for the time being, maintain memberships in both churches together. Wherever they go for weekend worship, they should go together.

We also suggested they discuss this with their pastors, get a sense of what their membership means to their relationship, involve themselves in a ministry together, and allow time, work and the Spirit to direct them. Eventually, they will gravitate to one church or the other.

For some couples, ideological, theological and doctrinal differences separate them Sunday mornings. Their religious differences create for them opportunities to learn about other traditions. Worshiping together allows them to learn more about the practices and customs that have shaped each other's spirituality.

It helps to understand that all marriages involve differences in faith. Our experiences of God are unique. One challenge/opportunity that is lifelong in marriage is to discover shared God-experiences that create a shared spirituality that transcends religion. Making your home a sanctuary for God, experiencing together awe in nature, participating together in God's creation of children, working together for the people of God, all offer shared numinous experiences.

Also understand that differences in faith are part of what's different about the individual partners. This is so even when they are of the same religion. Family traditions and personal histories shape our world-views and our perceptions of the numinous. Married partners bring their unique faiths to share with each other. It's important to be open to those experiences and willing to be affected by them. What emerges is a unique couple spirituality that can be the center of joy in a marriage.

However, the "danger" of learning is growing. When we're open to the God-experiences of another, our own faith changes. To grow in marriage couples must embrace that change, reverence it and be faithful to it. Indeed it is the experience and manifestation of God in them. It is living a sacramental relationship.

Only God is unchanging; we're not expected to be. Fear of change in this area of our lives stunts our growth and blocks our view of "God-in-us" that is our greatest source of strength.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Irreconcilable differences about faith

Q. I have a big problem. I am dating this wonderful man, hardworking, kind, and I love him very much. The problem is he is Lutheran and I am Catholic. Neither of us wishes to change. If we have children he wants them Lutheran, and of course I want them to be Catholic. I have cried for two weeks now and can't sleep. He knows this, but doesn't want to talk about it because he knows I get upset.

His parents were killed several years ago, before we met. I have talked with my parents about it but still cannot come to a decision. I am 31, he is 34. We've been dating for 16 months. Please help me.

A. I wish I had a solution that you and your fianc, could feel happy about right now, but I don't. And I don't think anyone has.

You really are at absolute odds, and getting married will not change that; in fact, the problem will most likely just get worse.

The most important task you have is to be totally honest with each other about this dilemma and, even more seriously, be honest with yourselves. Unless one of you changes, which appears impossible, one of you will end up sacrificing what you believe is spiritually essential for your children and for yourself as a parent.

From what you tell me, that is unthinkable for both of you, which, if you are both sincere and committed in your faith, is the way it ought to be.

If neither of you changes and you do get married, chances are you will be living in a permanently tense and bitter standoff, which I'm certain is not the kind of marriage either of you wants.

Interfaith marriages inevitably bring with them special challenges which are not present when the husband and wife share a common faith and vision of life. Before a marriage takes place, however, the couple need to have identified some shared avenues they agree on by which they can resolve the differences which will confront them.

That does not seem to be the case with you and your friend. As hard as it may be, you need to rethink your plans for marriage. That will be far less difficult than abandoning the way you live your life with God as a Catholic or asking him to abandon his, which both of you will regret.

Letting go of your tentative marriage plans will take a lot of courage. But good marriages are built on a variety of essential qualities, including some you surely do not share now. I will pray for you, and I know many of our readers will also.

Dear Readers: Several weeks ago I responded again to a question about disposing of old religious articles. Here are two more locations to which rosaries, pictures, statues and other sacramentals may be sent. They have contact with groups in our country and elsewhere who can use them.

The Cross Foundation, 7815 Highpoint Road, Baltimore, MD 21234. Phone (410) 668-4826. And, Our Lady's Rosary Makers, 4611 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40233-7080. Phone (502) 968-1434.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Iraqi sanctions survey

U.S. congressional aide Phyllis Bennis visits an Iraqi mother and her sick baby in a Baghdad hospital Aug. 30. Bennis and a team of U.S. representatives was in Iraq to investigate the effect of U.N. sanctions on the nation. Iraq and human rights groups have blamed sanctions for the deaths of thousands of Iraqis due to malnutrition and inadequate medical services.

Man shoots, kills self in St. Peter's Basilica

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An Italian man shot and killed himself near the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica, prompting authorities to temporarily close the church.

Authorities said the basilica was full of visitors Aug. 26 when Benedetto Minnini, a 63-year-old man from the southern Italian city of Bari, pulled out a pistol and shot himself once in the head. He died instantly.

An Australian woman tourist who witnessed the shooting screamed for help, and Vatican police quickly sealed off the area and later closed the basilica. The man's family did not offer an explanation for the suicide, or say why he traveled to Rome and St. Peter's Basilica to kill himself.

Pope John Paul II was staying at his summer residence outside Rome at the time of the shooting.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls called the suicide a "sad episode." He said that, contrary to some reports, the basilica had not been "deconsecrated" by the suicide, but that a "rite of reparation" would be carried out at the regular evening Mass the following day.

There have been previous suicides in St. Peter's Basilica, but this was the first suicide-by-gunshot in recent memory. ▼

Catholic ex-POW, ambassador, urges new look at Vietnam

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Douglas "Pete" Peterson, a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict, said America should take a fresh look at the Southeast Asian nation. Vietnam has changed between his assignments to Vietnam, said Peterson, a Catholic. "Vietnam isn't the nation that it was when we were engaged in that situation," he said. At the time of the Vietnam War, 49 million people lived in both North and South Vietnam, he said. Today in the reunited country of 80 million residents, "65 percent of the people are under age 25, and 80 percent are under age 40," giving the nation very little collective memory of the war, Peterson added. The ambassador is the focus of a PBS documentary, "Assignment Hanoi," to air Sept. 7 on many PBS stations.

Hospital stay prolonged for Cardinal O'Connor

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York remained hospitalized at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan Aug. 30. Joseph Zwilling, communications officer for the Archdiocese of New York, told Catholic News Service that the cardinal was expected to remain a while longer at Sloan-Kettering, where he had been undergoing tests since his Aug. 25 admission. No information has been released about the results of the tests.

Judge temporarily modifies decision on Ohio school vouchers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal judge in Cleveland Aug. 27 temporarily reversed a decision he made three days earlier halting an Ohio school choice program that gives vouchers worth up to $2,500 to Cleveland students to attend private or parochial schools. In the new ruling, U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. said elementary students who participated in the program last year may receive vouchers this year for the first semester or until a trial set to begin Dec. 13 settles the constitutionality of the issue. However, some 587 students who were to join the program this fall will not get vouchers under Oliver's amended decision.

Nun in India receives Gandhi award for service to rural poor

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A 71-year-old Catholic nun has received an award for her service to the rural poor in a predominantly Christian state in northeastern India. Meghalaya state official W.R. Marak presented Immaculate Sister Julia Narayan Majaw with the Mahatma Gandhi Award, comprising a citation and a 100,000-rupee (US$2,300) prize, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Ex-senator urges graduates to keep learning throughout life

JOLIET, Ill. (CNS) — When Paul Simon gave up his seat in the U.S. Senate in favor of a modest office in the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in 1997, it was a matter of predictability. "Now I can tell my wife I'll be home for dinner," said the professor of political philosophy and journalism in an interview with the Catholic Explorer, Joliet diocesan newspaper. The 70-year-old lifelong Democrat took a break from the classroom Aug. 14 to give the keynote address highlighting commencement ceremonies at the University of St. Francis in Joliet.

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Pre-register by Sept. 24
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Timorese await autonomy vote result amid violent backdrop

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — The largely Catholic population of East Timor waited for the result of an Aug. 30 U.N.-sponsored ballot on autonomy amid a backdrop of ongoing violence.

On the day of the vote, an East Timorese working for the United Nations was stabbed and killed, the first U.N. worker to be killed in the violence leading up to the ballot.

Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning apostolic administrator of Dili, appealed Aug. 30 to both the pro- and anti-independence camps to work together for peace.

"My appeal to the leaders is that they are able to convince their bases to accept the verdict of the people and to lay down their arms and help make political compromise to ... work for peace and reconciliation," he said.

About 95 percent of eligible East Timorese were believed to have voted, including Timorese living abroad such as in the United States, Australia and Portugal. Voting was reported relatively peaceful, with heavily armed police standing guard along with unarmed U.N. police advisers at the 200 polling places in East Timor.

Results of the vote were not expected to be announced until a week afterward.

In a statement read at an Aug. 29 Mass in Dili, Bishop Belo had urged East Timorese to vote according to their conscience and to avoid violence. The bishop was out of town celebrating a Mass for peace in Suai, an area wracked by months of militia-led violence.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

East Timorese, holding voter registration papers, wait outside a polling station for the start of the U.N.-monitored vote on independence in Dili Aug. 30.

"Don't be afraid. Be brave and choose the future of East Timor," he said. "This generation will create history — and people all over the world will talk about us. They will talk about the brave warrior people and the brave hearted."

Bishop Belo had said he would stay with his people as the vote neared and violence escalated.

"The Vatican has entrusted the Catholics here to me, so I will never leave them, whatever the risk I face," he said.

On Aug. 23, he confirmed receiving a death threat which said in the Bahasa Indonesian language: "Be careful. For now your robe is white, but one day, it will be stained with your own blood."

Catechists and church workers were killed and attacked throughout the territory in the weeks leading to the vote.

U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern, D-Mass., after a weeklong mid-August fact-finding mission in East Timor, noted how many of those opposed to independence would "prefer that the bishop not be on the scene. The threats have to be taken seriously."

Despite the May 5 agreement calling for a vote on East Timor's status, militias in the region continue to operate "with impunity," McGovern said.

In the days leading up to the vote, some 200 East Timorese fleeing pro-Indonesian militias took refuge in a Don Bosco boys' school in a Dili suburb. In Balide, 50 women and children sought refuge at Salesian convent.

"They feel safer here than they do in their own homes," said a nun.

The militias forced more than 60,000 East Timorese from their homes shortly before the voting, the Vatican missionary news agency Fides reported Aug. 30. Refugees were said to be hiding in the countryside.

Fides said that at Oekusi, in the eastern part of the island, pro- and anti-independence armed groups clashed, injuring dozens and burning 40 homes.

Pope John Paul II prayed for peace in Indonesia and East Timor Aug. 25 at the end of his general audience.

Speaking about East Timor, he prayed "that all its inhabitants and all others involved in the events of that territory" work sincerely for reconciliation and help heal historical wounds "with mutual respect and love."

Indonesian President B.J. Habibie has said if the voters reject autonomy,

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Mexican church hopes Blessed Juan Diego will be canonized in 2000

By JIM HODGSON
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church leaders said they were confident that the man who witnessed the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 will be named a saint by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 2000.

During an Aug. 24 news conference that was followed by Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carerra of Mexico City said the canonization of Blessed Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin was "almost complete." The Vatican has made no official announcement of canonization.

The news conference was held to launch a book that documents the life of Blessed Juan Diego and his encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe. Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara and Archbishop Justo Mullor Garcia, papal nuncio to Mexico, were present with Cardinal Rivera.

During the Mass, the prelates were joined by the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy, Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, and by Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada, the retired archbishop of Mexico City. The Mass was frequently interrupted by applause from a large, enthusiastic congregation.

In his greeting, Colombian-born Cardinal Castrillon said what he learned about Blessed Juan Diego had touched his mind and his heart.

"In the universal church nobody can reasonably doubt that Blessed Juan Diego has been the emissary of Holy Mary, to make her known and loved, and through her, her divine son," he said.

Msgr. Oscar Sanchez Barba, the postulator of Juan Diego's cause in the canonization process, told reporters at the news conference that some members of the Mexican hierarchy continue to doubt that Blessed Juan Diego really existed.

He noted the controversy that erupted in 1996 when Abbot Guillermo Schulenburg, the basilica's abbot at the time, told reporters he did not believe in the Guadalupan apparitions or that Blessed Juan Diego ever existed. Soon afterward he resigned from the post he had held since 1963.

Cardinal Rivera said doubts about the existence of Blessed Juan Diego did not slow the canonization process, but led church officials to work more carefully to expose the truth about his encounter with Mary.

Mary is believed to have appeared to Juan Diego, an indigenous man, on three occasions in December 1531, 10 years after Spain's conquest of the Aztec empire.

Juan Diego was born in 1474 in Cuautitlan, a community northwest of what is now Mexico City. He was named Cuauhtlatoatzin, and when he was baptized by Franciscan missionaries in 1525, he received the Christian name Juan Diego.

Mary encountered him on a hill known as Tepeyac, on the north side of Mexico City. The hillside was associated with the worship of Tonantzin, a mother of gods in the Aztec religion.

Mary appeared as an Aztec princess and spoke in Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs still spoken by about 3 million people in central Mexico. She addressed Juan Diego with an honorific title and asked him to tell the bishop she wanted a church built on the site.

When the bishop asked Juan Diego for proof she had made this request, Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac. Mary told him to gather roses in his cloak and to take them to the bishop.

When Juan Diego returned to the bishop, he unrolled his cloak, which was emblazoned with the image of Mary, dressed as a dark-skinned Aztec princess, standing in front of the sun and on top of a crescent moon. The cloak now hangs behind the altar of the basilica.

The message was understood to be an affirmation of the indigenous people in the midst of their defeat and oppression, and was central in the church's evangelical effort.

Juan Diego died in 1548. He was beatified by Pope John Paul on May 6, 1990, during a visit to Mexico City. Mexican church leaders said they expect Juan Diego to be declared a saint on May 21, the day during the jubilee year they said the pope will dedicate to Mexico. ▼

Peace group says German bishops ignored church support of WWII

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — A German Catholic peace group has accused Germany's bishops of ignoring the church's support 60 years ago for the launch of World War II.

But a spokesman for Germany's bishops said that statements have already been made over the past 50 years by the church in Germany concerning the war and that another one was not needed now.

Joachim Garstecki, the group's general secretary, said that "the church's support of Adolf Hitler's war has been a blind spot for far too long."

The German branch of Pax Christi, the Belgian-based international peace movement, said in a late-August statement that its views were provoked by the German bishops' conference's "silence on the topic of the entanglement of our church in the Second World War."

Pax Christi's German branch had asked the bishops last November to make a clear declaration of church culpability in Adolf Hitler's attack on Poland in September 1939, which launched the war. The agency asked that this declaration be made before the 60th anniversary of the event.

Pax Christi said it regrets that the bishops have made no such statement.

"The Catholic Church in Germany, despite its decisive ideological opposition to national socialism, supported the German government (under Adolf Hitler) in its war," the group wrote.

Joachim Garstecki, the group's general secretary, said in an Aug. 27 telephone interview that "the church's support of Adolf Hitler's war has been a blind spot for far too long."

"Much discussion has been made of the Holocaust and the role church inaction played in that," he added. "But there has been no official admission that the Catholic Church was supportive of the invasion of Poland."

Rudolph Hammerschmidt, the German bishops' spokesman, told Catholic News Service that "Pax Christi is not taken very seriously around here."

"The documentation laid out by the church over the past half-century concerning the Second World War is available for all to see," he added. "Statements have already been made, and we find no reason to make another on this occasion."

In May 1995, the German bishops released a statement on the failure of the faithful and the church to stop the war and the Holocaust. The statement was timed to the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

The German bishops issued a joint statement with the Polish bishops' conference in December 1995 concerning individual abuses among Poles and Germans during and after the war. ▼

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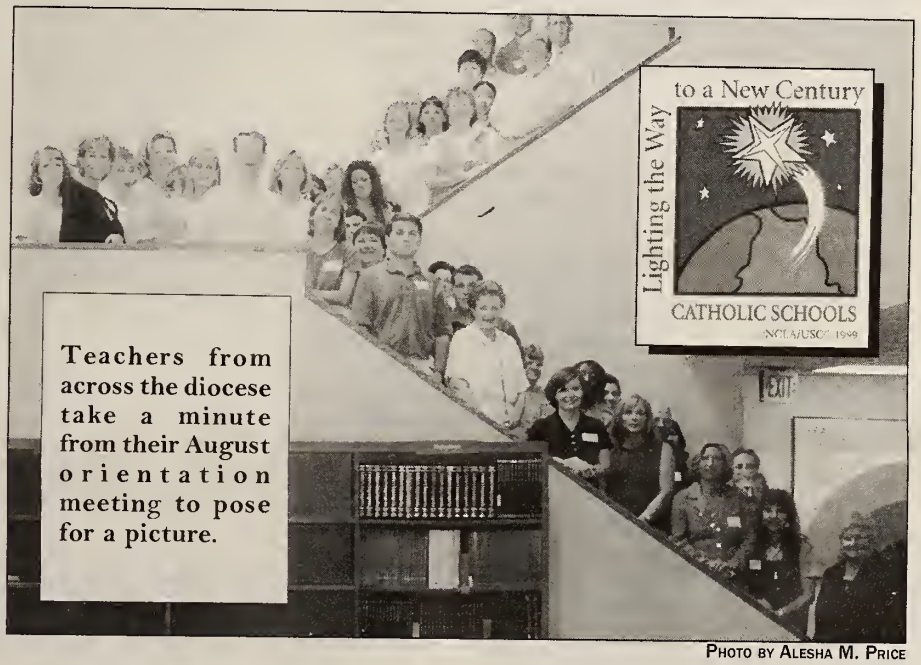
PHOTOS OF ASHEVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Making the grade

Diocesan schools apply for higher accreditation level



Teachers from across the diocese take a minute from their August orientation meeting to pose for a picture.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

By JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — On the cusp of the millennium, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte are taking the first steps towards a higher level of certification. Once completed, diocesan schools will enter the new century as part of the elite group of schools accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Regional accreditation is the means by which educational institutions regulate themselves through self-evaluation and peer evaluation. All diocesan schools must meet 114 established standards, in areas including curriculum, faculty, resources and services, buildings and grounds, and school improvements. The process is an opportunity for faculty to improve and enhance the learning process.

Monitoring the process are Superintendent Dr. Michael Skube, Assistant Superintendents of Schools Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert and Janice Ritter. While Sister Mona oversees adherence of certification for all teachers, Ritter has involvement in other levels required for certification.

For teachers, Sister Mona insures "everyone is teaching in the field in which they are certified." Concurrently, Ritter is the resource contact for schools as they go through "the process of writing their individual school plan."

That plan, says Ritter, includes "developing a profile of their school, describing the makeup of their school, defining or redefining their mission statement." From there, it is a process that calls each educational facility to take an introspective look at their individual school goals and objectives. "It reminds schools that they are working toward excellence," says Sister Mona. "The faculty has to make the plan; they are the ones to look at their needs and determine what and how to achieve their goals," Ritter added. "The faculty has a common mission."

Reviewing plans of action, SACS will determine eligibility. Each school stands alone for accreditation. And while each school determines its own plan, the Diocese of Charlotte injected two goals each educational facility must include: a spirituality goal and one for technology.

While the ultimate beneficiaries are students, accreditation further underscores each school's adherence to a quality of education synonymous with Catholic school education in the Diocese of Charlotte. "The benefits of accreditation are numerous," says Sister Mona. "For each school, this accreditation promotes the sharing of new ideas, innovative programs, and current trends in education, as well as enhancing professional expertise and judgement."

Fourteen of the 17 diocesan schools are involved in this critical self-evaluation. Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem, Charlotte Catholic High School, and St. Michael's School - kindergarten through 8th grade- in Gastonia have been SACS accredited for a number of years. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Statement of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students and Personnel

Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, mindful of their primary mission as effective instruments of the education ministry of the church, and witnesses to the love of Christ for all persons, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, national or ethnic origin in the employment of personnel and administration of the educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.

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St. Leo School, Winston-Salem
St. Michael School, Gastonia
St. Pius X School, Geensboro

Ritter wears new assistant superintendent title well

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Janice Ritter has been a part of almost every aspect of Catholic and public education, so it seems natural and logical for her next step to become the second assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Charlotte. Ritter comes to the recently created position with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent of schools, offered some thoughts on Ritter: "I felt that she best fit our job description. She is very professional and personable and open to new ideas. She will be working with in-services and staff development, and she already put out her first newsletter, which was well received. I am delighted to have her in this position."

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in fine arts and her master's degree in fine arts with a concentration in art education from the College of New Rochelle in New York, she jumped into teaching with both feet.

She was the art teacher for kindergarten through eighth grade and a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Blessed Sacrament Elementary School in New York for several years. During that time, she was the head teacher of three- and four-year-old children at the Child Study Center.

She moved to Charlotte in 1988 and began her life in the city with a job at Beverly Woods Elementary as a kindergarten-through-sixth grade art teacher.

At Sharon Elementary, she was a first-grade teacher and established a multi-age program. This would allow

SEE RITTER, PAGE 18

Please report to the principal's office

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Those were scary words during morning announcement time, but the Diocese of Charlotte schools have lined up principals who can possibly make that visit virtually stress-free one. Children are resisting, and parents are rejoicing because the bell has rung for the 1999-2000 school year. Students from four diocesan schools started the year with new supplies, uniforms, and principals.

"We are very fortunate that all four principals have been involved with Catholic schools in some way, either attending Catholic school or being involved with teaching or administrative positions. They will all do well in their new positions because they understand Catholic schools."

— Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools

Sharon Broxterman

"I love teaching and being around children. I thought at first that I would have to give that up if I became principal; however, I realized in order to be an effective principal, you have to remain in their [children's] presence," explained Broxterman, St. Gabriel's new principal in Charlotte.

Broxterman

This Ohio native moved to Charlotte in 1985 after teaching kindergarten through fourth in Kentucky. She received her undergraduate degree from Thomas Moore College in Kentucky and her master's of education from Northern Kentucky University.

During her first years in Charlotte, Broxterman taught fourth grade at St. Ann's and All Saints in Charlotte. While she was teaching at All Saints, she was asked to fill the position of assistant principal in addition to her classroom work. She had double duty until the student population grew larger, then she concentrated on the role of assistant principal singularly.

She simultaneously worked at All Saints and attended Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., to obtain certification in administrative supervision. Her religious background includes certification in religious instruction and the position of religious coordinator at All Saints.

Involvement with Catholic education is a family affair with two daughters who have been teachers in the MACS system and one currently teaching at Our Lady of the Assumption.

Broxterman describes herself as a hands-on principal who loves being in the classroom to see how kids learn, and she hopes that she can help the teachers do a better job.

William Meehan

Family brought Meehan to Charlotte. Immaculata's newest face in Hendersonville is originally from Massachusetts and lived in Midwestern states while working as an elementary school principal for over 20 years in various schools.

Meehan

While serving as principal and development director of an elementary school in Iowa for nearly nine years, he decided to leave that position when, through a series of events, the school was no longer affiliated with the Catholic Church. With a daughter in Tryon, N.C., and a sister in S.C., he figured that Charlotte would be a nice place for him to move.

"I liked what I saw when I came down here, so I decided to stay," said Meehan.

Before working in Iowa, this military man earned his bachelor's in political science and his master's of education from two Massachusetts schools: American International College and State College at Westfield. He also has certification in administrative positions from various states and has been the principal of six different schools throughout the Midwest.

For 10 hectic years from 1978-1987, Meehan was the co-superintendent and principal and director of curriculum for an Illinois elementary school.

What causes a man to be so dedicated to Catholic school education? Meehan cites his aunt who was a nun and taught college.

"I was impressed by her involvement and that inspired me to teach and eventually to become a principal," he said.

What Meehan likes most about being a principal is the opportunity and the ability to allocate necessary resources and being able to make a difference and a contribution to education.

Angela Montague

Montague has always had the inclination to become a principal but never pursued her dream until she became certified in school administration.

Montague

"Being a teacher and a principal are similar because of the constant contact with students and other teachers, but the job of principal is a more global position because the decisions affect everyone in the school," said Montague, recently named as principal of St. Patrick in Charlotte.

Originally from New Jersey, she and her family have been living in Charlotte for 14 years after her husband received a job transfer. Since then, she has obtained her N.C. licenses in K-12 counseling and K-12 school administration. Prior to that, Montague earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Rutgers University and a master's degree in education from UNCC.

She has 11 years in the education system with six years experience as a

See PRINCIPALS, page 18

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Triad schools plan on track

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Several months have passed since Bishop William G. Curlin announced plans to build three new schools in the Triad region.

In keeping with the initial plan, the first phase of the Triad schools plan still calls for a new, centrally located Bishop McGuinness High School.

During the past few months, the site selection committee has spent many hours studying several centrally located sites. As the committee wraps up location recommendations, the specific high school site announcement by Bishop Curlin is anticipated in late October.

In a recent letter to members of the Diocese of Charlotte residing in the Triad, Bishop William G. Curlin recently wrote: "Building a new Catholic high school for the Triad is vitally important to all of us. A new campus with expanded facilities, which offers program breadth and state of the art learning opportunities can best accomplish the vital mission of Bishop McGuinness High School in the new century ahead."

Punctuating the need for a new Bishop McGuinness High School was further evidenced during a recent accreditation evaluation visit by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Programs and personnel received high marks, while it was noted the program and population had outgrown the practical limitations of the building.

"A quality high school education — particularly a Christ-centered Catholic education, which educates the whole person — is more than buildings, classrooms and hallways or campus facilities. The goal of a Bishop McGuinness education is to educate students to become effective leaders in their church and community."

"Traditionally," said Bishop Curlin, "a Catholic education has been an important part of the lives of many of our children ... many [among] you have received the special benefits of a Catholic education. We owe very much to those who provided that opportunity to us. Now it is our time." ▼

"A quality high school education — particularly a Christ-centered Catholic education, which educates the whole person — is more than buildings, classrooms and hallways or campus facilities."

— Bishop William G. Curlin

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Shaping the Future

DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
Superintendent of Schools

Our Catholic schools are committed to shaping the future by helping parents in the religious and moral formation of their children. The schools also offer a rigorous curriculum with students held to a high standard of achievement. A basis for this environment is an emphasis placed on external discipline which attempts to foster acceptance of responsibility for actions.

As our principals, teachers and support staff work with students in religious formation, academic excellence and self-discipline, planning for the future is critical.

To provide the opportunity for parents to send their children to Catholic schools, plans were announced last school year for the building of additional facilities in the Triad area. These plans include a new facility for Bishop McGuinnes Memorial High School followed by an elementary school in the Greensboro area and an elementary school in the Winston-Salem area.

The Charlotte schools are entering into a long range planning process in order to clarify directions for the years to come. The plan will focus on several objectives including: identify whether new schools are needed, where they should be located, and when they should be opened.

As future plans for all of our schools develop, the plans will be integrated into the strategic plan which is being developed for all ministries of the diocese. Helpful in this type of planning is the decision by our schools to become accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). With a principal concern of improving educational quality, our schools must meet 114 established standards, in areas including curriculum, faculty, resources and services, building and grounds, and school improvement. This process will ensure accountability through an ongoing process of evaluation based on standards of quality.

To lead the parents, teachers, and students in shaping the future, we welcome four new principals this year: Sharon Broxterman (St. Gabriel), Angela Montague (St. Patrick), Celeste Usischon (St. Pius X), and William Meehan (Immaculata).

For over 200 years, Catholic schools have been an effective means of helping youth grow in their faith. As our schools face the many challenges ahead, they will continue to have a profound impact on the Catholic Church and the American nation.

Good luck in the new school year!
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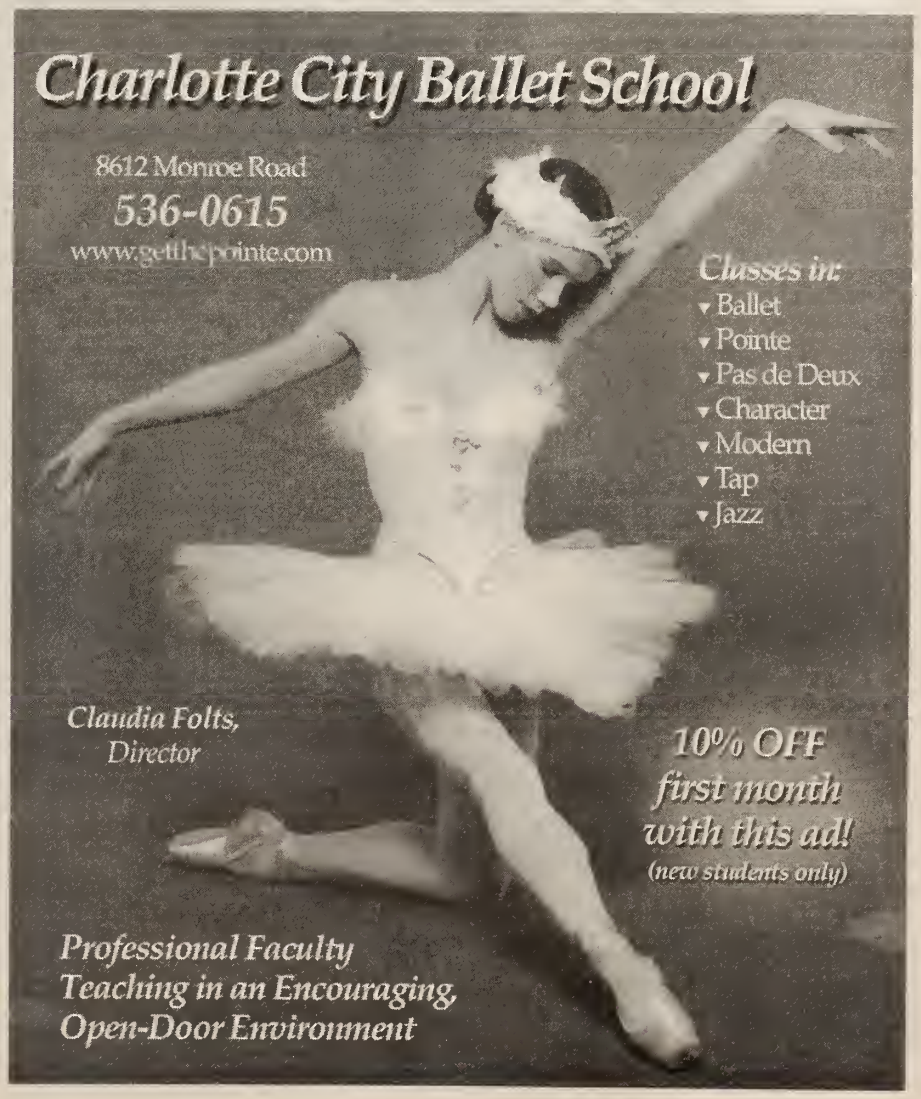

Endowment helps students, commemorates beloved principal

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — A select few children whose parents would normally have to struggle financially will benefit because of the Francis J. McGrail Endowment Fund at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This endowment, established two years ago, comes out of the tragic 1998 death of the former principal, Frank McGrail, who served for 10 years at the school, and helps students in good academic standing in grades five through eight in the form of one to two $500 scholarships. A committee of the current principal, three middle school teachers, and other key administrative people determine which student or students will receive the scholarship for the school year.

"This is definitely an appropriate way to memorialize Frank," said former Home School Association president Diane Jakubsen. "He served children and recognizing the academic excellence of students was important to him." Jakubsen was president from 1997 to spring 1999.

Retired Army Col. McGrail was hired in 1987 as the principal, and many believe him to be the main force behind positive change at the school. His absence was greatly and widely felt after he passed away.

Laura Goldston, who was the chair of the 1998 auction committee and the one of the core group who created the idea for an endowment, sadly recollected about the time after his death: "It [his death] was a big shock and loss for the school. It was a hard time, but the two assistant principals and teachers continued to keep up the quality of education that he implemented. He was instrumental in reviving the school and improving academics."

The student body and faculty not only lost a principal, but also a man who was loved by all in many ways.

"He knew every child's name and at least one important detail about their lives. They were his primary concern, which is hard to do with parents and teachers also in the picture. I respected him for his dedication to the kids," warmly continued Jakubsen.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, said that "he was very spiritual and brought that to his work. He was a dynamic leader and did a marvelous job. As a principal, he was a people-person and beloved by teachers, parents, and staff. He was a motivator and encouraged his students to do their best.

There needed to be a way that he would be remembered for years.

"An endowment in the diocesan foundation is a wonderful way to remember a loved one and to ensure their values are carried into the future. Currently, we have 57 endowments in the foundation and dozens of individuals have included endowment gifts in their estate plans," said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development.

After Goldston and others spoke with the school board, they decided that an endowment would be best because it would always be in place and would grow over the years. The annual auction committee that raised funds for the school and the church decided to donate $10,000 from the June 1998 auction, and that started off the donations. Everyone began sending in money for the fund as a form of tribute to his or her principal.

"The Frances J. McGrail Endowment Fund was established with donations to the school in his name. It will perpetuate Frank's wish to give as many children as possible the chance to be a part of the school. I hope it will continue to grow so that his legacy will live on," said Paula Robinson, McGrail's administrative assistant for 10 years at the school.

Gail McGrail, Frank's widow, feels that her husband "would be very happy and enthused to have a scholarship in his name.... His high standards, the absolute confidence he gave each student that enabled them to achieve their best and his love of God will be remembered each year as this scholarship is presented. His education was made possible through scholarships. If Frank had chosen a way he would have liked to have been remembered, this would be one way." ▼

Contact Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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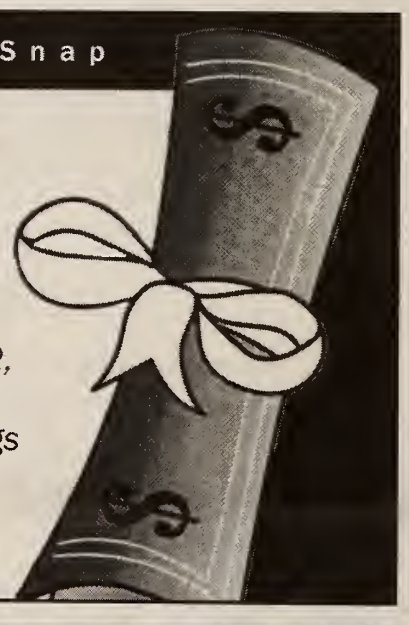
Source: The Naitonal Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 1999.



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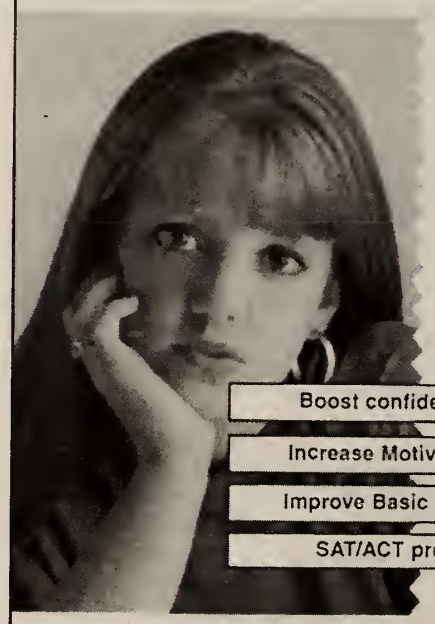

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Book Review

"Letters from Yellowstone" tells story of pioneer family

REVIEWED BY JULIE ASHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A couple of years ago a historian spoke at the National Postal Museum in Washington about a pioneer family that traveled from the East to settle in Oregon.

The historian shared the family's story by reading letters written by the mother to a married daughter who had stayed behind. Her letters captured all the drama of a trying journey westward and the details of their new life. It was an absorbing tale, and using letters to tell it was fascinating.

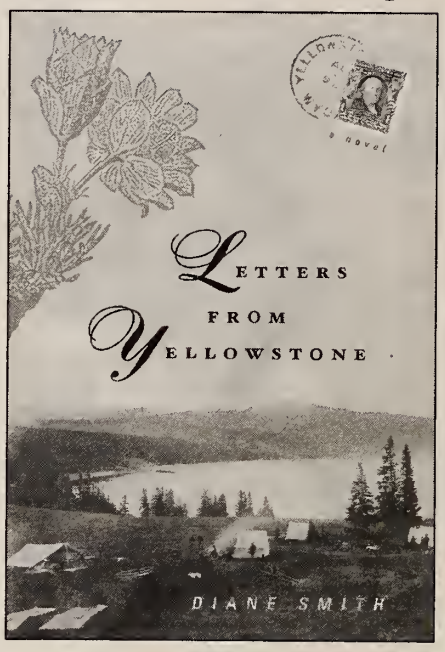
Now comes along a brightly written novel, "Letters from Yellowstone," by Diane Smith. She uses letters to tell the story of a band of researchers who spend May through September of 1898 in Yellowstone National Park.

In correspondence to family, friends and colleagues back home, the main characters discuss their feelings, talk about the group's members, describe life in the park, and share the joys of their discoveries as well as their frustrations.

The book's first letter is from A.E. Bartram, a medical student at Cornell University who really prefers botany. After hearing a campus lecture about a planned field study to find and record flora in Yellowstone, Bartram writes to the study's leader, Professor Howard Merriam, at an agricultural college in Bozeman, Mont., asking to join the group.

Merriam welcomes the interest of such an eager student, replying to Bartram in the affirmative. Arrangements are made, Bartram travels West and hooks up with the professor, who is shocked to find the student is a woman — Alexandria Bartram, Alex for short.

In letters to his mother, Merriam expresses his concerns over taking a woman along, but Bartram is an enthusiastic, independent, strong-willed female in a man's world who brings a breath of fresh air to the group.



"Letters from Yellowstone"
By Diane Smith
Viking (New York, 1999)
226 pp., $24.95.

Her presence also adds an element of tension to the group, which includes a Chinese cook, a reclusive entomologist, another professor who has a fondness for alcohol and takes a wild raven as a pet, two roguish ranch hands, a mountain man and his dog, and a Crow Indian and his family, who set up camp near the research group.

By 1898, 26 years after the park was formally established, Yellowstone was bustling with activity — from tourists, hunters, promoters and developers, and of course, scientists. There were a few hotels, stagecoach rides and other diversions, including a steamboat tour on Yellowstone Lake. And there was talk of running the railroad through the park.

Smith's characters successfully

SEE YELLOWSTONE, PAGE 19

Word to Life

September 5, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Ezekiel 33:7-9
   Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) Romans 13:8-10
3) Matthew 18:15-20

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It was the last night of our parish mission, and the visiting priest was talking about forgiveness. He offered an image: that we were like birds, made to fly, but if we had unforgiveness in our hearts we were chained to a perch. Yes, we could stretch our wings, even fly a couple of feet into the air, but the chain kept us bound to that perch.

"Forgive," the priest urged us. "Cut the chain of unforgiveness, and you will soar high and free."He then invited all of us to file to the front of the church where a priest would be waiting and to say to him: "I forgive ..."

I knelt in the pew searching my heart. There seemed to be no one in my life toward whom I harbored unforgiveness. Things were good in my marriage, I was at peace with the rest of my family, my friends and co-workers.

As I continued to kneel there I suddenly was overwhelmed by powerful emotions and memories. I broke out in a sweat, and tears choked me as I remembered my World War II childhood: the day news came that my favorite uncle had been executed in a concentration camp for listening to the BBC; the letter from Poland that told of my godfather's death and of how disfigured he was by brutal beatings so that even his own brother did not recognize him. Painful, bitter memories crowded in upon me.

I stood up and joined the procession moving to the front of the church. Then it was my turn to stand before the priest. He held out his hands, and I grasped them.

"I forgive the Germans," I said. Then I moved away and returned to my pew, spent, but calm.

Many of us know that forgiving another is a gift that — by God's grace — we give ourselves. Harboring unforgiveness keeps us from flying free and corrodes our spirit. But Jesus says more. Much more.

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Do we really believe that? To whom would it matter that a middle-aged woman in Texas forgave "the Germans"? To the commandant of Sachsenhausen concentration camp? Is he still alive, and does he even remember my uncle's execution? What would my forgiveness matter to the guards who so savagely beat Uncle Bruno?

The very questions seem preposterous. And yet, and yet....

Jesus takes a radically different stance. It matters greatly. Jesus says you and I have the power to bind and loose in eternity, and God honors how we exercise that power.

It would seem that God respects our choices and dignity much more than we do ourselves. That is truly an awesome thought. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 5 - 11, 1999

Sunday, Ezekiel 33:7-9, Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 18:15-20; **Monday**, Colossians 1:24-2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday**, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday**, Micah 5:1-4, Matthew 1:1-16; **Thursday**, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday**, 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14, Luke 6:39-42; **Saturday**, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 6:43-49

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Jubilee year ceremonies to be made available to U.S. TV

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nine Vatican events planned to celebrate the jubilee year 2000 will be available in whole or in part to U.S. broadcasters.

In past years, the events have been shown on U.S. television by either the EWTN or Odyssey cable channels, or both.

Ceremonies to be available to U.S. television are:

— Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1999, opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, presided over by the pope.

— Midnight Mass of Christmas, celebrated by the pope.

— Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1999, the pope's Christmas message and "urbi et orbi" ("to the city and to the world") blessing.

— New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 1999, prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica for the transition to the year 2000.

— Jan. 18, 2000, opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls and an ecumenical service to begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This may be switched to the Jan. 25 ecumenical service to close the Christian unity week, depending on which one involves the pope's participation.

— Good Friday, April 21, 2000, solemn Way of the Cross at the Colosseum, presided over by the pope.

— Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000, Mass celebrated by the pope in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

— Easter greeting and "urbi et orbi" blessing by the pope.

— May 18, 2000, Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II on his 80th birthday in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

An additional ceremony also may be available to broadcasters. It involves a March 20, 2000, liturgical celebration in the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, Israel, with TV linkups to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome and principal Marian shrines around the world. ▼

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"A Dog of Flanders" produces lovely setting, colorful characters

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — An orphaned boy in a 19th-century Flemish village struggles to be an artist in the engrossing tale, "A Dog of Flanders" (Warner Bros.).

This is the story of little Nello (Jeremy James Kissner) whose poor but good-hearted grandfather (Jack Warden) raises him with stories of his dead mother and a sketchbook of drawings she wanted her son to have.

As he grows into a teen (Jesse James), Nello wants to become an artist like his mother and in this he gets encouragement from a local painter (Jon Voight) who is drawn to the lad for reasons that become clear later.

Nello's closest friend is the miller's daughter but when the man's warehouse burns down, Nello is accused of starting it.

Disgraced in the eyes of the community, Nello's only hope is winning the prize money in an art contest but he loses unfairly and despairs.

At this moment, the boy's dog, whom he had rescued from an abusive master, comes to the fore by finding the pocketbook the miller had lost in the snow.

After returning it, Nello wanders off into the storm, reaches the cathedral as the midnight Mass of Christmas ends and slips in as the congregation leaves.

He unveils the Rubens' painting of Christ being taken down from the cross and examines it with light of a candle in the freezing crypt.

But as the candle burns itself out before morning, so too Nello's life seems to flicker out as he sees Rubens and his dead mother and grandfather.

When the villagers locate him in the morning, they don't realize the miracle of his having survived the night.

Adapted from the 1872 Ouida novel by director Kevin Brodie, the Flemish setting is lovely and the characters are colorful.

Brodie explores the poor lad's problems and prospects with some sensitivity, though young children are likely to find the story somewhat shaky, especially the boy's keen sense of the loss of his mother and yearning for his unknown father.

Most youngsters will enjoy the movie, though some are likely to find parts of it challenging.

Because of stylized violence, some intense menace, an implied sexual encounter and a few curse words, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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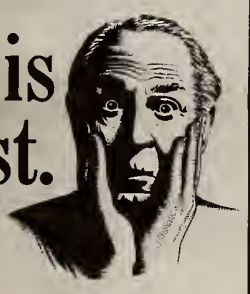

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Pope says church teaching on marriage urgent amid social change

CASTEL GANDOLFO (CNS) — Recent social changes have made it all the more important to insist on church teachings about marriage and the family, Pope John Paul II said.

The "secularist mentality" that has questioned "truths about the person, matrimony and the family," has become "in a certain sense more radical" since the early 1980s, the pontiff said.

Pope John Paul made his remarks to a gathering of academicians at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo. The Pope John Paul Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family had spent five days discussing various legal, moral and theological issues; the papal audience closed the meeting.

Noting that the institute was founded 18 years ago, the pope complimented its "praiseworthy service." But he also said efforts needed to be redoubled to counteract social trends which have arisen in the past 18 years.

Pope John Paul said individual moral norms are not in themselves the issue anymore. Instead, he said, the basic "image of a man or woman itself" faces opposition from an "alternative anthropology."

"This (anthropology) refutes the fact, inscribed in corporeal reality, that the difference between the sexes (creates) identifying characteristics for the person," the pope said. "As a consequence, the concept of a family founded on indissoluble matrimony between a man and a woman is placed in crisis."

Pope John Paul noted that basic church teaching concerning sexual relations has not changed.

"In reality," he said, "the sexual connotation of corporeal reality is an integral part of the original divine plan, in which man and woman were created in the image of God and are called to realize a community of persons."

Pope John Paul said parenthood is a vocation which is "to be lived as a singular responsibility before God" in which children are "welcomed as gifts."

To have sexual relations without the possibility of creating new life is an assault on "the unique personal dignity of the child," the pope added.

"In effect," he said, "only when the essential characteristics of the conjugal act are respected ... is the persona of the child respected at the same time, and his origination from God, the source of every gift, is manifested."

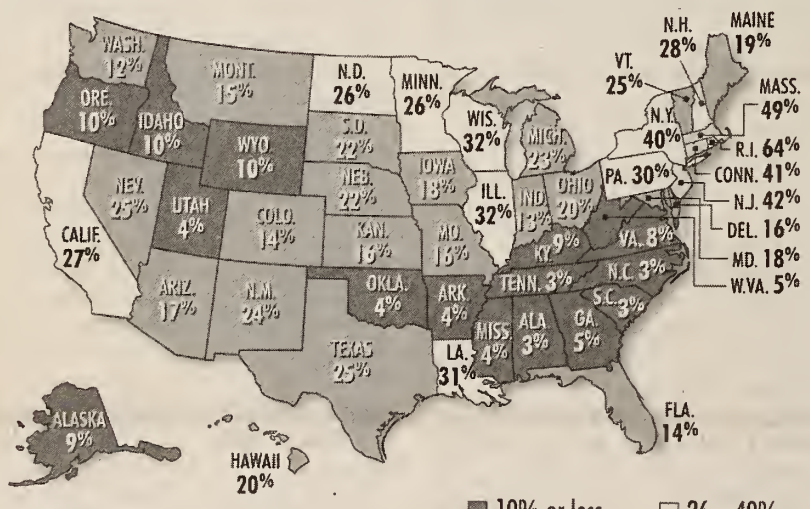
Likewise, Pope John Paul added, the manipulation of human genetic material for procreation "leads to the negation of limits and the vocation present in corporeal reality, and misconstruing of one's own being as a gift which comes from God."

The church must continue to make known its teachings in these areas, "with renewed effort at the start of the third millennium" so that God's plan for humanity may be more profoundly understood, the pope said.

"The Christian response to the failings of individualistic and collective anthropology" requires adherence to original teachings, Pope John Paul said, adding, "reflection on the person, on matrimony and on the family ultimately must be integral with the social doctrine of the church, with an aim toward becoming one of its most solid roots." ▼

Catholic Population by State

Percent of Catholics varies widely from state to state with the largest concentration, 64 percent, in Rhode Island and lowest, 3.2 percent, in Tennessee.



Source: CARA Report from The Official Catholic Directory
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East Timor Vote, from page 7

Indonesia would consider granting the territory independence.

Portugal had controlled Indonesia for 400 years but abruptly left in 1975. Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it in 1976, although that annexation has not been recognized by the Vatican or the United Nations. A vast majority of East Timor's 800,000 people are Catholics. About a quarter of the population has died from fighting, starvation and disease under Indonesian rule. ▼

Contributing to this roundup was William T. Clew in Worcester, Mass., and Stephen Steele in New York.

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Court-ordered late-term abortion for 14-year-old prompts outrage

By CAROL RENNEN
Catholic News Service

PHOENIX (CNS) — Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix has expressed outrage over a recent decision by a Maricopa County Superior Count judge ordering child welfare officials to take a 14-year-old girl across state lines for a late-term abortion. But he is also offering the church's resources to help the girl.

"I want to express my horror and outrage at the situation reported in the Arizona media in which Judge William Sargeant has ordered Child Protective Services to transport a 14-year-old girl out of the state to undergo an abortion, perhaps even a partial-birth abortion, of her nearly 7-month-old unborn baby," Bishop O'Brien said in a statement released Aug. 25.

He urged Arizona Gov. Jane Hull and other Arizona leaders to appeal Sargeant's ruling "and take a stand in support of the life and well-being of the young mother and her unborn child."

Hull, however, maintains that the girl chose the abortion and that it is in the girl's best interest.

Published reports on Aug. 27 said the judge was reconsidering whether the girl was competent to decide for herself to have the abortion.

The girl, who was reported to be 23 weeks pregnant, may be as far along as 27 weeks, according to Arizona Right to Life President John Jakubczyk. A source close to the girl, whom Jakubczyk said appears to be reliable but does not want to be named, claims that ultrasound photos of the baby show the girl was actually 27 weeks pregnant.

Jakubczyk said the girl and her court-appointed advocate requested an abortion when she was 14 weeks along, but she ran away and was not found until a few weeks ago. The court is asking for the abortion under the context of "rape," which qualifies the girl for a federally funded abortion.

It is not known, however, if she was actually raped or if the state is considering it statutory rape due to the girl's age. No rape charges have been filed in the case.

The court reportedly ordered the girl be taken out of Arizona for the abortion because she is more than 20 weeks pregnant. Arizona law does not specifically prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, but the law does place restrictions if the fetus is viable — able to survive on its own outside the mother's womb.

Arizona Statute 36-2301.01 states that an abortion can only be performed after viability if the mother's life or health is in immediate danger.

The law says a fetus is viable if "there is a reasonable probability of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus, with or without artificial support."

No medical records have been released in the case, but Jakubczyk said he believes the baby to be viable. He said Arizona Right to Life believes the girl should be placed in a maternity home or shelter and provided assistance to care for her baby.

Bishop O'Brien is offering such assistance through local church agencies. "My heart goes out to the young mother, and I am heartened by the many members of the public who have expressed a desire to adopt and raise this child if she is unable to do so. I also commit the resources of the Catholic Church in Phoenix to offer care and support to this young mother and her child."

A prayer vigil was held at the Arizona Capitol Aug. 25 to urge Hull to step in and stop the abortion. Bishop O'Brien was among the estimated 150 people at the vigil and offered a short prayer.

"I consider this ruling to be the latest in an unfortunate series of decisions, beginning with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision, that virtually legalized abortion on demand," the bishop said in his statement. "These decisions have dealt with the abortion issue in ways that are contrary to the moral and democratic principals of our nation."

Msgr. Edward Ryle, director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, said the entire situation is a difficult one. "I hope this young girl received quality social services, but tragically, sometimes the best of social services are not successful," he said. "Our prayers are with the young girl, and I hope that whether the abortion takes place or not, she receives first-class service in the future."

Msgr. Ryle also expressed disappointment that the media did not give similar attention to Bishop O'Brien's Good Friday comments opposing the death penalty.

He said the church is often portrayed as only speaking out against abortion, when in fact the church supports a consistent ethic of life that includes efforts against abortions as well as the death penalty and euthanasia. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Nun kisses grave of Mother Teresa
A Missionary of Charity kisses the grave of Mother Teresa at the order's motherhouse in Calcutta Aug. 26, the anniversary of Mother Teresa's birth. The founder of the Missionaries of Charity was born in 1910. She died in Calcutta in September 1997.

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Manley, from page 1

ball rolling for Father Manley, who was sent to St. Patrick Cathedral, St. William Church in Murphy, and St. Francis of Assisi in Mocksville before he retired.

Currently, he is the representative for retired priests on the Presbyteral Council and serves on the Priests' Personnel Committee.

His third-floor apartment in Asheville is filled with his woodcarvings and his wife's ceramic models. His collection of model fire engines and gas station pumps are prominently displayed on shelves in his living room. Flowers and plants line his balcony and fill the corner outside his door. His latest projects are awaiting his expertise in one of the bedrooms converted into a woodshop.

"I give the church 10 percent of the money spent on my hobby supplies. We are supposed to tithe 10 percent of our earnings, but I can't do that. So, I give because I don't want to feel selfish, and my conscious is a little clearer," said Father Manley.

"It takes money for retirement especially in these times," said Father Manley. "The priests' retirement fund should be promoted and advertised more by each church, and the churches should have retirement information available for their parishes." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Ritter, from page 9

children to have the same teachers during different grades, kindergarten through third grade thereby placing children where they needed to be academically and keeping some amount of structure during those grades.

She then held administrative positions at Irwin Avenue Open Elementary as an assistant principal and as principal of St. Patrick Elementary in Charlotte since 1997.

During her stint as principal of St. Patrick's, the position of another assistant superintendent of schools came to be.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, explained how that position was developed: "A person from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. did a report concerning MACS schools and the use of personnel throughout the diocese. The new position came from her recommendation with the idea being that a new assistant superintendent would help out with issues like regional systems like MACS and the schools in the Triad."

Ritter thought the position would be "a chance to grow professionally because it is important that one strives to learn new things. This would be a chance for me to bring my skills to the job and learn at the same time."

It is also significant for Ritter because she has a son who is a senior at Charlotte Catholic High, and her work will directly and indirectly affect him and other students throughout the diocese.

She says that the biggest challenge will be helping the teachers with the new state license procedures and making sure the guidelines of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are maintained.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Principals, from page 10

K-8 school counselor. Starting in the 1992-93 school year, she was the dean of students at Holy Trinity in Charlotte for four years.

"Being dean was a wonderful experience for me because the middle school was new to MACS at the time, and I had the opportunity to start from the ground up with the school," said Montague.

During that time, she was also the brainchild of the MACS Crisis Plan, which is in place at every school in the diocese. It serves as a guide and documented procedure for any conflicts or problems that might arise while school is in session.

Montague stressed that "education is important because you can see growth and development of children who are a vital part of society today."

Celeste Usischon

Sean Usischon, a sixth grader at St. Pius X in Greensboro, has the unique and somewhat nerve-testing opportunity to have his mother as the new principal at his school this year.

Usischon

Originally from New York, family also led Usischon and her family to Greensboro seven years ago. Her parents had retired to the city, so she thought "there would be a better quality of life in which to raise her son."

Usischon has been in the field of parochial education for 18 years in several capacities: three years with Catholic Charities in New York as the educational director of child care, eight years as a kindergarten and two to three years as a fifth-grade teacher, and two years as the assistant director of a child care center at a hospital.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from St. Joseph College in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a master of education degree in education from Fordham University at Lincoln Center in N.Y.

After moving to Greensboro, from 1994, she worked at St. Pius X as a first grade teacher and as the religious education coordinator. When the former principal decided to take a sabbatical, she approached Usischon with the idea of taking her place.

"I decided that it would be an honor and a pleasure to represent the school. It offers a challenge, and in a career such as education, it's good to make changes in order to grow," said Usischon.

She added, "St. Pius X offers education to students in neighboring parishes like Our Lady of Grace and St. Paul the Apostle."

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, said, "We are very fortunate that all four principals have been involved with Catholic schools in some way, either attending Catholic school or being involved with teaching or administrative positions. They will all do well in their new positions because they understand Catholic schools." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

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Priest uses environmental-friendly vehicle for parish work

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

DURHAM — The final week of July saw temperatures in most of North Carolina hover around the 100 degree mark. Combined with other atmospheric factors, the air felt more like a life-sized kiln than a warm Carolina summer.

With the stagnant air came ozone warnings, something the air quality experts use to alert the more vulnerable among us the very young, very old and those with respiratory problems to the dangers that exist. Part of what contributes to the problems on such hot days is emissions from automobiles.

While all this was going on, Franciscan Father Patrick Tuttle said he was driving "guilt free" on his daily rounds. The reason was his newly-acquired electric-powered Chevrolet S-10 pick up.

While limited in its range (a total of 60 miles on a charge), the truck is capable of doing anything asked of it, including perform admirably under highway conditions. Father Tuttle explained the engine offered the equivalent power of a traditional V-8.

Immaculate Conception Church decided to go with an electric vehicle after Father Tuttle saw a demonstration at the North Carolina State Fair. Father Tuttle said it was a natural decision for the three friars because of call from their province for "justice, peace and the integrity of the environment."

Father Tuttle said "these kind of moves are going to be made by a lot of people ... recycling, real serious preaching about our relationship to the earth, alternative vehicles and alternative forms of home heating and air conditioning."

While the technology that will allow for a more harmonious interaction with the earth may be new, the teaching is not. "Francis of Assisi believed that all creation was the imprint of the Creator. In creation you could see the Creator.

"It's not pantheism, that creation is the Creator but ... that the Creator can be seen in his works," said Father Tuttle. "You have here a real serious attempt at being in a responsible relationship to God's gift. It is simply a smarter use of energy."

While the range of the vehicle is perhaps the greatest issue to be dealt with, there are new developments that could change that. Father Tuttle said new batteries are being marketed that will dramatically increase the number of miles the vehicle can travel between charges.

Photo by Matt Doyle, NC Catholic

Franciscan Father Patrick Tuttle shows off his electric-powered pick-up truck.

When Father Tuttle first encountered the demonstrations for alternative fuels, he said he was interested but put off by the cost. After learning about the available of grant money, he decided to pursue the idea.

Father Tuttle secured a $20,000 grant from the North Carolina Division of Air Quality. He said that covered a big down payment on the truck and two charging stations.

Now, the lease payment is about the same as the vehicle it replaced and the overall operating costs have been cut in half. Some of the more practical matters that must be kept in mind are the length of time need for charging the vehicle (three to four hours for a full charge) and the need to be vigilant about miles driven.

Father Tuttle explained that most of the time the vehicle is not receiving a full charge. As usage of the vehicles increases, he said there will be charging stations in public places that will allow curbside charges while drivers are going about their business.

On the road, the vehicle performs like any of its gasoline-powered cousins. Despite the eerie silence that comes from the absence of an internal combustion engine and the simple "on/off" ignition system, anyone operating the pick up would feel right at home.

Father Tuttle is willing to supply information to anyone who is interested. He can be reached via e-mail: friarpriest@earthlink.net. ▼

Yellowstone, from page 14

capture all these sights and sounds in their letters, including the hoopla of a park celebration of Independence Day. The correspondence also captures the researchers' work and the general ups and downs of field study, and how such a diverse group of people becomes a family of sorts.

A few of the letters bog down with details of taking samples of plants, identifying and storing them, and one surprising thing about the principal characters, namely Merriam and Bartram, is that being surrounded by so much natural beauty does not spark any reflection about God's creation, but then they emphasize they are scientists. In one letter Bartram, says "The natural world is my religion."

But these are small points. Smith's slice of life of a group working and living amid the magic and beauty of Yellowstone, dubbed "Wonderland" in those years, is an enjoyable read. ▼

Asher is national editor at Catholic News Service.

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For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

Vatican II sparks discussion at St. Francis

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

FRANKLIN — Some 34 years after the Second Vatican Council closed, many Catholics are still wondering what it was all about. Why did the church need a council? What were the reasons for all those changes?

Parishioners at St. Francis Church in Franklin got some answers during a program on Aug. 14. The Saturday-long program centered around "The Faithful Revolution: Vatican II," a series of five video tapes that looks at the history Vatican II and what has happened in the Catholic Church since the council closed.

"The tapes are good; they have such incredible information," said Sharon Edwards, who with Ron Brahmer is coordinator of faith formation at St. Francis.

Edwards saw the video series at a diocesan faith formation conference several years ago and borrowed it from Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands.

"Actually, [our program] started out as a voice of many questions: Why did we need changes in the Mass? What about birth control? Why has worship changed?" she said.

She wanted to show the series, she said, "so that people can engage in all the beauty of what the council did for us."

"The tapes give a highlight of just about everything," she added. "I would love to pull (the part about) liturgy out of this right now, and do a whole seminar on liturgy, for people to love where the church is right now. I'm just so proud of the church today."

The five tapes are "Genius of the Heart," "Inspired Awakening," "Human Dignity," "A World Transformed," and "Dynamics of Hope."

> "Can you imagine the faith it required to be a black Catholic in the South in those times of turmoil and then this 77-year-old man (Pope John XXIII) lit up the world like a candle, and the hope that had been given to them."
> — *Ken Brahmer*

After viewing each tape, the 16 parishioners attending the program broke into two groups to discuss what they had seen.

Joanne Kramer said she appreciated "Genius of the Heart," which delves into the origins of Vatican II, because she hadn't understood the reasons for the council or the resulting changes.

"It wasn't really explained to us back then," she said.

"I remember being so caught up in the rules and regulations that you lost what you were there for," Evie Barrett said of the preconciliar church.

Ron Brahmer agreed, remembering a nun who used a clicker to prompt his classmates to stand up and sit down during Mass.

"Looking back," he said, "you could train a monkey to do that."

However, the group recognized how difficult it is for some people to change.

"I remember my father resented having Communion in the hand and not having Latin," Mary O'Malley said.

Brahmer saw a connection between the Israelites spending 40 years in the desert for "to weed out those who weren't going to change, and they say it will take 40 or 50 years for [Vatican II] to take hold," he said.

In addition to showing church rituals, which people agreed should be preserved, the tapes also document the turmoil going on in and outside the United States in the 1970s. The tapes showed how Vatican II awakened Catholics to protest the Vietnam War and social injustice such as racial bigotry and political oppression in Latin America. People remembered when African-Americans had to sit in the backs of Catholic churches in the South.

"Can you imagine the faith it required to be a black Catholic in the South in those times of turmoil," Ken Brahmer, Ron's brother, marveled, "and then this 77-year-old man (Pope John XXIII) lit up the world like a candle, and the hope that had been given to them."

"It's amazing how Vatican II is equated with social change," Juok Choi said.

"I thought that was a powerful statement that until religions can get along we won't get along," someone remarked during one discussion period.

Ken Brahmer, who had been away from the Catholic Church, returned about a year and a half ago. He said the tapes gave him a "better understanding of the church in very general terms."

"It filled me in on a lot of things," he said. "See, I never really felt the church cared about us that much. Since I've been back I've found out [the church] is about love."

Someone commented that more people should see this video series.

"They will," Ron Brahmer said. "It will radiate through our pores as we act. Jesus started with 12. We're not doing so bad." ▼

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Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Faith formation not simply a classroom ministry

Diocese celebrates catechetics, catechists with Faith Formation Week

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For thousands of young people across the Diocese of Charlotte, parish-based faith formation classes are a primary means of developing as believers. And while the classroom model is an important — and perhaps the most traditional — way the diocesan Office of Faith Formation fosters the process, many opportunities exist for people of all ages to learn more about their faith.

As the Diocese of Charlotte celebrates Faith Formation Week Sept. 19-25 with the theme "God our Father, God of Love," parishioners are asked to reflect on the catechetical mission of the church and to give thanks for the people charged with advancing that mission here in western North Carolina.

It's a mission pushed forward not only by the diocesan office, but also by hundreds of dedicated men and women in parishes across the diocese who are devoted to a singular purpose.

"The faith journey has various twists and turns, and the prism of faith attempts to assist a person deal with the realities of life from the perspective of his or her relationship with Jesus," said Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education. "Everything that the Office of Faith Formation does, and the purpose of everyone at the parish who is involved in catechetics, is to assist people to mature in faith."

Father Hawker, who oversees all education-related activities of the diocese, said faith formation is an extensive ministry. It's a ministry, he said, that must involve the parish community, parents and a dedicated relationship with God. Of course, the people doing the teaching are key as well.

"One very important point is to remind catechists and catechetical leaders than an integral component of their mission is their witness — the extent to which they reflect in relationships the qualities that are integral to faith," said Father Hawker.

If catechists exemplify such qualities as respect, compassion and sensitivity in their ministry, Father Hawker said, they can even further succeed in their educational mission.

"Catechists who are involved in structured programs also do a lot of informal catechesis by their witness," he added.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Parishioners of St. Peter Church in uptown Charlotte lead the recessional following a Mass Sept. 5. Church members brought tools of their trades — musical instruments, stethoscopes and books, among them — which they placed at the foot of the altar during the Offertory procession to commemorate Labor Day. It's the fourth year the Charlotte parish has hosted such a procession.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, one structured program Father Hawker mentioned primarily comprises students not in Catholic schools who come to their parish for religious education. They prepare for the initiation sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation, and learn what it means to live the Catholic faith as maturing people. It's the classic faith formation model, and a great number of children and teen-agers benefit from these parish programs.

But there are many manifestations of faith formation happening outside those formal classroom structures, too, said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte. "Faith formation strives to shape the religious culture of the community," he explained. "It tries to do that by forming attitudes, habits and values.

"Hopefully we can achieve this day in and day out — not only with young people but with adults, which is becoming more and more a new realization: that faith formation doesn't end by 12th grade."

Villapando said the Office of Faith Formation strives to animate the faith in the lives of adults as well. He highlighted a number of programs available to adults, including faith formation through small faith communities, lecture series, sacramental preparation programs, Scripture study groups, family clusters, multicultural settings and the Internet.

"Over and over, we are trying to explode the models of faith formation and reach out to adults in whatever settings they might be in," Villapando said.

Adults involved in home-school catechesis, initiation ministry, preparing youth for confirmation, running vacation Bible schools and ministering to people with disabilities also experience the support of the Office of Faith Formation, Villapando said. And so do adults engaged in diocesan programs such as lay ministry, formal ministry and catechist certification. Retreats and days of recollection also nurture the catechetical spirit.

The office's intent to pay special attention to adult religious education falls in line with the recently published "General Directory for Catechesis," which calls adult faith formation the chief form of catechesis in the church.

SEE FAITH FORMATION, PAGE 8

Vatican official won't view 'Eyes Wide Shut' at Venice festival

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official planned to attend the Venice Film Festival — a high-profile, annual showcase of the latest movies — but said he did not intend to take part in one of its main events. Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said Sept. 3 he wanted to show "in a visible and constructive way" that there can be "another type of cinema" with humanity and "the values of life and the family, love and decency" at its center. In a written exchange of questions and answers with Catholic News Service, the cardinal was asked whether he had seen or intended to see Stanley Kubrick's final film, "Eyes Wide Shut," which was playing every night of the Venice festival. The cardinal responded, "No!"

Priest's murder viewed as part of Hindu extremists' killings

BERHAMPUR, India (CNS) — Using bows and arrows, assailants killed a Catholic priest in a part of Orissa state where a Hindu extremist is blamed for murdering an Australian missionary and his two sons eight months ago. The priest's killing, seen as part of a pattern of killings by Hindu extremists, has evoked outrage from church leaders, and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has ordered the arrest of the alleged culprits. Father Arul Doss, 35, was attacked by 15-20 men in Jambani village in the eastern Indian state's Mayurbhanj district at dawn Sept. 2, Balasore Diocese sources reported based on testimony by eyewitnesses.

Institute works to repair image after priest admits theft

WAUSAU, Wis. (CNS) — The Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest, the religious community that provides the Tridentine Mass in the La Crosse Diocese, was working to repair its public image in September after one of its priests admitted stealing religious objects. Father Glenn Gardner, 38, was sentenced to 180 days in jail Aug. 31 after pleading no contest to charges of burglary and theft related to taking monstrances, ciboria, candelabras, altar candlesticks, a missal stand, an antique incense burner, and several large candles from two Clark County churches. The objects were valued at about $9,000. Charged with Father Gardner was Kurt Chione, 41, a church organist from Aurora, Ill., who pled not guilty Aug. 31 and was freed on $1,000 bail. A preliminary hearing in his case was set for Sept. 30.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Cable car to the Mount of Temptation

A newly installed cable car takes visitors to the Mount of Temptation to a once-isolated 100-year-old Greek Orthodox Monastery. The monastery is said to be built where Jesus fasted for 40 days and wrestled with Satan.

Kenyan church seeks help for victims of cattle theft

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — A Kenyan priest has appealed for aid for more than 25,000 starving victims of cattle rustling in the country's Kerio Valley. Father Noel Mutongoi of the Endo Catholic Mission said Sept. 1 that the starving families are living in caves in the valley to hide from rustlers, who frequently invade the area. "The situation is bad and calls for urgent action in terms of providing food to the affected families, who are also exposed to disease. The most affected are women and children," Father Mutongoi told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Eldoret, in northwestern Kenya.

Vatican envoy seeks end to Iraq bombing if pope visits

ROME (CNS) — If Pope John Paul II travels to Iraq this fall, the United States and Great Britain should suspend their bombing campaign against the country, said a leading Vatican diplomat. "There ought to be a moratorium, because for one thing, this tactic is not leading anywhere," said Archbishop Renato Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations. Archbishop Martino said the pope would not be going to Iraq to "sanctify the regime" of Saddam Hussein, but added that the pope's opposition to Western sanctions against Iraq was well known. He made the comments in an interview published Sept. 2 by the Italian Catholic newspaper Avvenire.

Colombian official negotiates with rebels for bishop's release

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Colombia's high commissioner for peace started negotiations with an imprisoned guerrilla leader for the release of kidnapped Bishop Jose de Jesus Quintero Diaz of Tibu. Meanwhile, the Colombian bishops' conference called for a week of reconciliation and peace Sept. 6-12 with the motto "For the new millennium, peace is possible," to help Colombians recover hope for a peaceful solution to the decades-long conflict between the military and guerrilla groups.

CRS seeks release of injured worker held in Republic of Georgia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services is seeking the release of an injured American aid worker held in the Republic of Georgia since July. A CRS official said the worker was seriously injured and that his civil rights had been violated repeatedly. Georgian lawyers for CRS have linked the incident to the case of a Georgian diplomat imprisoned in the United States after being convicted of the 1997 drunken-driving death of a teen-age girl in Washington. Loren Wille, 53, of Golden, Colo., had his passport confiscated and was charged with vehicular homicide after a CRS vehicle he was driving crashed on a dark, rainy road, killing Manana Tsomashvili, his Georgian translator. Tsomashvili was in the back seat and was not wearing a seat belt, said a CRS spokesman.

Mexican bishops warn Chiapas situation could lead to force

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican bishops' conference criticized the federal government's strategy in Chiapas in a statement issued Aug. 28. The statement was read from the pulpit a day later by Bishop Felipe Aguirre Franco of Tuxtla Gutierrez. The bishops' statement warned against a "false solution in favor of those who are strongest, increasing the presence of the army and state security forces." It added that past experience of attempts to impose military solutions has shown that "suffering, poverty, displacements increase."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

His Excellency, Bishop William G. Curlin, announces the following changes in clergy assignment in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective September 12, 1999:
Reverend Lawrence Heiney, from sabbatical, to pastor of Our Lady of the Annunication in Albemarle.

Reverend Joseph Ayathupadam, from pastor of Our Lady of Annunciation in Albemarle, to sabbatical.

Effective October 15, 1999:
Reverend Eric Houseknecht, from diocesan director of vocations, to pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain.

Diocesan planner

September

14 CHARLOTTE — Father Anthony Marcaccio will be telling the public about "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Mass but Were Afraid to Ask." The 7 p.m. sessions are being held in St. John Neumann Church parish hall, 8451 Idlewild Road, tonight and on Sept. 21 and 28. Babysitting will be provided, and for details, call Donna Rayle at (704) 366-3218.

GREENSBORO — A "Day of Reflection" happens this morning at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church hall. Father Frank Connelly will be presiding during the program which includes Mass and the Rosary. Lunch will be provided. For details, call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099.

GREENSBORO — The Young at Heart Group is participating in a program with the CRISM group at 9:15 a.m. at St. Pius X Church Meeting Hall, 2210 N. Elm St. The program, presented by Father Connelly, includes Mass and a luncheon. The event is free for Young at Heart members. Call the church office at (336) 274-6520 for more details and reservations.

16 CHARLOTTE — "Exodus from Strongholds," a 12-week Bible-based seminar focusing on overcoming personal strongholds, begins tonight at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, at 7:15 p.m. For information and registration, call Donna Rayle at (704) 545-8916.

HIGH POINT — There will be a charismatic Mass held at Maryfield Nursing Home in the chapel at 1315 Greensboro Road at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

17 CLEMMONS — The Children's

Senior monk at Belmont Abbey dies at age 88

BELMONT — The Reverend Bernard L. Rosswog, O.S.B., S.T.D., died on Thursday, Sept. 2, 1999, at Belmont Abbey after an extended illness. At 88 years of age, he was the senior monk at the monastery.

Father Bernard, born on Jan. 26, 1911, at Erie, Pa., was the son of Robert J. and Elizabeth Haibach Rosswog. He graduated from St. Mary's Parochial School and Cathedral Preparatory School, both in Erie.

In 1929 he began his studies at Belmont Abbey College. In 1931 he entered the novitiate of The American-Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine Monasteries at St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa., and in 1932 was professed a monk of Belmont Abbey. When he was solemnly professed he took the name of his deceased uncle, Reverend Bernard Hass, O.S.B., who, likewise, was a lifelong monk of Belmont Abbey.

He prepared for sacred orders at Belmont Abbey Seminary, Belmont, N.C.; St. Benedict's Seminary, Atchison, Kan.; and The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. He was ordained priest at St. Vincent Archabbey in 1937.

He continued theological studies at The Catholic University of America until 1941, during which time he earned the S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees. In addition, he studied at Pius X School of Liturgical Music in New York City.

When a young scholar at The Catholic University of America, Father Bernard was a proctor and, subsequently, assistant dean of men. Later he was named to a series of posts at Belmont Abbey: dean of men, rector, and vice-president of Belmont Abbey Junior college, headmaster and professor of mathematics and Latin at Belmont Abbey Preparatory School, and rector of Belmont Abbey Seminary.

He taught philosophy at Belmont Abbey College and Sacred Heart College in Belmont, N.C., dogmatic and moral theology and canon law at Belmont Abbey Seminary, and canon law to Belmont Abbey's novices.

For many years he also served as Belmont Abbey College's academic dean promoting the establishment and accreditation of senior college status of the Benedictine Catholic Liberal Arts College and was also an active member of its Board of Trustees.

Father Bernard was vicar general and chancellor of Belmont Abbey Nullius; pastor of St. Mary's Mission, Shelby, N.C.; auxiliary U.S. Air Force chaplain at Lake Lure, N.C.; pastor of Cherryville Mission; and associate and, later, pastor of St. Michael Church, Gastonia, N.C.

In addition, he served as subprior and, later, prior of Belmont Abbey and, subsequently, prior at St. Benedict's Priory, Richmond, VA. He was a member of the Presbyteral Council and the first judicial vicar (officialis) of the marriage tribunal in the Charlotte Diocese.

His doctoral dissertation treated of "God's Salvific Will." He composed the "Book of Customs," a "Holy Week Liturgy Booklet," and an "Oblate Office Book" for use at Belmont Abbey.

He also developed a "Study of the New Code" for priests, the first set of "Faculties" for the Charlotte Diocese, and a treatise on the "Marriage of Conscience and Marriage Solutions."

The words "in charge of" and "responsible for" run like a river through Father Bernard's resume. Having been a well-educated and talented professor, his contributions to scholarship in theology and canon law are significant. But his special gift is that of master mechanic: he could command that most balky and bulky of machines, i.e., the committee. His colleagues recognized for years that he gets things done. His fingerprints have been and remain all over the growth and development of Belmont Abbey College.

Father Bernard was an excellent administrator, professor and pastor with amazing energy, who continued to keep busy in spite of his crippling arthritis. Although a theologian, his greatest interest was canon law. He was always prepared with canonical solutions to legal entanglements and questions.

In retirement, Father Bernard took special joy in reading and study on a variety of subjects, especially theology and canon law. He was in great demand as a counselor, confessor and canonist.

Reverend Bernard L. Rosswog, O.S.B., S.T.D.

In 1992 Father Bernard celebrated his 60th jubilee of monastic profession; in 1997 he celebrated the diamond anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Father Bernard is survived by the monks of Belmont Abbey and his relatives: William (a nephew) and Josephine Rosswog, Raymond (a nephew) and Beverly Rosswog, William and Jean Marie (a niece) Witkowski, and many grand nieces and nephews.

Father Bernard's body was received at 5:00 pm on Sunday Sept. 5, 1999, at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians on the campus of Belmont Abbey at which time Vespers were sung and the rosary recited. A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated by Abbot Oscar Burnett, O.S.B., the monks of Belmont Abbey and priests of the Diocese of Charlotte at 11:00 am on Monday, Sept. 6, 1999. Burial followed in Belmont Abbey Cemetery. ▼

Internet courses help clergy improve counseling skills

By ROBERT DYLAK
Catholic News Service

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Can busy clergy find time from their parish duties to return to college and earn an advanced degree?

Seton Hall University's president, Msgr. Robert Sheeran, believes the university's online computer courses are turning out to be at least one answer.

Msgr. Sheeran said the 50 or more priests and the faculty who teach at Seton Hall share a concern for continuing education of the clergy.

"At Seton Hall, we are committed to utilizing the technological advantages that Internet-based delivery affords for the benefit of our students and the advancement of the teaching and learning process," said Msgr. Sheerin.

Brother Patrick Byrne, principal of Sacred Heart School in Newark, said the flexibility offered by the online program makes it possible for him to pursue a degree.

"Seton Hall is really looking ahead by providing this kind of opportunity for growth," said Brother Byrne. "I can study at night and fit the (Internet) coursework around the needs of the school," he said.

Seton Hall professors emphasize that although the two-and-a-half-year course is customized and students are communicating through computers, there is a sense of being part of a class — a team.

Seton Hall's academic director, Delores Thompson, said the team concept requires that all students make a commitment to each other.

"For this team, the commitment includes integrating spirituality into all course content," she said. ▼

Fall and Winter Clothing Sale will be held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sept. 18 from 9-11 a.m. Half-off sale Sat. on selected items. For more information, call Carolann Darling at (336) 998-9842, Lauri McGinley at (336) 766-8861, or Kathy Hudgins at (336) 766-0341.

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be today through Sept. 19 at the Catholic Conference Center. For registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424 and for information, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

18 BREVARD — The Jack Driscoll Council Knights of Columbus are having a garage sale today at Sacred Heart Church Fellowship Hall, 4 Fortune Cove, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Donations are being accepted in the Fellowship Hall on Sept. 17 from 12-4 p.m. For information or transportation of items, call Richard Hucker at (828) 885-2154 or Winston Churchill at (828) 884-7456.

19 FOREST CITY — Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., is hosting its first Red Cross sponsored blood drive today from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For appointment times, call (828) 245-6053.

21 CHARLOTTE — Everyone is invited to ALPHA, a nine-video session renewal program for adults, which begins tonight through Nov. 16 at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road. The sessions last from 7:30-9 p.m. For details, call (704) 535-4197.

22 CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children, a support group for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth, or SIDS, meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the St. Matthew Church Conference Room, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For details, call Lynn Schilling at (704) 831-9475 or Sister Jeanne Marie at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 43.

CHARLOTTE — Father Gene McCreesh, SJ, leads "Spiritual Direction for Lesbians and Gays" tonight at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. at 7 p.m. in the sacristy.

22 CHARLOTTE — A support group for those separated, divorced, or remarried outside of the church, meets this evening at St. Ann Church Activity Center, 3635 Park Road, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call Kathy Wooley at (704) 376-1503.

23 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to a healing Mass, sponsored by the Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry, being celebrated at St Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Road, tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments served after Mass. For details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151

25 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order is sponsoring their 2nd Annual Flea Market today from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church Gym, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. For participation and vendor information, call Janet Ceraldi, SFO at (704) 597-8851.

26 REIDSVILLE — Holy Infant Church, 1042 Freeway Drive, is sponsoring a migrant workers' meal today at 2 p.m. immediately following a Spanish Mass at 1 p.m. To find how you can help by donating food, time or talents, call Dolores Ahrens at (336) 272-2824.

30 MONROE — All are invited to gather in the multi-purpose room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., for a Christian Book Club. Tonight's meeting, from 7-8:30 p.m., will focus on this month's book "The Art of Loving God" by St. Francis de Sales. For information, call Debra O'Neal at (704) 233-5720.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope denounces terror campaign by militias in East Timor

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Denouncing a terror campaign by pro-Indonesia militias in East Timor, Pope John Paul II called for an end to "intimidation and violence" in the contested territory.

Among those targeted by rampaging militias was Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, the Nobel Prize-winning apostolic administrator of Dili, who was reportedly unharmed in an attack on his residence that left 39 people dead. He was evacuated to Darwin, Australia, Sept. 7.

Hundreds of independence supporters were said to have been slain during the terror spree, which began soon after a national referendum showed that more than 78 percent of East Timorese want to throw off Indonesian rule.

The pope, speaking at a blessing at his summer residence Sept. 5, said the referendum results should be respected. He said he was following what he called "worrisome reports" from East Timor.

"I hope that a climate of serenity and peace can be established in the territory, and I ask prayers for our sorely tried brothers there," he told a crowd of several thousand people.

"May the Virgin Mary awaken in the souls of everyone sentiments of true pacification and constructive respect for the will expressed in recent days by the Timorese population," he said.

On Sept. 6, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Vatican had contacted the governments involved in the crisis to promote a solution "as soon as possible."

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year, although the international community has never recognized the legitimacy of the annexation. A vast majority of East Timor's 800,000 population is Catholic. About one-fourth of the population has died from fighting, starvation and disease under Indonesian rule.

Pope meets with Arafat, welcomes latest Mideast accord

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — In a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Pope John Paul II expressed satisfaction at the West Bank land-for-security accord that gave new life to the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

After signing the breakthrough agreement in Egypt Sept. 5, Arafat traveled to Italy, where he met for more than an hour with the pontiff at his summer villa outside Rome to discuss details of the accord. The Vatican said the pope was pleased at the progress.

"The Holy See, in expressing satisfaction and hope at this advance, encourages both sides to continue the process and emphasizes the importance that peace holds for the two peoples," said a Vatican statement issued after the encounter.

The Vatican statement expressed satisfaction at progress on these legal questions, which have been explored by a PLO-Vatican commission since 1998. Several important holy places lie in Palestinian territory.

The Church and Jubilee 2000

For the Church, opening the doors to the Third Millennium means a singular and prophetic call for Catholicism "not to abandon the world, but to help shape it." The American bishops, seeing this as an opportunity to "transform" our daily work and leisure, family and political life, national and international relations, remind us that the year 2000 is "a holy year, a time of favor, a reminder that we live and work in a time of special grace between the Incarnation of Jesus and the Second Coming."

To give spirit and life to this coming event, the Church recently gathered 3,000 delegates from over 60 organizations in a "Jubilee Justice" celebration in Los Angeles. In welcoming delegates to the July meeting, Cardinal Mahony repeated the words of Pope John Paul II, making it clear that "a commitment to justice and peace is an integral condition for the preparation and celebration of the Jubilee." The Cardinal went on to say that "this event promises to be a significant and meaningful opportunity to lift up in a very public way the Catholic Church's rich social tradition and teaching that is embodied each day in your work and in the work of those with whom you share your ministry."

In Old Testament times, the Jubilee year reminded believers that the land and its yield belonged to God, and that we are stewards who should be faithful to God and to each other in sharing the fruits of the earth. The year of the "Lord's favor" meant that debts were to be canceled and family holdings that had sustained generations were to be restored. It was time to "let the oppressed go free" and to restore freedom and justice among people, to reestablish relations of equality and remedy the conditions that kept people oppressed.

What stood out in the Jubilee Justice meeting in Los Angeles was that it mirrored the global solidarity that the Pope has appealed for in approaching the year 2000. Speaking of forgiveness and reconciliation, the Pope has spoken frankly of the need for all of us to ask forgiveness as well as to be forgiving. The appeal, as

Jubilee Justice Celebration

DR. BARNEY OFFERMAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Sister Marie Chen, RSM, put it in an opening day retreat, is to "a God whose nature is mercy." On God's creation, another speaker, Pat Mische, said that the "way we treat the land is a metaphor for how we treat people."

The meeting was a global village both of liturgies and participants. Liturgies were celebrated in English and Spanish, with homilies in additional languages native to Asia and Africa. Immigrants and bishops, first and third world people, and a rainbow of colors across gender and age were represented from the platform and in the workshops. Speakers were there from East Timor and Ireland, Rome and Tanzania, France and the Philippines, Jamaica, West Indies and Mexico, and points in between.

The message was clear: As the bishops said, inviting Catholics into the 21st Century, "Every believer is called to serve 'the least of these,' to 'hunger and thirst for justice,' to be a 'peace-maker.'" They went on to say that Catholics therefore are called to protect human life, to promote human dignity, to defend the poor and to seek the common good. This social mission of the Church belongs to all of us. The Jubilee Justice gathering in Los Angeles was a faith-filled, stirring inaugural to bring that message to a world in need of it.

Dr. Barney Offerman is the diocesan director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Films that inspire

I have long been fascinated by the works of independent filmmakers. Most of them are creative visionaries who dare to probe the different, the deep, the devout and even the deplorable complexities of the human species in the search to find meaning — and perhaps even truth — in this mystery called life.

Ben Patton, a young man I met several years ago at a monastery, is one of them. Now 34, the Georgetown University graduate has taken a first step toward his goal of developing feature films. He has teamed up with an Irish film production group and founded Patton Productions.

He helped produce and launch in the United States two new works: "Stranded," a 28-minute film about eighth-century monks, and "Between Dreams," a stirring account of a young man's experience as an in-patient with terminal cancer.

Patton told me excitedly that "Stranded" is being shown in September on cable-television stations in New York, Boston and Washington, and "Between Dreams" has been accepted to premiere at the prestigious Venice film festival also in September.

I've seen "Stranded." With visuals that are sheer poetry, and music scored and supervised by Patton, it evokes the mystery of the interior life. The film presents a searing, complex picture of ways faith is challenged by the circumstances of life. It depicts how three Irish monks of the eighth century, stranded in Iceland where they went to find solitude, confront their inner torments and truths.

One viewer said the film's greatness was in how it portrays the universal conflict of anyone struggling with faith issues.

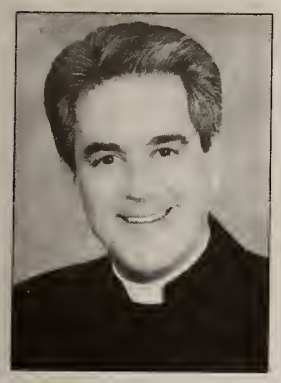
Patton credits a year he spent at the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis in Connecticut, where I met him, for his career change from environmentalist to filmmaker. If his name sounds familiar, it is indeed, because he is the grandson of the famed World War II leader, the late Gen. George Patton, who died in 1946 before Ben Patton's parents met.

The young man said he came to a point in his life where it was time "to do work inside, to gain a certain ability to focus and learn to do fewer things better." He chose the abbey because of its contemplative setting. He knew about this monastery because his sister, a convert, is a nun there, Mother Margaret Georgina.

"It's perhaps not coincidental that my first film would be about monks, since I had spent a year at a monastery," Patton said, commenting: "You do get clarity sometimes when you wait and just hang on. You get to a peaceful place."

The insights he gained at the monastery somewhat parallel the theme of "Stranded," and no doubt added to the film's appeal for him. As Patton explained: "I found the performances, direction, the cinematography, the music so strong. But what most resonates with me in terms of the story is the notion of surrender and the way each character handles that. Both through my experience at the abbey and through similarly centering/contemplative activities I do here in New York I've come to appreciate the notion of focus and surrender" in the quest to remain faithful to faith.

With such a spiritual grounding, Patton could be just the kind of filmmaker we need — one who chooses not just to entertain, but also to inspire.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Me — a Priest?!"

This month brought an invitation to speak at a regional meeting of Serra Club International, a Roman Catholic lay group that seeks to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. My hometown diocese of Erie, Pa., was playing host to several clubs from Buffalo, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

They have asked me to respond to a simple, straightforward question — "Why did you decide to be a priest?" One would think that I, like any priest, would have no difficulty in providing a ready answer. Yet, as often as I have put pen to paper this week, there always remains something inexpressible, even mysterious, about the logic and flow of events that lead to ordination.

There is a popular belief that a decision for the priesthood, ministry, or religious life must be accompanied by some sort of sign from God. The trouble with signs is that one usually assumes they must be supernatural, something quite out of the ordinary. I had no such sign. For me the call came from the common everyday experiences of life. In fact, I have come to understand that we are never nearer God's plan for us as when we are attentive to the familiar details of our daily routines.

For me it was going to college while working for my dad at a local Coca-Cola bottling company. Crashing a forklift into a stack of empties was just one of a series of signs that I should take my book-learning more seriously. Long interested in the theatre, I acted in the evenings with community and university playhouses. I also marched with the Pershing Rifles in ROTC, dated my high-school sweetheart Susan Rickloff and started to talk seriously with friends about the future.

In the midst of all this, Christ started interfering with everything. Looking back, I appreciate what Therese of Lisieux meant in The Story of a Soul when she admitted that Christ was most abundantly present to her not "during my hours of prayer ... but rather in the midst of my daily occupations." It almost seemed like a conspiracy.

There was Father Frank Haas, a counselor at Gannon University: "Tom, have you ever thought of being a priest?" No one had ever asked me that before. Then Monsignor Louis Lorei, the Dean of Humanities, "Sure, you might want to think about going into education or the theatre, but just imagine what you could accomplish as a priest who teaches theatre." And then came those serious late night conversations with friends who showed enthusiasm for the idea. "You a priest? Yeah, I can see you doing that."

Going to Sunday liturgy became different. Rather than silently criticize the celebrant for the way he was saying Mass, I began to imagine what I would do or say to make it more meaningful.

In time, such imagining turned into reality. But that initial calling still remains a mystery. I can point to the people whose example and gentle prodding helped me imagine the improbable. But the mystery remains. 28 years a priest — and still I marvel how the little things in life become the hinges on which life turns. A chance remark, a tap on the shoulder, a compliment, a gentle nudge — and life is never the same again.

Father Thomas McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Faith Formation

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Faith Formation: A Time to Remember

As we celebrate Faith Formation Week in the diocese, each of us would do well to recall the words spoken by Jesus on the occasion of His Ascension: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always until the end of the world" (Mt. 28:19-20). From that day forward the Church was commissioned to implement faithfully the command of the risen Lord to be a catechized community. While doing so she would be strengthened and sustained by His protective presence.

Catechesis, sharing the Person and message of Jesus, is an essential and integral component of the Church's mission. If it is to achieve its goal, the primary purpose of catechetics must be understood and appreciated. Its foundational aim is to assist the maturing believer, whether child, youth or adult, to grow in intimacy with Jesus. It follows, then, that catechesis is not concerned simply with the head but is directed to the heart. It is vital to recognize that its objective is not only to share information but to cultivate formation. The person being catechized is invited through this grace-filled experience to mature as a friend, disciple and witness of the Risen Lord. In other words, at each stage of life, he or she is called to continuing conversion to Jesus and to His Way.

Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation "On Catechesis in Our Time" has stressed that catechesis is an art. The catechist, in fulfilling his or her role, speaks to the whole person while being sensitive to the cultural context within which the maturing believer resides. The catechist shares the message in such a manner that it is meaningful and relevant to the person to whom it is addressed.

How, one might ask, can the priest, the religious and lay catechist or the parent fulfill the sacred and serious responsibility of participating actively and fruitfully in the catechetical mission of the Church? Possibly my sharing with you a special moment in my life might respond to the question. On Feb. 10, 1963, I was privileged to celebrate my first Mass in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. The preacher on this happy occasion was Cardinal Cushing. During his memorable homily the Cardinal said, "There are many ways to describe a priest. As I see it, the priest is a tool; you know what a tool is? It can be new or old, sharp or dull, impressive or unimpressive, but if it is placed in the hands of a skilled craftsman it will accomplish the unbelievable. The priest, like other Christians, is a tool in the hands of the Risen Christ."

As we celebrate Faith Formation Week the image shared by Cardinal Cushing describes so powerfully the identity and mission of the catechist. He or she is the agent whereby the love of Christ, as manifested in His Word, touches the lives, minds, hearts and souls of maturing believers.

Father James Hawker is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What Canon Law Is

Q. Frequently in your column you refer to the canon law of the Catholic Church. I know in general what that means, but where can one get a copy? Or is it even available to everyone?

It seems like so much of what happens is explained simply by "it's canon law." I for one would be interested in reading it or at least having it to check on. And I imagine others would also.

A. As you indicate, the Code of Canon Law is the basic set of regulations that govern the life of the Catholic Church, from electing a pope to receiving the sacraments.

As an institution made up of human beings, the church has always had rules, or canons (Greek for precept, law), of some sort. We find them even in the New Testament.

As human society changes, of course laws change also, including in the church. So frequent revisions and reorganizations of one kind or another have taken place over the past 2,000 years.

Various compilations of existing laws were published through the centuries, perhaps the most famous being the 12th-century Concordance of Discordant Canons, in which a monk, Gratian, attempted to compile and reconcile all prevailing legislation.

Surprisingly, the first real Code of Canon Law was published only in 1917. When Pope John XXIII convoked Vatican Council II in 1959, he also announced a revision of the code, which was completed under Pope John Paul II in 1983.

It is this code which presently governs Catholic life in the Latin Church. Another code exists for Eastern Catholic churches. Many elements of the Eastern (Oriental) code are similar to those in the code for the Latin Church, but many also naturally reflect the distinctive traditions of those churches.

The code is available from the Canon Law Society of America (Washington, D.C. 20064). It is not awfully long and, as legal documents go, is nearly a gem of simplicity and clarity.

I should warn anyone who is considering buying it, however, that while it is easy to read, it is far from easy to apply correctly. It compacts into 1,752 canons the legal experience of hundreds of years, and like any tightly written legal document is highly complex.

Canons interrelate broadly with each other. Innocent-sounding phrases one might easily pass by can be crucial for a right understanding and interpretation of the law. In other words, it is not for nothing that men and women spend years of study and training to properly apply the code in the daily life of the church.

The Code of Canon Law can be interesting reading, even fun (if one enjoys that sort of thing), and an enlightening window into what makes the church function and how legalities affect the spiritual and other realities of Catholic life.

Just be aware of the limitations. A careful, serious reading of canon law does not make one a canon lawyer, any more than a careful reading of the Internal Revenue Code makes one an expert on income tax.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651., or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Black Catholic educator teaching lessons of Holocaust

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Educator Art Brown said he is asked routinely at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, "Why, as a black person, do you work at a Jewish institution?" Brown, a parishioner at St. Teresa of Avila in southeast Washington, started in the education division in January 1993, a few months before the museum opened. In an interview with Catholic News Service, he answered the question by recalling other national museum openings in the Washington of an earlier era. "If there was a black person working at the Smithsonian back then, they probably were working in some janitorial type position," he said. "I saw the opportunity to be a part of the founding staff of an institution in Washington, and be a part of the professional staff."

Bishop P. Francis Murphy dies; noted peace, justice advocate

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop P. Francis Murphy of Baltimore, nationally known advocate of peace and nonviolence and the advancement of women, died of cancer Sept. 2 at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. He was 66. It was Bishop Murphy's 1980 proposal to take a fresh look at the morality of nuclear weapons that led to the U.S. bishops' landmark 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." He frequently spoke out against war and the arms race. In 1992, when the bishops were in the midst of trying to write a pastoral letter on women, he wrote an article in Commonweal, a national Catholic magazine, in which he condemned the "sin of sexism" and urged the ordination of women "because justice demands it."

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN F. FINK, THE CRITERION

Dalai Lama visits Indiana parish
The Dalai Lama, Father Charles Chesebrough and a Buddhist master of ceremonies circle a globe in a symbol of world peace during the Buddhists' visit to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington, Ind.

Croatian cardinal denied entry into Yugoslavia

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Croatian cardinal was denied a visa to enter Yugoslavia for a brief pastoral visit to Catholics in the northern Vojvodina region. A church source said no official reason had been given for the move, but added that it was widely believed linked to Cardinal Franjo Kuharic's outspoken support for Croatian independence in the early 1990s. Cardinal Kuharic, who retired as archbishop of Zagreb in July 1997, was to have arrived in the Diocese of Subotica, Yugoslavia, Aug. 28 for a single Sunday Mass at the nearby Marian shrine of Bunaric.

First American elected to governance of Knights of Malta

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — When Richard Dunn was invested in the Knights of Malta 22 years ago at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, he never imagined it was the beginning of a journey to become the first American elected to the 900-year-old international order's ruling body. "This is an honor for Dick and for the whole archdiocese," said San Francisco Archbishop William J. Levada about Dunn's election this summer in Rome to the order's Sovereign Council.

Catholic doctor helps Texas solve 'abandoned baby' tragedy

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — Thanks to the vision and effort of a well-known Fort Worth advocate for children, Texas now has a humane way to deal with the heartbreaking reality of newborn baby abandonment. Dr. John Richardson, a Fort Worth pediatrician and longtime member of St. Andrew's Parish in southwest Fort Worth, attended the ceremonial signing this summer of Texas' new Abandoned Baby Bill, which took effect Sept. 1. Believed to be the first such legislation in the nation, the new law allows new mothers, whose desperation may have otherwise led to a child's death, to leave babies less than 30 days old in the care of designated agencies, to do so anonymously and without threat of prosecution.

Bishop Belo evacuated to Australia as Timor plunges into anarchy

DARWIN, Australia (CNS) — As the capital of East Timor plunged into anarchy, the spiritual leader of the territory's Catholic majority, Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo of Dili, was evacuated to Darwin.

The evacuation occurred Sept. 7, a day after pro-Indonesia militias attacked and burned Bishop Belo's residence in Dili. Amid the mounting chaos, church leaders in Australia, the United States and other countries called for prayers and an international peacekeeping force to maintain order.

UCA News, an Asian church news based in Thailand, reported that witnesses said the armed men entered Bishop Belo's compound at daybreak, shot at the building, then set it on fire to force the people inside to come out. As the people ran out in panic, militiamen shot them with firearms, witnesses said. More than 4,000 East Timorese had sought refuge at the compound.

Bishop Belo, who was unharmed in the attack but was said to be in shock, was later flown to Baukau, East Timor, to the residence of Bishop Basilio do Nascimento. However, when militias began attacking that residence, a Royal Australian Air Force Hercules transport plane transported Bishop Belo and other refugees to Darwin Sept. 7.

Speaking at a press conference upon his arrival, Bishop Belo, a co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, said of his fellow East Timorese, "They are very sad, and they feel that they are unable to fight against all the ways of violence, and they expect that the international community should act urgently and immediately to protect their people."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

East Timorese people pray on the grounds of Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo's compound in Dili Sept. 5. Thousands of people sought refuge on the grounds of the bishop's home as violence swept the region. Bishop Belo was forced to flee to Australia the next day as his home was set afire.

In the United States, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, echoed Bishop Belo's call for action.

"If Indonesia is not willing or able immediately to fulfill its responsibilities to the people of East Timor, then the United States should support the prompt deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force to establish order, protect the innocent and ensure a peaceful transition to independence," he said in a Sept. 7 statement.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year, although the international community has never recognized the legitimacy of the annexation. A vast majority of East Timor's 800,000 population is Catholic. About one-fourth of the population has died from fighting, starvation and disease under Indonesian rule.

On Aug. 30, the majority of East Timorese voters rejected an Indonesian plan for the territory's autonomy within Indonesia. Since Indonesian President B.J. Habibie said his country would consider independence for East Timorese if they rejected autonomy, the vote was seen as a vote for independence.

Violence by pro-Indonesia militias began shortly after the election. Many observers said the militias were supported by the Indonesian military.

In Perth, Australia, Sept. 7, Archbishop Barry J. Hickey urged prayers for peace so that the East Timorese vote for independence could be implemented. He also called for "an immediate international response to stop the bloodshed" in the territory.

Caritas Australia's national director, Tom Story, said if a peacekeeping force did not intercede, "other measures to provide safety for those in danger must be provided.

"East Timor is right on Australia's doorstep, and we must not forget the sacrifices made by the East Timorese for our soldiers during World War II," Story said.

Cardinal Edward B. Clancy of Sydney, Australia, reiterated his call for a U.N. peacekeeping force to be sent to East Timor after Indonesia declared a state of martial law in the territory Sept. 7. But, he said, "the obvious sticking point" in sending such a force was that it needed a U.N. mandate and the approval of the Indonesian government.

In England, Bishop David

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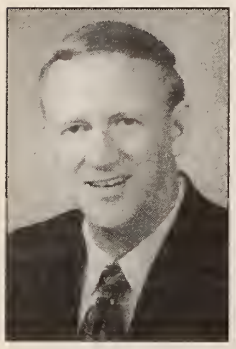
Educator, author to address issue of sharing faith in new millennium

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

An educator and author widely known in Catholic school circles will address the issues of Catholic education and sharing faith in the new millennium, the diocesan Catholic Schools Office recently announced.

Dr. Thomas Groome, senior professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, will address school educators, catechists and pastoral ministers from throughout the diocese in two presentations Sept. 24 and 25.



Dr. Thomas Groome

His Sept. 24 presentation, titled "Educating for Life: Catholic Education for the New Millennium," is for Catholic school personnel.

"As we begin the third millennium, what does it mean to be a Catholic educator, to conduct a Catholic school?" mused Groome in a written statement. "This day-long workshop will propose educating for life as the defining character of Catholic education, and will suggest ways to renew our commitment to this vision."

The workshop will be hosted at St. Gabriel School, 3028 Providence Rd. in Charlotte, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

On Sept. 25, Groome will address catechists, youth ministers, campus ministers and other pastoral and educational personnel in a workshop called "Sharing Our Catholic Faith: Teaching as Jesus Did for the New Millennium."

"By baptism, all Christians are called upon to share the faith — to evangelize and catechize in the Good News of Jesus Christ," Groome said. "The best way to do this is to teach as Jesus did.

"But what does such catechesis and ministry look like now, 2,000 years later and at the beginning of the third millennium? This workshop will reflect on how to model ourselves on Jesus the teacher today."

Groome's workshop for catechists and pastoral ministers will be hosted at St. Aloysius Church, 902 Second St. NE in Hickory, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Groome's most recent work is last year's "Educating for Life: A Spiritual Vision for Every Teacher and Parent." The book is noted for its optimism, ecumenical sensitivity and practical suggestions in its effort to inspire teachers, ministers and parents to learn more about the educational tradition of Catholicism.

Groome has also penned three other books, including the widely used "Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision." He served as the primary author of three religion curricula, and has written more than 80 articles and essays on religious education and pastoral ministry.

For a quarter century, Groome has lectured extensively at Catholic and Protestant religious education conferences in North America and at other gatherings throughout the world.

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the Catholic Schools Office, invites guest speakers such as Groome to address people involved in education in the diocese a couple of times each school year. She said such presentations are extra ways to further educate the educators.

"The teachings of our Catholic traditions should be woven into our everyday teachings," she added.

To register for either workshop, contact Sister Maureen at (704) 370-3268. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Faith Formation, from page 1

"The most important responsibility we have from that perspective is education of adults," Father Hawker said. "If all we do is educate children and youth without seeing the relationship to the education of adults, we are not fulfilling our commission."

Overall, the Office of Faith Formation seeks to enhance the faith journeys of all parishioners in the diocese. And Faith Formation Week is one way of celebrating a vital ministry and all those who promote it at the parish level.

"A very important task of this office is to assist those involved in the catechetical mission of the church to understand that they are involved in an art," Father Hawker said. "By that, I mean taking what you have and making it palatable to persons who are on their way in their life's journey. The catechetical mission of the church is to be able to address each moment of a person's faith journey."

For more information on specific programs and services of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, contact Dr. Cris Villapando at (704) 370-3246. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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Summer school teaches children about the Bible

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

THOMASVILLE — Spanish and English filled the air as the children listened to the Bible stories of David and Jesus. The vacation Bible school at Our Lady of the Highways Church parish during the week of July 26 had nearly 68 students, aged four to 12, from various area schools, in classes to compare the lives of Jesus and David in the Old and New Testaments.

For almost 10 years, the Bible school has used idea packages from the David C. Cook Publishing House series of religious programs geared toward teaching children specifics about biblical passages. It has educated many young parishioners for eight years.

This year was no different. The theme — Awesome Adventures with David and Jesus — was centered on a system of five classes with their own themes: Pasture, Stream, Mountains, Cave, and the Heavens. The preschoolers were contained in their own class, while some of the older kids were asked to be youth leaders and helpers.

Kathy Laskis, the coordinator for religious education at the church, said, "It serves as an in-depth and interactive learning experience for the children. It is liberating and hands-on and literally transforms their world into the world of Jesus and David. It is a worthwhile thing to do because it can teach them to possibly model themselves after Jesus and David."

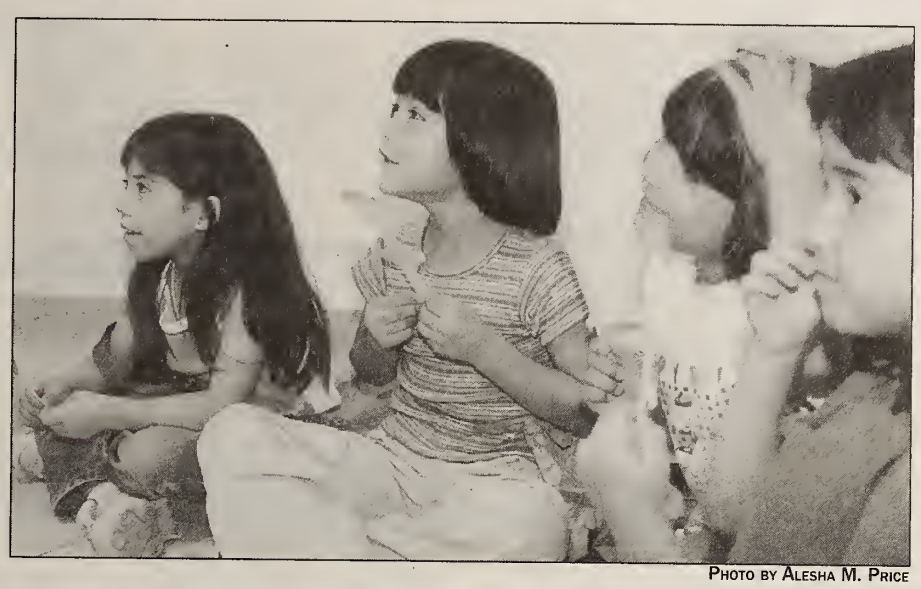

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Students in the Mountain Class participate in an interactive David and Goliath story during the summer Bible school at Our Lady of the Highways parish in Thomasville.

The same lesson was taught to a different group of kids who changed classes each night. Each class was decorated according to the theme, and each class had a title which served as a focal point for the lesson. The children were given individual passports that were stamped after they completed a class.

In the Pasture class, the children colored a wall hanging with a meadow with sheep and sat on a flowered quilt on the floor. The symbol was a shepherd's staff, and the theme was "David, the shepherd and Jesus, the Good Shepherd." For one evening, the children were given a Bible passage in connection with the theme and were told to reflect using their own artistic expression.

Eleven-year-old Blanche Reyes said, "I thought it would be fun to meet other people and learn about God. I think the program is cool because we get to spend time and do activities together."

The Pasture group leader, Analyn Garcia, 16, said that she wanted inspire them to learn more about the Bible.

The Stream class featured a blue and white strip of fabric decorated with seashells. The theme was "David, the chosen and Jesus, God's Chosen One" with the symbol being a heart. The children were discussing the story of Adam and Eve using handouts with a substitute teacher for the night's lesson.

When asked about the impact of the classes, Stream youth leader Maria Jose, 15, said, "This is a positive thing because most kids my age will say 'I never learned that when I was small.' I wanted to help the kids begin to learn more about God at an early age, so they will understand more and believe in Him more fully as they grow older."

In the Mountain class, the teacher and the two youth leaders were dressed in clothing from Jesus' and David's time with a brown-material covered mass serving as the mountain and a darkly colored wall hanging with leaves, twigs, and rocks hanging from the material. The symbol, naturally, was stone with the theme being "David, the victor and Jesus, the Victor over death." The children made Popsicle stick figures of David and used them as part of an interactive David and Goliath story.

The Mountain youth leaders, 13-year-old Blanche Rojas and 16-year-old Hugo Dubon, both agreed that the Bible school was a positive influ-

See BIBLE SCHOOL, page 13

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Word to Life

September 12, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A Readings:

1) Sirach 27:33-28:9
   Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12
2) Romans 14:7-9
3) Matthew 18:21-35

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My daughter and I had one of those blow-ups that aren't particularly rare during a child's teen-age years. I don't remember the substance of the argument, only that it ended with a stinging comment by her that left me fuming as she stormed off to her bedroom.

The meanness of the remark was not characteristic of Libby, but during that difficult adolescent stage it happened quite a bit, so I wasn't surprised, but I was angry. I knew exactly what was going on in her mind and what would happen next. She would soon be sorry for what she said and would eventually come to me and apologize.

But I was determined to teach her the lesson that you can't just go popping off, hurting people, and then come back and be forgiven just like that. I briefly wrestled with my conscience over this, but my conscience lost.

Sure enough, after a short time Libby appeared, sniffling and visibly contrite. I steeled myself as she asked for forgiveness. "Mom?" she added in a small voice when I gave no response.

"Listen!" I heard myself snap at her, "do you think you can talk to me like that and then come back and have me say, oh, that's OK? I have feelings, too, and I don't feel very forgiving right now!"

Well, revenge was not sweet. As I saw the look of devastation on her face I immediately felt ashamed. What lesson had I taught her? That when you are truly sorry and ask forgiveness, the person you love and trust most will slap you down?

Today's Scripture warns us against seeking revenge and reminds us that the Lord's forgiveness is repeated endlessly. The parable in the Gospel shows us that God expects us to be as merciful as he is.

Can't I remember an adolescent stage of my relationship with the Lord when I regularly refused to listen to him, hurt him and stubbornly worked against his will? And didn't he always forgive me? Did Jesus go stridently up Calvary putting his finger in faces along the way and yelling, "Hey, I have feelings too, ya know?!"

My daughter and I have a close, loving relationship, and we repaired the damage as I finally asked her forgiveness for my being unforgiving. But I was the one who learned the lesson: Yes, you do have to stand there and take the shots and then say it's OK — 70 times seven times.

Questions:

When have you refused to be forgiving? Over the years, what offenses can you think of for which the Lord has forgiven you?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 12 - 18, 1999

Sunday, Sirach 27:30-28:7, Romans 14:7-9, Matthew 18:21-35; Monday, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10; Tuesday, Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; Wednesday, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, John 19:25-27; Thursday, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50; Friday, 1 Timothy 6:2-12, Luke 8:1-3; Saturday, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

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TV Film Fair

By HENRY HERX AND GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are capsule reviews of theatrical movies on network television the week of Sept. 12.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 8-11 p.m. EDT (CBS) "Goodfellas" (1990). The heady rise — and eventual downfall — of three Brooklyn hoods (Ray Liotta, Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci) are shown from one gangster's warped point of view in this fact-based story spanning 30 years. Director Martin Scorsese synthesizes flowing cinematography, an eye for details and commanding performances into a chilling re-creation of the empty glamour and endless greed that characterizes mob life. Much graphic violence and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 7-11 p.m. EDT (NBC) "Braveheart" (1995). Bloody historical epic in which 13th-century Scotsman William Wallace (Mel Gibson), spurred on by the murder of his wife, attempts to unite the bickering Scottish noblemen under Robert the Bruce (Angus McFadyen) in a fight for independence against the ruthless English King Edward I (Patrick McGoohan). Also directed by Gibson, the lavish production focuses on savage battles, betrayals and murders of revenge, softened by a smattering of royal romance. Much gory violence on and off the battlefield, a few fleeting bedroom scenes, brief nudity and minimal rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 8-11 (CBS) "The Pelican Brief" (1993). With her life in grave danger after figuring out who was behind the assassination of two Supreme Court justices, a New Orleans law student (Julia Roberts) turns to a investigative reporter (Denzel Washington) to get her incriminating brief in print. Abetted by exceptional performances from a fine supporting cast, director Alan J. Pakula's spiky thriller maintains suspense despite a convoluted plot. Some restrained violence and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Bible School, from page 9

ence on the children.

"I was coming here as a student, and I was asked to be a helper. This is good thing because it helps them to learn about Jesus," said Rojas.

Dubon said, "I like working with the children, so I am glad to be a youth leader."

With a teacher dressed in appropriate attire significant of the areas where Jesus and David lived, the Cave classroom was decorated with pictograms and cave drawings that the children were trying to decipher and a brown-patterned cloth on the floor and on the teacher's chair.

The theme and symbols dealt with friends: "David, a friend, and Jesus, the Faithful Friend." During snack time, the children, in keeping with the theme, had to share their twin Popsicles and graham crackers with each other.

Perhaps the most impressive class of all was the "Heavens" which featured a gold throne, stars hung from the ceiling decorated with glitter wishes, white sheets and curtains, and purple filters on the light fixtures. The children were able to sit on the throne with their decorated crowns, which served as the symbol, to make and grant wishes for themselves and the class.

One of the substitute teachers, Gary Provost, stated, "I believe I was touched by God. I had been slacking in my Catholic duties, so I had been visiting the Blessed Sacrament lately. I was inspired to come and teach."

"It was definitely a success this year even though we ran into some problems in the beginning. Overall, the kids had a wonderful time and an excellent religious learning experience," said Laskis.

From the looks of the smiling faces of the children and their eagerness to learn more about the connections between Jesus and David, it is safe to say that this vacation Bible school helped the area children to become closer with their faith. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Timor Anarchy, from page 7

Konstant of Leeds, chairman of the bishops' Department of International Affairs, urged an international peacekeeping force and a halt to economic and military aid to Indonesia.

At the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 5, Pope John Paul II called for an end to all acts of "intimidation and violence" in East Timor.

"May the Virgin Mary awaken in the souls of everyone sentiments of true pacification and constructive respect for the will expressed in recent days by the Timorese population," he said.

Indonesian bishops called for an end to the violence and urged Indonesian Catholics to help East Timorese with prayers and action, especially humanitarian assistance for displaced people in refugee camps.

Refugees reportedly were fleeing to West Timor, where Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international aid and development agency, already had been administering food assistance programs for the local population, said Michael Wiest, CRS deputy executive director.

"We have staff and assets out there, especially in form of food aid, and we're in a position to make 2,500 metric tons of rice available if needed," he said in a Sept. 7 telephone interview from the agency's headquarters in Baltimore. "We're not sure yet exactly what is needed," he said.

Hours prior to the attack on Bishop Belo's residence, militias attacked the diocesan complex in Dili, burning several buildings. The Carmelite-run Motael clinic in Dili was also attacked, sources in East Timor said. Attacks were also reported at a Canossians sisters convent that was sheltering refugees and at the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters, located next door to Bishop Belo's residence.

"They're destroying this city. There's nothing left. As I am talking to you, I am watching the city burn," said a Salesian nun in Dili, who spoke via phone with the request of anonymity.

"The houses nearby are burning, and the military is just letting them do it. No one can do anything at this point, not UNAMET, no one. I don't know what you can do, but we need peacekeeping troops in here right away," she said Sept. 7.

She also said a militia commander told the nuns to evacuate the convent or it would be burned to the ground.

"Whether we live, or whether we die, we're not going to leave the people," she said. ▼

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LIMEX students share thoughts on program

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HICKORY — Theology is about religious studies the average layperson isn't expected to understand. Right?

Not for students in the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program, or LIMEX (pronounced "limx"), offered by Loyola University New Orleans. LIMEX students learn "practical theology."

LIMEX students in the Charlotte Diocese gathered at St. Aloysius Church Aug. 29 to talk about the program. Also attending were Dr. Barbara Fleischer, LIMEX director; Bishop William G. Curlin, and Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education.

Previously, the closest LIMEX program was at the Rock Hill (S.C.) Oratory, 25 miles from Charlotte. The first LIMEX course in the Charlotte Diocese began in August 1998. Presently 48 students are enrolled in groups in Charlotte, Asheville, Arden and Winston-Salem. Joanna Case, the Charlotte Diocese LIMEX liaison, said there is considerable interest in starting groups in Greensboro, Wilkesboro/Boone, and perhaps another in Charlotte. A minimum of 12 students is needed to start a group.

Bryna Bozart-Barnes told what LIMEX has meant to her. She yearned to be a hospital chaplain, but found no training until she heard about the Oratory's LIMEX program.

"It has opened so many doors for me," she said. "I'm so grateful. It couldn't have happened for me any other way." Since graduating, she has become a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.

Connie Milligan is director of religious education at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

"I can't say enough about how [LIMEX] has helped me in my ministry," she said. "It's helped me have a great understanding and compassion for the people I'm privileged to work with."

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Dr. Barbara Fleischer, director of LIMEX at Loyola University New Orleans, chats with Don and Pam Allen during the LIMEX gathering at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Aug. 29. Don Allen is in the ninth of 12 courses in the LIMEX program.

But ministry isn't restricted to traditional "religious" roles.

Don Allen of Charlotte, who hopes to graduate from the Oratory program next spring, is a physician's assistant working with urology patients.

"I'm a convert, and I really got into [LIMEX] just to learn more about Catholicism," he said. "I didn't know the program would be so involved. I think it's helped me with my patients. I have a lot of indigent patients, and it's helped me minister to them."

Courses include Old Testament, New Testament, and spirituality, among other subjects. But Course No. 1 is an eye opener for people who never realized theology goes beyond books and philosophical discussions. That first course establishes LIMEX's real-world emphasis.

"Course 1," Fleischer said, "is about how one *does* theology. How do I discern what ministerial aspect to engage in? How do I identify a piece of ministry with which to connect? That is the basis on which the program is built. What does this mean in terms of how I minister to my community? Practical theology never leaves the world."

Sid Baker, who is starting the fourth course in the group that meets at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, found his worldview has widened.

"I think what Course 1 did for me was opening me up to look at people," he said. "It makes you think twice about where they're coming from, where you're coming from, and it makes me slow down in my quickness to judge."

Ann Stowe is starting the fourth course in the group at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

"This to me is a very unique course because we can implement what we learn immediately," she said. "It's almost like you're getting your money's worth right from the start instead of having to get through four years of college first. It shapes your life. It makes such a difference."

It does "shape your life," not only in its view of theology, but in the time commitment. Allen, who is taking the ninth of 12 courses, said he and his wife are already planning "life A.L. - After LIMEX."

Courses last 10 weeks. Preparation for each session takes six to 10 hours and includes of reading a chapter in the course book (the equivalent of a classroom lecture), reading chapters in one or more textbooks, and keeping a journal of answers to questions in the course syllabus.

Students meet for three hours one evening a week, with a facilitator guiding the sessions. A session includes a video that expands on what they have read and discussion of journal entries and the material on the video.

A Loyola instructor grades the papers submitted at the end of the course. Students can earn a master's degree or continuing education certificate in religious education or pastoral studies.

All the effort is worth it, the students say.

"I worried about every detail of every paper," Milligan said. "You in the beginning stages, hang in there. You and your group grow together. It's a great experience. It has enhanced me as a human being."

Anyone interested in LIMEX can contact Joanna Case, diocesan liaison for LIMEX, at (704) 362-0013 or by e-mail at jcase@charlotte.infi.net. ▼

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Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VOCATIONS OFFICE

Seminarian retreat in Hickory

The seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte recently attended their annual retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Row one: Rev. Mr. Shawn O'Neal, Rev. Mr. Luis Osorio, Sr. Jean Linder, Fr. Eric Houseknecht, Rev. Mr. Frank Seabo. Row two: Matthew Buettner, Rev. Mr. Joseph Long Dinh, Robert Ferris, J. Chapin Engler, Jr., William Clark, Ricardo de Silva, Joseph Tran, Larry LoMonaco. Row three: Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn, Rev. Mr. Matthew Kauth, Christopher Roux, Rev. Mr. David Brzoska, Thomas Darcy, Michael Cabot Carney, Rev. Mr. Christopher Gober, and Johnathan Hanic.

Ecumenical retreat brings denominations together

GREENSBORO — For those needing spiritual, physical, or emotional healing from within, the seventh annual Ecumenical Healing Retreat will take place on the weekend of Sept. 24 and 25 at First Lutheran Church, 3600 West Friendly Ave. Nineteen area churches, including St. Pius X, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Churches, will be sponsoring the event along with the Franciscan Center.

The theme, "Entering More Deeply into the Healing Light of Christ," is the brainchild of Rev. Flora Slossan Wuellner, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ in Berkeley, Calif.

The retreat begins Friday, Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and continues Saturday, Sept. 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will include breakfast, worship, presentations, lunch, and healing prayers.

For more information or pre-registration, call the St. Paul the Apostle representatives Jackie and Bob Phillips at (336) 282-8185. ▼

Giving relationships a fighting chance

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Sometimes avoiding problems is the best way to resolve them.

While this approach may cut against the grain of how many relationship therapists would guide their patients, this unconventional approach is seeing a swell of interest.

Charlotte therapist and author of "The Solo Partner," Phil DeLuca, M.S.W., developed strategies he says work, "even when there is an uncooperative partner who actively undermines all efforts to improve the relationship."

Janet Chapman credits DeLuca's program for saving her marriage. More than a decade passed since she and husband Mark went for marriage counseling. Mark was defensive, and refused to change. Janet learned to deal with the situation, while the marriage deteriorated. In their dysfunctional partnership, she became the sole parent to their five children.

"The Solo Partner" embraces a concept geared towards a singular partner. In essence, the program contends one person in the relationship can make the other change, with changes the program participant adopts as their own behaviors.

DeLuca is convinced his techniques can bring promising results when an uncooperative partner is involved. "However," he says, "if you are fortunate enough to have a cooperative partner, this approach will work even better."

Don't confuse DeLuca's program with Retrouvaille, a peer ministry designed to help an increasing number of marriages and families stay intact. After six years of involvement, Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero guestimates he's had over 3,000 calls of interest in Retrouvaille. Of those calls, only about 20 percent of those who receive information will actually come, mainly due to an uncooperative partner. At its crux, Retrouvaille brings couples together for an intensive marriage workshop, where the weekend program stresses self-discovery, communication and faith.

Rev. Mr. Fadero calls DeLuca's approach one of tough love.

Nearly five years passed since Janet Chapman picked up a copy of "Solo Partner" as a last hope. "Mark refused counseling, but the situation was desperate," she recalls. Her husband read it, began to relate to DeLuca's step-by-step process, and adapted his behaviors accordingly. "Finally, after 10 years, things are improving," says Chapman.

On Oct. 9, DeLuca will bring this unorthodox conflict resolution workshop to Charlotte. Rev. Mr. Fadero says, "Solo Partner participants will be taught how to resolve conflict based on Scripture and Catholic principals." DeLuca says the program is geared for both married or unmarried partners, as well as other types of relationships, such as parent-child, friendships, dating relationships and roommate relationships.

"These techniques are designed to reduce conflict, limit 'power plays' and manipulation, and encourage the development of effective communications," says DeLuca.

For registration information and workshop details, call 704-334-2283. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Pastoral Care Training

This program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities, and homebound. Through the four-week training, volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts:

Each two-hour session held from 7-9 pm.

Monday, Oct. 4 **Parish Ministry**	*BJ Dengler Pastoral Coordinator*
Monday, Oct. 11 **Eucharistic Ministry**	*Msgr. John McSweeney St. Matthew, pastor*
Monday, Oct. 18 **Senior Sensitivity**	*Bernadette Ford Gerentologist*
Monday, Oct. 25 **Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency**	*Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M. Pastoral Associate*

All sessions will be held at:
St. Gabriel Catholic Church Ministry Center
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte (at Sharon Amity)
Cost: $5.00
Registration required, call 364-5431.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry, St. Gabriel Church, St. Matthew Church

In Memory

Bishop Curlin recalls the charisma of Mother Teresa

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — On the second anniversary of the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Bishop William G. Curlin offered prayers of remembrance for the woman who captured the hearts of the world.

During a Sept. 5 Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, the bishop reflected on a number of the experiences from their friendship of nearly three decades. Mother Teresa quickly came to know she could count on the bishop and his willingness to pitch in, whether it be scrubbing the floors of a planned hospice, or conducting impromptu retreats for her and her sisters in India.

Moreover, he spoke of her simple faith — the driving force of Mother Teresa.

"She saw with an inner vision," said Bishop Curlin. "She saw with her heart. It was her belief that if you want to touch God, you reach down and touch a crying child, a dying person, you feed the homeless, or just reach out to the brokenhearted." That, the bishop recalled, is where Mother Teresa said you will find Jesus in the least among us.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

In 1995, Mother Teresa visited Charlotte, where she was keynote speaker for an ecumenical prayer service at the Charlotte Coliseum. While in the diocese, she established a convent and left four of her sisters to continue in ministry to the poor.

Years before her death, the world called her a saint. During a tour of the United States in 1982, she was asked at a press conference in Charleston, S.C., about the popular conviction that she was already a saint. "Please let me die first," she replied. Her response was typical of the sense of humor Bishop Curlin frequently spoke of. "She was a woman of joy," he said.

Following her death, an outpouring of requests from all over the world prompted Pope John Paul II to waive the usual waiting period of five years after the death before investigation of new sainthood causes can begin. Church sources in Rome said it is apparently the first time such an exception had been made.

Bishop Curlin was one of those asked to contribute to the official investigation by providing testimony that will help substantiate sainthood, a request he was honored to fulfill. As the Vatican committee scours the earth for witness of miracles, Bishop Curlin offers, "The greatest miracle of her life was ... one tiny little woman who only had faith and love ... and with those two virtues, she raised the hearts of the world." With this, said the bishop, she helped and inspired countless millions to want to do the same.

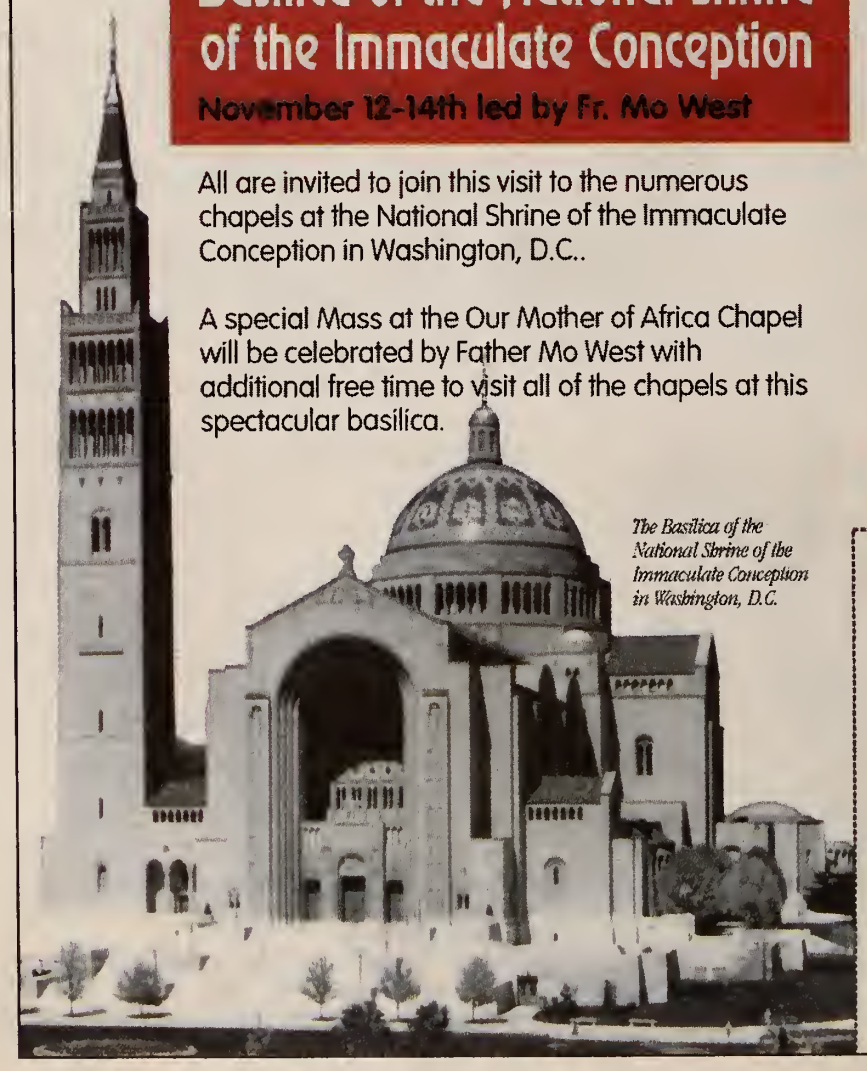
"We need heroes today," said Bishop Curlin in his homily. "We need heroes who inspire and move us and motivate us and charge us up. Mother Teresa practiced heroic virtue. She taught us that the greatest power you have on earth is inside you." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Come join the pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

November 12-14th led by Fr. Mo West



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

All are invited to join this visit to the numerous chapels at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C..

A special Mass at the Our Mother of Africa Chapel will be celebrated by Father Mo West with additional free time to visit all of the chapels at this spectacular basilica.

Friday, Nov. 12

3:30 pm - Depart Charlotte Pastoral Center by luxury motorcoach.

Box supper provided on coach. (cost included)

Overnight at Best Western hotel outside Washington, D.C. (cost included)

Saturday, Nov. 13

Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)

11:15 am - Guided tour of the National Shrine. Free time/lunch at cafeteria is you wish (not included in cost)

2:30 pm - Prayer service at Our Mother of Africa Chapel

3:00 pm - Mass celebrated By Fr. Mo West

4:00 pm - Coach will take you either to the Baltimore Inner Harbor shopping and entertainment complex or back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own Sat. Evening.

Sunday, Nov. 14

Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)

12:30 pm - Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

7:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor, at (704) 370-3339

Deadline to register: Friday, October 22

Cost: ☐ $145 per person (double occupancy) ☐ $175 per person (single occupancy) ☐ $75 children under 18

Cost includes coach, hotel, activities and meals except Saturday lunch and dinner.
Full payment must accompany registration. Registration form needed for each person.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE _____ **(day)** _____ **(evening)**

ROOMMATE NAME _____

Send registration to:
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor,
Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

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The Catholic
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African American Affairs Ministry
Our Mother of Africa Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Special to The Catholic News & Herald

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Indonesian activists burn Australian and American flags in front of the Chinese Embassy in Jakarta Sept. 10, opposing any attempt by the United Nations to intervene in outbreaks of violence in East Timor.

Vatican paper wonders if Timor peacekeepers will be too late

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After a week of bloodshed and repeated church calls for international intervention, the Indonesian government agreed to allow U.N. peacekeeping troops into East Timor.

The Sept. 12 move answered pleas from East Timor's two bishops, Pope John Paul II, and church leaders from several continents, but the Vatican newspaper questioned whether it was too late, since pro-Indonesia militias reportedly had killed tens of thousands of people and left some 200,000 homeless.

"What will remain of East Timor? What could be saved at this point?" asked the newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

Others, however, urged the peacekeeping force to begin work immediately.

A church worker in East Timor reported that on Sept. 13, militias were on the move again, burning property and shooting indiscriminately. The worker feared that unless U.N. troops arrived quickly, the militias would go on another killing spree.

"You go from hearing good news to hearing discouraging news," the worker said. "It keeps going back and forth, and it's pretty tiring, and we keep waiting and waiting."

U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Sept. 13 that she had found overnight in Jakarta a "new atmosphere, a much more positive one" toward cooperating in work for humanitarian relief in East Timor.

Nevertheless, she said, the United Nations had to "look very quickly at assembling the evidence of human rights violations" and the "very serious terrorizing and forcible displacement of population, killing, and utter devastation of communities that has taken place in East Timor."

"I have been very shocked and troubled by the clear link that came up in every single version between the (Indonesian military) and the militia, and the complicity in many instances of the police and local authorities," she said.

Vatican Radio's program director, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said in a commentary Sept. 13 that the Vatican was pleased that Indonesia agreed to accept outside intervention and that the church hoped that "deeds would follow words in the shortest time possible." The international force should be deployed "as rapidly and as effectively as possible," he said.

Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, who had called for international peacekeepers, termed the Indonesian decision a "courageous choice." The bishop, apostolic administrator of Dili, East Timor, spoke in Portugal, former territorial administrator of East Timor.

The next day he flew to the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, to meet with Pope John Paul. The pope, who earlier had called for

SEE EAST TIMOR, PAGE 7

Gore makes controversial visit to Detroit parish

DETROIT (CNS) — Controversy surrounded the Sept. 5 visit by Vice President Al Gore, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney and others to Detroit's Sacred Heart Church. About two dozen pro-life supporters gathered a block from the church before and after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. At the invitation of a Chicago interfaith group, a number of civic and labor leaders attended the Mass as part of a Labor Day program in southeast Michigan. "Vice President Gore's stated views on abortion and so-called 'choice' issues are directly and categorically in conflict with Catholic moral teaching," said Ned McGrath, director of communications for the Archdiocese of Detroit, in a statement released Sept. 4.

Burundian bishop perplexed by lack of Western interest

ROME (CNS) — Blaming Western nations for furnishing arms to warring ethnic factions in Burundi, a leading bishop said he did not understand Western disinterest in aiding his country economically. Archbishop Simon Ntamwana of Gitega said the West — particularly the United States and the European Union — should take some responsibility for the fighting that has killed more than 150,000 since 1993 in clashes between ethnic Hutu rebels and the minority Tutsis, who control the government and army. "I certainly remain perplexed, particularly with the United States," Archbishop Ntamwana, president of the Burundian bishops' conference, said Sept. 10 after a meeting of Burundian bishops with Pope John Paul II.

Papal biography was a command performance — from the pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What's an author to do when the pope invites him to dinner and asks him to write the pope's biography? For George Weigel, the answer was easy — not only because Pope John Paul II asked him but because the author had long wanted to write such a book. Three-and-a-half years in the making, "Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II" will be available in bookstores by mid-October from HarperCollins Publishers. An imposing yet highly readable volume that runs nearly 1,000 pages, including footnotes, the biography is the work of Weigel, a Catholic newspaper columnist and senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Earthquake in Greece
The top of the bell tower of St. Constantine Church in the Athens suburb of Ano Liosia shifted off its base in a Sept. 7 earthquake that left at least 72 dead.

Bishop calls proposed N. Ireland changes important step

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — An independent commission's report proposing changes to Northern Ireland's police force is "an important step forward," said Bishop Patrick Walsh of Down and Connor, Northern Ireland. The Independent Commission for Policing in Northern Ireland published its report Sept. 9 and recommended changes to the British-controlled Royal Ulster Constabulary, including changing its name to the Northern Ireland Police Service and making the force 30 percent Catholic within 10 years.

Polish church condemns computer game aimed at killing cardinal

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish computer firm is under investigation for allegedly circulating a computer game with the objective of killing a character named after Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw. A church spokesman condemned the game as "deeply alarming" and said it highlighted the need for tighter Internet regulations. In a mid-August report, the mass-circulation Gazeta Wyborcza daily said the game, "Operation Glemp," had been designed by a 25-year-old employee of Altar, a Kielce-based computer firm. It added that the aim was to kill Cardinal Glemp after "shooting at everything black which moves."

NCCB pro-life official urges support for fetal protection bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities urged members of the House Judiciary Committee to approve a bill intended to punish those who attack fetuses in the womb. Letting such attacks go unpunished "makes no moral or legal sense," said Gail Quinn in a Sept. 8 letter to Judiciary Committee members. The committee was considering the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which in August had been approved 5-2 by the House Subcommittee on the Constitution. The bill would protect unborn children whose mothers are physically assaulted, beaten, maimed or murdered.

Limits, not persecution, seen as Vietnam's response to religion

NEW YORK (CNS) — Vietnam's appraoch to religion today is by placing restrictions than by persecution, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee said after a visit there. In a telephone interview Sept. 8, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., reported that bishops in Vietnam cannot meet without government permission. Official approval is also required for a man to study for the priesthood, and although many men are being ordained, many others who want to study for ordination are not allowed to do so, he said. The government also restricts church use of media, he said.

Experts contest book describing Pope Pius XII as anti-Semite

ROME (CNS) — An English author, after investigating the life of Pope Pius XII with Vatican approval, has concluded that the late pope was an anti-Semite who was well-informed about the extent of Nazi persecution of Jews but failed to condemn it. The allegations prompted a flurry of rebuttals from Vatican and church experts, who said the author, John Cornwell, had selectively interpreted documents from the period and jumped to false conclusions. Cornwell's soon-to-be-published book, "Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII," was excerpted in the October issue of Vanity Fair.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 20 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

September 21 — 11 am
Presbyteral Council
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

September 23
Circle Celebration
For Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

September 26 — 11 am
Parish Mass
St. Mark, Huntersville

Diocesan planner

September

21 CHARLOTTE — Everyone is invited to ALPHA, a nine-video session renewal program for adults, which begins tonight through Nov. 16 at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road. The sessions last from 7:30-9 p.m. For details, call (704) 535-4197.

22 CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children, a support group for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth, or SIDS, meets at 7 p.m. tonight in the St. Matthew Church Conference Room, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. For details, call Lynn Schilling at (704) 831-9475 or Sister Jeanne Marie at (704) 543-7677 Ext. 43.

CHARLOTTE — Father Gene McCreesh, SJ, leads "Spiritual Direction for Lesbians and Gays" tonight at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. at 7 p.m. in the sacristy.

22 CHARLOTTE — A support group for those separated, divorced, or remarried outside of the church, meets this evening at St. Ann Church Activity Center, 3635 Park Road, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call Kathy Wooley at (704) 376-1503.

GREENSBORO — All women are invited to the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women Fall Luncheon at 12 noon today at the Greensboro Country Club Pavilion, 410 Sunset Drive. Paula Trivette, LTC, former White House nurse and 1996 Moses Cone Nurse of the Year is the speaker of this event. For reservations and other details, call Lillian Leonard at (336) 299-0736.

23 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to a healing Mass, sponsored by the Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry, being celebrated at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Road, tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after Mass. For details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

23 CHARLOTTE — Women in the

Catholic Schools Office brings distance learning to diocese

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Thanks to the technological advance called distance learning, teachers in the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools and religious education programs can learn more about the sacramental life of the church this fall.

The program is called Serve Our Schools & Parishes, a live, interactive television series designed for Catholic school teachers, catechists and people involved in a variety of education ministries. A project of the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington, D.C., Serve Our Schools has reached nearly 3,500 catechists and educators who have completed its courses.

Leaders in Catholic education and theology present the courses live via satellite or cable network to specified sites where educators and other participants are gathered. Each session is an hour long, and is enhanced with interactive audio and Internet access for those who enroll.

The upcoming scheduled classes revolve around the theme "The Sacramental Life of the Church: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread," and will emphasize sacramental preparation of young people.

Sessions are free of charge and will be hosted in the library of Bishop McGuinness High School, 1730 Link Road, in Winston-Salem.

The upcoming series suggests specific understandings of the sacraments and how they educate both mind and heart on a very personal level.

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the diocesan Catholic Schools Office, is responsible for bringing the program here. She called Serve Our Schools an "informative and interesting" means of reaching teachers and catechists in their own ongoing formation.

"This is an excellent resource for our teachers in Catholic schools, for our catechists in faith formation programs, and for all people who in some way are educating others about our beautiful faith," she said.

Participants can earn CEUs, or education credits, from Barry University in Miami through the Adrian Dominican School of Education.

Sister Maureen added that the public is also invited to attend. "People who would simply like to know more about the church's sacraments will learn a great deal from this program," she said.

Sessions will be hosted at BMHS from 3-4 p.m. Live presentation dates, themes and session descriptions are as follows:

• Session One, scheduled for Sept. 29, is called "Born in Christ" and will focus on the sacrament of baptism as the beginning of Christian life;

• Session Two, to be held Oct. 13, is titled "One Bread One Body" and centers on the Eucharist as an experience of Christ's love and strength;

• Session Three, on Oct. 27, is "The Lord Forgives" and explains how the sacrament of reconciliation is an encounter of God's love and mercy;

• Session Four, scheduled for Nov. 3, is called "We Are the Lord's Own" and illustrates how the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of confirmation empowers people to live their faith in all they do;

• Session Five, on Nov. 10, is titled "The Lord Calls" and focuses on the sacraments of holy orders and matrimony as instances of grace that build Christian community. This session also deals with the sacrament of the sick as a way Christ touches the suffering with strength, hope and love.

The course presenter is Father Richard Fragomeni, a faculty member of the Catholic Theological Union

See CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, page 15

CNS photo by Evelyn Zappia, Catholic San Francisco

Franciscan Father Floyd Lotito, of St. Boniface Parish in San Francisco, blesses a cab during the parish's revival of a local tradition, the Blessing of the Taxicab Drivers.

Parish revives annual tradition of blessing taxis

By EVELYN ZAPPIA
Catholic News Service

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — St. Boniface Church revived a San Francisco tradition — the annual blessing of the taxicab drivers — on Sept. 1, the feast of the patron saint of cabdrivers, St. Fiacre.

Cabbies of various religious affiliations lined Golden Gate Avenue in front of the historic church as Franciscan Father Floyd Lotito briefly talked to each driver and performed the blessing.

"May God bless you and your cab and everyone that rides in it," he said. "We ask in his name to keep you safe from harm and in good health."

"In this city it's important to get all the help I can," said driver Rinaldo Datlag. "I believe in blessings, and know this will keep me safe."

The blessing ceremony put focus on the service cab drivers provide the community and also drew attention to St. Boniface Church and the friars' campaign to raise funds for the facility's seismic retrofitting. The church in San Francisco's Tenderloin district must be upgraded to comply with seismic standards passed into law after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Restoring the church ensures that the good works the Franciscans have been providing in the Tenderloin community for 112 years will continue, Father Lotito said. ▼

Word, a group that studies the upcoming Sunday Scripture and prays for special needs, meets this morning from 9:30-11 a.m. For information, call Kathie at (704) 543-8769 or Margie at (704) 541-7703.

25 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order is sponsoring their 2nd Annual Flea Market today from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church Gym, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. For participation and vendor information, call Janet Ceraldi, SFO at (704) 597-8851.

26 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Social Services-Western Regional Office is holding its third annual fund-raising dinner and raffle today from 1-3 p.m. at 35 Orange St. For questions, call Dorothy Schmid at (828) 684-0611 or the CSS Office at (828) 255-0146.

HENDERSONVILLE — St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. For details, call Chuck Cowen at (828) 884-4246.

REIDSVILLE — Holy Infant Church, 1042 Freeway Drive, is hosting a migrant workers' meal today at 2 p.m. immediately following a Spanish Mass at 1 p.m. To find how you can help by donating food, time or talents, call Dolores Ahrens at (336) 272-2824.

27 CHARLOTTE — For activities for the memory-impaired, the Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group meets today in Rooms D and E of the Ministry Center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Road, from 2-3 p.m. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

30 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre is producing two plays dealing with different aspects of the Holocaust. Barbara's Lebrow's "A Shayna Madel" opens today and will run Oct. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m. C.P. Taylor's "Good" runs Oct. 7-9 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 10 at 2:30 p.m. On the following weekend, the two plays will alternate performances. For further information or for ticket reservations, call the box office at (704) 825-6787.

MONROE — All are invited to gather in the multi-purpose room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., for a Christian Book Club. Tonight's meeting, from 7-8:30 p.m., will focus on this month's book, "The Art of Loving God" by St. Francis de Sales. For information, call Debra O'Neal at (704) 233-5720.

October

1 HIGH POINT — All are welcome to a Latin Mass celebrated at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Drive, tonight at 7 p.m. The Rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m., and benediction and adoration follow the Mass.

HOT SPRINGS — "The Church: A Reconciling Community" is the theme of a weekend retreat at the Jesuit House of Prayer beginning today through Oct. 3 facilitated by Father Frank Reese, SJ, and Sister Margaret Verstege, RSM. The focus involves prayer using scripture and other stories that model reconciliation. The limit is 12 people, and for registration and information, call (828) 622-7366 or (828) 649-2781.

2 CHARLOTTE — The 1999 St. Patrick School Fall Festival and Pot of Gold takes place today from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the grounds of the school on 1125 Buchanan St. in Dilworth. Games, food, music, and fellowship will benefit the general PTO Fund.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured loving environment for pregnant women, is hosting a fund-raising banquet on Nov. 11. For reservation and other information, call Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the text of Pope John Paul II's English-language message Sept. 9 to the bishops and faithful of East Timor.*

Their Excellencies Bishop Carlos F. Ximenes Belo, SdB, apostolic administrator of Dili; Bishop Basilio do Nascimento, apostolic administrator of Baukau,

It is with great sadness that hour by hour I am receiving ever more tragic news from the cherished land of East Timor, and I am profoundly saddened that the glimmers of hope born of the recent popular consultation have been transformed into the terror of today, which nothing and no one can justify.

In these hours of suffering, I wish to send to both of you, to the clergy, seminarians, religious and faithful of the two dioceses, this expression of my spiritual closeness, while remembering in prayer those who have died, the injured, the refugees, the deportees and all who are in distress. I call on everyone to cling to hope in the victory of the Cross, even as they are living once again the sorrowful experience of the Passion.

In most firmly condemning the violence, which has also been furiously unleashed against the personnel and property of the Catholic Church, I implore those responsible for so many acts of wickedness to abandon their murderous and destructive intentions. It is also my heartfelt wish that as soon as possible Indonesia and the international community will put an end to the slaughter and find effective ways to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Timorese population.

With such sentiments and fervent wishes, and as a pledge of divine comfort, I impart with all my heart to you and your Christian communities my apostolic blessing.

From the Vatican, Sept. 9, 1999.
John Paul II

Pope warns of modern society that has forgotten God

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Divorce, abortion and assisted suicide are not marks of a progressive culture, but of a society that has forgotten God, Pope John Paul II said.

"Some ideas which are considered pillars of modern or postmodern culture are clearly non-Christian," the pope said Sept. 11 in a message to the bishops of Puerto Rico.

The bishops met the pope at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, during their "ad limina" visits to report on the church in their dioceses.

"Regrettably, the current cultural context — and Puerto Rico is not an exception — tends to give rise to a culture and a social life separated from God," the pope said.

"Divorce, abortion, assisted euthanasia, pre-marital relations and hedonism are presented as modern 'conquests' because of a misunderstood (idea of) individual freedom exempt from responsibility," the pope said.

Office of Justice & Peace

JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Faith Doing Justice conference

The infinite bounty of God begins with the gift of life itself and continues with everything that sustains it. Our (human) activity is not so much an earning our way as a cooperating with the Creator God in transforming history into God's reign of justice and love. ("New Wineskins," Sandra M. Schneiders).

This quote captures the purpose for the Office of Justice and Peace Faith Doing Justice biennial conference: to provide ways to integrate the social mission of the church into lives and ministries in order to change "the way things are" into the way God would have them be.

The biennial diocesan-wide Faith Doing Justice Conference will be held Saturday, Oct. 23, 1999, at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

The keynote speaker, syndicated columnist Glenmary Father John Rausch, lives and works in Appalachia where he teaches, writes and organizes. His keynote topic is "John 3:16-It's More Than a Poster!" ("John 3:16" is often seen on posters at sports or entertainment events.) Father Rausch while exploring the meaning of generosity in "God so loved the world, that God gave God's only son...," will examine how a spirit of generosity, when lived by God's people in the public arena and the marketplace, has deep implications for justice, human rights and dignity in our society.

Workshops are designed to teach content and skills that will enhance a number of parish ministries. There will be sessions on justice in the new millennium, role of the faith community in welfare to work programs, environmental justice, social analysis, diversity, socially responsible investing, living wage, Catholic social teaching, using the N.C. bishops' pastoral to build social justice committees, and debt relief for poor nations.

During the afternoon, Father Rausch will present a workshop on "Social Analysis: Asking the Right Questions about Problems and Issues in our Communities," which will be a discussion how to identify and analyze issues of social and economic justice in order to take effective action.

Among the 10 workshops to choose from in the afternoon are Hunger and the Catholic Campaign on Debt presented by Rev. Mark Barwick, S.E. Regional Organizer for Bread for the World. Human Right to a Safe Environment: Care for God's Creation will be given by Jean Pudlo, Development Director of the Piedmont Land Conservancy.

Other workshop leaders include Barbara Earls, NC Council of Churches Jubilee Project; David Harold, Piedmont CSS regional office; Sister Veronica Grover, education consultant; Dr. Bernard Offerman, Catholic Campaign for Human Development; Jerry Bergeron and Sister Phyllis Tierney, parish pastoral associates; and Colleen McDermott, diocesan campus ministry director.

Parishes are invited to share display exhibits of successful activities in their social ministry.

The registration fee of $25 per person ($20 per person when 4 or more people from the same parish register together) includes lunch and materials.

For more information or to obtain brochures, call Joanne K. Frazer, 704-331-1736; or Terri Jarina, 704-370-3231; FAX 704-370-3377. A brochure with registration from can be downloaded from the CSS Website, www.cssnc.org.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is the diocesan director for the Office of Justice and Peace.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

The mighty mosquito

To be awakened by a mosquito screaming "Weeeeeeee! Weeeeeeee! Wee! Weeeeee!" in a really, really high-pitched voice is probably Stephen King's idea of fun. For all I know, he might have special genetically engineered mosquitoes flown in from a secret laboratory on a tiny island in the South Pacific just for his listening pleasure. This keeps his nerves sharp and his horror-story writing skills razor-edge, and his agent on Valium.

However, being awakened by a screaming mosquito is not my personal favorite way to exit slumber. In truth, however, it is not always clear if it is the mosquito's "Weeeeeeeeee. Weeeeeeeeee. Wee. Weeeeee" that wakes me up or if it is my left hand.

You see, my left hand usually hears the mosquito before my ear does (I think it has to do with my diving history's effect on my ears). So it (my left hand) jerks incredibly quickly to my ear and slaps it really hard, pretending to be trying to hit the mosquito.

Actually, the hand is just getting a huge belly laugh. It is not trying to hit the mosquito at all. It just uses the "Weeeeee" as an excuse, like your kid brother used to do when he claimed he saw a fly on the back of your neck.

"Whoops, sorry," guffaws my hand, "I was just trying to destroy that screeching mosquito."

"Sure, jerk," my ear barks back. "I know you're crossing your fingers."

I ignore them. I have leapt into the air and am now standing on the bed — my eyes squinting, surveying the darkness to try to hear that maniac mosquito again. I whisper, "Why do people squint their eyes to hear better?"

"Are you mosquito hunting again?" a voice in the dark asks. It sounds familiar. It's a much lower tone than the mosquito uses. Still, it could be one of Stephen King' mutant mosquitoes that alters its voice.

"Is that my wife asking?" I venture. "And don't try to fool me because I have a loaded pillow in my hands and I'll let you have it."

"My mother tried to warn me," the voice replies.

"Didn't you ear that mosquito?" I ask.

"The one that goes, 'Weeeeeeeee' like a little genetically created mosquito dentist with a high pitched drill?" she completes my sentence for me.

"Yes," I whisper.

"Would it help to turn on the light?" she asks.

"Maybe," I said, "but you know what happens then."

"Yes," she sighed, "they become invisible and disappear back to Stephen King's island in the South Pacific."

"Exactly."

"Maybe we should talk to Father O'Kneel about this," my wife suggests.

"OK," I tell her, "but I don't think exorcisms work on mosquitoes."

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Love's labor found

The word in the American workplace is that employees are demanding a broader mission on the job than bringing home a paycheck. One worker puts it directly: "My job doesn't challenge me to express myself, my creativity or my individuality —all I do is work in order to live!"

Like many others he feels that all he does when he works is to make money in order that he may eat, and then eat in order that he may have strength to go back to work again. It is a process that subordinates the human spirit to the economic and the mechanical. And it is an issue that is getting a lot of press.

Labor analyst Adam Bryant recently observed [in the New York Times]: Companies, reaching the limits of downsizing and re-engineering, have decided that one of the few remaining ways to get more out of their workers is to help them find purpose."

Richard Leider, author of "The Power of Purpose: Creating Meaning in Your Life and Work" and a frequent speaker and adviser to corporations like American Express and General Motors: "Many companies are wondering, 'How do we attract and renew and bring out the energy and talents in our people?"

One solution in the last quarter of this century has been to reconfigure labor practices to allow employees some share in the profits or management or ownership of industry.

Yet another remedy for restoring the dignity of workers — a spiritual one — is gaining currency. It is based on the recognition of a very old idea: that each and every one of us counts as a human being, as a child of God.

For example, James Amos, president and CEO of MailBoxes Etc., concluded that it was useless trying to motivate workers with spreadsheets. So he hired Sister Suzanne Donovan, a nun, to create a mission statement for the company.

Everyone worked on it. In the end they selected eight items: caring, honesty, integrity, trust, respect, commitment, and accountability. Every worker tries to live that statement. In fact, they meet once a month in groups to discuss ways in which these values can motivate their job performance. Amos declares: "We are committed to bringing the glorious concept of the dignity of the worker back into our economic life."

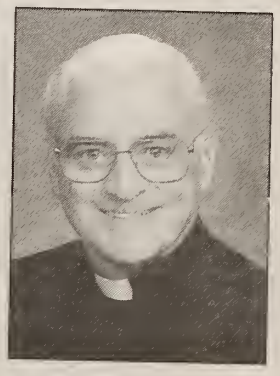
For all of us, that dignity is embedded in our eternal destiny.

Raising a microphone, making a table, sweeping the floors, threading needles, routinely working at a machine in a factory — all of these operations can be sanctified and made a prayer, provided they are offered with a Divine intention. Whatsoever we do, sanctification is possible when the task is offered in the name of God.

We can do different things for different reasons, like dropping money in a cup just to be seen, or giving it simply because we see Christ in the poor. We all have work to do that is unpleasant, but it becomes purposeful when we love someone. Work done for the love of God makes one happier and gives an inner peace the world cannot take away.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Battling substance abuse by your child

There are approximately 150 million drug users around the world. Millions more are alcohol abusers. That means billions of people worldwide are made more miserable each year by the irresponsible behavior of substance abusers.

It is estimated that well over half a million Americans die each year from drug- and alcohol-related causes. More than $56 billion is spent on illegal drugs in the United States alone.

A recent survey indicated that only 14 percent of parents thought that their children had used drugs. However 38 percent of the teens surveyed admitted that they were using. What begins in the name of fun, like smoking a little pot, can blossom quickly into a life-threatening addiction.

Marijuana is stronger today than it was in the '60s and '70s. The dealers want kids to get hooked early so they can move on to more serious drugs. Teens go from experimentation to addiction in about six to 18 months. More kids are smoking pot in grammar school today than ever before. The average age for first use is 14, but some start in the fifth grade and earlier. By senior year in high school, one in 20 uses drugs on a daily basis.

These young people's learning skills diminish, and concentration is impaired. In addition, interest in sports and other activities dissolves. Watch for warning signs such as a change in behavior or appearance, a big drop in grades or a decrease in energy. A sure tip-off: unexpected disappearances of money or possessions. Family conflicts become more intense at that point.

What can a parent do to keep things from going this far? Take action to get between your children and drugs. Your children will need to know how you feel about drugs and about them. Tell them you love them, and warn them about the consequences of drug use. They could spend their lives in and out of jail, and risk the possibility of a miserable death. Let them know this in no uncertain terms.

Do not wait for them to come to talk to you. Talk straight. Do not tolerate evasive answers. Take a stand, and mean it, but be ready to listen and learn as well.

Find out what they are thinking about their future. Consider using random drug-screening tests right in your home. Testing their urine is one way to be sure. If they lie to you, and test positively, punish them severely. In advanced cases you may need to enlist trained professional help.

My heart goes out to parents who are dealing with headstrong teens. Do not be discouraged. They will fight you tooth and nail, but if you persist, your chances of prevailing are very good. With God's help all things are possible.

Once you get involved, stay involved. Make clear your expectations. Say no to questionable parties. Be serious about your intentions. Network with other parents, and if possible join a support group. Setting a good example is so important for you and for others.

Above all pray for God's wisdom and strength. Ultimately, prayer will be your strongest weapon.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Communion services conducted by laypersons

Q. In our parish the pastor's poor health precludes some morning Masses. A Communion service is substituted, which is conducted by a layperson.

It has become customary for the presider to deliver a homily, of his own making, after the readings. I understood that homilies are to be delivered only by ordained deacons or priests. Is there an official rule about this?

A. There is an official Catholic ritual for these ceremonies titled "Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest." While specifically designated for Sunday, the same principles would apply to other days of the week as well. The numbers given below refer to this document.

Generally, these celebrations take the form of either morning or evening prayer (the Liturgy of the Hours), or a Liturgy of the Word with holy Communion.

When a priest is not available for the celebration of Mass, at the recommendation of the pastor the bishop is to appoint someone, lay or religious, to lead these liturgies, including the prayers and ministry of the word, and administer Communion (21).

The ritual points out, incidentally, that these ministers carry out their responsibilities in virtue of their baptism and confirmation. It is, in other words, part of their proper function as baptized Christians to do so.

Even when a layperson presides, he or she is always to be assisted by other ministers to proclaim the Scriptures, help distribute Communion, provide the music and so on.

At the reading of the word of God, there should always be some explanation of the readings or a period of silent reflection on what has been heard. Since only an ordained minister may give the homily as such, the pastor may prepare one for the leader to read, or the lay leader may give a brief explanation of the Scripture text, if permitted to do so by the bishop (41).

An obvious peril in permitting this sort of liturgy, as many bishops have noted, is that it may seem to minimize the crucial importance of the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist in Catholic Christian life.

The Mass as a liturgical sacrifice, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, can never be adequately substituted for by any other rite. Thus, the service we are discussing here is intended for use only when the full celebration of the paschal mystery, with the liturgies of word and Eucharist, is impossible because no priest is available.

As the introduction to this ritual indicates, pastoral teaching must always "emphasize that the sacrifice of the Mass is the only true actualization of the Lord's paschal mystery, and is the most complete manifestation of the church" (4).

For those interested, a Spanish-English edition of this ritual, complete with related documents, prayers, litanies, blessings and so on, is published by The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651. at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Minnesota nun, 81, named top U.S. missionary for 1999

CHICAGO (CNS) — A Minnesota nun who began serving the poor out of the back doors of parishes where she was cook has been named winner of the 1999 Lumen Christi Award for exemplary work as an American missionary. Benedictine Sister Justina Violette, 81, was to receive the award from Msgr. Kenneth Velo, president of Catholic Church Extension Society which sponsors the award, Sept. 16 in her home diocese of Crookston, Minn. Nominated by Bishop Victor Balke of Crookston, Sister Justina began her vocation by serving as a cook at a string of parishes.

Ex-baseball commissioner wants to be remembered for love of Jesus

NEW YORK (CNS) — As Major League Baseball commissioner from 1969-84, Bowie Kuhn presided over some of the most historic and tumultuous times of America's national pastime. But when asked how he'd like to be remembered he simply said, "as a good Catholic man." Before taping an appearance on "Personally Speaking," nationally syndicated by the Catholic Communication Campaign, Kuhn discussed his years as commissioner, his love for the game, and his love of Jesus Christ. Kuhn said his faith has been his anchor throughout his life.

Mercy sister wins highest national fly fishing award

FORT SMITH, Ark. (CNS) — The International Federation of Fly Fishers has awarded one of fly fishing's highest honors to Mercy Sister Carol Ann Corley of Fort Smith. Nominations for the organization's highest award, the Virginia Buszek Perry FlyTyers Award, came from fly fishers all over the world. Sister Corley, a talented trout fisher and master at tying lures, gained notoriety earlier this year after giving a fly fishing teaching demonstration in California and being dubbed on the Internet as the "tying nun."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Puerto Rican nationalist granted clemency

Dylicia Pagan hugs a young supporter, with her son, Guillermo, at her side. Pagan was one of four Puerto Rican nationalism activists who were held at a federal corrections facility in Dublin, Calif. They were among 14 granted clemency by President Clinton and freed from federal prisons where they were serving sentences for sedition.

Cardinal O'Connor resumes public duties after brain surgery

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, recuperating from removal of a brain tumor, resumed public activities at the annual Labor Day Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Sept. 12, eight days after his release from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He announced a joint project of the Archdiocese of New York and the New York City Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) to deal with discrimination and exploitation faced by immigrant workers. Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Sheridan of New York presided at the Mass. But Cardinal O'Connor, wearing his red cardinal's robe, delivered the homily and appeared to have regained much of his normal strength.

Miss Wisconsin stands firm on platform of abstinence

HOLMEN, Wis. (CNS) — During her yearlong reign as Miss Wisconsin, Mary-Louise Kurey plans to encourage young people to improve their character through sexual abstinence. Kurey believes that many young people are open to the message that sexual abstinence is an important pathway that leads them toward a brighter future. Selected in June to wear this year's Miss Wisconsin crown, Kurey is preparing to compete in the annual Miss America pageant, to be held Sept. 18 in Atlantic City, N.J. For her talent entry at the Miss America pageant, she will sing an Italian aria, "Il Bacio" (The Kiss).

Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Abramowicz dies at 80

CHICAGO (CNS) — A funeral Mass was scheduled for Sept. 17 at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago for Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz. Bishop Abramowicz, 80, died Sept. 12 of cancer, which he had been battling for nearly three years. A Chicago native, Bishop Abramowicz had been a bishop since 1968, serving in Chicago until his retirement in 1995.

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East Timor, from page 1

Indonesia and the international community to put an "end to the slaughter" in East Timor, was upset by what he saw as a campaign of terror against the church.

"I cannot hide my deep bitterness that all sense of humanity has once again been defeated, and that at the dawn of the third millennium fratricidal hands are being raised to kill and destroy without pity," he said Sept. 12.

"Again I express complete condemnation of the serious human rights abuses perpetrated in that territory, in the vain attempt to cancel the will expressed by the people and their legitimate aspirations," he said.

After more than 78 percent of East Timorese voted for independence Aug. 30, pro-Indonesia militias unleashed a campaign of terror against East Timorese, about 85 percent of whom are Catholic. They attacked thousands of people who had taken refuge in Bishop Belo's compound and burned his home, forcing him to flee to the home of Bishop Basilio do Nascimento, apostolic administrator of Baukau, East Timor.

After more than 78 percent of East Timorese voted for independence Aug. 30, pro-Indonesia militias unleashed a campaign of terror against East Timorese, about 85 percent of whom are Catholic.

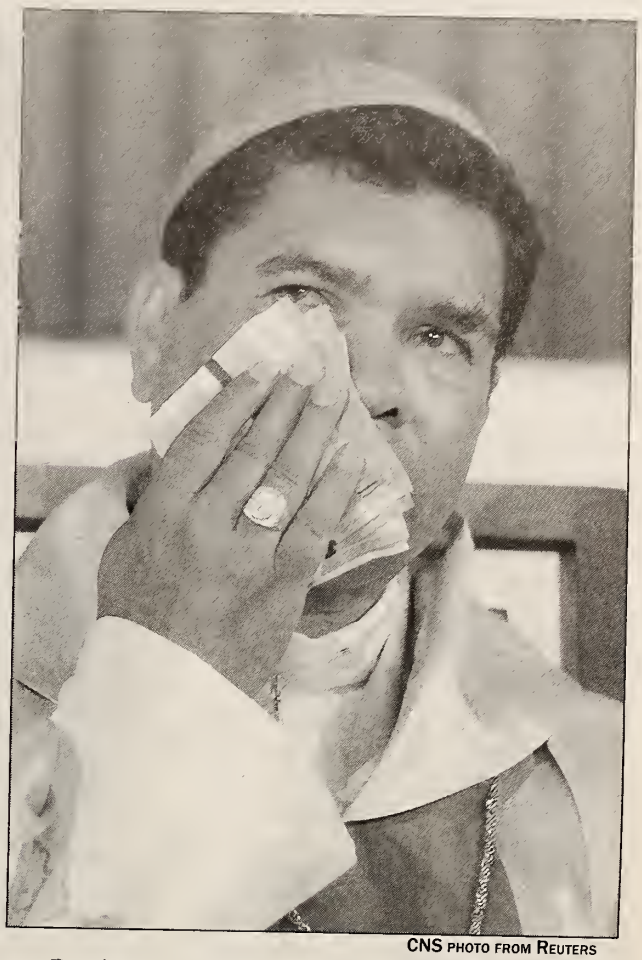
When the militias attacked Bishop Nascimento's home, Bishop Belo was evacuated to Australia. Bishop Nascimento fled to the hills following the attack; his house, too, was burned to the ground.

After the incident, Bishop Nascimento told Portugal's RDP radio station international intervention was urgently needed or "the people of East Timor are going to die."

During an attack outside of Dili, militiamen killed the head of Caritas East Timor, Father Francisco Barreto. Four members of his staff reportedly were killed in an attack on a parish in Suai. Caritas Australia set up an East Timor Caritas office in Darwin, Australia.

The director of Jesuit Refugee Service in East Timor, 70-year-old Jesuit Father Karl Albrecht, was shot and killed Sept. 11 in a Jesuit residence in Dili. When intruders broke into the Loyola Jesuit Residence late at night, Father Albrecht heard a noise and took a flashlight with him to investigate.

Jesuit Father Ageng Marwata, superior of the Loyola community, said the intruders ordered Father Albrecht — who needs hearing aids — to turn off the flashlight. When the priest did not respond, the intruders fired at least three shots at him, including a fatal shot to the stomach.



East Timor Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximines Belo wipes his face after tearing up during Mass in Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 12. He appealed for a spirit of forgiveness despite the killings in East Timor.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

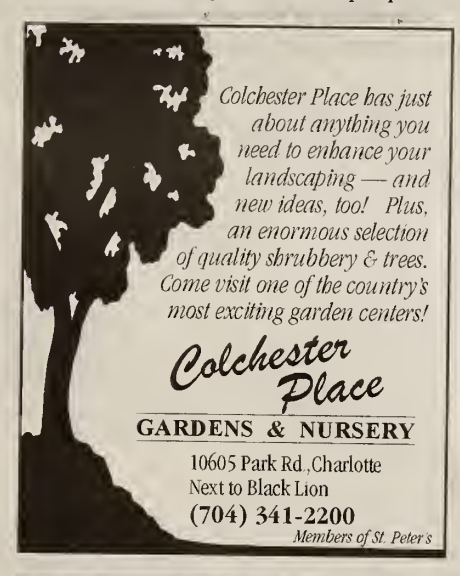
Salesian Sister Marlene Bautista, an American who remained in East Timor through the anarchy and violence, urged people to "please keep praying for us."

"The sisters are firmly convinced that it's the prayers of the people of the world that have kept us alive. It's a miracle that we're still alive; we've had so many close calls," Sister Bautista said in a Sept. 10 interview.

In a letter to President Clinton Sept. 9, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, called for the immediate creation of a U.N. peacekeeping force for East Timor.

The bishop condemned what he described as "unmitigated terror" taking place in East Timor and urged Clinton to "take the actions necessary to save the lives of the suffering people in East Timor," saying that in their vote for independence, East Timorese "placed their trust in the great democracies of the world."

The day the letter was sent, Clinton announced he was suspending U.S. military ties to Indonesia. After the announcement that Indonesia would accept peacekeepers, Clinton said the United States would commit hundreds of soldiers, but not for combat. ▼



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World's eyes on United Nations in tense times, pope says

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, in a message keyed to the opening of the 1999 General Assembly of the United Nations, said that "the eyes of the world are rightly turned to the U.N. for leadership and guidance in meeting the challenges of the present hour, marred by tension and violence in various parts of the world."

His message was sent by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, to participants in an ecumenical prayer service Sept. 13, the day before the opening of the 54th session of the General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations, and other members of the diplomatic community were among the participants in the service.

Cardinal Sodano said the pope "joins all of you in commending the work of the coming session to Almighty God, and in praying that the United Nations organization will become an ever more effective instrument of dialogue and cooperation within the family of peoples."

Pope John Paul was also praying that the U.N. would remain "faithful to its mandate to foster world peace on the basis of respect for the inalienable rights of individuals and nations," Cardinal Sodano said.

The prayer service is sponsored annually by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York and Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, and is held at Holy Family Church, whose parish boundaries include the U.N. building.

This year's service fell on a day when the U.N. was struggling to develop a response to the violence in East Timor.

There was no reference to that or any other specific situation, but Archbishop Martino, who read the papal message, said the end of the second millennium was a time to remember the "great moments" of the U.N. and "to look back with regret and a spirit of repentance for the times when our efforts have fallen short."

Central to all the challenges of the future is "the task of securing respect for human life and the fundamental rights and freedoms of the human person," the nuncio said.

The presence of Cardinal O'Connor was especially welcomed because he was resuming public activities after surgery for a brain tumor.

Pope John Paul's message extended "heartfelt prayers for his speedy recovery."

In recognition of the cardinal's rapid return, he was described as "our miracle man" by Father Robert J. Robbins, pastor of Holy Family Church.

Cardinal O'Connor said that during his "little episode in the hospital" the flowers and message from the U.N. secretary-general and his wife "meant so very, very much to me."

The gesture demonstrated that the U.N. was not only an institution but a group of persons, he said. Diplomats should make sure their institutional role does not keep them from remembering they are persons working for persons, he said.

"I have never faltered in my devotion to or my support of the U.N.," Cardinal O'Connor said.

But he noted that many people saw the U.N. as "a large machine" that accomplished very little. And he said what the U.N. accomplished would depend on keeping the personal relationships central.

Annan, speaking briefly at the end, acknowledged "the fragility of our work," and expressed regret for what had not been accomplished in meeting world needs.

"Hatred and greed seem to have the upper hand in too many societies," he said.

But the secretary-general said that the international community could see "signs of progress" in such areas as increasing life expectancy and literacy. "We do move forward," he said.

Annan, a native of Ghana with a Protestant background, reiterated his belief in the importance of prayer. He said discussions of international issues should be "suffused with prayer," and that members of the U.N. community should "support our prayers with good works." ▼

Canadian church to celebrate Canadian Martyrs' 350th anniversary

By ART BABYCH
Catholic News Service

OTTAWA (CNS) — On the eve of a new millennium, the Catholic Church in Canada is turning to its roots in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the deaths of the eight Jesuit missionaries known as the Canadian Martyrs.

"We thank God for giving the church in Canada such impressive founders and models," said the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in a pastoral letter released Sept. 14, the feast of the Holy Cross.

"As we begin a new millennium and find ourselves challenged to undertake a new evangelization, we are encouraged by the witness of the Canadian martyrs and their devotion to Christ, as well as by their courageous zeal and spirit of prayer," the council said.

Bede Hubbard, assistant general secretary of the Canadian bishops' conference, said the anniversary, to be celebrated in late September, is important because of the place the martyrs have in the history of the Canadian church at its outset and because "their witness remains a living heritage."

He noted that Pope John Paul II, in "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" ("As the Third Millennium Draws Near"), reminds Catholics that the church was born of the blood of the martyrs.

The eight Canadian Martyrs were Sts. Jean de Brebeuf, Antoine Daniel, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, Noel Chabanel, Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and Jean de la Lande.

The bishops' governing council described them as part of a team of "greats" who founded the church in Canada. The council said that team also included Sisters Marie de l'Incarnation, Catherine de Saint-Augustin, Marguerite Bourgeoys and Marguerite d'Youville, Bishop Francois de Montmorency Laval and the Mohawk ascetic Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. ▼

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Participants are invited to spend Friday night at The Oratory to prepare for the retreat with an evening of private prayer and meditation.

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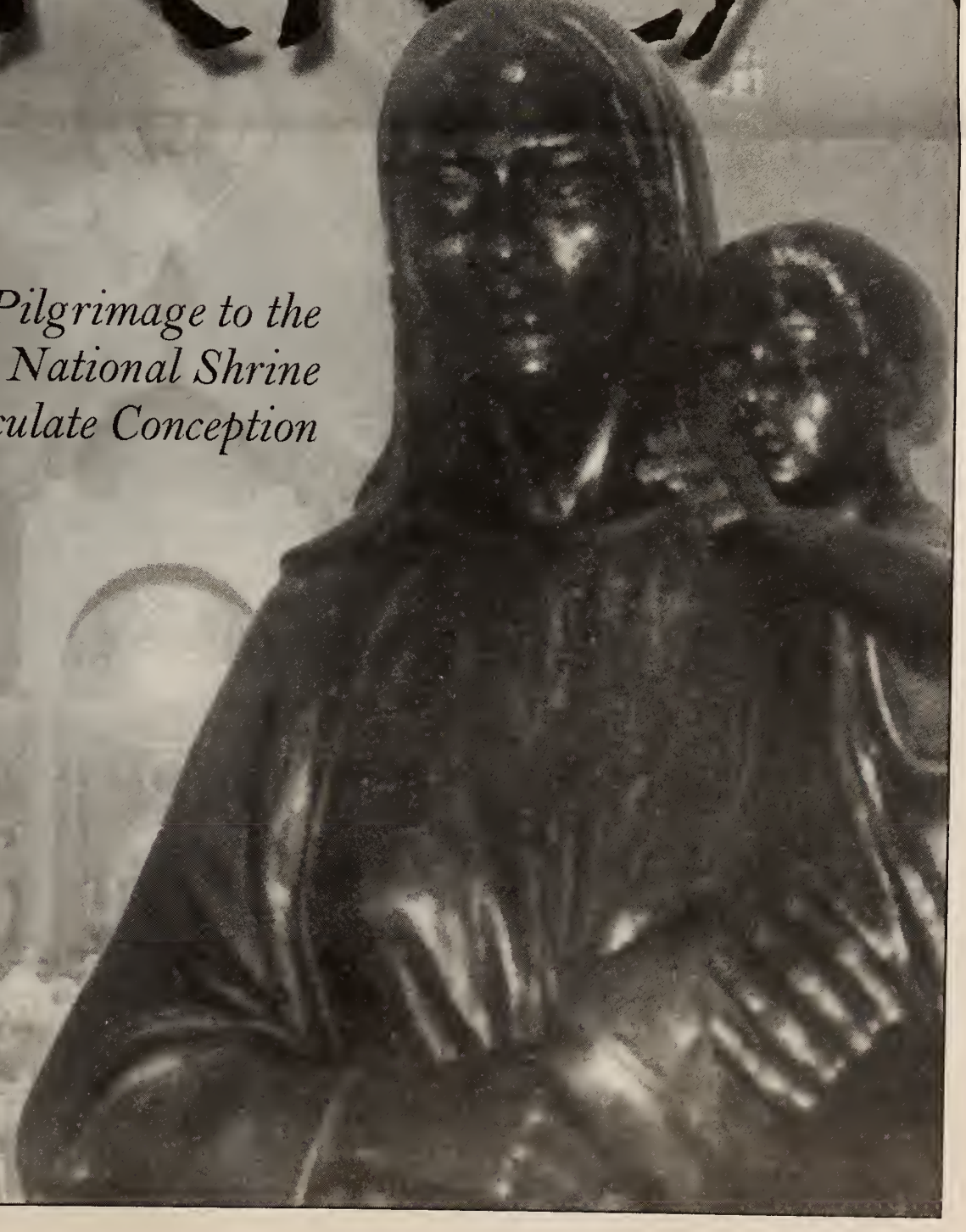
Our Mother of AFRICA

A Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Special to
The Catholic News & Herald
September 17, 1999

A Brief History

American devotion to Mary is celebrated at her shrine

In 1897 at the petition of the American bishops, Pope Pius IX named Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, as Patroness of the United States. Then in the early 1900s, Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, the fourth rector of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., suggested building a shrine to Mary adjacent to the university campus.

Bishop Shahan presented his plan to Pope Pius X in a special audience and received not only a $400 personal contribution from the pontiff, but his enthusiastic support as well.

In 1913, the Board of Trustees of The Catholic University of America agreed to donate a parcel of land on which would be built the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Nationwide support for the proposed Shrine soon began to pour in. Designs were completed and the cornerstone was laid by his eminence, James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore on September 23, 1920. Completed in 1926, the Crypt Church has been in continuous use ever since.

Located at the center of the Crypt Church is the exquisitely carved Mary's Altar dedicated to Our Lady of the Catacombs. The altar was given as a gift to the National Shrine by more than 30,000 women named Mary and has been used for the celebration of Mass since 1927.

The great depression and second World War delayed construction until 1953 when the nation's Catholic bishops renewed the effort to build the Great Upper Church of the Shrine. Catholics in every parish throughout the United States responded overwhelmingly to the national fundraising effort and during the Marian Year of 1954 construction of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was resumed.

In just a few short years, thousands of Catholics gathered with the American heirarchy for the solemn dedication Mass of the Great Upper Church on November 20, 1959.

Together, they celebrated in word and song the humble beginnings of this great church and rejoiced in the lasting impact their new National Shrine would surely have on the life of the church in the United States.

In the decades that followed, the many chapels of the Shrine were added, each reflecting the religious heritage brought to America by generations of immigrants Catholics. These chapels represent both the diversity of Catholic faith and the strength of unity achieved through devotion to Our Lady. Stained glass, mosaics and sculpture serve to record this rich and vibrant heritage of prayer and devotion.

The Basilica of the National Shrine represents nearly a century of fervent faith, devotion, and generosity on the part of American Catholics. As a spiritual center for the nation, the Shrine stands majestically in the capital city as a constant reminder of Mary's perfect response to the Lord: "Let it be done to me according to Thy will." ▼

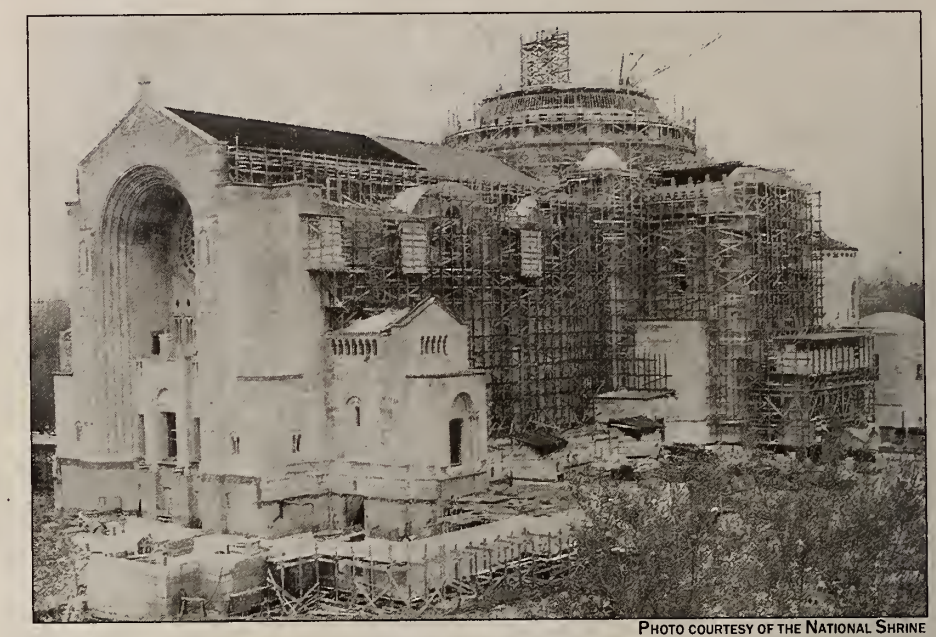
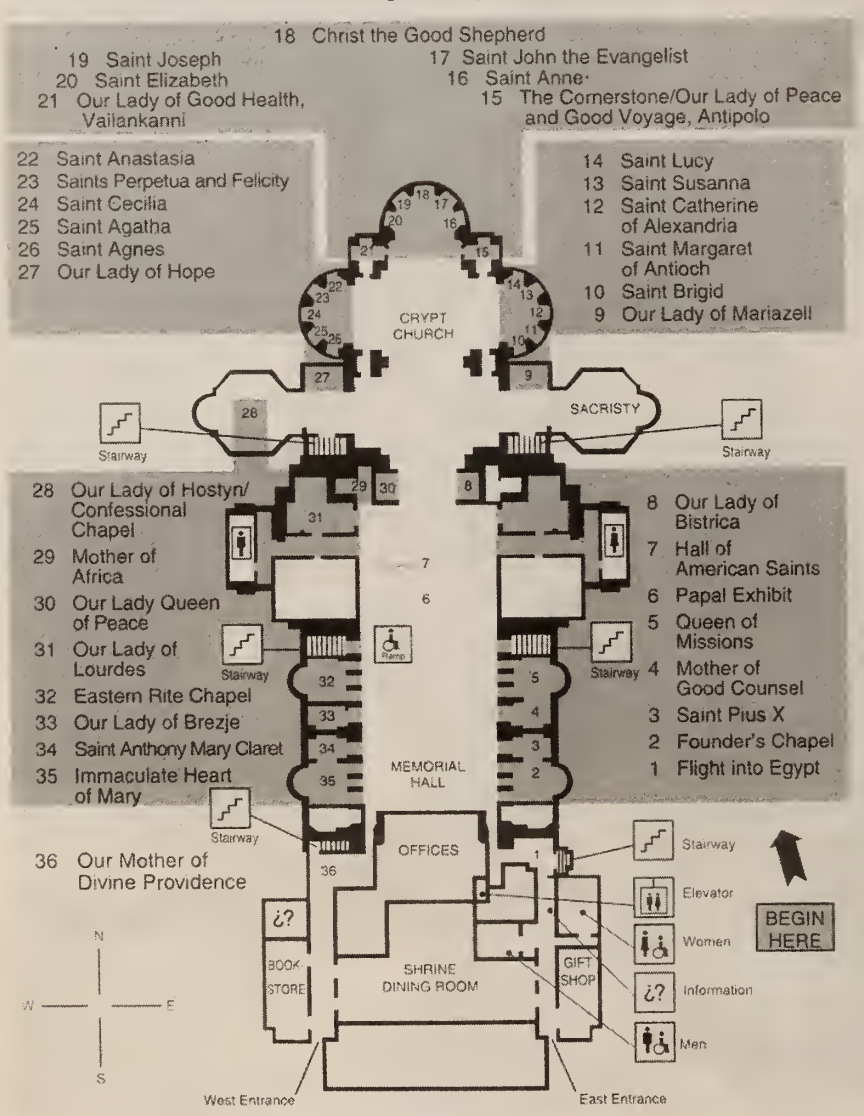


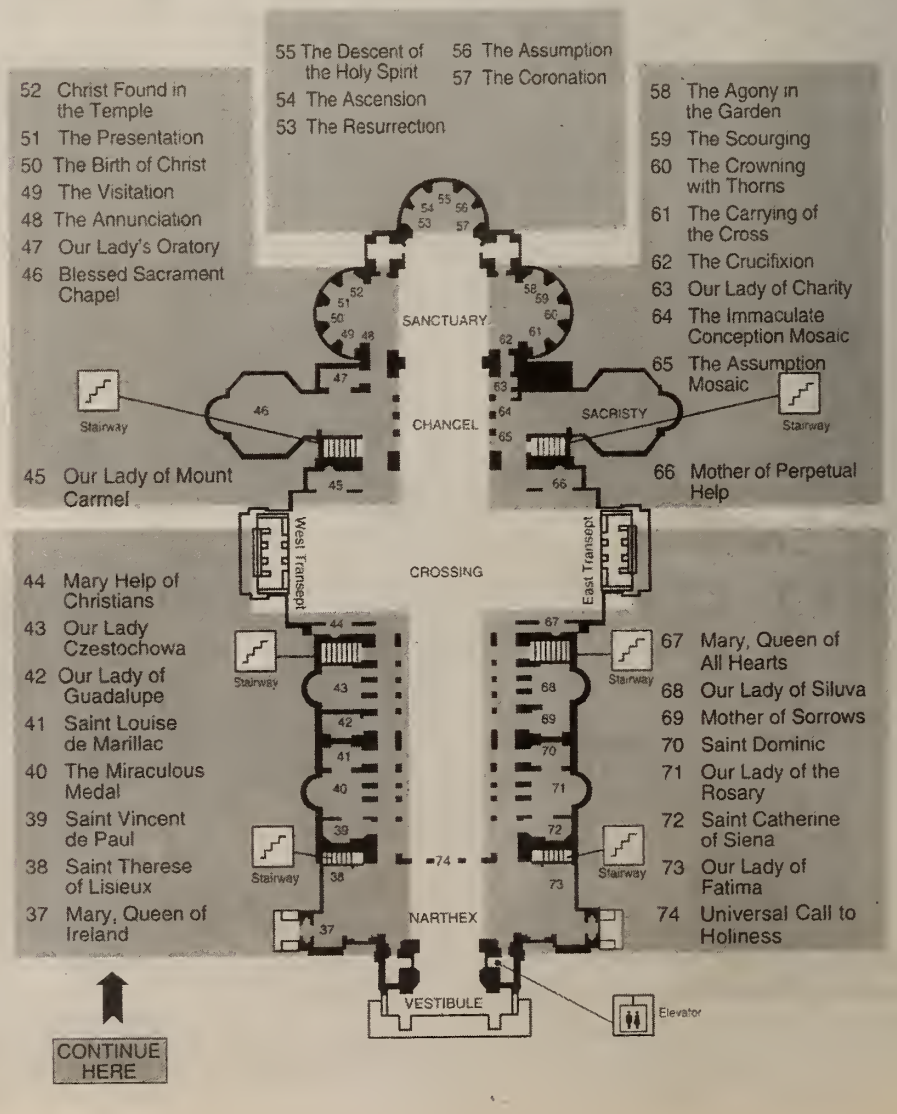
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

The Knights Tower

The Knights of Columbus contributed the soaring Knights Tower which is second only to the Washington Monument as the city's highest struction. The 329 foot tower dedicated on September 8, 1963, houses a carillon of 56 bronze bells which were cast in France. The carillon is played from a wooden keyboard located in the playing cabin at the 200 foot level of the tower.





Diocesan pilgrimage to D.C. Shrine will serve as link for parishioners

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte will have the opportunity to visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during the weekend of Nov. 12-14. Sponsored by the African-American Affairs Ministry, the trip's focus will be on the Our Mother of Africa Chapel which was dedicated in August 1997.

"Father Mauricio W. West will be leading the pilgrimage which is open to anyone in the diocese, not just for African-Americans to visit the Our Mother of Africa Chapel," explained Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor of the diocese and vicar for African-American Affairs. "The African-American Affairs Ministry decided it would be a good idea for black Catholics in the diocese to see the chapel and for others to see the shrine and the other chapels. There is a focus on the Our Mother of Africa Chapel; however, anyone can visit any chapel in the shrine."

The idea for the chapel came from several sources including the National Black Catholic Congress, African-American bishops, and members of the National Shrine Board. Beginning in 1993, dioceses, parishes, and other organizations nationwide donated more than $2.5 million to build the chapel and to establish an endowment fund.

Dale Brown, a parishioner for 29 years and the pastoral assistant and RCIA coordinator at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, said, "the Our Mother of Africa Chapel is important because it helps us to be in touch with who we are. In the past, we haven't seen many statues of the black Virgin Mary, so this is a way for us to identify with our heritage. I hope that this trip will awaken the diocese so that they will come to understand our heritage and our involvement with our religion."

The shrine itself is the largest Catholic Church in this part of the world and includes 60 chapels whose themes focus on various nationalities. It is divided into two sections, the Great Upper Church Level, which holds more than 6,000 people and was dedicated in 1959, and the Crypt Church Level, which seats 400. On Oct. 12, 1990, Pope John Paul II honored the shrine by naming it a basilica, a term given to certain churches because of specific historical, social, or spiritual values.

The weekend-long trip will serve as a time for people all over the diocese to come together in prayer and worship. The bus will be leaving the Pastoral Center in Charlotte on Friday, Nov. 12 at 3:30 p.m. and will return on Sunday night, Nov. 14. The trip includes a guided tour of the shrine and time for personal tours, a prayer service in the Our Mother of Africa Chapel, Mass celebrated by Father Mo West, free time, and Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C. All meals and the hotel price except for two meals on Saturday will be covered in the pre-paid cost.

For single occupancy, the price is $175, and for double occupancy, the price is $145. Children under 18, accompanied by an adult, will be able to travel for $75.

"We wanted to keep the cost low so that more people would have the opportunity to go," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "With a grant from the Black and Indian Mission Office, we were able to offer this trip at a very affordable price."

Father Mauricio W. West stated, "this pilgrimage is a wonderful opportunity for us as a diocese to visit not only the chapel dedicated to Our Mother of Africa but also the National Shrine." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
The term *basilica* refers to a special designation given by the Holy Father to certain churches because of their antiquity, dignity, historical importance or significance as a center of worship and devotion. The National Shrine was named a Basilica on October 12, 1990, by Pope John Paul II.

Artistic and architectural elements adorn Our Mother of Africa Chapel

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

The idea behind Our Mother of Africa Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a focus on African-American themes from slavery until modern times. The statues, sculptures, and carvings are a reflection of this subject in a significant way.

The main theme, which is threefold, draws in the crucifix, the Our Mother of Africa with the Christ Child, and a history of the African-American people.

Juvenal Kaliki, a Tanzanian artist, and a New York artist Jeffrey Brosk sculpted the crucifix which hangs over the altar. Kaliki carved the crucified figure of Christ in ebony, a black hardwood indigenous to Egypt in Northern Africa, while Brosk created the cross from cherry wood which creates a contrast of light and dark. Tanzania, a country in Africa, was introduced to Christianity in the 19th century, so those religious concepts were incorporated into the artistic work of the native people that exist today.

The sculpture of Mary with the Infant Jesus, carved by Ed Dwight, a Mid-western artist, has Mary and her Son with African-American facial features. Jesus gestures toward the sculpture within the opposite wall of the statue, and Mary and Jesus' gaze is focused on the sculpture of their sons and daughters.

Photos courtesy of The National Shrine

The sculpture of Mary with the Infant Jesus, carved by Ed Dwight, a Midwestern artist, has Mary and her Son with African-American facial features. Jesus gestures toward the sculpture within the opposite wall of the statue, and Mary and Jesus' gaze is focused on the sculpture of their sons and daughters.

Dwight also created the inlaid wall sculpture of the African-American people from slavery to modern times. From left to right, different eras of history are depicted in representations of figures of African-Americans from the Civil Rights era and beyond to the first Africans brought to America on Dutch ships in the early 1600s.

Upon entering the chapel, one can see a carved bronze rendering of the sunken 17th century slave ship the "Henrietta Marie" discovered in 1972 off the coast of Key West, Florida. The ceiling of the front area of the chapel was constructed like the hull, the lowest portion, of a ship, which reflects the slave ship carved on the floor.

The columns supporting the structure represent Nguzo Saba, the seven family values serving as guides to life in general for African-Americans. These principles include: Umoja meaning unity, Kujichagulia meaning self-determination, Ujima meaning collective work and responsibility, Ujamaa meaning family and cooperative economics, Nia meaning purpose, Kuumba meaning creativity, and Imani meaning faith.

Contained within the marble altar are the names of those who contributed to the chapel and to the endowment fund. The inscriptions of the altar use characters from the Ge'ez alphabet of ancient Ethiopia, and the monogram of the X and P for "christos" or Christ on the front is a combination of traditional and African styles.

All of these features add to the importance of the chapel not only for African-Americans but for all races because of the history of Africa and America which all people share. ▼

Contact Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

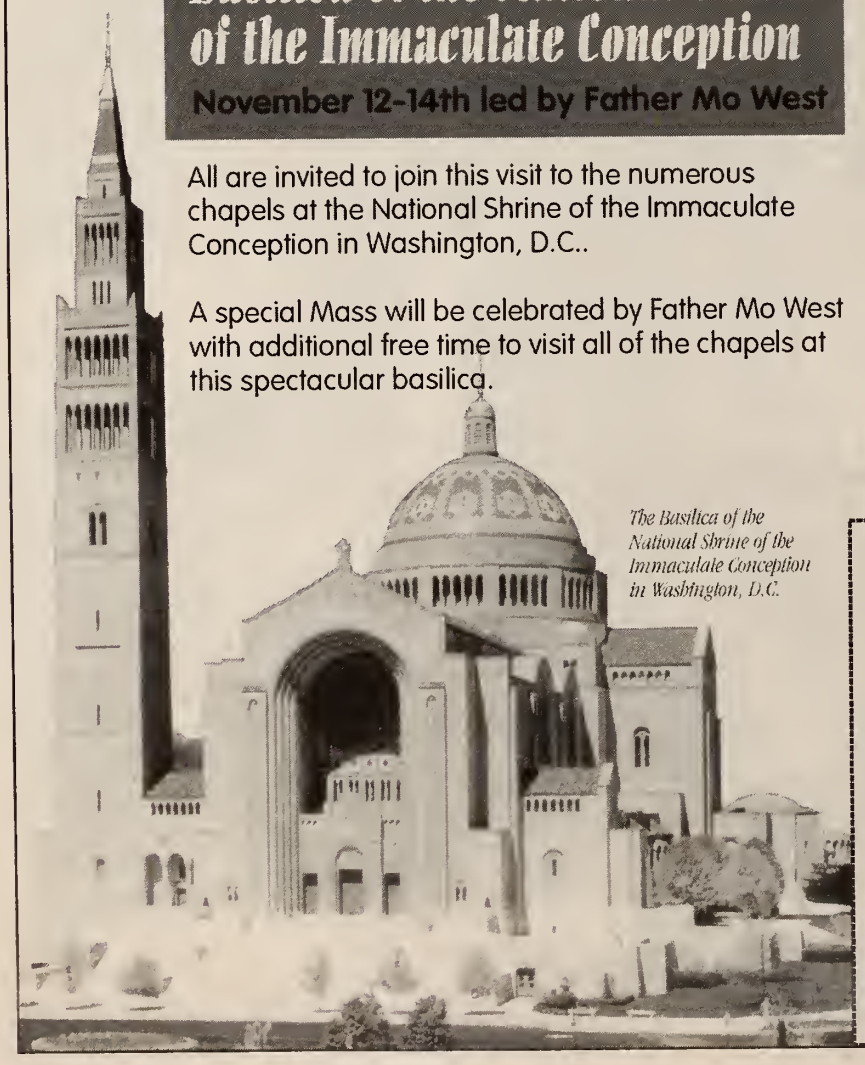
Come join the pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

November 12-14th led by Father Mo West

All are invited to join this visit to the numerous chapels at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C..

A special Mass will be celebrated by Father Mo West with additional free time to visit all of the chapels at this spectacular basilica.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Friday, Nov. 12
3:30 pm - Depart Charlotte Pastoral Center by luxury motorcoach.

Box supper provided on coach. (cost included)

Overnight at Best Western hotel outside Washington, D.C. (cost included)

Saturday, Nov. 13
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
11:15 am - Guided tour of the National Shrine. Free time/lunch at cafeteria if you wish (not included in cost)
2:30 pm - Prayer service at Our Mother of Africa Chapel
3:00 pm - Mass celebrated By Father Mo West
4:00 pm - Coach will take you either to the Baltimore Inner Harbor shopping and entertainment complex or back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own Sat. Evening.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
12:30 pm - Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

9:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor, at (704) 370-3339
Deadline to register: Friday, October 22

Cost: $145 per person (double occupancy) $175 per person (single occupancy) $75 children under 18
Cost includes coach, hotel, activities and meals except Saturday lunch and dinner.
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❑ monthly ❑ quarterly ❑ semi-annually ❑ annually

❑ Enclosed is my first contribution of $ _____.
(Make check payable to CFCA.)

❑ I'd prefer to bill my *first* sponsorship payment to my credit card: ❑ VISA ❑ MC ❑ Discover ❑ AMEX
Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

❑ I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of $ _____.

❑ Please send me more information about sponsorship.

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Baseball team faces lawsuit for church bulletin promotion

By JOHN GEHRING
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The Hagerstown Suns, a single-A minor league team in western Maryland, thought it found a great way to attract fans when they began offering discount admissions for those who brought church bulletins to the front gate.

What they didn't count on was unhappy fans.

Like many minor league teams, the Suns use a variety of promotions for various organizations and even host a weekly couch potato night.

But one fan, Carl Silverman, took the Suns to court for Church Bulletin Day, saying he was unable to get a discount last spring because he wasn't religious and therefore didn't have a bulletin.

Silverman filed a complaint with the Maryland Commission on Human Relations charging that the bulletin promotion discriminates against patrons on the basis of creed.

The commission found probable cause to find a violation and sent the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings where lawyers for the Suns pitted their case against the American Civil Liberties Union, who represented Silverman. As of early September, a ruling had not yet been issued.

Dwight Sullivan, a lawyer who represented Silverman, said the team's promotion violated his client's rights.

"It doesn't respect the conscience of atheists or agnostics," Sullivan told The Catholic Review, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper.

Jay Schwartz, a lawyer representing the Hagerstown Suns, argued that the promotion was broad enough and that it even allowed atheists to bring a bulletin or newsletter from their organization.

After the trial began, a review of bulletins accepted at the Hagerstown stadium showed that an American Civil Liberties Union bulletin had been accepted, said Schwartz.

Kevin Hasson, president and general counsel with Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a Washington-based bipartisan and ecumenical public interest law firm, said the Hagerstown case illustrates a familiar societal tension.

"This is a perfect example of a battle that is going on every day across the country between two different visions of human nature competing in the culture war," he said.

The factions include those who view religion as a natural part of life in a democracy, he said, and another group which views religion as "the equivalent of second-hand smoke, something to avoid because it is dangerous."

For three decades, according to Hasson, the courts have shown a hostility to religion while claiming to be neutral.

But he said recent rulings have shown that the courts may be changing. For example, he cited a case in which officials in Jersey City, N.J., won the right to display a nativity scene, a menorah and other faith symbols on public ground. ▼

Book Review

"Blue Hole" offers tale of life in a small town

REVIEWED BY PEGGY WEBER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In "Blue Hole," G.D. Gearino offers another tale of life in a small, southern town. The author of "What the Deaf-Mute Heard," Gearino uses several voices to explore some mysteries and help some characters shed their burdens.

Central to the whole story is Charley Selkirk, who was thrown out of high school for tackling a boy too hard at a football practice. Of course, the boy, who was white, had just tackled a black player too hard, but that was different.

The story is set in 1969 in Garrington, Ga. It explores race relations, the war in Vietnam and the role of women. All of these weighty topics are secondary compared to the interactions of a circle of a people in the town who are drawn together by a mysterious death.

When Charley is tossed from school he loses his girlfriend and ends up working for a young photographer, Tallasee Tynan. She takes him under her wing and thinks she is helping him out. However, deep down she is recovering from her own difficulties, which include the death of her husband and lost opportunities in life.

Charlie keeps busy with the work and just drifts and observes. However, his talent for watching and being an outsider comes in handy as it helps him figure out what is going on at the hippie commune outside of town and what are the mysterious relationships in town.

Every character in this book is flawed in some way. They all are trying to work out of their own troubles. It is only when they unite to pursue the truth in the death of a young boy that the smoke clears and some wounds truly heal.

Charley has, perhaps suffered the most. When he was 9-years-old he was asked to watch his 5-year-old brother, Shay. Charley plays with him and makes his lunch. However, he leaves him alone for a short time to go up the street and play baseball. He admonishes his brother not to leave the house. Of course the youngster does and drowns in a nearby stream.

"Blue Hole"
By G.D. Gearino
Simon and Schuster (New York, 1999).
224 pp., $22.00.

From that point on life unravels rapidly and painfully for Charley, his mother and his father. The father, who was a drinker, soon leaves and later dies.

Charley's mother initially had blamed Charley and then never speaks about the incident. It is this kind of environment in which Charley grew to sit and wait.

The chapter in which the author describes the death of the child is perhaps the best in terms of emotions. It wrenches at the reader's heart as one realizes that something horrific has happened.

Gearino tries to do a lot within the 224 pages. A regular columnist for the News and Observer daily newspaper in Raleigh, N.C., he clearly knows people and what makes them tick. He confuses the reader enough to think they have figured out the mystery but includes a surprise ending.

It is not a nail-biting, suspenseful story. Rather it is a walk through a maze that leads to resolution in the lives of many in this small, southern town. They finally leave their "blue hole." ▼

Weber is a columnist and reporter for The Catholic Observer, newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield, Mass., and the author of "Weaving A Family."

Word to Life

September 19, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Isaiah 55:6-9
   Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
2) Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
3) Matthew 20:1-16a

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Many years ago a friend died unexpectedly. At his funeral, I had the chance to visit with his father, a man I had not met before. If I were a parish priest or staff member, I suppose I would be more aware of the fact that funerals are times of deep soul-searching for family members as they get in touch with their own mortality and relationship to God.

This dad turned to me with tears in his eyes and said there were things he had done years ago that he wasn't sure God could forgive him for.

I wish I'd had a crib sheet with this week's readings in my back pocket to pull out and show him. They are that good. I did say a few things about how God was in the forgiving business and that there was nothing he could not forgive.

But if I'd had these Scriptures in mind, it would have been so much more effective.

In the Matthew's reading Jesus tells the story of the owner of the estate who pays those who have been working only a little time in his vineyard the same as those who have been in the field all day. It is a graphic illustration of how God's idea of justice differs so radically from our own. No room for priggish self-righteousness here.

And if you think that isn't so, just give a listen to the Scripture from Isaiah 55: "Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; Let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

Seems pretty plain, doesn't it? God is so much in the forgiveness business that he sent his only Son into the vineyard to die to offer that forgiveness to us. And before he died, he taught about how incredibly generous his forgiveness is, even to the point of using some of his final words, while he hung on the cross, to offer that forgiveness to a repentant thief.

We should be ready to offer this assured hope of forgiveness to anyone who asks, at a funeral or just walking down the street. It really is good news. It's the best.

Question:
If someone asked you what hope God offers to those whose actions seem to put them very far from him, what would you say?

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works"
— Psalm 145:8-9.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 19 - 25, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 55:6-9, Philippians 1:20-24,27, Matthew 20:1-16; **Monday**, Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Wednesday**, Ezra 9:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday**, Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday**, Haggai 1:15-2:9, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday**, Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15, Luke 9:43-45

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Media Notebook

PBS turning 30, which is reason to celebrate

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The welcome alternative to ratings-hungry commercial television, PBS will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this fall.

Among programming in the new season lineup is a "Frontline" documentary of particular interest to the Catholic audience, "John Paul II: The Millennial Pope," airing Sept. 28. (This office will review the documentary in advance of its broadcast.)

Starting Oct. 5, there will be a two-hour programming block dedicated to quality science presentations, including topics explored under the "Nova" banner, and a series dealing with powerful microbes, "Intimate Strangers: Unseen Life on Earth," scheduled for Tuesdays in November.

Shutterbugs may find the three-hour Oct. 13 series, "American Photography: A Century of Images," throws light on the history of 20th-century America and the considerable impact photographs have had on our citizens in recording their families, encouraging artistic expression and as a recorder of public events.

The acclaimed filmmaking brothers, Ric and Ken Burns, have two documentaries scheduled for November. Ken's entry, "Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony," recalls how the alliance of these two females gave birth to the women's rights movement during the 19th century. From the series "The American Experience," Ric's "New York: A Documentary Film" is a six-part series covering the city's Dutch origins in 1624 to its contemporary fame as a global center of culture and commerce.

Nov. 1 brings an "American Masters" special, "Hitchcock, Selznick & the End of Hollywood," chronicling the close working relationship between the famed director and producer, a collaboration which produced such classics as "Rebecca," "Spellbound" and "Notorious," despite their clashing approaches to the filmmaking process.

Another "American Masters" special, airing Nov. 24, focuses on beloved American artist Norman Rockwell, tracing his career and examining his body of work and the social commentary his art provided.

Not forgetting curious little minds, PBS has a new daily show for preschoolers, "Dragon Tales," from Children's Television Workshop, an animated series with 40 half-hour episodes about a sister and brother who are magically transported to an enchanted land of remarkable dragons with human qualities.

With its varied programming aimed at a broad spectrum of the viewing audience, PBS hopes to enter a new decade of quality fare that will prompt the audience to support its noncommercial goals by more than just tuning in. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

More than a few holes in 'Stigmata' plot, says priest

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Forget the seemingly demonic possessions in the new movie "Stigmata." Forget that the lead character, an atheist, is receiving the stigmata from some unseen force. Or that miracles and exorcisms go hand in hand — or, in one case, hands on throat.

What Catholics should be most concerned about in the film, says one priest, is the text displayed at the end of the movie describing the history and fate of the disputed Gospel of Thomas.

Father Timothy Friedrichsen, a New Testament specialist at The Catholic University of America, said "Stigmata" was entertaining as far as it went — until the text was shown on screen.

The text says that the Gospel of Thomas was declared by the Vatican to be "a heresy" and that the Vatican has sought to suppress it.

For one thing, the Gospel of Thomas has been available in bookstores for years and years, Father Friedrichsen said. For another, despite its discovery this century by archaeologists, it was likely known to early church officials at the time the New Testament canon was being formalized — and didn't pass muster then, either.

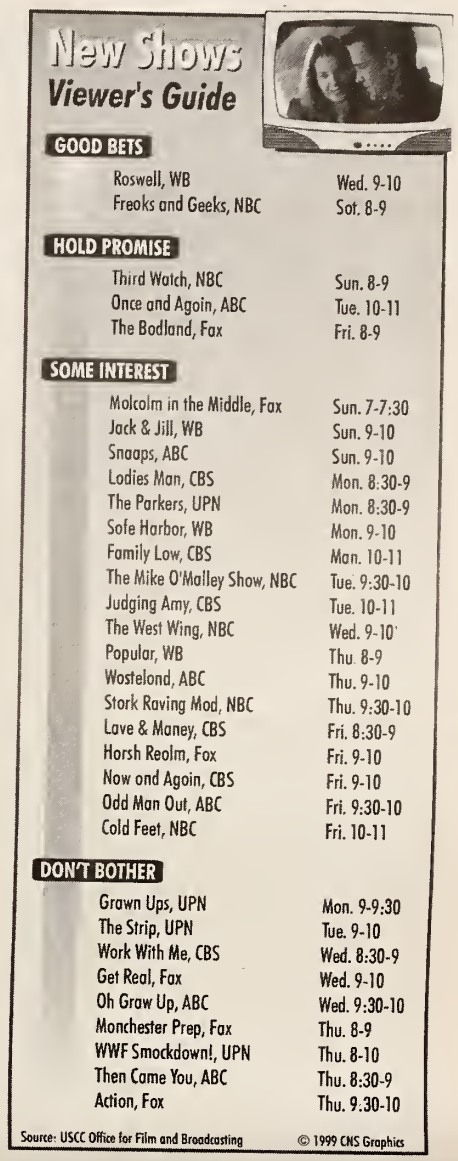
"The Gospel of Thomas was a text that was used amongst the Gnostic sects," said the priest, who was invited by Catholic News Service to attend a sneak preview of "Stigmata," which opens nationwide Sept. 10.

The Gnostics, according to Father Friedrichsen, were a small group of early Christians who did not believe Jesus was fully human in addition to being fully divine. They also "put a high value on secret knowledge of Christ," he said.

The Gospel of Thomas is a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus, the priest said, but without any narrative context that appear in the New Testament Gospels.

While some scholars believe the Gospel of Thomas is an authentic work, others believe "just as strongly" that it is a second- or third-century derivation of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, said Father Friedrichsen, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa.

See STIGMATA, page 12



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Stigmata, from page 11

The Gospel of Thomas is "not a heresy," he added, "but people could construe that to be more important than anything else in the canonical Gospels."

It won't likely harm the faith of a practicing Catholic, he said, but nonpracticing Catholics or non-Catholics could be "taken in" by the text displayed at movie's end, as they would by a negative portrayal in "Stigmata" of a Vatican cardinal.

The U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting classified the film O — morally offensive — for its dismissive treatment of the Catholic Church, depiction of a murderous cardinal, a shadowy sexual encounter, frequent violence involving the stigmata and demonic attacks, occasional profanity and rough language.

Still, "Stigmata" has some good points, Father Friedrichsen said. It portrayed the celibacy of Father Andrew Kiernan (Gabriel Byrne), who investigates the stigmata reports, in a thoughtful, supportive way. The priest said he was struck by the character saying of the choice between celibacy and sexual activity: "I've traded one set of complications for another."

The Byrne character's explanation of stigmata was also quite accurate, the priest said, and the recurring rain motif in the movie "seemed to function almost baptismally."

Father Friedrichsen said he was impressed by the Byrne character's personal story: how his belief that science did not hold all the answers led him to a call to priesthood, and, later, how his work debunking religious phenomena for the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes led him by his own admission to not pray for a long time.

But he found several inaccuracies in "Stigmata," among them:

— Writing on a scroll reading horizontally, not vertically, and the writing appearing as if written on a page.

— The Gospel of St. Thomas was not written in Aramaic as depicted in "Stigmata."

— The way Mass is celebrated by Byrne in the film.

— A Vatican office doling out every third page of sensitive documents to different religious orders to translate. "To make a conspiracy theory out of ancient documents is really a bit inflated," Father Friedrichsen said of the movie.

His overall impression?

"'Steel Magnolias' meets 'The Exorcist,'" he said.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights criticized "Stigmata" in a Sept. 1 statement as "a vehicle for making a political attack on the Catholic Church." It said it found the movie's references to Padre Pio and St. Francis of Assisi, both of whom had stigmata, "particularly insidious." ▼

Martin Sheen, 'Joan of Arc' to receive Catholics in Media awards

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Actor Martin Sheen will receive the lifetime achievement award from Catholics in Media at the group's annual award presentation, scheduled for Oct. 3.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles will celebrate Mass at the Universal Sheraton Hotel in the Los Angeles suburb of Universal City prior to the awards luncheon.

"Joan of Arc," the CBS miniseries which captured 13 Emmy nominations, will receive an award in the television category.

The movie "Down in the Delta" has been named to receive the feature film award, and Paulist Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser will receive the group's Board of Directors Award.

Father Kieser produced the "Insight" anthology TV series and the movies "Romero" and "Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story."

Sheen will play President Josiah Bartlet in the new NBC series "The West Wing" and is well known for his activism on behalf of social justice causes.

The Catholics in Media awards, in their seventh year, are given to movies, TV shows and "other projects of artistry and integrity which affirm life and recognize the sacredness of the human person," according to an announcement by the organization. ▼

New at the box office

"For Love of the Game" (Universal)

While on the mound at the close of the baseball season, an aging pitcher (Kevin Costner) confronts not only the batters but himself as he ponders his future with the club, his passion to excel in the sport which has consumed his life, and the loss of the woman he loves (Kelly Preston) because she feels he doesn't need her. Directed by Sam Raimi, the pitcher's thoughts are shown in flashbacks which mirror the mounting tension in the stadium as batter after batter is retired along the way to a possible perfect game, with equally satisfying results for both baseball fans and romantics. Implicit sexual affair, angry outbursts, some course language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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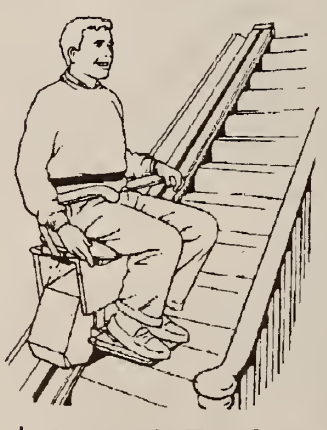

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Bishop Ruiz welcomes Mexican government peace proposal

By JIM HODGSON
Catholic News Service

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A Mexican bishop who has labored since 1994 to find a solution to conflict in Chiapas welcomed a new government proposal for peace.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas told reporters Sept. 10 that the new initiative "is quite positive because it replaces an aggressive policy" and returns the peace process to the level of national dialogue.

"Reading between the lines, you could say that there is a rectification of those things which had derailed the ways of dialogue," Bishop Ruiz said.

He said the new proposal "rejects a policy that had become generalized — including, it seems, from the highest levels — of repression, of aggression against autonomous groups, of physical imprisonment of the EZLN by means of blocking land communication."

Bishop Ruiz spoke as he bade farewell to Mairead Corrigan Maguire, winner of the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Northern Ireland. Maguire visited Mexico on behalf of Amnesty International.

On Sept. 7, Mexican Interior Secretary Diodoro Carrasco announced a plan that said he and his government wished to address with the Zapatista National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish acronym, EZLN.

Armed conflict broke out in Chiapas Jan. 1, 1994, when the EZLN seized several cities within the diocese of San Cristobal, located in the Chiapas highlands of southern Mexico. After 12 days of fighting between federal troops and the EZLN, Bishop Ruiz agreed to mediate between the indigenous-led guerrillas and the federal government.

Peace talks were suspended in 1996 after the federal government refused full implementation of an agreement on indigenous rights and culture. Bishop Ruiz resigned as mediator two years later, citing government attacks on his credibility, paramilitary violence and the government's failure to implement the previous accord as blocks to the peace process.

There was no immediate reaction from the EZLN, which, because of logistical problems, often takes several days to respond to government announcements.

Carrasco's proposal contained six points. It proposed that the Mexican Senate re-examine different versions of constitutional changes that emerged from the 1996 accords on issues of indigenous rights and culture. The first point also suggested seeking new proposals from the EZLN, the federal government and other groups involved in the conflict.

In other points in the proposal, the government committed itself to:

— Ask the EZLN to propose new dates for government implementation of those parts of the accords that deal with social development in indigenous communities in Chiapas.

— Seek the release of imprisoned EZLN members or sympathizers who were not involved in murders.

— Analyze complaints by human rights organizations about harassment suffered by indigenous communities in Chiapas.

— Create a new civilian, nonpartisan mediation commission.

— Send new government negotiators that have decision-making capacity.

The papal nuncio to Mexico, Archbishop Justo Mullor Garcia, told reporters Sept. 9 during a visit to the northern border city of Reynosa that the proposal was "well-directed and praiseworthy" and asked the guerrillas to welcome it.

The president of the Mexican bishops' conference, Archbishop Luis Morales Reyes of San Luis Potosi, said he was "hopeful" about the initiative. Archbishop Morales, who also chairs the bishops' peace commission, indicated the church would consider a role in a proposed new mediation commission.

Cardinal Adolfo Suarez Rivera of Monterrey said the government's initiative was "one more effort for which we hoped, and it should be welcomed and heard."

Cardinal Suarez, born in San Cristobal de las Casas, spoke with reporters Sept. 8 during a visit to his home state.

"All of Chiapas is tired, exhausted from this conflict that has gone on so long. May this voice be heard with hearts of good will so that we can really leave the conflict," he said.

Some human rights groups, however, expressed skepticism.

"The official remedy is the same," said Jesuit Father Edgar Cortes of the Miguel Augustin Pro Human Right Center in Mexico City Sept. 8. He called for the army to withdraw, for the dismantling of paramilitary groups and for fulfillment of earlier agreements.

"The government document is marked by political weakness and is without a clear direction," he said, adding that it was "insufficient after three years of silence."

Opposition members of the Chiapas state legislature called on Carrasco to create a new mediation commission that includes Bishop Ruiz. Members of the National Action Party and the Party of the Democratic Revolution said Bishop Ruiz has the capacity to invite the Zapatistas into a new dialogue.

The two parties, which plan to present a common candidate in next year's state elections, said the large military presence may prevent the EZLN from returning to the negotiating table. ▼

Joe Dawson makes use of God-given talents

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
The Miscellany

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Joe Dawson, a parishioner at Corpus Christi Church, may have retired from the marketing business, but he remains active in the field, working these days for a heavenly client. Generously giving of his time and talent to the parish and community, Joe has been successful in promoting the Christian life, not with a clever slogan, but simply by the way he lives his life.

Since he has been a parishioner at Corpus Christi, Dawson has used his various skills in photography, writing, advertising and marketing to promote numerous church events and other community causes. Along with his regular duties as church photographer, he volunteered this year to head the parish fall festival, a two-day regional event. He is also working with the Charleston Diocese's office of communications and information, on a broadcasting series that will be airing on radio, cable and television throughout South Carolina. Dawson has been traveling the state to set the air time schedules for this pilot program sponsored by the diocese. His activity extends outside the church as he teaches a marketing class at the local community college without pay and gives marketing advice to groups trying to raise money for charities and foundations.

The media bug got a hold of Joe as a young photographer in the U.S. Air Force. No sooner did he perfect his picture taking, when he began to work on his writing. After the military, he was employed at several television networks in the Carolinas, such as WBTV, WBTW and WIS, with positions in promotion, sales and research. One of his most interesting projects involved a photo essay he did for WBTV in the '60s. On this assignment he spent several days with presidential candidates, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, during their race for president.

Armed with a quick wit, photography and writing skills, Dawson eventually started his own marketing firm. No matter how busy he was with his company, he could not say "no" to a worthy cause if he felt he had the skills to help. One time when he was in the middle of a big campaign for ICEE, Joe received a call from individuals who wanted to raise money to rebuild the Providence House, a home for recovering alcoholics in Columbia, which had tragically burned down. He took on the project and the house was quickly rebuilt by the Columbia Home Builders Association without charge.

For him, stewardship is as natural as taking a breath of air. "For years I held back from heavy involvement in the church because I did not feel I had a niche. I could not see myself as a catechist or lector." He recalled the day he was in church and they announced that they needed someone to run a festival. "I thought I can do that job and realized that I must use my God-given talents in the church. If you have a skill as a mason or brick layer let someone know, and believe me you will get a call." He later joked that it was probably a voice that inspired him, "a voice with a Jewish accent from the man with sawdust in his hair, a friend of fishermen."

Photo by Kathy Schmugge

Joe Dawson shares some photos with Nettie Taylor, assistant to Father Jerome Schwab at Corpus Christi Church in Lexington, S.C.

As a member of the parish communication ministry, Joe is constantly taking pictures and writing press releases to the diocesan and secular papers. As a professional photographer, he is often called to take pictures for big events such as First Communion and confirmation. When asked what motivated him to spend his retirement working for free, his blue eyes twinkled as he answered, "Some day I am going to met my Maker and He is going to say, 'Joe, you haven't always been good.' I want to have something to fall back on."

In conjunction with his work with the diocese, Joe Dawson stays very busy. Willingly he goes from one job to another because as he would say, "God gave me a quick mind and I must use it!" ▼

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Director of Elementary Faith Development; St. Thomas More Parish. Full-time position that includes administration and implementation of children's faith communities in activities such as sacramental preparation, liturgy, RCIC, Bible camp, volunteer recruitment and support. Qualified candidates with degree, relevant experience in religious training should send a resume and letter of interest to: Bob Weickert, Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Director of Faith Formation: Our Lady of the Assumption parish seeking full-time FF Director with parish experience and/or college background in theology or religious studies. Requirements include: good organizational and interpersonal skills; a vision of faith formation emphasizing grade school through middle school, but not excluding adults; exemplary oral and written communication skills; basic computer skills. Salary: high 20's depending on experience. Great diocesan benefits. Resume with references: FF Search Committee, c/o Fr. Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax. (804)846-7022.

Music Positions: Vibrant 3500+families parish in Alpharetta, Georgia has several openings:
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Choral Director needed for Adult Choir. Responsibilities include one weekly rehearsal and one weekend liturgy. Must be able to lead the choir in a balance of supporting the assembly's song and singing anthems alone. Other responsibilities include conducting combined choral/instrumental efforts for parish-wide special events. Must be knowledgeable in basic principles of Catholic liturgical celebration. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgical repertoire as well as a variety of sacred choral music.
Children's Choir Director needed for active children's choir. Responsible for one weekly rehearsal and one monthly children's liturgy.
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Brevard parish hosts Landings retreat for leaders and members

BREVARD — "Those who minister in the church today are at greater risk of burnout than ever before," said Paulist Father Jac Campbell, founder of Landings — a program which assists inactive Catholics to return to practice of their faith.

Father Campbell went on to say, "All who serve, whether clergy, religious or lay people, need to step back, reflect and be renewed in order to continue being effective in ministry."

Landings first came to the Charlotte Diocese in 1996 at the invitation of Father Edward Vilkauskas, then diocesan director of evangelization. Twelve parish teams were trained in the first group and others have been prepared since then.

Father Campbell noted that some parish programs "took off" and have continued to welcome inactive Catholics, forming Landings groups several times a year.

Sacred Heart parish in Brevard, for example, has formed 10 Landings groups since 1996, which have welcomed back 25 inactive Catholic and involved many other active Catholics in sharing their faith within the Landings groups.

Other parishes have been less successful, and some have discontinued the program. All need encouragement to minister to inactive Catholics, who are numerous in the United States.

To that end Father Campbell will lead a Landings retreat for leaders, group members, and "returned" Catholics from across the diocese.

The topic will be "Have I grown spiritually through ministry?". Campbell suggested that those trained as leaders but who have not yet begun Landings in their parish, and those who have not started a group recently would benefit from the encouragement of this retreat.

In addition to prayer, reflection, and liturgical worship, participants will be able to share and discuss their Landings experiences and to learn from others.

Landings Retreat
October 22 & 23
Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, NC
(6 pm Friday - 3 pm Saturday)

The retreat will be held October 22 and 23 at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, N.C., beginning with a light, meatless supper at 6pm on Friday, and concluding at approximately 3pm on Saturday.

Cost of the retreat is $25 per person, which includes two meals and refreshments. Those who will require lodging during the retreat are reminded that late October is leaf season in the mountains and that they should make reservations early. Registration deadline is Oct. 15.

For more information call Tom Vallie at (828) 693-5878, Penny Atkinson at (704) 664-5196, or Barbara Dalley at (704) 289-6606. ▼

Belmont Community Theater opens with plays about Holocaust

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre will produce two plays to run in repertory as the next presentations of the 1999-2000 season. The plays are "A Shayna Madel" by Barbara Lebrow and "Good" by C.P. Taylor. Each play deals with a different aspect of the Holocaust.

"A Shayna Madel" (which means "beautiful girl" in Yiddish) is the story of a family shattered by the event. In 1946 Brooklyn, an assimilated Polish-Jewish girl is startled by the reappearance of her long-lost sister, discovered in a displacement camp after the war. The sisters slowly rebuild their connection as they attempt to reconstruct their family ties. The play is a deeply moving examination of the Holocaust told from the point of view of the victims.

"Good" takes the unusual approach of presenting the events in Germany from the point of view of the oppressor. John Halder, a German academic, is slowly drawn into working with the Nazi regime in a desire to get ahead socially and financially. As the play progresses, we see the events of the 1930's as filtered through the conscience of this "good" man, who inevitably becomes an accomplice in the horrific events through his inability to make a moral choice. The play was first produced in London by the Royal Shakespeare Company, and enjoyed successful runs in both New York and San Francisco, where actor William Hurt played the role of Halder.

"A Shayna Madel" opens Sept. 30 and will run Oct. 1-2 at 8 pm. There will be a 2:30 Sunday matinee on Oct. 3. "Good" runs Oct. 7,8,9 at 8:00 pm and Oct. 10 at 2:30 pm. The following weekend the two plays will alternate performances. Both plays are under the direction of Simon Donoghue, and will be designed by Gary Sivak. All evening tickets are $10.00; all tickets for the matinees are $8.00. For further information, or to make ticket reservations, please call the Box Office at 704-825-6787. ▼

Catholic Schools, from page 3

in Chicago. Father Fragomeni is a lecturer and author, who recently published "Gifts for a Lifetime: A Sacramental Preparation Series" for use by teachers of sacramental preparation.

Sister Maureen agreed that this distance learning program can greatly assist educators, catechists, parents and parishioners as they teach others — and as they learn themselves.

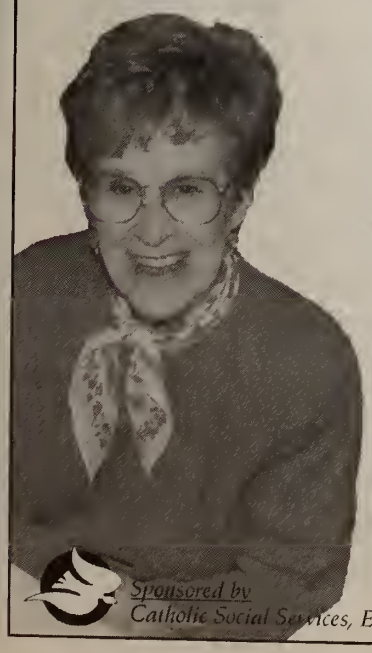
"This program encourages people to learn on a personal level, and that in turn encourages their own faith to grow," she said.

For details on the Serve Our Schools program, obtaining education credits, or other information, contact Sister Maureen Meehan at (704) 370-3268. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY
Pastoral Care Training

This program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities, and homebound. Through the four-week training, volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts:



Each two-hour session held from 7-9 pm.

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Building covenant

Triad churches gather for ecumenical event

By NANCY NORTON
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Joshua brought the 12 tribes of Israel together to sign a covenant at Shechem. Reminding the people of God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joshua speaks of all the mighty deeds the Lord has done for them. He brought them out of the desert, saying, "Now fear the Lord and serve God completely; cast out all other gods."

Conventual Franciscan Father Joseph Madden's homily related this theme for the "Signing of the Covenant Celebration" between Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church and Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, both in Winston-Salem. Parishioners from each church came out, despite heavy rains, to witness this historic event hosted at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Aug. 25.

"Our part of covenant is to love God the way Jesus loves God," explained Father Madden, pastor at OLM. "And as Joshua said, 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.'"

Many have been praying for this unity of Catholics and Lutherans, praying that one day we will all be one, Father Madden said. "We have come together by the power of the Lord," he added. "This event is the smaller that reflects the larger: to act together for justice."

Photo by Nancy Norton

Rev. Pierson Shaw, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, and Conventual Franciscan Father Joseph Madden, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, sign a covenant between the two faith communities at a ceremony Aug. 25.

The Wednesday night service carried both Lutheran and Catholic traditions, along with a combined choir singing the Celtic Alleluia.

As outlined in the covenant, the churches plan to: pray for each other; pray together in joint services; continue joint observances such as Lenten devotions; reflect on the Word of God in shared programs of study; provide ways for better understanding and appreciation of each other's heritage and beliefs; share, study and discuss the results of the Roman Catholic/Lutheran dialogues; and promote social events that bring the members of each community into formal settings to foster personal contacts.

This is a step toward healing the separation between the churches. Conventual Franciscan Father Joseph Barry Angelini, associate pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, says it was on the impetus of the Rev. Pierson Shaw, pastor of Christ Lutheran, that a local dialogue began. Rev. Shaw adds that his denomination has been involved in these types of covenant relationships in the past.

Andy Briggs, an OLM parishioner, is excited about the covenant. "This is a strong part of ecumenical Christian ministry," he said. Fred Moretz, a Christ Lutheran parishioner, agrees. "I wanted to be a part of this existential experience," he said. "We have been working quite awhile towards this opportunity."

Rev. Shaw believes the greatest difference between the two traditions is "the Marian dogmas, but we are working through these." The Christ Lutheran Church is now in full communion with the Episcopalian and Moravian churches.

"There is a deep interest between Lutherans and Catholics and now a willingness to do something about coming together," Father Angelini said. Besides participating in the covenant promises weekly, a joint healing service will take place in the fall.

Gifts of love were exchanged, as two flower stands were presented to Christ Lutheran and a chasuble and stole were given to Our Lady of Mercy. At the reception following, everyone was pleased at the foundation laid between the two churches. As illustrated in the program cover, quoting from I Corinthians 3:11, "... That foundation is Jesus Christ." ▼

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Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 24, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 4

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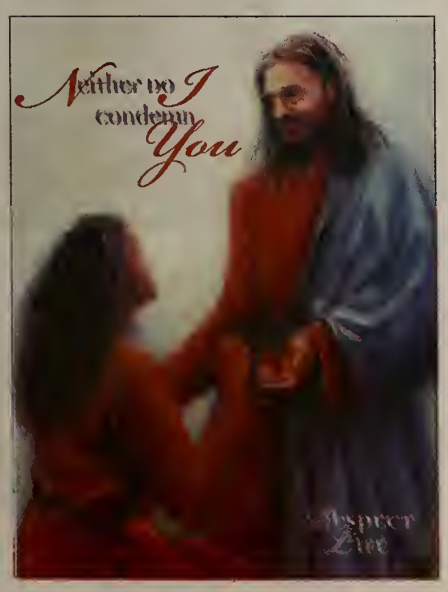

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The Southeast FIRE Rally

Rally fires up the faithful in prayer, song, spirit

Photo by Joann S. Keane

A woman kneels in prayer during the Southeast FIRE Rally Sept. 18 at Belmont Abbey College. The event, billed as the largest-ever Catholic evangelistic gathering in the Charlotte metro area, drew well over 2,000 adults and teen-agers from the Southeast and beyond.

By Jimmy Rostar
Associate Editor

BELMONT — At a site rich with decades of Catholic history, thousands of people gathered to celebrate the new springtime of the upcoming jubilee.

More than 2,000 people from the Southeast and beyond rallied Sept. 18 around FIRE — a Catholic alliance promoting faith, intercession, repentance and evangelism. Hosted in Wheeler Athletic Center on the grounds of Belmont Abbey College, the rally featured four leaders in charismatic renewal movements, each coming with a message of a living faith. A youth track also brought about 550 young people together for a similar encounter. The day was filled with preaching and music, and ended with Masses celebrated with both the adults and the youth.

FIRE was sparked in the fall of 1982, when charismatic renewal leaders decided to form an evangelism team. Their goals? To apply Gospel teachings in the modern world, to reach out to Catholics seeking to deepen their commitment to Christ and the church, and to challenge the faithful to more fully embrace church life.

The first FIRE Rally was hosted in May 1983. Nearly 120 rallies, 400,000 participants and dozens of countries throughout the world later, FIRE still spreads. And on Sept. 18, it made its way to Belmont for an unprecedented gathering that celebrated the Catholic faith.

Faith

"In the new covenant, the Holy Spirit is given to every single Christian. Every single Christian has the possibility of being led and guided by the Holy Spirit."

That was one of Ralph Martin's many impassioned messages on what the gift of faith means for Christians, especially on the eve of the new millennium. The president of the evangelization mission called Renewal Ministries, Martin said faith and openness to the Holy Spirit can change lives forever.

He noted Pope John Paul II's "whole ministry as pope is dedicated to helping us surrender ourselves and open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives."

The upcoming jubilee, Martin said, is a time for the church to experience a renewed presence of Christ in the world.

"The church isn't a social club, the church isn't a hobby," he said. "The church is a meeting with God, and that's what the church is supposed to point to, facilitate and deepen."

See FIRE RALLY, page 16

British bishop says unions can be key in promoting values

BRIGHTON, England (CNS) — Unions can play an important role in promoting human values in the workplace, and Catholics should join the appropriate union or professional association, said a British bishop. Retired Auxiliary Bishop John Jukes of Southwark, chairman of the English and Welsh bishops' Committee for the World of Work, said it was "no good having clear principles and stated convictions about Gospel values if these matters are not reflected in our actions and lives." At a mid-September Mass for delegates to the annual conference of the Trades Union Congress, or TUC, the bishop said trade unions had their origins in the need to protect workers from injustices and from denial of their dignity as human beings.

Bishops, scientists find common ground on stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Scientists and Catholic bishops in a three-day dialogue found common ground and areas of disagreement on issues of stem-cell research. They agreed that "using embryonic stem cells to generate a child is unsafe and unethical and should be prohibited." They recognized together that "disagreement exists about whether a fertilized egg possesses rights associated with the human person." The dialogue, sponsored by the Committee on Science and Human Values of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, brought five bishops and 12 scientists together Sept. 10-12 to discuss the scientific and moral implications of embryonic and adult stem-cell research.

Bishops express shock, remorse over Texas church shootings

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — Bishop Joseph P. Delaney of Fort Worth said the seven people slain Sept. 15 inside a Baptist church in Fort Worth were martyrs. In a statement issued a day after the shooting, Bishop Delaney noted that the Catholic morning prayer of Sept. 16 honored the third-century martyrs St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian. "These victims, slain in the normal pursuit of their faith, can be considered martyrs as well," Bishop Delaney said. Seven other people were wounded in the evening attack at Wedgewood Baptist Church.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Men pray after Texas church shooting
Adam Bailey, left, of Garland, Texas, and Frank Garner of Fort Worth pray outside the Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth Sept. 16. Seven churchgoers, including three teens, were gunned down at a prayer vigil the day before at the church.

Sociologist warns of Catholic trend to marry outside church

NEW YORK (CNS) — Sociologist James D. Davidson has warned that the sharp decline in Catholics entering church-sanctioned marriages seems to "portend profound changes for the future of American Catholicism." Davidson, a sociology professor at Purdue University, reported in the Sept. 10 issue of Commonweal that fewer and fewer Catholics are entering valid Catholic marriages, especially when the partner is not Catholic. "These findings suggest that the church is losing touch with young marriage-age Catholics," he said, adding that if this is true it has "enormous pastoral implications."

Revised book on indulgences covers modern situations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The word "indulgences" has an old-fashioned ring to it, but the Vatican's revised handbook on indulgences outlines some modern situations in which Christians merit eternal reward. When undertaken with the traditionally required confession, Communion and prayer, indulgences can be earned for acts of charity or Christian witness in everyday life, Vatican officials said. For example, in a factory cafeteria where swearing and vulgarity are the norm, a worker can earn an indulgence by publicly making the sign of the cross and praying before he eats, said a monsignor who works in St. Peter's Basilica. "That can require a lot of courage," said Msgr. Dario Rezza.

Appeals court overturns sentences of five SOA protesters

ATLANTA (CNS) — The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta has overturned the sentences of five protesters convicted in two separate 1997 actions at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga. The three-judge panel ruled Sept. 2 that U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott, who presided in both trials, had erred in ordering consecutive instead of concurrent sentences after the protesters' second conviction. By the time the ruling was handed down, all but one of the five had served more than the time stipulated in the new ruling.

Pope says financiers should have professional code of conduct

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Entrepreneurs and financiers should develop and follow a professional code of ethical conduct to stop practices which hurt the poor, Pope John Paul II said. "Christians who work in the economic sector and particularly financiers" must find ways to fulfill their "obligation of justice," the pope told a group of business leaders belonging to a Vatican foundation. Members of the "Centesimus Annus — Pro Pontifice" Vatican Foundation met the pope Sept. 11 during their annual seminar. The foundation was established by the pope in 1993 to promote the teachings about economic justice contained in his 1991 encyclical.

CCHD awards $10 million in anti-poverty grants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the anti-poverty arm of the U.S. bishops, announced $10 million in grants to be distributed nationwide among 306 different agencies. The dollar amount is the highest in the campaign's 29-year history. Last year CCHD gave $8.5 million. The money comes entirely from a nationwide collection taken up in most U.S. parishes the weekend before Thanksgiving.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 26 — 11 am
Mass,
St. Mark, Huntersville
September 29
Ordination and Installation of
The Most Rev. Robert J. Baker
as Bishop of Charleston, SC
October 2
Southeast Hispanic Ministry Meeting
Board meeting
October 3 — 3pm
50th anniversary of profession of vows
Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke
October 3 - 7
Priest Retreat
Living Waters Reflection Center
Maggie Valley, NC

Diocesan planner

September

30 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Ave., for a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow afterward. For more information, call (828) 252-3151.

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre is producing two plays dealing with different aspects of the Holocaust. Barbara's Lebrow's "A Shayna Madel" opens today and will run Oct. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m. C.P. Taylor's "Good" runs Oct. 7-9 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 10 at 2:30 p.m. On the following weekend, the two plays will alternate performances. For further information or ticket reservations, call the box office at (704) 825-6787.

MONROE — All are invited to gather in the multi-purpose room of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., for a Christian Book Club. Tonight's meeting, from 7-8:30 p.m., will focus on this month's book, "The Art of Loving God," by St. Francis de Sales. For information, call Debra O'Neal at (704) 233-5720.

October

1 HIGH POINT — All are welcome to a Latin Mass celebrated at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Drive, tonight at 7 p.m. The Rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m., and Benediction and adoration follow the Mass.

HOT SPRINGS — "The Church: A Reconciling Community" is the theme of a weekend retreat at the Jesuit House of Prayer beginning today through Oct. 3 facilitated by Father Frank Reese, SJ, and Sister Margaret Verstege, RSM. The focus involves prayer using Scripture and other stories that model reconciliation. The limit is 12 people, and for registration and information, call (828) 622-7366

Eastern N.C. fights rising waters, executes relief efforts

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

RALEIGH — Devastating flooding and damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd led Governor Jim Hunt to issue a second assistance plea within 48 hours.

On Sept. 20, the governor called on the nation for a relief fund for the Tar Heel State. One day later, in a televised talk, he reminded North Carolinians, "neighbors desperately need help."

"Our state has never faced this kind of disaster before. I would certainly hope that people ... could be as generous as possible."
— Bishop Joseph Gossman of Raleigh

The Diocese of Charlotte has joined efforts to assist its sister diocese, making the pastoral center the collection point for funds to be combined and distributed to agencies and organizations best suited to utilize the contributions.

"In addition to the prayers we offer for the individuals who lost so much, we pray for the relief efforts to assist as eastern North Carolina recovers and rebuilds," said Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. In conversations with his brother bishop in Raleigh, Bishop Curlin has pledged support as needed for recovery.

A state of emergency exists in 26 of the state's 100 counties. While most of the flooding attributed to the hurricane is in the easternmost counties, some 66 counties have been named major disaster areas by the federal government.

Inaccessibility is a major obstacle as nearly 235 roads remain closed. Five rivers are expected to crest before Sept. 25. Reserve units have been mobilized, and additional emergency support is steaming in from other states.

"We're trying to keep in touch with people," said Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh. "...the only way to get through is telephones and even the phones are down in a lot of areas. A lot of electricity is off; not only are wires down, but the substations are under water."

President Clinton visited the devastated areas of North Carolina Sept. 20 and brought promises of federal aid for those hardest hit, including temporary food stamps and unemployment payments for families in need. He urged storm victims to keep up their spirits and told them, "We're going to be with you every step of the way."

Damage to churches in the Diocese of Raleigh is minimal, according to early reports. A massive oak tree stripped shingles and flooded portions of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh. In Wilson, St. Therese School was flooded under several feet of water. In Roanoke Rapids, Father Robert Shea, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church found eight feet of water in the rectory basement.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Ethel Jones of Tarboro wades through flood water to get back to her home Sept. 19 in eastern North Carolina. The area was deluged with rain from Hurricane Floyd.

Residents of the state stranded by floodwaters have been moved to safety but relief workers are still struggling to provide clean water and shelter. "Thousands have lost their homes, and thousands more don't know what they'll find when the water is gone," said the governor. Flooding along the coastal plains affects an area of 18,000 square miles with a population of 2.1 million.

North Carolina health officials express concern over a growing health threat caused by rotting farm animals and sewage washing into floodwaters. Estimated of poultry losses exceed 500,000 turkeys and 2.5 million chickens. Additional agriculture damage is still being assessed, although it is being seen as the worst agricultural disaster in the state's history.

"It will be a long and difficult job restoring people and their communities to their normal lives," said Governor Hunt. "But we can do it, we will do it and we won't quit until the job is finished.

"Human being can't control hurricanes and floods," said the governor. "But we can control what happens afterwards."

"Our state has never faced this kind of disaster before," said Bishop Gossman. "I would certainly hope that people ... could be as generous as possible."

"And we need prayers," added the bishop of Raleigh. "I've been telling people that we may not be able to do very much in a tangible way, but we can certainly all pray." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Want to help with the hurricane relief?

Donations may be sent to:
The Diocese of Charlotte
FLOYD Disaster Relief
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

It is important to denote Hurricane Floyd on checks for appropriate distribution.

or (828) 649-2781.

2 CHARLOTTE — The 1999 St. Patrick School Fall Festival and Pot of Gold takes place today from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the grounds of the school on 1125 Buchanan St. in the Dilworth area. Games, food, music, and fellowship will benefit the general PTO Fund.

3 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church and the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society present their annual concert at 2:30 p.m. today at St. Gabriel, 3016 Providence Road. Admission is free and all ages are invited to hear more than 30 harps featured with the organ, flute, violin, handbells, and a Celtic band. For more information, call Susan at (704) 364-5526.

CHARLOTTE — The 47th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day takes place today at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Road, at 3 p.m. Father Richard Bellow from St. Gabriel Church is the speaker for the event. For details, call the church office at (704) 554-0490.

6 WINSTON-SALEM — Father Samuel Weber, OSB, a faculty member of the divinity school at Wake Forest University, is presenting a 4-part series on family spirituality at St. Leo the Great Church Parish Activity Center, 335 Springdale Center, tonight and on Oct. 13, 20, and 27 at 7 p.m. Contact the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

8 ASHEVILLE — Today from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and tomorrow Sat., Oct. 9 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., the Basilica of St. Lawrence is having a rummage sale in the St. Justin Center at 92 Haywood St. For details, call the church office at (828) 252-6042.

JEFFERSON — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 E. Main St., is hosting their yard sale in the parish hall today and tomorrow Sat., Oct. 9 starting at 8 a.m. There will be danish and coffee in the morning and hot dogs and soft drinks in the afternoon. Donations and volunteers are needed to serve and sell refreshments. For information, call Nancy Woodall at (336) 246-7713.

9 CHARLOTTE — A craft sale is being held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Road. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund.

10 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Family of Greensboro, Secular Franciscan Order, welcomes new members and is holding open house today and Nov. 14 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center, 233 North Green St. For details, call Georgette Schraeder at (336) 454-3479 or Frank Massey at (336) 299-5038.

WINSTON-SALEM — There is a living rosary on the lawn of St. Leo the Great Church, 355 Springdale Ave., today starting at 2 p.m.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured loving environment for pregnant women, is hosting a fund-raising banquet on Nov. 11. For reservation and other information, call Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

HICKORY - Consider giving your marriage a special gift by participating in a Marriage Encounter Weekend on Nov. 5-7 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

WINSTON-SALEM — A separation/divorce recovery support group is forming and will meet on Mon. nights at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, in Clemmons. No fee will be charged and babysitting will be available. For more information, call Peter Hendee at (336) 766-1365 or Carol London at (336) 766-9523.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope sends condolences after earthquake in Taiwan

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the wake of a major earthquake in Taiwan, Pope John Paul II sent his condolences to the victims and to their families.

In a Sept. 21 telegram in the pope's name to Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Cardinal Angelo Sodano said, "The Holy Father is close to the entire population and asks you to convey his sympathy to all affected by this tragedy."

Cardinal Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, said that Pope John Paul prayed "that the Lord will sustain the efforts of all those engaged in rescue efforts, in comforting bereaved families and meeting the urgent needs of all those involved."

The cardinal said the pope was "deeply saddened" that so many people had been killed, injured or made homeless in the quake.

Taiwan's Interior Ministry reported Sept. 21 that more than 1,500 people were dead, nearly 4,000 were injured and more than 2,000 remained trapped in collapsed buildings throughout the country. More than 200 people were reported missing.

The earthquake was the worst on record for Taiwan. Authorities in the region and abroad who monitor seismic events measured its strength at 7.6 on the Richter scale, making it the largest quake in Taiwan in this decade.

Striking at 1:47 a.m. local time Sept. 21, the quake was centered 90 miles southwest of the capital, Taipei, in Nantou County. County officials appealed for donations of blankets, food, cars and bulldozers to help in the hunt for survivors.

The Vatican news service, Fides, operated by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said the church began to mobilize to assist rescue and aid efforts immediately after disaster struck.

"We will do everything possible to relieve the population's pain," Cardinal Shan Kuo-hsi told Fides. "All the structures of the church are preparing to assist people."

The cardinal heads the Kaohsiung Diocese and is president of Taiwanese bishops' conference.

"The church in Taiwan will move in two directions," he said in the Fides report. "First of all, the urgent mobilization of all the churches and schools to house those who have been made homeless, then (we) will promote a worldwide collection of funds to aid the displaced."

Masses for the dead were to be held in all Taiwanese parishes Sept. 26.

MISNA, the Italian missionary news service, reported that its local sources said the region nearest the epicenter was partly mountainous.

The agency said shocks were felt as far away as Kaohsiung, about 100 miles south of the epicenter, but no major damage was reported there.

Of the 21 million people living in Taiwan, 300,000 are Catholic.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to:
Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald,
1123 South Church, Charlotte, NC 28203
or e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Gratitude for CRS donation

On behalf of Catholic Relief Services and the overseas poor whom we serve, thank you — Bishop William G. Curlin and the Catholic community of Charlotte — for your diocese's donations totaling $100,093.39 for the people of Kosovo. With large numbers of refugees returning to their homes, many have immediate needs for assistance in feeding themselves and their families. With your generosity, Catholic Relief Services and the local Caritas agencies' food programs have distributed tons of food, including wheat flour, sugar, salt, beans and vegetable oil, to the people of Kosovo.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to update you briefly on some of our activities in the region. CRS continues to help with the repatriation of displaced persons. Five of the original eight refugee camps in Macedonia have been closed. We continue food distributions to camps in Skopje, Vinica and Delcevo, as well as to host families and social cases all over Macedonia. We expect to provide food to almost 10,000 host families this month as well as to approximately 16,000 vulnerable social cases.

In Kosovo the public schools have been devastated. Nearly 400 primary schools were severely damaged, and 42 percent must be searched for mines. CRS is working to get this effort underway to ensure some modicum of normalcy for those children and families returning to rebuild their lives. CRS believes that these same schools can be a foundation for rebuilding this devastated society, and that is why, together with Caritas, we are targeting the schools in Southwestern Kosovo as part of our long-term Parent School Partnership program to foster community involvement. This program aims to bring parents together for the goal of improving the quality of education for their children, and will move them to action on other issues within the community.

I apologize for the delayed acknowledgement of your generous gift. Due to the overwhelming response from Catholics across the country, our donation tracking has fallen behind although we are making every effort to catch up. Be assured that your generosity is appreciated and is being used to help those in need. The support of the people of your diocese for Catholic Relief Services and its programs truly demonstrates a commitment to a global solidarity. Thank you again for your leadership on behalf of those suffering in the Balkans.

KEN HACKETT
Executive Director, CRS

Comparing Serbia and Vietnam?

I have read different articles in your paper with the attitude that the bombing of Serbia was wrong. For instance, the bishops' statement that the bombing caused most of the deaths of the ethnic Albanians. Also, the article about the Vietnamese sympathy for the poor Serbs. How about sympathy for the Kosovar victims?

Nonsense! The war in Vietnam cannot be compared. Even yet, weren't the North Vietnamese Godless Communists against many Vietnamese Catholics who believed in God?

Graves have been found in Kosovo of two-year-olds executed before the bombing. A mother and her baby (the baby still in its mother's arms) were shot before the NATO action.

This attitude of peace at any price is like Chamberlain making peace with the evil Nazis before World War II — useless. Unfortunately, in this world, freedom and justice have a price. Only those willing to defend such ideas are worthy to have them.

If you saw your neighbor and his family assaulted, would you not help? Wouldn't it be wrong, if you did nothing? You could always say that you didn't want to be involved in violence as an excuse. Surely the need of police in a city is justified by the human tendency to evil. Aggressive leaders of nations have to be kept in check also by an international police force.

If an organization like NATO had existed at the time that Hitler invaded Poland, action would have been taken against Germany that might have prevented World War II with the loss of 6 million Jewish lives and millions of allied lives. Milosovic is a little Hitler; his Jews are the ethnic Albanians. Also, if the Allies had done nothing to defeat Hitler, you and I would be likely speaking German and The Catholic News & Herald would not exist in all probability.

Genocide is evil; the defense of helpless, innocent lives is not. Have you not seen pictures of the pathetic refugees run out of their country? The reality is the bombing did stop the murder of Kosovars by the Serbs.

There's a saying: All that evil needs to flourish is for good men and women to do nothing. That is what cowardly pacifists recommend.

PATRICIA NORMAN
Charlotte, N.C.

Photo objection

In the Sept 17th issue of The Catholic News & Herald, you ran a picture of Dylicia Pagan being released from prison. The picture appeared in the center of the "People in the News" section.

I most heartily object to having terrorists featured in our diocesan paper. Her terrorist organization, FALN, was responsible for six deaths and many injured people in their misguided terror campaign. While her conviction may have been for sedition, she shares complicity with the actual bombers.

Moreover, many of the victims of the FALN's reign of terror were Catholic themselves. Am I to assume that The Catholic News & Herald considers Dylicia Pagan a better Catholic than those that her organization killed? I should hope not, but that is the impression given by your newspaper.

JOHN P. RICHARDSON
Waynesville, N.C.

Book review distressing

I have just read the book review by Joseph R. Thomas critiquing Thomas Harris' book "Hannibal" (Aug. 20, 1999 issue). I am stunned that a Christian periodical would even consider printing this article with its detailed descriptions of the book's grotesque characters and vivid account of cannibalism.

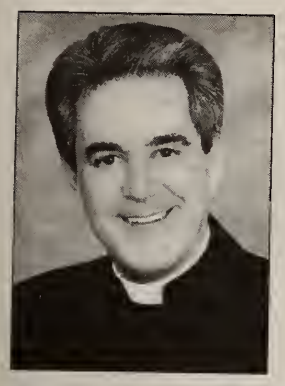
The review called attention to the horrific detail in Harris' book but said nothing to discourage one from reading it. In the final analysis Mr. Thomas said the book was "...chilling,...about as ghoulish as such stories get, [and] often fascinating." If I were inclined to read the horror-genre, I would be anxious to get my hands on a copy of this book just from reading the last paragraph of the review.

Christians should not be encouraged to read books of this sort. Our priest spoke only a few Sundays ago of the dangers of cluttering our mind with worldly garbage. He challenged us to change our habits and fill our days focused on the good things God has created and provided for us.

I might have expected an article of this sort in a secular publication but see no relevance to its being included in a religious based periodical. It may be possible that this book could have some value as a literary work. As I have not (and will not) read the book, I cannot critique the book itself. It is the review and its place in The Catholic News & Herald that I find fault with first and foremost. Perhaps books (and maybe even their reviews) should be rated with the same standards as movies are rated by the U.S. Catholic Conference.

KIMBERLY GALVIN
Asheboro, N.C.

Editor's Note: All entertainment and book reviews come directly from submissions to Catholic News Service/U.S. Catholic Conference.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

What to do about racism?

Racism. FBI statistics show more than 7,800 hate crimes already this year. The Southern Poverty Law Center of Alabama reports 474 organized hate groups in the United States, up 20 percent from last year.

John Franklin, chairman of the advisory board for the President's Initiative on Race and Reconciliation, admonishes "Regardless of how it is expressed, racism stems from the stereotypes that go unchallenged when Americans hold to the common belief that it's best to ignore issues of race instead of openly exploring them."

The good news is that at least since the 1950s there have been individuals and small groups who have come up with honest and practical ways to improve race relations on a human scale, on an individual level — where the problem starts. It is a battle that is going to be won one heart and mind at a time.

Father James Keller, the founder of The Christopher movement, was fond of telling the story of a California woman who made her local community learn the power each of us has to do something positive.

A young black man, studying to be a teacher, had taken a part-time job as a filling station attendant to help support his wife and himself until he got his degree.

Some of the station's customers objected to being serviced by a black man and told the station owner they'd take their business elsewhere, unless the man was fired. Rather than lose business, the owner was about to agree — until a woman neighbor of his heard the story and decided to do something about it.

"How many customers do you figure to lose?" she asked the owner.

"Oh, eighteen, maybe twenty," was the reply.

"If I get you twenty new customers, will you keep the fellow on?" the woman shot back. The man thought for a moment. "You bet I will," he said, finally.

Not only did this woman get the station owner twenty new customers; she actually got him five more for good measure. More important, she made it possible for the young student to keep his job and continue schooling.

That woman's effort and thousands like her are no less important than any legislation effecting change in our racial attitudes and behaviors. They are not waiting for anyone to tell them what to do. They are just doing it — person to person, in their own neighborhood.

While many believe that race relations will remain a fragile thread in our national fabric for decades to come, I believe that the efforts of ordinary people like you and me will make the ultimate difference.

What was it Christ said? . . . "Blessed are the peace-makers; for they shall be called children of God."

The narrow context of Palestine where nearly all his earthly life took place did not give him many opportunities to meet people from another race. However, Jesus accepted all the categories of persons with whom he came into contact.

Only those were left aside who excluded themselves because of their own self-sufficiency, such as certain religious leaders. And he warned us solemnly — we will be judged on the attitude we have toward the stranger or the least among us; for, without our even knowing it, it is Christ Himself whom we meet in them.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Reframing the public-private school debate

The public schools in the county where I live are pretty good. Test scores are going up. Facilities are fairly modern. Teachers are very dedicated; some stay with the system for many years.

As in many growing communities, the schools are overcrowded. But that problem is being addressed gradually with an ambitious building program that opens one new school per year.

At the same time, the demand for Catholic schools in our area is growing. Parents are afraid of drug use and violence. There is a desire for prayer and religious training, especially in the lower grades. We recognize that one hour a week of religious education for 30 weeks a year does not form our children into mature adult Christians.

Each year when our state Catholic conference goes to lobby the legislature, we ask for some form of assistance to private schools. We really need it. Our parents pay the double burden of supporting two school systems.

Given the fact that a presidential election is coming, school funding will be a hot-button issue from the court house to the White House. Maybe now is the time to rethink how we frame the issue.

Much of the debate this coming year will pit public schools against private. Parents of children in religious schools will be seen as opposed to parents of children in public schools. Those who want vouchers or charter schools will be seen as weakening the public system.

From my standpoint as a pastor in a community where 90 percent of the Catholic children go to public schools, it seems to me that this is a false division. There is a way to frame the discussion that takes care of every child. If some fringe groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and the radical religious right will just dial it back a bit, we might even be able to see some common ground.

Perhaps Catholics can lead the way.

For 150 years we have operated an excellent school system, serving millions of people of all faiths, pretty much without government aid. We have a lot of experience and expertise to bring to the discussion.

Catholic schools are no threat to the public system. Indeed, we have common interests. Even if we both had a huge increase in funding, we would still have a long way to go to serve all our children well.

In addition, we have some expertise to offer to public systems. The fact that Catholic schools are known to be lean in their overhead costs while public systems are administratively top-heavy may provide an opening.

Third, maybe we could agree that the First Amendment is as strong in guaranteeing religious expression as in preventing governmental establishment of religion. Other free societies seem to have worked this out. As a universal church, the Catholic community could bring its experience elsewhere in the world to the table.

We all have a common interest in good schools. The common interest is our children. That provides a lot of common ground, no matter where we go to school.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The salvation of extraterrestrials

Q. In 1947 an incident occurred in Roswell, N.M., that was officially declared to be the crash of a weather balloon. Since then there have been rumors that it was the crash of a flying disc with extraterrestrial biological entities, living beings from somewhere else in the universe.

I don't ask in jest or delusion; I really would like to find some answers. It is said that UFOs are the second most popular subject on the Internet these days — second only to sex. The number of people who believe life exists in the universe beyond our earth grows significantly with each of our scientific and space advances.

The controversy goes on, but my question is: How would a discovery that there are rational beings somewhere besides on earth impact Christian faith and current Catholic theology in particular? Has any Catholic group undertaken a study of the subject and its doctrinal consequences? Could Jesus Christ have come to them also?

A. With all the insanities and evils the human race is inflicting on itself these days, one might be forgiven for wondering how much rational life there is now even on this earth.

That aside, it seems to me the only claim we can make for sure in such matters is that nothing in Catholic faith or tradition would rule out the possibility that reasoning, conscious, "humanlike" creatures exist in other parts of creation.

If we intelligently believe in a divine being, can we suppose that God's creative imagination and power is exhausted by the human realities we know? Can we presume that God has "done it all" here, in us?

Countless other life forms, with faculties necessary to relate to each other and the Creator in a conscious way, are surely possible. What "salvation" (from what? to what? how?) might mean for these creatures we have no clue.

Considering the exuberant imagination and generosity with which God lavishes beings and life of all kinds on the planet around us and on the rest of the cosmos we do know, one might strongly suspect that this divine extravagance is not limited to here. Any theory about how or whether that happens, however, is pure speculation.

Some people claim it is typical human arrogance and narcissism even to question the existence of other humanly conscious life. We cannot be, as they say, the only fish in such a big pond.

That's not a very persuasive argument. It pretends to know much more about what God expects and receives from his creation, including ourselves, than we will probably ever know this side of eternity.

Again, conjectures are fun, but we need to remember that's all they are, unless and until some of our descendants, hundreds of years from now, somehow find out for sure.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about ecumenism, intercommunion, and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

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

Rebels free kidnapped Colombian bishop held more than a month

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — A Colombian guerrilla group released a Catholic bishop kidnapped and held for more than a month. The People's Liberation Army, Colombia's smallest guerrilla group, released Bishop Jose de Jesus Quintero Diaz of Tibu to a commission headed by the president of the Colombian bishops' conference. Bishop Quintero told reporters after his Sept. 19 release he gave thanks to his fellow bishops and to Pope John Paul II "for his prayers and intervention" for his freedom.

FBI finds blood of priest, others near site of bishop's murder

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Blood found near the place where Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City was bludgeoned to death last year matches samples taken from a diocesan priest and at least two other people, said a special prosecutor leading the murder inquiry. But a former human rights investigator at the Guatemala City Archdiocese questioned the validity of the results. "I don't know if it will be possible to defend them (the results) in court, since the scene of the crime was so badly contaminated," the former head of the archdiocesan human rights project, Edgar Gutierrez, told Catholic News Service Sept. 18.

Cleveland Browns coach Palmer inspires teammates on, off field

BEREA, Ohio (CNS) — It's only 8:30 a.m. and already coach Chris Palmer has had a long day. He arrived at Cleveland Browns headquarters about 5:30 a.m. to study films of previous team practices and to meet with the assistant coaches about what they need to work on that morning. He has been working virtually nonstop since he was named the Browns head coach in January, and this lifelong Catholic works equally hard at making time in his busy schedule to practice his faith. "I enjoy teaching on the field," Palmer told the Catholic Universe Bulletin, newspaper of the Cleveland Diocese. "I enjoy that interaction with the players. Of course, I enjoy game day too."

The pope in Slovenia
A girl in traditional dress holds an image of Bishop Anton Martin Slomsek during Mass for his beatification celebrated by Pope John Paul II in Maribor, Slovenia, Sept. 19.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rwandan bishop denies charges of genocide participation

KIGALI, Rwanda (CNS) — Rwandan Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro denied charges of participating in the country's 1994 genocide. "I deny all five of the charges against me. I don't accept any of them," he told a Kigali court as his trial opened Sept. 14, reported Reuters, the British news agency. He faced the death penalty if convicted and has insisted he is the victim of a campaign driven by government officials against the church.

Actress works to improve lives of foster children

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Foster children have a friend on television. She's Victoria Rowell, formerly of the popular soap opera "The Young and the Restless," and now the astute forensics expert, Dr. Amanda Bentley, on CBS-TV's "Diagnosis Murder." She will do whatever it takes to make the life of children in foster care more pleasant. "They do need a voice and after all, I'm a former foster youth myself," said Rowell, who recently was photographed for a promotional poster for the archdiocesan Catholic Social Service's Foster Care Program. "I'm interested in helping the advancement of foster family legislation."

Pope to give New Year's Eve blessing to world's people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As revelers around the world toast the new millennium, Pope John Paul II will bless the world's people. The pope plans to give a special blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) at midnight Dec. 31 when he greets people in St. Peter's Square to usher in the year 2000. The announcement was included in a calendar of papal events published Sept. 15 by the Vatican. The "urbi et orbi" blessing usually is given only on Christmas, Easter and during a newly elected pope's first public appearance

Cardinal Hickey celebrates Red Mass in West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (CNS) — Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington urged participants in a Sept. 12 Red Mass in Charleston to "keep in mind the Lord's courtroom, our Lord of judgment, on whose docket we shall all one day appear." Addressing a group of 400 that included West Virginia lawyers, judges and lawmakers, the cardinal said all would do well to emulate God's brand of justice in their own dealings with others. Cardinal Hickey was principal celebrant for the Mass in Charleston's Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral to mark the start of the judicial year in West Virginia.

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Fall Day of Reflection, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

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$7.50 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: Wednesday, October 6th
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

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Workshop registration information will be sent on receipt of registration or call:
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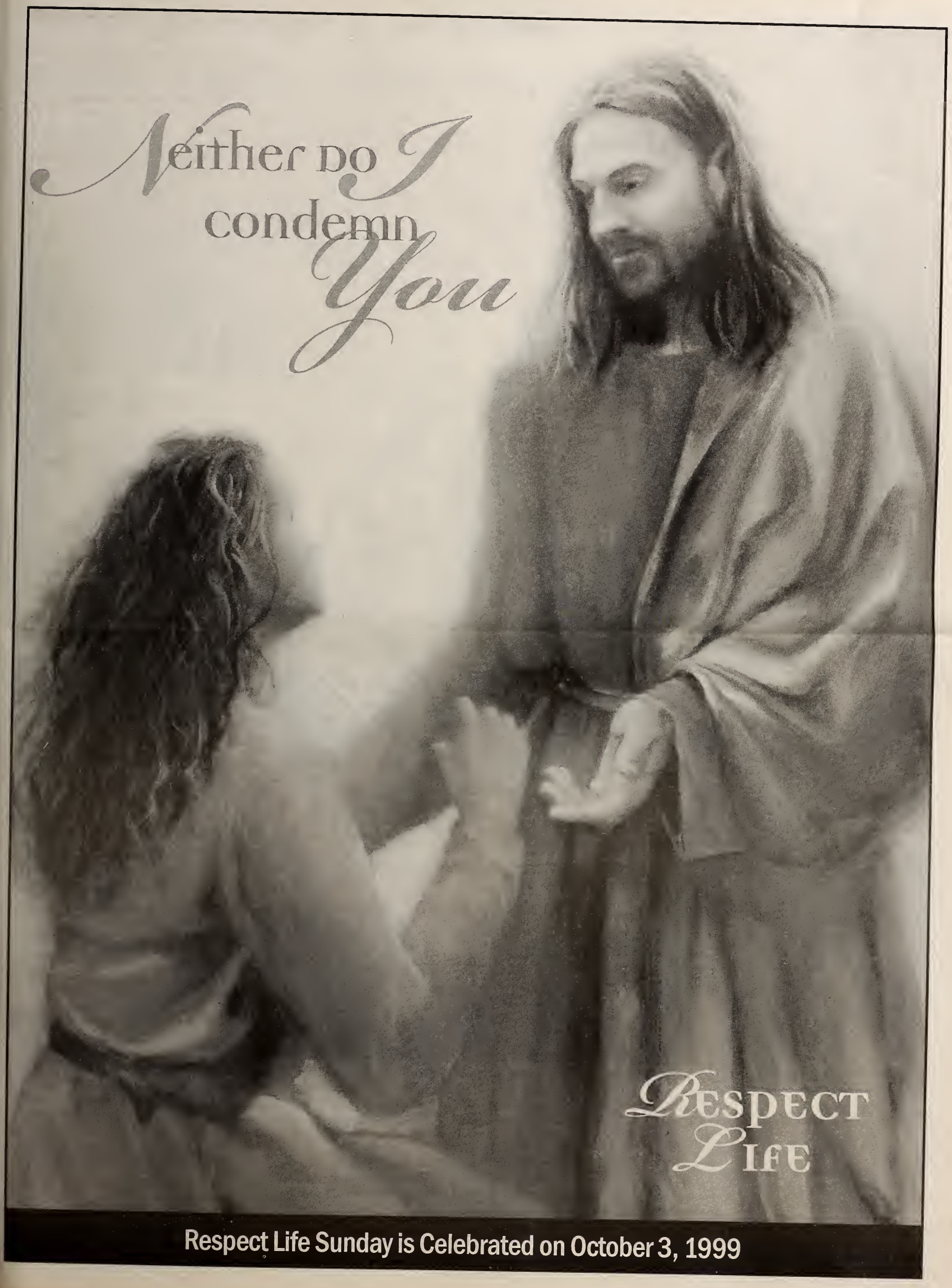


Respect Life Sunday is Celebrated on October 3, 1999

Neither do I condemn you: to heal the brokenhearted, to comfort all who mourn

For many people, 2000 means Y2K, and that spells trouble. But for Catholics, 2000 means something much greater and certainly more hopeful than the anticipated computer-generated glitches.

Pope John Paul II has called 2000 the Great Jubilee, a "year of the Lord's favor," when God will pour out graces in abundance. "Above all," John Paul explains, "the joy of every Jubilee" is a "joy based upon the forgiveness of sins, the joy of conversion." From Isaiah, we know that God not only forgives, he also promises to "heal the brokenhearted...to comfort all of mourn...to give them a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit" (Is 61:1-3)

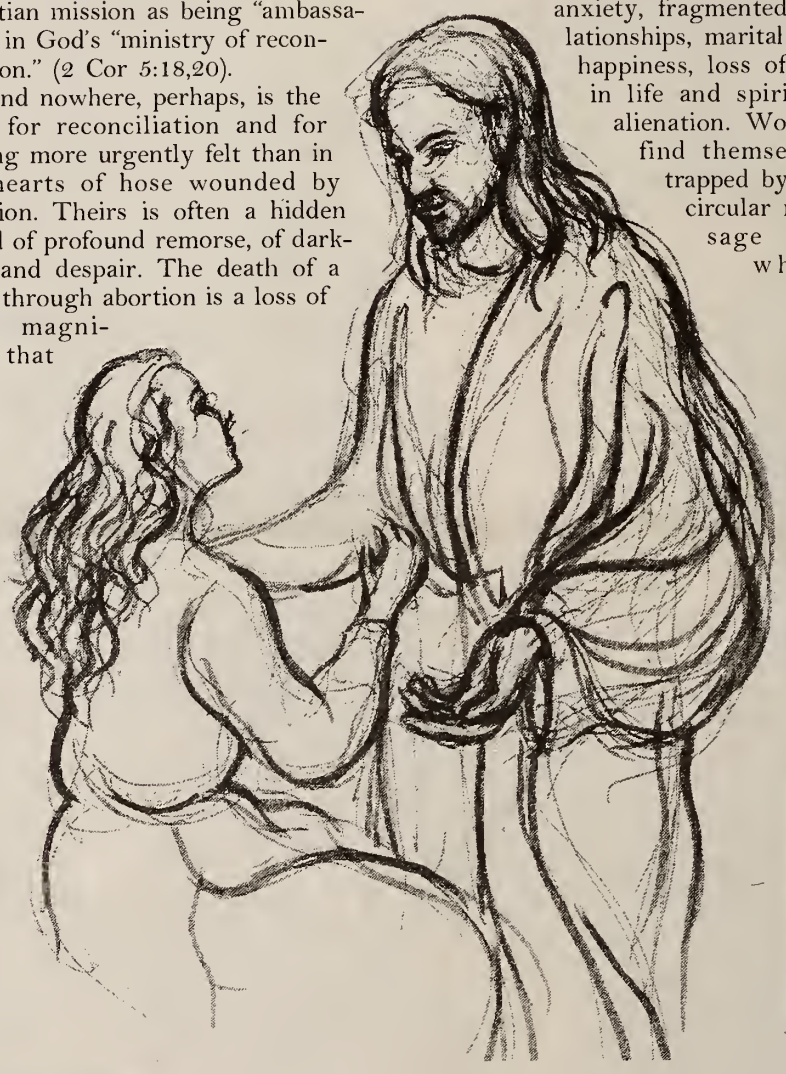
As we look back over the 20th century — indeed over the last year alone — we find much to mourn; genocidal slaughter based on ethnic and religious differences, cold-blooded killings by teens, 10 prisoners a month executed by the state, doctors in Oregon and the Netherlands assisting patients to commit suicide with the law's blessing and 50 million children destroyed by abortion worldwide.

Violence and "legitimized" killing are such serious and persuasive problems they may seem to be beyond our control. And so, we reason, we have no power nor responsibility to change things. Yet the observance of Edmund Burke rings true: All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

We are not helpless onlookers: "The future is not determined; we co-author it with God," as one bishop reminds us. Just as countless individual sins contribute to the "culture of death" now infecting the world, countless individual choices to be virtuous are needed to build a "culture of life" in the coming millennium.

We start by making the personal choice to uphold—to really witness to—the sanctity and dignity of every human life. Forgiveness and conversion must not take root in our hearts and in our communities so that we can hold out to others a vision of hope and healing. St. Paul describes the Christian mission as being "ambassadors" in God's "ministry of reconciliation." (2 Cor 5:18,20).

And nowhere, perhaps, is the need for reconciliation and for healing more urgently felt than in the hearts of hose wounded by abortion. Theirs is often a hidden world of profound remorse, of darkness and despair. The death of a child through abortion is a loss of such magnitude that time not only fails to heal all wounds, it deepens them. Often grief becomes manifest through alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, chronic anxiety, fragmented relationships, marital unhappiness, loss of joy in life and spiritual alienation. Women find themselves trapped by the circular message that whirs inside: "I allowed the life of a child to be taken; my sin is too great for even God to forgive."



Breaking through the darkness and despair with words of hope, Pope John Paul II says to these women: "The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope...give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you His forgiveness and His peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord." (The Gospel of Life, 99)

Each of us can help transform this message of hope from words on a page to life-giving water. How? By sharing this message of Christ's unconditional love and forgiveness with someone who is hurting from abortion. We can become the catalyst for restoring that person to new life in Jesus Christ.

A culture of life will flourish if people of faith, people of life, give witness to God's love. And united as one body, may we enter the Jubilee Year of 2000 with great rejoicing, proclaiming the redeeming power of God's merciful love. ▼

The future is not determined; we co-author it with God.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

How many to be healed?

By FATHER ED SHERIDAN

According to statistics, there have been over 28 million abortions over the past years since the Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. This does not count the millions worldwide in other countries. Even Ireland is in the midst of discussing changes in the law which presently says that abortion is not only immoral but illegal. How many abortions have there been and how many in the future? Anyone's guess.

Father Ed Sheridan

The abortions have not only prevented life from having a chance but also has inflicted tremendous hurt and damage to the women (and the men) who have chosen the destructive way of handling a challenge in their lives. Very few women (and men) can move away from an abortion without some psychological scars and deep hurts within themselves. There are millions of people who seek help and healing as a result of their actions. A doctor friend in another city told me that the persons who have the deepest hurt within themselves and the unhappiest people are generally those who have not handled the unborn in a positive manner.

There is a program in place which tries to help and heal women known as Rachel's Vineyard. The Catholic Conference Center hosted two retreats over the past few months, and I was privileged to be a part of both weekend retreats. Because of my responsibilities within my own parish, I was only able to be present at various times, but these were wonderful (yet emotionally draining) times to see the healing offered by the Church as a vehicle in God's hands. St. Paul talks about his sinfulness and the need for patience from Jesus due to Paul's admitted sinfulness. Patience is needed to be given to those who have been involved in abortion, and this must be given by the Church as well as by Jesus. Rachel's Vineyard gives this. Unfortunately, those who attend the retreat are very small in number compared with the millions who need that healing. A program like this cannot be done in a big city coliseum or stadium. It does need personalization and individual caring — even within a small group.

Priests, counselors, and doctors attempt to help individuals, and this must continue. Efforts are made to assist not condemn, to heal rather than to hurt more deeply. The forgiveness of individuals in their unique pastoral professions is absolutely needed. The Church must do the same. By sponsoring retreats like Rachel's Vineyard, the Church is reaching out to others.

As a man, I found some of the "exercises" within the retreat to be painful and very emotional, but they seemed to be very necessary and very healing especially for the women participants.

For all who encounter people who are hurting, condemning, and nearly placing themselves in despair and hopelessness, Rachel's Vineyard is an answer which should be tried. When will we ever get to the millions? Most likely that is impossible, but this is a beginning for the Church to be what it is supposed to be — a healing and helping Church. In the meantime, those in a position to help need to be aware of the tremendous hurt and injury done by the act of abortion and also by a non-caring, judgmental, and condemning person, pastoral minister, or health professional. ▼

Father Ed Sheridan is pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

Often when it pertains to anything concerning abortion, people are afraid of allowing women to experience "hurt," and the truth is sacrified to a sense of false mercy. There is more concern for the "person," rather than the soul.

There can be no mercy without justice, and no justice without the truth.

I don't know why my soul fled the truth for so long. But, finally, though Project Rachel, my soul was set free and allowed to go to its Creator. I will be forever grateful for the gift of this ministry.

— Anonymous

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortion?

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, provides post-abortion counseling in each of its three family service offices. These services differ in availability due to staffing of the particular offices but share the same philosophy. CSS offers professional, caring, and compassionate counseling services focused on helping the person achieve peace and healing.

In Charlotte

Call (704) 370-6155 and ask for the Intake Counselor. As counselors rotate this responsibility, you may reach voice mail. You need not explain the type of counseling you wish. Calls are returned the same day. Five counselors are on staff. All are master's level who have attended specific training regarding post-abortion counseling.

In the Triad Area

Call (336) 727-0705. David Harold is available for post-abortion counseling. You may ask for him directly. He is a master's level counselor who has attended training in post-abortion counseling. If you prefer a female counselor, he can refer you as needed.

In the Asheville area

Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette is available for post-abortion counseling. She, too, is a master's level counselor who has completed Project Rachel training. She may be reached at (828) 255-0146.

There is an affordable sliding fee scale for our counseling services. However, services are always offered regardless of ability to pay. Post-abortion counseling is an important part of the counseling services offered by this agency. We strive to be particularly aware of and sensitive to the needs of women coping with post-abortion trauma.

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With God's mercy, forgiveness reigns

It is possible for any woman to unexpectedly have a bad emotional reaction to an abortion. But researchers have identified several factors that predict which women are most likely to suffer severe reactions.

Some people seem to come through an abortion unchanged. Others struggle for years with feelings of grief, guilt, shame, anxiety, low self-esteem, anger, or depression. Still others have problems with nightmares, eating disorders, broken or abusive relationships, substance abuse, and even suicide.

Post-abortion therapists are prepared to help people of every religious background, or no religious background. Because abortion involves issues of death and moral responsibility; however, it is natural and necessary for the religious and spiritual beliefs of the client be explored.

Moreover, what most don't realize is God's mercy is great enough to forgive an abortion. With the help of a retreat program called Rachel's Vineyard, healing and reunification are possible. Rachel's Vineyard is a weaving of spirituality and psychology, calling participants into the heart of the God who passionately desires their wholeness and holiness and who loves each as if they were only one.

The focus of the retreat is a biblical healing process. The weekend includes discussions, prayer, living Scripture exercises, private letter writing and a memorial service. Participation is strictly confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion.

For more information on Rachel's Vineyard, and the upcoming Nov. retreat, contact Dr. Martha Shuping, (336) 659-1342.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats provide opportunity for any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. There are psychological exercises to help work through repressed grief and anger and many rituals to help the participant grieve the loss of their unborn child and to accept God's forgiveness.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Dr. Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist in private practice, is a retreat leader for Rachel's Vineyard in the Diocese of Charlotte. Shuping has conducted workshops and counseled women with pregnancy loss for over a decade. ▼

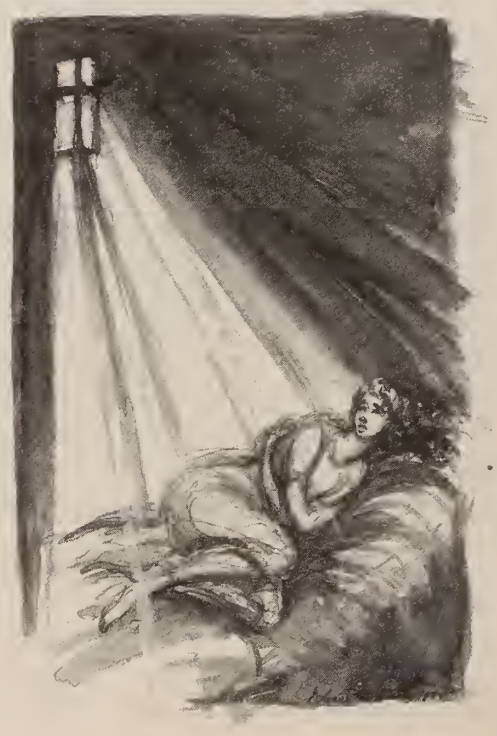
Editor Joann Keane contributed to this article.

I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not have healed. Certainly what has happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly.

If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitely lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord."

— Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life (No. 99)

If you have had an abortion, God's mercy is great enough to forgive that, too.



The Shrine
Dedicated to Children Who Died Unborn

Church of the Holy Innocents, New York

The Shrine Dedicated to Children Who Have Died Unborn is a memorial for all children who have died before birth through miscarriage, abortion or who are stillborn.

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Quebec bishops say no apologies, no church funds for 'orphans'

By MARY DURRAN
Catholic News Service

MONTREAL (CNS) — The Quebec bishops' assembly announced it would offer neither apologies nor compensation to the Duplessis "orphans," who claim their lives were ruined in Quebec's Catholic-run institutions of the 1940s and '50s.

Bishop Pierre Morissette of Baie-Comeau, president of the assembly, said that to make an apology would be to accept a version of events that the church does not accept and would constitute a "betrayal of the good works of those who dedicated their lives to the service of the poor."

As far as financial compensation is concerned, Bishop Morissette said: "We consider that the church has already given a great deal to the poor and continues to give generously."

However, the bishops said the church is willing to cooperate with the Quebec government, which announced earlier this year that it would institute a $3 million (US$2 million) fund for social services for the Duplessis orphans.

"We are willing to continue and even put more resources into church social programs which offer assistance to former orphans," Bishop Morissette said in a Sept. 15 press conference given with Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte of Montreal, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"To be deprived of the contact and love of one's family constitutes a wound which leaves deep scars. We feel deep compassion for those orphans who were given up to the nuns or abandoned by their families and had to spend their childhoods in an institution," said Bishop Morissette.

"Added to a stubborn refusal to apologize is a disdain for the victims and the truth, as well as a campaign of misinformation."
— Bruno Roy, president of the Committee of Institutionalized Duplessis Orphans

"We cannot rewrite history," Bishop Morissette said. "That's why we believe it's preferable to devote our time and energy to respond to the needs of those who call on us today for help."

The bishop's announcement came after extensive consultations in all of Quebec's dioceses with religious institutions and with the seven religious orders implicated in the Duplessis orphans controversy.

The 3,000 "orphans" were illegitimate children or children born into abject poverty who were given up to Catholic-run orphanages during the government of Maurice Duplessis, a Catholic.

As the orphanages ran up debts in the 1940s, Cardinal Paul-Emile Leger negotiated a federal subsidy that was available only for psychiatric care. Thus, the orphanages became psychiatric hospitals, and a number of healthy children were falsely diagnosed as mentally ill and interned with real psychiatric cases.

Since 1992, victims have been seeking reparation from the government and the Catholic Church. Calls on the church to apologize for its implication in a system that illegally interned healthy children in a regime designed for psychiatric cases intensified in the wake of Pope John Paul II's recent calls for the church to mark the millennium by asking pardon for past wrongs.

"How can you ask somebody to apologize for something they were forced to do at gunpoint?" asked Cardinal Turcotte, referring to the religious orders, whom he said had no choice but to accept federal money and turn the institutions into psychiatric hospitals.

Bishop Morissette added that he rejected allegations that there had been systematic abuse of the children interned in the institutions.

Many former orphans have alleged that they were subjected to the treatment that was conventional for mental cases at the time: restraint in a straitjacket, cold baths, electric shock treatment and isolation. Others have alleged general cruelty and emotional abuse or sexual abuse by lay monitors who worked in the orphanages.

"There may have been isolated cases of abuse in the orphanages, but it certainly wasn't systematic," Bishop Morissette said.

The president of the Committee of Institutionalized Duplessis Orphans, Bruno Roy, said the bishops' declaration "added insult to injury."

"Added to a stubborn refusal to apologize is a disdain for the victims and the truth, as well as a campaign of misinformation," he said.

Roy said the orphans' committee has never maintained that sexual and other abuses were systematic, as the bishops' assembly has suggested.

"What was systematic was the labeling of healthy children as mentally ill," Roy said. "The church's sin was its silence. It kept quiet, because otherwise it would have lost the federal money. The bishops' assembly has fudged this issue."

Roy said the orphans recognize the devotion of the many of the individual nuns who worked with the children and acknowledge that many of them did the most they could.

"But there would be no contradiction in saying that while many individuals selflessly worked for the good of the children, the institutions involved participated in a system that was wrong," he said.

The Committee of Institutionalized Duplessis Orphans called on Catholics throughout Quebec to boycott the Sunday collection at Mass as of Oct. 3 by dropping a leaflet of support of the orphans into the collection instead of a monetary gift. ▼

Book Review

Worriers and patron saints come together in new book by sisters

REVIEWED BY ANNE LEVEQUE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Heaven Help Us" is subtitled "The Worrier's Guide to the Patron Saints." As a world-class worrier, I felt an immediate affinity for the authors: sisters who "come from a family of worriers."

What do you do when you're lying awake at night, fretting over whatever you have to fret over: love, finances, children, or the lack of any of those things? Prayer is a powerful tool, but many of us feel the need to DO something. This book is offered as a practical guide for the worrier. It gives specific prayers, rituals, and advice that is sometimes a little peculiar.

The book is divided into thematic sections so that you can easily find a saint to fit your particular needs. There are sections such as "When Love's Labors Lose," "Heavenly House Calls" and "For Wandering Souls." There are also introductory sections on why we ask saints to intercede for us and the canonization process.

There is a page or two on each saint covered, giving a little background on the saint and a prayer or two along with a ritual to perform. These rituals mostly fall into the category of harmless activities: when you ask St. Stephen to protect your home and its inhabitants against illness, disease, hail, or storms, you place some oats in a bag and hang it in a prominent location. Just as you're wondering where on earth you might find some oats, the authors point out that Cheerios will do just fine.

Some of the rituals, on the other hand, are a little dubious: St. Agnes, readily recognized as the patron of unmarried women who are looking for a husband, can be invoked on behalf of single men as well, but the ritual involves eating an entire raw herring, bones and all!

"Heaven Help Us: The Worrier's Guide to the Patron Saints"
By Alice LaPlante and Clare LaPlante
Dell Publishing (New York, 1999)
224 pages, $9.95

We also get bonus rituals and odd saint facts to spice up this collection.

Clearly, many of the rituals seem terribly superstitious. However, as the authors point out, rituals can be comforting. Some of the rituals come from long-held traditions among Catholics, such as burying a statue of St. Joseph in your yard to ensure a swift sale of your house. Others may be purely the invention of the authors.

This is a light-hearted, humorous guide to the intercession of the saints. The authors have successfully incorporated myth, legend, tradition and prayer to create a delightful collection of intercessions. ▼

LeVeque is information services manager for Catholic News Service.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 26 - Oct. 2, 1999

Sunday, Ezekiel 18.25-28, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32; **Monday**, Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday**, Zechariah 8:20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday**, Revelation 12:7-12, John 1:47-51; **Thursday**, Nehemiah 8:1-12, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday**, Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday**, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Word to Life

Sept. 26, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Ezekiel 18:25-28
   Psalm 25:4bc-9
2) Philippians 2:1-11
3) Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

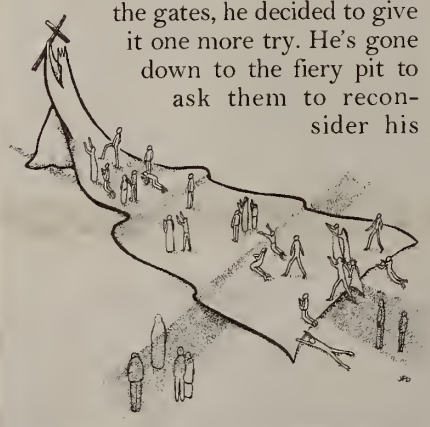
BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The old story goes like this:

The end of time had come. The righteous stood before the gates of heaven, faces beaming with satisfaction at having been found worthy. Peter and his helpers stood by, conferring in whispers, smiling benignly at the crowd.

Some time passed. In the assembly of the saved, puzzlement grew. Eventually murmurs arose, and a delegation approached and asked Peter politely to please explain what was taking so long. Peter nodded reassuringly and spoke to the crowd.

"We've had a slight change of schedule," he said in a celestial voice. "Just as the Lord was to open the gates, he decided to give it one more try. He's gone down to the fiery pit to ask them to reconsider his invitation and join him in heaven. When he returns, heaven will open."



The crowd stood in stunned silence. Suddenly there came a far-off sound of song and laughter.

Peter grinned and shouted to the crowd, "Here comes the Lord with all the repentant sinners!"

The Lord and the rag-tag band of last-minute rescuees danced into sight. The gates swung open in a glittering flash, and the Lord danced through, followed by remorseful exbullies and forgiven porno stars and repentant terrorists — every imaginable sinner now, through the mercy of God, became saints.

Peter beckoned the white-robed souls forward. And at that moment — so the story goes — the final judgment occurred. Those who took their place among the forgiven entered into God's joy forever. But those who resented the presence of the latecomers excluded themselves from communion with God and exchanged glory for pride.

This week's Gospel shows Jesus reminding his listeners — then and now — that to resent God's forgiveness of even the most notorious sinners removes us from the power of that same forgiveness.

"Jesus said to them, 'I assure you that tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came preaching a way of holiness, you put no faith in him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did believe in him'"
— Matthew 21:31b-32a.

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Movie Review

Movie adaptation of Vonnegut novel is surreal satire in suburbia

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The American dream turns nightmarish for a wealthy car dealer going bonkers in suburbia the surreal satire, "Breakfast of Champions" (Hollywood).

Based on Kurt Vonnegut's 1976 novel, the movie is heavy-handed and wears out its welcome not long after presenting a parade of excessively eccentric characters who populate the film.

Bruce Willis is Dwayne Hoover, the town's wealthy, admired car dealership owner whose grinning visage is constantly seen on TV ads but who begins each day by putting a gun barrel into his mouth. Nothing and no one make sense in his life. His wife (Barbara Hershey) is a TV-addicted zombie and his teen son (Lucas Haas) is remote and overly fond of glittery costumes.

"Breakfast of Champions"

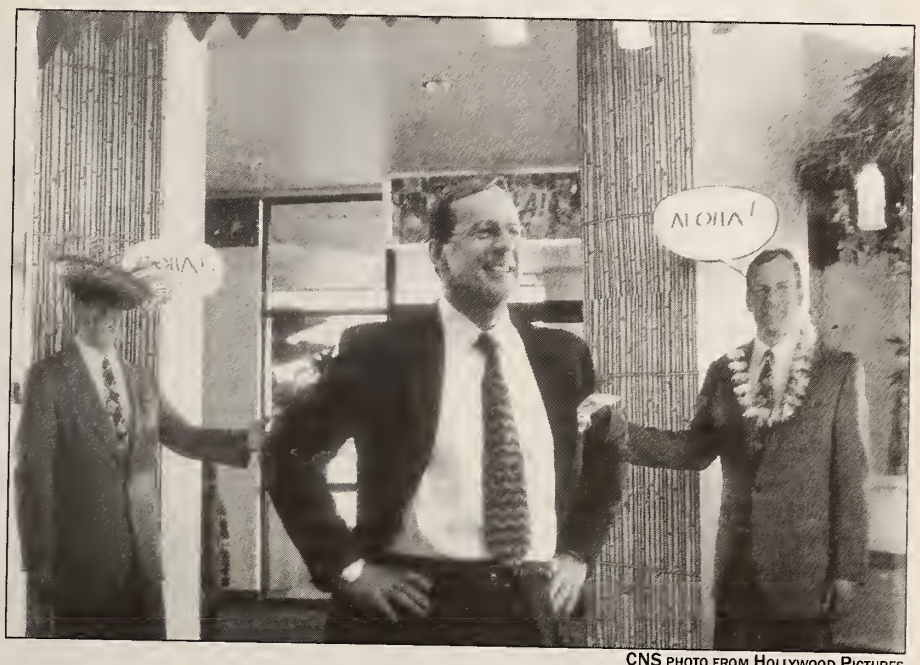
U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE REVIEW LINE 1-800-311-4CCC
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

At work, sex with his secretary (Glenne Headly) doesn't relieve Hoover's stress and customers fawn over him as a TV star. His sales manager (Nick Nolte), fearful Hoover's discovered he's a closet transvestite, is also going over the edge with bizarre behavior, while the new employee, ex-con Wayne Hoobler (Omar Epps) abjectly worships Dwayne for no reason other than their names are similar.

Meanwhile, cranky pulp fiction writer Kilgore Trout (Albert Finney) has been lured to Hoover's town to be honored at an arts festival, and the car dealer gets it into his befuddled thinking that Trout's the guy who will explain the mysteries — and the meaning — of life to him.

As written and directed by Alan Rudolph, the movie looks dated in its use of self-conscious camera techniques that appeared creative two decades ago but now seem only stale.



CNS PHOTO FROM HOLLYWOOD PICTURES

Bruce Willis stars as Dwayne Hoover in "Breakfast of Champions," a surreal satire based on Kurt Vonnegut's 1976 novel. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Willis the actor undoubtedly identifies with the character whose TV visibility means he has no privacy in public, but the smiling facade Dwayne puts on is relentlessly hammered home to diminishing effect as the character builds to a violent outburst.

Finney's philosopher-hack is supposed to provide humorous cackles but his dialogue just doesn't provoke much laughter.

Nolte, however, scores points when he goes bananas on camera, stripping to his frilly red negligee in the middle of filming a car commercial. As the wife who cheers him on, Vicki Lewis is given little to do. The same is true for Hershey as Dwayne's wife, another character whose mindlessness is never explained.

The crazed assortment of neurotics doesn't develop much human dimension, so when a gooey, uplifting ending suddenly materializes it has no resonance with the audience. Vonnegut's social commentary on materialism and the rampant consumer culture tends to get lost in the buffooneries of these cartoonish characters.

Due to an extended sexual encounter, brief violence, intermittent profanity and minimal rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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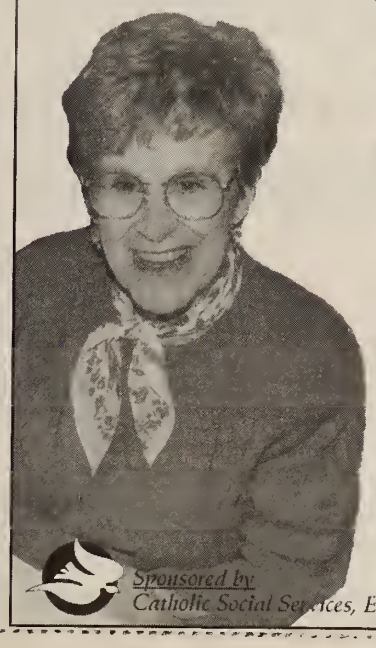

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Young hearts set afire with messages of inspiration and motivation

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — On an Indian summer day under a tent next to the track and field of Belmont Abbey College and Monastery, over 500 youth from the Charlotte and other dioceses gathered for a day of music and talks at the Southeast FIRE Rally on Sept. 18.

Eighteen-year-old David Hamilton from St. Therese Church in Mooresville said, "I like that all of these young Catholics can come together and worship in one place because it is difficult to get kids together at one time for something positive; this is something that everyone should experience."

While adults gathered in the Wheeler Athletic Center, the younger crowd could probably be heard from miles around screaming and yelling in response to the dynamic and vibrant personal stories and rousing music of the FIRE team participants in charge of the youth all-day session. The original idea was for a two- to three-hour breakout session from the adults; however, when the youth registration swelled to over 500, the coordinators decided to hold a separate rally for the younger participants.

"This is a good experience because you can learn more about God and have a good time also," said Robert Dear, 14, from St. Luke Church in Raleigh, N.C. "I like how they are relating to us; they are focused on the kids and are putting forth the effort so that we can understand."

To keep the kids on track, host Bob Lesnefsky told jokes and led call-and-answer breaks and games while delivering his message: "God has opened the doors for this conference to take place today. This is an exciting time to be a youth, and God is doing amazing things in the lives of youth. The Church and God both believe in them."

Lesnefsky is a theology and religious education student at Franciscan University at Steubenville, Ohio. He has worked on his emcee styles from being one of the main leaders of the popular summer youth conferences sponsored by the school.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

A young parishioner from Good Shepherd Church in King, N.C., receives Communion from Rev. Mr. Michael Langsdorf of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, N.C., at the liturgy after the youth FIRE Rally.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with music from Lion of Judah, a Christian music band from St. Joseph's Church in Marietta, Ga. With contemporary religious and inspirational music to keep the mood going throughout the day, the band invited the participants to join in with motions and gestures during the songs. They take their name from the Biblical name for Christ and the title of an old praise song.

"We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, and we want to share that with young people who are at a critical point in their lives," said Laura Franc, one of the lead singers and founders of the group, along with her husband Bernie. "We have been

See YOUTH RALLY, page 15

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Elementary Faith Development; St. Thomas More Parish. Full-time position that includes administration and implementation of children's faith communities in activities such as sacramental preparation, liturgy, RCIC, Bible camp, volunteer recruitment and support. Qualified candidates with degree, relevant experience in religious training should send a resume and letter of interest to: Bob Weickert, Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Director of Faith Formation: Our Lady of the Assumption parish seeking full-time FF Director with parish experience and/or college background in theology or religious studies. Requirements include: good organizational and interpersonal skills, a vision of faith formation emphasizing grade school through middle school, but not excluding adults, exemplary oral and written communication skills; basic computer skills. Salary high 20's depending on experience. Great diocesan benefits. Resume with references: FF Search Committee, c/o Fr. Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax. (804)846-7022.

Music Positions: Vibrant 3500+families parish in Alpharetta, Georgia has several openings: **Organist/pianist** needed to play 3 to 4 liturgies a weekend, weddings, funerals and holy days. Must be knowledgeable in post-Vatican II liturgy. Must be able to lead and accompany an assembly that loves to sing! **Choral Director** needed for Adult Choir. Responsibilities include one weekly rehearsal and one weekend liturgy. Must be able to lead the choir in a balance of supporting the assembly's song and singing anthems alone. Other responsibilities include conducting combined choral/instrumental efforts for parish-wide special events. Must be knowledgeable in basic principles of Catholic liturgical celebration. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgical repertoire as well as a variety of sacred choral music. **Children's Choir Director** needed for active children's choir. Responsible for one weekly rehearsal and one monthly children's liturgy. Any or all of the above positions may be combined for the person with the right qualifications. Send letter of interest and resume to: Kathy Kuczka or Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 535 Rucker Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004.

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Youth Rally, from page 14

called to sing about God, and music speaks to everyone."

Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance Father Dave Pivonka, the featured speaker of the day, is the assistant to the president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and the youth conference coordinator.

"You are the generation that God is blessing right now. You can find hope and meaning in Him no matter the problem. Your decision on whether or not to follow Christ is the most important one of your lives," stressed Father Pivonka.

He spoke of the violence that has plagued this country in recent times like the shootings in Fort Worth, Texas, Kentucky, and the deaths at Columbine in Littleton, Colo. He warned the group that believing in God and worshiping Him in these times is a dangerous thing and that they have to be strong in their faith.

"You are the generation that God is blessing right now. You can find hope and meaning in Him no matter the problem. Your decision on whether or not to follow Christ is the most important one of your lives," stressed Father Pivonka.

Another speaker was Lisa Weible Militello from St. Joseph Church in Columbia, S.C., her parish's youth ministry leader for eight years and youth conference participant for five years. She tearfully talked about the importance of being celibate before marriage because she had made some wrong choices in her personal life and how she converted to Catholicism after a pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

"Youth are a treasure, and we need to keep them rooted in their faith. They need to know that they can make better choices, so that is why I am here. People try to catechize children before they evangelize them, and we need to have more events like this in this region," she said.

The last group of speakers included young adults from Belmont Abbey College and Franciscan University. Lesnefsky, Catherine Rumore, a sophomore from Birmingham, Ala., and Maureen Davis, a junior from Harrisburg, N.C., used personal testimonies and stories to stress the importance of a dedication to God through prayer, attending church, and living a positive life in all areas.

Rumore, co-host of an EWTN youth-focused show "Life on the Rock," was "really excited to see so much truth revealed today because we are lied to by the media. The narrow path is difficult, but Jesus never said that it would be easy."

Lesnefsky talked about his decision to remain celibate until marriage, while Davis told the teens about her bad choices and the way she changed her life.

Fourteen-year-old Curt Smith from Good Shepherd Church in King, N.C., said, "I came to experience the Catholic religion more closely with people who had gone through painful experiences. I wanted to know how others have grown in their faith through difficult decisions."

"My hope is that teens have found a place where they can come in contact with a God who loves them. We have to speak to them in a different way because they speak a different language. This rally is important because this lets them know that there are options and that they don't have to buy into the negative things of the world. They need to see people their own age living positive lives," said Father Pivonka. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

A participant raises her hands to join in a song performed by Lion of Judah, the Georgia band featured at the youth event.

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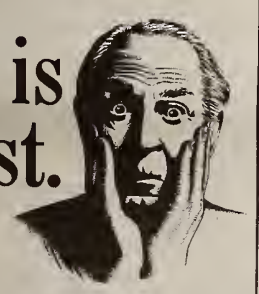

	True	False
I would rather let the state decide how to distribute my estate than make those decisions myself.	☐	☐
I would rather have an outdated estate plan that inadequately expresses my desires than endure the hassle of bringing the documents up to date.	☐	☐
I would rather pay estate taxes, if required, than make a deductible bequest to my church.	☐	☐

How did you do? If you answered "True" to any of these questions, please do not proceed. If you answered otherwise, please call the number below and request our free no-obligation brochure, "Your legacy...Planning for a Better Tomorrow." Or you may write us at: Office of Planned Giving, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

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FIRE Rally,
from page 1

Intercession

Sister Ann Shields is an ardent believer in a passage from the Gospel of John: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you (Jn 15: 7).

As a FIRE presenter at its 117th rally, she shared this passage and emotional stories to illustrate how intercession — God's love shown through oneself to others — is the key to true Christian compassion.

"The heart of charity is that I surrender my life in such as way that God's love can work through me," she said.

Sister Shields, the superior of the religious community the Servants of God's Love in the Diocese of Lansing, Mich., noted Pope John Paul II's call to focus on God the Father, the sacrament of reconciliation and the virtue of charity in this last year of jubilee preparation.

"This is a season of grace," she said. "Your willingness to follow the Lord unleashes spiritual power, and a spiritual peace."

Sister Shields encouraged the crowd to stay on the path of obedience, to persevere in their prayer, and to pray for what's most important in the eyes of God. "Trust Him," she said, "and know that that He hears every word of every prayer you pray."

Repentance

In his talk on repentance, Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance Father Michael Scanlan spoke often of entering the embrace of God.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

A trio of FIRE Rally participants stand in praise during a song performed at the Southeast FIRE Rally. The event was filled with preaching and music.

Succeeding in that challenge has great rewards, he said, but sin poses many obstacles along the way.

"Unfortunately, sin takes you further than you want to go, keeps you there longer, and hurts you more," said Father Scanlan, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

"The moment today that you turn toward God and say, 'I want out of that sin, I want out of that twilight zone, I want to break from what keeps me at a distance from you' ...God comes to you with grace."

Father Scanlan led a prayer session in which participants invoked the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to empower them in their lives, to direct their actions and to wash away resentment and bitterness.

"I'm challenging all of you right now to give God permission," he said. "Not for that narrow one thing that you might already be doing, but for God to move in your hearts right now and lead you to do the thing He most wants you to do in helping others in building His church."

Evangelization

The entire day's events focused in some way on evangelization, but one priest emphasized it by discussing young people. Father Dave Pivonka, who led the youth track nearby, stopped by the main rally to share some thoughts on sharing the faith.

"Brothers and sisters, I firmly believe that God has chosen to anoint the teen-ager generation, the youth generation, right now all across the world," said Father Pivonka, a priest of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Penance and assistant to the president at Franciscan University.

Father Pivonka said young Catholics need mentors in the faith. Evangelization takes place in so many faith traditions, he added, and Catholics must partake as well.

"We need to pray for joy — the joy of the new resurrection, the joy of the jubilee — so that when people, especially our young kids, look at us they can say, 'There's something different about that person, and I want what they have.'"

The fire spreads

The event culminated with the closing liturgy, presided over by Bishop William G. Curlin and concelebrated by more than a dozen priests attending the rally.

During his homily, Bishop Curlin told participants to bring the palpable presence of Jesus they experienced back to their communities. "If we don't live in his presence, if we don't have that sense of God about us, then we're living on externals," he added.

Bishop Curlin challenged the congregation to make time to talk to God, and watch how God will lift their hearts.

"Make a leap of faith and say, 'Jesus, I am yours ...", he said. ▼

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

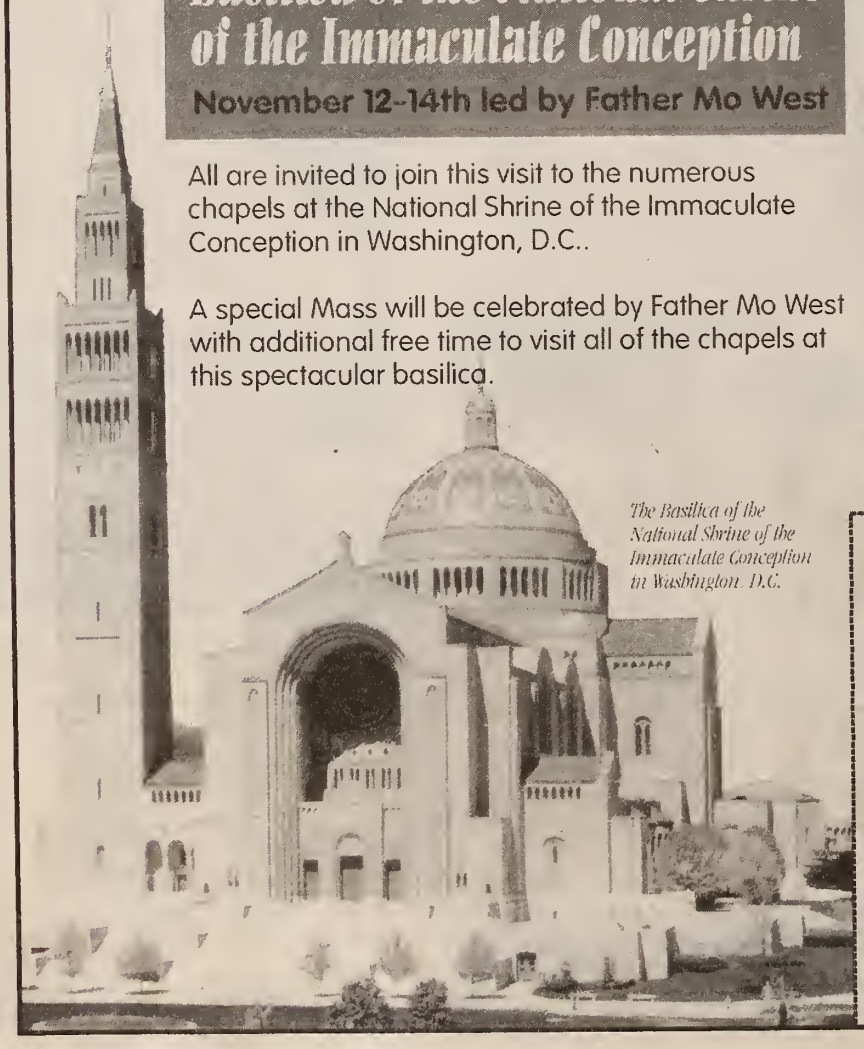
Come join the pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

November 12-14th led by Father Mo West

All are invited to join this visit to the numerous chapels at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C..

A special Mass will be celebrated by Father Mo West with additional free time to visit all of the chapels at this spectacular basilica.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Friday, Nov. 12
3:30 pm - Depart Charlotte Pastoral Center by luxury motorcoach.

Box supper provided on coach. (cost included)

Overnight at Best Western hotel outside Washington, D.C. (cost included)

Saturday, Nov. 13
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
11:15 am - Guided tour of the National Shrine. Free time/lunch at cafeteria if you wish (not included in cost)
2:30 pm - Prayer service at Our Mother of Africa Chapel
3:00 pm - Mass celebrated By Father Mo West
4:00 pm - Coach will take you either to the Baltimore Inner Harbor shopping and entertainment complex or back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own Sat. Evening.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
12:30 pm - Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

9:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor, at (704) 370-3339
Deadline to register: Friday, October 22

Cost: $145 per person (double occupancy) $175 per person (single occupancy) $75 children under 18
Cost includes coach, hotel, activities and meals except Saturday lunch and dinner.
Full payment must accompany registration. Registration form needed for each person.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

PHONE _____ (day) _____ (evening)

ROOMMATE NAME _____

Send registration to:
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor,
Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 1, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 5

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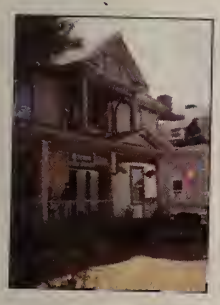

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Photos by Jimmy Rostar

Middle schoolers "rope in" communication, leadership skills
About two dozen middle school youth from St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville gathered Sept. 26 near Mooresville to participate in Iredell County Recreation Department's ropes challenge course. The county program is designed to promote communication, cooperation, trust, personal enrichment, encouragement, leadership skills — and having a good time. "I kind of got over my fear of heights — *some*," said Kelly Gillis, 12. "I learned to trust everybody here because we all worked together and had fun."

Hurricane Floyd

Raleigh Social Ministries bring relief to ravaged counties

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

TARBORO — The sun was shining and the air was brisk in Tarboro Sept. 22 as a load of goods from Catholic Social Ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh arrived at St. Catherine of Siena Church. It may have appeared like any other normal fall day in eastern North Carolina. That appearance was a deception.

Everything was not normal in Tarboro. For some, things will never seem normal again.

Hurricane Floyd sliced through this eastern North Carolina community and left it inundated. President Bill Clinton and North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt had descended onto Main Street a few days earlier to bring encouragement and money and to listen to people's stories.

Helicopters still crisscrossed the skies, looking for survivors and watching the river run. National Guard troops cruised the streets and kept vigil at crowded shelters where victims had taken refuge from a storm that continued to show its rage long after it had ceased to exist.

As the CSM group headed along route 64 from Raleigh to Tarboro, it became more evident that something catastrophic had happened. Tall pines were still scattered along the roadside where they had fallen. Mud-covered landscapes offered an often-grotesque vista.

Roadways ended abruptly. Detours abounded.

In Tarboro, streetlights were darkened. They stood helplessly at intersections unable to control what happened.

St. Catherine's property escaped unscathed. The neighborhood had not suffered major damage.

Just over the ridge, according to those familiar with the terrain, was the part of Tarboro that has made its name known around the world, if only for a short time. Walter Bell, former president of the parish council, explained how the Tar River wraps itself around the town putting the low-lying areas in jeopardy.

Rose Gallagher, whose own home is filled with a family in need, expressed a sense of urgency for the Spanish-speaking residents of the area. Many do not have Social Security numbers and are not eligible for assistance.

Bell said that there were times at the height of the storm when it appeared that the river might make its presence known even in the area around the church. It is not that the river itself would make it to the church, but he said the storm drains could no longer empty into the waterway and there was nowhere for the rainfall to go.

While there were no physical signs of damage to the church property, those who had suffered losses gathered at the parish. Spanish-speaking families had sought shelter after losing their homes, at least temporarily, to the waters. They busied themselves doing yard work, passing the time until the floods receded.

Passionist Father Bill Murphy, pastor, had opened the parish hall and his home to the victims. Despite a lack of running water, they were all able to carry on and still able to smile.

A small, informal group of parishioners gathered with Kathleen Walsh, director of CSM, to offer their thoughts and reactions to the storm and in some way to vent their feelings and needs to another, an outsider.

Rose Gallagher, whose own home is filled with a family in need, expressed a sense of urgency for the Spanish-speaking residents of the area. Many do not have Social Security numbers and are not eligible for assistance.

See HURRICANE, page 8

Vatican denies U.N. claim it gave up opposition to family planning

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said its family planning position remains unchanged, despite a U.N. official's claims that the church no longer presses for references to natural family planning methods in U.N. documents. During a London presentation of the 1999 World Population Report Sept. 22, Nafis Sadik, executive director of the U.N. Population Fund, claimed the Holy See had ceased opposing U.N. family planning programs. But in a two-page statement Sept. 27, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said that "the Holy See has not changed at all its well-known position."

Baptist-Catholic report on Bible released

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a report released Sept. 23, U.S. Roman Catholic and Southern Baptist scholars said that while they have "serious differences," they "share a great deal in our Christian faith concerning the authority and truth of the Bible." The group expressed hope that their 1,600-word report on how Catholics and Baptists approach Scripture "will be useful to teachers and students of our Christian faith and thus contribute to better mutual understanding and deeper devotion to the Bible." While not a "confessional statement," the report affirms certain "core convictions" Catholics and Baptists share.

Indian bishops concerned about attacks, seek Christian response

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — Indian bishops expressed concern over recent attacks on missionaries by Hindu fundamentalist groups, but asked church members for a Christian response. A statement of the standing committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India said that while the attacks appeared sporadic, they show the "systematic way the fundamentalist forces have been operating." Church sources say that since January, six people have been killed in more than 100 cases of violent attacks against Christians throughout the nation, for which pro-Hindu groups have been blamed.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Water shortage in Bethlehem

Palestinian women from the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem fill water jugs from a pipe supplied by a United Nations program. A summer drought has caused a severe water shortage in the Holy City.

New Age Christ is not Christianity's Christ, says Vatican book

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — New Age proponents speak of Christ, but theirs is not the Christ of the Gospels, said a new book published by the Vatican. "Instead of the religion of God who became man," New Age followers "prefer that of a man who becomes God," said Father Alessandro Olivieri Pennesi. In his book, "The Christ of the New Age," the priest contrasts New Age and Christian teachings about Christ. The primary and basic difference, he said, is that New Age adherents believe Jesus was simply a man; through a process of enlightenment he reached the status of Christ, like Buddha, Muhammad and Krishna did.

Bishop says Christians called to be good stewards of their gifts

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — All Christians are called to be trustworthy stewards of the gifts they receive from God, including time, talent and money, said the vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., said, at the National Catholic Stewardship Conference Sept. 19-22, that "stewardship is the spiritual challenge that we all face to prove ourselves ... deserving of the confidence that God has already placed in us, giving us all that we have and are."

Bishops to vote on Catholic college norms this fall

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops plan to vote this November on a national application of the Vatican's worldwide norms for Catholic higher education. The U.S. proposal includes norms requiring theologians who teach in Catholic institutions to have a mandate from the bishop to teach, but it uses the Latin "mandatum" to highlight the technical character of the term. It urges that Catholic members constitute a majority on boards of trustees and on faculties of Catholic colleges and universities "to the extent possible." It also says the president of the institution "should be Catholic" but permits exceptions to the rule.

In India, nun stripped, forced to drink urine of assailants

PATNA, India (CNS) — Suspected Hindu militants stripped a Catholic nun and forced her to drink their urine in the eastern Indian state of Bihar. According to Bishop Victor Thakur of Bettiah, three men in their mid-30s took the 25-year-old nun of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation to a deserted mangrove Sept. 20 and stripped her after forcing her out of a three-wheeled vehicle. When the nun resisted rape attempts, the assailants forced her to drink their urine collected in a bottle, said Bishop Thakur. He met the nun Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph's Health Center of Khalpura in Bihar's Chapra district, some 680 miles east of New Delhi, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Border issues make challenging mission for church agencies

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — The jobs of Catholic social service, migration and pastoral workers take on a different look along the Mexican border. The lives of many of the 6.2 million people living on either side of the 2,000-mile-long U.S.-Mexico border are affected by extreme poverty, low wages, little respect for workers' rights, substandard housing, environmental degradation and related serious medical problems, explained presenters at a Sept. 16-18 conference on border issues hosted by the Diocese of Tucson. Those who cross into the United States looking for economic relief face strict border controls, language and cultural barriers and even a "universal" church that isn't attuned to their needs, other speakers said.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 3 - 7
Priest Retreat
Living Waters Reflection Center
Maggie Valley

October 10 — 11 am Mass
Permanent Deacon Retreat
Catholic Conference Center,
Hickory

October 12
Wake Forest University
Divinity School Convocation

October 13
Fall Day of Reflection
Diocesan Elder Ministry
Catholic Conference Center,
Hickory

Diocesan planner

October

8 GREENSBORO — The 1999 Piedmont Pregnancy Care Centers, Inc. are holding their annual fund-raising banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel this morning with a 7 a.m. breakfast and a 7 p.m. dinner tonight. "A Heart of Compassion" is this year's theme. For more information, call Terry Davis at (336) 498-6917.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary School is hosting a book fair today, Sat., Oct. 9 and Sun., Oct. 10 at Barnes and Noble on Eastchester Drive. A portion of all sales made with a voucher from the school office or the three area Harris Teeter stores will go to the school. For more voucher information, call the school at (336) 887-2613.

9 BREVARD — The Annual Columbus Day Pasta Dinner, sponsored by the Jack Driscoll Council Knights of Columbus, is taking place today in the Sacred Heart Church Fellowship Hall following the 4:30 Mass. Tickets are being sold now by members of the Knights of Columbus. For more information, call Winston Churchill at (828) 884-7456.

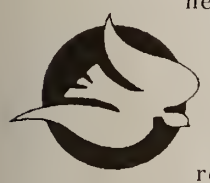
DENVER — Holy Spirit Church, along with several other area churches, is participating in the Fourth Annual Unity Community Olympic Day being held today from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the East Lincoln Optimist Club. This event is devoted to promoting unity among Christians of all denominations and races. The day includes music, food, games, crafts, and other highlights all free of charge. For details, call Kay at (704) 263-2632.

HIGH POINT — The Fourth Annual Knights of Columbus Council 14507 Golf Tournament is taking place today at the Olde Homeplace Golf Course. Tee time, cart, and cookout all included. Playing form will be captain's choice with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Singles and foursomes call

Annual dinner raises dollars for Western CSS Office

By ELIZABETH LOVEJOY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Turkey dinner came early this year in Asheville, when the Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services served up its Third Annual Fund Raising Dinner on Sept. 26, in the backyard of its headquarters at 35 Orange St.



The business of community outreach is happening in the rooms of this updated Victorian dwelling, which have been converted into more than a dozen offices and small group meeting areas. The operation is headed by Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Marie Frechette, director.

Sister Marie and the office staff, joined by their 12-member board of advisors, moved their energies into the backyard to welcome more than 100 guests to their party. On the lawns beneath tents and huge shade trees, the event included a tour of the facility and the opportunity to spend time with the staff and the board.

"This is a chance for everybody who's interested to see our offices and ask questions about our services — without actually coming to us as a client," said Sister Marie. The event is also becoming an opportunity for regular supporters of the agency who come from far-reaching areas of the region to catch up with each other once a year.

Donated equipment and services came from many sources, including Image Smith, Basilica of St. Lawrence, Groce Funeral Home, St. Barnabas' Minstrels, On-the-Spot Cooking, and the De Morgoli family. On hand to take care of all the tables and chairs was a corps of young North Carolina Columbian Squires — the youth group of the Knights of Columbus — from St. Lawrence Basilica, who called and offered their help.

The St. Barnabas Minstrels, from the Catholic parish in Arden, provided lively "Catholic gospel" music, alternating at the microphone with Sister Marie who conducted the raffle drawings.

The board of advisors, who planned the event, solicited more than 25 generous gifts and services from area merchants and institutions, items for literally everybody in the family, such as bed and breakfast accommodations, oil changes, theatre tickets, and graphite fly rods. More than 3,000 raffle tickets were sold at $1 each, and by 2:30 Sunday, more than 135 dinner tickets, at $10 apiece, had been turned in to the caterer.

Receipts from the dinner, the only local fund-raising event sponsored by the agency during the year, supplement income from three other primary financial resources: funding from the diocese, fees paid for agency services, and money from grants.

"And we've been writing a Community Foundation grant for about three years that pays for a bilingual counselor," Sister Marie said.

Although the largest percentage of the agency's financial support comes from diocesan backing, board member and upcoming president John Richardson warned of the increasing need for greater local funding.

"We want our supporters to realize that local financial responsibility will probably increase in the near future," he said.

The Western Regional Office offers dozens of services to clients without regard to religion, sex, race, coun-

See CSS DINNER, page 14

Brother says Indonesian militiamen sought priests for confession

KUPANG, Indonesia (CNS) — Many pro-Indonesia militiamen are haunted by guilt after killing innocent people in East Timor, said a religious brother.

Our Lady of Mercy Brother Franciscus Lengkong, head of his congregation's community house in Dili, said that at the height of the atrocities in East Timor following the attack on the home of Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, many militiamen sought priests to confess their sins.

"They came to our community house every day asking us to hear their confessions. But we told them we are not priests and that they should seek priests still staying in town," Brother Lengkong told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, in mid-September. He spoke in the western Timor city of Kupang, capital of Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province.

Several militiamen said they felt guilty after killing innocent people and wanted to confess, but there were no priests left in Dili, he said.

"We knew from them that three priests, namely Jesuit Fathers Karl Albrecht and Tarcisius Dewanto, and Father Hilario Madeira, parish priest of Suai, had been killed," said Brother Lengkong.

Our Lady of Mercy Sister Marliana Laia told UCA News that before being forced to leave Dili, she and two colleagues were free to move from their convent, where 700 pro-integration and pro-independence supporters were sheltered, to the home of Bishop Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili.

She added that thanks to the protection of Aitarak pro-Indonesia militiamen who took control of Dili, she was able to move about freely.

The Aitarak militia was blamed for the attacks on the Dili diocesan center and Bishop Belo's residence Sept. 5-6 that killed some 65 people.

Hundreds or even thousands were feared dead in massive violence blamed on pro-Indonesia militias and Indonesian troops following an overwhelming vote for independence rather than integration with Indonesia in the recent autonomy referendum. The results of the Aug. 30 ballot were announced Sept. 4.

"The bishop kept encouraging us to do our best to serve refugees who were sheltered at churches, rectories, religious communities' houses and the bishop's residence," Sister Laia said.

She said she and her two colleagues were forced to leave the convent by Indonesian military personnel, who told them that all other nuns had left Dili for western Timor.

The three nuns and the displaced people at their convent were evacuated to a nearby military post, and from there they were transported to Atambua, in western Timor near the border with East Timor.

However, Sister Laia said she and the other two nuns returned to Dili the next day, boarding the truck returning to transport more refugees. The three nuns found that their convent had been ransacked and looted.

"But we were surprised when we entered the chapel. We found a burning candle before the statue of the Blessed Mother Mary. Someone might have prayed there while others were looting the convent," the nun said.

Back in western Timor, Sister Laia said she found out from newly arriving refugees that her convent had been burned down.

Brother Lengkong and Sister Laia said they saw soldiers involved in looting and burning houses and stores in Dili. Some were dressed in military uniform and some in the black T-shirts worn by Aitarak militiamen, they said.

Brother Lengkong added that a soldier forced him to surrender all three motorcycles and a television set at the brothers' community house. ▼

Joe Dominick at (336) 861-6245 or Joe Hughes at (336) 812-3060. Proceeds to benefit the retirement needs of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

10 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, at 4 p.m. today. Prayer teams are available at 3:30 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows the Mass in the school cafeteria. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Family of Greensboro, Secular Franciscan Order, welcomes new members and is holding open house today and Nov. 14 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center, 233 North Green St. For details, call Georgette Schraeder at (336) 454-3479 or Frank Massey at (336) 299-5038.

WINSTON-SALEM — There is a living rosary on the lawn of St. Leo the Great Church, 355 Springdale Ave., today starting at 2 p.m.

13 CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order and the Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians are having their October Irish Nite tonight at the Tyber Creek Pub on the corner of South Blvd. and Tremont Ave. Buffet opens at 7:30 p.m., and the music and dancing starts at 8 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Hibernians charities. For information and reservations, call Jeanmarie at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets at 10:30 a.m. today for its Halloween Party. For information about lunch, coffee, and dessert, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

HICKORY — For a day of fellowship, reflection, and Mass, the Fall Day of Reflection for Senior Citizens, age 55 and over, starts at 9 a.m. this morning at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. Father Lawrence Hunt, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, will be the director, and Bishop William G. Curlin will be celebrating Mass. For questions about the facility and special dietary needs, call the center at (828) 327-7441.

14 CHARLOTTE — A four-week bereavement ministry training course for those who want to help people affected by death begins this morning at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms A and B of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Road. The classes will be held on Oct. 21 and 28 and Nov. 4. For registration and other information, call (704) 362-5047.

22 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples realize that their problems are not unique, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today, and for details call Rev. Mr. Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured loving environment for pregnant women, is hosting a fund-raising banquet on Nov. 11. For reservation and other information, call Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

HICKORY — Consider giving your marriage a special gift by participating in a Marriage Encounter Weekend on Nov. 5-7 at the Catholic Conference Center. For details, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

MAGGIE VALLEY — For those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, families, friends, and caregivers, the Living Waters Catholic Retreat Center is sponsoring a Nov. 5-7 weekend reflective experience entitled "Surprised by the Spirit in the Midst of AIDS." The retreat weekend will include large and small group presentations, creative activities, and other events. For details, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope meets, blesses Israeli-Palestinian youth group

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Christian, Muslim and Jewish youths from the Holy Land to work together for a peaceful and secure future.

"The decisions you make concerning yourselves and your vocation in society will decide the prospects for peace, both today and tomorrow," the pope said in a Sept. 22 message.

"Your hope and your youthfulness will stand by you in this exciting task," he added. "But you will be able to accomplish it only if you can instill in your own hearts that peace which you plan to bring to your peoples and to the world — no longer a peace based solely on accords and agreements, however noble and necessary they may be, but a peace born from within each person."

The pope delivered his remarks in a letter as he met and blessed a delegation from the Youth for Peace Program of the Peres Center for Peace, a nonprofit organization based in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Toward the end of his weekly general audience, Pope John Paul said he hoped his message would "encourage the efforts being made by young people in the Middle East to build a society where peace and harmony among peoples and the followers of different religions will reign supreme."

After the audience, the pope shook the hands of three members of the group: Antwan al-Saca, 15, who attends the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Bethlehem; Reem Shadid, 15, a Muslim from Hebron; and Amit Yishhai, 17, an Orthodox Jew from Rehovot, Israel.

Al-Saca told Catholic News Service his younger sister and older brother were "very jealous" that he could meet Pope John Paul, "but my parents and the people of my community are very proud of me."

"If the pope comes to the Holy Land next year," Al-Saca said, "it will be a great day for all of us — not just Catholics, but people of all faiths. And it will be a very meaningful moment in the peace process."

Yishhai said: "From a political and moral point of view, the pope has a lot of power. It is good that he shows an interest in what is going on in the peace process, and even in what we are trying to do."

The group presented Pope John Paul with the first copy of a glossy, poster-sized peace calendar with children's drawings expressing reconciliation and peace. It features the names of the months as they are marked by Islam and Judaism, as well as the 12-month Gregorian calendar used universally as the standard for measuring a year.

The holy days of each tradition are noted, and explanations appear in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

Organizers said profits from sales of the calendar would help fund the Youth for Peace Program as well as other agencies in the Middle East that bring young people together.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Putting a face on the global economy

A few workers from Greenville, Tenn., followed their jobs to Juarez, Mexico. On December 20, 1995, the Phillips corporation, the owner of Magnavox, moved its manufacturing line for 25 inch table-model TVs from Greenville to the Maquiladoras in search of cheaper labor. A delegation of workers, union leaders and community activists visited the Maquiladoras plant four months later and found workers made roughly one fifth the wages of their American counterparts.

The global economy promises cheaper prices for consumers and prosperity for workers. In reality the global economy produces winners and losers. Only one third of the world's population can participate in that economy as consumers, though many more participate by sewing shirts and assembling TVs. After five years the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), an expression of the global economy, has doubled Mexican exports to $115 billion a year, but it has increased Mexican workers living in poverty from 34 percent to 60 percent. The global economy basically demands mobility for moving factories and jobs where the labor is cheapest and resources plentiful without interference from local governments.

The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM), a group supported by churches, unions and grass roots organizations from Canada, Mexico and the US, began in 1989 by looking at environmental issues along the Mexican border. Since then the group's focus has expanded to health and safety issues and alternative economic development. Through lawsuits and labor education, CJM attempts to hold Fortune 500 giants and lesser Maquiladora companies accountable for practices that would never be tolerated in the US. Last June Coalition members met a very sick 8-year-old boy named Erick.

Maribel Martinez worked four years at Delphi's manufacturing plant in Matamoros, Mexico, making automotive steering wheels used in GM cars. She was exposed daily to dangerous chemicals and solvents without appropriate safety equipment. Working while pregnant, Maribel delivered her son, Erick, who was born with serious health problems including glaucoma, hydrocephaly and decalcification of the skull.

The market system represents an ingenious mechanism for producing and distributing goods and services, but it has its limitations. Pope John Paul II teaches the principle of the priority of labor over capital. Basically, he reminds us that every worker is a subject, not an object; a son and daughter of God, not simply a cog in the wheel of production. While wage differentials will invariably exist in different parts of the world, no wage should slip below a living wage-the amount needed to live a dignified life. If cheap clothes or goods come to market at the expense of the health and dignity of workers, the system itself is sick.

Members of CJM are currently searching for ways to help Erick with his health problems. He needs surgery to insert a valve to help drain the water that accumulates in his head. The CJM folks need a neurosurgeon or $6,000 for the operation (E-mail: bstock@bellsouth.net) With all the hype about prosperity and good times, there exists a down side. Young Erick puts a human face on the global economy.

Father John Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Berea, Ky.

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
Guest Columnist

Working with the Hispanic population

This column is a first for The Catholic News & Herald. Its objective is to inform the Catholic community of western North Carolina of the church's work with the ever increasing Hispanic population in the state and in the country. It will appear as a regular feature.

First, let me present myself. My name is Vincent H. Finnerty, C.M., a Vincentian priest of 20 years. I worked in a very poor and missionary area of the interior of Panama for seven years and then was changed to Mexico. I spent nine years there, the first five as the spiritual director of the Vincentian philosophy and theology seminaries; the last four as the Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul. In July of 1995, I was assigned by Bishop Curlin to be the diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry here in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In 1995, there were 16 parishes working in one form or another with the Hispanics with a total of 49 Masses being celebrated in the course of a month. Presently, there are 36 parishes that serve the Hispanics with a total of 160 Masses being celebrated each month.

Diocesan Hispanic Ministry employs nine full-time pastoral agents, three lay persons, three religious sisters and three priests. Of these nine positions, seven are paid for by the Diocese, one by a grant from the Mercy Sisters' Foundation and the other by activities of the Hispanic community in the diocese. Before the end of the year, three more lay persons will be hired and paid for by grants and activities of the Hispanic Community.

Who are these persons and what do they do?

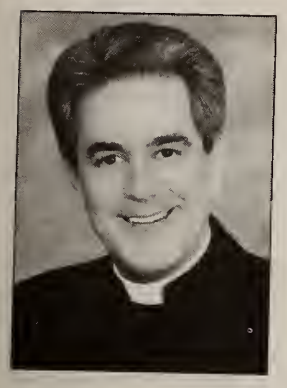
Sister Mary Kay McDonald, MSBT, is coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the vicariates of Asheville and Smoky Mountain. Sisters Linda Scheckelhoff, OSF, and Andrea Inkrott, OSF, are the coordinators in the Boone and Hickory Vicariates respectively. Father Joe Waters also works in these two vicariates. Enedino Aquino is the coordinator of the Winston-Salem Vicariate and Father Joe Elzi, C.M., takes charge of Greensboro. José Capistrano is beginning in the Gastonia Vicariate and Héctor Andrade is in charge of radio and newspaper programs that we wish to begin in different parts of the diocese.

Of the three people to be employed before the end of the year, two will work full-time in youth pastoral and one in the Albemarle vicariate.

Presently, there are two Hispanic priests in the diocese: Father Fidel Melo at Our Lady of the Americas in Biscoe and Father Ricardo Sánchez in Holy Family, Clemmons. Luis Osorio is an Hispanic deacon who, with God's favor, will be ordained in June 2000.

This column is dedicated to informing the readers of The Catholic News & Herald about Hispanic Ministry. I will treat different themes and welcome questions. You may write me at the Catholic Hispanic Center, 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205 or you may send an e-mail to cchisp@juno.com.

Father Vincent H. Finnerty is director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

When teens — and parents — argue

I stand in awe of parents. Of course, I know what it's like to be a son and a brother but I lack firsthand experience in raising youngsters. Still, from what I see and, especially, hear, communications is an on-going challenge for all involved.

While time colors memories for adults who look back and wonder "why can't they be like we were?" there seems little room for doubt that today's teens are more outspoken than earlier generations and less likely to obey without question. But does that mean we are breeding defiant, thoughtless youth? I think not.

The fact is, it is natural for young people to test the rules. The banter and battles of adolescence have always been part of the growing up process. As one parent put it: "One might even suggest that arguing is part of a child's job description." In the end, with attentive parenting and patience plus their own tentative efforts, most youngsters do become responsible adults — just as their parents did.

That's why so many experts who work with parents and teens refuse to be alarmists. They develop new strategies for dealing with the exigencies of being a teenager. Case in point, Patt and Steve Saso's 10 Best Gifts for Your Teen note that when teenagers make mistakes, parents often punish them. This causes resentment and invites rebellion. Instead, they believe that you can use the opportunity to turn a negative into a positive. Rather than say "Go to your room and think about what you did wrong!" try saying, "Go to your room and think about what you could do differently next time so this won't happen again." Transforming the mistake into an opportunity for growth helps the child learn problem-solving skills.

In her latest book, "Tired of Arguing with Your Kid?", best-selling writer Dolores Curran shares some creative responses to teenage complaints, accusations and arguments that can help diffuse some everyday confrontations. The author cautions that "these responses" are not meant to be used sarcastically or unkindly but in tones of empathy, concern, and humor." Here are a few of them:

- *Someday you may be lucky enough to have a child just as lovable as you.*
- *No, it's our room and we're letting you use it till you're out on your own.*
- *Thank you for sharing that. Parenting is a learning process, and your input helps.*
- *I'm hurt. I depended on you and the job wasn't done.*
- *Great pout! Does it hurt to keep your face like that?*
- *Dinner is not late. It's not ready.*
- *How would you solve this if you were me and I were you?*
- *You are right. I don't understand you, but I don't let that get in the way of love.*
- *Because God sent me to you and you to me. Who knows the will of God?*
- *Is this worth the fight? Let's examine that first.*

Dolores Curran also provides a list of phrases kids really hate to hear from How many times do I have to tell you? to This hurts me more than it does you to When I was your age . . . .

Words have the power to be weapons of war or instruments of peace. One way or the other, what you say can — and will — influence a child and a generation.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
CNS COLUMNIST

Student exchanges

Our daughter, Andrea, befriended a young man from Germany last year. This young man, Johannes, was attending the local high school for one year, and being hosted by a married couple who, for all practical purposes, were his parents while here in America. When we met Johannes for the first time, we were impressed with him. Imagine the courage it must take for him to come to a foreign country to live for an entire year away from his homeland, his family, his culture. But we were also very impressed with those who opened their home to a stranger and took responsibility for him. What extraordinary hospitality and generosity!

George and Barb Dickson are that family. Married twenty years, they have hosted eight students from various European countries, all adolescent young men, in their suburban home south of Chicago. Having children of their own has not been their gift from God. Yet, the sacramental love they have in their marriage longed for a vessel in which to overflow. Being host parents has been that vessel for them.

Unlike parenting as we know it, George and Barb didn't have the benefit of parenting through stages of childhood before facing the challenges of parenting a teen. They went into it "cold turkey," but with a kind of hopefulness that demonstrates an abiding faith. "When we pick them up at the airport I know" Barb said about the chemistry between them and their year-long guests. For them it is a decision to love without knowing.

Remarkably there have been few major problems. Though each student is unique in his personality, temperament, openness to affection and need for emotional space, they always find the right touch. George is a hugger who invariably affects each student with his brand of affection. There was one young man who seemed less open to hugging even after a year. When Barb and George visited him in his homeland, his birth-parents remarked how his year in America had changed him so. The young man himself credited George with teaching him how to show affection.

Barb and George visit all of their "sons" and their families after their year is over. According George, "We know that we are entrusted with a treasure each time we host. And we treasure our time with each guest." They also send flowers to the parents.

"It's always painful when they leave" said Barb, "but it's worth the heartbreak. We enter each other's lives at a critical time for them. It's a joy to witness seeing each of them grow from being a boy to into manhood."

Responding to the question "Who are you to these kids?" George quotes one of the young men who once told them, "You're not my mother or my father, but definitely my mom and dad!"

For information on being a host family, contact the American Intercultural Student Exchange at 800-SIBLING.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Who are the angels?

Q: Several in my extended family no longer practice the Catholic faith. They still are connected to some practices, however, and still ask questions. I do the best I can.

Recently, an uncle asked a lot of questions about angels. How were they "named"? What is Catholic teaching about the angels? Who are the angels mentioned in the annunciation, the nativity, the transfiguration, the resurrection? How do we know about them? Just from the Bible?

I know this is asking much, but can you give a few thoughts to help them?

A: Our word angel comes directly from the Greek word "angelos," which means messenger. That immediately tells us much about them, as far as we humans are concerned.

Every encounter with angels in the Scriptures, which is the only way we know anything directly about them, is in the context of their being sent by God to deliver a message or help to someone. In fact, it seems that their names (for the few who are given names) are based on their mission as described in the Bible.

Gabriel, which means "God is strong," appears in the Old Testament in the context of prophecies anticipating the coming of the Messiah (Daniel and Jeremiah). Perhaps for this reason he is chosen to announce the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

Raphael ("God heals") plays a central role in the Book of Tobit when he leads young Tobiah on his journey to find a wife and heals Tobit's blindness.

Michael ("who is like God?") appears a few times in the Book of Daniel. The letter of Jude refers to him as guard of the body of Moses (from an ancient work called "The Assumption of Moses"), and Revelation describes him as the leader of the heavenly armies in the battle with the forces of the dragon.

The Old Testament speaks often of one called The Angel (messenger) of Yahweh. Was this a particular angel? Often, like other angelic appearances and actions, it is hard to distinguish between the angel and God. Was this angel added by the storyteller, perhaps to emphasize the holiness and distance between the people and God?

Most of the time, as for example at the tomb of our Lord, angels are not named. Interestingly, however, when they are described they are always young, good looking and male!

While our Scriptures give only a few of them names, angels, singly or in groups, enter the story of salvation countless times. Sometimes they are described in worship, as in Isaias (6:3) where we find the hymn of praise we echo in every Mass, "Holy, holy, holy ..."

Other times, as for example in the beginning of the Book of Job, angels serve as a sort of palace guard, a heavenly court. And numerous other times, of course, they fulfill their mission to bring information and assistance and support that reflect God's kindness, fidelity and compassionate concern for his human family.

Today it is nearly impossible to miss the popular fascination, even among people with no particular religious faith, with guardian angels. That God has in some way commissioned angels to be beside us, to protect and guide our ways on earth, has strong support in Scripture as well as Christian tradition.

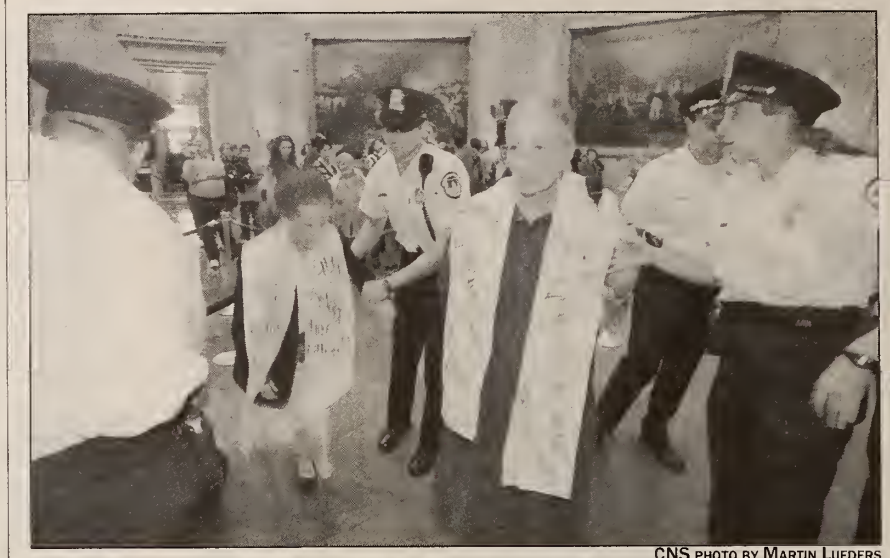
This belief that each person, even each community, has an angel to be a spiritual companion through life is simply one manifestation of our conviction that God has a daily, personal concern for our good and happiness. It's one of the best things we know about angels.

Montana bishop asks prayers for double murder-suicide victims

HELENA, Mont. (CNS) — Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Helena has asked Catholics in western Montana to pray for the three victims in an apparent double murder-suicide involving the diocese's interim superintendent of schools. According to the coroner's office in Missoula, Tim Sullivan, the 58-year-old Catholic school administrator, apparently killed his estranged wife, Kathy Sullivan, 50, and her boyfriend, Scott Bardsley, thought to be in his late 40s, Sept. 25 in Bardsley's Missoula home. He then apparently committed suicide, using the same gun. "We pray for them and we mourn their loss, especially those of us who are associated with Catholic schools in our diocese," said Bishop Morlino, who was installed as Helena's ninth bishop Sept. 21.

Nuns hid parents of independence leader during Timor violence

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — Nuns hid the parents of East Timorese independence leader Xanana Gusmao in the chapel of a Salesian convent in Dili, East Timor, during weeks of violence by pro-Indonesia militias. Salesian Sister Marlene Bautista of Long Beach, Calif., revealed the ruse Sept. 22. Sister Bautista said the sisters had been sheltering several members of the Gusmao family. Had they been discovered, the independence figures, and possibly the sisters, would have been killed, she said. "A Red Cross doctor examined them today and they're fine. It's funny, because we saw the CNN report saying that he (the father) had died. But we were like, 'No he hasn't; he's right here,'" she said.



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Women arrested for debt relief protest

Capitol Hill police escort Marie Dennis from the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol Sept. 23. Dennis, director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and three other Catholic activists were arrested for staging a protest on debt relief inside the Capitol. They called on Congress to provide relief for the world's poorest countries.

Pope, pop stars see eye-to-eye on debt forgiveness

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II congratulated pop stars, economists and just plain folk who are campaigning for foreign-debt forgiveness. Trying on the bug-like, rose-tinted "fly glasses" of U2 lead singer Bono Sept. 23, the pope put at ease a delegation from Jubilee 2000, an international debt-reduction campaign. The pope and the pop stars said urgent action is needed to make the long-discussed debt relief program a reality. In addition to the Irish singer, the delegation included Harvard economist Jeffery Sachs, Randall Robinson of the Washington-based Trans-Africa organization, producer-singer Quincy Jones, singer and Live Aid organizer Bob Geldof and Latin jazz singer Willie Colon.

Black officials worried multicultural ministry might hurt

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Some African-American Catholic church administrators say they are concerned that an increasingly multicultural approach to church ministry might leave black Catholics without a specific ministry to address their needs. This sentiment was expressed by several administrators in Rochester to attend the annual fall meeting of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, held Sept. 15-19 in Rochester and attended by 48 people. The agenda consisted primarily of the association's business concerns and included reports from groups and committees.

Priest says arms give Salvadorans 'perverse sense of security'

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Seven years after the civil war ended, Salvadorans are re-arming themselves out of a "perverse sense of security" in the face of rising crime, said a leading Jesuit scholar. "In the 1980s it was a war between the guerrillas and the government. Now, we are at another war of society against itself," said the vice rector of Central American University in San Salvador, Jesuit Father Rodolfo Cardenal. "People think that (criminal) violence can be confronted with more violence, but that only takes us into a trend of never-ending violence."

Trial of Rwandan bishop is trial of the church, bishop says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The trial of a Rwandan bishop on charges of complicity in genocide is a trial against the entire Catholic Church in Rwanda, said the vice president of the country's bishops' conference.

The trial of Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro "is a serious event for the church. That a bishop is accused of genocide cannot be considered a banal fact," said Bishop Frederic Rubwejanga of Kibungo, Rwanda.

Bishop Misago was arrested in April on charges that he participated in the wave of ethnically motivated genocide that swept through Rwanda in 1994. At the trial, which began in August, the bishop entered a plea of not guilty.

"If the trial unfolds according to (the criteria of) justice, neither the church nor the bishop will be damaged," Bishop Rubwejanga told Fides, news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

In an interview published Sept. 23 by Fides, the bishop said, "The church has asked the faithful to pray that everything takes place according to the truth."

The bishop said an obvious question is why the bishop was suddenly accused, arrested and put on trial when five years had passed since the events occurred.

In Rwanda, he said, "there is the habit of confusing the church with its members. That which Christians have done individually is attributed to the church as an institution.

"It is frequently said that the Catholic Church, which has a great number of faithful, played an important role in the genocide, but this argument does not hold up to an attentive examination," Bishop Rubwejanga said.

The bishop said the Catholic Church in Rwanda always has preached reconciliation, which is at the heart of the Gospel. Since the genocide, new efforts have been made to preach forgiveness and unity.

"All of the dioceses have begun an extraordinary synod, which has as its objective that of facing the principal problem, which is ethnocentrism, and trying to uproot it," he said.

Ethnocentrism "was exacerbated by the genocide," he said. "There also is the challenge of justice in a country where human rights have been mocked." ▼

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'Real choices':

Funding alternatives to abortion

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's one thing to talk about abortion as a "choice." It's quite another to offer pregnant women in crisis the financial, social and medical resources they need when they choose to have their baby.

"If today's women need choices, we must offer them real choices," said Rep. Joseph Pitts, R-Pa., at a Sept. 21 press conference on Capitol Hill announcing introduction of the Women and Children's Resources Act, which would establish an $85 million formula grant program for programs which offer women alternatives to abortion.

"If today's women need choices, we must offer them real choices," said Rep. Joseph Pitts, R-Pa., at a Sept. 21 press conference on Capitol Hill announcing introduction of the Women and Children's Resources Act, which would establish an $85 million formula grant program for programs which offer women alternatives to abortion.

The bill is co-sponsored in the House by Rep. Mary Bono, R-Calif., and will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa.

Santorum said the legislation "offers compassionate, life-affirming choices" and "seeks to reach out to women, particularly low-income women, letting them know that they don't have to face this situation alone."

Bono noted that the legislation will not restrict abortion but will give pregnant women "the information they need to make a choice that is best for them."

In addition, she said, it will "provide funding for important programs and resources that will assist those women who choose to go forward with their pregnancies."

Under terms of the legislation, federal funding would go to states through a formula based on the number of out-of-wedlock births and abortions in the state, compared to the national total. States would distribute the funds directly to crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes and adoption services on a fee-for-service basis.

Among the services that would be funded by the Women and Children's Resources Act are:

— Testing for pregnancy and follow-up services.

— Adoption information.

— Maternity and baby clothing, food, diapers and other baby items.

— Prenatal and postpartum health care.

— Information and education on fetal development, health and nutritional needs of pregnant and postpartum women, childbirth, parenting, pregnancy during adolescence, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

— Information, education and counseling on maintaining abstinence from sexual activity.

Only agencies which offer alternatives to abortion would be eligible for the funding, and grant recipients could not promote, refer or counsel for abortion.

— Referrals for other services, items and assistance regarding physical or mental health, food, clothing, housing, education and vocational training.

Low-income women would be given priority for the services, but the grants will not be exclusively means-tested.

Only agencies which offer alternatives to abortion would be eligible for the funding, and grant recipients could not promote, refer or counsel for abortion.

"The Women and Children's Resources Act seeks to improve women's health and offer a woman compassionate choices when she finds herself facing an unplanned pregnancy," Pitts said. "This is legislation that can frankly bring pro-life and pro-choice together to offer real solutions to women — on common ground."

"This is legislation that can frankly bring pro-life and pro-choice together to offer real solutions to women — on common ground."
— Rep. Joseph Pitts, R-Pa.

The legislation is modeled after Pennsylvania's Project Women in Need, or WIN, a statewide network of pregnancy centers, maternity homes and adoption agencies that provides comprehensive, life-affirming alternatives to abortion to pregnant women and assistance to parents with infants.

Pennsylvania now has 90 WIN centers which receive approximately $3.1 million a year from the state Department of Public Welfare. The centers often receive 500 phone calls per week.

Among those speaking in favor of the legislation at the Washington press conference Sept. 21 was Amy Stoner, director of 12 Project WIN sites for Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

"Because of Project WIN funding, we are now working with a new low-income population of women in southeastern Philadelphia as well as women who are part of the prison population," she said. "We're giving them options they never knew they had and they're actually learning about what is going on with their bodies.

"So many more women are given new choices through funding like this," she added. "I wish every state had the option we have. Millions more women would be served."

But whether the Women and Children's Resources Act becomes law or not, Catholic leaders in the United States have made it clear that their assistance to those in crisis pregnancies will not end.

More than 3,000 emergency pregnancy centers already operate in the United States to help women avoid abortion, and the U.S. bishops estimate that 10 million to 15 million people each year, "including many experiencing distressed pregnancies, turn to Catholic Charities for social and emergency services."

In "Faithful for Life," their reflection for Respect Life Sunday in 1995, the bishops pledged to do whatever they could for pregnant women seeking alternatives to abortion — and to continue that assistance after the child is born.

But whether the Women and Children's Resources Act becomes law or not, Catholic leaders in the United States have made it clear that their assistance to those in crisis pregnancies will not end.

"We repeat together what we have stated individually: no woman in need with a child, born or unborn, whether she is Catholic or not, should feel herself without help," they said. "We pledge the heart and hands of the church to help mothers and fathers in need to find pregnancy counseling, pre- and postnatal care, housing and material support, and adoption services." ▼

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For more information, call Jim Kelley, Executive Director of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301, or call Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving at (704) 370-3320.

Photo by John Strange, NC Catholic

A large tree rests on the roof of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh two days after the storm. There were no further major damages.

Hurricane, from page 1

Aida Chaves said that without a social security number they cannot have savings or checking accounts and, in many banks, cannot rent storage boxes. She said those who had saved money either had to take it with them when they fled the storm or risk its loss.

"These people will not have another chance," said Chaves. "There are no fields to work on. Tobacco is gone. Corn is gone. Everything is gone."

Father Murphy told of how his parish had come together. They had agreed to reach out to other faith communities that may have lost their buildings. St. Catherine's could be their home while they recovered.

He had no doubt they would recover. Father Murphy saw signs of that recovery among his own people already as they searched for a deeper meaning to what otherwise could be just senseless destruction.

Father Murphy suggested the need to enter into reflection and prayer. "People are trying to respond to a lot of needs and a lot of feelings; unexpected difficulties and challenges."

The Scriptures and quiet reflection, he said, offer the opportunity to make some connection with God's mystery. There is "nourishment there," said Father Murphy.

"I am finding a tremendous call to charity. People are coming together in difficult situations.

"People are being called by charity to respond to one another and they are doing so." The community is putting aside differences and reaching out to one another, said Father Murphy.

"I think that must be an indication that a lot of our people are praying and are in touch with God." ▼

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh appealed to his brother bishops for relief assistance. In Charlotte, Bishop William Curlin joined efforts to assist its sister diocese, making the pastoral center the collection point for funds to be combined and distributed to agencies and organizations best suited to utilize the contributions. To help with Hurricane Floyd relief, donations may be send to: The Diocese of Charlotte. 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. It is important to denote Hurricane Floyd on the check for appropriate distribution.

Pastoral administrator becomes shelter director and housing expert in matter of hours

By Matt Doyle
NC Catholic Staff

WILLIAMSTON — What happens when the shelters are full? In at least one case, the victims of Hurricane Floyd often find themselves in the homes of Good Samaritans in eastern North Carolina.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Kieran Williams, pastoral administrator of Holy Trinity Church, was one of those Good Samaritans several times over. Most recently on Sept. 24, she took in 12 people who had nowhere else to go.

According to Sister Kieran, she received a call from the American Red Cross about a few Hispanic families and several single men who needed help in finding housing. Her short-term solution was to bring the people to her home and the church.

The Red Cross and National Guard provided the necessary bedding for the adults and the children; she shared what she had in her home. Four single men were housed in a living area of the church.

At the height of the storm recovery, Sister Kieran had given away just about all the food she had in her possession, including her personal items. But thanks to help from a parishioner who wants to remain anonymous, the stocks were replenished.

So, on Friday night, the displaced became family at Sister Kieran's table. "That went well, thank God. There was plenty of food."

"When I got back to my home, everyone pitched in and helped and we prepared dinner for that evening. We prayed together. We had our meal together."

Sister Kieran said they visited together, but the people were tired. She said it was the first time in days the people had beds to sleep in.

The next day, she was able to make connections in Tarboro and secured a place for all but two of her guests. The remaining two went their own way to find friends.

With the help of the National Guard, the visitors to Holy Trinity were transported to Tarboro. Sister Kieran said the people were certain they would be able to obtain work there.

At the height of the storm recovery, Sister Kieran had given away just about all the food she had in her possession, including her personal items.

Many of the people with whom Sister Kieran has worked since the storm struck have been those who were airlifted from their rooftops by helicopters in the days following Hurricane Floyd. Others were flown into Williamston as shelters in their home areas filled quickly.

Their lives have been filled with uncertainty. That kind of uncertainty remains for many.

On Nov. 7, Sister Kieran will be installed as pastoral administrator of

See SISTER KIERAN, next page

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Bishop Gossman finds 'vibrant' spirit in Greenville

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

GREENVILLE — Bishop F. Joseph Gossman visited flood-ravaged Greenville Saturday, Sept. 25, and came away with a reaffirmation of the human spirit.

"Many people were quick to tell you that they lost everything," said Bishop Gossman. "But they were just as quick to thank God for their lives."

But all is far from well in Greenville, one of hundreds of communities hit hard by Hurricane Floyd.

At a stop at Catholic Social Ministries in Greenville, Bishop Gossman observed about 20 different groups seeking assistance, all within a span of a half an hour.

"I was really impressed at how organized CSM was," said Bishop Gossman. The offices were divided into rooms and sections containing dozens of bottles of water, cleaning supplies, food, clothing, personal items. "There was a huge trailer in the back," the bishop said. "They didn't have any more room."

After their visit with CSM, a U.S. Army helicopter from nearby Ft. Bragg arrived to ferry the bishop, several diocesan staff members along with a CSM volunteer to Wellcome Middle School on the outskirts of Greenville, where more than 500 people have been sheltered since the storm.

In the seven-minute ride, Bishop Gossman said, the chopper flew over the still-submerged Greenville airport, the closed US-13, and dozens of homes that were like islands in the river.

Bishop Gossman and the others walked the hallways talking with the refugees, Javier and Kathy Castillos and others providing translation for those who spoke only Spanish. Children played basketball while some adults lay on the floor and tried to nap. Many people lounged outside in the sun. A medical crew was set up at the entrance, offering tetanus shots to visitors like a bank offers lollipops to children.

"Most of the people living there were very concerned about where are they going to go when the shelter closes," Bishop Gossman said. Most of the Spanish-speaking residents were sure that their homes, most of them in trailer parks, had been destroyed or heavily damaged. Bishop Gossman said that they were caught between wanting to leave the shelter, and wanting to stay.

"Many people were quick to tell you that they lost everything, but they were just as quick to thank God for their lives."
— Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh

"One woman told me that they were going to sleep in their car," the bishop said. Others told him they had lost their jobs. Flooded farms and businesses had no work for them.

"We're going to do our best to help them," the bishop pledged.

An hour later a helicopter arrived to drop off elderly cancer patients who had received radiation treatments at a Greenville hospital. The bishop and the others were flown back to CSM. The bishop later celebrated an outdoor Mass for about 40 people at a nearby home. ▼

Sister Kieran, from previous page

Holy Trinity. She said she plans to have a party to celebrate not her installation, but the people of the parish. She intends to invite the Red Cross and the National Guard with whom she has forged close bonds.

Noting that the recovery from Floyd is long term, Sister Kieran said she hoped those offering help and support now will continue to do so.

The storm experience has been more than just one of service. Sister Kieran was forced into a shelter the night of the storm, which offered her several chances to minister to the people in the area.

As she was leaving her home, she secured church documents and packed up the ciborium, her Bible and her guitar and headed for a local school. While she was there, she joined with the people of the shelter in a prayer service and read from Scripture the story of how Jesus calmed the storm.

Sister Kieran was excited about her ability to be a "pastoral presence" in the middle of the of the hectic hours that were part of Hurricane Floyd. She called it a "grace to be able to be that for the people."

In order to maintain that pastoral presence, Sister Kieran said it is important to minister to one's own spiritual needs on a regular basis. She said thanks to the members of the local ministerial group and her own community of sisters, she is able to draw on a great "source of spiritual nourishment." ▼

Photo by Matt Doyle, NC Catholic

One of several deliveries of baby supplies is unloaded by members of St. Catherine of Siena Church who had sought refuge in the parish hall and rectory after their homes were flooded by Hurrican Floyd. The supplies were furnished by the Diocese of Raleigh's Catholic Social Ministries.

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Book Review

Eileen Marx's "Weaving Faith & Family" helps families seeking more Christian life

REVIEWED BY MARY KENNY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Eileen Marx's "Weaving Faith & Family" is a pleasant surprise. Books abound offering prayers and activities for families according to the church year. In my many years of raising a family, I found most of them a disappointment — material that never seemed to fit our family's need for religious expression, too-long prayers and readings, bored, fidgety kids with their minds and hearts clearly elsewhere. We pretty much gave up on such books.

Marx's book is different. It presents a chapter for each of four weeks in each month, 48 in all, following the seasons, events in our society and the church year. Rather than present a canned generic activity for all families, Marx offers many ways to personalize each week to fit your own family.

Each chapter opens with a theme. December, of course, is devoted to Advent, but June begins with gardens and July with Independence Day. Some themes can be selected out of season when appropriate, such as the first week of January, which is concerned with moving and establishing community. Social concerns are frequently addressed. The themes suggest specific action which families might take in the face of problems such as violence, racism, sickness, homelessness.

In addition to appropriate Scripture references and the author's personal reflection on the theme, each chapter offers easy-to-find sidebars. "What Can a Family Do?" suggests specific actions for individuals or families. Each chapter offers interesting books and video suggestions, both books for parents to read with children and books for adults. A sidebar on "Conversation Starters" includes questions which might enliven a family meal.

Finally, each chapter concludes with a short and appropriate prayer — some traditional, some written for the occasion, some from other sources both Christian and non-Christian. All are simple, fairly short and expressive of the week's theme.

My only problem with this book is the suggestion in the title that a family's spiritual formation can be sandwiched into a few spare minutes in a busy life. Of course, time is at a premium for almost all families today, and a prayer life on the run has marketing appeal. And yet ...

Part of the appeal of this book is that the author offers many different suggestions, allowing opportunities for families to adapt the material according their own interests, ages, and situation in life. But reading, thinking, and praying over these ideas still require time. True, the sidebar format allows the reader to quickly select one section each week. Perhaps some families would use only the "Conversation Starters," and that only occasionally during a meal or a ride in the car. However, to really present ideas which will challenge and change family members will require preparation: reading, thought, prayer.

Rather than view this book as a way to think and pray on the run, I would see it as an idea book, an inspiring book which will promote some worthwhile reflection and perhaps make your family more caring, more aware of social wrongs, more Christian. To achieve such lofty goals takes time and effort, but it is time and effort well spent.

Recommended for families seeking ways to live a more Christian life as a family. ▼

Kenny is co-author of the Catholic News Service column "Family Talk."

"Weaving Faith & Family... When You're Hanging On by a Thread!"
By Eileen Marx
Ave Maria Press
(Notre Dame, Ind., 1999).
207 pp., $14.95.

Word to Life

Oct. 3, Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:
1) Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:9, 12-16, 19-20
2) Philippians 4:6-9
3) Matthew 21:33-43

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The phone call was from my parish asking if I wanted to be put on the upcoming roster for lectors and eucharistic ministers. "I know you'll be moving soon," Shirlee said, "but do you want to serve for the weeks you will still be here?" I hesitated briefly and then said that no, it would be simpler all round if my name was not included. I put down the phone and then I wept.

I realized at that moment how deeply my roots were planted at Holy Spirit Parish and how difficult it was going to be to leave and say goodbye.

This was a community with whom I had worshiped for two decades, one that I know and they know me. I had prayed and wept with them, celebrated, worked, struggled and played with them. They had surrounded me with loving care during the hard times; they had challenged me, at times exasperated me, and always stretched me.

My reflections went further. I remembered that when I had first come to the parish almost 21 years ago it had been as one of a family of six. Now I was leaving alone.

My four children were grown and gone, my husband had died. The many years of living and loving as man and wife and mother had been rich, busy, and they passed so swiftly. Facing the present reality of my life as a single woman who had sold the family home and was moving on was something I had never envisaged. Today's first reading and the Gospel passage address that kind of reality. They speak of control vs. letting go, of clutching vs. holding lightly.

For all the years of my Christian maturing I had known and given assent to the belief that life itself and everything in it were gifts from God, given to us to cherish, develop and enjoy — for a time, a limited time. Now that assent had a whole new dimension.

As I faced the parting from my dear community, I confronted again the parting from my children as they reached adulthood and, most especially, the parting from my husband in death. This time my assent was not just from my head. It came from deep within me, from a heart shaped by the experience of love, suffering and grief for which I cannot find words. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 3 - 9, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43; **Monday**, Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, 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

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CNS PHOTO FROM ABC

The Hughleys
The ABC show "The Hughleys" stars, from left, Elise Neal, Ashley Monique Clark, D.L. Hughley and Dee Jay Daniels.

New at the box office

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Blue Streak" (Columbia)

Routine action-comedy in which a thief (Martin Lawrence) passes himself off as an Los Angeles police detective in order to get access to headquarters where he's stashed a $17 million diamond. Director Les Mayfield's cliche-ridden movie and Lawrence's comic mugging don't improve a movie where the thief is seen as a hero who deserves his instant millionaire status after escaping with police complicity. Justification of a major crime, some violence, coarse sexual references, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Double Jeopardy" (Paramount)

Sleek thriller in which a probation officer (Tommy Lee Jones) chases a parolee (Ashley Judd) across the country to prevent her from murdering the two-timing husband (Bruce Greenwood) who framed her. Director Bruce Beresford's straightforward fugitive story maintains suspense without relying single-mindedly on the expected revenge motive. Some violence, a shadowy sexual encounter and intermittent profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

PBS special documents effect of parents' words on children

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The effect parents' words and example have on their youngsters becomes clear as four families are profiled in "The Children Are Watching," airing Friday, Oct. 8, 10-11 p.m. EDT on PBS.

The special is introduced by actress Jane Seymour, who introduces the four troubled teen-agers who are the focus of the program, which delves into how the parents' behaviors became part of the problem.

Sixteen-year-old Shannon lived with his divorced, addicted mom the first 12 years of his life until his father got full custody and imposed discipline that the boy rejected, turning instead to getting high with his school buddy.

The segment includes a tough-love type confrontation as the father stays locked in the bathroom with his son for hours on end until the boy finally agrees to give him a urine sample — which tests positive for marijuana.

Shannon had been dealing with feeling unloved and rejected by both parents for years, but near-daily counseling for both dad and son has brought them to a more honest relationship with real hope for the future.

In the second segment, a mother, Vanessa, recognizes that her daughter, Antoinette, 14, is repeating her own mistakes. Vanessa takes steps to correct the negative behavior pattern.

Vanessa's parents divorced, her mother beat her and she turned to drugs and prostitution. Then as a mother Vanessa too was abusive to her children and husbands and now sees an angry Antoinette is behaving the same way toward the younger siblings she must baby-sit daily.

An anger management therapist intervened and mother and daughter were able to begin to analyze what needed changing. Vanessa curtailed her seven-days-a-week work schedule to spend more time with her children — especially Antoinette, who found herself no longer angry all the time. With new attitudes, each hopes to bond from now on rather than constantly rail at each other in aggressive, hurtful ways.

An indulgent dad who loved driving fast and gifted his son with a high-speed car on his 16th birthday learns that his example could have cost lives in the third scenario.

When young Adam took a turn at 70 mph and nearly hit a woman he laughed it off, but she reported the scary incident to the police and pressed a reckless driving charge.

"The Children Are Watching"
Oct. 8, 10:00 p.m.
on PBS

This proved to be a favor to Adam and his parents, who were forced to rethink how they let Adam on the road without sufficient maturity to handle a potentially deadly machine, and Adam discovered he is accountable for his actions.

The final segment is less uplifting in that the mother, who had been emotionally abused by numerous men in her life, seems unable to set boundaries for her teen daughter, Miranda.

The mother allowed Miranda to move her addict boyfriend into the girl's bedroom, and arguments over terminating Miranda's pregnancy were only resolved by a miscarriage.

Miranda's father was alcoholic and threw wife and child out when Miranda was 9. As a result, Miranda never trusted men but also fears she will repeat her mother's pattern of intimate relationships with abusive men. Counseling suggests that Miranda has a real problem trusting her mother, but she actually comes off as the more mature of the troubled twosome.

Seymour's closing admonition that parents need to focus on their children's needs more than their own would seem self-evident, but these dramatic examples of children profoundly affected by their parents' behaviors underscores this warning. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Nazareth House to educate, heal women and families

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — When women from various parishes in the Asheville area joined together as the group Guadalupe: Catholics for Life, the original idea was to "use prayer and education for the culture of life," according to Pat Glass, founder of the organization.

"We prayed the rosary in front of the two abortion clinics, at that time, held programs and workshops every month, and gave out brochures about the negative side of abortion," continued Glass.

They used the "power of prayer" for the first six years of the group's existence; in 1996, one of the members had the idea that the group should change its focus. So, they became a non-profit organization, and within the last few years, they have decided to offer basic Christian teaching on marriage. Thus, Nazareth House was born.

Today, their mission is clear — to prevent abortions from happening through education about Christian marriage.

The name of the first organization, Guadalupe, is taken from the image of the Virgin Mary as she appeared to Juan Diego, and the name "Nazareth House" comes from the Holy Family.

"They are the perfect example of a happy and holy family," stated Glass.

Many are not familiar with the concept of "Christian marriage" nowadays. Basically, it involves natural family planning, chastity before marriage, and a dedication to God, she said.

"We began to see that the abortion issue, though always heartbreaking, as the result and not the problem itself," explained Glass. "We feel our mission is to make the church's teaching on marriage clear so that people will not have to suffer."

Helen Gordon, who is involved with sidewalk counseling in front of the now single abortion clinic and one of the original members of Guadalupe, talked about the need for Christian marriage: "I've spent many years doing sidewalk counseling, and I will continue to be there for women at that time of crisis. However, we need to bring the teachings of Christian marriage to the public so that the tragedy of abortion can be prevented."

Glass said, "Marriage is God's will. It should be a grace-filled and holy time. The great ends of marriage, which is permanent, should be life and love."

People have volunteered to go through the training process in order to help with post-abortion counseling, teaching the public on the church's teachings about marriage and family, and offering written and visual information about chastity and natural family planning.

Natural family planning, unlike the rhythm method based on the theory that all women have the same cycle, uses the idea that changes in a woman's body dictate the chance and time for pregnancy.

"So many parents did not have the benefit of teaching on Christian marriage," said Gordon. "People must understand not just the mechanics but how it brings mutuality, unity, and joy back into raising children who are at the heart of natural family planning."

Glass' hope is that they can touch many lives with Nazareth House, and she wants to remain in touch with the public on a consistent basis.

"Volunteers choose the church parishes they want to contact. We will also try to stay in touch with the media, church communities, Catholic and non-Catholic, and the surrounding community," said Glass.

Another aspect of the organization is to also educate women about the medical and social information they never hear, such as, the dangers of the birth control pill, the emotional, spiritual, and possible physical hazards of abortion, and the low divorce rate from natural family planning.

Glass said, "Abortion is the result of people not knowing or not being aware of Christian marriage."

"Christian marriage liberates people to live fully and joyously in Christ," added Gordon. ▼

Contact the Nazareth House at (828) 250-9690.

Trivia 2000: Young will have plenty of activities in Rome

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young people on pilgrimages to Rome next year will not lack jubilee-related things to do in the evenings.

The Vatican is assuring that the youthful faithful will have lots of alternatives to the Italian capital's usual night life.

At 6 p.m. every Monday through Friday, a church near St. Peter's Square will hold meetings for prayer, Bible reading, singing and giving witness.

In the square every Wednesday night at 9, young people will be invited to pray together.

Thursday nights might find them in the Basilica of St. Agnes on one of Rome's most popular public gathering points, Piazza Navona. There, special Masses for the young are to be held from 9 p.m. to midnight, and multilingual priests are to be on hand to hear confessions.

Starting this October, a special advice service for the young is to be made available via the Vatican's Central Committee for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 — which also was the source of inspiration for the evening programs for young pilgrims.

To keep track of these and other events, the young can take to the airwaves. Vatican Radio is planning to air "Radio Jubilee Youth," a two-and-a-half-hour show in several languages, produced by and for young people, every afternoon of the year 2000. ▼

THE ORATORY
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LITURGY AND DANCE
Carla DeSola
7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22 —
12:00 noon Sunday, Oct. 24

A retreat for all interested in Liturgical prayer and movement will be led by Carla DeSola, internationally known teacher of Liturgical dance. The focus will be on creating movement for prayer and worship, and is open to all regardless of dance background or expertise. Various prayer experiences will be available throughout the weekend: Scripture-based, silence as well as movement. This will be a unique opportunity to explore and integrate these various prayer forms.

Pre-register by October 14
Cost: $120 overnight
Commuters: $60

THOMAS MERTON:
A Continuing Journey
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5 —
4:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6
Sister Donna Lareau, OLM

This retreat will focus on Merton's learning from the desert guides, St. John of the Cross and the Zen Masters.

Pre-register by October 28
Cost: $60 overnight
Commuters: $30

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Cost: $25 per person ($20 with groups of 4 or more registering together)
Fee includes materials and box lunch. Scholarships are available.

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A brochure with registration form can be downloaded from www.cssnc.org.
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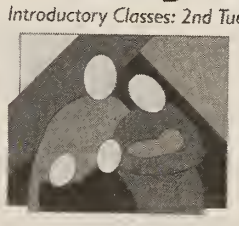

Next class: October 12th
Upcoming classes: Nov. 9th & Dec. 14th
Fee: $10

Classes held at 7pm at the
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A Catholic Ministry to Preserve Life

Faith Formation Office welcomes two regional coordinators

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation recently welcomed two new regional faith formation coordinators to its staff.

Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos has been hired as coordinator for the Northern Region, while Marylin Kravatz will serve as coordinator for the Southern Region. Both bring a wealth of experience to the diocesan office, which is charged with assisting in the faith journey of young people and adults throughout western North Carolina.

Sister Svatos

"I think it's what I'm about," said Sister Bernadette of her role as a catechist. "As a Franciscan, I feel that is what Francis lived: evangelization and bringing the Good News to others."

Based in Greensboro, Sister Bernadette reaches out to parish catechetical leaders and catechists in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates. She said she promotes support and cooperation between men and women there involved in the church's catechetical mission, all the while seeking ways to enhance and expand that outreach.

Sister Bernadette's previous service includes pastoral ministry and teaching, including four years in Japan teaching English and three years in Kenya working with a religious community called the Little Sisters of St. Francis.

In the realm of religious education and faith formation, she has served as director of religious education at the diocesan, regional and parish levels in a number western United States dioceses, taught catechetics and served in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process in parishes, and did consultant work for a publisher of religious education materials.

Sister Bernadette holds master's degrees in pastoral theology and catechetics, and in Franciscan studies and spirituality.

Like Sister Bernadette, Marylin Kravatz is responsible for serving as an advocate to the parish catechetical leaders in her region. The Southern Region is composed of the Charlotte, Albemarle and Salisbury vicariates.

Kravatz

"I will work with the parishes in implementing the latest in catechetical models, make sure diocesan guidelines are carried out, and basically help in any way I can from my experience to help them implement their programs," she said.

With 25 years in various forms of catechetical ministry within the Archdiocese of New York — along with five years of administrative work in that field — Kravatz has experienced the process of faith formation through parish and diocesan ministry to teens and adults.

"I strongly believe in handing on the faith, not only to children but to everyone," she said. "What I find most satisfying is to see God working through all of this; I've been privileged to see it happen."

Kravatz holds a master's degree in religious studies with a concentration in parish ministry. She lives in Charlotte with husband Michael, and is the mother of five children: Michael, Matthew, Mary Beth, Mark and Marisa.

Ongoing catechist formation is important, both coordinators agreed, and regional gatherings that bring parish leaders together are a regular part of the calendar. Both added that playing a role in the church's catechetical mission is a calling they feel blessed to have.

There are four faith formation regions in the Diocese of Charlotte, each headed by a coordinator and encompassing certain vicariates. The coordinators work closely with the diocesan Office of Faith Formation. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

CSS Dinner, from page 3

try of origin, or age. Currently the organization provides bilingual services to at least 50 percent of their clients, Sister Marie estimated. "I would say every other phone call requires bilingual response," she said. "Mostly Spanish, but we do serve people from countries such as Ethiopia, Sweden, Ireland, and the Ukraine."

Agency services include: assistance to newcomers to the community with language barriers; family counseling in many areas of personal need; pregnancy support; refugee and immigration support; and adoption assistance, both domestic and international.

Explaining their policy about counseling, she said, "We do family counseling for people who are capable of self change. They include those with developmental problems, grief problems, issues of sexual abuse in their past, domestic violence issues with women."

Western Regional services reach 17 counties, roughly in a circumference that starts at the north side in the vicinity of Boone and reaches clockwise to Morganton, Tryon, and around to Murphy. The agency often collaborates with other social agencies in outlying towns.

The board of advisors includes: John Richardson, Bill Spellman, Mary Ann Schiller, Alice Miser, Dorothy Schmid, Veronica Sartor, Jose Martin, David Hill, Mercy Sister Carmen Cruz, Rev. Mr. Bill Pivarnik, Bill Tennant and Greg Engelhardt. ▼

Perpetual adoration

The following parishes are among those in the Diocese of Charlotte that host perpetual eucharistic adoration. To update your parish listings, call Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar at (704) 370-3334.

BELMONT — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at the Belmont Abbey Chapel, located behind the abbey church and monastery. For more information, call (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — Perpetual eucharistic adoration is at St. Gabriel Church. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Kathleen Potter, (704) 366-5127, for more information.

HIGH POINT — Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is at the Maryfield Nursing Home chapel. For details, call Theresa Farley, (336) 273-1507.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Archivist: Archdiocese of Atlanta. Full-time position for individual meeting the following requirements: master's degree in library science; archival management or related field; 3 to 5 years' experience in archival work; extensive knowledge of Catholic church; computer literacy (MARC AMC format and programs related to library/archival cataloging); exceptional written and spoken communication skills. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail: zjohnson@archatl.com.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Cross, a dynamic, historic parish of 1,000 families in Lynchburg, Virginia, "the City of Churches," located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Diocese of Richmond, seeks an energetic, faith-filled individual to co-ordinate established Religious Education program. This person must be a practicing Catholic with a minimum B.A. in Religious Education, Theology or equivalent field with at least 5 years experience as Director of Religious Education or related profession. The successful candidate will be able to work with our parish community while coordinating and administering a growing Religious Education program. Pre-K thru 12. Excellent communicative, collaborative, organizational and managerial skills are essential. Budgeting experience and computer literacy are desirable. Should demonstrate ability to recruit, affirm and motivate volunteers. Must be willing to expand programming to bring depth to youth ministry, adult formation, and RCIA. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter by October 1,1999 to: Search Committee, Holy Cross Catholic Church, 710 Clay St., Lynchburg, VA. Telephone: (804)846-5245 Fax: (804)846-7022

Music Positions: Vibrant 3500+families parish in Alpharetta, Georgia has several openings:

Organist/pianist needed to play 3 to 4 liturgies a weekend, weddings, funerals and holy days. Must be knowledgeable in post-Vatican II liturgy. Must be able to lead and accompany an assembly that loves to sing!

Choral Director needed for Adult Choir. Responsibilities include one weekly rehearsal and one weekend liturgy. Must be able to lead the choir in a balance of supporting the assembly's song and singing anthems alone. Other responsibilities include conducting combined choral/instrumental efforts for parish-wide special events. Must be knowledgeable in basic principles of Catholic liturgical celebration. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgical repertoire as well as a variety of sacred choral music.

Children's Choir Director needed for active children's choir. Responsible for one weekly rehearsal and one monthly children's liturgy.

Any or all of the above positions may be combined for the person with the right qualifications. Send letter of interest and resume to: Kathy Kuczka or Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 535 Rucker Rd., Alpharetta, GA 30004.

Grooming up for the new millennium

Noted author address educators, catechists

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Most of his younger students in his faith formation classes have known him as "Tom." Many have not even aware that he wrote the books being used in their class. This is a contrast from Dr. Thomas H. Groome, professor of theology and religious education at Boston College, who many faith formation teachers and catechists from across the diocese came to hear speak on his teaching methods and his ideas from his latest book "Educating for Life: A Spiritual Vision for Every Teacher and Parent."

On Sept. 25, catechists assembled at St. Aloysius Church for a presentation from Dr. Groome, "Sharing our Catholic Faith: Teaching as Jesus Did for a New Millennium." Through anecdotes, excerpts from his book, references to biblical passages, overhead projection, and group discussion, he introduced his idea in two parts, "How do we teach" and "What do we teach."

One day earlier at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, he held a session with educators and administrators on the importance of Catholic schools in the new millennium.

Director of Religious Formation for Schools Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan said "[at the Charlotte session], he made us realize that we are not angels; we are human beings who have to develop our spiritual and mental lives in order to develop the children's academic and spiritual lives. We are called to be witnesses to God's plan for us, and we have to deliver that message in the teaching of our children."

During both sessions, Dr. Groome's basic idea was, "you as catechists are not bringing God to their lives; God is always there. You have to show them how to uncover Him, to stop and listen and to tell stories from the tradition."

During his talk in Hickory, he engaged his audience through questions and answer sessions and discussion much like he and many professors conduct their seminar college classes. The first question was, "How do you imagine the way Jesus taught; what was His teaching style?"

After many responses, which included "authoritatively," "familiarity with his audience," and "conversation," he summed up the answers into his theme for the day: "From life to faith; from faith to life."

Theresa Watkins, a reconciliation and first Communion teacher at St. Benedict the Moor who traveled from Winston-Salem, said, "I am still learning, and every opportunity to learn something is an opportunity for me to come closer to the Lord and answer His call."

"My hope is that we will always try to teach as Jesus taught," said Dr. Groome. "His way of teaching was to begin with people's lives, to bring them from their life to the faith tradition to His preaching of the Gospel, and to invite them to bring that Gospel back to their life again."

He told his audience to take note of the manner of Jesus' teaching and to model their own teaching after His style. The concept for catechists to remember, he said, is to use personal stories and relate them to Christian faith through discussion and reading.

Tonya Byerely, a second-grade faith formation teacher, from Christ the King in High Point, said, "I want to learn and have more insight on how to teach in the new millennium. I think he [Dr. Groome] is very resourceful and insightful and that Jesus is really using him as an instrument to teach a new way."

What it means to be Catholic in today's society was a secondary key point that Dr. Groome wanted the group to understand in order for them to teach their students. He gave the participants an opportunity to use ideas from their own experience of Catholicism and personal ideas over the years to demonstrate the importance of the theme.

"The content was excellent, and he brought a deep knowledge of theology and church tradition that enriched his presentation," said Jack Neerincx from St. Michael Church in Gastonia. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

New director takes development post at BMHS

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School continues its 40th birthday celebration this year with the announcement of a new director of development and public relations.

Edward C. Mitchell has joined the staff of Bishop McGuinness with a background in marketing and fund-raising. The owner of a marketing company in the Triad for the past six years, Mitchell said he sought a new professional challenge.

Mitchell

"I was really looking for something in the Catholic Church or school," said Mitchell, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in nearby Greensboro.

Mitchell has served as chairperson of the Twin Parish Committee, dedicated to promoting financial, educational, and spiritual relations between Our Lady of Grace Church and Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kharkov, Ukraine. He's also coordinated a host of other fund-raising and volunteer projects for the parish and its affiliated school.

At Bishop McGuinness, Mitchell's primary charge is overseeing the annual fund drive, set to begin this month. But that is one of many responsibilities he will take on as the office expands. For one, he will serve as a liaison for the Home School Association, a duty newly introduced to the office of development.

As the school community flourishes, Mitchell said, he hopes to touch on areas of development that haven't been tapped before. "We really need to reach out to the community and keep them involved — and the students involved," he added.

He said he sees his new position as one that involves the cooperation and enthusiasm of the entire school family.

"If you get the spirit up and you get people involved and thinking positively — that we should help our neighbors, and work with people, and make an effort — then the whole place will explode," he said. "We've got excellent students, wonderful faculty and terrific parents here. We're in for a good time."

George Repass, principal at Bishop McGuinness, noted Mitchell's excitement. "He's a living example of the kind of spirit that we like to associate with this place," he said. "It's been an incredibly good fit from the start." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

Directed by Father Lawrence Hunt
Closing Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin
Wednesday, October 13, 10:30-3:30
Coffee & Danish 9:30-10:30

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

To register, send form and $7.50 fee (includes lunch) to:
Fall Day of Reflection, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

Name _____ Phone _____

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$7.50 fee per person — Make checks payable to **Catholic Social Services**
Registration deadline: Wednesday, October 6th
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

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New hues: St. Peter's Basilica restoration stirs debate

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Restoration projects in Rome often leave critics aghast at the bleached appearance of churches and monuments, whose white travertine marble can come out looking like Styrofoam.

But when the front of St. Peter's Basilica was unveiled in September after more than two years of cleaning, jaws dropped for the opposite reason: The facade emerged in two tones, white and ochre, with decorations in red and green around the central benediction loggia.

"Technicolor!" screamed a newspaper headline.

"A betrayal," argued a leading architectural critic.

"Nice," said most of the tourists and pilgrims who came to view the new, dynamic aspect of the world's largest church.

The basilica's new coloration was probably the best-kept secret in Rome over the last few years, as experts worked under shrouded tubular scaffolding that hid every square inch of the bigger-than-a-football-field facade.

In more than a hundred samples taken from the strata of grime that covered the marble, the restorers discovered the ochre-colored pigmentation at the bottom, and more colors around the loggia. Was this the original appearance when the facade was completed by Carlo Moderno in 1612?

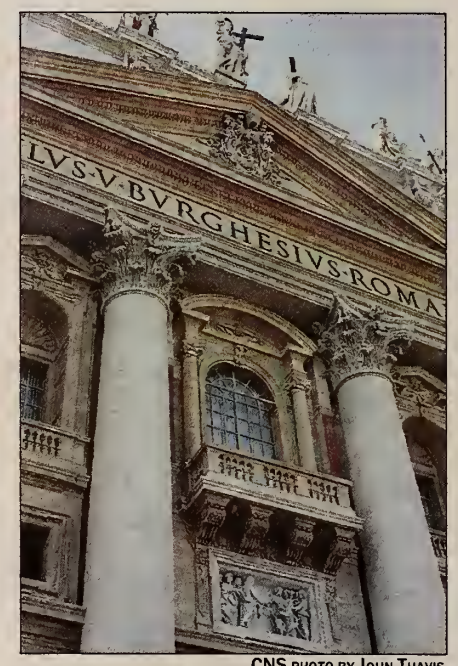
The Vatican head of the project, Sandro Benedetti, did some research. He found that in a 17th-century painting of St. Peter's the two-tone look clearly stood out, but not in later depictions. He surmised that rain and weathering had slowly washed the colors away.

Benedetti also discovered a written order for dozens of paint brushes placed by the architect Moderno at the end of his work — a clinching piece of evidence for the Vatican team.

The experts found that the red and green tint around the balcony was a later addition, probably by a pope who wanted to accentuate the spot from which he read pronouncements and blessed the crowd.

In Italy, all this would have provoked endless public debate about how — or whether — to proceed with the restoration. In the Vatican, behind the scaffolding, a decision was made: Go for it. The facade would wear its original make-up.

In reality, the "colorized" version of St. Peter's is hardly Technicolor. The hues are subtle. Colored marble dust was washed on, not actual paint. The effect, however, is dramatic: The once-austere facade has 3-D depth and a new warmth that pleases most observers.



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN THAVIS

Red and green hues frame the window of the central benediction loggia on St. Peter's Basilica. The newly restored facade surprised many when it was revealed with a splash of color.

"I like it better this way. It's not so severe," said Eva Kopp, an Austrian living in Rome.

"I think it's spectacular. If you compare it to the inside, with all the different colored marble, it makes sense," said Glen Hoffmann of Austin, Texas.

Jim Ambrosio, a tourist from New Jersey, gazed up at the church and pronounced it "impressive — the two tones really makes it stand out."

The main critic of the restoration, Carlo Bertelli, was unswayed by the overwhelming public approval. He called it "beautification" and said the basilica looked like something out of "Hansel and Gretel." Sure it's pleasing to the modern eye, he said, but are people sure the architect or his 17th-century patron, Pope Paul V, were aiming at that kind of visual charm?

Bertelli said the facade seemed recast as a multicolored backdrop for TV broadcasts, especially during the many papal events of Holy Year 2000.

No doubt Bertelli has not been invited to the gala blessing of the new facade by Pope John Paul II Sept. 30, to be followed by a televised gala featuring fireworks and a sung "Te Deum" of thanksgiving.

According to Cardinal Virgilio Noe, who manages the Basilica of St. Peter's, the pope said he liked the restoration job. Papal taste is not infallible, but the pope may have given this more thought than most — he has a room with a bird's-eye view of the facade. ▼

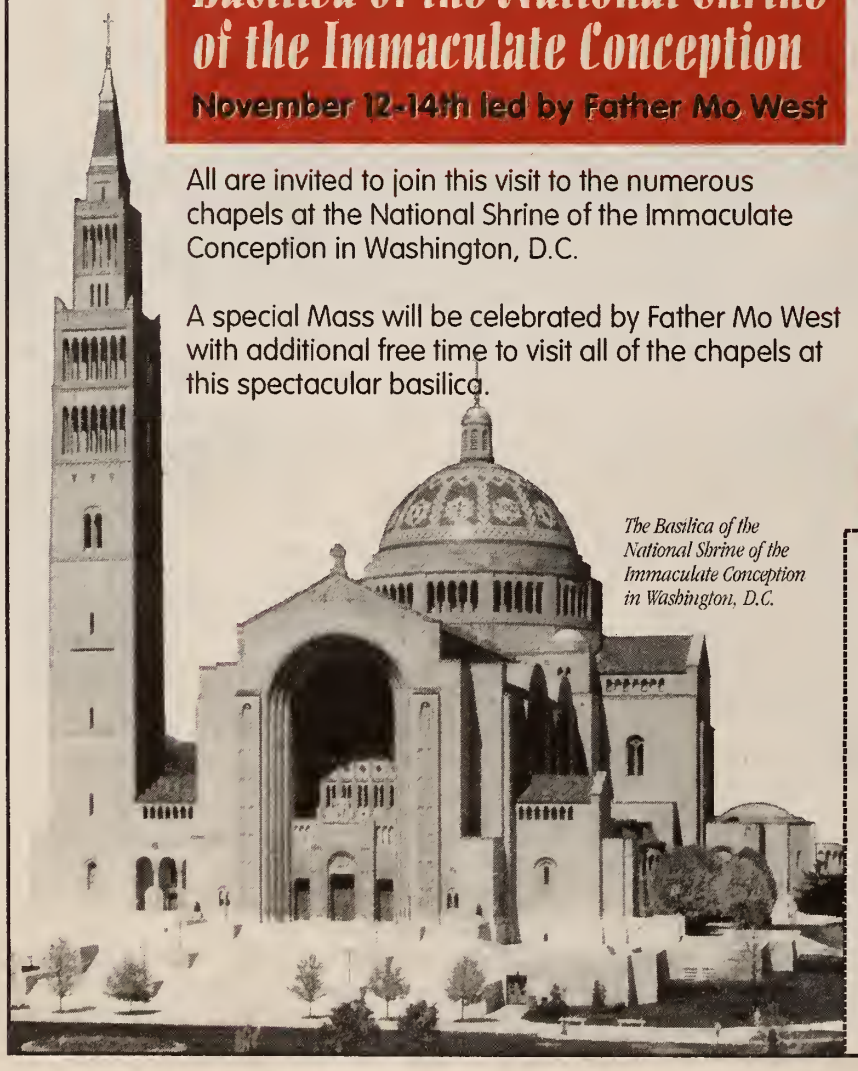
Come join the pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

November 12-14th led by Father Mo West

All are invited to join this visit to the numerous chapels at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

A special Mass will be celebrated by Father Mo West with additional free time to visit all of the chapels at this spectacular basilica.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Friday, Nov. 12
3:30 pm - Depart Charlotte Pastoral Center by luxury motorcoach.

Box supper provided on coach. (cost included)

Overnight at Best Western hotel outside Washington, D.C. (cost included)

Saturday, Nov. 13
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
11:15 am - Guided tour of the National Shrine. Free time/lunch at cafeteria if you wish (not included in cost)
2:30 pm - Prayer service at Our Mother of Africa Chapel
3:00 pm - Mass celebrated By Father Mo West
4:00 pm - Coach will take you either to the Baltimore Inner Harbor shopping and entertainment complex or back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own Sat. Evening.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
12:30 pm - Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

9:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor, at (704) 370-3339
Deadline to register: Friday, October 22

Cost: ☐ $145 per person (double occupancy) ☐ $175 per person (single occupancy) ☐ $75 children under 18
Cost includes coach, hotel, activities and meals except Saturday lunch and dinner.
Full payment must accompany registration. Registration form needed for each person.

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October 8, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 6

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Life Chain PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Dolly and Ron Maskarinec pray in silence as children play nearby on the grounds of St. Mary Church in Shelby Oct. 3. The Maskarinecs were among about 100 parishioners of St. Mary Church who gathered to form a link in the Life Chain. Members of various faith traditions — who peacefully line city streets with placards bearing messages urging an end to abortion — form the annual Life Chain each October across North America.

Welfare-to-work

CSS Refugee Resettlement Office receives national grant

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office has been awarded more than $1 million from the U.S. Department of Labor, in the form of a federal grant earmarked for programs that help the hardest-to-employ refugee welfare recipients.

"We are very pleased," said Cira Ponce, director of CSS' Refugee Resettlement Office. The office was one of 64 grant recipients nationwide. Representing the third round of a two-year $711.5 million grant competition, the grants encourage communities to develop new, results-oriented training for clients.

The 64 grants awarded are for projects that target distinctive categories of recipients or providers. In Charlotte, it will be a continuation of helping refugee clients obtain and upgrade to better jobs. "This will allow us to increase the numbers in terms of clients we can now serve," said Ponce. Specifically, the $1,086,006 will also be used for programs already proven, including vocational skills training and teaching English as a second language. Most of the funds will pay for on-the-job training for refugees receiving welfare benefits.

"The competitive grants encourage communities to build partnerships and be innovative in their approach to helping welfare recipients become employed," said Alexis M. Herman, secretary of labor, in a press release. "The money may be used for support services ... which can make all the difference."

Since the mid-'70s, the Refugee Resettlement Office has guided re-

SEE REFUGEE GRANT, PAGE 3

Charleston Diocese welcomes new bishop

BY NANCY SCHWERIN
THE NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

CHARLESTON — The Diocese of Charleston received its new shepherd in grand scale Sept. 29, amidst a sea of faithful — 3,000 strong — who traveled by the busload to welcome Bishop Robert J. Baker.

The North Charleston Convention Center was the site of the largest gathering of Catholics in the state since Pope John Paul II's visit in 1987. The reverent ceremony, while sustaining its long-standing traditions, was immersed with joy and excitement.

Just as the crowd settled, the impressive procession began. Four archbishops, 20 bishops, nearly 200 priests from Florida and South Carolina, and a crew of seminarians preceded Bishop Baker, who walked through his soon-to-be flock with his usual warm smile — a gesture of hope and optimism that remained in place throughout the ceremony.

The room grew still as the Mil-

SEE CHARLESTON, PAGE 7

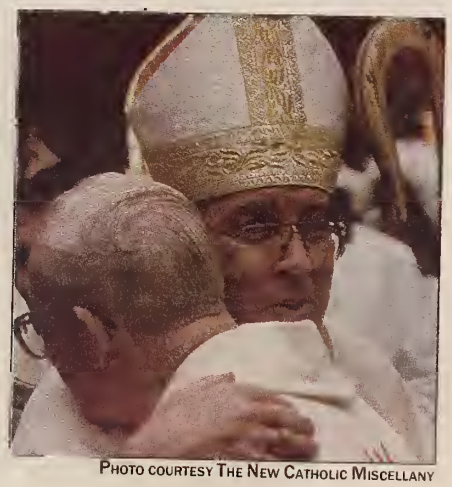

PHOTO COURTESY THE NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

NCCB official praises passage of fetal protection bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities praised legislation passed by the House Sept. 30 that would make it a crime to harm or kill a fetus in the womb. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the pro-life secretariat, said the Unborn Victims of Violence Act that passed with a 254-172 vote "embodies simple justice by extending federal protection to defenseless victims of violent crimes." The legislation protects unborn children whose mothers are physically assaulted, maimed or murdered. It is the first such measure proposed at the federal level.

Vatican, Israeli officials discuss Nazareth conflict

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Vatican ambassador to Israel met with Israeli Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben Ami to express concern about the ongoing conflict over proposed construction of a mosque in front of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican nuncio to Israel and Cyprus and apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, told the British news agency Reuters Oct. 4: "The Vatican has expressed its opposition. If a mosque is needed, very well. But not in that place."

'Golden age' of families a myth, historian-author tells conference

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — The 1950s as a "golden age" of U.S. families is a myth, historian and author Stephanie Coontz told 240 family life ministers in Louisville. It is time to quit romanticizing about the '50s, she said, referring to the idealized families seen on TV in "Father Knows Best" and "The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet." "The reality is there has never been a 'golden age' in this country when families could protect their members from such things as racism, economic problems and violence," she said.

Controversial art exhibit draws protesters, record attendance

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — Hundreds of protesters were on hand Oct. 2 when the Brooklyn Museum of Art opened its "Sensation" exhibition of contemporary British works that included a painting of Mary with elephant dung and cutouts from pornographic photos on it. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the Knights of Columbus and the Conservative Party of New York were organizations taking a leading role in the protest. As protesters held signs denouncing the exhibition, listened to speakers calling it "blasphemous" and "obscene" and prayed the rosary, a long line of people waited to get in to see what the controversy was about.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A call for peace
A man holds a sign calling for peace on the road between the East Timor towns of Bobonaro and Maliana in the troubled territory Oct. 4. Residents of the area were still awaiting peacekeeping forces after experiencing some of the most horrific militia violence in the territory.

Sources say Vatican to make Kosovo its own diocese

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican plans to make Kosovo, currently administered by the Skopje Diocese in Macedonia, a free-standing diocese, said sources in Rome. Auxiliary Bishop Marko Sopi, who ministers to Kosovo's 60,000 mainly ethnic Albanian Catholics from the southern city of Prizren, was to be the new diocese's bishop, the sources said. No timetable was given for the planned changes. "It's something I do expect to happen," Archbishop Rrok Mirdita told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 4 telephone interview from his residence in Tirana, Albania.

Mexican church works with other agencies after quake, flooding

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Mexican church's relief agency, Caritas, worked with other groups and government agencies to provide food, aid and shelter to victims of the country's recent earthquake and floods. The Archdiocese of Mexico City announced Oct. 3 it would channel its aid through Caritas Mexico, and that it would include medicine, food and cash for the rebuilding of homes. On Oct. 1, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City issued a message of consolation and support for people in the Federal District and six states who suffered in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Clinton pledges to forgive poorest nations' debts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton pledged Sept. 29 to cancel all U.S.-held debts of the world's poorest countries if they use the savings to "finance basic human needs." "The pledge has major symbolic and political significance," said Lydia Williams, policy adviser of Oxfam America, the U.S. branch of an international network of aid agencies. She said it could lead to a chain reaction of other creditor nations boosting their debt forgiveness for poor countries from 90 percent to 100 percent.

Scandals within church cannot erase its goodness, says archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Scandals within the Catholic Church and the sinfulness of church members cannot be allowed to erase every trace of good that church personnel have done, an Irish archbishop said. "A just interpretation of the past requires acknowledgment of wrongs and the need for change, but a generous acknowledgment of integrity and achievement as well," Archbishop Desmond Connell of Dublin told the European synod. Speaking Oct. 2, the archbishop said, "As members of Christ's body, we benefit from goodness in the lives of our brothers and sisters, but we also suffer on account of their sins."

Indonesian official: East Timor violence not directed at church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite reports that Catholics were being systematically slaughtered in East Timor, Indonesia's ambassador to the Holy See said the violence had no religious element and would not affect his country's relations with the Vatican. "I understand that there have been some very sad incidents, but the violence is not immediately directed at the Catholic Church," Irawan Abidin told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 30 telephone interview from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 10 —11 am Mass
Permanent Deacon Retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 12
Wake Forest University
Divinity School Convocation

October 13
Fall Day of Reflection
Diocesan Elder Ministry
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

October 16
Confirmation
St. Mary, Greensboro
10:30 am Liturgy
1:30 pm Liturgy

Diocesan planner

October

13 HICKORY — For a day of fellowship, reflection, and Mass, the Fall Day of Reflection for Senior Citizens, age 55 and over, starts at 9 a.m. this morning at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. Father Lawrence Hunt, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, is the director, and Bishop William G. Curlin is celebrating Mass. For questions about the facility and special dietary needs, call the center at (828) 327-7441.

14 CHARLOTTE — A four-week bereavement ministry training course for those who want to help people affected by death begins this morning at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms A and B of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Road. The classes will be held on Oct. 21, 28, and Nov. 4. For registration and other information, call (704) 362-5047.

15 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western N.C.'s Catholic homeschool support group, hosts a potluck picnic today at CPNL Park at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon. For directions and details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6900 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

16 BOONE — The Fourth Annual Boone Education Conference, held at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, starts this morning at 9 a.m. for catechists, high school and college students, and anyone interested in studying the Bible. The featured speaker is Father David Valtierra, C.O., of the Oratory Center for Spirituality, who will give an overview of the Gospel. For more information, call Peg Ruble, the central regional coordinator for the Office of Faith Formation at (704) 845-2649.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, is hav-

Semi-annual rosary service joins families together in prayer

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "The rosary is a powerful and meditative prayer," said Teresa Sanctis, on the occasion of St. Vincent de Paul Church parish's 47th semi-annual International Family Rosary Day on October 3.

"I have always had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother, and if there is anything I can do to bring others to her, that is important because she leads you to the Blessed Sacrament."

— Kathleen Potter

Sanctis joined with others from the parish along with other area churches to the bi-annual service.

St. Vincent parishioners have been holding their own version of the rosary march service to accommodate older participants since 1976 and have been inviting other churches to participate. The first service was held at Charlotte Catholic High School in the football field.

Kathleen Potter has been the coordinator since the beginning, along with help from Sally Connelly, Dana Bean, and Nettie Bruck.

"People were not saying the rosary back then, and this was a way to encourage people to come back to the tradition of a devotion to the Blessed Mother," said Potter. "I have always had a great devotion to the Blessed Mother, and if there is anything I can do to bring others to her, that is important because she leads you to the Blessed Sacrament."

The rosary has its origins in the 12th century reportedly deriving from the Dominicans. Because of a Christian military victory from a focused continent-wide prayer of the rosary in late-1500s Europe, Pope Gregory XIII later declared the first Sunday in October to be the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to commemorate the battle and reflect on devotion to Mary.

This year's service consisted of the rosary prayer, a Gospel reading and homily focused on Mary from Father Richard Bellow from St. Gabriel Church, the presentation of flowers to Mary, and procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The Knights of Columbus Council 770 and the officers of the Charlotte Chapter of the Catholic Daughters have also been in attendance since the beginning.

Bean said, "This is a way of honoring and thanking the Blessed Mother who has such an important role to play in the salvation of God's people."

The idea for the International Rosary Day originated in 1976 from Joseph Sherry, a California man, who wanted to pray for the social and spiritual welfare of people worldwide. So, on the first Sunday in May and October, participants say the rosary at the same time around the world in countries such as Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand, and Canada at 7 p.m. Greenwich mean time. That means 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, 10 a.m. in Alaska and Hawaii, and so forth for the various time zones. Many people still participate in the rosary march, Sherry's original concept. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Renee Diner, 6th grade, Claire Gillen, 4th grade, Kelsey McNatty and Angela Love, 5th grade, carry in the statue of the Mary during the procession for the 47th Annual International Rosary Day at St. Vincent Church on October 3.

Refugee Grant, from page 1

settlement for more than 7,000 refugees admitted to the United States from more than 20 countries. The Refugee Resettlement Office offers a myriad of services to incoming refugees, many arriving empty-handed as they seek asylum in this country. For people with health care, social services, housing and employment predicaments, the Refugee Resettlement Office facilitates a sometimes difficult transition.

While not the first national recognition for the Refugee Resettlement Office, the grant further enhances the trust in results of a well-run program.

The Refugee Office has received high praises for client services in the past. The office has been recipient of the John E. McCarthy Memorial Award for excellence in refugee resettlement. That honor — along with recognition by the Bureau of Refugee Programs of the U.S. Department of Labor — are tribute to their 'outstanding services and community support.'

"This grant is quite an honor for our Refugee Office," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services. "The Refugee Office has undertaken many special projects since inception. And through the combined efforts of paid staff and volunteers, the Refugee Office continues to serve the growing needs of our community."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

ing its annual Ye Old Village Shoppes Fall Craft Bazaar from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Features include a Chinese auction, silent auction, raffle, kids' shopping, bake shop, and seasonal items. For further information, call the church at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200.

DENVER — The First Holy Spirit Church Octoberfest happens tonight at 7 p.m. on Highway 16. The event, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Guild, will feature German food, live music, and games. Proceeds to benefit the restoration of the church heating units.

FOREST CITY — Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., is hosting a Spanish Health Fair, sponsored by the Parish Nurse Program, beginning at 10 a.m. this morning until 4 p.m. Call (828) 245-6053 for further information.

TRYON — St. John the Baptist Church, 600 Laurel Ave., is holding its "Fall Fling" today from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the church social hall. Look for crafts, attic treasures, tools, jewelry, raffles, and baked goods. Sponsored by the Ladies' Altar Guild, this festival will support their church and community projects. For details, call Mary Hughes at (828) 894-3837.

17 CHARLOTTE — There is a LIMEX information session today from 2-3 p.m. at St Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Road. The Loyola of New Orleans Institute for Ministry Extension provides an opportunity for graduate-level education for those in ministry or those preparing for ministry. The program includes both CEUs and a master's degree through a Charlotte learning group. There are currently five groups sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte plus one in the Greensboro area. For more information, call Connie Mulligan at (704) 364-3344 or e-mail at connie3344@aol.com or call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or e-mail at jcase@charlotte.infi.net.

18 BELMONT — Peter Ridder, publisher of The Charlotte Observer, is speaking about running a daily newspaper in a changing environment at Belmont Abbey College for the Holway Executive on Campus Lecture Series today at noon beginning with lunch on the second floor of the Student Commons. RSVP by Wed., Oct. 13 by calling (704) 825-6735.

GREENSBORO — To help people spiritually prepare for the millennium, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, is presenting an Isaiah 2000 Mission today through Thurs., Oct. 21 from 7:30-9 p.m. Rev. James J. Fallon from Syracuse, N.Y., and Norene Dupre of Ellenton, Fla., are leading the preaching team. For details, call the church office at (336) 294-4696.

20 CONCORD — St. James Church's 46th Annual Barbecue is happening today at 251 Union St. North. Carryout and dining in the parish center is being held from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. For large carryout orders, call (704) 720-0610 in advance.

22 CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that brings hope, teaches communication on a feeling level, helps couples identify their values and priorities, and teaches couples to start anew. The program begins today in Charlotte. For details, call Rev. Mr. Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

23 CHARLOTTE — The North Carolina Divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is hosting the first biennial state convention today at St. Gabriel's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Road, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, call Rich Barrett at (704) 964-5166.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope tells gynecologists that church teaching can help guard life

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic moral teaching on sexual behavior, abortion and euthanasia can help medical professionals be true "guardians and servants of human life," said Pope John Paul II.

The current cultural tendency to ignore science's ethical dimension has placed the medical profession "at a kind of crossroads," the pope told participants of the Seventh Congress of the International Gynecological Cancer Society Sept. 30.

"In your efforts to be true servants of life, I am certain that you will find light and encouragement in the church's teaching, the fruit of two millennia of Catholic moral thought on what God has revealed regarding the human condition," he said.

Pregnant women with cancer and their doctors face unique pressure from society and family to abort the fetus, despite the availability of effective forms of treatment to safeguard the life of mother and child, the pope said.

To prevent the increasingly frequent occurrence of cancer in pregnant women, public authorities must promote and fund more cancer research, the pope said.

"For all the talk about the rising costs of health care, particularly in the area of cancer treatment, there is a lingering sense that too little is being done and too little spent on health education and cancer prevention," the pope said.

In the area of education, the pope said doctors have a responsibility to point out clearly "that cancer can be the result of people's behavior, including certain sexual behavior, as well as of the pollution of the environment and its effects on the body itself."

Dr. Maria Luisa di Pietro, a researcher at the Institute of Bioethics at Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, told Catholic News Service that scientists have discovered a link between promiscuous sexual behavior, especially when it begins at a young age, and cervical cancer, because of the heightened possibility for the transmission of cancer-provoking viruses.

In working with women stricken with cancer and facing premature death, doctors should not sway in their commitment to serving life, the pope said.

"Nothing, not even a patient's request — which more often than not is a cry for help — can justify the taking of a life which is precious in the eyes of God and which can be a great gift of love to a family, even in the suffering of the final days," he said.

The pope said human support for cancer patients is vitally important because those confronted with suffering, death and the temptation to despair want most of all "companionship, sympathy and support in the time of trial."

"Ineffective treatment or treatment which aggravates suffering should be avoided, as also the imposition of unusual and extraordinary therapeutic methods," he said.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Journey back to faith

I've never met Jim Gilboy in person, but through our long phone conversations I know that we are soul mates.

Gilboy founded Marian Publishers of Oak Lawn, Ill., in 1996. His company is devoted to producing books that are, as he says, "Catholic-Catholic." He told me, "I consecrated the business to our Lord and our Lady."

All the titles found in Gilboy's attractive catalogue underscore his dedication — titles such as "Lost in the World: Found in Christ," "Radiating Christ" and, in Spanish, "Como Es Jesus" and several other spiritual books.

His publishing venture began after a conversion of heart and behavior brought him back to his faith after a long period of coldness. He said he had been caught up in a lot of entertaining, socializing and drinking because of the business he was in. "The Lord allowed me to almost hit bottom," he reveals.

When he began to pray, "Dear God, help me get out of this," Gilboy — a husband and father of six — said he found the courage to go to a treatment center and get control of his drinking.

Then he saw a film on Mary's reported apparitions at Medjugorje in central Bosnia, and his "heart was touched," he said. In 1991 he and his wife Mary Ellen, whom he credits as his "backbone" in keeping him going, traveled to Medjugorje. There "the Blessed Mother brought me back to Mass and the Eucharist," he said.

Another blessing came when he was introduced to perpetual adoration at a parish in Chicago. Now he calls attending daily Mass and being faithfully present for adoration "the whole substance of my life."

Gilboy's devotion to perpetual adoration led indirectly to our encounter. My son Sterling, who was involved with creating a perpetual adoration chapel in another Chicago-area parish, had met Gilboy through this ministry. Gilboy had a publishing need, and Sterling, thinking I might be of help, put us in touch.

Being ever the journalist, I wanted to know what motivated him to start a publishing company in these times of intense competition in the marketing and selling of books. He said that in gratitude to Mary he wanted to "do something for her."

And then in 1994 fate stepped in, as usual. A woman named Carole Ross wanted a book published, and "Mary sent her to me," he said. While it took two years and tremendous expense, since Gilboy didn't yet know the business, "By Way of the Cross" was published. Word that Gilboy was working on a book spread fast through his prayer group, and another woman brought him a manuscript, followed by others.

Marian Publishers was thus, surprisingly, established. "I was led to do this," said Gilboy, acknowledging he is "still struggling" to learn the book business. He underscores that the books he accepts have to put faith in a positive light and "touch on the reality of life."

Gilboy has an ultimate goal. "I want to be able to say to God when I die, 'I knew you when I was on earth,' and then, hear him say, 'Yes, you did.' I want to be a part of what our Lord came down to do."

The Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Confessions of a long-time Catholic

It is very common for people who reach middle age to turn into conservative Catholics. No, I do not mean the type of Catholic who sends weekly reports to the bishop about his or her pastor's weekly liturgical errors on a manual typewriter where the "o" is filled in with gunk and it looks like a huge dot every time you hit it.

This is irritating, especially if your name is Cook or Poofnoofski, because it looks like they are making big periods or unhappy happy faces all over the page.

No, I mean really conservative Catholics. The metamorphosis can happen quickly and with little warning. One day you are an average I-hope-it's-a-short-homily Catholic, and then you wake up the next Sunday and you find yourself hoping the priest or deacon will deliver a scathing homily about those stupid shoes the young women are wearing that make them teeter back and forth like a telephone pole in an earthquake.

You know the shoes — Boris Karloff's Frankenstein wore a pair, only more practical. Then Sonny Bono and Tony Orlando picked up the style in the '70s. They called them platforms, I think. The shoes, not Sonny or Tony.

Now they don't have a name. (The shoes, that is. Sonny and Tony's names have not changed.) If you don't believe me, stop a young girl teetering down the street and ask her. Say, "Hey, young lady, what do they call those shoes you are teetering on?"

"The left one is, like, you know, Mary Alice," she might say, "and the right one is, like, whatever." Then she will teeter off tee-heeing with her friends, the group of them looking like a herd of tipsy giraffes.

The "style" has no name. Not chunkies, or hunkies, or Squatbottoms, or even platforms. I tell you, there is plenty of room here for a homily.

Which brings us, obviously, back to conservative Catholics. Here are some more indicators that "it" has happened:

—You judge parishes you visit primarily by the location of the bathrooms and the sound system.

—You always check "no" on parish surveys about building projects.

—You become highly agitated if you accidentally leave the weekly contribution envelope on the counter at home.

—You complain about the high prices at parish flea markets and pout by finding a 1966 National Geographic and reading it on the exercise bike you donated.

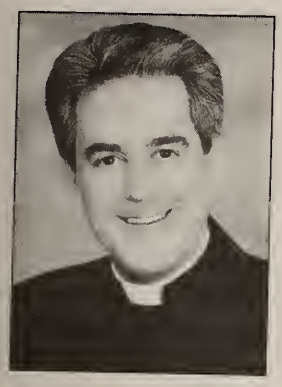
—You find yourself barking things like, "The Angelus, you know the Angelus don't you?"

—You rate ending world hunger on a par with ending holding hands during the Our Father.

—You see no reason a parish should have an e-mail address, for heaven's sake.

And another thing: There is absolutely no reason pastors or deacons should not ask soon, and in scathing terms from the pulpit: Why can't people remember to put their kneelers up so people can get by?

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Really? I didn't know that!"

This week's column could be filed under "Really? I didn't know that, and please forgive my ignorance!" You would think that I, a Catholic priest systematically trained in the intellectual and moral tradition of my faith, should be familiar with Christianity's historical impact on other religions. I am not. In point of fact, a Muslim friend of mine recently taught me aspects of religious history that I was embarrassed to discover I knew nothing about. And for me, it is an important lesson.

We were winding up a delightful dinner when I asked my friend, Kayhan Sarab, if he might describe for me some of the practices and beliefs of Islam. Graciously he began with what was for me a bombshell of a question: "Well, of course, Father Tom, you do know that we Muslims have much in common with Christianity, right?" I replied somewhat sheepishly, "Um, you do?"

Clearly surprised, Kayhan studied the uncertainty in my face and reached across the table to touch my arm: "Surely you know of the profound respect we Muslims have for the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus!" Clueless, I shrugged my shoulders.

"Oh yes, indeed!" he said passionately. "According to the Koran (the sacred book of Islam), God chose Mary and made her pure and above all other women of the universe. Together, with her son Jesus, she was destined to play a unique role in the history of salvation."

"Muslims believe in Mary?" I stammered.

"Is it possible you do not know that there are more verses in the Koran — 34 of them — which name the Virgin Mary than there are in your whole New Testament?" Again I was at a loss. Kayhan went on to say that the Koran traces her presentation in the temple in Jerusalem, her purification, the annunciation with the Angel Gabriel, her virginal conception of Jesus who is considered a great prophet.

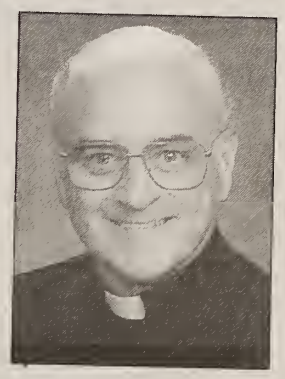
This week I set out to increase my awareness of Islam. I came across a talk given by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore when he received the 1995 Mahmoud Abu Saud Excellence Award from the American Muslim Council. He said that Mary "was ever ready to do the will of God....She responded (to the angel), 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.' (Lk 1:38) This is the attitude of every true believer in the living God, the Lord of the universe. May God be with us as we seek to discover his holy will for us and to do it."

There is one more story from my friend Kayhan that I would like to share. The prophet Muhammad once sent a group of his followers to a largely Christian settlement in Ethiopia for protection from religious persecution. There they were questioned by a group of local leaders. After a recitation of all the elements common to their religious beliefs and hopes, the Christian community embraced the Muslims. And in a gesture of welcome and respect, one Christian plucked a single strand of hair from his head and placed it on the sand between himself and the Muslims and said, "That is the measure of the difference between us."

Thanks, Kayhan! You helped me grow in respect and understanding for our fellow believers in the one God who desires above all things our love for Himself and for one another.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Finding the joy of the Mass in times of death

It has been a couple of months since the shocking plane crash of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and sister-in-law. The media blitz that followed the news of their tragic deaths was unprecedented.

ABC Radio called and asked me to join their network during the broadcast at the time of the memorial Mass. I was to do the color commentary along with Betina Gregory, their news anchor.

We had to fill three hours and 10 minutes of airtime for the 3,000 ABC affiliate stations nationwide. Gregory coordinated the live feed from reporters and commentators outside the Church of St. Thomas More in Manhattan. It was my task to explain what was going inside the church.

Years earlier I sat near John Kennedy Jr. at an Al Smith dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. I found him friendly, humorous and down to earth. As we chatted, my mind went back to that image of him as a little boy saluting his father's funeral procession. He was exactly 3 years old on the day of President Kennedy's funeral.

Now it was my sad duty to cover his memorial Mass, which as you probably know was completely private. There were no TV cameras or radio lines coming from inside the church itself. We were in a studio a few miles away trying to reconstruct the event as best we could.

I had performed a similar task for CBS when Jacqueline Kennedy died in 1994. It was a bit easier then. At least we had an audio feed from the church. We were able to broadcast the actual readings, the homily and the eulogy by Sen. Ted Kennedy. Not having that advantage this time, I had more time to explain the meaning of the Mass as a celebration.

Joy is a difficult concept to convey when someone has died. Nevertheless, the emotional subtext of every Mass is an expression of joy. Every Mass is Easter Sunday for the true believer.

We strive to be children of hope and gratitude in all circumstances, even in the midst of tears. When we gather to celebrate this mystery of faith, the pain of grief becomes less bitter.

Though the holy sacrifice is a memorial of the Lord's crucifixion, we emphasize the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. In him, with him and through him we express our joy to the Father.

Knowing that our deceased loved ones will rise from the dead to be with God in heaven brings some comfort to the weary heart. We strive to be joyful in the midst of tears.

Pope John Paul II expressed the meaning of Christ's mission among us in these words: "Christ came to bring joy; joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and to friends, joy to workers and to scholars, joy to the sick, joy to the elderly, joy to all humanity. In a true sense, joy is the keynote of the Christian message and the recurring motif of the Gospels."

On a day filled with heart-piercing grief, the liturgy of the church reminds us that joy prevails over sorrow. This is why we call the Mass a celebration.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The first woman created by God

Q. Our eighth-grade daughter told us recently that her teacher said Eve was not the first woman created by God. The first, named Lilith, was created the same time as Adam.

Things didn't work out between them, so she went to the other side of the garden. When Adam then complained to God that he was lonely, God took Adam's rib to form Eve.

This teacher attends certification classes to teach in our parish school. Is any of this story remotely true? Does it have any basis in the Bible?

A. The name Lilith appears in Isaiah (34:14) apparently as something of a demon. It is the only time the name appears in our Scripture.

The Lilith stories developed apparently out of Babylonian demon myths. A medieval document called the "Alphabet of Ben Sira" expanded, generally along the lines you mention, on ancient legends which portray her as a destroyer of pregnant women and infants.

Some feminists now read these stories as describing the antithesis of Eve, who was supposedly more docile and dependent, more open to seeing herself as a nurturer of children, than Lilith.

In fact, a feminist organization exists today bearing the name of Lilith. Usually it pursues considerably radical policies and goals with which many other women who are laboring for sexual equality and justice quite strongly disagree.

Obviously, the Lilith tales have no place in Christian Scripture or teaching.

Interdominational marriage

Dear Father Dietzen: Your recent column about a couple planning an interdenominational marriage prompted this perspective from someone who's been there.

Because we were concerned about our future family's faith, I (a Protestant) wanted to learn why my fiance was so committed to his Catholic faith and began attending classes for people interested in learning more about the Catholic Church.

To my great surprise I discovered there were many more similarities than differences. Before long, I decided to become Catholic.

We'll soon be happily married for 23 years. I believe couples facing this situation could try what I did. It couldn't hurt and might help. I've never regretted it.

The couple might start with a careful look at their common Christian baptism as ground for fruitful dialogue with one another.

A. I am grateful to you and the many other readers who wrote wise and helpful comments from their personal experiences. As a pastor and diocesan family life director for many years, I have worked closely with dozens of couples in happy and successful interdenominational marriages, and some which evolved as yours. You make an important point.

I think you would agree, however, that a man and woman considering marrying, and coming from different faith backgrounds, should be able to talk about their religious differences and work out, at least in basic ways, how they will deal with these differences for themselves and their children, as you did.

If those differences are irreconcilable before marriage, a man and woman are inviting spiritual tragedy in their family if they decide to marry anyway in a vague hope that "something will work out." This apparently was the situation with the couple whose letter was in the column to which you refer.

New bishop in Northern Ireland commits to peace

DROMORE, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The newest and youngest Irish bishop, Bishop John McAreavy of Dromore, has committed himself to advancing peace in Northern Ireland. "I will do all in my power to promote the search for a lasting peace and understanding between our different traditions in every way I can," Bishop McAreavy said after his consecration in Newry Cathedral in mid-September. The Dromore Diocese is one of two dioceses to have its territory completely within Northern Ireland.

McAuley Institute honors advocates for homeless, immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — McAuley Institute, a national Catholic-run nonprofit housing organization, has given its fifth annual Courage in Community Awards to Mercy Sister Marie Ahern of Orland, Maine, and Sharon Murphy of Washington. The awards, which honor "outstanding contributions made by women in the development of decent, safe, affordable housing and strong communities," were presented at a dinner in Washington in September. McAuley Institute, based in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Md., assists local efforts to increase permanent, affordable housing through a $10 million revolving loan fund, technical assistance and advocacy.

NCCB official praises passage of fetal protection bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities praised legislation passed by the House Sept. 30 that would make it a crime to harm or kill a fetus in the womb. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the pro-life secretariat, said the Unborn Victims of Violence Act that passed with a 254-172 vote "embodies simple justice by extending federal protection to defenseless victims of violent crimes." The legislation protects unborn children whose mothers are physically assaulted, maimed or murdered. It is the first such measure proposed at the federal level.

CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Nuns work on the Vatican's Jubilee Web site

A photo of Pope John Paul II peers over religious women working on the Vatican's Jubilee Web site. Vatican services, including those provided on the Internet, have been checked for Y2K problems.

Retired Bishop Norbert Gaughan of Gary, Ind., dies

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan of Gary died Oct. 1 of complications from a stroke suffered in 1992. He was 78 years old. He had been bishop of Gary from 1984 until his retirement in 1996. His administrative responsibilities were curtailed, though, following the 1992 stroke. Bishop Gaughan had lived at St. Anthony Home in Crown Point after his retirement. He had been a bishop since 1975, serving first for nine years as auxiliary bishop of Greensburg, Pa.

Sister Prejean urges Canada not to follow U.S. on death penalty

OTTAWA (CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean, author of the best-selling book "Dead Man Walking," urged Canada not to take the same path as the United States in the use of capital punishment. "The death penalty in the United States is 95 percent about politics and 5 percent about justice," said Sister Prejean, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille of Louisiana. She spoke to a group of policy-makers in an address Sept. 23 at the National Press Club in Ottawa. "The 38 states that have the death penalty in the United States have double the homicide rate of states that don't," she said. "The truth is that people who do violent acts aren't thinking at all of the consequences."

Shelter director stabbed to death remembered for his compassion

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — A 42-year-old man stabbed to death outside the Hartford shelter he headed was remembered for his compassion, Catholicism and devotion to serving the hungry and homeless. A funeral Mass was said Sept. 24 for Paul Laffin, who was stabbed Sept. 20 and died shortly afterwards despite attempts by fellow shelter workers to keep him alive. He was director of St. Elizabeth's shelter, which is run by the Sisters of Mercy. Laffin was remembered as someone who cared deeply about the people who came to the shelter.

Retired Peoria bishop, known for simple lifestyle, dies at 81

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Retired Bishop Edward W. O'Rourke of Peoria, who lived what he taught about the benefits of a simple lifestyle, continued his example in death. Bishop O'Rourke, 81, died in Peoria Sept. 29, and he was to be laid to rest in a simple wooden casket, as he requested in his will. The funeral Mass was scheduled for noon on Oct. 5 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria. A former executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Bishop O'Rourke guided the Diocese of Peoria from 1971 to 1990. He was widely known as an advocate and friend of the poor, and used his retirement years to found and lead an organization that offered job-training and hospitality for the less fortunate of his Peoria neighborhood.

Pope beatifies five Italians, one Belgian at Mass

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling them "faithful workers in the Lord's vineyard," Pope John Paul II beatified five Italians and a Belgian during a Mass in St. Peter's Square.

The freshly scrubbed facade of St. Peter's Basilica was hung with huge images of the newly beatified men. Some 20,000 Italian and Belgian pilgrims joined the pope for the sunny outdoor ceremony Oct. 3.

"In today's celebration we have the joy to see elevated to altars of glory six faithful workers in the Lord's vineyard," the pope said. "In different times and in different ways, each of them generously gave of their own lives in service to the Gospel."

The newly-beatified are:

— Ferdinando Maria Baccilieri (1821-1893), a parish priest and founder of the Servite Sisters of Galeazza.

— Edward Joannes Maria Poppe (1890-1924), a rural Belgian priest and former soldier.

— Arcangelo Tadini (1846-1912), a priest and founder of the Sister Workers of the Holy House of Nazareth religious congregation.

— Mariano da Roccacasale (1778-1866), a Franciscan brother.

— Diego Oddi (1839-1919), a Franciscan brother.

— Nicola da Gesturi (1882-1958), a Capuchin monk known as "Brother Silence."

"In a world too often values-poor and saturated with words, there is need of men and women who, like Blessed Nicola da Gesturi, underline the urgency of recapturing the ability to be silent and listen," the pope said.

Pope John Paul has beatified 938 people during his 21-year pontificate. ▼

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Charleston, from page 1

lennium Choir — 400 men, women and children from across the state — closed out the gathering hymn, "O Christ the Great Foundation."

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, on behalf of Pope John Paul II read the apostolic letter calling Bishop-elect Baker to ordination as the bishop of Charleston. The letter, in part, states, "you will apply all yourself to carry out the responsibilities on behalf of the good and the welfare of your people." The congregation applauded their approval boldly.

In his homily the primary consecrating prelate, Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, spoke on the duties of the office. "... Being true to Christ as a bishop requires one thing more than anything else, one thing that cannot be prepared, but must spring forth from our mind and heart because we know there is no other answer — trust in the power of Christ to guide us. ... I enjoin you to remain vigilant, for your own sake and for the sake of your people — to guard your own spiritual health, by adhering to the life of prayer and devotion that has to be the first mark of a bishop's life."

Archbishop Donoghue then questioned Bishop Baker, who stood before him, on his resolve to uphold the faith and to perform his duties as a bishop faithfully.

The elect prostrated himself on the floor as the congregation recited the Litany of the Saints.

The consecrating prelates, Archbishops Donoghue and Montalvo, and Bishop John J. Snyder of St. Augustine, led the other clergy in the laying on of hands.

In a symbolic gesture, the Book of the Gospels was held over the bishop's head as a sign of the power of the word of God. Archbishop Donoghue in the prayer of consecration called the Holy Spirit down upon Bishop Baker and anointed his head, marking the completion of the elevation to the episcopacy.

The Book of the Gospels was presented to the bishop, and he received the three symbols of his office from Archbishop Donoghue — the miter, the ring, and the crosier. Bishop David B. Thompson, retired bishop of Charleston, at a vespers service held the previous night at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, had blessed the symbols.

Bishop Baker received the kiss of peace from his brother bishops in a concluding gesture in the rite of ordination. Prior to that rite, the Liturgy of the Word was interspersed with the influence of the new shepherd; the readings were repeated in Spanish and in Vietnamese.

The liturgy of the Eucharist held a special tribute to the bishop's motto: Rejoicing in Hope. A Communion hymn was written by William Schlitt and composed by Timothy Tikker expressly for the ordination ceremony and took the title and theme of the bishop's motto.

Before the blessing and dismissal, Bishop Baker addressed the congregation offering many thanks to those who helped make the day possible and to all who made the trip. He thanked local dignitaries and ecumenical leaders for sharing in the occasion.

His excitement was apparent when, in his thanks, he said, "I'm having fun up here." In acknowledging his family, he joked, "My mother's been worried about feeding all of you."

The new prelate asked Bishop Thompson to stand and be recognized for his faithful service and guidance during this transition period. When Bishop Baker stumbled over the word episcopacy, saying, "I'll learn to say that word eventually,' Bishop Thompson replied: 'You don't have to say it; you just have to do it." ▼

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

The new bishop of Charleston, Bishop Robert J. Baker, shares a few words with Bishop William G. Curlin on the occasion of Bishop Baker's ordination at the North Charleston Convention Center. Pictured in the background are Bishop Robert Donnelly, auxiliary bishop of Toledo, Ohio, and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

"... Being true to Christ as a bishop requires one thing more than anything else, one thing that cannot be prepared, but must spring forth from our mind and heart because we know there is no other answer — trust in the power of Christ to guide us. ... I enjoin you to remain vigilant, for your own sake and for the sake of your people — to guard your own spiritual health, by adhering to the life of prayer and devotion that has to be the first mark of a bishop's life."

— Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, speaking on the duties of the office

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Boston celebration of faith draws 19,000 teens, young adults

By NICOLE PASCARELLI
Catholic News Service

FOXBORO, Mass. (CNS) — More than 19,000 teens and young adults joined Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law on Sept. 25 for the Archdiocese of Boston's Pilgrimage 2000 kickoff at Foxboro Stadium.

A festival area with games, activities, clowns and entertainment provided a celebration atmosphere that carried on throughout the day. Teens also had the chance to participate in amusements such as a Moonwalk, rock climbing wall and a dunk tank.

There was also a basketball area with a three-point shooting contest and other basketball-related games. A DJ entertained the crowd and played various games.

"There is no contradiction between faith and fun," Cardinal Law told reporters.

The kickoff event is the beginning of a seven-month preparatory period in which small groups will gather in parishes to reflect on the fundamental questions of Catholicism. It ends with a ceremony at Boston's Fenway Park next April. Over 35,000 teens and young adults have registered for the preparatory period.

Aimed at young Catholic from age 14-40, the motivation for Pilgrimage 2000 came directly from Pope John Paul II. In his apostolic letter on preparing for the year 2000, "Tertio Millennio Adveniente," the pope wrote, "The future of the church belongs to the younger generation, to those who, born in this century, will reach maturity in the next."

The cardinal echoed the pope's message throughout the day, telling those gathered that they represented the church's future.

At 6:30 p.m. teens and young adults gathered inside Foxboro Stadium for a play and a musical performance by the Christian band Jars of Clay. Following the performance, Cardinal Law celebrated Mass along with Boston Auxiliary Bishops John P. Boles, Francis X. Irwin and Emilio Allue and Bishop Elliott G. Thomas of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. An estimated 200 archdiocesan priests and deacons also concelebrated.

A vast majority of the participants were high-school-age teens who registered with their schools, confirmation programs and youth groups. For many of them the gathering was an opportunity to show the cardinal and the archdiocese that they are the future of the church.

"I was really surprised at how they brought together so many kids," said Mike Bartelloni, 17.

"They did a great job letting teens know that they are part of the church," said Stephen Colella, campus minister at Catholic Memorial High School. Colella urged teens at his school to attend because "the cardinal is trying to reach out to you; show him that your faith is important to you."

Cardinal Law was very visible to the teens throughout the day, watching the musical performance and greeting them. He also wore a "WWJD" bracelet given to him by youth minister Troy Santarlasci, who also headed the cardinal's security team.

WWJD bracelets have become popular with teens because of their message, "What would Jesus do?" Many teens noticed the cardinal's red and white wrist band and noted that he was trying to connect with them.

Other "pop culture" sayings could be seen around the stadium. Like many groups, teens from St. Mary's Lifeteen in Dedham wore distinguishable shirts. On the back read the message "Got Jesus?" a take-off of the popular milk ads.

Bernie Choiniere, music minister at St. Mary, provided music prior to the Jars of Clay performance. Teens from his parish showed their support in record numbers with four busloads attending.

"The Mass was the best part," said Charlie McDonough, 17, a senior at Catholic Memorial and member of St. Catherine Parish in Norwood. "It was geared to teens so teens could relate to it."

When Mass began the stadium fell silent and all eyes focused directly on the altar.

"Pilgrimage 2000 is not about this night or Fenway in April, it's about what happens in between and after," Cardinal Law said during Mass. "This is just the beginning of something magnificent for the youth." ▼

Vatican's family council to host meeting on cohabitation

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican invited a small group of scholars from around the world to examine the growing practice of unmarried couples living together, an official said.

About half a dozen experts will take part in a late-December meeting at the Pontifical Council for the Family, Msgr. Francesco di Felice, the council's undersecretary, told Catholic News Service Oct. 5. A list of participants was not available.

The issue of cohabitation also surfaced during a Pontifical Council for the Family meeting Sept. 27-29 with the heads of the European bishops' family commissions.

Italian Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi of Genoa warned participants that "certain cultural forces of a radical character have the destruction of the family institution as their more or less manifest objective," a Vatican statement said.

The cardinal said that the importance of the family's foundation on marriage comes not so much from the demands of faith, but on

See COHABITATION, next page

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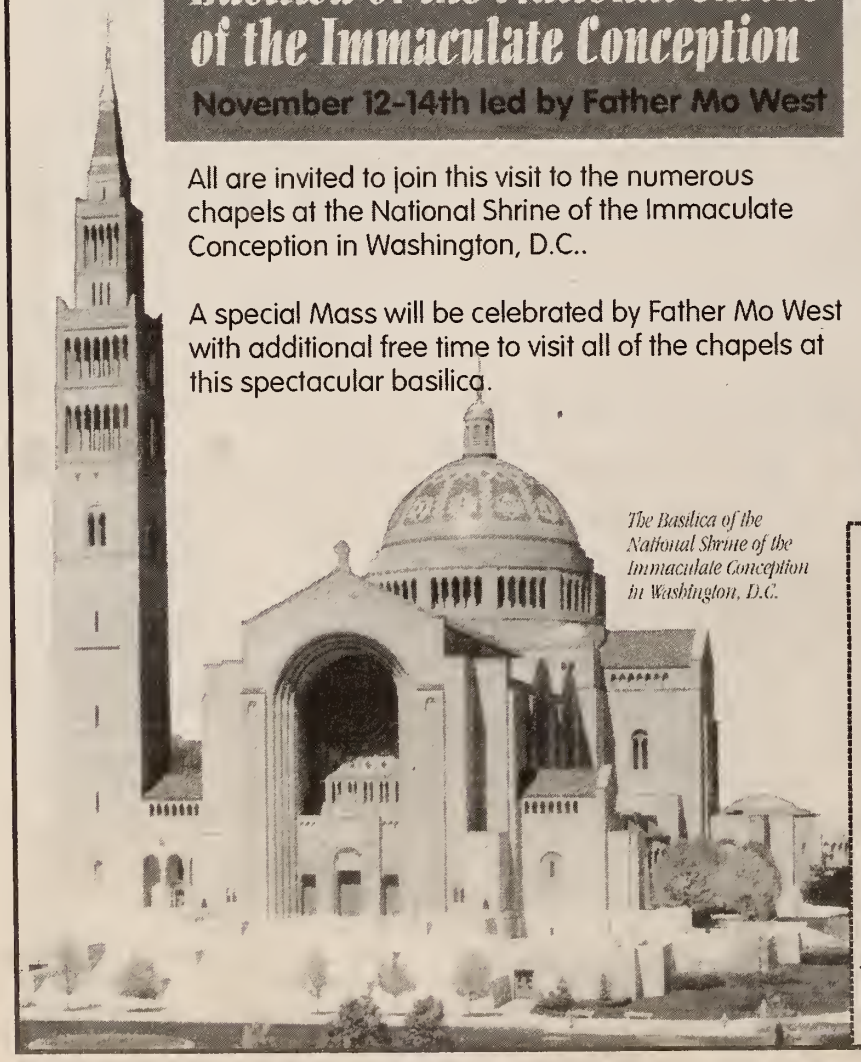

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Sunday, Nov. 14
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Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

9:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

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CSS holds reception for Russian adoption judges and families

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It was a time for judges from Russia and families from across the diocese and nearby cities to come together to celebrate the fulfillment of many of their lives.

The Russian judges from the Moscow Regional Court who make the final decision for international adoption, Marina Vlasova, Elena Guseva, and Margarita Zhelybintseva, came for an East Coast visit along with a reception with the families and children they had brought together in Russia. Families from as far away as Georgia traveled

"There are many families who wish to share their hearts and home with children who need parents. Many Russian orphans would not have the chance to be a part of a family unless adopted internationally."

— Elizabeth Thurbee, Executive Director of CSS for the Diocese of Charlotte

to greet and thank the people who helped them adopt their children.

The Wiedls contacted the Catholic Social Services office in Atlanta who sent them to Carol Meyerriecks, CSS pregnancy support and adoption caseworker in Asheville, who informed them about Russian adoptions.

Barbara Wiedl from St. Thomas the Apostle in Atlanta, said, "the program and the assistance in Russia is wonderful because they walk you through step by step. The judge who heard our case is here today[at the reception], and we were able to show her the positive change in our son Steven Jr. after only two months. We feel as if we have always had him."

"This is a chance for us to realize something that was missing from our lives," added Barbara's husband, Brady. "We are thankful to the Russian judges for allowing this to take place."

The Russian interpreter, Genny Shoubina, who also handles paperwork for the judges, Svetlana Batsoula, the facilitator for Russian adoptions through CSS in Moscow who also handles the CSS visits to Russia every six months, and Nina Ivanova Andreeva, the head of the department of guardianship, care, and adoption, also came with the group.

Shoubina translated for the judges, who said that they felt the "hospitality and warmth" from the people here. They also stated that "[international adoption] is good for the children because when you see the happy faces of those who are adopted, you know that it is for their safety and best interest."

When a couple wishes to adopt a child through CSS, their petition is submitted to the department of guardianship who then presents it to the judges. The prospective parents travel to Moscow to stand before the judges for their individual case.

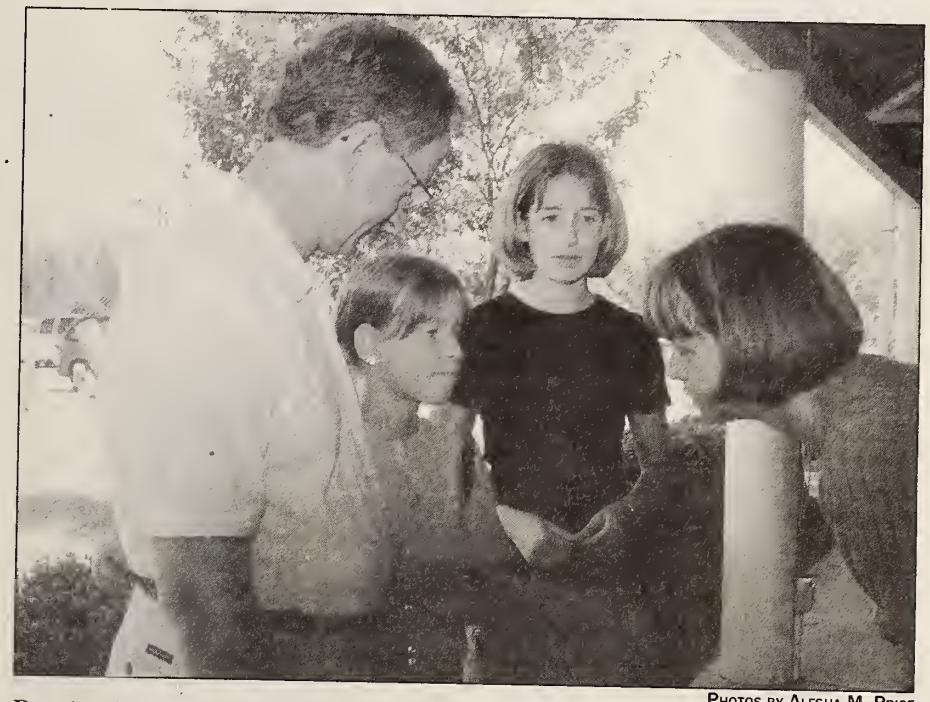
"There are many families who wish to share their hearts and home with children who need parents. Many Russian orphans would not have the chance to be a part of a family unless adopted internationally," said Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We were thrilled about the opportunity to be able to adopt a child, and this has been a blessing," said Ann Woody from St. Therese Church in Mooresville. "It was really nice to see the judge who helped us again in a casual manner because when we went to Russia, it was so formal."

Thurbee continued, "It is a positive experience for most families. There are possible problems with the adoption of children past infancy from another country, but we try to offer as much support as possible."

Catholic Social Services for the Diocese of Charlotte operates the International Adoption Service, responsible for 40 Russian adoptions in 1998 and other international adoptions each year. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedioces.org.



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Russian judge Elena Guseva talks with Donald Allen, Jenny, 11, the Allens' adopted daughter, and Lauri, 13, from St. Peter Church in Charlotte at the reception for the Russian judges at St. Matthew Church Oct. 2.

Calen, adopted daughter of Kathie and Kevin Curtin from St. Monica Church in Atlanta, enjoys herself in the rock pile at Russian judges reception at St. Matthew Church.

Cohabitation, from page 8

the true good of society.

"The institution of marriage guarantees the nature of social commitment in favor of the weaker members, especially the children," the statement said. "Therefore, the stability which political powers must guarantee is not a strictly religious good, but a human good."

Cardinal Tettamanzi warned that laws making marriage just one of many personal union options would undermine society itself.

"A claimed equality between family and cohabitation on the part of society and civil law would introduce family models which cannot be compared in the slightest, and which result in damage to society," the statement said. ▼

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Book Review

Papal biography was a command performance — from the pope

By LOU PANARALE
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What's an author to do when the pope invites him to dinner and asks him to write the pope's biography?

For George Weigel, the answer was easy — not only because Pope John Paul II asked him but because the author had long wanted to write such a book.

Three-and-a-half years in the making, "Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II" will be available in bookstores by mid-October from HarperCollins Publishers.

An imposing yet highly readable volume that runs nearly 1,000 pages, including footnotes, the biography is the work of Weigel, a Catholic newspaper columnist and senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

Weigel has written or edited 15 books, including 'Tranquillitas Ordinis: The Present Failure and Future Promise of American Catholic Thought on War and Peace" and "The Final Revolution: The Resistance Church and the Collapse of Communism."

He said the idea of producing an in-depth biography of the pope first came up in May 1995 in informal conversations with Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the pope's spokesman.

For several months afterward, Weigel suggested ideas by mail and fax to Navarro-Valls on how he thought such a biography should be written.

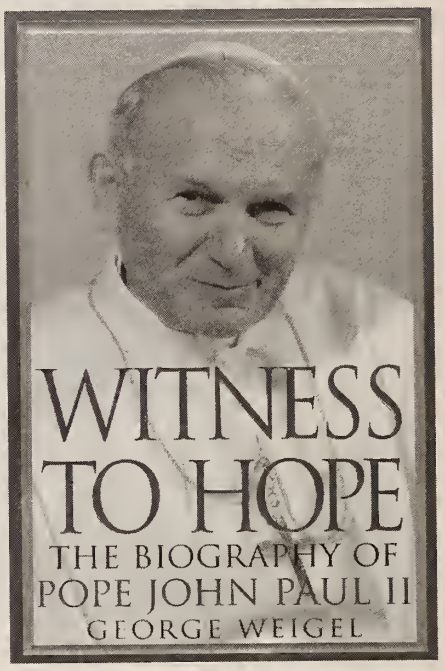
Then in December 1995, Weigel was back in Rome to give a lecture when, to his surprise, the pope invited him to dinner.

"In the course of the evening he made it clear, quite vigorously, that he would be grateful if I would take on the project," Weigel said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

Weigel said that when he first discussed the project with Navarro-Valls, he had the feeling that a lot of his life had been a providential preparation for this assignment.

"I'd been active at the intersection of Catholicism and public life for two decades," he said. "I'd studied philosophy and theology. I had written the first book arguing that John Paul was the key figure in the collapse of European communism."

He said the pope assured him they would meet as often as necessary, and the author would get any needed materials and have complete



editorial control.

Weigel said that arrangement allowed him to write "the first full-scale biography that presents the pope's life from 'inside' the convictions that have shaped that life."

"Every other major biography of the pope in English has approached him from 'outside,' so to speak, as a statesman who's incidentally a Christian, a priest, a bishop," Weigel said.

He said writing a biography from the outside is a little like writing a biography of Einstein and ignoring or downplaying the physics.

"With John Paul II, the theology, the Christian commitment that makes him the man he is, that shapes his thinking, his actions, his decisions, and his encounters with others, has to be the starting point," Weigel said.

While working on the biography, Weigel was in Rome more than a dozen times, for periods ranging from two weeks to seven weeks.

He was in Poland a half-dozen times, attended the pope's World Youth Day in Paris in 1997, and was in Cuba for the pope's pilgrimage there in January 1998.

Weigel also established correspondence with famous personalities all over the world, many of whom provided documents and reminiscences.

Regarding meeting with the pope, Weigel said, "We met 10 times, formally, over meals, and had several other more informal encounters, amounting to about 20 hours of con-

See WITNESS, page 12

Word to Life

October 10, Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
   Psalm 23:1-6
2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
3) Matthew 22:1-14

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

I attended a dinner recently where today's Gospel really happened: All the guests, trusting in God's providence, came "properly dressed" to the Lord's table.

Tom was coordinating a program through which our parish and a rural parish in Haiti were "twinned." The idea is for the two parishes to build a relationship with each other that will help them grow, together, in their relationship to Christ.

Although a few parishioners were closely involved in the program, Tom and the Haitian pastor, "Pere Pol," were the main links between the two faith communities.

During Tom's several visits to Haiti, he and Pere Pol became good friends and determined that the poor Haitian parish needed the help of its American twin to build a school.

But despite his growing love for the people there, when Pere Pol suggested what it would cost, Tom gasped, "Fifty thousand dollars? How can we do that? Here we are trying to get people to contribute to our own building campaign. We can't get more money for a school." Sadly he shook his head, "We can't do that."

But seeing the despondent expression on his friend's face, he gave in. "Listen, I don't see how we can do it, but we'll try."

Pere Pol soon made a visit to our parish. Several individuals provided food and space, and helped Tom organize a dinner to which he invited friends in the community to come meet the pastor. Those who came knew that God had called the two parishes together and that he was generously providing for the people of both as one.

They came to taste the banquet spread before them. They listened intently and looked at slides as Pere Pol and Tom told about the families in Lascahobas, Haiti — about the poverty and the lack of schools to accommodate the number of children who wish to attend.

Tom said: "I know a gift of money seems impersonal. But that's what will help. I know there are groups that go on mission trips to build something. But in this case they don't need us to come build a school for them. They know how to design and build a school in Haiti better than we do, and they need the jobs. They can use the pay from building their school to help send their own children there."

After dinner people made contributions in an amount exceeding the total needed. Tom spoke in awe and gratitude: "I'm not a fund raiser. I don't know a thing about it. This is the Holy Spirit at work. All I know is that if you just love, then the rest will be taken care of."

"The grace of God, Tom," Pere Pol said, smiling.

Question:
When were the times that you happily accepted God's generosity, but weren't properly prepared to truly share in it?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 10 - 16, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 25:6-10, Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14; **Monday**, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday**, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday**, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday**, Romans 3:21-29, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday**, Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday**, Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12

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Show's title character will show Catholicism, actor says

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Art is imitating life, if Mike O'Malley has his way.

O'Malley, star of the new NBC sitcom that bears his name, is of Irish Catholic heritage. So is the character he plays, who is also named Mike O'Malley.

"You know what's going to be great? To actually have a practicing Irish Catholic on television," O'Malley said.

"TV people think nowadays that if you at all express a belief in Jesus and if you're Catholic, that connotes some crazy Bible-wielding lunatic who is closed-minded," O'Malley said. "I'm looking forward to not having that kind of character."

O'Malley, 32, grew up in Nashua, N.H., where he went to St. Christopher Elementary School, Nashua Catholic Junior High School and Bishop Burton High School.

"I think a lot of Americans have issues of faith that they're struggling with. I think that that will certainly be an element of the character as he's re-evaluating his life," O'Malley added.

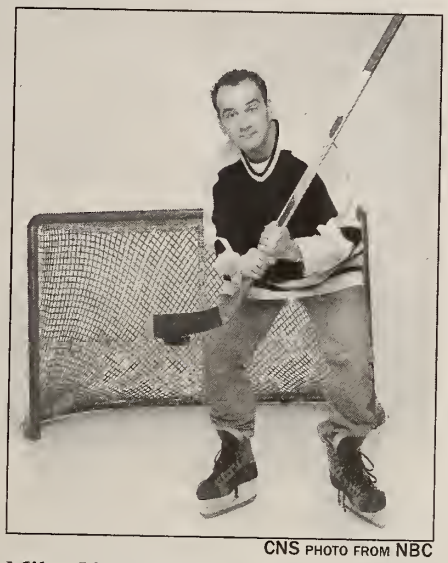
"The Mike O'Malley Show"
Tuesdays on NBC
9:30 -10 p.m.

"When you're younger, when your parents are Catholic, you have a very strong faith. I think it's very easy to not make it your own, to make it your parents' faith.

"And I think that one of the great things about being an adult is that you get to make it your own."

"The Mike O'Malley Show," which airs 9:30-10 p.m. Eastern time on Tuesdays on NBC, concerns the dilemma of a fictional version of Mike O'Malley, who's approaching age 30 faster than he cares for and grows dissatisfied with having coasted through life thus far.

As opposed to TV industry types who boast they're "really trying to push the standards of TV," O'Malley's character "is a guy who's looking for standards," said the actor. "This is a character who is trying to get some standards in his own life. And he really hasn't said, 'How do I create meaning in my own life?'"



CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

Mike O'Malley, star of the new NBC sitcom that bears his name, is of Irish Catholic heritage and the character he plays is a practicing Catholic.

The 32-year-old O'Malley has up to now made his living as a New York playwright, but until his broadcast network debut, most people knew him as "The Rick" on a series of commercials for the ESPN cable channel.

"I definitely take life very seriously, and I think that's what we're trying to do in the show," O'Malley said. "We know that people don't want their time wasted watching television. So we're trying to make the issues important to the characters so that ... people will be engaged in the stories that they're going through. I'm trying to take the work seriously without taking myself too seriously."

Co-starring with O'Malley is his sister, actress Kerry O'Malley. They've worked together before; Mike cast Kerry in one of his plays, "Diverting Devotion."

The nepotism ends there, O'Malley said. His TV namesake will have parents and maybe another sister, but they aren't coming from his own family.

In tune with his writing history, O'Malley said he will write some episodes and have a major say in final drafts of other scripts.

"The Mike O'Malley Show" "is a pleasant enough sitcom," said Gerri Pare of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting in her review of the debut episode.

"In the pilot the characters seemed genuinely headed toward increased maturity," Pare added. O'Malley himself, she said, "was natural and at ease in front of the camera — and the de rigeur sexual innuendo was minimal." ▼

Special documents the still image

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How the still image has come to influence our life and times is examined in "American Photography: A Century of Images," airing Wednesday, Oct. 13, 8-11 p.m. EDT on PBS.

The first hour covers developments from 1900 to 1934 beginning with the introduction of the simple Brownie camera, which cost $1 to buy and turned the nation into shutterbugs.

The candid snapshot became the record of family life, as invaluable today as a photograph of an historic event.

"American Photography: A Century of Images"
Oct. 13, PBS
8-11 p.m.

During this time, photographs came to replace illustrations in newspapers and magazines and the advertising profession was born using a picture to turn a product into an object of desire.

The second hour looks at the invention of the wire photo and the pictorial coverage of the Depression, World War II and the boom times of the 1950s, examining primarily how these photographs were used to influence public opinion.

The program ends with the images of the Vietnam War, the battles at home over civil rights and the counterculture as well as the technological innovation of the digital image and the ease with which it can be manipulated.

Here, too, the case is put for the superiority of still photographs over moving pictures, though the television program itself relies heavily on the use of newsreel footage.

Produced and directed by Muffie Meyer and Ellen Hovde, the program surveys the way in which photographs have become an essential part of American art, life and history.

It covers a lot of territory and raises a lot of questions but some may wish its sweep had been less broad and more in depth.

All, however, will agree the selection of photographs does define the 20th century and demonstrate "the enduring power of the still image."

It's a program many will want to see more than once. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

New at the Box Office

"Random Hearts"

After discovering that his wife and the husband of a congresswoman were having an affair when both were killed in a plane crash, a Washington cop (Harrison Ford) becomes romantically involved with the man's widow (Kristin Scott-Thomas), jeopardizing her re-election. Director Sydney Pollack explores the painful aftermath of adultery in a plodding drama. A discreet sexual encounter, brief violence, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Trivia 2000

Jubilee art contest planned for prisoners

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is asking artists behind bars to send post cards for a jubilee year contest.

In June, the Vatican's jubilee organizing committee invited prisoners worldwide to submit original works on cards — or paper, if they prefer — depicting "a subject of religious character."

Entries would then face a judging panel; winners were to be displayed in an as-yet unspecified location and published in a catalogue for the Vatican's special jubilee day for prisoners — July 9, 2000.

Prison chaplains around the globe were asked to spread word of the competition, to encourage participation and to help obtain materials.

To qualify, entries must arrive at a central chaplains' coordinating office at Via Arenula 70, Rome 00186, Italy, by February 2000. Requests for information by e-mail could be sent to ispcapp@giustizia.it. ▼

Witness,
from page 10

versation in all.

"The pope is a natural, unaffected man. We had been in personal conversation since 1992, so it wasn't as if we were just getting to know each other," he said.

"At our first dinner conversation, at Castel Gandolfo in September 1996, the pope began, as he had always done before, by peppering me with questions about what was happening in the United States," he said.

"I said, 'Holy Father, wait a minute; I'm supposed to be the one asking the questions here.' This produced a pontifical shrug, a smile, and a very informative 90 minutes of conversation."

Weigel said that a year before the pope asked him to write the papal biography, he stated in a column that historians would someday refer to the pope as Pope John Paul II the Great.

"If that does become the case, it will be because, like Leo the Great and Gregory the Great, John Paul met the challenge of the barbarians of his time," he said. "He has championed Christian humanism and defending the inalienable rights of human beings made in the image and likeness of God.

"As with Leo and Gregory, not all of John Paul's initiatives have worked as he might have hoped. But what has worked has been epic," Weigel added.

"This 'pope from a far country' has changed the papacy and the course of 20th-century history, and set the course for world Catholicism well into the third millennium," Weigel said. ▼

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Service blends Native American, Catholic traditions

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BRYSON CITY — Smoke fanned toward the east, north, west and south — smoke to purify. Prayers to the Creator. These were part of a "smudging" ceremony during a Labor Day vicariate gathering at Morgan Pavilion at Swain County Recreation Park.

Most of the attendees were parishioners from St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Qualla Boundary, the nearby Cherokee Reservation. Glenmary Father Tom Field, who asked Mary Herr to conduct the ceremony, is pastor of both churches.

Herr, a St. Joseph parishioner and of Cherokee descent, explained that the ceremony is a method of purifying one's self, home and environment and that Native Americans believe smudging cleanses heart, mind and body.

On the wall behind her hung a piece of buckskin on which had been painted an image of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, who, when canonized, will be the Catholic Church's first Native American saint.

The elements Herr used in the smudging represented the four life-sustaining elements: earth, air, fire and water. She placed the plants, grown in the earth, in a seashell. Sage burns well, so some of that was in the shell, along with sweet grass from New York State, where Blessed Kateri lived. Herr also used palm branches to represent the Catholic Church, cedar to represent the Cherokee, and sacred tobacco, which, Herr said, all tribes use in smudging ceremonies.

Once ignited, the plants burned slowly, and Herr used a feather to fan the resulting smoke into the air in four directions, counterclockwise according Cherokee tradition.

..."Great life-giving Spirit, I face the west, the direction of sundown. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great day for setting, so that when it is time to meet you, I can come with glory."

When Herr finished fanning the smoke, the attendees faced in the four directions, which are represented by four colors (north, white; east, yellow; south, red; west, black), and prayed the "Native Prayer to the Four Directions":

"Great Spirit of Love, come to me with the power of the North. Make me courageous when the cold winds fall upon me. Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes me squint. Let me move through life, ready to take what comes from the north.

"Spirit of Light, come to me out of the East, with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in my words, let there be light on the path that I walk. Let me remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let me be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

"Great Spirit of Creation, send me the warm and soothing winds from the South. Comfort me and caress me when I am tired and cold. Unfold me like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves of the trees. As you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to me, so that I may grow close to you in warmth.

"Great life-giving Spirit, I face the west, the direction of sundown. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun will go down. Never let me forget that I must fade into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great day for setting, so that when it is time to meet you, I can come with glory."

Participants took turns reading sections of a prayer ending with a portion of Psalm 51, which includes the sentence, "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew in me."

Father Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, offered a prayer for work, justice, and dignity for all who labor. ▼

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

The smoke is fanned toward participants in the ceremony, according to Native American tradition, which holds that smudging purifies mind, heart, and body.

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Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization.

Actor brings one-man show to Asheville parish

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — "God's word has become like a Hallmark card to our culture," said Frank Runyeon, "when in fact, God's word is a dynamo — life-changing, exciting, moving. Nothing is more powerful than God speaking."

That belief has set the television actor on the road as an evangelist, proclaiming the Gospel of Mark across the United States, in a one-man theatrical performance. In a darkened church or theater, with only the effects of lighting and 12 seated parishioner "disciples," Runyeon carries the audience back to the catacombs of first-century Rome, huddled with other Christians, to hear the Word of Jesus come alive in the telling.

Runyeon brought his show to St. Eugene Church in Asheville Oct. 3.

Moving back and forth, up and down aisles, directly encountering the audience — now Jesus, now a Pharisee, now a pleading father, now a Roman soldier — Runyeon engages viewers with the raw details of Jesus' journey from baptism to crucifixion and the empty tomb.

The 46-year-old actor, best known for his roles in such television productions as "Santa Barbara," "As the World Turns," and "L.A. Law," has had an interest in religion since his teen years. "C.S. Lewis affected me profoundly," he said. "I decided I wanted to be a layman who could open the door of faith to people and make it seem less threatening."

Born in Cleveland and raised in Pennsylvania, he attended Princeton University, where he studied religion. At that time he also became a member of the Triangle Club — a group of people dedicated to musical comedy, writing and acting. It was here that he gained his start in the performing arts. While he still does occasional television appearances, biblical drama has been his passion for the past seven years. He wants to give the American people substance: help get them more in touch with Christian faith.

Photo by Dianne Riggs

The Gospel of Mark comes alive in television star Frank Runyeon's one-man dramatic presentation at the parish of St. Eugene in Asheville.

Runyeon is seminary trained, having secured his master's degree from General Theological Seminary in New York. In preparation for his biblical theater, he also studied at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena and the Yale Divinity School.

In his performances of the Gospel of Mark, the Letter of James and soon to come, the Gospel of John, Runyeon does his own translations, striving to find the right contemporary American words to convey Biblical meaning. He says he wants to speak to this Third Millennium-poised culture.

"I want to help people experience the power and liveliness — even the entertaining quality — of God's Word. Jesus never said, 'Anybody who has eyes to read, read', but frequently said, 'Let him who has ears to hear, hear!'" contends Runyeon. He maintains that the Gospels were meant to be heard, not simply read.

Preparing for and performing the biblical texts has not left Runyeon himself unchanged. Entering into Scripture in this way has become for him a kind of Ignatian exercise that continues day after day. "It is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God — and this closeness is always followed by new testings," he said. " ... You grow closer to suffering and see your humanity in starker colors."

Attending seminary had a profound effect on the actor. "All of a sudden I was going to God, asking questions. I was going to Scripture, asking questions. God talks. Most of prayer is listening," he said.

Jesus excites Runyeon. "How much he loves the Father — that's the key. All comes out of the love they share," he said. He believes this age needs to realize that "happiness comes from serving other people's happiness." Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, "didn't come to be served, but to serve."

Runyeon visits churches, schools and theaters unaccompanied. The lighting, his main prop, is done by parishioners, including children. In the space of less than an afternoon, he trains the lighting crew, amidst directions, jokes, teasing. At once intense and playful, Runyeon invokes an atmosphere of seriousness tempered by laughter, both on and off stage. He prefers to play to audiences in churches, believing that the setting enhances the people's hearing, just as the performance itself expands people's expectations. "Some people say, 'I never got the power of Scripture before,'" he said.

Runyeon, an Episcopalian, is married to Annie, a Roman Catholic. They have three children and make their home in Westport, Conn. ▼

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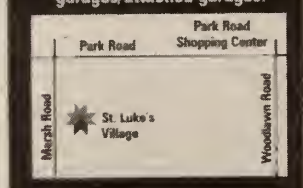

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Mercy community honors jubilarian

By BARBARA NEFF HUTCHISON
Correspondent

BELMONT — The religious community, academic community, family, friends and admirers of Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke gathered in Belmont on Sunday, Oct. 3, to honor one woman's world of work and labors or love.

Sister Mary Thomas Burke, RSM

In the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart in Belmont, the home of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, Sister Mary Thomas' 50 years of ministry as a Sister of Mercy were celebrated through sacrament, music, and community. Charlotte's Bishop William G. Curlin and Msgr. Padraic Loftus from Woodland Hills, Calif., celebrated the jubilee Mass, which was followed by a reception.

The sounds of harp, organ, and song reminded congregants throughout of the joy of this woman's spiritual journey. Evelyn Whitley played the harp and offered reflective music, including "I Wonder as I Wander." Ben Hutto traveled from Washington, D.C., to play the organ. Jane Dillard, a noted opera soloist, brought the depth of her spirit to the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria."

The chapel was full, with close to 250 people attending. This group included many colleagues from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where Sister Mary Thomas ("Dr. Burke" on campus) has taught for 29 years. Others came from as far away as New Orleans, from where two colleagues in counseling education came to share in this ecumenical event. Visitors from other countries numbered 26. Family and friends came from Ireland, where Sister Mary Thomas left to come to America as a young woman. Her three brothers attended: Msgr. Thomas Burke, who lives in Charlotte; Dominick B. Burke, from Connecticut; and Noel Bourke, from Ireland. Noel's daughter, Bridie Bourke, read at Mass.

The guests' responses to this occasion included special mention of the Scripture, the homily, and Bishop Curlin's closing words as most fitting reflections honoring this dedicated woman.

The Scripture for the 27th Sunday in ordinary time became extraordinary when applied to Sister Mary Thomas' life by the homilist, Msgr. Loftus. He offered the piece of her story that he said mattered most. "Here is a woman who is at peace with God, with her world, and with herself ...." he said. "Her very presence, which radiates gentleness, generosity, and love, brings healing.

"Sister Mary Thomas is the embodiment of the words of St. Paul in the second reading today: 'Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.'"

Following the homily, the renewal of vows was repeated in unison by each of the Sisters of Mercy present.

Bishop Curlin offered the closing remarks at the end of Mass. He said that there was one word for Sister Mary Thomas: "elegant." He then commended her for her witness and love. ▼

SEPI board meets in Charlotte

By LUIS A. WOLF
Correspondent

CHARLOTTE — Members of the Board of Directors of the South East Regional Office for Hispanic Ministry and SEPI (South East Pastoral Institute) met in Charlotte for its semi-annual meeting Oct. 2. The meeting was hosted by Bishop William G. Curlin.

Some who attended the meeting were, the Most Rev. John C. Favalora, chairperson, archbishop of Miami; Most Rev. John F. Donoghue, archbishop of Atlanta; Most Rev. Oscar H. Lipscomb, treasurer, archbishop of Mobile; Most Rev. Francis B. Schulte, archbishop of New Orleans; Most Reverend Kevin Boland, Bishop of Savannah; and Rev. Mario Vizcaino. Sch.P., secretary. Other members of this board that attended this meeting were two religious sisters and six lay persons. The present board consists of twelve bishops and ten lay people.

After the opening and greeting by Archbishop Favarola, Bishop Curlin welcomed the members of the board to Charlotte and stayed for the duration of the meeting. Bishop Curlin is a past member of the board.

During the meeting, in addition to the presentation of the different reports, other topics were discussed, including the Regional Encounter to be held October 21-24 in Saint Agustin, Florida, in preparation for "Encuentro 2000".

"Encuentro 2000" will take place in Los Angeles, Calif., next July. This encounter, convoked by the bishops of the United States, will focus on a multicultural process to help better integrate Hispanics into the full life of the church. This encounter is an invitation to people of various cultures to share their concerns and hopes and to learn how to grow together in unity. The theme of this "Encuentro" is "Many Faces in God's House — a Catholic Vision for the Third Millennium".

After the meeting, Vincentian Father Vincent H. Finnerty, director, and members of the Hispanic Ministry of the diocese were invited to report on their activities in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The South East Pastoral Institute is an educational and service-oriented organization that helps the Catholic bishops from the eight states of the southeast region of the United States to develop and train leaders in faith and culture for the integration of the Hispanic Community in the life of the church and society.

This office takes its educational and evangelization programs through the states of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Since its foundation in 1978 the SEPI has helped to establish more than 600 Hispanic communities in the region, to organize an Hispanic Pastoral Ministry in each one of the 26 dioceses, and has graduated about 40 students with a masters degree in pastoral theology from Barry University. The SEPI also offers courses for lay ministers, youth pastoral programs, audiovisual courses, and dozens of other services. The office is located in Miami, Fla. ▼

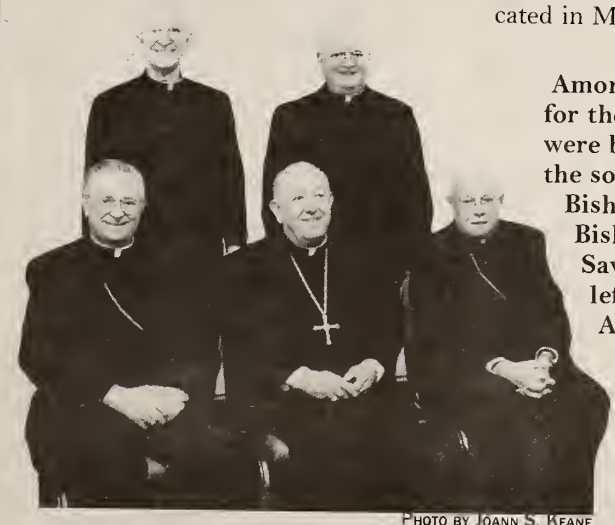

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Among those in attendance for the SEPI board meeting were bishops from throughout the southeast. Standing are Bishop William G. Curlin and Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga. Seated from left to right are Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala.; Archbishop John C. Favalora of Miami, Fla.; and Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, Ga.

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Fidelity key for priests of next millennium, speaker says

By JEAN M. SCHILDZ
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — What will the new priests of the next millennium be like?

If Benedictine Father Mark O'Keefe has anything to say about it — and he does — they will be men whose lives focus on the Word and the sacraments while they seek to evangelize Catholics and non-Catholics.

The responsibility of priests in any age is fidelity to their ministry, said Father O'Keefe, a moral theologian who is president-rector of St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. "Priests will be evangelizers for a new age by doing what they were consecrated to do — by being what they were consecrated to be."

Father O'Keefe spoke on "Gateway to a New Millennium: Crossing the Threshold of Hope" at the 1999 convention of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors Sept. 25-30 in St. Louis. The convention focused on the challenges of attracting vocations in the new millennium.

More than 220 vocations directors gathered for the meting, one of the largest turnouts in the organization's history, said Dorothy Foss, executive director. Some 97 percent of all U.S. dioceses were represented, she said.

In his speech, Father O'Keefe noted that the number of Catholics is on the rise while the number of active priests continues to fall. Some projections suggest that in a few years, half of U.S. parishes will be without a resident pastor.

With the current culture blinded by materialism, consumerism, individualism, subjectivism and relativism, a priest in the new millennium will find himself exercising his ministry to those largely uninterested in it "and perhaps unwelcoming, if not hostile, to it," Father O'Keefe said.

In the foreseeable future, fewer priests will have to serve more and bigger parishes in a culture less receptive to what they have to offer and among Catholics who, studies say, have less connection to the church with each passing generation, he said.

While the future of the priesthood or the shape of parish communities are "not entirely rosy," Father O'Keefe admitted, it should not be feared. We must trust in God, he said. The challenge for priests of today and tomorrow is "to be faithful and effective agents of the new evangelization."

Priests will be effective evangelizers through sound preaching and teaching, prayerful and reverent celebration of the Eucharist, and shepherding of a vibrant and inviting parish life, he said.

Responding to Father O'Keefe's comments were Father Louis T. Guerin, vocation minister in the Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla., and Father Robert Finn, director of the Office of Continuing Formation of Priests in the St. Louis Archdiocese.

Father Finn emphasized ongoing spiritual formation for priests to help them successfully carry out their ministry. The sacraments of penance and the Eucharist are of central importance, he said.

Priests should frequently receive the sacrament of reconciliation and make it readily available to all. Those who "have themselves been moved to authentic conversion through a frequent encounter with the living Jesus Christ will know best how to extend repentance to others," he said.

Father Guerin called conference participants "the principal realists" in the church because they see what lies ahead more clearly than others.

Building on Father O'Keefe's comments, Father Guerin said that not only the priesthood is "in store for some turbulence in the future, but also parish communities as we know them." Noting that this was a good starting point for vocation ministers, he added that this is where both the problem and its solution lie.

"If we keep trying to get viable, healthy candidates out of parish communities that are antiquated and paralyzed because they are essentially being maintained by management of an older other model, then we are doomed to continue to produce priests whose dreams and ideals are squashed early in their first assignment," Father Guerin said.

"After all, if the parish isn't healthy, why should the applicant be?" he asked.

Father Guerin proposed that parish communities be allowed to manage themselves "under the care of a priestly presence that is deeply rooted in 'being' rather than 'doing.'"

"Do not water down the message," he cautioned vocations ministers. The "magnetism" of the priestly person "is to energize, gather and commission the mundane into a formidable community," he said. "It is from these communities that the new vocations will emerge and prosper." ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Celebration at St. Peter's Basilica

Fireworks light up the sky over St. Peter's Basilica in an unusual display in Vatican City Sept. 30. The celebration marked the completion of a high-tech restoration of the facade, which was blessed by Pope John Paul II during the ceremony.

While the future of the priesthood or the shape of parish communities are "not entirely rosy," Father O'Keefe admitted, it should not be feared. We must trust in God, he said. The challenge for priests of today and tomorrow is "to be faithful and effective agents of the new evangelization."

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 15, 1999
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We want your stories of faith.

Share your stories with The Catholic News & Herald.

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Permanent diaconate enhances family life

Retreatants reminded of commitment first to wives and family, then ministry

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — On a Saturday morning, with only the sounds of leaves rustling, birds chirping and acorns falling, several permanent deacons and their wives strolled around the grounds of the Catholic Conference Center. Their assignment was to spend an hour in silence and solitude so that they could hear what it was that God had to say to each of them.

Sister Mary Charlene Nowak gave them this assignment. She was the leader of the annual retreat for the deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte and their wives from Oct. 8 to 10.

"It is important for you to take the time to reflect on who God is for you," Sister Nowak told them. "You are what your prayer is. You need to be who God wants you to be."

Sister Nowak currently serves as the director of theological field education and assistant professor of spirituality at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. She is also associate director of the formation program of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Buffalo. She has worked with the permanent diaconate for 26 years, and was part of the initial team that established the wives program and the curriculum for the diaconate there. She has been a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice for 43 years, and serves as a retreat director and spiritual director.

During the retreat, Sister Nowak also stressed how important it was for the deacons and their wives to spend time together. "Family is supposed to be first," she said. "You, as deacons, receive all the sacraments. Your wives are a very important part of these sacraments as well.

"People are going to look up to you. You haven't changed. You are yourself, but you may be calling other people to something else by who you are.

"Husbands, please remember, you married your wives first."

Josie Pais, wife of Rev. Mr. Louis Pais, a deacon at St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte, talked about her role in her husband's ministry. "I have to help him tune back in to the family," she said. "It won't work if the wife is not sure. Too many sacrifices have to be made. They (the deacons) are refreshed and renewed by us. I know my husband is more effective (in his work with others) because of his marital relationship."

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Sister Mary Charlene Nowak talks with Rev. Mr. John Hubbarth of Our Lady of Mercy parish during a break between conferences.

Barbara Macero, wife of Rev. Mr. Carl Macero, Sr., a deacon at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Charlotte, agreed. "I have to share him more, but part of my ministry is allowing him to minister," she said. "It really is important, though, for the wife to maintain the balance in the relationship."

A permanent deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church and part of the hierarchical structure of bishop, priest, and deacon. He may preach, baptize solemnly, and officiate at marriages and funeral services, but he also has a role involving the ministries of charity and the Word. It is expected that most deacons will support themselves from earnings in everyday occupations, and then perform their diaconal duties during evenings and weekends. A permanent deacon continues the family lifestyle he had chosen prior to becoming a deacon. If he is married, he should be certain that his wife and family support his decision to apply for the permanent diaconate.

> "I have to share him more, but part of my ministry is allowing him to minister."
>
> — *Barbara Macero, wife of Rev. Mr. Carl Macero, Sr., St. Thomas Aquinas parish*

Both Mrs. Pais and Mrs. Macero said that their husbands' roles as deacons have enhanced their marriages. "My respect for my husband has really grown," said Mrs. Pais.

Mrs. Macero spoke of attending a wedding that her husband officiated. "It was very moving to see him serving in that capacity," she said. Mrs. Pais agreed, saying of her own husband, "I enjoyed hearing what he had to say about marriage and seeing how excited he was about it."

Rev. Mr. George McMahon, a deacon living in Morganton, also talked about how becoming a deacon has enhanced his married life. "It's been really beautiful," he said. "It has brought us together as one. I've also been privileged to baptize most of my grandchildren."

During the retreat organized by Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, a deacon at St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte and administrator of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Charlotte, the deacons and their wives attended six conferences led by Sister Nowak. She spoke on various topics, including the sacraments, making God alive for others, silence and solitude, images of God, the importance of prayer, being a light for others, the importance of being a servant, and the crosses that come with it. The deacons and their wives also participated in the sacrament of reconciliation and several prayer services. Sunday Mass was officiated by Bishop William G. Curlin. ▾

Washington challenged to take moral responsibility for Medicare

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic medical organizations say Medicare cuts have caused such a crisis in health care that Congress and the president have a moral responsibility to restore the money. In a newspaper and television campaign launched Oct. 5, the Catholic Health Association and a coalition of religious, social service and medical groups say many agencies that offer medical care to the elderly are on the brink of collapse because of declining Medicare coverage mandated by the 1997 Balanced Budget Act. The campaign was launched a day after the Census Bureau released a report saying 44.3 million people in the United States had no health insurance.

House attempt to cut off funding for SOA fails

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A House attempt to cut off funding for the U.S. Army School of the Americas was reversed when the bill reached a House-Senate conference committee and when the final version was passed. That portion of the school's funding included in the foreign operations budget was restored in the final version of the bill approved by the House Oct. 5 and the Senate Oct. 6. Meanwhile, the leader of a campaign to close the School of the Americas, known as SOA, said he hopes 10,000 people will turn out for an annual protest at the school in Columbus, Ga., and that attention will focus on separate bills to close the SOA.

Religious leaders join push to pass nuclear test ban treaty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders added their voices to calls for the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons. Among those voices was Auxiliary Bishop John J. Glynn of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, who said Oct. 7 at a press conference at the White House that the treaty "is not just a political or legal instrument; it is a moral commitment." "The moral credibility of our country is at stake. We cannot credibly urge other nations to forgo nuclear weapons if we are not even willing to ratify a treaty to stop testing our own nuclear weapons," he added.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Wading through mud

Women wade through mud as they carry food through the town of Gutierrez Zamora in the eastern state of Veracruz, Mexico, Oct. 8. Torrential rains have pounded the area, causing devastating flooding and mudslides.

On bishops' agenda: education norms, age, charity, jubilee

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. Catholic bishops meet in Washington Nov. 15-18, they plan to vote on Catholic higher education norms, pastoral messages on charity and on the blessings of age, and a message for the jubilee year. They also plan to vote on a pastoral plan for adult faith formation and a series of proposals to restructure the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference and revise its statutes. The agenda calls for them to discuss — without voting on — a draft document on church art and architecture, a draft basic plan for the ongoing formation of priests and a project report on ecclesial lay ministry.

'Scriptures came alive' in apartheid struggle, Tutu says

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Dramatic changes in South Africa during the past decade point to the hand of God moving through human affairs, said Anglican Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu, the famed anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner. "In many ways the Scriptures came alive," Archbishop Tutu said of the anti-apartheid struggle. "They seemed to have been written with our specific condition in mind." In a rousing speech, the retired archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, wowed an Oct. 3 luncheon audience of 1,400 people who gave him many ovations. The luncheon was one of several highlights of the Sept. 30-Oct. 4 conference of Catholic Charities USA, the national network of church social-welfare agencies.

Trafficking of women, children a worldwide problem, NCCW told

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Trafficking in women and children is one of the fastest growing and most lucrative criminal enterprises in the world, a U.S. government official told several hundred women attending a workshop Oct. 2 at the National Council of Catholic Women's convention in Kansas City. More than a million women and children a year are forced into slavery-like conditions as domestic servants, sweatshop laborers and prostitutes, said Anita Botti, deputy director for international initiatives at the President's Interagency Council on Women. It is estimated that more than 50,000 women and children are brought into the United States for profit, primarily from the former Soviet Union, Southeast Asia and Latin America, said Botti.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in following events:

October 17 — 2:00 p.m.
25th & 50th Anniversaries
Diocesan Celebration Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

October 19 — 7:30 p.m.
Speaker to Young Catholic Leaders
Belmont Abbey, Belmont

October 21 — 5:00 p.m.
Mass with diocesan
religion teachers
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

October 23
Faith Doing Justice Conference
Queen of Apostles, Belmont

Diocesan planner

October

19 CHARLOTTE — In keeping with the October theme "Help Me, Lord, I am Stressed Out," St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is offering a presentation on Christian meditation, prayer, and tai chi by Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sister Ann Schwarz, pastoral associate at St. Luke Church. The session is being held in the family room of the church parish center from 10 a.m.-noon. For childcare and other details, contact the church office at (704) 435-7677.

20 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies to a wine and cheese social today at the St. Pius X Church Kloster Center, 2210 North Elm St., from 7:30-9 p.m. For reservations and other information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 by Oct. 17.

21 CHARLOTTE — This is the last opportunity to be involved with a four-week training course for those who want to help people affected by death. Bereavement ministry training continues tonight, Oct. 28, and Nov. 4 from 7-9:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center in Rooms A and B. For details, call (704) 362-5047.

22 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Homecoming festivities are taking place tonight with tailgating, hosted by the Alumni Association, and the dedication ceremony of the James J. Oddo Athletic Field before the game. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. with the annual alumni donation presentation at halftime. After the game, there is a reception honoring Coach Oddo in the cafeteria. For information, call the CCHS alumni office at (704) 543-1217.

MONROE — The Christian Book Club of Our Lady of Lourdes Church is meeting tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at 725 Deese St. In honor of the feast day of St. Terese of Lisieux, the featured book for this month

Students receive musical and artistic treat as part of lesson plan

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The sounds of a string quartet, the flute, the school band, and the voices of the entire student body of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School echoed through the gym on Oct. 8 during an afternoon session featuring members of the Charlotte Symphony. This mini-concert was the grand finale of weeks of study through the Cultural Enrichment Program implemented in Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

"The idea behind the program," said Debbie Huffman, director of development for MACS, is to "enhance the students' cultural awareness and to expose them to artistic enrichment."

For this particular program at Holy Trinity, Huffman worked with Susan Miville, the Charlotte Symphony director of education, who collaborated with the faculty at the school — a partnership with the Charlotte Symphony, Holy Trinity, and Temple Israel.

"We hoped to show students that art plays an important role in humankind and the different ways that music and language come together to create songs," said Miville. "We wanted to bring them into the presence of great art and professional artists.

According to Elaine Michaels, the head of the English department and an eighth-grade teacher at Holy Trinity, who played an important role in the formulation of the program, in April, the symphony met with the English teachers from each of the grades and the band and music teacher to decide what their individual focus would be. The sixth grade decided to study the Holocaust, and the seventh grade chose to study poetry and ballads. The eighth grade focused on mythology for the duration of the program.

Miville came up with the broad curriculum guidelines, which were presented to the teachers so that they could give their input. The final plan

"We hoped to show students that art plays an important role in humankind and the different ways that music and language come together to create songs."

— Susan Miville, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra director of education

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Members of the Charlotte Symphony perform with the Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School eighth-grade band for the students and faculty at the Oct. 8 school music session.

was distributed in September to all of the teachers who then added their own interpretations for their classes.

During the week of Oct. 4-8, Charlotte Symphony players were in classrooms teaching the students various topics.

Miville stated, "I tried to meet specific educational guidelines and gave the musicians freedom to do research and develop their teachings around the basic program."

The sixth grade studied the Holocaust and read literature such as "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Devil's Arithmetic." The students had the opportunity to hear the string quartet perform music from that time period during last week's classes. The members included Lorien Benet on violin, Kathleen Jarrell, also on violin, Alan Black, a cellist, and Marie Winget on viola.

David Priester, 11, said, "I like history, so I enjoyed learning about how the Jews still practiced their religion and stayed together no matter what problems they faced. They [the quartet] played music from Holocaust composers, and you can feel the pain of the concentration camps and even some the happiness the Jews felt through the music."

Poetry and ballads were the focus for the seventh graders, who wrote their own poems and looked for literary devices in popular songs. Jeff Ferdon and Christine Van Arsdale, a harpist, were the "substitute teachers" for the week who played music indigenous to that literary period and taught the students how to write a modified form of mosaic poetry.

"At that time in Spain, there was a peaceful exchange of cultures where the Muslims, Christians and Jews were living together," explained Ferdon, a symphony double bass and viola da gamba player. "We presented music from over 800 years ago to the kids and gave them a part of Spanish Catholic history of which they might not be aware."

"The lessons were different from our everyday classes, and I liked having a break in our regular schedule," said Christine Mancusi, 12. "I learned that you can write different parts of a poem and put them together so that they sound good."

The eighth-graders studied various Greek and Roman myths and were taught by Anna Brock, a pianist, and Shirley Gilpin, a flautist, who played selections from Holst's "The Planets" during last week's session.

Allison Wentz, 13, said that "it is interesting how mythology can connect with music and how a song can sound like the description of a person."

Friday's program, based on the various lessons from all of the grades, opened with "Hatikvah," the Israeli national anthem performed by the school's band, and "Hinei Mah Tov" sung by Cantor Elias Roochvarg, the lead singer at Temple Israel. Students read their writings and poems from their classes, and the members of the Charlotte Symphony played selections based on the themes of the English classes and asked the students to interact with them throughout the afternoon program.

Alan Kaufman, the school's band director, directed the eighth-grade band as they played the Israeli national anthem and Kaufman's original composition, "Our Sisters of Mercy Overture."

See SYMPHONY, page 6

is Patrick Ahrens' "Maurice and Terese: The Story of a Love." For details, call Debra O'Neal at (704) 233-5720.

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Jude Winkler is giving talks based on the theme "Year 2000 — Time to Take Stock" tonight and Sat., Oct. 23 at Joseph's House at 1903 S. Main St. Tonight's session "Jubilee Year: A Time of Reconciliation and of Healing Wounds" is from 7:30-9 p.m. On Sat., the first session about the Gospel of Mark is from 9:30 a.m.-noon. The second session about the infancy narrative is from 1-3 p.m. For details, call (336) 722-0028.

23 CHARLOTTE — The North Carolina Divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is hosting the first biennial state convention today at St. Gabriel's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Road, beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, call Rich Barrett at (704) 964-5166.

CHARLOTTE — The Women's Guild of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Road, is hosting an attic sale today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the church hall. No heavy items are needed, but baby clothes, children's toys, and miscellaneous item are greatly appreciated. Bring all items to the church hall Fri., Oct. 22. For more information, call Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733 or Celia Smith at (704) 556-1749.

24 ASHEVILLE — The faith formation program of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is sponsoring a Mother/Daughter tea today from 1-3 p.m. in the St. Justin Center. The aim of the program, taught by natural family planning instructors, is to establish an atmosphere of love and communication between mother and child about human development. All mothers and daughters aged 9-12 are invited to attend. For registration and further information, call (828) 252-8816 by Oct. 20.

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators, western N.C.'s Catholic homeschool support group, is hosting a moms' evening tonight at 7 p.m. For more details, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

26 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy, is the host parish for Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast's two presentations on Mary, "Mother, Wife, Widowed, Bereaved Parent - What Did Mary Keep in Her Heart." The first session is being held in the church parish center family room from 10 a.m.-noon, and tonight's session in the church sanctuary is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 543-7677 for more details.

29 CHARLOTTE — All are welcome to hear the St. Cecilia Choir from Gloucester Cathedral in England in concert tonight at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth East, at 8 p.m. The works of Vaughan Williams, Byrd, Tavener, and others are being performed. A free-will offering will be taken during the performance.

MAGGIE VALLEY — To experience the presence of Jesus on the walk down the Emmaus road, the Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat is taking place this weekend starting this evening through Sunday afternoon at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Limited space is available, so for registration and other details, call Tom Sparacino at (828) 255-0095.

30 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a Halloween party tonight at 6:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish and beverage. Costumes are optional. For directions and other details, call Jennifer at (336) 887-7161.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a non-denominational group for single over 21. Events include Mass and brunch, trips, movies, dinners, and much more. For more information and a calendar, call Ken Kinner at (704) 764-7399 or Dawn Robertson at (704) 643-9950.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Knowledge of God comes through growth in his love

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Knowledge of God is less an intellectual process than a growth in his love, said Pope John Paul II.

"Certainly knowledge of God also has a dimension in the intellectual realm," the pope said during his Oct. 6 weekly general audience.

"But the living experience of the Father and the Son comes about in love, that is, in the last analysis, in the Holy Spirit, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit," he said.

Addressing thousands of pilgrims in a chilly and cloud-covered St. Peter's Square, the pope said the whole of Christian life can be summed up in the commandment to love.

"Everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God," said the pope, quoting the First Letter of St. John.

"These sublime words, while revealing to us God's very essence as a mystery of infinite charity, lay the foundation on which the Christian ethic rests, all concentrated on the commandment to love," the pope said.

This commandment can be traced to the Old Testament covenant between God and Israel, he said.

"On one side, there is God's initiative of love; on the other, the response of love which he expects," he said.

In the New Testament, the dynamic of love is centered on Jesus Christ, the pope said.

"Humans participate in this love by knowing the Son, that is, by receiving his teaching and his redemptive work," he said.

"It is not possible to approach God's love except by imitating the Son in the observance of the Father's commandments," he said.

Initiation into this love brings full participation in Christ's filial relationship with the Father, the pope said.

"Love transforms life and illuminates even our knowledge of God, until reaching that perfect knowledge of which St. Paul spoke," he said.

Christian conversion brings an authentic experience of God and his infinite love, the pope said.

"The new heart, which loves and knows, beats in union with God, who loves with a perennial love," he said.

At the end of his audience, the pope asked for prayers for peace between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which have been engaged in a sporadic border war for 17 months.

The pope praised international mediators, especially the Organization of African Unity, for efforts to implement a negotiated settlement.

"Let us pray that the lingering obstacles will be overcome and the diffidence conquered, and that in this way, an encouraging witness that peace is always possible might be offered to the many 'countries of sorrow,'" he said.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

Vatican II sparks discussion

Just a comment concerning the Sept. 3 issue, on the article "Vatican II sparks discussion at St. Francis." Besides the naïve, sort of utopian haze that marks the whole piece, there is a singular ugly, unjust and inaccurate analogy put forward by Brahmer, comparing the fallen and faithless Israelites of the Sinai desert with Catholics who are not exactly ecstatic about all the changes coming in the wake of Vatican II. This unfortunate comparison is truly uncalled for and certainly should not have been printed. However, the analogy does fit — perversely — in another sense: there certainly has been some "weeding out" going on, since over the past 34 years Mass attendance in this country has dropped from more than 70% to less than 22%. And among those who still bother to call themselves Catholic, two-thirds do not believe in the reality of the Church's central act of worship, the Eucharist, an unprecedented failure of faith.

Articles about the Second Vatican Council should be about the Council itself and not about knocking the past and the achievements of our Catholic ancestors. The accomplishments of the Council do not need to be defended by defaming the past. If there were problems in the preconciliar days (and there were), there are problems, many problems in the Church in our own day. In fact, Brahmer's analogy may be right in a way he did not intend — the past 34 years since Vatican II have been a veritable "wandering in the desert." We Catholics in America have lots of reasons to rejoice in our heritage and not so many reasons to gloat about the present state of things.

FATHER RAY WILLIAMS
Parochial Vicar, St. Leo Catholic Church
Winston-Salem

Different religions in marriage

Andrew and Terri Lyke's column on "Different religions in marriage" (Sept. 3, 1999), albeit well intended, is a dangerously confused reflection with grave consequences.

Some of their advice to an engaged couple concerned about being of two religions was "...discuss this with their pastors, get a sense of what their membership [in their respective churches] means to their relationship, involve themselves in a ministry together, and allow time, work and the Spirit to direct them. Eventually, they will gravitate to one church or the other."

I come away with the sense that this couple could, based on this advice, justifiably conclude that one church was as good as another. What happens to the Catholic member's obligation to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday? What about the great deposit of the Faith received at baptism, nurtured in the Eucharist, sealed in Confirmation to be shared with all those we encounter, especially one as dear as a fiancee?

The Lykes cite that our faith changes; true, but through the grace of the sacraments leading us more deeply into the heart of the Church not out of it. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"For it is through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant, in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the People of God." (cf. 830)

We must never lead anyone to squander so great a gift as the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of Christ.

HELEN GORDON
Leicester, NC

Fire Rally coverage

Thank you so much for the wonderful articles and the marvelous coverage and support you gave us with the FIRE Rally.

We are most grateful.

MICHAEL COYLE
Southeast FIRE Rally Committee
Charlotte, NC

I loved the incredible coverage you gave the FIRE Rally in your last issue! It was indeed an awesome event in this diocese. It touched many people's lives and the fruits from this event will continue to grow. I pray The Catholic News & Herald will continue to feed these fruits with the its inspiring stories and articles.

Thank you for having responded to his call!

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We want your stories of faith.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Do you have a personal, heartfelt story of faith to share?

Can you think of a faith-centered moment in your life that has been truly significant?

Can you share your story in 100 words or less?

The Catholic News & Herald will select 10 readers' stories of faith to publish in an upcoming edition. Those selected will receive a pair of tickets to The Southern Christmas Show, Nov. 11-21 at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Entries must be received by Oct. 29. Send them to:
The Catholic News & Herald Stories of Faith
P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Stewards of the light

It is interesting how certain buzz words pop up in speeches and sermons and during campaigns that try to stir up public good will and consent. Stewardship is one of those words that have been getting a workout lately. Politicians use it as frequently as religious leaders do to assert our shared responsibility to be "good stewards" of creation.

Truth is, activists and philosophers, scientists and saints have been warning us for generations that citizens of the world need to become better stewards — collectively and individually — of the resources we have. Like a wine steward, or a steward on a ship or airplane, we are expected to manage provisions so that everyone gets a share. It makes for appealing rhetoric, but true stewardship is difficult to achieve. Indeed, many of us have trouble managing things because, in truth, we allow things to manage us.

Evidence abounds that the yearning for material things — houses, cars, furniture, and clothing — eventually ties our self-worth to external things. For example, young people struggling to come to terms with their identities are particularly vulnerable to envy, feeling miserable if they don't have the "right" jeans or sneakers.

And what about adults? Forty percent of Americans today have more debt than assets, when real estate is factored out. The average house today has twice the square footage of those built in the 1950s, even though there are fewer people in them. While most suburbanites in the '60s and '70s were satisfied with a $10 charcoal grill in the backyard, grill sales are expected to reach $1.4 billion this year. Sales are strong in the high-end $1,000 to $4,000 range.

Talk about stewardship becomes hollow when envy and greed propel us to live beyond our own means and still covet the riches of others. Why are we so incapable of saying "Enough!?" Why is it so easy to be ungrateful for what we have and ungenerous with those who have little?

In Letters to My Son: Reflections on Becoming a Man, Kent Nerburn wrote: "Somehow we need to find a true measure of value for our possessions so we can free ourselves from their weight without denying them their rightful value." He suggests that his son ask himself if a possession will make him a better person, more able to share, more able to give, more willing to do good in a world that cries out for help.

Maybe we would finally be the stewards God expects if we realized that our responsibilities are not just about managing money and resources, but our time and abilities and character.

Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, speaking at a Stewardship Day last month in his Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., Diocese, reflected on Christ's admonition that we place our light atop a stand where all can see. "Actually I never thought of it this way before, but each of us is challenged to be a steward of the Light which is Christ. By using your talents and treasure for the benefit of others, your light will push back the darkness of greed and envy, and make this world just that much brighter."

Your world, your neighbors in need are desperate for everything you have to give, not just from your checkbook but from your understanding mind and loving heart.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Editor's Notebook

JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

Like sand in an hourglass, so are the days of our lives

With little more than 75 days until the new millennium, it's interesting to watch the *top events of this millennium* pollsters kick out their perceived millennial heavy hitters.

I am not a historian. However, I find great humor with each subsequent *best of the best.* I cannot agree with any popular conviction that calls Elvis the greatest musician of the past 1,000 years, nor do I see Abraham Lincoln as the greatest political leader within the same millennial timeframe. Both good, neither top ten material.

Just this week, I received an e-mail from an Internet newsgroup. This contained some interesting pearls of wisdom, including Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II on their very short list, naming them as the greatest religious figures of this millennium.

No doubt these are two of the greats. While this pontiff and the saintly nun are certainly worthy of making the list, I'm more inclined to call them *greats of our lifetime.* Last time I checked, a thousand years constituted a millennium. Most of these pop polls are more centennial oriented. And in many online polls, results read in terms of decades, not even close to 100 years, and are worlds apart from the entire millennium.

One major magazine reflects upon the millennial top 100. Perusing through the entire listing, very few listings date prior to the mid-13th century. While still claiming non-historian status, I do believe that at least a few events that shaped our world happened sometime in those first few hundred years.

If you follow this list as gospel, then count yourself among those with the memory span of a gnat. However, if you see yourself more along the lines of a trivia buff, sit back and enjoy the ride.

Number 100 on the list — bear in mind this is a countdown, making this the least significant — was the invention of the calendar, dated to the mid-1550s. A footnote points out the Gregorian calendar is a couple dozen seconds from accuracy. Perhaps this timely inaccuracy is cause for the entire list spinning out of kilter.

Number one on that same list was the Gutenberg Bible. Good choice. The first typeset Bible brought the Word to life in the literal sense. This early print press brought the words — biblical and other works — to the people. Before this, literacy was reserved for an elite group of priests, nobility and scribes.

I do, however, have a hard time giving a whole lot of credence to a list that includes the concoction of Coca-Cola as one of the key inventions of the past 1,000 years. By the way, the cola invention is listed as more important than the aforementioned calendar. And as one of the great cola consumers, I have a real taste for soft drinks, *but come on ...*

Perhaps I'm reading too much into the polls. Maybe we should just raise our glasses high with *the pause that refreshes* and toast the mark of time.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What are relics really?

Q. When I was a child at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, our religion teacher told us our church housed a relic (a bone) of St. Margaret. It made a huge impression on me.

While I don't doubt the church had the relic, I have wondered about its validity. Where did this idea start? Does every church have a relic of its saint? How do church officials evaluate the authenticity of a relic? Our own children have never heard of them.

A. The veneration of the relics of saints (some clothing, something they used, even sometimes parts of their bodies) or of Our Lord (parts of the cross, for example), is one of those areas of Christian belief which are theologically solidly founded, but which, as history proves, have an almost built-in temptation for misunderstanding and even abuse.

The answer to your questions requires explaining a little of that experience.

As most of us know, very early on the Christian people began to honor the bodies of saints, especially the martyrs who gave their lives rather than deny their faith. Sometimes, for example, the blood of those who had been beheaded was collected on a cloth to be kept as a reminder of that individual's fidelity and courage in professing belief in Christ.

In time, the Eucharist was celebrated and churches were built over their tombs.

Later, however, the custom assumed some bizarre features. Possession of the bodies of certain saints became a jealously guarded source of prestige for churches and monasteries. When St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican, died in the Cistercian monastery of Fossa Nuova, the monks there reportedly decapitated his body to be certain of keeping his remains. The tug of war between the Cistercian monks and Dominicans for Thomas' body continued for decades.

Transfer of relics became a major international business. The church finds it necessary even to this day to forbid transfer of major relics from one place to another without the pope's permission (Canon 1190).

Not surprisingly, this strange sort of dealing with the bodies of saints was reflected in popular piety in the Middle Ages and beyond. Veneration of relics gave rise to all kinds of feasts, shrines and pilgrimages — such as the one described in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," for example.

Possession of relics became a mark of affluence and power. During a banquet in 1392, King Charles VI of France presented his guests with parts of the ribs of his sainted ancestor, St. Louis.

Even popes eventually became nearly powerless to discourage these practices. Mishandling, and the sale, of relics became one of the major abuses attacked by leaders of the Protestant Reformation.

In 1563, the Council of Trent offered three positive reasons for honoring the bodies of saints. They were living members of the body of Christ, they were temples of the Holy Spirit and they are destined for resurrection (Session XXV).

By the late Middle Ages it was customary, and finally required, to insert a saint's relic in every altar, the old "altar stone." Relics may still be placed in altars now, but only under certain conditions, one of which is that the relic be large enough to be recognizable as part of a human body (Rite of Dedicating a Church, 5).

For genuine relics, an authentication is normally issued by a church agency or religious order declaring that, as far as it is possible to determine, a particular relic is actually what it is reported to be.

Pope explains to children why he forgave would-be assassin

ROME (CNS) — Asked by children to explain why he forgave the man who tried to kill him in 1981, Pope John Paul II said he was just following the simple teaching of Jesus Christ. The pope was responding to some questions posed by the younger members of the Rome parish of St. Catherine of Siena, where he made a morning visit Oct. 10. "I forgave him because that's what Jesus teaches. Jesus teaches us to forgive," the pope replied.

World change begins with self change, peace award winner says

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — "Peace is the same as love," said Nobel Peace Prize laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel as he accepted the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award in Davenport. Those words summarized his nearly 40-year struggle to promote human rights through nonviolent means in his home country of Argentina, throughout Latin America and in the world. Bishop William E. Franklin of Davenport presented the award plaque to Esquivel Sept. 30 on the campus of St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Archbishop says Ventura needs lesson in how church aids society

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura needs a lesson in how important church and religion are to society, according to a Minnesota archbishop. "We realize that Gov. Ventura is undergoing a learning process during his first term in office," Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis said in a statement about the governor's Playboy magazine slam on organized religion. "Our hope is that as he continues to evaluate and examine what is necessary to lead our state, he will choose to educate himself fully on the importance of church and religion in our society and perhaps even learn from our example," the archbishop added.

Saying goodbye Kaltrina Reka, 9, holds her mother's photograph during a burial service in Bernnica, north of Pristina, in Kosovo Oct. 9. About 500 ethnic Albanians gathered for a common funeral to say goodbye to loved ones killed by Serb forces in April. Six of the seven people buried were of the Reka family.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Welsh priest convicted of sex offenses dismissed by papal decree

CARDIFF, Wales (CNS) — A priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, jailed last year for sex offenses, has been dismissed from the priesthood by papal decree, said Archbishop John A. Ward. A statement issued by the archdiocese Oct. 5 confirmed that John Lloyd, 58, had been dismissed in the unusual step by Pope John Paul II after a request from the archbishop. In 1998, the priest was convicted on 14 charges of sexual assault, mostly against young people. He is serving an eight-year prison sentence.

Brother of disappeared former Jesuit won't end search for truth

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — The brother of a former U.S. Jesuit priest, believed to have been killed by the Honduran military in the 1980s, said he would not give up his quest for the truth, but he admitted that he might not live to hear it. "I feel so close to my brother that I will be satisfied with what history will eventually bring forth. I expect the truth to come out ... in a country like this (Honduras), everyone knows what's going on," said 73-year-old Patrick Carney. "Eventually we will piece things together, but that may not be in my lifetime; that doesn't matter to me, I just want to be part of this" search, he told Catholic News Service.

Vatican expert's book defends WWII policies of Pope Pius XII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a book based on 12 volumes of historical documents, the Vatican's leading expert on World War II defended Pope Pius XII's quiet diplomacy and said it helped save thousands of Jewish lives. "His public silence covered a secret activity through nunciatures and episcopates aimed at stopping deportations," French Jesuit Father Pierre Blet said Oct. 8. Rejecting the accusation that Pope Pius was anti-Semitic, Father Blet said: "He certainly was not. Look at all the actions he undertook" on behalf of the Jews. Father Blet spoke at a Vatican press conference to present his Italian-language book, "Pius XII and the Second World War."

NBA star talks to Michigan youths about sexual abstinence

SAGINAW, Mich. (CNS) — Bad decisions can have consequences that last a lifetime, especially a decision to have pre-marital sex, Los Angeles forward A.C. Green told a Saginaw youth gathering. Green, a 15-year veteran of the National Basketball Association, spoke to 350 youths and parents at a September rally sponsored by a group that promotes abortion alternatives and pregnancy assistance. He talked about why today's young people are driven to pre-marital sex and discussed reasons why and how youths should overcome peer pressure and steer away from such activities. The NBA star is founder and president of the A.C. Green Youth Foundation established in 1989 to educate youths to make responsible choices about sexual abstinence and social issues.

Symphony, from page 3

"I wrote the song as a part of an educational grant in honor of the school's new educational building, the Our Lady of Mercy Educational Center," said Kaufman. "I believe the program overall teaches the children how to derive beauty and creativity from situations that they could not imagine."

The eighth-grade girls' honors ensemble sung a 12th-century plainsong and songs from "A Taize Prayer Service."

Barbara Scott, the school's music teacher said, "The kids learned Hebrew chants and Latin hymns in chorus class. The Catholic background of the children feeds into these lessons, and they are able to relate to what they are studying."

Michaels said, "Music is an expression of literature and vice-versa. Both are able to reach emotional heights and lows and the depths of the soul. We cannot separate the two." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Catholic spreads word on faith through adult ed classes

By ELIZABETH LOVEJOY
Correspondent

MONTREAT — Patrick Killough wants to give his non-Catholic friends and neighbors the chance to see and experience a live, walking-around, thinking Catholic who takes his religion seriously. To that end, he is teaching a series of adult education courses at Montreat College Center for Adult Lifelong Learning (MCCALL).

"Most of my students at MCCALL are not Catholic," Killough says. "They haven't known many Catholics, and they have misconceptions about Catholicism." His idea is to introduce modern Catholic culture through writings by and about Catholics, both fiction and non-fiction. And to be an example of a real living Catholic.

The first course, held last spring, was about the Jesuits. This fall he is teaching a course on the writings of British author Graham Greene who, he says, is probably the most important Catholic novelist in the 20th century.

Greene, an Englishman and Catholic convert from the Church of England, died in 1991 at the age of 95. He wrote prodigiously and successfully in many forms, but the most well known are his novels and plays, many of which were made into movies, and were hits both in England and abroad.

Patrick Killough speaks with a class member after teaching an adult education class at Montreat College Center for Adult Lifelong Learning (MCCALL).

For the past six years, Killough and his wife, Mary, have also taught adult classes at their parish church, St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa, to fellow Catholics, some of whom haven't had a chance previously to study Catholicism beyond basic church doctrine. He is currently teaching about Graham Greene there, also.

Killough's career with the Foreign Service took him and his family to the far reaches of the globe, none of which were populated by significant numbers of Catholics. While his faith and roots in Catholicism have remained strong, he now finds satisfaction in studying and passing along Catholic thought, both historical and modern.

He attempts to take the mystique out of Catholicism for non-Catholics, and to share with his fellow church members a greater sense of individual spiritual strength through relevant intellectual stimulation.

Patrick Killough considers himself ecumenical, and observes with satisfaction such trends as the bridges being built between Catholics and Lutherans in North Carolina. He offers his courses as an amateur, he says, although teaching is not new to him. Since retiring and moving to Swannanoa in the early '90s, he has also taught as an adjunct at the University of North Carolina-Asheville, Warren Wilson College and Mars Hill College.

Photos by Elizabeth Lovejoy

Patrick Killough makes a point during a recent class on Catholic writer Graham Greene. Killough teaches adult education courses at Montreat College and St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

Educated primarily by the Jesuits, Killough has witnessed over the years a trend in the church toward more effort by lay people to study and teach to each other various aspects of their Catholic culture beyond catechetical doctrine.

He sees himself as a participant in the trend. He also sees Graham Greene as a prime participant through his writing. As an intellectual and a convert, Greene brought to his writing many questions asked by people who take their religion seriously.

"I think Greene was part of a generation of Catholics in England, including a number of women, who began carving out a role for themselves as laymen," he says. "There was a time when most education was with the clergy. That is no longer true."

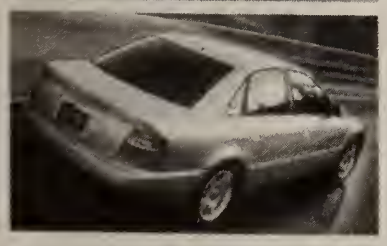
Killough describes Graham Greene as unabashedly sinful, although remorseful. It is apparent that Greene's books were fashioned after his own life, and that his characters seem always to be anguishing about various crucial life questions.

"He wrote about religious components as motives in people's lives — often about people who are Catholics," he says. "Good Catholics, bad Catholics — mainly about bad ones."

Greene's characters have to work out their unique personal (and not always orthodox) religious ties to God.

"I think Greene was intellectually a very honest person," Killough says. "He discovered early in his writing he could not write about things he had not lived. ... And yes, he had his rationalizations about his behavior. But Greene was a tormented Catholic, I think." ▼

"I think Greene was part of a generation of Catholics in England, including a number of women, who began carving out a role for themselves as laymen. There was a time when most education was with the clergy. That is no longer true."
— Patrick Killough, on Catholic author Graham Greene



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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 15, 1999

My Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, Oct. 24, we are mindful of our preparations for the coming 2,000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord. Those preparations this year call us to focus on God, our loving Father; God who loved the world so much He sent His only Son so that all people may be saved through Him.

Today, more than two-thirds of the world's people have yet to hear the great "Good News" of Jesus Christ their Savior or to experience — through the word and witness of missionaries — the abiding love of His Father. How vital, therefore, is our support for the missionary work of the Church.

As Pope John Paul II notes in his message for World Mission Sunday this year, "The Church is missionary in order to proclaim untiringly that God is Father, filled with love for all mankind." On World Mission Sunday, we unite with Catholics throughout the world in special commitment to this missionary task we all share. We should pray for the Church's missionary work and offer our personal sacrifices — our own sufferings, our cares and concerns — in union with the sufferings of Christ on the Cross for the salvation of the world. We should also offer financial help through the Propagation of the Faith for the missionary task.

The missionary work of the Church depends on each one of us. Please be as generous as your means will allow this World Mission Sunday and continue to pray that all of us in the Diocese of Charlotte may be eager and effective witnesses to God, our loving Father and to His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

+William G. Curlin

Most Rev. William G. Curlin, DD
Bishop of Charlotte

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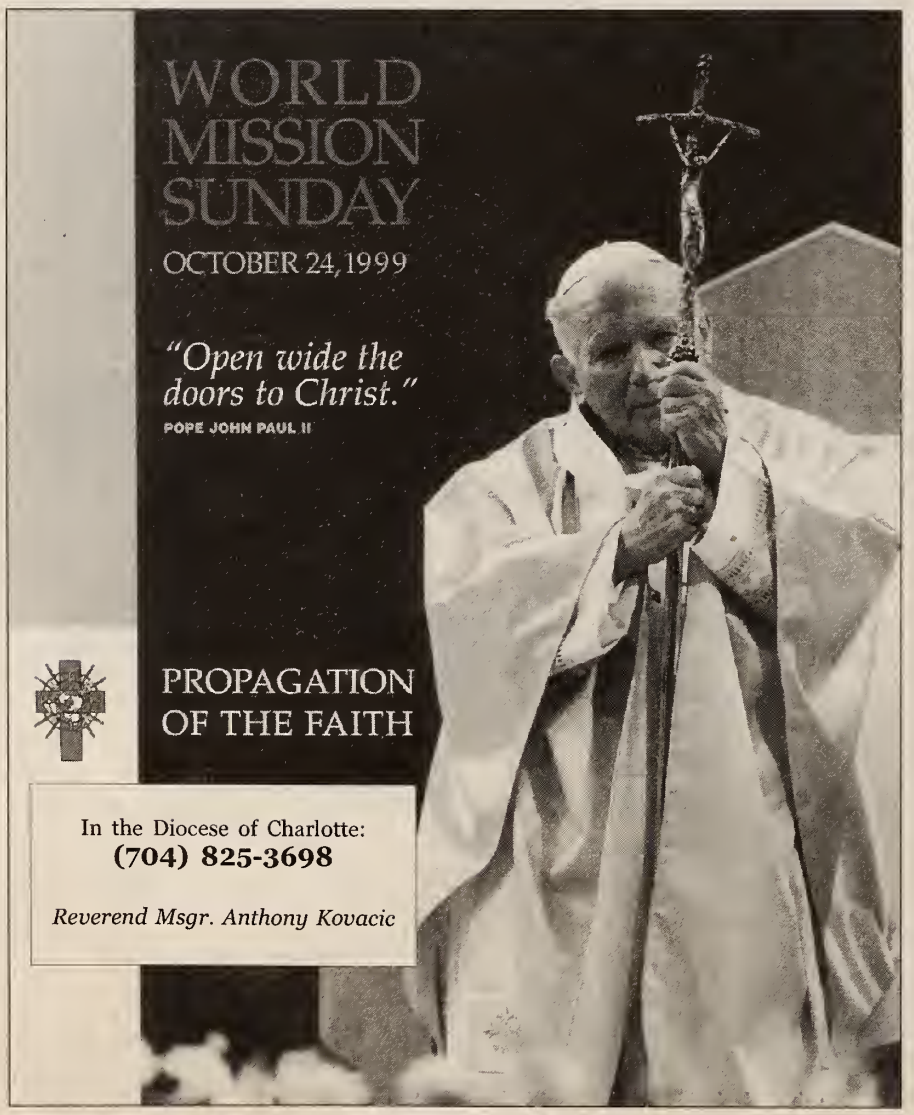

An occasion to express the Christian "passion for mission"

World Mission Sunday

October 24, 1999

In faith-communities around the world, many people have very little in the way of worldly goods, but they have a "passion" for mission and, like Catholics in the United States, express that love on World Mission Sunday.

Father George Stephen, pastor of the parish in Chinnalapatty, India, says that the usual Sunday collection amounts to a total of $5. Despite the poverty of the parish, however, the people celebrated World Mission Sunday last year by contributing $125 for the Church's missionary work. The parishioners brought lunch with them that day and ate together on the church grounds. "It promoted the feeling of one community and kindled the spirit of evangelization," Father Stephen said.

Pope John Paul, in his message for World Mission Sunday this year, reminds the Catholics of the world that: "Mission must be the passion of every Christian, a passion for the salvation of the world..." just weeks before the opening of the Great jubilee in celebration of the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus, two-thirds of the world's people still do not know Him in faith. Who can invite them to Christ but those who have been blessed with the gift of faith and a passion for mission?

The invitation goes out, in person, every day. From the United States, missionaries serve in countries throughout Africa, Asia, Islands of the Pacific and Latin America. The United States is not alone in this endeavor!

Indeed, the Church in many mission countries sends out missionaries: Korean Sisters, for example, are serving in Mongolia; priests from Nigeria are at work in other countries of Africa and in parishes in Texas and Maryland, and African priests and Religious are serving in Asia.

The celebration of World Mission Sunday is a reminder that the call to mission is directed to all and that everyone can answer — and needs to answer — through prayer and personal sacrifice and by financial support.

World Mission Sunday gives Catholics the opportunity to pray for the Church's worldwide mission in a special way — together, at Mass — and to offer help from the very heart of their faith for those who hunger and thirst, even unknowingly, for the news of God's love and His gift of salvation in Christ.

Bishop Joseph Ajomo of Lokoja, Nigeria, says that World Mission Sunday in his diocese begins with a week-long program of talks, bible study and question-and-answer gatherings about the meaning and importance of the occasion. On World Mission Sunday itself, the Liturgy reflects the missionary spirit.

Bishop Joseph Das of Berhampur, India, writes that in connection with World Mission Sunday the people are told: "If our children are given mission education, it is due to the sacrifices of many abroad who contribute from their blessings." And, he adds, "Though our people are poor as a whole, wholeheartedly they contribute for Mission Sunday."

Wholeheartedly, they express their passion for mission.

Today, 2000 years after the birth of Jesus, Savior to the world, two-thirds of the human family still do not know Him in faith.

© Hallel

PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER MASTROMAURO

Abba Leo is "father" to people of all ages in Ethiopia. Here, he enjoys a visit with a mother and her children, one of the families in his parish.

Missionary to the ends of the earth

Reflecting the love of God Himself

A story comes from Ethiopia about a missionary priest, Abba Leo from Italy. 'Abba": the very intimate name Jesus called His Father.

One evening, crossing a darkening forest on his motor bike, Abba Leo noticed an old woman struggling to build a little shelter with some sticks and dried leaves. He asked her, "What are you doing here, mama, at this time of the evening?" She had nowhere to go, she told him. Her people had put her out of their house: "They say that I am too old and eat without doing any work."

"I'll tell you what we shall do," Abba Leo said. "In ten minutes, I'll be back. We'll light a nice fire to warm us up and keep the animals away."

And so it was. In a short time, Abba Leo returned from the mission with a blanket, some food and a sleeping bag. In the morning, he was back at the mission to ring the bell for Mass.

That evening, as he was about to relax outside the mission house after his day's work, he thought of the elderly woman in the forest. And he thought of the hyenas and jackals. Thought giving birth to action, off he went on his motor bike, toting his sleeping bag. Again on the third evening, he was moved to spend the night on the ground to guard the abandoned woman from danger.

The next day, his people questioned him: "Where have you been?" So he told them the whole story. "Very well," they said, "tonight you will sleep in your own bed"; and away they went to build a proper hut for the woman so that she too could sleep "safe and sound."

Father Franco Mastromauro of Awasa, Ethiopia, who sent this story to the Propagation of the Faith, says, "Abba Leo did not need to prepare a sermon on Christian charity for the following Sunday. The homily had already been delivered and well received." And one elderly, abandoned woman knew what it was like to be loved by the Father.

Continually, Jesus spoke to His Father in prayer. Again and again, He spoke about His Father. He was sent so that in every age and place, all might know the Father, and experience His love.

So, too, we are sent. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21).

"Mission" becomes our vocation at baptism as we are signed with the Cross and incorporated into the divine life of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are sent to be missionaries in the daily world around us: in our home, workplace, school, neighborhood. We are sent as well to influence the wider world of our society and culture. And, in the words of Jesus at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, we are to be His witnesses also "'to the very ends of the earth."

Many — like Abba Leo and Father Mastromauro — fulfill their missionary vocation as they leave behind their families and friends, as they travel to a country and culture new to them and, there, live and witness and proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ. Through them, many hear the Word and, with God"s grace, come to live in the faith that is the rock on which our lives are built.

Others — most of us — have a more subtle but no less real call to mission. Ours is the way of "prayer and sacrifice," a way envisioned by a young lay woman in France who wanted to love "without measure, without boundaries, without frontiers." In doing so, and in devising a way for every Catholic to do so, Pauline Jaricot laid the foundation for the now-worldwide Propagation of the Faith, which encourages prayer and sacrifice for the Church's missionary work and is the Church's central means of support for the missionary task.

On World Mission Sunday, celebrated worldwide on October 24, we are reminded of the truth that each follower of Christ is called to be missionary "to the ends of the earth." (just think what the world would be like if each one of us WAS!) Pope John Paul, in his message for World Mission Sunday, takes us a step further. "Mission," he says, "'must be the passion of every Christian; a passion for the salvation of the world...."

On World Mission Sunday, we offer prayer and sacrifice, through the Propagation of the Faith, for the missions of the world. A portion of the offering from Catholics in the United States remains in our country for the work of the Home Missions.

United with Abba Leo, with all missionaries of the world, with all our sisters and brothers in Christ, we proclaim our love for Jesus, our Savior, as we express our passion for mission.

Sisters and brothers throughout the missions serve in pastoral work, in education, health care and social services. Some 10,000 men and women novices in Religious Communities around the world are preparing for a lifetime of service to Christ and to the poor.

Here & There

***Here**, a small music system can cost $699.99*
***There**, $700 is typical year's support for a mission seminarian.*

***Here**, $299.99 can buy a pair of name-brand hiking boots.*
***There**, $300 is a typical year's support for a mission novice.*

***Here**, $29.99 can buy monthly access to a digital phone.*
***There**, $25 can help a catechist for a month.*

Mission News

Fast facts

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Mt. 28:19)

In October 1998, 60 priests of the 662 in the Korean Archdiocese of Seoul responded to Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Tchoi's appeal for priests to be part of an evangelizing mission to North Korea.

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you..." (John 15:27)

Bishop Anastacio Cahango, O.F.M. Cap., auxiliary bishop of Luanda, sees in the midst of ongoing conflict in his country, an increasing thirst for the Gospel. The church cannot respond to the demands for evangelization. Our parishes are insufficient and so are the misson workers. The churches are unable to contain the great crowds coming to Mass. The situation is such, he says, that: "Only God can bring peace now."

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..." (John 15:16)

The first national major seminary in Laos opened in September 1998. Sixteen seminarians are preparing for the priesthood there. In the past, seminarians studied in major seminaries outside the country.

In the past 70 years, some 1,300 missionaries have given supreme witness to Christ with the sacrifice of their lives. In very recent years, 32 missionaries gave this witness 1995, 46 in 1996, 29 in 1997, as many as 40 in 1998. Pope John Paul II says that the history of recent years demonstrates that persecution gaves rise to new Christians and that suffering, endured for Christ and his Gospel, is indispensable for the spreading of the kingdom of God.

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Book Review

Ministry of Mary a 'theological gold mine' for women, author says

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The ministry of Mary offers a "theological gold mine" for discussions on the role of women in the church, according to the author of a new book on Mary.

But Redemptorist Father Jim McManus, author of "All Generations Will Call Me Blessed: Mary at the Millennium" (Crossroad, $14.95), said Mary also plays a central role in church discussions of social justice matters and ecumenism, among other issues.

"Pope John Paul II has said that God the Father entrusted his Son to the ministry of Mary," Father McManus said in an interview with Catholic News Service Sept. 28. "When looking at the ministry of women, this offers a theological gold mine for people to reflect on."

Such a reflection could "open the doors to all kinds of ministries by women," which are already "growing at a fast pace," he added.

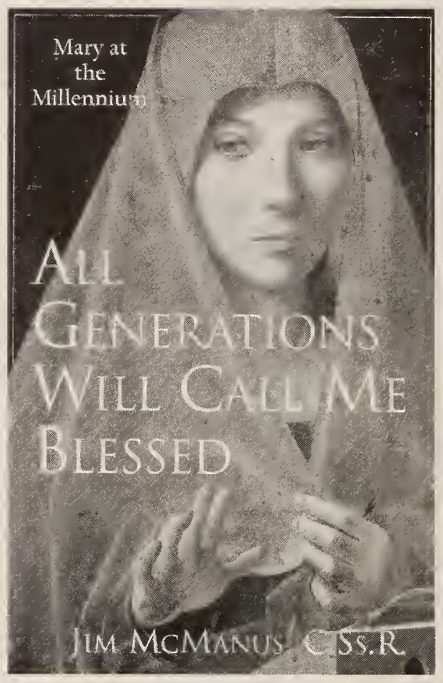
Father McManus, a London-based Irishman who served for nine years as provincial superior of Redemptorists in the United Kingdom, is now visiting several U.S. cities while on sabbatical. He spent a month in Washington with his younger brother, Father Sean McManus, president of the Washington-based Irish National Caucus.

Crossroad Publishing Co. in New York commissioned the book on Mary, based in part on familiarity with Father McManus' other books, including "The Healing Power of the Sacraments" and "Hallowed Be Thy Name."

Although the priest, a moral theologian, had no particular expertise in Mary, he took the assignment because "I had known Mary all my life, and I'm a preacher and I often preach on Mary."

He viewed the book as "a lovely opportunity to tell other people how Mary is known in the church and how we can get to know her through devotions."

The first four of the book's eight chapters look at how Mary is depicted in the Scriptures, by the early church fathers and in later church teaching. The second half of the 184-page book deals with Mary's place in the devotional life of Catholics and other Christians.



Father McManus said the key to Mary's role in the church during the third millennium is found in the Magnificat, her prayer of complete faith in God, contained in the first chapter of Luke.

"The Magnificat is not simply a hymn of thanksgiving for the grace God has given to Mary; it is more like a manifesto of salvation, a proclamation of the fidelity of God to his promises and the definitive inauguration of God's kingdom," Father McManus wrote.

"It can be read and received in every age, in every culture, and in every political and social situation," he added. "In our own time it is Mary's proclamation of God's victorious justice, his reversal of the things and values of this world, which has been rediscovered in a new way."

One chapter is devoted to how many Christian churches are returning Mary to a place of honor in their worship services, after centuries of neglect prompted by what Father McManus called political rather than theological differences between the Catholic and Protestant churches.

"As the Reformation developed, there were two warring camps, in a

See BOOK-MARY, page 13

Word to Life

October 17, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
   Psalm 96:1, 3-5, 7-10a,c
2) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
3) Matthew 22:15-21

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

I think a lot about church-state issues. More than most folks, I'm sure. As a reminder of how many important areas this array of issues hits, I carry a Roman coin, one with Constantine's head on it, in my back pocket.

As Christians, our relationship to the state changed dramatically when the Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity the state religion after a dramatic conversion experience in the third century.

When Jesus spoke his words in Matthew to clarify the issue at a time when the Roman state took a very different orientation toward the Jews of Israel, he gave an answer that was mystically complex and yet clear at the same time. It was one of those incredibly wise answers we sometimes get from Scripture that is specific enough to give the answer needed at the time it was spoken, yet broad enough in its application to guide humanity for all time.

Trying to trip Jesus up, his questioners asked him if it was lawful to pay tax to the emperor. He sensed their bad faith and said: "Why are you trying to trip me up, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." They showed him the Roman coin, and he asked them, "Whose head is this, and whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they said, and he told them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

Governments have changed, kingdoms have fallen and been raised up again, and still Jesus' words of wisdom serve us well. We submit to governments in areas where they are not in direct conflict with God's call to us to follow him and his laws. We challenge governments in areas where there is conflict, such as abortion, care of the poor and the immigrant, the possession and threat of use of nuclear weapons, and improper armed conflict. God's word and the resultant respect for humanity require that we not give up this coinage to the state, for these are the coins with the image of God inscribed upon them.

Questions:
Have you found at times that your conscience has moved you to oppose some action of the government in order to remain faithful to God?

"Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise;... Say among the nations: The Lord is king,... He governs the peoples with equity"

— Psalm 96:7,10a,c.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 17 - 23, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Matthew 22:15-21; **Monday**, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Tuesday**, Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday**, Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday**, Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9

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CNS PHOTO FROM HOLLYWOOD PICTURES

Lolita Davidovich and Mary McCormack star in the motion picture "Mystery, Alaska." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Mystery, Alaska" is mindless sports comedy

By HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An amateur hockey team challenges a professional team to an exhibition game in the slick but mindless sports comedy, "Mystery, Alaska" (Hollywood).

The hockey-mad town in the frozen North is written up by a sportswriter who gets the New York Rangers to agree to play the reputed amateur hotshots.

Before they do, however, the story follows the mostly sexual exploits of team members, the most notable of which is the town sheriff (Russell Crowe), who's also the team's aging captain and has worries about his wife (Mary McCormack) two-timing him.

There are too many characters for any to be treated in depth and the result is a series of quirky sitcom scenes for which script co-author and producer David E. Kelley is well-known.

Directed by Jay Roach, the personal melodramatics are only of fitful interest and contribute nothing to the emotional tension of the big game which is put over by bruising body checks and sports movie heroics.

For all the production effort, the result is disappointing both as romantic melodrama and sports saga.

Because of stylized violence on and off the rink, several sexual encounters and much innuendo as well as frequent profanity and rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Out on video

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"The Boy Who Could Fly" (1986)

A teen-age girl befriends an autistic boy and tries to help him overcome his muteness in a tender and sensitive fable about the importance of friendship for those growing up in a socially inflexible environment. Nick Castle directs this unpretentious, life-affirming movie that uses brief but effective special-effects fantasy to provide some good-natured fun for youngsters. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Warner, $19.98)

"Lost & Found" (1999)

Wan comedy in which complications arise after a restaurant owner (David Spade) infatuated with a French cellist (Sophie Marceau) steals her dog in order to be the hero when he returns it. As directed by Jeff Pollack, the thin premise makes the comic antics seem little more than a stretched-out sitcom. A few crude sexual references, fleeting nudity, much toilet humor and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner, rental)

"Pushing Tin" (1999)

Quirky comedy in which the intense professional rivalry between two air traffic controllers (John Cusack and Billy Bob Thornton) spills over into their personal lives to threaten their respective marriages (to Cate Blanchett and Angelina Jolie). Briskly directed by Mike Newell, the characters' finely tuned performances poke fun at the macho world of controllers whose split-second decisions mean life or death in the skies. Brief violence, theme of infidelity, fleeting nudity and some profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox, rental)

"Something Wicked This Way Comes" (1983)

Disney adaptation of the Ray Bradbury story about a strange traveling carnival that disrupts life in a small Illinois town sometime in the 1920s. The evil carnival master (Jonathan Pryce) fulfills people's desires, but in a way that costs them dearly. When two adventurous boys (Vidal Peterson and Shawn Carson) tumble to the carnival master's secret, they become the special object of his malevolence. Jack Clayton directs with just the right blend of tension and human warmth but some special effects are not for younger viewers. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Anchor Bay, $14.98)

"Time Bandits" (1981)

Witty British comedy about a gang of greedy but good-hearted dwarfs who steal a map of creation from the Supreme Being (Ralph Richardson) and use it to bring an adventurous lad into a variety of historical epochs, including meetings with Napoleon (Ian Holm), Greek warrior Agamemnon (Sean Connery) and Robin Hood (John Cleese). Directed by Terry Gilliam, it is sometimes amusing and always intelligent, but its appeal for youngsters is spoiled by typical Monty Python vulgarities and black humor, some of it violent. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Paramount, $19.95)

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Christians' exodus from Holy Land needs to be known, speakers say

In 1948, Christians comprised about 18% of the population of the Holy Land; today they account for less than 2%.

By RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI
Catholic Standard

BETHESDA, MD. — Palestinian Christians, facing economic hardships, housing shortages and lack of adequate education, are leaving the Holy Land at such an alarming rate that soon there may not be a Christian presence in the land where Jesus Christ lived, warned participants at a conference on Saturday.

About 300 people gathered at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda for a conference designed to "increase the awareness of American Christians to the plight of Palestinian Christians, and to make Americans aware of the conditions the Palestinians live under," according to one of the organizers of the event.

The first national conference for Christians and their Churches focused on "Endangered People: Christians in the Holy Land. Can They Survive the Millennium?" It was sponsored by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) under the auspices of Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem.

The conference outlined economic hardships faced by Palestinian Christians forcing them to leave their homeland: the lack of decent housing, Israeli government, confiscation and demolition of Palestinian homes and other properties, inadequate educational opportunities, no housing and economic development plans, poor job opportunities and political oppression.

Rabie, a Catholic, is president of Image Priniting and Publishing, Inc. and Vision Management and Consulting, Inc. He is cofounder and president of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF). He was born in Amman, Jordan, and his family is originally from Birzeit, near Jerusalem.

American Christians have little or no knowledge of the plight of Palestinian Christians, Rabie complained.

"The media here only covers war between Arabs and Israelis," he said. "We are asking the American public to find the truth and make their own judgment. If American Christians found out the truth, they would do what is right."

Rabie stressed that American Christians making a Holy Year pilgrimage to Christiandom's holiest sites should make an effort to meet with Palestinian Christians and learn of their plight.

"There is something more to the Holy Land that is beyond, say, the Church of the Nativity or the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. If things continue the way they are, and the Palestinian Christians continue to leave, then these churches will become empty museums, just like a collection of dead stones," Rabie said.

"It is the duty of every Christian in the world to keep — and increase — the Christian presence in the holy Land. Palestinian Christians are the 'living stones' of the faith," he added.

Because of the exodus of Palestinian Christians from the Holy Land, the Washington-based HCEF was established to highlight the plight of Palestinian Christians and to raise money and awareness of their situation. Rabie said the HCEF is committed to improving the lives of Christians in the Holy Land by developing bonds of solidarity between them and Christians in the United States.

Joining Rabie in establishing the foundation was Father Emil Salayta, general director of the educational department of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

HCEF statistics paint a dire picture of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. In 1948, Christians comprised about 18% of the population of the Holy Land; today they account for less than 2%.

The population decline in Jerusalem has been even more dramatic.

In 1922, Christians numbered 51% of the population in Jerusalem; in 1978, Christians accounted for 10% of the city's population; and in 1990, only 4% of the population was Christian.

Lebanon has the highest percentage of Christians among its population, but in terms of numbers, Egypt has the most Christians with about 20 million.

According to Father Salayta, there are only about 160,000 total Christians in Palestine. He said that the largest Christian group. He said that the largest Christian group belongs to the Greek Orthodox Church.

The Diocese of Jerusalem, which includes all of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian areas, has about 60,000 Catholics.

In addition to serving as director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem's educational department, Father Salayta, a native of Madaba, Jordan, is also pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Birzeit and general secretary of the Priest's Council of the Latin Patriarchate.

The priest also stressed that the plight of Palestinian Christians should be known.

"We need to raise awareness of Palestinian Christians," Father Salayta said. "Most American Christians would be astonished to know that I am an Arab and a Christian and a priest."

Palestinian Christians feel "ignored and forgotten," he said, "and maybe part of the problem is we did not make ourselves known. Arab Christians are not converted from Islam. We are original Christians from the first Christian era."

Rabie said that Palestinian Christians "feel hurt" by the western Church's apparent lack of interest in their welfare.

"Christians come to the Holy Land, usually on Israeli (Ministry of Tourism)-sponsored trips, so really

See EXODUS, next page

Palestinian Christians feel "ignored and forgotten and maybe part of the problem is we did not make ourselves known. Arab Christians are not converted from Islam. We are original Christians from the first Christian era."

— Father Emil Salayta, director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem's educational department and pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Birzeit

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Exodus, from previous page

they are vacations, not pilgrimages," Rabie said.

"Western Christians come to the Holy Land and have nothing to do with us, their brothers and sisters in faith."

When western Christians meet Christians living in the Holy Land, he added, "they will learn that we are the original Christians, we've been there since the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Noting the strong ties between Palestinian Christians and Palestinian Muslims, Father Salayta said, "We are Christians, but we share the same history, the same aspirations, the same blood and the same pain as our Palestinian Muslim brothers."

The priest added that Palestinian Muslims "feel that we Christians are part of the Palestinian family," and that many Christians are active in and hold important posts in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Pointing to Pope John Paul II's Jubilee Year trip to the Holy Land next March, Rabie said that "his visit is a good thing, because it will shed light on the problems of Palestinian Christians."

"The pope has always asked for a shared Jerusalem and for freedom, justice and respect for Palestinian Christians, 'the forgotten faithful'," he said.

The HCEF, Rabie said, was founded earlier this year and is comprised of a group of "good American Christians who want to help Palestinian Christians." The foundation seeks to provide "schools, good living conditions and peace" so that Palestinian Christians do not leave the Holy Land, he added.

"Collecting money is important, and we hope our American Christian brothers and sisters would respond to our plea," Rabie said. "But just as important is for our American brothers and sisters to help us with a lasting and just peace."

The HCEF seeks to raise money for programs that will encourage and assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land. Its goals are to educate Americans about the plight of Palestinian Christians, develop church-to-church, family-to-family and person-to-person partnership programs, and to finance employment, educational and housing projects for Christians in the Holy Land.

"The American people are open-hearted once they know about the living conditions of many Palestinian Christians," Father Salayta said. "The Holy Land is where we live, but every Christian in the world should feel that they belong to the Holy Land."

"We have to figure out practical steps of solidarity," the priest said.

From the time Israel was proclaimed a nation in 1948 until the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Jerusalem was a divided city. East Jerusalem, including the Old City, was under Jordanian rule; and West Jerusalem was controlled by Israel. During the war, Israel captured the city and it has been under Israeli control since then. In addition to Jerusalem, Israel also captured the areas of biblical Judea and Samaria, including the towns of Schechem, Shiloh, Bethel, Bethlehem and Hebron.

"We are at the critical stage where many Palestinians are emigrating to the west."

Saturday's conference was one of several recent programs to highlight the needs of Palestinian Christians.

On Monday, Father Majdi Siryani, the legal advisor to the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, and Bishop Mounib A. Younan, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, presented a briefing in the U.S. Senate Dirksen building on the problems facing Palestinian Christians living in Jerusalem.

The presentation was jointly sponsored by the HCEF, Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding (EMEU), and the American Committee on Jerusalem (ACJ). Bishop Youman and Father Siryani offered Evangelical and Catholic positions on the status on Jerusalem, as well as discussing the conditions leading to Christian emigration from Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

Palestine encompasses the region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. In 1947, most of the territory became the state of Israel when the United Nations ratified a partition plan. The state of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948.

From the time Israel was proclaimed a nation in 1948 until the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Jerusalem was a divided city. East Jerusalem, including the Old City, was under Jordanian rule; and West Jerusalem was controlled by Israel. During the war, Israel captured the city and it has been under Israeli control since then.

In addition to Jerusalem, Israel also captured the areas of biblical Judea and Samaria, including the towns of Shechem, Shiloh, Bethel, Bethlehem and Hebron.

On Nov. 15, 1988, the legislation body of the Palestine Liberation Organization declared Palestine and independent state and voted to accept UN resolutions that recognized Israel's right to exist. Israel at first refused to deal with the PLO, but in 1993, Israel agreed to recognize the PLO and grant limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The pact was signed in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993. In September 1995 Israel signed an agreement transferring control of much of the occupied West Bank to the Palestinian Authority.

The Vatican formally recognized Israel after each of the two sides in the conflict recognized the existence of each other. The Vatican has also stressed that Palestinians have the right to sovereignty over their land and to freedom and self-determination. ▼

Persons interested in contacting the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation can write to P.O. Box 6687, Silver Spring, MD 20906, or call (301) 871-9222.

This story is reprinted with permission from the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

Book-Mary, from page 10

literal sense, ... and anything with a specifically Catholic hallmark was rejected," he said.

As a result, devotion to Mary was rejected in the Protestant churches, and the Bible — identified more strongly with the Protestants — was rejected for decades by many Catholics, he added.

But Martin Luther "had a tremendous devotion to Mary to his dying day," Father McManus said, "and he preached at least 65 sermons on Mary."

Today devotion to Mary is finding a place again in the life of the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican churches, and there is a thriving international Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded 30 years ago, the author said.

Father McManus said the best compliment he has received about the book to date came from a young colleague who read it at his request before publication.

"He said, 'This is something I'd like all my Protestant friends to read.' He saw it as a way he could introduce his friends to Mary in a theological way, but not the Mary that many Protestants would reject." ▼

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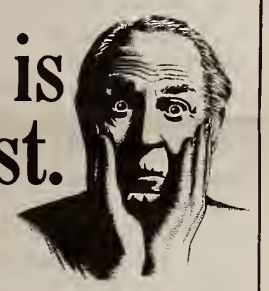

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COURTESY PHOTO

Capuchin Friars elect new leadership

Capuchin Friars of the Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis recently celebrated their 11th provincial chapter at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon, N.Y. The province territory extends along the East Coast of the United States from New Jersey to Florida, with several missionary friars in Zambia, Africa, and Monterrey, Mexico. The assembled chapter members voted the following friars to the new provincial council: (from left to right) Father Kellen Mears, OFM Cap., to vicar provincial; Father John LoSasso, OFM Cap., to fourth councillor; Father John Aurilia, OFM Cap., serving in Hendersonville, to second councillor; Father Vincent Fortunato, OFM Cap., to provincial minister; and Father Jude Duffy, OFM Cap., serving in Charlotte, to third councillor.

Fire in the Mountains to ignite the faith of diocesan participants

WAYNESVILLE — The theme "be still and know our Creator" will be the focal point for Father David Valtierra, director of the Oratory Center for Spirituality in Rock Hill, S.C., as he leads "Fire in the Mountains 1999," a project of faith formation leaders of the Western Region, on Nov. 13 at Haywood Community College.

Father Valtierra, a northern California native who studied philosophy at Catholic University and philosophy at Graduate Theological Union in Washington, D.C., will present two sessions dealing with the themes "the gift of life in creation" and "the culmination of creation in Jesus." Participants will ponder the questions "how do we listen to God?" and "where do we find God today?"

After each of the large group sessions, the attendants will break into small groups for prayerful and personal reflection. Father Valtierra will read three passages from Ezekiel, Mark, and First Kings to evoke internalization of the topic at hand.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with registration and refreshments and will move to greetings and prayer. Bishop William G. Curlin will speak to the participants during the morning greeting. After the first large and small group sessions, lunch will take place followed by the second large and small group sessions. A short blessing liturgy and a general evaluation will end the day at 3:30 p.m.

For details about registration and participation, call Ann Lazar at (828) 253-0216. ▼

Catholic Schools Office welcomes national speakers

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — A panel of nationally recognized Catholic educators will address teachers of elementary, middle and high school students from throughout western North Carolina Oct. 22 in a series of in-service workshops sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Schools Office.

Workshops for teachers in the diocese's two high schools will gather at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. for presentations by Jesuit Father James DiGiacomo and Mike Mosely. Father DiGiacomo, a widely published writer and a theology teacher at Regis High School in New York City, will discuss moral development in adolescence by focusing on developmental, sociological, philosophical and theological factors. Mosely, who works for the Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Conn., will explore principles and strategies for comprehensive ministry to high school students.

Workshops for middle school teachers will be hosted at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Road, in Charlotte from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. David Anderson, a parish liturgy and music director and workshop coordinator of GIA Publications, Inc., in Chicago, will discuss prayer, music and liturgy for middle school students. North Carolina native Mike Hagarty, project coordinator of youth ministry services for the Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Conn., will explain strategies for comprehensive ministry to young people in this age group.

Workshops for elementary school teachers will be at St. Gabriel School, 3028 Providence Rd., in Charlotte from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. Christopher Walker, a lecturer, composer and conductor, will talk about incorporating worship music in liturgy, in the classroom and at home. Kathy Coffey, a representative of Living the Good News, Inc., in Denver, Colo., will discuss ways of educating children to become active participants in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Also at St. Gabriel School, Julie Howard, a songwriter and founder of the children's vocal group The Crayons, will teach Scripture-based music that engages elementary students. Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Eleanor Perfetto, on staff at St. Thomas University in St. Louis, Mo., will focus on how teachers bring a Christian presence to those they teach. Dorothy McLaughlin, on staff at Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., will discuss how art can remind teachers and parents of the responsibility to their students and children.

"The speakers who will visit us later this month are known throughout the country for their talents in Catholic education," said Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the Catholic Schools Office.

"As the church moves into the new millennium, we must offer educators ways to update their knowledge and skills to meet diverse challenges and needs of our students," she added.

The workshops are primarily for educators, though parents, liturgists and other interested persons are invited to attend. Advance registration is required. Lunch will be served at each of the presentation sites. For registration and further information on these and other programs, call Sister Maureen at (704) 370-3268. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for many favors and answered prayers. DMS

The Franciscan Center

Downtown Greensboro center serves ecumenical needs of community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — In 1990, two significant things happened in the Diocese of Charlotte. The Catholic-Lutheran covenant was signed, and the Franciscan Center opened its doors. Though not related, the two events intertwined that season. Retired Lutheran Bishop Michael C.D. McDaniel hosted the interfaith pact at First Lutheran Church in Greensboro with former Charlotte Bishop John F. Donoghue and Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman. A ceremony followed at the newly opened Franciscan Center in honor of the signing of the covenant.

"One of our goals is to be a presence in the marketplace in downtown Greensboro," said Franciscan Father Louis J. Canino, director of the center. "We want to provide quality outreach to the alienated and offer people another spirituality that is basically Franciscan."

A good description of the Franciscan Center is that it is has a little something for everyone. On the first floor is the bookstore and gift shop where volunteers work throughout the week. The articles include rosaries, religious greeting cards, crucifixes, spiritual books and other gifts.

"We enjoy ordering special items for customers, and we run across interesting books through those orders," said Betsy Farmun, a part-time volunteer. "Since we are the only Catholic bookstore in the Greensboro Vicariate, we have customers from all over shopping here. We become a part of people's lives and their special events."

Housed on the first and second floors are large areas where people from the community can have meetings. On Wednesdays, Father Canino celebrates Mass at noon. The second floor of the center is the gathering area for over 300 12-step groups like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Also on the second floor are the Greensboro Offices of Catholic Social Services and Faith Formation.

One of the main public attractions is the noon lunch program that takes place once or twice a month with speakers from various denominations. One of the speakers, Retired Rev. Mr. Brady Faggart of First Lutheran Church, is a part of the advisory team and "represents the interests of the broader ecumenical community as in planning and local operations." His March talk was entitled "The Upside Down Kingdom: An Invitation to a Transformed Life."

"The center helps Protestants learn more about the Roman Catholic and Franciscan traditions and serves as a type of educational outreach," said Rev. Mr. Faggart. "The center was an outgrowth of the signing of the Catholic and Lutheran covenant and an attempt to find a common meeting place for everyone." In fact, the meetings of the Catholic-Lutheran committee have taken place in the center every month.

Father Canino added, "Those from other faith traditions have helped to continue the ecumenical theme of the center."

Father Canino spoke at one of the recent noon lunch programs on October 4. In celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, his talk "St. Francis of Assisi: The Revolution He Began and How It is Needed in Our Time" focused on how St. Francis enacted social change. To achieve that task, St. Francis simply questioned what was happening socially and politically during his life.

Father Canino described St. Francis' appreciation for all of God's creation, especially the animal world, and his idea of brotherhood and equality, which was radical during the time of the strict class system in Europe.

St. Francis was also under scrutiny because of his criticism of the heresy and indulgences that dominated church life during that period; therefore, St. Francis made a shift from the church and formed his own community.

Father Canino then handed out sheets of crime and poverty statistics for the crowd and asked, "what can we do as individuals and groups?" His point was "how can we model ourselves after St. Francis."

One participant, Elizabeth Ries, a parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro, has attended many of the lunch programs including the October 4 session. "I love to hear Father Canino's talks because he is very tuned into people. I come here [to the Franciscan Center] because it is an ecumenical place to gather. It is uplifting in a spiritual and social way," said Ries. ▼

To find out more about The Franciscan Center, call (336) 273-2554.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Franciscan Father Louis J. Canino, director of the Franciscan Center, talks with one of the participants in the center's bookstore after the Oct. 4 lunch session about the influence of St. Francis of Assisi.

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CRS donates thousands of seedlings for reforestation in Sierra Leone

By ALPHA JALLOH
Catholic News Service

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services donated more than 240,000 acacia tree seedlings for a government reforestation program in Freetown to remedy the area's serious erosion problem.

CRS project officer Thomas Foray said the donation was made through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

"It was meant to enable the ministry to reforest the hills of Freetown. They have been deforested by woodcutters," he said.

According to CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, the project will target 200 acres of deforested land, and local farmers will care for the seedlings. The first were planted in September.

Baika Sesay, CRS' senior manager for programming in Sierra Leone, said, "The plan is to get communities along the hills to take permanent responsibility for planting and caring for these trees."

During the rebel takeover of eastern Freetown in January, thousands of civilians could not travel outside the city to get wood, the main fuel for cooking, so they cut down trees on the hillsides of the nearby mountains, said a CRS statement.

Foray said that the deforestation of hills has caused many areas to be flooded during the rainy season.

"The worst affected areas are those closer to the sea, inhabited by fishermen. Their houses are sometimes swept into the sea by the flood," he said.

In 1998, two people were killed when the walls of a mud house fell on them as a result of seven days of continuous rainfall, which caused disastrous erosion. The deaths, at an area known as Mabella, caused the government to evacuate all the inhabitants. The area has since then been declared unsafe for habitation.

Sam Allieu of Sierra Leone's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, said: "We have involved youths in the tree-planting exercise. If we do not reforest the hills, houses on the seaside will be inundated with water flowing from the hills. And this sometimes results into awful incidents."

He said the help rendered by CRS is timely and will help to save the environment from further degradation.

"People have lost their lives in the past as a result of torrential rainfalls. This can be attributed to the deforestation of the hills. We want to avert the recurrence of such awful incidents," he said.

Allieu added, "If other charitable organizations follow the example of CRS, we shall extend the environmental conservation to areas outside Freetown."

He pointed out that Freetown is partially surrounded by hills.

"If we do not do something now to curb the torrents from the hills, many more people will likely lose their lives in the future," he said.

Drownings in street gutters has become a common occurrence during the rainy seasons, Allieu said.

"The streets are usually overflowed with water and people find it difficult to locate gutters. They get drowned while trying to cross over from one street to the other," he said.

At least 50 such incidents have been reported in the last two years, he said.

"That is why we very much appreciate the financial assistance given to us by CRS," he said. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Bishop Belo returns to East Timor

Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo greets a crowd of well-wishers outside his ruined home in Dili, East Timor, Oct. 6. Bishop Belo returned to the island after fleeing a month earlier when pro-Indonesian militias attacked his residence.

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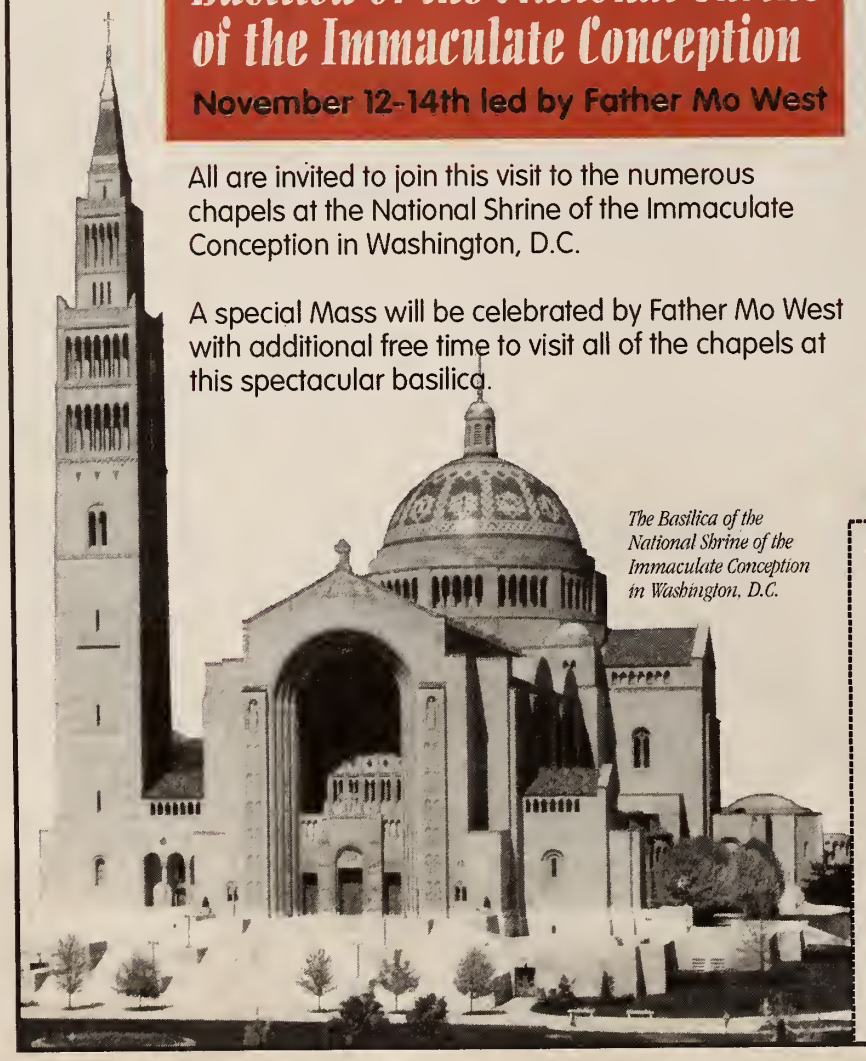

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Celebrating the sacrament of marriage

David Foskey gives his wife Laura a kiss as they cut the silver anniversary cake at the 25th and 50th anniversary Mass reception at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte on Oct. 17. The Foskeys, celebrating their 25th anniversary, are parishioners of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville. See story page 3.

Seniors reflect on gifts on faith, happiness at annual retreat

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — The rain didn't dampen the spirits of 170 senior citizens who traveled from many parishes in the diocese to take part in the Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors on Wednesday, Oct. 13. Jesuit Father Lawrence Hunt noticed this right away.

"Where God is, there should be smiles. There should be good cheer," he said to the group. Father Hunt, 72, is currently the pastor at St. Benedict the Moor parish in Winston-Salem and at Good Shepherd mission in King. He kept his audience laughing and listening with several stories he told about his childhood beliefs about the church, the time he spent in India doing missionary work, and his recent experience with lung cancer. He gave two talks during the day, and the first one was about happiness.

"The world desperately needs happiness, peace, . . . recognition, acceptance," he said. "If you have it, this is your great gift to bring to our world. When we were younger and on a tear, that's what we were supposed to do back then. Now we are more aware of God's presence beside us.

"We feel useless and helpless when we get older, but maybe that's our finest hour. Your prayers can help the entire world."

The Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors, held at the Catholic Conference Center, was sponsored by Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministries program. Sandra Breakfield, program director, organized the day. Elder Ministries also sponsors a Spring Fling every year that provides a variety of social and spiritual activities.

Father Hunt's second talk during the day was about seeing Christ in others. "It's not easy to see Christ in others all the time," he said. "It is a challenge."

"They will experience the kindness of Christ, the acceptance of Christ, through your acceptance of them," he said. "The thing that I don't like about another person usually reflects a quality that I might have, in some degree. If we accept and love people the way they are, sometimes it makes it easier for them to change."

Father Hunt also suggested that the members of the audience should try to do some volunteer work that they enjoy. "We need to get busy and do what we can to help others," he said. "The purpose of volunteering is to meet Christ in the people who come by. I think we have a spirit of joy. I think we have a twinkle in our eye.

"Somehow, hang in there through all the difficulties, and help other people through your joy."

One person in the audience, Coletta Carter, a member of Holy Family parish in Winston-Salem, said that her favorite moment of the day was when Father Hunt commented that "God has two faults. He can't remember and he can't count,"

SEE FALL DAY, PAGE 14

Vatican urges young people to help world's hungry

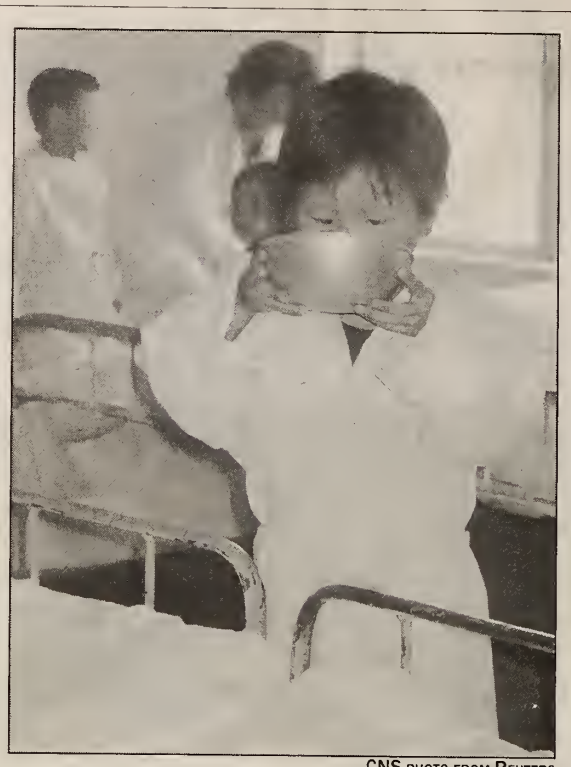
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young people can start building a better world by helping the world's hungry, a Vatican statement said. "The presence on our planet of millions of people still suffering from malnutrition is intolerable," said a message from the Vatican secretary of state marking Oct. 15, World Food Day. "It represents a true and permanent threat to peace," said Cardinal Angelo Sodano, writing on behalf of Pope John Paul II to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Chinese-language catechism omits sentence rejecting atheism

HONG KONG (CNS) — The Chinese-language "Catechism of the Catholic Church" printed by a Catholic publishing house in China omits a sentence that rejects atheism and seems critical of communism. The passage in Paragraph 2425 of the 1994 Vatican-approved catechism prevented Faith Press in Hebei province from obtaining a government printing permit, required for all publications in China, said a priest familiar with the situation. UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported that Volume 3 of the Faith Press catechism, issued in August, has two blank lines in the entry. The missing section is in Article 7, Section III, "The Social Doctrine of the Church" in the treatment of the Seventh Commandment, "You shall not steal."

Bishop calls Senate treaty vote a major arms control defeat

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops called the U.S. Senate's rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty "a major defeat for arms control" and a blow to U.S. moral credibility. "This vote makes it more difficult for our nation to fulfill its moral responsibility as a world leader to work with other nations to promote international peace and security," said Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, conference president. By a 51-48 vote, the Senate Oct. 13 rejected the treaty — signed by President Clinton in 1996 — that seeks to stop all nuclear testing by signatory nations. The treaty also covers monitoring procedures and sanctions against violators.



Doctors Without Borders wins Nobel Peace Prize
A child sips fortified milk donated by the aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders, at hospital in North Korea in this file photo from May 1998. The organization won the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize for their work in providing emergency medical assistance around the world.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

French bishops criticize legalization of unmarried unions

PARIS (CNS) — France's bishops warned that a new law giving legal status to unmarried couples, including homosexuals, was the first step toward further legislation to undermine the traditional family. The bishops, who have led protests against the law since its proposal two years ago, said it would weaken the institution of marriage and civil society as a whole. "One cannot ignore that, as was admitted even by some of its promoters, this legislation represents just the first step, for example, toward the adoption of children by people living a homosexual relationship," Archbishop Louis-Marie Bille of Lyon, president of the French bishops' conference, said in a statement.

European synod groups encourage women's roles in church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Several groups of bishops at the European synod urged the Catholic Church to invite women to participate in all church offices not requiring ordination. "We propose that, in every way possible, the access of women to public roles in the church be promoted," said one of the Italian-language working groups. The synod's nine small groups, organized according to language, made their first reports to the synod's general assembly during an Oct. 13 evening session.

Vatican criticizes author of new Pope Pius XII book

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has sharply criticized the author of a new book about Pope Pius XII and said his claim to have spent months researching Vatican archive material was absolutely false. It said the book "Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII," by English journalist John Cornwell, should be approached with caution by readers who have been led to believe the work reflects serious scholarship. The comments came in an unsigned article published Oct. 12 by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

African-American group rallies for pro-life cause

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A three-day march organized by African-American Protestants and Catholics took about 100 black pro-lifers from New Jersey to the nation's capital to declare abortion "the greatest deception leveled on African-Americans." The Oct. 8-11 march began in Newark, N.J., made stops at Lawnside, N.J., Philadelphia, Wilmington, Del., Catonsville, Md., and ended at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Rev. Clenard Howard Childress, a Baptist pastor from Montclair, N.J., and an organizer of the march, said "abortion on African-Americans is nothing more than black genocide."

Hispanic priests face challenges of defections, lack of vocations

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — Challenged by a vocations shortage and an exodus of Hispanic Catholics to Protestant churches, Hispanic priests in the United States met in San Diego to assess their future. As roughly 100 members of National Association of Hispanic Priests gathered for their annual meeting Sept. 27-30, their departing president said he felt that a deepening sense of fraternity and a greater openness to non-Hispanics were the marks of this year's gathering. Father Jose Gomez of the Galveston-Houston Diocese, who completed a four-year term as president of the association during the convention, said the meeting brought out "a lot of enthusiasm for the role of the priest in the third millennium."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 25 - 27
Provincial Meeting of Priests from Charlotte, Raleigh, Atlanta, Savannah and Charleston
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Charleston

October 29
Meeting with Extension Society Leadership

October 29 - 30
Investiture of the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC

Diocesan planner

October

22 BELMONT — To support their four ministries, The Sisters of Mercy are sponsoring their annual bazaar and yard sale today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the old gym and dining room of the former Sacred Heart College, located off of Wilikinson Blvd. (Hwy. 74). Featured items include holiday gifts, handmade jewelry, and Lebanese pastries. For more details, call Kris Jordan at (704) 829-5260.

26 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is the host parish for Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast's two presentations on Mary, "Mother, Wife, Widowed, Bereaved Parent - What Did Mary Keep in Her Heart?" The first session is being held in the church parish center family room from 10 a.m.-noon, and tonight's session in the church sanctuary is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 543-7677 for more details.

27 CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children, a support group for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, SIDS, or stillbirth, meets tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. For details, contact Lynn Schilling at (704) 831-8475 or Sister Jeanne Marie at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is directing "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon, tonight at 7 p.m. in the sacristy.

28 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to St. Joan of Arc Church for a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the Mass. For details, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

29 BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of N.C. is hosting "Jubilee for the Millennium: A People of Forgiveness and Justice

Location for Bishop McGuinness High School announced

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Plans of the Diocese of Charlotte to relocate Bishop McGuinness High School moved a few steps closer as the diocese crossed a few precursory hurdles last week.

On Oct. 14, the City-County Planning Board approved the school site plans, and on the 15th of October, the Diocese of Charlotte closed the real estate transaction, taking possession of the parcel of land.

"With completion of necessary geological and environmental testing, and with the planning board approval, we purchased 40 acres of land — located on Highway 66, opposite Old Salem Road in eastern Forsyth County," said the Very Reverend Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte. "We can look forward to breaking ground in January 2000. We're very much on schedule with the timetable outlined by Bishop William G. Curlin earlier this year."

Diocesan plans call for completion of the new state-of-the-art, 800-student high school for the 2001-02 school year. The Bishop McGuinness project, including the 118,000 square-foot complex, is expected to cost $13 million.

"The new campus with expanded, state-of-the-art facilities is exciting to anticipate," said Bishop Curlin. "A quality high school education — particularly a Christ-centered Catholic education, which educates the whole person — is much more than buildings, classrooms, or campus facilities. The goal of Bishop McGuinness High School education is to educate students to become effective leaders in their church and community."

Following the construction of the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, a kindergarten through eighth grade school will be constructed in western Guilford County. This will be followed by the construction of second kindergarten through eighth grade school in western Forsyth County.

"Building a new campus with expanded facilities ... can best accomplish the vital mission of Bishop McGuinness High School in the new century ahead," said Bishop Curlin. ▼

"Building a new campus with expanded facilities ... can best accomplish the vital mission of Bishop McGuinness High School in the new century ahead."
— Bishop William G. Curlin

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Couples celebrate the sacrament of marriage at anniversary Mass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Babies, bills, hardships, and happy days—what do these things have in common? All are a part of a marriage at one time or another, and all were remembered at the diocesan 25th and 50th wedding anniversary Mass, with Bishop William G. Curlin as the celebrant, at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Oct 17.

A rainy, windy day did not stop the nearly 300 attendants from across the diocese from traveling to the church for the celebration. Inclement weather did not even have an effect on the 50th anniversary trip of Madeline and Walter Lesko, parishioners from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

"We went to Hawaii for 16 days, and we traveled to the Bahamas," said Mr. Lesko. "On August 27, while we were in the Bahamas, guess who came through — Hurricane Dennis— 'Dennis, the Menace,'" they said in unison. "But we still had a good time."

"We want to celebrate those sterling examples of marital commitment," said Gerry Carter, director of Special Ministries for Catholic Social Services. "These couples are a treasure for the Church, so we want our appreciation to be visible."

The first and second readings during the liturgy came from Genesis 2:18-24 about the creation of woman and First Corinthians 12:31-13:8a about the descriptions of love and the Gospel of John 15:12-16 about the greatest commandment.

The bishop told couples in the congregation that "marriage is a constant process of surrendering yourselves to God and to one another." He also told them to "love one another more deeply than the day you made your first commitment to one another."

"Once you have that deep, abiding love, one in which you pledge to give your life to the other person, the ups and downs of life can only serve to build up your marriage," continued Bishop Curlin.

After the homily, the bishop asked the couples to stand for a renewal of their vows to one another while holding the other's hands.

The bishop told couples in the congregation that "marriage is a constant process of surrendering yourselves to God and to one another." He also told them to "love one another more deeply than the day you made your first commitment to one another."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Immediately after Mass, Marlo Wallace, administrative assistant for Special Ministries for CSS, handed out red roses and certificates to the husbands and wives as a symbol of their love and commitment to one another.

These certificates, signed by the bishop, include the couples' names and their particular anniversary. Those who were not able to attend the Mass will have their certificates and the program from the Mass mailed to them.

Many couples reflected on their years of marriage during the event and had interesting stories to share about how they met and this year's anniversary celebrations.

Laura and David Foskey, parishioners of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville, are celebrating 25 years of marriage the second time around.

After her first husband had

See ANNIVERSARY, page 9

on a Journey to the Father" this evening from 7-9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Teresita Weind is the presenter at the event held at the Sisters of Mercy Administration Center, 101 Mercy Dr. Call (704) 829-5100 for information.

MAGGIE VALLEY — To experience the presence of Jesus on the walk down the Emmaus road, the Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat is taking place this weekend starting this evening through Sunday afternoon at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Limited space is available, so for registration and other details, call Tom Sparacino at (828) 255-0095.

30 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a Halloween party tonight at 6:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish and beverage. Costumes are optional. For directions and other details, call Jennifer at (336) 887-7161.

November

3 CHARLOTTE — For a quiet time to share in community prayer for spiritual, mental, and physical healing, St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., is celebrating a healing Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m.

4 ARDEN — H.O.W., Hope of Wholeness, is an open forum inviting all people to come together, reflect on the Word of the Lord, discern, and put faith into action for all disability challenges and celebrations. The Diocesan Commission for Persons with disABLITIES is hosting the event at three different locations starting tonight at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. in Arden from 7-9 p.m. In Charlotte, St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is the host parish on Thurs., Nov. 11 from 7-9 p.m., and in Clemmons, Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, is the host parish on Thurs., Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. For further details, contact Mary Ann Poli in Arden at (828) 684-6098 ext. 3303, Kathy Tetu in Charlotte at (704) 543-7677 or (704) 846-3219, and Gerard Carter in Clemmons at (336) 778-0600 or (704) 370-3250.

5 BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church Ladies' Guild is having a holiday craft event today and Sat., Nov. 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall at 4 Fortune Cove. Seasonal items, jewelry, crafts, and food for the family are featured today and tomorrow.

HIGH POINT — A Latin Mass is being celebrated tonight at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. The rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m. with benediction following the Mass. For more information, call (336) 884-0244.

6 BELMONT — First Saturday devotion is today at Belmont Abbey Monastery, located off of Belmont-Mount Holly Road, with Mass at 9:30 a.m. and rosary and confession at 10:15 a.m. For details, call Terri and Phil DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., is holding a merchants' fair, featuring nationally-known businesses, today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church's debt reduction fund. For more information, call (704) 455-5365.

CHARLOTTE - The Fifth Annual Craft Bazaar, sponsored by the St. John Neumann Church Youth Group, happens today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 8451 Idlewild Road in the church's parish hall. Proceeds to benefit the youth trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis. For details, call Geralynn Trellue at (704) 535-4197.

8 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, is having a charismatic Mass at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (336) 778-0600 ext. 200.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

God offers share in divine nature through love, pope says

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God offers humans the ability to share in divinity by loving as he does, said Pope John Paul II.

"The ability to love as God loves is offered to every Christian as the fruit of the paschal mystery of death and resurrection," the pope told 16,000 pilgrims gathered under autumn sunshine in St. Peter's Square for the weekly general audience.

This type of love, called charity, is possible through a sharing in God's nature, or "divinization," brought about by the Holy Spirit, the pope said Oct. 13.

Sounding hoarse but speaking in a strong voice, the pope said charity "constitutes the essence of the new 'commandment' taught by Jesus."

"Charity animates Christian moral activity, orients and strengthens all the other virtues, which build in us the structure of the new man," he said.

In the Old Testament, the fundamental commandment to love God "with one's whole heart, whole soul and whole strength" began as a response due God's love for his people, the pope said.

"Progressively, Israel understood that beyond this relationship of profound respect and exclusive adoration," it had to move toward a more personal recognition of God as Father and even spouse, the pope said.

This love had two essential characteristics, the pope said: Humans would have been unable to love in this way if God had not given them the power; and, that this love, "far from reducing itself to sentiment, is concretized in walking the ways of God, in observing his commands."

Jesus Christ redefined the command to love God as the "greatest and first of all commandments," and closely associated it with love of neighbor, he said.

"In the person of Jesus himself, the meaning of this commandment assumes its fullness," the pope said. "In fact, the maximum intensity of man's love for God is realized in him.

"Love for God, made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit, is thus founded on Christ's mediation," particularly shown in his death for us, the pope said.

Christian charity finds its source in Christ's act of love, he said.

The church has defined charity a "theological virtue, meaning a virtue which is referred directly to God and lets human creatures enter into the circuit" of love between the three persons of the Trinity, he said.

"God the Father loves us as he loves Christ, seeing in us (Christ's) image," the pope said. This image is "painted in us, so to speak, by the Holy Spirit, like an iconographer."

"In this way, the dynamism of love for God springs" from a sharing in God's nature, which "'divinizes' us, according to the language of the Eastern tradition," he said.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

A pastor's reassignment

Often we've shared with readers our experiences of the church in the home. We've also shared how those experiences affect and are affected by our parish experience. Currently we are dealing with change in the parish; our pastor has been reassigned to a new parish. This change in our parish experience of church is not without angst in our little church in the home.

When we first came to the parish in 1988, we chose to be involved primarily in parish activities and services that we could share either as a couple or a family. Our pastor, Father Jay, worked with us to make this part of the mission of our domestic church connect with the mission of the parish. As a result, our experiences of home and church blend well.

Father Jay's departure leaves a hole in our lives. It is felt first in our parish experiences — missing his presence in the sanctuary and pulpit, parish office and meeting rooms, and the greeting line after Mass on Sundays.

It's different for our church in the home. For families the experience of the universal church is filtered through the prism of their parish. The pastor is critical and the foremost representative of the institutional church. Father Jay's pastoral sensitivity — his knowing when to draw the line and when to leave it blurry — has been a welcoming presence to us that has strengthened our faith life.

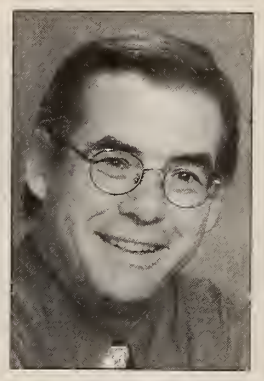
Most significant has been his calling forth the gifts from our family. Gently yet persistently Father Jay encouraged us to share ourselves totally. As African-American Catholics we had come from a history of struggle to claim ownership and cultural expression in the church. The idea of coming to a suburban, middle-class, white parish was indeed a challenge. However, our pastor's hospitality suggested that it was not a matter of if we'd share our cultural gifts but rather how we'd share them. This gave us a sense of ownership early on. We feel "at-home" at church. It is precisely this, his hospitality, that is vacant in our lives because of his leaving.

However, as a faithful people (both parish and home) we are hopeful. At the very least the hospitality that Father Jay has shown us will mirror back to our parish community and our new pastor when he is appointed.

This being the first time we've experienced such a transition in pastoral leadership in our current family formation, we've learned something important as a result. The connection between home and parish can be strong when the connection with the family and parish pastoral leadership is strong. It takes a very special kind of leader to foster those connections with so many families. We've been blessed to have been served by that kind of leadership over the last 11 years.

That seamless cloth that drapes the sanctuary altar and the family dining table is the fabric of our faith life as a family. Father Jay's pastoral skills of have taught us this. And because we know this, our pastor, whoever he may be, has a place at our family table.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Notes on some friends and their money

I'm lucky God has given me so many good friends. I learn a lot about my life, and about life in general, by what makes them happy and what drives them crazy.

When I've got my head solidly on my shoulders, I can figure out a lot about my own life by considering the lives of my friends.

Lately, I've been thinking about my friends and the effect of money on their lives. Two in particular come to mind.

Brady washes windows in houses, apartment buildings and small businesses. He's not one of those fellows who hangs from the skyscrapers on long ropes; he climbs a ladder. He's hard-working, honest and good at what he does. People who hire him are likely to hire him again.

My friend Brady lives in a converted garage he rents from a young married couple. He's one of the happiest people I know.

Then there's Lynn. She owns an international manufacturing business. She founded it herself and built it from nothing into a multimillion dollar concern. She's hard working, honest and good at what she does. People who buy her products love them and buy more.

My friend Lynn lives in the penthouse of a high-rise apartment building looking out over the city and ocean. She owns the whole 31st floor, and she's also one of the happiest people I know.

Lynn eats in fancy restaurants. When Brady eats out, he gets a burrito at a fast-food Mexican place.

Lynn can afford virtually anything she wants. Sometimes Brady worries about making his truck payment. They're both content with their lives, and it isn't about money. They both know that money isn't what makes you happy.

Everything you read in a magazine or see on television is designed cleverly to convince you that buying things will make you happy: "Buy this product, and it will fix your life."

Buy this brand of shoes. Drive this car. Wear this makeup, this cologne.

Ads exist to convince you that if you give the company money, they can give you happiness. It's an empty promise.

Still we believe it.

As soon as you graduate from high school, they'll start sending you credit cards. Lots of young people — still teen-agers — find that they can max out one credit card and then simply get another. It's a dangerous addiction, giving the illusion that you can have stuff now, and then pay for it painlessly down the road.

What happens is that the stuff is lost or broken or worn out or simply out of fashion, and you're still paying for it. The promised happiness never materializes, and the bills never go away.

Brady and Lynn live contented lives because they spend time with the people they care about, they each have clear ethical principles that they live out consistently and each turns to God for guidance on a daily basis.

Lynn has more money — lots more money — but she isn't happier than Brady. For happiness isn't about the quality of things you buy, it's about the quality of the life you choose.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A Halloween lesson

Halloween — the late autumnal ritual meant to mask our fears. My most vivid memory of this rite took place when I was 6 years old, although at the time I only thought of it as getting ready to go trick-or-treating. A week or so before Halloween, my parents asked my older brother and me what we wanted to be — a clown with a big red nose, a skeleton with a black hood, or perhaps a devil with horns and a pitchfork? We spent the evening talking about the exciting possibilities.

Then around 2 a.m. my parents were startled awake by a screaming child — me. They ran into my room only to find my bed empty. It seems that while I was having a nightmare I had rolled onto the floor and then under the bed. I was asleep but wailing and clawing at the slats and springs.

I remember being terrified. In the dark space of my dream all sorts of monstrous images were racing towards me, laughing at me, roaring at me, taunting me. One was Clarabell, the clown of "The Howdy Doody Show," who only "spoke" by honking a horn strapped to his waist. In my nightmare, he snarled and showed the fangs of a werewolf. In fact, all the more sinister icons of popular culture — Oz's Wicked Witch, Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, even, if you can believe it, a terrorizing Minnie Mouse — suddenly appeared as a threatening mob. It is an event that stays with me and still speaks to me.

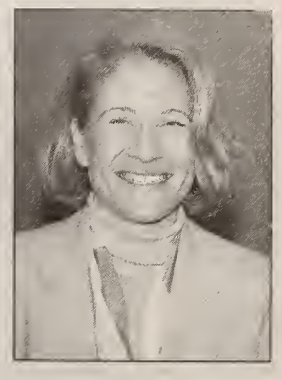
The reason? That nightmare was my first memory of fears taking the form of other beings that turned around to attack me. It was the first time my imagination found a way to give my fears a name and a face. I believe the traditions and customs of Halloween trigger a deeply felt human need to blame or hold someone or something responsible for our anxieties.

Monsters have been the subjects of the human imagination since the beginnings of stone carving and dramatic ritual. Combat with monsters is a recurrent episode in religious literature and heroic tales. These episodes dramatize the human need to deal with our fears whatever they may be. Uncertain about the future? Anxious about the consequences of an action? Unable to act? — Put a face on that fear, take a closer look at it, stare it down or slay it!

When my dad finally got me out from under the bed, he comforted me by assuring me that all the monsters were gone. He tucked me in and whispered, "I am right here with you." That was just what I needed to hear. Through the years the vivid details of that nightmare invariably became the most repeated anecdote about Halloween in the McSweeney home every October. And my dad and mom always took the opportunity to add a thoughtful observation that still makes a lot of sense. In time, they cautioned, we all must face our fears squarely. If not, we only hate them and turn them into "horrible imaginings."

Whether the monsters we face in life are all too real or creatures of our imaginations, we cannot ignore them or give in to them. I find that these words of St. Francis de Sales give me the comfort today that my dad gave me so long ago: "Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you the strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

Planned Giving



By CINDY RICE
Guest Column

Your will gives you freedom

Freedom. It is one of the things most Americans hold dear. That is why it is so ironic that the majority of Americans — over half — do not take the opportunity to leave valid wills.

A will gives you the freedom to choose what happens to your possessions — a lifetime of blessings that God has provided. You have the freedom as an American to distribute those assets to persons or organizations you wish to benefit. Along with that freedom is the responsibility to distribute those gifts thoughtfully and prayerfully, consistent with the manner of a good steward.

By having an up-to-date will, you can ensure your property shall be distributed according to your wishes. In addition, your will can also allow you to continue your support of your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocese or the diocesan foundation.

Why do I need a will?

When someone dies without a will or other legal arrangements, state laws determine how that individual's property is distributed. These laws are the same for everyone and often cause added administration costs and delays. In addition, these laws cannot take into account the specific needs of loved ones or the charitable wishes a person may have had. For instance, with a will you can say that the bequest for a child is to be held in trust until the child has reached a certain age, say 30 or 35. Without a will your children may still inherit from you, but they may end up with full control over the inheritance between ages 18 to 21, depending on your state's laws.

A carefully prepared will helps ensure your wishes for distributing your estate are known and documented legally. You can decide the share each person shall receive. Careful planning can also reduce the taxes and certain other expenses, that would normally come out of your estate.

What about charitable bequests?

Naturally, most people's first concern in preparing a will is to take care of family members. After loved ones are provided for, many people consider the values and charities important in their lives that they want to uphold through their will. Many Catholics who have supported the church during their lifetime decide to make a gift in their will to continue that support. If their estate is of a size that is taxable, a charitable bequest by will can also provide federal gift and estate tax deductions.

The first step

A will is one of the most important legal instruments you can have. But in order to leave a legacy to your loved ones and your Catholic community, you must take the first step. Contact an attorney to draw up your will or if you already have a will, make sure it is up-to-date and coordinated with your other plans, such as life insurance or retirement accounts, which pass by way of beneficiary designation.

For more information about creating or revising your will or making a charitable gift through your will or estate plans, please feel free to contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3320.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Catechetics for children

Q. If an 8-year-old child is unbaptized and wants to become a Catholic, is she required to go through the RCIA (Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults)? Or can she be baptized and then participate in a parish religious-education program to receive the other sacraments?

My grandchild is at this point, and we would appreciate knowing what steps to take.

A. Children would normally not take part in an RCIA program before entering the Catholic faith. An exception might be when the parents are preparing to become Catholic and explain the lessons at a child's level as they go through the process.

No child who is old enough to receive some instruction in the meaning and practice of Christian and Catholic faith should be baptized without that instruction.

There is a procedure similar to the RCIA that is designed for children. Whether or how that program would be appropriate for an individual child depends on many circumstances: the age of the child, religious background and practice of the family, the parents' faith and practice of it, religious formation of the child in the past, what kind of support in living the Catholic faith the child will receive from family or friends after the baptism, and so on.

It is important, in other words, that the child know, at his or her own level, what being baptized means and what responsibilities are undertaken in receiving this sacrament.

It is also critical, in fairness to the sensibilities and conscience of the child, that he or she not be encouraged to make commitments (going to Mass on Sundays, prayer, sacraments) which cannot reasonably be fulfilled because of the religious circumstances at home.

These concerns and suggestions are spelled out more fully in the section of the RCIA ritual called "Christian Initiation of Children Who Have Reached Catechetical Age."

It is best to talk with the priest in your parish, or other parish minister responsible for children's religious-education programs, and determine the most appropriate steps for your granddaughter.

Receiving Holy Sacraments

Q. I am a Ukrainian Catholic. Your recent column on receiving the Holy Mysteries (sacraments) in Eastern churches was, I believe, misleading. Catholics of all rites, Latin or otherwise, are allowed and encouraged to receive the Holy Gifts in each other's churches.

If we are in full communion, there is absolutely no impediment to attending liturgies, receiving the sacraments and fulfilling Sunday and holy day obligations with each other.

A. You are right, of course. Whatever concerns and limitations exist for participating in the liturgies and sacraments of Eastern churches apply only to the Orthodox churches, those who are not in communion with the bishop of Rome.

Participation in the liturgies and "Holy Gifts" (a wonderful phrase, commonly used in the Eastern churches for the sacraments) of churches united with the Roman pontiff is, as you say, not only permitted but strongly encouraged, so that the special charisma of each church might be better known.

Thanks to you and others who wrote for this clarification.

Vatican officials deny postponement of pope's beatification

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials strongly denied reports that the beatification process for Pope Pius XII has been abandoned or put on hold. "It is not true that the cause has been shelved. The cause is proceeding regularly and speedily," said Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who is involved in documenting the sainthood cause of the late pope. "The beatification will not take place in the year 2000, because there is such an enormous amount of material and we have not yet presented the 'positio' to the congregation. But the cause is continuing, and there is every reason to believe that sooner or later the beatification will take place," Father Gumpel said Oct. 15.

Scottish church defends financial help for pregnant 12-year-old

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Scotland defended its financial help for a pregnant 12-year-old following criticism that the church was bribing the girl not to have an abortion. The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons and lives in the north of England, has been helped by a fund set up by Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow, Scotland, to help women who would otherwise be considering abortion. Josephine Quintavalle of the Pro-Life Alliance said the church program offered "real choice."

Cuban archbishop asks government to respect liturgy

HAVANA (CNS) — Archbishop Pedro Meurice Estiu of Santiago de Cuba asked government agents and dissident groups to respect the religious nature of liturgical celebrations and avoid using them as political venues. Archbishop Meurice aired his concern after government security agents and members of dissident political groups exchanged insults and physical aggression during two recent religious celebrations. "In El Cobre, during the celebrations in honor of our patroness, we were all victims of an untimely interruption that took place in a very solemn moment," said the archbishop.

Cardinal helps Turkish mother return to cancer-stricken son

NEW YORK (CNS) — A chance meeting with New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor led to the reuniting of a 5-year-old boy stricken with cancer with his mother, stuck in her homeland of Turkey with visa problems. The cardinal interceded on behalf of the Caylar family of Queens, prompting the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to allow Surmehan Caylar back into the United States on the rarely granted humanitarian parole. The cardinal's involvement began on Palm Sunday, March 28, while he was visiting patients at New York University Medical Center in Manhattan. Ibrahim Caylar, whose son, Muharrem, was being prepared for a bone marrow transplant, approached the cardinal in the lobby of the hospital.

Miami priest aims to bring spirituality into talk show realm

MIAMI (CNS) — Father Albert Cutie, 30, has taken on a daunting challenge: bringing spiritual values into the realm of television talk shows. Households in the United States and Latin America are getting to know him as "Padre Alberto," airing each weekday on the Telemundo network at 4 p.m. Eastern time. The show debuted Sept. 27. Already, his friends jokingly refer to him as "Father Springer." But Father Cutie, whose name is pronounced koo-tee-AY, makes it clear that, if comparisons must be made, he prefers "Father Oprah."

Cardinal calls for new ways of evangelizing in global society

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Past methods of evangelizing will not suffice in the high-tech world of the third millennium, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago told Catholic leaders Oct. 11 at the University of Notre Dame. "The church is presented with a new phenomenon after 2,000 years — the conscious rejection of the Gospel by entire people and cultures," Cardinal George said. Old ways of evangelization, including missions to territories where people never heard the gospel and missions to parishes where baptized people are called back to Christian life, are not sufficient in the global society, he said.

Catholic says walk for poverty is 'pilgrimage within yourself'

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A 670-mile walk to raise awareness of poverty in Britain is more than a journey of miles, it is a "pilgrimage within yourself," said a Catholic participant. "The pilgrimage has not just been about getting from A to B," said Val Simcock, a Catholic from North Wales. "It's not just about getting government to change, it's about having to change yourself," Simcock told Catholic News Service. Simcock said the pilgrimage had been one of the best experiences of her life.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Meeting at the Gaza Strip

Uodah Faksman, right, whose Israeli soldier son, Nakshon, was killed by a Palestinian, talks with Habeba Elian, whose daughter, Wafa, was killed by Israeli soldiers. They were part of an Oct. 17 meeting at the Gaza Strip for more than 30 families who have had members killed in the conflict.

Flight of priest hinders bishop's murder case, says official

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The sudden flight of a priest once accused of killing Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City is a "further obstacle" in the 17-month-old murder investigation, said an archdiocesan official. The departure of Father Mario Orantes, who shared the parish home of Bishop Gerardi at the time of his death, is an "obstacle" in the case, since he was "still under investigation and had not been completely cleared," said the director of the archdiocesan human rights office, Neri Rodenas. Father Orantes left Guatemala early Oct. 13 for the United States. His lawyer, Jose Toledo, told reporters that his flight was due to "security and health reasons."

Bethlehem mayor says checkpoint renovations will 'suffocate' city

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Planned Israeli renovations at the Bethlehem-Jerusalem checkpoint will "suffocate and isolate" Bethlehem, said Mayor Hana Nasser. "What they are doing now is to divide once and for all Bethlehem from Jerusalem. This is a political division under the pretext of Bethlehem 2000," Nasser said at a press conference Oct. 12. He urged international groups to oppose the renovations. But an Israeli civil administration official said the renovations, which were initially approved by the Palestinian National Authority, were designed to create "easy access for everybody to Bethlehem and Jerusalem."

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Floyd forged path of destruction; relief efforts still continue

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

After the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Floyd to the eastern half and coastal areas of North Carolina, people across the state and around the country responded quickly with aid of all types for the victims.

In a Sept. 24th letter to all of the parishes, Bishop William G. Curlin said, "...in its [the Diocese of Raleigh's] moment of need, let us unite as a family of faith in offering our generous support to our brothers and sisters in areas devastated by Hurricane Floyd."

Hurricane Irene also hit the coast but fortunately did not cause as much damage to areas devastated by floodwaters. However, the already swollen Tar and Neuse Rivers are under watch for more potential flooding.

As of Oct. 15, the Diocese of Charlotte had collected over $112,000 for the people affected by the floods. Schools and churches have done their share to help with flood relief efforts.

St. Ann School in Charlotte has served as the collection site for the goods that students in all Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) have been donating since the hurricanes ripped through the coastal counties. The Monday after the major flooding began, St. Joseph Sister Helene G. Nagle, principal of St. Ann, asked the students to bring water to school during that week.

As the requests came in, the students at St. Ann and other MACS schools met those needs. Everything from trash bags, cleaning supplies, canned and other non-perishable foods, and bug repellent filled the St. Ann Church parish center. Fifth graders from St. Ann and eighth graders from Holy Trinity School in Charlotte helped to load the truck with John Talbot, a St. Ann Church parishioner, at the wheel.

Talbot works for Converse Corporation who donated the use of their truck. Moreover, when they heard that students at a Greenville school were attending class without shoes, they donated 500 pairs of children's shoes.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Fifth graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte help to load supplies into the truck that traveled to Whiteville to aid the flood victims. St Ann was the collection site for donations from Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

In addition to that effort by the schools, an anonymous $2,000 donation came to Sister Helene, and Blackhawk Hardware and Harris Teeter matched that donation with $1,000 each which will be used to purchase supplies for those in need.

In the early morning hours of October 15, the third tractor-trailer left St. Ann School for the town of Whiteville near Wilmington. Prior to that, the two trucks had been to Rocky Mount and Greenville. Of all the trips he has made, Talbot said that this one moved him the most because his one delivery filled the empty "food room" in the town of Whiteville.

Further around the diocese, an Asheboro parish has done more than its fair share of donating money for the relief effort. St. Joseph Church collected approximately $15,000 for two specific parishes—St. Catherine of Siena Church in Tarboro and Holy Trinity Church in Williamston.

"We have a large Hispanic population, so we wanted to help churches in the Diocese of Raleigh with large migrant farm worker congregations," said Father Joseph W. Mack, pastor of St. Joseph Church. "After speaking with the Chancellor of Raleigh, we were told that those two church parishes needed serious help."

"This is an effective way to get people involved because they can connect with the immediate problems more easily," Father Mack continued. "This has been a collective effort, and the parish has responded well to the request."

According to the NC Catholic, the Diocese of Raleigh has received almost $500,000 from other states, not including the money from the Diocese of Charlotte. The Archdiocese of New Orleans gave $200,000 and a letter of support, and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati mailed a check for $50,000 to Catholic Charities, USA, specifically for the victims of the flooding. Other dioceses across the country have also contributed time, supplies, and money to the relief efforts.

Five church parishes in the Raleigh-Durham area collected nearly four tons of food and other goods between Sept. 21 and 25.

The city of Kinston in Lenoir County still has parts underwater, and people are requesting food, clothing, furniture, and other major items, according to Father Doug Reed, pastor of Holy Trinity Church. People in Kinston have lost everything; now, they need everything, he said.

Diane Pisczek, director of Raleigh's Catholic Social Ministry Office in the Cape Fear Deanery, said that many agencies have been offering counseling services and the needs cross social and economic boundaries. She stated that when a home is lost, people lose everything. The ability to recover may be different, but the sense of loss is not.

In the Tarboro area, three weeks after the storm, many people in the area were still not in their homes. Father Bill Murphy of St. Catherine of Siena Church said that he had toured some of the worst hit areas with representatives from relief agencies, and many communities were "ghost towns." Red marks on houses were indications the dwellings were no longer inhabitable. Father Murphy said the scarlet markings can be seen throughout the region, including every home in at least one trailer park.

One of the most vile impacts of Floyd has been the devastation of the graveyards in eastern N.C. Father Murphy said there are some burial grounds in the Tarboro area with coffins sitting on the ground waiting to be interred to the earth.

Governor Jim Hunt has recently announced that nearly $10.2 million in checks and cash and more than $263,000 in credit card donations since September 17 has been collected in the N.C. Hurricane Floyd Disaster

See FLOYD, page 8

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Do YOU have a story of faith?
See page 8 for details.

Bishops seek to strengthen influence of Catholic citizens

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are using a variety of strategies to achieve wider distribution and greater understanding of their document on "faithful citizenship" for the year 2000.

It has been 24 years since the bishops began issuing a political responsibility statement each presidential election year, and "each year we've been trying to broaden the circle out more and more," said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles.

"We're really trying to reach the folks in the pews, not just the leadership people or the social justice people," said Cardinal Mahony, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

The 6,000-word document, approved unanimously by the bishops' Administrative Board in September and made public Oct. 20, is called "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium."

"The title really says it all," Cardinal Mahony said. "Catholics really have a great responsibility to be active members of society, to really be informed."

As voters, Catholics must "see the world through the lens of Jesus Christ and the Gospels," he added, and must cast their votes not just as Democrats, Republicans or Independents but as disciples of Christ, judging how the candidates and their stands reflect Gospel values.

"Faithful Citizenship" is the result of collaboration among nearly two dozen committees and offices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference. Also consulted were the bishops' National Advisory Council, state Catholic conference directors and diocesan social action directors from around the country.

In a letter to his fellow bishops, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, NCCB-USCC president, said throughout the consultation process, the bishops heard "a consistent message ... about the need to do more than issue a statement."

"Those involved in the consultation felt it was important to undertake a more thorough distribution and promotion strategy that would reach far more people than in the past," he added.

Cardinal Mahony said part of that strategy involved producing a more "user-friendly" document that is shorter than the earlier political responsibility statements and that looks "graphically sharp and to the point."

In addition to the 6,000-word document, which will be published in booklet format in November, a much shorter version of "Faithful Citizenship" will be available as color or black-and-white brochures.

A parish resource kit about the document is being prepared, and a video will be produced "to share the civic responsibility message at diocesan conferences, at parish meetings, in schools and in religious education programs," Bishop Fiorenza said.

A speakers' bureau also is being developed, as well as workshop and training packages to help dioceses incorporate the message into gatherings of priests or other parish leaders, education conferences or other diocesan meetings.

Sixteen offices of the NCCB-USCC will distribute the booklet and resources to their diocesan counterparts. These include Social Development and World Peace, African-American Catholics, Communications, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Diaconate, Education, Evangelization and Missions, and Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

Also involved in the civic responsibility effort are the bishops' offices of General Counsel, Government Liaison, Hispanic Affairs, Migration and Refugee Services, Priestly Formation, Priestly Life and Ministry, Pro-Life Activities and Third Millennium.

"Focusing a diocesan staff meeting on the statement and developing a plan to share it can be an important part of the overall strategy," said a list of suggestions distributed to bishops with the document.

"Priests especially find it helpful to learn about the church's position on civic responsibility, the opportunities it presents, and the legal limits we need to observe," it added. "Devoting a half day or a full day of a clergy convocation to this topic can help priests share an important element of Catholic social teaching and respond confidently to any questions that may arise."

Cardinal Mahony said a major goal of the statement is to "break down the misconception" that when Catholic leaders speak out on public policy issues, they are taking sides in purely political matters.

"The church's participation in public affairs does not undermine but enriches the political process and affirms genuine pluralism," the document says. "The leaders of the church have the right and duty to share the church's teaching and to educate Catholics on the moral dimensions of public life, so that they may form their consciences in light of their faith." ▼

Floyd, from page 7

Relief Fund. Six million of that amount has been given to 30 counties to distribute based on disaster criteria from the Governor's Office.

Created by Gov. Hunt, the fund's purpose is to offer financial help with food, medical needs, housing problems, and other personal needs for those in areas with substantial damage. The fund is being administered by the United Way of N.C., along with other private relief agencies, local businesses, federal, state, and local disaster relief funds, and volunteer work. ▼

Contact Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Matt Doyle of the NC Catholic contributed to this story.

Two Fatima visionaries to be beatified in April

ROME (CNS) — Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the Fatima visionaries, will be beatified at the Vatican April 9, the bishop of Fatima, Portugal, announced.

The children, along with their cousin, who is still alive, saw Mary six times between May 13, 1917, and Oct. 13, 1917.

Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira Silva of Leiria-Fatima, marking the 82nd anniversary of the last apparition, announced the date for the beatification.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who works in Rome with the postulator of the children's beatification cause, confirmed Oct. 14 that the ceremony would take place in April at the Vatican.

Francisco, who was 10 years old when he died in 1919, and Jacinta, who was 9 when she died in 1920, will be the youngest people beatified since detailed records of beatifications and canonizations began in 1592.

Both children died of influenza. Their cousin Lucia dos Santos, who also was present during the apparitions, is a cloistered Carmelite nun still living in Portugal. ▼

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"They should regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. The first requirement of a steward is that he prove trustworthy."
— 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Bishop's Financial Stewardship Report

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999

Letter from Bishop Curlin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the people of the Church of western North Carolina, for the proper stewardship of our financial resources. Therefore, I am pleased to once again present to you the annual financial report of the Central Administrative Offices of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 1999.

I encourage you to review the financial information contained on the following pages. The report shows that the Central Administration of your diocese is financially healthy. I am grateful for this report and for the good works which have been accomplished during the past year. The many outreach programs which are a part of everyday parish life throughout the diocese have touched the lives of many people in ways that words cannot adequately express. These good works are the result of your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

During this past year, the diocese began a strategic planning initiative. Approximately 200 persons from across the diocese are involved in identifying the programs that will define our ministry as we start into the twenty-first century. The plan will address the operational and capital needs of our diocese for the next 20 years. I look forward to the outcome of this project in the Spring of 2000.

Also during this past year, I announced plans for three new schools in the Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point area. The first of these three schools to be constructed will be the new Bishop McGuinness High School (BMHS), which will accommodate 800 students. Land has just recently been acquired as the site for the new BMHS, which will be centrally located so as to serve the entire Triad. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2000.

On July 31, 1999, the diocese sold Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency in Hayesville to the Murphy Medical Center. Proceeds from the sale of Good Shepherd have been used to establish an Economic Development Fund. This fund is earmarked to provide financial support of endeavors designed to economically revitalize the four western counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

The Diocese of Charlotte continues to grow in both numbers and diversity. Planning has begun for two new churches which will primarily serve the Hispanic population; one is to be located in Charlotte and one in Booneville. Additionally, St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community moved into a newly acquired church during this past fiscal year and St. John Lee Korean Catholic Community began construction of an education building to serve their growing population. We have also expanded our outreach to southeast Asians through a new ministry to the Lahu.

As you can see, our diocese continues to grow in number and need. While much is being done, the future will present new challenges as we strive to serve all God's people. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to continue to expand our ministries and open new churches and schools in response to continued growth here in western North Carolina.

I am aware of the many sacrifices that you make on behalf of your parish, the Diocesan Support Appeal and the special appeals that directly assist the ministries of the Church. Be assured of my prayerful gratitude as we work together in building up God's Kingdom on earth.

Begging God's blessing upon you and your loved ones, I am
Devotedly in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Report from Chief Financial Officer

William G. Weldon, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

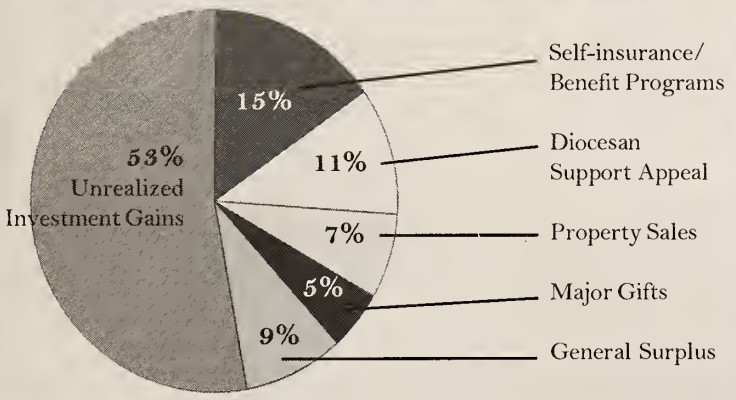
I am pleased to once again report that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The Central Administration of the Diocese, the administrative arm of the Catholic Church here in western North Carolina, completed the year ended June 30, 1999 with an increase in net assets of approximately $2,182,000. Included in this increase is $550,000 which has been restricted by donor imposed stipulations, as follows:

- $529,000 represents an increase in permanent funds, primarily perpetual trust funds of which the diocese is an income beneficiary, but never receives the assets held in trust; and
- $21,000 represents an increase in net assets whose use is limited by donor imposed restrictions which are temporary and had not been satisfied as of June 30, 1999.

The remainder of $1,632,000 represents an increase in unrestricted net assets. This increase is primarily attributable to the following special purpose activities *(see pie chart)*:

- Unrealized gains on long-term investments — Current year market appreciation on investments ($860,000) may be offset in future years should market values decline;
- Self-insurance and employee benefit programs — The amount by which these revenues exceeded claims and other expenses ($237,000) has been designated as additional insurance reserves for future contingencies;
- DSA contributions — Included in current year revenues are those funds which exceed the current year program budget and, thus, are for use next year ($180,000);
- Gain on the sale of two properties ($114,000);
- Receipt of one-time major gifts ($87,000).

Analysis of increase in unrestricted net assets



These five items total $1,478,000 and, thus, account for all but $154,000 of the increase in unrestricted net assets. The remaining $154,000 (1.1% of unrestricted revenues) represents the surplus attributable to all other programs and activities of the Central Administration.

During the fiscal year just ended, support of diocesan programs and ministries, i.e., program expenses, increased by approximately $1,063,000 over fiscal 1998. This represents a 13% increase in expenditures which directly support our mission. Expenses relating to supporting activities, i.e., administrative and fundraising expenses, decreased from last year's level by $29,000.

The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility. It is our responsibility to ensure that internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. The employees and volunteers who serve at diocesan parishes, schools and agencies, as well as those at the diocesan Pastoral Center, are stewards of the Church's temporal resources and thus, are accountable to you, the people who make up the Church of western North Carolina.

The financial statements of the Central Administration for the year ended June 30, 1999 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Financial Highlights

The pie chart at the top of the page presents total revenues for the year by source.

The bottom pie chart presents an analysis of expenditures for the year, including a listing of DSA program expenses by ministry.

Sources of Revenue — *Year ended June 30, 1999*

15% *from* **Investment Income**
Represents interest, dividends, realized & unrealized gains

3% *from* **Catholic Conference Center Revenue**
Represents fees for use of the Catholic Conference Center

5% *from* **Support of *The Catholic News & Herald***
Primarily represents parish support of the newspaper

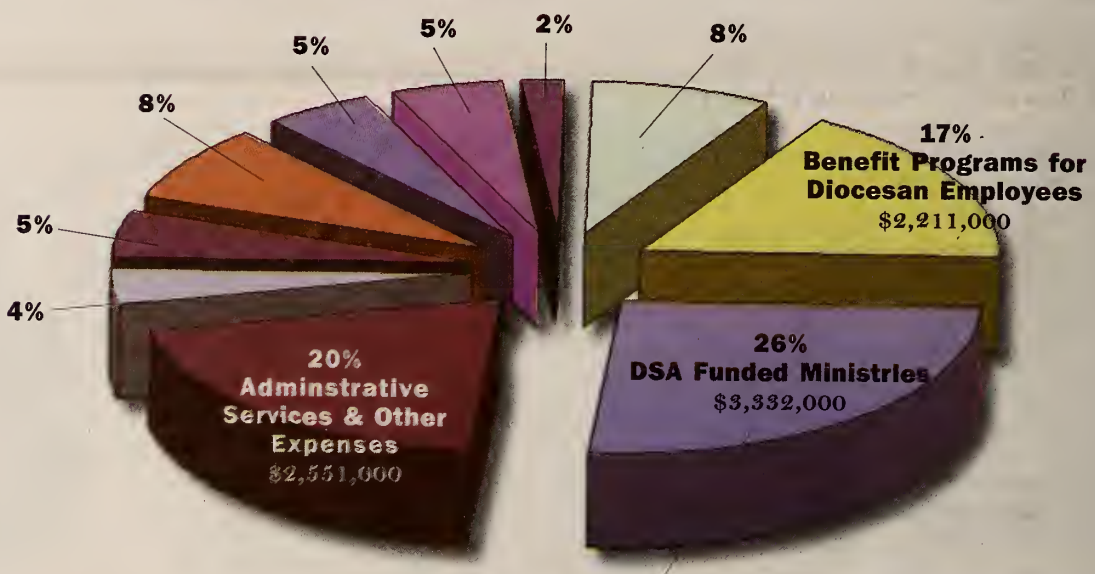
20% *from* **Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)**
Represents funds raised for use during fiscal 1999-2000

21% *from* **Assessments**
Assessments on diocesan parishes, schools and agencies to support administrative services, the property/liability insurance program and employee benefit programs

36% *from* **Other Souces**
Represents gifts, donations, grants, collections, program and other fees, and rental income

Total Revenue: $14,935,000

Uses of Our Resources — *Year ended June 30, 1999*



Continuing Care of Clergy
$1,052,000

Grants and Subsidies
$233,000

Chancery and Tribunal
$634,000

Interest Paid on Parish Savings
$612,000

Property/Liability Insurance Program
$923,000

Publication of *The Catholic News & Herald*
$692,000

Catholic Conference Center Operations
$513,000

Total Expenses: $12,753,000

DSA Funded Ministries
(unaudited) Amounts in thousands

Grants to Catholic Social Services		$ 1,084
Multicultural Ministries		307
African American	14	
Hispanic	228	
Vietnamese	20	
Hmong	27	
Montagnard	12	
Native American	6	
Educational Ministries		1,425
Faith Formation	299	
Catholic Schools	347	
Campus Ministry	434	
Evangelization	29	
Lay Ministry Training	44	
Media Resources	50	
Vicar's Office	68	
Youth Ministry	154	
Vocations		516
Permanent Diaconate	74	
Seminarian Education	442	
Total Expenditures		3,332

Note: Funding sources for above programs:

1998 Diocesan Support Appeal	2,449
Program specific support	723
General Central Administration support	160
Total	3,332

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statement of financial position of The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. (the Central Administration) as of June 30, 1999, and the related combining statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Central Administration's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Central Administration as of June 30, 1999, and the combining results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Arthur Andersen, LLP
Charlotte, North Carolina,
September 10, 1999

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte — Financial Statements

Combined Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 1999

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 5,067,736
Accounts receivable-	
Pledges, net of amounts due parishes	543,603
Assessments	207,138
Bequests	70,000
Other	162,766
Prepaid expenses and other	212,378
Advances to parishes, net of discounts and allowances of $919,000	816,545
Notes receivable, net of discounts and allowances of $67,000	2,313,883
Investments	12,405,476
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust (Note 2)	5,196,106
Property and equipment, net	12,849,607
Total assets	**$39,845,238**
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 362,897
Accrued health claims	424,034
Accrued property/liability claims	93,222
Accrued pension expense	319,326
Custodial obligations	13,247,842
Unearned revenue — Assessments	10,338
Total liabilities	14,457,659
Net assets:	
Unrestricted-	
Undesignated	7,548,805
Designated	9,735,055
Temporarily restricted	1,190,141
Permanently restricted	6,913,578
Total net assets	25,387,579
Total liabilities and net assets	**$39,845,238**

Combining Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended June 30, 1999

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	$2,181,869
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities -	
Depreciation expense	465,020
Gain on beneficial interest in perpetual trust	(334,301)
Gain on disposition of property	(114,250)
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Decrease in pledges receivable, net of amounts due parishes	96,862
Decrease in assessments receivable	264,630
(Increase) in bequests receivable	(50,000)
Decrease in other receivables	70,684
Decrease in prepaid expenses and other assets	223,366
(Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(334,786)
Increase in accrued health claims	112,815
Increase in accrued pension expense	53,936
Increase in accrued property/liability claims	93,222
(Decrease) in unearned revenue - Assessments	(393,839)
Increase in custodial obligations	2,369,778
Net unrealized and realized gains on long-term investments	(1,986,362)
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,718,644
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of property and equipment	(336,025)
Proceeds from the disposition of property	124,139
Issuance of advances and notes	(412,376)
Payments received on advances and notes	1,111,872
(Decrease) in discount on advances and notes	(22,369)
Increase in allowance on advances	7,494
Sale of investments, net	283,729
Net cash used in investing activities	756,464
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**3,475,108**
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,592,628
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	**$5,067,736**

Combining Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 1999

	Unrestricted	*Temporarily Restricted*	*Permanently Restricted*	*Total*
Revenues and other support:				
Contributions - Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)	$ 2,940,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,940,000
Other support - DSA programs	314,071	46,399	-	360,470
Assessments	5,452,105	-		5,452,105
Fees - Services rendered to related entities	211,247	-	-	211,247
Fees - Other	50,301	-	-	50,301
Gift income	94,544	215,436	334,301	644,281
Catholic Conference Center	413,615	-	-	413,615
Cathedral Publishing, Inc.	751,116	-	-	751,116
Collections	-	500,491	-	500,491
Grants	-	160,000	-	160,000
Rental income	879,813	-	-	879,813
Interest and dividend income	917,551	-	169,618	1,087,169
Net realized/unrealized gains on long-term investments	1,194,109	-	25,280	1,219,389
Other	262,622	2,431	-	265,053
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions	904,268	(904,268)	-	-
Total revenues and other support	14,385,362	20,489	529,199	14,935,050
Expenses:				
Program -				
Educational ministries	1,424,841	-	-	1,424,841
Multicultural ministries	307,516	-	-	307,516
Vocations	515,682	-	-	515,682
Contributions and grants:				
Catholic Social Services	1,083,833	-	-	1,083,833
Other	232,773	-	-	232,773
Clergy continuing care program	1,052,346	-	-	1,052,346
Employee health benefits program	1,548,928	-	-	1,548,928
Property and liability insurance program	923,057	-	-	923,057
Lay employee retirement and disability programs	662,297	-	-	662,297
Cathedral Publishing	692,077	-	-	692,077
Catholic Conference Center	512,753	-	-	512,753
Tribunal	157,623	-	-	157,623
Total program expense	9,113,726	-	-	9,113,726
Administrative -				
Chancery	476,477	-	-	476,477
Development, planning and communication	438,760	-	-	438,760
Finance administration	702,716	-	-	702,716
General administration	395,489	-	-	395,489
Rental property expense	274,970	-	-	274,970
Interest - Parish savings and investment programs	612,312	-	-	612,312
Depreciation	465,020	-	-	465,020
Other	124,543	-	-	124,543
Total administrative expenses	3,490,287	-	-	3,490,287
Fundraising	149,168	-	-	149,168
Total expenses	12,753,181	-	-	12,753,181
Change in net assets	1,632,181	20,489	529,199	2,181,869
Net assets, beginning of year	15,651,679	1,169,652	6,384,379	23,205,710
Net assets, end of year	**$17,283,860**	**$1,190,141**	**$6,913,578**	**$25,387,579**

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Notes to Financial Statements — June 30, 1999

1. Organization:

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Central Administration provides diocesan entities with business and administrative services including: Administering a savings and investment program wherein all funds on deposit along with the associated accrued interest are reflected as custodial obligations of the Central Administration; arranging financing for diocesan entities; sponsoring a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan and a tax-deferred annuity plan covering substantially all lay employees; and providing medical and dental insurance coverage for employees. The Central Administration assesses the diocesan entities on a monthly basis to cover the costs of these benefits. In addition, the Central Administration oversees the operations of Cathedral Publishing, Inc., publisher of *The Catholic News & Herald.* The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as "the Central Administration."

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Central Administration are maintained on the accrual basis. The Central Administration complies with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Central Administration considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Central Administration has designated $230,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves as June 30, 1999.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 1999:

	1999	Life *(in years)*
Land	$ 5,273,000	N/A
Buildings	7,186,000	30
Improvements	2,232,000	10
Equipment	558,000	10
Vehicles	292,000	5
	15,541,000	
Less -		
Accumulated depreciation	2,691,000	
	$12,850,000	

Tax-exempt Status

The Central Administration is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Assets

The Central Administration's net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Central Administration which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The officials of the Central Administration may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Central Administration is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Central Administration. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the combining statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Central Administration is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

Change in Accounting Principle

In fiscal 1998, the Central Administration changed its method of accounting for beneficial interests in perpetual trusts as required by the new American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Audit and Accounting Guide for Not-for-Profit Organizations. Under the terms of the perpetual trusts, the Central Administration has the irrevocable right to receive the income earned on trust assets, consisting primarily of government notes and bonds and various equities, in perpetuity, but never receives the assets held in trust. These assets are included as permanently restricted on the accompanying statement of financial position. The adoption of this change had no impact on cash flow, but had a one time cumulative effect on the change in net assets of approximately $4,295,000.

Reclassifications

Certain 1998 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 1999 presentation.

3. Advances to Parishes:

The Central Administration maintains a revolving loan fund, which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 1999 totaled approximately $1,735,000. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $817,000 in the accompanying combined statement of financial position at June 30, 1999.

4. Pledges and Assessments Receivable:

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 1999, approximately $505,000 in pledges out of a goal of $2,940,000 had not been collected.

The Central Administration assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and *The Catholic News & Herald.* Total assessments receivable at June 30, 1999 were approximately $207,000.

5. Notes Receivable:

The Central Administration has various notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 1999. Most of these notes bear interest at rates ranging from prime minus 1.25% to prime plus .25%; however, some are noninterest bearing. A summary of notes receivable, net of discounts and allowances, is as follows:

	1999
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools	$1,851,000
Parishes	257,000
Other	206,000
	$2,314,000

6. Investments:

Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the combining statement of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 1999 are summarized below:

	1999	
	Cost	Market
Common stocks	$ 5,427,000	$ 7,523,000
Bonds	4,604,000	4,494,000
Cash	317,000	317,000
Other	71,000	71,000
Total investments	$ 10,419,000	$ 12,405,000

7. Parish Savings and Investment Programs:

The Central Administration administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at 4% for the savings program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time and investment program funds may be withdrawn the first business day of each month subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $12,931,000 at June 30, 1999 and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statement of financial position.

8. Pension and Retirement Plans:

Lay Noncontributory Deferred Benefit Pension Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The net periodic pension cost of the pension plan is as follows:

	1999
Service cost on benefits earned during the year	$734,000
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	661,000
Actual return on plan assets	(803,000)
Net amortization and deferral	28,000
Net periodic pension cost	$620,000

The actuarial present value of benefit obligations and funded status is as follows:

	1999
Benefit obligations-	
Vested benefits	$7,639,971
Nonvested benefits	278,363
Accumulated benefit obligation	$7,918,334
Projected benefit obligation	$ (9,997,000)
Plan assets at fair value	10,393,000
Projected benefit obligation less than plan assets	396,000
Unrecognized net (gain)	(998,000)
Unrecognized net transition obligation	282,000
Accrued pension cost	$ (320,000)

Assumptions used in developing the projected benefit obligation, are as follows:

	1999
Discount rate	7.5%
Rate of increase in compensation	4.5
Rate of return in plan assets	8.5

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Employer matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of contributions.

Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred annuity plan. Also, the diocesan assessment for lay employees' benefits is 4% of lay employees' salaries.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Central Administration sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide retirement benefits for priests within the Diocese. An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for clergy retirement and other clergy benefits. Each parish is assigned 3% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within the temporarily restricted fund. Contributions to this plan were approximately $317,000 in fiscal 1999.

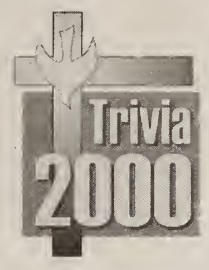
9. Employee Health Benefits:

The Central Administration administers medical and dental insurance coverage for the employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Central Administration charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Central Administration has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental plan. Approximately 20% of the premiums submitted by diocesan entities is paid to third-party administrator for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages. The remaining portion of the premiums is designated by the Central Administration to pay claims which are processed by the third-party administrator. The Central Administration has specific stop-loss coverage at $75,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 115% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $75,000. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $1,549,000 during fiscal 1999.

Animated films with Gospel, jubilee themes planned

ROME (CNS) — The Gospel is kid's stuff — or at least it can be, according to cartoon-makers whose Bible-based work is to be integrated into plans to mark the year 2000.

The feature-length cartoon "The Miracle Maker," which depicts Jesus' life story, is set to debut in theaters in Europe and the United States this Christmas. It will be broadcast on Italian television in the jubilee year. "The Miracle Maker," a British-Russian production, was previewed at a recent cartoon film-festival in the resort town of Positano, Italy, where it attracted attention in particular for its creative use of computer graphics.



Meanwhile, the main Italian public television station, Raiuno, plans a series of animated videos on jubilee-related themes in tandem with Audiovisivi San Paolo, an undertaking of the Pauline Fathers and Brothers. The subjects are as diverse as the meaning of indulgences, the principal events of holy years and the significance of year 2000 celebrations in particular. Throughout the series, the same character acts as narrator: an earnest and straight-talking young monk, Brother Jacopone. ▼

Catholic, Jewish scholars to review Vatican's WWII documents

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and its official Jewish dialogue partner will appoint a team of Catholic and Jewish scholars to conduct a joint review of Vatican documents from the World War II era.

The Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, known as IJCIC, announced the agreement Oct. 19.

The three Catholic and three Jewish scholars, whose names should be announced by the end of October, will begin with the 11 volumes of Vatican archival material published between 1965 and 1981.

"The main focus is to determine what occurred during the Holocaust period and World War II, and if questions still remain, then the scholars will seek further clarification," said Seymour D. Reich, IJCIC chairman.

The agreement marks the renewed activity of IJCIC — an umbrella group of Jewish organizations — which had been inactive for several years and plagued by internal divisions.

The Anti-Defamation League, which left IJCIC in April, was not part of the October agreement, Reich told Catholic News Service in Rome.

The joint study is a response to one of the thorniest questions in Catholic-Jewish relations: The activity of the Catholic Church and, particularly, of Pope Pius XII during World War II and the Holocaust.

Prominent Jewish organizations repeatedly have called on the Vatican to open its World War II archives to clarify allegations that church leaders knew the extent of the Holocaust yet failed to raise their voices in defense of European Jews.

The Vatican repeatedly responded that all relevant documents had been published in the 11 volumes prepared by a team of Jesuit researchers.

The Vatican has maintained the documents show the church helped save thousands of Jews from deportation to concentration camps and that Pope Pius feared that if he strongly condemned the Nazis, they would retaliate with harsher measures against Catholics and Jews.

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, said in 1998 that calls for opening all the Vatican archives made no sense when the relevant published documents had not been studied thoroughly.

He called for a joint study of the published archival material by Catholic and Jewish scholars.

A year later, the cardinal said, "The offer was completely ignored" by Jewish organizations.

The Oct. 19 statement from the Vatican and IJCIC said, "Cardinal Cassidy and Mr. Reich expressed the hope that any question and differences that now exist or may arise can be resolved through the joint review process.

"The team of scholars is expected to raise relevant questions and issues that, in its opinion, have not been adequately or satisfactorily resolved by the available documentation, and to issue a report on their findings," the statement said.

Reich said he hoped the six scholars could meet in New York in early December and map out their work, which will deal with documents in their original languages — mostly Italian, German and French.

No timeline has been set, he said.

"This is intended to be a scholarly work; they won't rush or do a slipshod job," Reich said.

Although the volumes have been available since 1981, Reich said the approach of a joint review is new. "Even if they had been studied before, it wasn't by a group of Catholic and Jewish scholars. Their work will be officially recognized and, therefore, difficult to ignore," he said.

Cardinal Cassidy and Reich said their Oct. 18 meeting included a discussion about IJCIC's current membership and about some members' insistence that the Vatican and IJCIC not engage in a dialogue on theological issues.

Reich said, "Some of our members have a problem with discussing theological topics per se, but we have found ways in the past to touch those topics and, undoubtedly, we will in the future."

Rabbi A. James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee, an IJCIC member, told CNS in Washington the joint study of the Vatican's World War II archives is important to Catholic-Jewish relations, particularly given the Vatican process to beatify Pope Pius.

"The defenders and detractors of Pope Pius XII are both working with a lack of primary source materials," the rabbi said. "Pius XII deserves more than an incomplete study" on either side.

The rabbi said he was not hopeful about getting theological topics on the table for Vatican-Jewish discussions, since IJCIC operated by consensus and its Orthodox members insisted the conversations not focus on theology.

He said he disagrees with the Orthodox Jews because "if you're going to have a true dialogue, everything should be on the table. In fact, Jews do discuss theology with Christians."

Eugene Fisher, associate director for Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. bishops' Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, agreed with the rabbi.

"Nothing should be barred from the table in dialogue. You can't have a dialogue through press releases — you have to sit down together to talk about it," Fisher said.

"The more volatile the issue is, the more important it is to be sensitive to each other's position," he said.

The current members of IJCIC are: the American Jewish Committee; B'nai B'rith International; Israel Jewish Council on Interreligious Consultations; World Jewish Congress; the Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America; the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Rabbinical Assembly; and the Reform Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Central Conference of American Rabbis. ▼

Contributing to this story was Jerry Filteau in Washington.

Anniversary,
from page 3

passed away and some time had gone by, at the urging of others to do more activities, Mrs. Foskey began to take driving lessons. She had no idea that she would be receiving her license and meeting her second husband at the same time — David Foskey was the driving instructor. After three weeks, he proposed, she accepted, and they combined his three children and her six children into one large family.

"If one of my daughters had come to me and said 'Mom, I want to marry someone, but I've only known him for three weeks,' I would have said 'no way,'" joked Mrs. Foskey. "God knew when I would be ready for someone else and who I needed the most."

John Green and his wife Sue, parishioners from St. James Church in Concord who are celebrating their 25th anniversary, said, "It seems like yesterday [since we were first married]. This is a wonderful way to bring everyone together who is celebrating the same thing you are. It reminds us why we have been able to do this for 25 years — through God's blessing."

"Fifty years of marriage has been wonderful; it brought us four daughters, and we have grown into a close-knit family over those fifty years," said Mr. and Mrs. James Dawson from Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion.

"We have had a wonderful and happy life," continued Mrs. Foskey. "The first year of marriage is full of happy expectations, but as the years go by, you realize that there is more to marriage than that. There is a joyful oneness between us, and our marriage has been very blessed. God knew when I needed someone and who I needed the most."

"It is a lifelong commitment," said Vincent and Helen Tamburro from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro. "It is an honor to be here and is nice to see so many other couples with the long marriages," said Mr. Tamburro. "This reminds you of events during your marriage and brings back many memories," added Mrs. Tamburro. She and her husband have been married for 50 years.

This endeavor is sponsored by the Family Life Program, one of the 10 ministries under the leadership of Gerry Carter, director of Special Ministries. The first anniversary Mass occurred during the time when Atlanta Archbishop John F. Donoghue was bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte and has continued since then. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Do YOU have a story of faith?
See ad on page 15 for details.

Book Review

"Waking Up in America" paints grim picture of healthcare for homeless and hopeless

Reviewed by JAMES C. O'NEILL
Catholic News Service

In this age of profit-oriented HMOs and increasingly impersonal health care, the story of "Dr. Joe" Greer's work among the homeless and hopeless of Miami's worst slums, "Waking Up in America," carries a challenging message: it does not have to be that way.

No shrinking violet, the 43-year-old physician writes that as a young doctor, "I was inspired beyond my wildest dreams to build a clinic for the homeless, another for undocumented immigrants, and to establish other provisional facilities for the poor. In the process, I learned that the beauty of America is this simple: if we find it wrong, we can make it right."

"Waking Up in America"
by Dr. Pedro Jose Greer Jr.
with Liz Balmaseda,
Simon & Schuster (New York, 1999). 202 pp., $22.

This autobiography, written with the help of Miami journalist Liz Balmaseda, bristles with can-do bravado and resounding outrage. Dr. Joe has made it his mission to bring passion, drive and creative energy to focus on the city's castaways who had fallen through the cracks of an indifferent society.

Pedro Jose Greer Jr. is the son of a Cuban family which fled to Miami to escape the Castro regime. After studying medicine in Haiti, Joe started as an intern in 1984 at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital. Young Dr. Joe found himself trying to treat patients who were beyond help because nothing was done for them until at death's door.

To reach the poor and the sick in his first year as an intern, he started the Camillus free health clinic staffed with fellow interns, scrounging supplies from wherever he could. Trusting his instincts, Dr. Joe pushed his outreach program to the dangerous rat-infested hideaways of homeless drug addicts, prostitutes, runaways and other derelicts.

Today Camillus treats more than 10,000 persons a year and provides other survival services. His experience has led Joe to conclude that America's health care system "is designed for an upper-middle-class society" where "the poor and uninsured are left to scramble on the fringes."

In addition to medical and social action, Dr. Joe became an advocate for the "untouchables" first in Miami and later nationally. He served on the Bush and Clinton administrations' health care advisory groups, although he resigned from the Clinton group because it failed to live up to his expectations.

Dr. Joe bellows when he speaks of profiteering HBOs, the bean counters who deny decent medical care to bolster incomes and power bases within the medical community. At times readers might think Dr. Joe is blowing his horn too much. Nonetheless, it is a fact that his dedication has drawn financial and moral support from Comic Relief, a "genius" grant from the prestigious MacArthur Foundation, and backing from Miami's retired Catholic Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy.

At other times the book runs the risk of being seen as a promotion piece for some future fund-raiser for Dr. Joe's work. If so, that's OK. This is not only his story, but also the stories of many of the helpless and homeless whom we meet in these pages. This book forces readers to look at the personal aspect of dire poverty, to see the person behind the sociological or medical statistic. ▼

O'Neill, a former newsman and publicist, is a volunteer for Meals on Wheels in Westchester County in New York and food driver for a South Bronx soup kitchen.

Word to Life

October 24, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:
1) Exodus 22:20-26
Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51ab
2) 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
3) Matthew 22:34-40

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

The crowded kitchen was noisy with animated conversation and laughter, and half-shouted queries of "chocolate or pistachio?" A multigenerational group of close friends was loudly enjoying good stories, delicious food and each other's company. Dishes were cleared, coffee orders taken and ice cream bowls distributed.

The hosts — new parents whose lives finally were getting back to normal now that the baby was sleeping through the night — were engrossed in a comical exchange recounting the adventures of parents and their teen-agers.

In the midst of this happy and raucous circle, the new parents suddenly looked across the table at each other. Their faces were alert, heads cocked ever so slightly, eyes narrowed. The conversation and laughter, engaging as they were seconds earlier, had faded into background noise.

"I'll go," the mother whispered to her husband.

"Where're you going?" a friend asked.

"The baby's crying," the father replied.

Everyone stopped talking and, as one, listened. Not a peep. They rolled their eyes and joked about nervous new parents hearing things.

Just then a loud wail pierced the laughter, followed by murmured sounds of comfort. The father grinned in vindication as the crying trailed off to contented silence.

"How the heck did she do that?" a teen-ager wondered in amazement. The sounds of talk and the slurping of ice cream from the bottoms of bowls resumed, and the party continued.

The power of love to sensitize the hearing of parents to the distress of their children is awesome to behold. How much more awesome, then, the sensitivity of God's hearing to us, his beloved children, when we are suffering.

In Sunday's first reading, from Exodus, God says of those in need, "When they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry."

To the extent that we are anguished, this is good news indeed. To the extent that we are the cause of suffering for others, God's sensitivity to the cry of the poor should make us think hard about how we might relieve their pain.

"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry"
— Exodus 22:21-22.

Questions:
What's one time in your life when you heard something that no one else heard? Where in your daily life could you listen more attentively to hear, with God, the cry of the poor?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 24 - 30, 1999

Sunday, Exodus 22:20-26, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Matthew 22:34-40; **Monday**, Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Romans 8:18-25, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday**, Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday**, Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16; **Friday**, Romans 9:1-5, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday**, Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11

Want to write your own story of faith?
See page 15 for details.

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Six prize winners announced in this year's Angelus Awards

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Six student filmmakers will share $8,500 in prize money in this year's Angelus Awards competition, sponsored by Family Theater Productions.

The awards were announced in Hollywood by Jack Shea, president of the Directors Guild of America, and actor Kevin Dobson, an honorary committee member.

The Patrick Peyton Award for Excellence in Filmmaking, named after the priest-founder of the Family Theater, went to Columbia University student Lisa Kaufman for "Packing for Two." She also won $2,500.

Kaufman as well as three students awarded $1,500 each and two awarded $750 each will be honored at a Nov. 6 screening at the Directors Guild of America headquarters in Hollywood.

The winners of the $1,500 prizes are:

— Barbara Schock of the American Film Institute, the Mole-Richardson Award for Production Design for "My Mother Dreams the Satans Disciples in New York."

— D.J. Johnson of the University of Southern California, the Angelus Award for Nonfiction Filmmaking for "Men Like My Father, Families Like My Own."

— Dwight Hwang of California Institute of the Arts, the Angeles Award for Outstanding Animation for "The Reunion."

Receiving special recognition and the $750 prizes are Francesca Di Amico of the Art Center College of Design for "Silence Living in Houses," and Michael Zaidan of the American Film Institute for "The Last Tzaddik."

Four other finalists will have their films screened at the Nov. 6 event: Ted Kroeber of Loyola Marymount University, "Borders"; Matthew Hanzen of Brigham Young University, "Hold Me"; Dan Rutledge of Regent University, "The Window"; and Larry Eisenberg of California Institute of the Arts, "David Proshker."

The Angelus Awards honor student films which explore the complexity of the human condition with creativity, compassion and respect.

Past Angelus Award winners include Tony Bui, who won the Grand Jury Prize at the last Sundance film Festival for his film "Three Seasons."

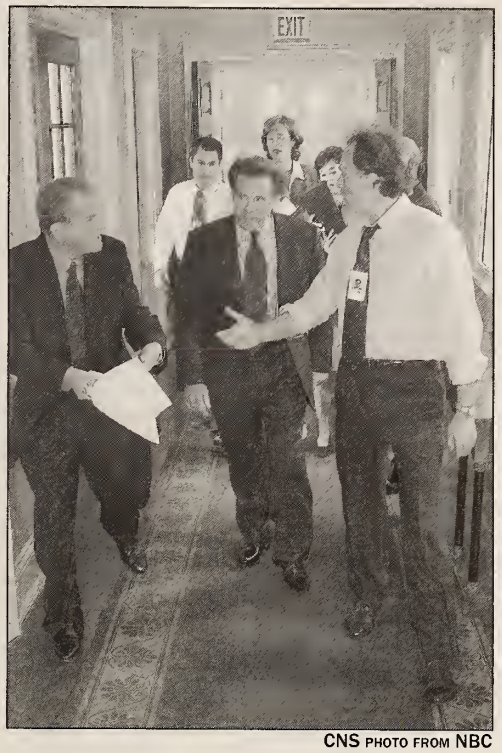
Over the years many notable actors and filmmakers have been part of Family Theater Productions, including George Lucas and James Dean, who received their first film credits in one of those productions.

Co-sponsors of the Angelus Awards this year included Lucasfilm Ltd., Gregory Productions and Crest National Video. Actress Joan Van Ark is chairwoman of the honorary awards committee and other committee members include stars Gregory Peck, Lynn Redgrave, Christopher Reeve and Jane Wyatt. ▼

New at the Box Office

"Superstar" (Paramount)

Molly Shannon brings her TV comic skit character of a klutzy Catholic adolescent to the big screen but the thin story of her high school hi-jinks as well as some farcical religious stereotypes are only occasionally amusing. Director Bruce McCulloch fails to find much humor or any wit in the dim proceedings whose dopey central character grows increasingly tiresome, unsympathetic and ultimately irritating. Considerable sexual innuendo, comic religious stereotypes, occasional vulgar language and a sexual expletive. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

"The West Wing"
Martin Sheen, center, plays U.S. President Josiah Bartlet in the new NBC drama series "The West Wing."

Y2K documentary outlines society's dependency on computers

By HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Providing a breezy but reassuring look at what may happen on Jan. 1 when the date on computers turns from 99 to 00 is the informative documentary, "Y2K: The Winter of Our Disconnect," airing Tuesday, Oct. 26, 8-9 p.m. EDT on PBS.

Computer expert Robert X. Cringely takes viewers on a tour of computer history, theory and practice, explaining along the way how much — but not all — of contemporary life is dependent upon computers.

The potential Y2K crisis stems from the early days of computers when much needed data space was saved by using two digits instead of four to record dates.

When computers turn to 00 on Jan. 1, those which have not been reprogrammed properly will read the date as 1900, which may trigger a variety of malfunctions.

Though most computers have been reprogrammed, there is considerable uncertainty about how successful this effort has been.

Whatever may happen Jan. 1, Cringely points out that the production and delivery of power sources and other utilities will not be affected by dating problems.

It is the billing for those services as well as other types of accounting which may be affected by dating glitches.

Though banks and credit cards are also vulnerable to computer failures, Cringely points out if this were to happen, stores "will always accept your check."

"Y2K: The Winter of Our Disconnect"
Oct. 26 on PBS,
8-9 p.m. EDT

After running through various scenarios of Y2K mishaps, Cringely states the real danger is not one of technology but of people's fear of what might happen.

If people panicked and began withdrawing their bank savings or hoarding foodstuffs, there could be a real Y2K crisis.

By the time Cringely concludes this survey, he has made a convincing case that people have less to fear from computers than from their fear of them. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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— John 4:14

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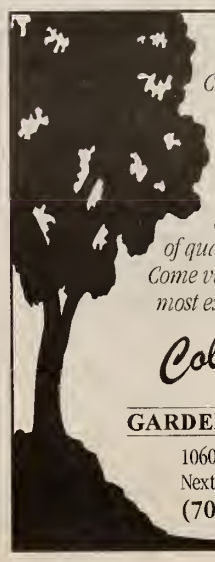

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Service on parish councils is a calling, pastor says

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

FRANKLIN — You've just been asked to serve on your parish's pastoral or finance council. If you agree, you'll be responding to more than an invitation from your pastor, as members of those councils in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate learned at a workshop at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Representatives attended from Holy Redeemer, Andrews; St. Joseph, Bryson City; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee; St. Francis of Assisi, Franklin; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hayesville; Our Lady of the Mountains, Highlands; St. Margaret, Maggie Valley; St. William, Murphy; St. Jude, Sapphire Valley; St. Mary, Sylva.

"When you are asked to serve on a pastoral council or finance council, this is not just serving on another committee; this is a call."
— Father George Kloster, Vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate

"When you are asked to serve on a pastoral council or finance council, this is not just serving on another committee; this is a call," said Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, who conducted the workshop. This call is a vocation, Kloster said.

"A vocation is a very deep, very powerful, permeating interaction between myself and God," Kloster said. "We are called into existence at this time, in this place, among these people, for the sake of investing our time in some cause of transcending importance. Vocation is beyond our life's work; vocation is partnership with God."

Whatever the person's state in life — married, single, religious — the state should enrich and enhance the vocation. A vocation is seen as "what I most need to do and that the world most needs to have done," Kloster said.

"I must be alert to the authentic voice of God calling me in my life," he added. "We must have a real sense of honesty, have the ability to examine our motives, to not simply pursue our own ends."

So, how does this apply to service on the pastoral council?

"We're about things that need to be done," he said. "The council must understand it has a calling and must work to discern what that calling is. Many times the meeting is to get through the agenda, but if the agenda is drafted right, the council can hear God's call through the agenda."

God speaks through others, through his word, through conscience, prayer, and society. Therefore, unless the council sets aside time at meetings for prayer, reflection, and spiritual development, it might not hear God's call. Setting aside time for prayer and reflection is important because, Kloster pointed out, the parish is first and foremost a spiritual body, and the pastoral council sets the tone for spiritual development and faith growth in the faith community.

So, with part of the meeting being taken up with spiritual development, how does parish business get done without the meeting running far into the night?

"How can we be people who liberate others?" Kloster said. "Don't get sidetracked with irrelevant customs and unimportant traditions. What are the real needs, and how is this parish addressing them?"

The pastoral council avoids micromanaging. Commissions should be set up to implement what needs to be done. These commissions are liturgy, family life, evangelization, community life, administration, and faith formation.

Courtesy photo

Three, two, one: Lift Off

Eighth-grade students from Immaculata School in Hendersonville experienced an educational adventure during a recent three-day visit to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. In addition to strolling the length of a 365-foot Saturn V rocket that carried astronauts to the moon, and walking underneath the nation's only full-scale space shuttle display and seeing firsthand, students got to see the world's fastest plane, the SR-71 Blackbird. But it wasn't just a sightseeing expedition, the students got some hands on experience with motion-based simulators, the thrill of G-force and weightlessness, and space footage viewed in the 67-foot IMAX format. From left to right, first row: Mary Elizabeth Rause, Octavio Rodnguez, Brian Petullo, Weesie Vieira, Jennifer Petullo. Row two, Janet Smith, Lauren Ellis, Brooke Davenport, Cortney Shock, Jason Keenan, William Wierman, and Krafton Locke.

"The people who are commissioned should have the freedom to do what they need to do," Kloster said. "The pastoral council should supply the vision for the parish; the commissions should carry out the vision. The council should have the broad view."

Each commissions submits a written report to the pastoral council so members can read them several days before a meeting. The reports detail what the commissions have been doing. If a commission has a special concern, it is addressed at the meeting. The appropriate commission takes care of routine items outside the meeting. For instance, if money is in the budget to get the rugs cleaned, the council shouldn't have to deal with that and it shouldn't be brought up at a council meeting.

Then there's money.

"The pastoral council needs always to know where the finance council is," Kloster said. "A member of the finance council needs to be a voting member of the pastoral council. The pastoral council needs to have a good sense of what the finances are without managing the budget."

Throughout the workshop, including the viewing of "Nights at the Round Table, a video on effective parish councils, the idea was stressed that all have an equal role to play.

"What made me sit up and take notice was the idea of equality," said Virginia Baecher of St. Francis. "If we could get that idea across to the parish, we'd have more people who'd want to get involved. Nobody's better than anybody else." ▼

For more information about pastoral councils, visit www.charlottediocese.org/planning.

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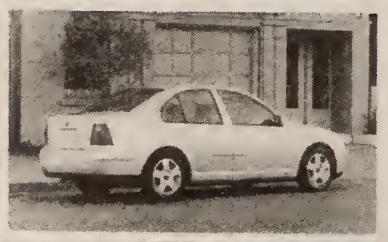
Do YOU have a story of faith?
See page 14 for details.



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South American kidnappings: continuing the vigil

Juan Bermudez wants the world to remember those in captivity.... "The more time we allow to go by, these people seem to be forgotten. Pray for them and not allow this situation to be forgotten."

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — It may have seemed like an ordinary Sunday as Clemencia and Licerio prepared for Mass. With three children, there are infinite possibilities of how they might have spent that time.

One thing is irrefutable: Clemencia and Licerio headed out for Mass. They did not return.

Instead, on that day this past May, the couple and one of their children were kidnapped alongside more than 150 of their neighbors and friends. Their 10-year-old daughter was let go, but Clemencia and Licerio became pawns in an ugly guerrilla coup.

Nearly 40 armed and uniformed men — believed to be members of the rebel group ELN [the National Liberation Army] — abducted the parishioners during Mass at the Church of La Maria in the town of Cali in Colombia.

In Charlotte, Clemencia's brother, Juan Bermudez, prays for their release. And while the St. Gabriel parishioner and his family hold vigil in Charlotte, thousands of miles away in South America, the siblings and parents of his kidnapped sister and her husband hold on in faith.

In Cali, relatives of the kidnapped victims prepared a special Mass to pray for the hostages' health and liberation.

Mid-June brought the release of 33 of the hostages, and increased hopes for all the kidnapped victims. More would find their way to safety, though Clemencia and Licerio remained captive.

Sometime in July, Clemencia got a letter to her children — via The Red Cross — letting her children know that they were okay healthwise and hoping for a prompt resolution to the situation, says Bermudez. One of the Colombia newspapers published a picture of a handful of kidnapped in August. Included among the victims: a visible Clemencia, but no Licerio.

There is an audible frustration his voice as Bermudez recalls ELN plans to release a handful of individuals, including Licerio, but that never happens. With dashed hopes, Bermudez says, "There's nothing, there's no other news."

Bermudez worries about the emotional toll on his parents: His 89 year-old father and 76 year-old mother. "You go to my [parents'] house and the only thing they can talk about is the situation. There's nothing else going on except this," he says. "Everybody is trying to support each other, but it's been tough to cope with all of this."

Early in August, Archbishop Isaias Duarte Cancino of Cali excommunicated the guerrillas responsible for the May kidnappings. In a statement to the kidnappers, the archbishop said they "have done a wrong which they are removed from the communion of the Church. Let us hope they understand that they have committed a very big error, and that they must undo the wrong and return to the breast of the church, to enjoy the graces and blessings of God."

Holy words fall on the deaf ears of terrorists.

Words decrying the widespread violation of human rights and international humanitarian laws also go unheard by the guerrillas. Amnesty International repeatedly denounced the deplorable attacks against humanity. "We have repeatedly condemned the taking and holding of hostages in Colombia and call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those currently held by armed opposition groups and paramilitary organizations."

In mid-August, Pope John Paul II called for a lasting peace to end the "absurd violence" in Colombia. "...To all the victims of this absurd violence, I express my closeness and my prayers that they may be returned as soon as possible to their families," said the pontiff.

Yet faith resounds among the families, and prayers are slowly answered. Licerio was released three weeks ago, along with several other men. Bermudez hasn't talked with his brother-in-law, but word is he is in good shape.

Juan Bermudez wants the world to remember those in captivity, most expressively, his sister, Clemencia. "The more time we allow to go by, these people seem to be forgotten. Pray for them and not allow this situation to be forgotten." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

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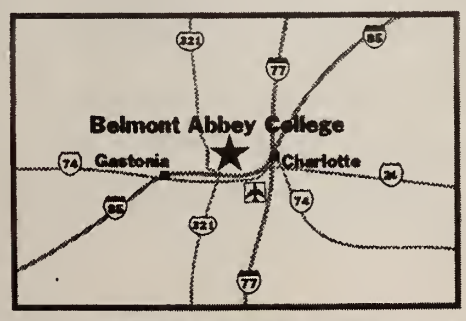

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PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Lore Koller and Pat Johnsson play checkers during a break. Both are from St. Gabriel in Charlotte.

Fall Day, from page 1

during a part of his talk telling the audience not to worry about past mistakes. "I will remember that always," she said.

Pat Brown, member at St. Matthew parish in Charlotte, also talked about the day. "I felt that Father Hunt's talk is just what people our age needed," she said. "The peace he emanates is wonderful."

Mary A. Green, also a member of St. Matthew parish, agreed. "He has such a good sense of humor and real faith," she said.

Other seniors talked about the reason they came to the event. "I think it's wonderful for people our age to get together," said Anne Kerelak, a member of Our Lady of Mercy parish in Winston-Salem. "It's too bad more people don't take advantage."

Marie Newschwander, a member of St. Philip the Apostle parish in Statesville, said, "We just need every once in a while to get away from our everyday routine."

Albertine Walker, also a member of St. Philip the Apostle parish, added, "I came because I enjoy the outing, and to meet other parish members and have fellowship."

Mrs. Breakfield said of the day, "It's almost like a reunion for a lot of people. I was very pleased. I thought that Father Hunt was absolutely wonderful. They (the seniors) really liked his manner and the way he seemed to speak from his heart. He gave them some practical things and some challenging things to think about."

Bishop William G. Curlin, who celebrated Mass at the close of the day, echoed the comments of Father Hunt by talking about the contributions that senior citizens could make with their lives. "I thank you, especially because of your example, . . . your prayers, . . . your living witness to this world," he said. "You are the heroes because you took your faith, and you kept it, and you showed the world. I thank you for being that light in our diocese.

"Show us how to walk like Jesus. Continue to be the light." ▼

Group signs covenant to become Mercy Associates

BELMONT — Thirteen lay men and women signed their initial Covenant to become Mercy Associates on Sept. 26 at Cardinal Gibbons Chapel in Sacred Heart Convent. This formalized commitment follows several months of study around the history of the Sisters of Mercy and the charism of Mercy as exemplified by Mercy founder Catherine McAuley.

Additionally, pre-Associates are asked to determine where they are and see how they can extend the charism of Mercy within themselves, their families and among their local communities.

Mercy Associate Pat Murphy welcomed the group; then came a reflection from Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, who challenged the new Mercy Associates to be "intentional Christians in the marketplace."

Long-standing Mercy Associates reaffirmed their covenants, followed by the signing of covenants by new Associates at the altar. Mercy Associate pins were presented to new Associates followed by the anointing of their hands by Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picot, president of the regional community of North Carolina of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Sisters Jeanne Marie Kienast and Therese Galligan, co-directors of Mercy Association, introduced the group to the Sisters of Mercy in attendance and to their fellow Associates.

The group includes: Carolyn Bergman of Gastonia; Debbie Burgess of Mooresville, Rita Brennan, Sue Coley, B.J. Dengler, Gaye Dimmick, Janet Garbison, Margaret Mancino, Kathy Murray, Linda and John Pastryk and Ann Schuler, all of Charlotte; and Mary Kathryn Pickitt of Lake Wylie, S.C.

Mercy Association supports a mutually enriching relationship between the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and others that empowers a response to the call to Gospel holiness through sharing in spirit and mission. Mercy Associates make a commitment through a formal covenant with a regional community. Each Associate extends the mission of Mercy in his or her own way, while maintaining an independent lifestyle. Association also provides mutual opportunities for friendship, prayer, service, hospitality and celebration. Associates are welcome at many community gatherings.

In her time, Catherine McAuley, the founders of the Sisters of Mercy, responded to sickness, poverty and ignorance by following Jesus and his merciful response to the needs of others. For more than 160 years, the Sisters of Mercy have experienced the support, collaboration and dedication of many who share the Mercy vision.

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7:15 p.m.
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ONE OF A KIND, JUST LIKE YOU!

Charlotte resident part of national youth initiative

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Winston Sharpe says his memory of how to ride a bicycle has served him well.

He was a child growing up in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, N.Y., and his bicycle still had training wheels on it. He needed a helping hand.

"My dad, he used to roll with me and push me along, holding on to that bike while I'm pedaling," says Sharpe, now 28 and a resident of Charlotte. "Then I look back, and all of a sudden I'm pedaling by myself. There were people involved with my life, holding on to that bike, and then there was me finally pedaling by myself. I was off and running.

"Now it's time for me to help somebody with their training wheels."

Thanks to funding given to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty agency, Sharpe is learning much about helping people help themselves these days. One of four young adults in the United States who received stipends to work with CCHD projects last summer, Sharpe has been involved in a new national initiative aimed at teaching young people about the church's social justice principles by getting them involved locally.

Sharpe worked as an intern with Partners in Hope, an advocacy program partially funded by a local CCHD grant that assists families in need. A program of the private, nonprofit agency Crisis Assistance Ministry, Partners in Hope strives to help families provide for themselves through support, empowerment and education.

Sharpe is set to work this fall as an intern with Helping Empower Local People, a campaign project focusing on areas of youth and education, crime and safety, affordable housing, and jobs and wages.

The purpose of his work with the CCHD programs is two-fold. "The idea of the internships is to have people of college age or older who receive a grant in the summer that would give them a direct experience in CCHD kinds of projects, plus equip them to go back to school financially and in terms of motivation," said Dr. Barney Offerman, director of CCHD for the Diocese of Charlotte. Sharpe will begin classes at Belmont Abbey College next semester. The money he has earned through the internships, along with other jobs, is helping him reach a goal of putting himself through school.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Winston Sharpe operates a forklift in the Second Harvest Food Warehouse.

For the past decade especially, Sharpe has worked diligently to keep pedaling forward. Having survived struggles in his youth with poverty, drugs, cutting school and strained family relationships, he moved to the Charlotte area with his mother in 1989.

He persevered through more trouble with drugs, repaired his relationship with his mother and in 1993 converted to Catholicism. "It took some positive individuals in my life, such as my dad and other people, to let me see that that wasn't the way to go," he says of his former lifestyle. "I made a conscious decision that I didn't want to be involved with that, and I wanted to change my life."

He became more active in volunteer work, and began taking a hard look at effecting social justice for himself and others.

Now that he has strong family relationships, Sharpe says he sees even more clearly the need for programs like Partners in Hope that are geared toward the entire household.

For Partners in Hope, Sharpe enlisted volunteer time and services of individuals, organizations, churches and businesses to help families achieve their goals of self-improvement.

"I feel a bond towards those people that I get involved with, especially within the Partners in Hope program," says Sharpe. "It's a program that provides for people who are living in those same types of problems I that I grew up with.

"It feels good to watch them grow and change their situation. I can see myself in them."

Sharpe says he knows first-hand of the importance of mentoring, too.

"As we get older and we realize our mistakes, we want to make sure that people don't make the same mistakes that we did," he says. "The mentoring process is so important. It provides some encouragement, it provides people with information, it provides people with education."

When he's not interning or volunteering, Sharpe works as distribution coordinator of Second Harvest Food Warehouse of Metrolina, an agency serving more than 450 nonprofits such as homeless shelters, daycare centers and group homes. He's a licensed barber as well, often offering free services to low-income Charlotteans.

Now that his work with CCHD has been paired with his own experiences, Sharpe says he is strengthened even further in his resolve to help others. "What I've learned is that it works," he says. "As long as you help somebody and point them in the right direction and provide them with encouragement, it will make them do something for themselves."

Learning to address root causes of society's ills is one of the benefits Sharpe says he has been given. It's a gift he deems important.

"All of my needs are met through the grace of God," he says. "I'm fed, I have shelter, I have a loving family, and I have people in the community who respect me now and who I respect....

"That's the best blessing that God could have given me: to be a part of the solution instead of part of the problem in the community. Through Partners in Hope, Crisis Assistance and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, I'm allowing myself to be that instrument for positive change." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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We want your stories of faith.
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Can you think of a faith-centered moment in your life that has been truly significant?
Can you share your story in 100 words or less?
The Catholic News & Herald will select 10 readers' stories of faith to publish in an upcoming edition. Those selected will receive a pair of tickets to The Southern Christmas Show, Nov. 11-21 at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart. Entries must

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www.cssnc.org
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True love stands test of time, says "golden" couple

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — It was Easter Sunday evening in 1943 when Jacob Harold Jones strolled along a Portsmouth, Va., street and met Mary Louise Massey for the first time.

Jacob, age 15, spotted Mary waiting with her cousin for a bus to take them to the Portsmouth waterfront. "As normal on an Easter Sunday in that day and age, you'd promenade in the evening after services in your new suit — the only one you had," Jacob says with chuckle. "And the girls were looking good, too."

A friend introduced Jacob to Mary that springtime day, and young Jacob was instantly smitten. With that scene, the preface to a love story now more than five decades old was written.

"We just had chit chat and talked, but I was impressed," says Jacob with a smile. "After that meeting, I was hooked."

A chance meeting in 1943, not too long after their first encounter, brought the two together again. A junior assistant Boy Scout master at the time, Jacob visited the scout master's house for a gathering. The scouts spied two girls in the neighboring yard, and Jacob recognized one as Mary Massey. He concocted a ruse involving a fountain pen that brought him closer to the girl next door.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Jacob and Mary Jones celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at a Our Lady of Consolation Church in August.

"I took off immediately over to her house, rapped on the door, and her mother answered," he says. "I introduced myself: 'My name is Jacob Jones. I'm a junior assistant scout master, and the scout master would like to know if he could borrow a bottle of ink.'

"I came in and was looking around, straining my neck and saying, 'Where is she?'"

About that time, he caught just a glimpse of Mary in the kitchen. "That was enough," he says, "because I knew where she lived. Subsequently, we got together."

Mary, it turned out, was enamored, too. And she still is. Mary and Jacob celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August with family and friends at their parish church, and again on Oct. 17 with jubilarians from throughout the diocese at the annual silver and golden anniversary Mass in Charlotte.

They were married Aug. 27, 1949, in St. Mary Catholic Church, a now-defunct African-American parish in uptown Charlotte.

"Ours was the first wedding in that little church," recalls Mary, a Charlotte native.

A career U.S. Army and Air Force man, Jacob traveled extensively in the United States, Europe and Asia. There were times apart when Mary couldn't travel with him, but they relied on the strength instilled in them by their families.

Jacob recalls what he once told someone about how to be a good husband. "I had to fall back on my military experience," he says, again with a smile. "I said, 'When you get in line, you keep your mouth shut and do what your told.' You run risk every day if you try to improve on your wife's suggestions."

Mary and Jacob have three children — Jacob Jr., Karen Jones-Andrade, and Alan — and the five did experience the challenges of military family life. But Jacob and Mary were able to show their children the world, including a tour of the Holy Land, and the family remained strong throughout the travel and new experiences.

The Joneses have three grandchildren as well.

Through it all, their faith has been paramount. "It's the 100 percent stuff," says Mary. "It's so important."

Jacob nods in agreement. "It's the glue," he says.

Both active parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, the Joneses have — through good times and bad — relied on faith as the "crowning feature" of their relationship, as Jacob puts it.

"Every night, at home together, wherever we've been, we're on our knees saying prayers together," he says. "And there have been some cold floors with no carpet, too."

Marriage is a relationship of joy, discovery and compromise, the two agree. Mary says that in addition to a strong faith life, communication is key in a loving relationship. "You've got to be able to talk to each other," she says. "You cannot speak what you think is your peace and walk away. Both of you have to do this thing. You just have to stick with it until it's taken care of." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

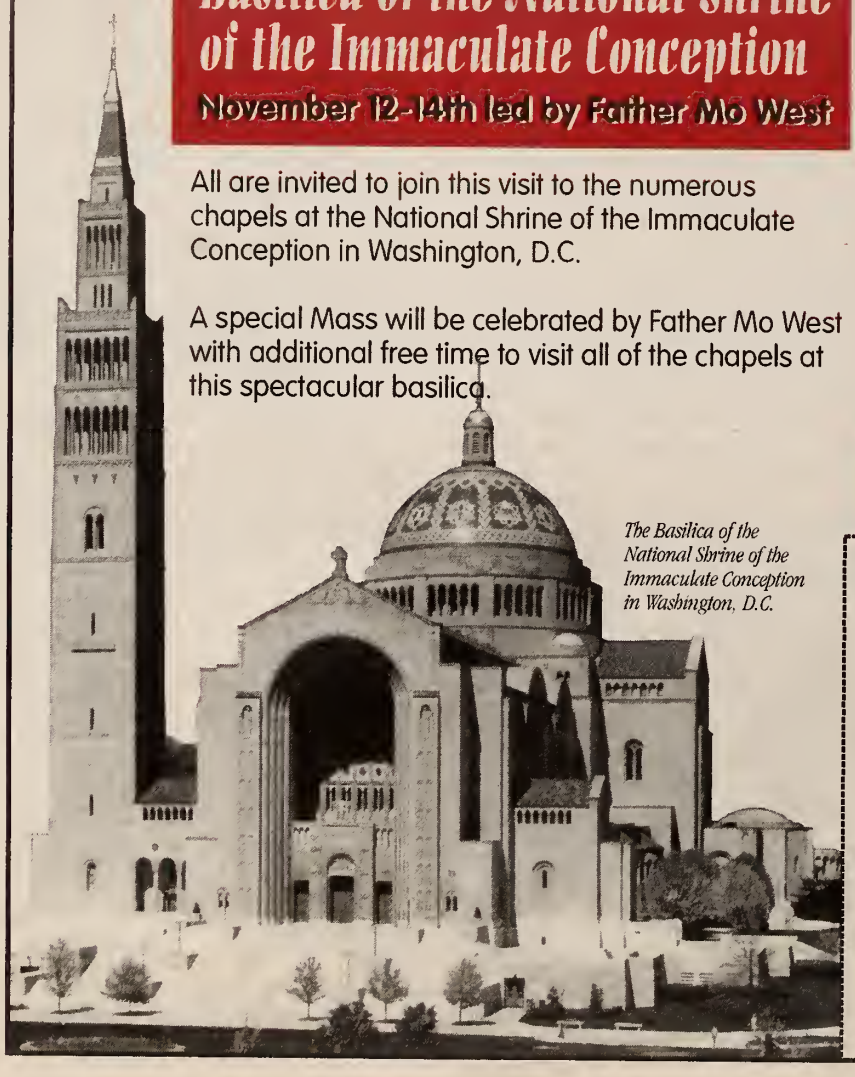
Come join the pilgrimage to the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

November 12-14th led by Father Mo West

All are invited to join this visit to the numerous chapels at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

A special Mass will be celebrated by Father Mo West with additional free time to visit all of the chapels at this spectacular basilica.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Friday, Nov. 12
3:30 pm - Depart Charlotte Pastoral Center by luxury motorcoach.

Box supper provided on coach. (cost included)

Overnight at Best Western hotel outside Washington, D.C. (cost included)

Saturday, Nov. 13
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
11:15 am - Guided tour of the National Shrine. Free time/lunch at cafeteria if you wish (not included in cost)
2:30 pm - Prayer service at Our Mother of Africa Chapel
3:00 pm - Mass celebrated By Father Mo West
4:00 pm - Coach will take you either to the Baltimore Inner Harbor shopping and entertainment complex or back to the hotel. Dinner is on your own Sat. Evening.

Sunday, Nov. 14
Full breakfast buffet at Joe Theismann's Restaurant (cost included)
12:30 pm - Mass at St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Depart for home after Mass.

Dinner stop at Piccadilly's Cafeteria in Stone Bridge, VA (cost included)

9:00 pm - Estimated arrival time at Charlotte Pastoral Center

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor, at (704) 370-3339
Deadline to register: Friday, October 29

Cost: ☐ $145 per person (double occupancy) ☐ $175 per person (single occupancy) ☐ $75 children under 18
Cost includes coach, hotel, activities and meals except Saturday lunch and dinner.
Full payment must accompany registration. Registration form needed for each person.

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PHONE _____ (day) _____ (evening)

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 5, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 10

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"The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification"

Pope calls Catholic-Lutheran agreement milestone on journey

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic-Lutheran agreement on justification is "a milestone along the not easy road of the re-establishment of full unity among Christians," Pope John Paul II said.

As representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity were signing the agreement Oct. 31 in Augsburg, Germany, the pope used his midday Angelus address at the Vatican to highlight the importance of the document.

"The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification," the pope said, deals with "one of the principal arguments which set Catholics and Lutherans against one another."

As one of the documents signed in Augsburg said, "Justification is forgiveness of sins and being made righteous, through which God imparts the gift of new life in Christ."

A key dispute during the Protestant Reformation was whether believers were justified and saved through grace alone or whether salvation required a combination of grace and good works.

The Catholic-Lutheran agreement states that justification comes through faith alone, but that good works are an essential sign of true faith.

Pope John Paul said the agreement "constitutes a sure basis for the continuation of ecumenical theological research and for facing the difficulties which remain with a better founded hope in resolving them in the future."

CNS photo from KNA

Catholic and Lutheran leaders pray together at the Lutheran Church of St. Anne in Augsburg, Germany, Oct. 31. The prayer service was held prior to the signing of "The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification."

"I want to thank the Lord for this intermediate step along a path which is difficult, but so rich in joy, unity and communion among Christians," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said the signing, in addition to helping Catholics and Lutherans give a better witness to the love and unity found in Christ, also is "a precious contribution to the purification of historic memories."

The signing ceremony in Germany began with a penitential service in Augsburg's Catholic cathedral. Catholics and Lutherans asked for forgiveness for not always having chosen the way of unity within their churches and within their lives.

Then, participants walked in a half-mile procession to the Lutheran Church of St. Anne for an ecumenical prayer service.

At the end of the service, the joint declaration was signed by Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; German Lutheran Bishop Christian Krause of Brunswick, president of the Lutheran World Federation; and by other Catholic and Lutheran participants.

In his homily during the service, Cardinal Cassidy said Christians share the original disciples' call to build the church of Christ.

"Our task is not only to continue the building, but unfortunately we have also the duty of seeking to repair the damage that has been done to that building by the storms, conflicts and, at times, by human-made earthquakes," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Cassidy said the agreement on justification is a gift from God and moves forward "in a significant way the work of restoration of unity among the followers of Christ."

The task of continuing the dialogue is urgent, he said.

"Our lack of love for one another,

See JOINT DOCTRINE, page 3

CNS photo from Reuters

Catholic Cardinal Edward Cassidy and German Lutheran Bishop Christian Krause shake hands at the signing of "The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" in Augsburg, Germany, Oct. 31. Cardinal Cassidy, representing the Vatican, and Bishop Krause, president of the Lutheran World Federation, signed the document marking the resolution of a doctrinal dispute that sparked the Reformation.

In Angola, gang kills Italian missionary priest

LUANDA, Angola (CNS) — An Italian missionary priest was shot and killed in Angola, apparently after refusing to hand over his car to thieves. Father Umberto Negrini, 59, had already been robbed twice of automobiles in recent years. When men armed with knives and guns surrounded his car Oct. 30 in the Angolan capital of Luanda, he locked the doors and tried to start the engine, according to witnesses. He was shot through the window and died after being taken to a hospital.

Interreligious assembly concludes with calls for cooperation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II and representatives of some 20 religious traditions closed a four-day Vatican assembly, saying greater cooperation, based on mutual forgiveness for past wrongs, was necessary to solve the world's spiritual and material problems. Punctuating the colorful, song-filled concluding ceremony Oct. 28 in St. Peter's Square was a surprise apology — which was met with sustained applause — by an Indian Hindu for recent anti-Christian violence in her country.

Bethlehem mayor, priest voice concerns over clashes

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Bethlehem's mayor said he was "deeply concerned" that clashes between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers will negatively affect tourism as the city prepares to welcome Christian pilgrims for the jubilee year. "We want Bethlehem and the surrounding areas to be quiet and calm and stabilized. It is in the best interest of everyone," said Mayor Hana Nasser, who is Catholic. "There is no doubt this will affect tourism," he said, though he said he believes it will only be temporary. Meanwhile a local priest said "our doors and our homes are open" to receive pilgrims, but the lack of peace remains a "great problem." Clashes left a dozen Palestinians wounded Oct. 27 following the funeral of a Palestinian man killed by an Israeli soldier Oct. 25 near Rachel's Tomb. Demonstrations after the killing left almost 40 Palestinians wounded, and two Israeli civilians and one Israeli soldier injured.

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Damage in Kosovo
A woman and child look over the damage done by NATO bombs last spring in the village of Postlisht, Kosovo. Catholic Relief Services supplies and monitors a food distribution program in the village aiding those affected by the war.

Young adult Catholics found less likely to marry in church

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — A new survey has found that younger adult Catholics in the United States are less church-connected and considerably less likely to marry in the church than their parents or grandparents. A team of sociologists, writing in the National Catholic Reporter, said young women in particular showed a "dramatic decline in allegiance" to the church. The National Catholic Reporter, a Kansas City-based Catholic weekly newspaper, devoted 10 pages of its Oct. 29 issue to findings of the survey, commissioned by the paper and conducted by the Gallup Organization by questioning 875 Catholics nationwide.

Calls to close Puerto Rican bombing range gaining strength

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Support is growing in Congress for a ban on U.S. Navy use of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques for bombing practice, activists on the issue said at an Oct. 26 press conference. Two Catholic bishops are among those urging President Clinton to exercise his authority to order the Navy off the island, which has been used for bombing exercises for more than 50 years. A civilian security guard was killed in April when a Navy fighter dropped two bombs more than a mile off target. Residents of the island, home to 9,300 people, see a connection between high rates of cancer and infant mortality, a decline in the quality of fishing in the area and the use of live ordnance and chemicals including napalm at the bombing range.

Bishop asks Catholics to return goods looted from East Timor

ATAMBUA, Indonesia (CNS) — The bishop of Atambua in predominantly Christian western Timor, Indonesia, urged local Catholics to return materials looted from East Timor during the post-referendum chaos. "Catholic leaders here have urged me to appeal to all people in Belu district, especially Catholics, to return the materials looted from East Timor to the owners," Bishop Anton Pain Ratu of Atambua said in mid-October, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

In letter to elderly, pope says death brings union with God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Old age and death naturally are frightening, 79-year-old Pope John Paul II said, but Christians must face the end of this life with the certainty they will be with God in the next. "Despite the limitations brought on by age, I continue to enjoy life," the pope wrote in a letter to his peers throughout the world. "At the same time," he said, "I find great peace in thinking of the time when the Lord will call me: from life to life!" Pope John Paul's "Letter to the Elderly," was released at the Vatican Oct. 26 and was written to mark the U.N.'s 1999 Year of the Older Person.

U.N. nuncio calls on nations to review how they treat children

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican nuncio to the United Nations called on the international community to examine its record on the treatment of children since adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child a decade ago. Speaking to a committee of the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 28, Archbishop Renato R. Martino said that despite the promises made then the world still saw "abominable crimes committed against millions of children, born and unborn."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER Catholic Press Association 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 9
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

November 10
Friends of Seminarians Dinner
Bishop Curlin's residence

November 11
Room at the Inn Banquet
Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte

November 13
Fire in the Mountains
Haywood Community College, Waynesville, NC

November 14
Heritage Foundation
Mass, Meeting, Reception
St. Patrick Cathedral

Diocesan planner

November

8 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Road, is having a charismatic Mass tonight 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke as the celebrant.

GREENSBORO — Kitty Rogers, a trained spiritual director and experienced Bible teacher, is leading "Journey with Mark: A Prayerful Study of Mark's Gospel" continuing tonight, Nov. 15, and Nov. 22. The sessions last from 7:30-9 p.m. in the day chapel of St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. Call the church office at (336) 272-4681 for further information.

9 WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Teresa Guild of St. Leo the Great Parish, 355 Springdale Ave., is hosting a holiday card party and fashion show tonight from 7-9 p.m. in the church's activity center. For ticket and other information, call Helen Roulo, the parish secretary, at (336) 724-0561.

10 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church hosts its annual Thanksgiving covered dish dinner today at 10:30 a.m., with entertainment by the Happy Note Singers. For details about the dinner and the upcoming Myrtle Beach trip, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

11 ASHEVILLE — Sister Helen Prejean, activist and author of "Dead Man Walking," is visiting the campus of the University of Charlotte at Asheville this afternoon from 4-5 p.m. at the Owen Conference Center and this evening at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in downtown Asheville. She and Steve Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, are going to be at Jubilee Community Church Nov. 12 at 8:15 a.m.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual memorial Mass for deceased members, family and friends

St. Cecilia Singers share gift of song

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The rich harmonies and familiar melodious refrains from another time and place in history were performed for the attendants at the choir concert on October 29 from the St. Cecilia Singers of Gloucester near London. The singers intertwined their musical history with some traditional American songs.

"We don't often present concerts at the cathedral, so this was a great outreach to the community to provide an opportunity for people to hear music that they would not normally hear."
— Larry Stratemeyer, music director of St. Patrick Cathedral

"This was a wonderful opportunity for people to hear a British choir and share a rich choral tradition that is found in our American tradition," said Larry Stratemeyer, the music director of St. Patrick Cathedral, who helped with arranging the singers' visit to Charlotte. "We don't often present concerts at the cathedral, so this was a great outreach to the community to provide an opportunity for people to hear music that they would not normally hear."

The twenty-five-member chamber choir made Charlotte their last stop on their North Carolina tour, which included Wilmington, Goldsboro and Ahoskie. This was the group's first trip to the states to perform their songs. Ian Hunt has been the assistant director of music for Gloucester Cathedral and the choir conductor since 1998. Gloucester Cathedral will be 900 years old next July.

St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians, is a fitting choice for the name of the chamber choir founded in 1949 by Dr. Donald Hunt. The choir is celebrating their fiftieth anniversary this year. They have appeared on BBC television, have been on radio, and have also recorded a CD of Gloucestershire music.

They are a chamber choir, which is one that traditionally sings secular music, said Hunt. They are mainly a concert choir that sings about four concerts a year and have made tours to Germany, France and Holland. The members of the choir include professional and non-professional singers from all walks of life, such as, a forensic psychiatrist, a psychologist, teachers and a general practitioner. Three of the male singers are from Gloucester Cathedral, while some sing in the abbey choir at Tewkesbury.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Ian Hunt, the assistant director of music at Gloucester Cathedral, conducts the St. Cecilia Singers during their concert at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte on October 29.

Hunt directed the singers through a program of songs from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries from British composers. The audience enjoyed "Kyrie and Gloria" and "Agnus Dei" from "Mass for Five Voices," arranged by Orlando Gibbons and William Byrd and John Tavener's arrangement of "A Song for Athene," one of the songs performed at Princess Diana's funeral, and other songs by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Daryl Runswick.

Hunt said, "music enhances my life immeasurably. It serves as an escape and entertainment, and it is a language that says what words and pictures can't express. It offers a glimpse of God that people do not often see."

In their tribute to America, the choir sung traditional African-American slavery songs, such as, "Steal Away" and "Nobody Knows" from "Five Negro Spirituals," an arrangement by Sir Michael Tippett and Runswick's arrangement of "O, Shenandoah" and "Frog-Went-A-Courtin'."

See CHOIR, page 15

Joint Doctrine, from page 1

brothers and sisters in the one Lord Jesus Christ, destroys the credibility of our preaching the Gospel of love," the cardinal said.

At an Oct. 29 press conference in Augsburg, the Rev. Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, said love must mark relations between Catholics and Lutherans everywhere.

"Wherever Lutherans and Roman Catholics live together, let the world know that they are not enemies, but sisters and brothers," he said.

Bishop Krause told the press conference that in the 30-year Catholic-Lutheran dialogue, "Trust and hope have increased and we have learned that that which binds us together is stronger than what distinguishes or separates us from each other."

The work of the dialogue must continue so that someday Catholics and Lutherans can be guests at each other's Eucharist, he said.

In addition, the Lutheran bishop said, the fruits of the dialogue must become concrete in joint efforts to help people in need.

Cardinal Cassidy told the press conference it was an honor to sign the agreement on behalf of the Vatican.

"If on the day of judgment I have nothing else to present to the Lord when he asks me, 'Did you do anything good during your life?' I can say I signed the joint declaration," the cardinal said. ▼

and in thanks for organizational prayers and blessings at the Franciscan Center this morning at 11 a.m. Seating is limited. For reservation and active membership participation, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home is having a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. For information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 882-9717.

12 WINSTON-SALEM — The Ultreya for Winston-Salem area cursillistas is being held at Joseph's House, 1903 S. Main St., tonight at 7:30 p.m. Babysitting is provided, and for more information call Brian Lockhart at (336) 377-3595 or (336) 760-4556.

GREENSBORO — The Our Lady of Grace School Parent-Teacher Organization (Home School Organization) is sponsoring a dinner dance and silent auction to benefit the school tonight from 7:30 p.m.-midnight at Sedgefield Country Club, 3201 Forsyth Dr. For more details, call Deb Kosko at (336) 644-1613.

HENDERSONVILLE — A Widowed Persons Mini Retreat - A Day of Prayer and Reflection is taking place today in the chapel of Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Beverages and dessert provided, so bring a bag lunch. Call Janet Lombardo at (828) 693-9014 or Loie Linder at (828) 692-7005.

15 NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls Group from St. Joseph Church meets this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall at 720 West 13th St. All Catholic girls ages 5 and up are welcome to attend. For further information, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

16 WINSTON-SALEM — Natural Family Planning class is taking place tonight at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., from 7-8:30 p.m. Contact Thomas and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

17 WINSTON-SALEM — For spiritual preparation for the holiday season, a pre-Thanksgiving Taize service is being held at Joseph's House, 1903 S. Main St., this evening at 5:30 p.m. For details, call (336) 722-0028.

19 HICKORY — "Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - A Journey of Post-Abortion Healing" is taking place today through Nov. 21 at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. The main focus is a biblical healing process based on Dr. Burke's "Rachel's Vineyard" with prayer, discussions, living Scripture exercises, private letter writing and a memorial service. All events are being hosted by Dr. Martha Shuping, Debbie Woodhams, and Marilyn Hodges. This retreat offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information, call Dr. Shuping at (336) 659-1342 or the Conference Center at (828) 327-0872.

20 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 North Fulton St., is holding their bi-annual Holiday Bazaar today from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in Helfrich Hall. The bazaar is featuring all handmade crafts, woodwork, baked goods, raffle, and many other items. Also, Louisiana Gumbo is being served for lunch with take-outs available. For more information, contact bazaar chairpersons Peggy Mangold at (704) 637-7721 or Ellen Kirk at (704) 637-8933.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a non-denominational group for single over 21. Events include Mass and brunch, trips, movies, dinners, and much more. For more information and a calendar, call Ken Kinner at (704) 764-7399 or Dawn Robertson at (704) 643-9950.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Serving barbecue at St. James Church
Courtney Duddy lines up for the 48th annual St. James Church barbecue in Concord, hosted recently on the parish grounds. Charlie Williams, far left, is the founder of the annual event, whose proceeds this year went to the parish building fund. Also pictured, left to right, are Francis Eugene Lentz, Sophie Brown, Teresa Chunn and Ann Borsuk.

Charlotte Catholic High School football coach receives honor

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School has dedicated its athletic field in honor of longtime coach Jim Oddo. The dedication ceremony of the Jim Oddo Athletic Field took place on Oct. 22, 1999 prior to the CCHS Homecoming Game.

Former CCHS Principal, Sister Mary Rosalind Picot, RSM, opened the dedication ceremony with a prayer. The National Anthem was played by the CCHS Marching Band. Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal, dedicated and blessed the field.

"As we stand on the threshold of a new millennium, it is most important that we thank and honor a special person who has given 37 years to the ministry of education and coaching — 27 of those years to Charlotte Catholic High School. We honor tonight the man who put the pride in 'Cougar Pride,' Coach Jim Oddo."

Jim Keffer, Class of 1983 made the presentation of the sign denoting the Jim Oddo Field.

A tearful oddo thanked Sister Paulette and his alma mater for their continuing support. Following the game, a reception honoring Coach Oddo was held in the cafeteria.

Coach Oddo was recently named one of Delaware's all-time top 50 athletes and was invited to a celebration commemorating the 50-year anniversary of Delaware's former athletes of the year.

In 1957, Oddo was named Delaware's athlete of the year. That year, he was a member of North Carolina State University's championship football team. Before attending N.C. State, Oddo was an all-state offensive guard and linebacker at Wilmington High School in Delaware.

Oddo began coaching in 1959 at McCarty High School in Ft. Pierce, Fla. Three years later, he returned to Charlotte and spent several years coaching and teaching biology at East Mecklenburg High School. In the fall of 1973, oddo joined Charlotte Catholic High School as athletic director and today celebrates his 26th season with the Cougars.

During his coaching career at CCHS, Oddo has six Rocky River Conference Championships, 14 state playoff appearances, two Division 2 state championships and one state championship. In 1973, Coach Oddo was named the Mecklenburg County Coach of the Charlotte Catholic High School Year and in 1989, was named the East-West All Star Coach. Oddo was selected as the 1991 Shrine Bowl Coach, the only CCHS coach to receive this honor. Oddo's overall record through the 1998 season is 189-101-2. ▼

We need help with clean up and demolition of damage by Hurricane Floyd

We are looking for individuals and parish communities to volunteer in Bertie County, near Windsor ... We need people during the week or weekend, either one day or overnight. Overnight accommodations will be available through Catholic Social Ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh.

For more information:
Gerard Carter, Disaster Relief Program, CSS
Phone: 704.370.3228 E-mail: cssgac@aol.com

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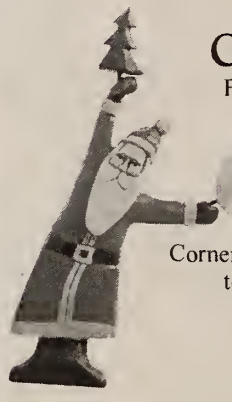

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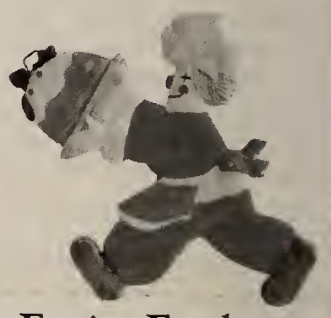

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Apple strudel, roasted almonds, gingerbread houses, spiced coffees, Moravian cookies, soups and savories.

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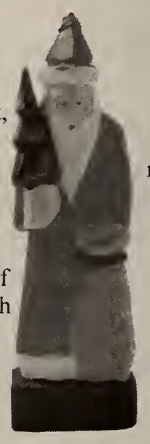

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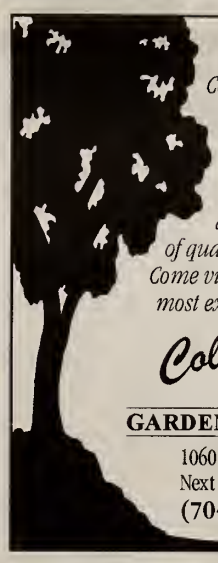
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Parishes cook up recipe books to help with fund-raising efforts

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

FRANKLIN — A recipe of an idea for a fund-raiser — a pinch of cooperation from parishioners, a dash of the sharing of time-tested cooking methods, and a tablespoon of dedication from the committee members — all ingredients that St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin and St. Joseph Church in Newton have mixed together for their parish cookbooks.

It is not the first time a cookbook has been produced for St. Francis of Assisi Church, said Dan Lange, cookbook committee chairman. Several years ago, there was a cookbook that helped to raise funds for the youth group. At the parish council meeting last Christmas, Pat Wise, a council member, suggested that the cookbook idea be used again with proceeds to go to the church's Family Life Center improvements. Lange brought up the idea again several months ago, and the cookbook idea was put into motion again.

The committee contacted Morris Press, a Nebraska company that produces cookbooks, and they sent a kit with software. Parishioner Grace Sulsenti entered in and proofread most of the 350 recipes that were sent in for the cookbook.

"We wanted this to be a labor of love from the parish, and we didn't want to leave anyone out," said Lange.

St. Francis has a seasonal average of 350 parishioners, so everyone was represented in the cookbook. Many parishioners seek sunnier climates away from the Smoky Mountain Vicariate winters. The congregation was asked to submit at least five recipes each, and surprisingly, only about five or six of the recipes were repeated. However, even those recipes had variations in ingredients or cooking time, and the person's name was designated in the recipe's name.

The laminated cover shows a picture of the church and a dedication with the church history on the first page and a favorite chicken recipe from Father C. Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Francis. Like many cookbooks, the sections are divided with appetizers, main dishes, casseroles, pies and pastries and one special section called "This and That."

Lange explained, "we added that section for things with no real category like butter dumplings, flour tortillas, barbecue sauce and other items."

The foods run the gamut from English bread pudding to German-style potato salad to U.S. Senate Bean Soup, a recipe sent in by Evelyn George in honor of Senator Bob Carpenter. The award for strangest-titled recipe goes to "Ring Tum Diddly," a version of the British dish "Rarebit" containing milk, tomato soup, butter, flour and mild cheese.

If someone is up to his or her elbows in sauce or seasonings, taking time to turn the page of a cookbook can be cumbersome and messy. Therefore, Lange asked some parish cooks if they were writing a cookbook, what feature would they include. The consensus was that the entire recipe should be on one page, unlike in many cookbooks where the recipes are usually split in half on the front and back of pages.

About 750 copies will be printed and expected to be ready for sales in time for Christmas. Next summer, the committee plans to have a parish potluck dinner where everyone will bring a dish to share from the cookbook.

"Many of the recipes were submitted by relatives of deceased parishioners," said Lange. "This is a way for us to remember members of the parish who have passed on through their cooking."

The St. Joseph Church parish cookbook was so popular that 200 copies sold in three weeks and more have been ordered.

In April, Eileen Crider, president of the parish's Ladies' Guild suggested that a cookbook would serve as a good way to raise money for the group's fund. They were looking for "a fund-raising project that was a little different." The proceeds from the sale of the cookbooks would be distributed among various organizations, such as, the Holy Angels and Helping Hands, a church fund, which helps members who need financial assistance at any time.

In May, a personal tragedy struck the women when Sandy Rudisill, a member of the Ladies' Guild, passed away. They decided to dedicate the cookbook to her.

"It was a very nice way to honor her because she loved to cook," said Susan Grant, a member of the cookbook committee. "A member of the church, who was also Sandy's nurse, copied down the recipes that Sandy dictated."

Grant, Susann Jolly, and Donna Sharman formed the cookbook committee and contacted Walters Cookbooks Publishing Company in Waseca, Minn., who sent them a package with blank recipe forms and other items. The committee received more than 200 recipes from parishioners after requests were sent out.

Everyone turned in different recipes, so, as with the St. Francis cookbook, many of the recipes did not overlap. Some younger parishioners also offered their own easy-to-make recipes.

A basket of fruit is featured on the spiral-bound cover with an index of names and recipes in the back that many of the kids especially appreciated, said Grant.

"Everyone enjoyed the chance to share their recipes with others, and all of the proceeds will go to help those in need," said Grant. ▼

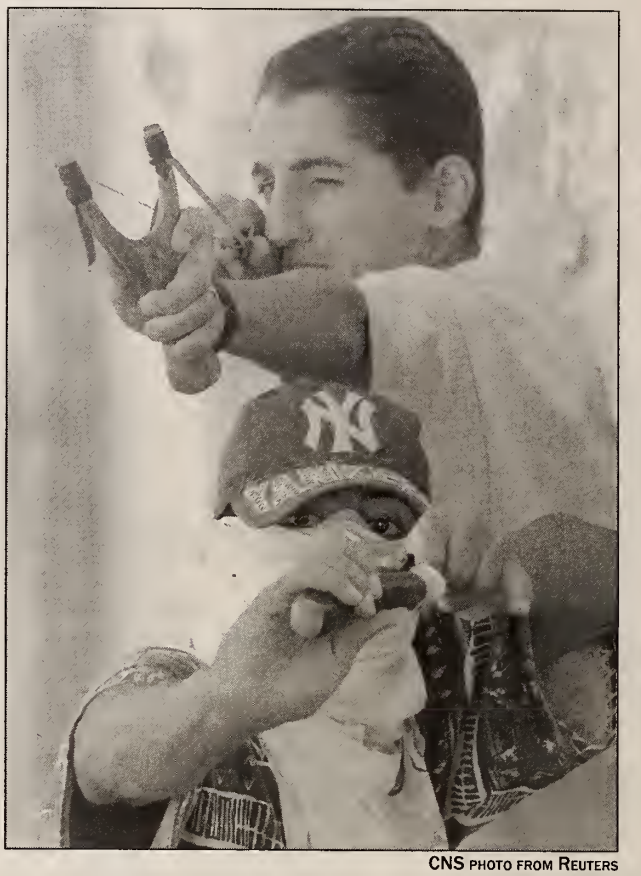
Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Father Hesburgh says road to peace in Kosovo will be bumpy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, said a visit to Kosovo left him with sadness for the devastation but hope for better things to come. "It was a terrible feeling to see so many houses burned down and to realize that more than 20,000 lives were extinguished so brutally," said Father Hesburgh in a telephone interview about his trip, which took place in early October. The priest, who spoke to Catholic News Service from his office at Notre Dame, went to Kosovo with officials from the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, the UNHCR. The priest is a U.S. representative to the commission.

Priest says Vatican II evident in effort on justification text

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Vatican's decision to join Lutherans in signing a joint declaration on the doctrine of justification — after making "severe criticisms" of the document — shows the use of a new "ecumenical method" derived from the Second Vatican Council, according to Jesuit Father Avery Dulles. In the past, Lutheran and Catholic statements would have been examined individually to see if they could be harmonized, he said. Today, he said, theologians look at each system as a whole, and see the way it tries to express the Christian faith "through different thought-forms." Father Dulles made the Catholic-Lutheran declaration the theme of his fall lecture as McGinley professor of religion and society at Fordham University in New York.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Retaliation after Palestian funeral
Palestinian men use slingshots to fire stones at Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem in late October. Clashes left a dozen Palestinians wounded Oct. 27 following the funeral of a Palestinian man killed by an Israeli soldier Oct. 25 near Rachel's Tomb.

Armenian Orthodox elect new patriarch

ETCHMIADZIN, Armenia (CNS) — Bishops, priests and lay members of the Armenian Orthodox Church elected a 48-year-old archbishop to be the new supreme patriarch of their church.

Archbishop Karekin Nersissian, the patriarch's vicar for the Diocese of Ararat, which surrounds the Holy See of Etchmiadzin, was elected Oct. 27 on the second ballot cast by delegates to the Armenian Apostolic Church assembly. The catholicos-elect was born in 1951 in Voskihat, near Etchmiadzin. He studied at the Etchmiadzin seminary and at the University of Vienna. He will be known as Catholicos Karekin II after his enthronement.

Famed director believed in redemptive suffering, says priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Legendary film director Alfred Hitchcock believed in redemptive suffering, and had many of his movie protagonists suffer before triumphing in the end, according to a Jesuit priest and film historian who wrote a biography on Hitchcock. "You must suffer and sacrifice in life if you're going to succeed," Father Gene Phillips remembered Hitchcock saying in an interview for the priest's 1980 biography, "Alfred Hitchcock." "He meant suffering in a moral sense, too," Father Phillips told Catholic News Service. "His characters suffered a great deal in his films."

Pizza-chain founder honored by Catholic-run treatment center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza and former owner of the Detroit Tigers baseball team, told a Washington audience he is now devoting his life to helping people get to heaven. "Everything I try to do in my remaining life is to help people get to heaven. I want to get there myself," said Monaghan, who sold his company last December to devote his life to charitable work. He was in Washington Oct. 18 to receive the first St. Luke Award, given by St. Luke Institute, a treatment center based in the Washington Archdiocese for priests and religious.

Mercy Sister Mary Patrick Ryder, former teacher and principal, dies at age 89

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Patrick Ryder died Sunday, Oct. 24, 1999, at Sacred Heart Convent. She was 89.

Received as a Sister of Mercy on May 26, 1927, Sister Mary Patrick was in her 72nd year as a Sister of Mercy.

A vigil service was held Oct. 25 in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent, where a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Oct. 26. Burial followed at the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Patrick Ryder was born June 26, 1910, in Newport, County Mayo, Ireland. Her birth name was Margaret Ryder; she took the name Sister Mary Patrick upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 1, 1926.

She was a graduate of both Sacred Heart College, formerly in Belmont, and Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where she received a bachelor of arts degree in history and education in 1949.

Her ministry included teaching and serving for over 22 years as a principal at several Catholic schools. She taught in elementary schools at St. Leo's and Sacred Heart Academy, both in Belmont, and held positions in North Carolina Catholic schools in Newton Grove, Charlotte, Wilmington and Salisbury. She also taught in New York state and in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., where she also served as a principal.

Upon retiring from full-time teaching administration, Sister Mary Patrick served as a fund-raiser for Sacred Heart College. She served in the finance department of Holy Angels, Inc., in Belmont; in the pastoral care department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville; and as treasurer for the motherhouse community.

In addition, Sister Mary Patrick held administrative appointments within the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of North Carolina, by serving as local superior on four different occasions for a total of 23 years. She continued her years of service as part of the internal support staff at Sacred Heart Convent until her death.

Sister Mary Patrick was the daughter of the late Thomas and Catherine McGovern Ryder. She is survived by two sisters: Mrs. Jim Cummins of Klmeena, Westport, County Mayo, Ireland, and Mrs. Kitty Cusack of Wilmette, Ill.; nieces Mrs. Regis Downey of Surrey, England, and Mary Catherine Patek of Cleveland, Ohio; and nephews, Tom O'Donnell of Richmond, Va., and William O'Donnell of Cleveland, Ohio.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 101 Mercy Dr., Belmont, N.C. 28012. ▾

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Trivia 2000

Millennium Series:

Rome beefs up security to protect millennium pilgrims

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Petty crime is a perennial problem in the Eternal City, but its elected leaders are beefing up security to protect its monuments and visitors during the year 2000.

As many as 1,500 people will be added to local museum payrolls from December until June 2001 to accommodate the expected millions of additional guests and to guard against theft. The Italian government recently passed a measure adding the necessary funds to its cultural budget. The same measure is meant to help lengthen the hours of museums, archeological sites, libraries and galleries.

Officials have also approved additional funds for traffic enforcement, as well as an increase in fines for violators. Tour-bus drivers will receive especially close attention during the jubilee year — those who drive through, or park in, restricted areas could face fines exceeding $300.

Rome's police department is to have a direct connection to surveillance video cameras placed in Rome's four major basilicas, including St. Peter's. Police Chief Antonio Pagnozzi said the cameras' presence would be "discreet" and "completely in tune with the sacred nature of the liturgy and of pilgrimage." Officers will watch the images transmitted from the basilicas at nearby police divisions and at a central security office. ▼

"Johnny Appleseed" Catholic spreads message of faith

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Some people have a gift for teaching; others a gift for charity; still others a gift for healing.

E. Perry Coe Jr. has the gifts of discernment and generosity. Indeed, he has been called a "Johnny Appleseed" of religious and spiritual materials. Whether frequenting the Mass, a coffeehouse, a pastor's study, a homeless shelter or Asheville's city streets, his ever-present backpack is filled with books, copies of articles, magazines, tapes and videos.

"In four or five minutes' conversation with Perry, he reaches into that bag he always carries and comes out with something that directly applies to what I have been saying to him or a current theme in my own spiritual journey," said Don Kelley of Asheville. "So many times he's shown up at just the right moment for whatever was going on in my life at that time."

Coe began his ministry quite inadvertently while living in Atlanta, even before he became a Christian. He was so struck by a book he had read that he gave it to a number of Baptist pastors. Since that time he has given out thousands of pieces of material.

"Perry doesn't just give out books in a restrained manner," said Donna Haight, who had inquired about the Catholic faith. "He is more like an artist — passionate and exuberant."

While most of the material Coe distributes is by Catholic authors and artists, he is very open to unity and ecumenism, having followed a circuitous route to the church himself.

"I try to see or feel what a person desires, what they are asking in their spirit," said Coe. He also shares out of what is beautiful to himself. All of this comes from his faith in the Resurrection.

Coe, a member of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, was first introduced to Catholicism as a soldier in Vietnam. He witnessed a 14-year-old girl become a religious sister at an orphanage. Shortly after that, he suffered a severe mental illness and was sent home to the States. In the Philippines, a Catholic woman recommended St. Francis to him. Then at an Army hospital, he went to Mass. "That sort of opened me up spiritually," he said.

Photo by Dianne Riggs

E. Perry Coe Jr. offers two books on the Catholic faith to Donna Haight, who has expressed interest in the church.

Through a long spiritual journey that took him to a number of religious circles, Coe finally stumbled upon Catholic author Father Benedict Groeschel who had a deep impact upon him. He began to pray the Rosary and develop a devotion to the Virgin Mary.

"I like the freedom to believe that is present in Catholicism," Coe said, noting the beauty of God's grace and "the possibility that everyone will be saved."

In 1986, Coe attended the national gathering of the Brothers and Sisters of Charity, a religious community founded by Brother John Michael Talbot, a Secular Franciscan, musician and writer. It was there that Coe's conversion to the Catholic faith occurred.

"I like the freedom to believe that is present in Catholicism," he said, noting the beauty of God's grace and "the possibility that everyone will be saved."

"I am aware of weakness and grace available," he said.

The Brothers and Sisters of Charity are crucial in Coe's identity. In the late 1980s, he became a Domestic member of the Franciscan-oriented order. Much of the music he shares with others comes from the talent of Talbot.

Coe is also attracted to the saints and desires to be one. "They were often the greatest sinners — yet recognizing it, were willing to forgive and give mercy to others."

All has not been easy for Coe, who still suffers from the mental illness begun in Vietnam. "Accepting who I am has been the hardest thing," he said.

Perhaps that is why Coe is at home with such a cross-section of people and feels a special calling toward those who are mentally ill or disabled. "Perry talks with and encourages the homeless (in Asheville) and knows most of them by name," said Mary Ann Frank, a member at St. Lawrence. "He knows where all of the resources are — food, beds, clothing, AA and NA meetings, you name it."

Last year, Coe introduced Mary Ann Frank and her husband, Don, to the Brothers and Sisters of Charity.

Coe believes that his ministry is a way of reaching out of himself, a way of being in service, a reason for living.

"We go to Heaven with each other," he said. "We are interdependent. We will make it with other people on the journey, not alone." ▼

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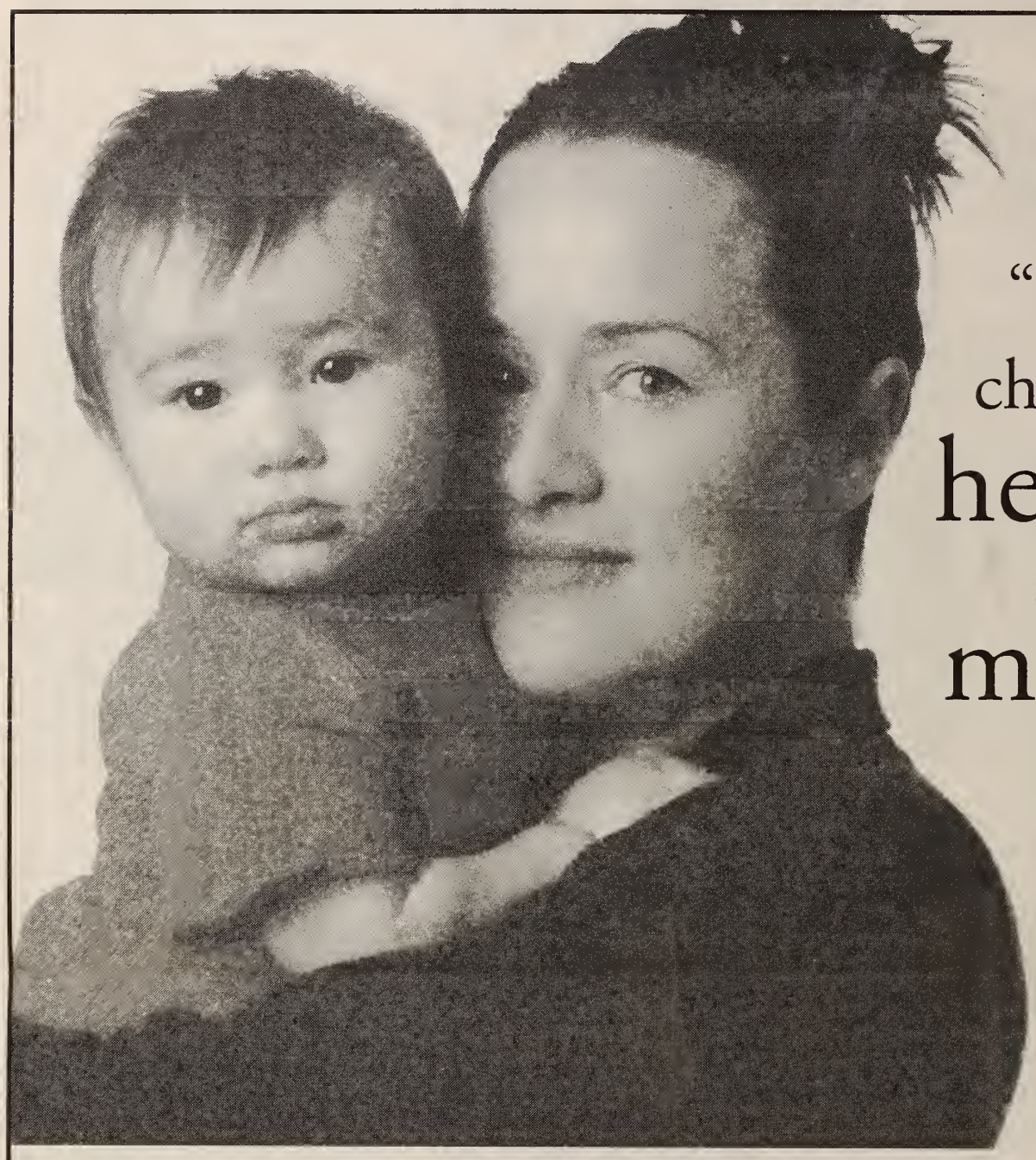

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Women religious run expanding ministry to Vietnamese refugees

By SUZANNE HAUGH
Catholic News Service

CHAMBLEE, Ga. (CNS) — 1998 was the Year of the Tiger and in the Chinese and Vietnamese culture it is a bad year for a child to be born, according to Sister Christine Truong My Hanh, program director of her order's ministry to the Vietnamese community in the Atlanta Archdiocese.

Sister Christine, a Good Shepherd Sister, remembers one woman who came to her for advice when she found out she was to give birth that year. The woman asked if she should have an abortion or keep the baby.

The nun said she told the woman, "Why ask me? Because you are here, I think you want to keep the baby."

The woman nodded yes and Sister Christine, who was born in the Year of the Tiger in 1947, made a phone call to a Marietta Catholic church where parishioners supplied the woman with blankets and money for baby supplies.

"There are so many little ways to help people keep their babies," the nun told The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta's archdiocesan newspaper, in an interview at the Good Shepherd center in Chamblee.

Sister Christine's petite frame masks her almost larger-than-life history of ministering to the most down-and-out people in society. Among other things, she ran a rehabilitation program for prostitutes, started a restaurant in a refugee camp and found U.S. foster families for children after the Vietnam War.

Challenges faced by the Vietnamese refugee community in the United States are numerous. They include the breakdown in many families, increased gang activity among the young, alcoholism and addiction among many males, and overwhelming stress for working mothers who try to make ends meet. Many elderly Vietnamese also experience isolation because they often don't speak English.

CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Volunteer Betty Spencer helps 9-year-old Anh Dang (left) and My Viet, 10, read stories for kids from a local newspaper at Good Shepherd center in Chamblee, Ga. Newspapers are used to help Vietnamese children read English and learn about American culture.

Good Shepherd Services' ministry to Vietnamese refugees began in Chamblee in 1993, based in Sister Christine's two-room apartment. Now the programs operate out of two homes and a garage with a staff of seven, who ministered to 4,000 clients last year. Four staff members are outreach workers who serve as translators when needed or who check up on clients in their residences.

Volunteers also aid in the center's programs, which include individual counseling, parenting and English as a Second Language classes, helping young Vietnamese children with their schoolwork and providing the elderly with meaningful work through a community garden. The volunteers also teach a five-week summer school session to children from the Vietnamese community.

But there is always a need to find "more hands and more hearts" to help, said Sister Christine, who makes herself available to speak to churches and civic groups interested in Good Shepherd Services.

She sees a cycle in many families where the youths do not want to learn Vietnamese but lean toward English and American culture.

"They can't speak in the native tongue of their families," she said. "They dye their hair and think society will accept them as American. The family gets upset, the community sees them as bad kids and they feel like they don't belong anywhere."

One way Sister Christine tries to break this cycle is by offering a cultural enrichment program where the youngsters learn the Vietnamese language, traditional songs and dances and participate in Vietnamese festivals so that they retain and respect their heritage.

"Once they can accept who they are, then they can adapt to the culture much better," she said.

Good Shepherd Services expanded its ministry by opening another center in Lilburn last year.

Brigitte Nguyen, program coordinator there, said that when the center first opened, attendance was low.

"But now people have started to come. We help one person and then they tell another," she said.

The center hopes to provide youths with a positive alternative to joining gangs. The youths now have a place to go after school since many of their parents work. Those attending the center try to improve their language skills.

Nguyen, who came to the United States in 1991 and moved to Atlanta in 1993, understands the challenges the Vietnamese face in this country. She also knows how overwhelming leaving one's homeland can be.

"We leave a lot of memories and whatever valuables (in Vietnam)," she said, "and start everything over again." ▼

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Book Review

Authors document family strength, parish support in true crime story

REVIEWED BY JOSEPH R. THOMAS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

On a grassy plot in front of St. Cecilia's Church in the Fox Chase section of Philadelphia, a gold-toned six-foot Celtic cross fashioned by a neighborhood carpenter stands as a tribute to Eddie Polec, a 16-year-old former altar boy savagely beaten to death on the steps of the church in 1994 by a gang of thugs from a nearby suburb.

The cross bears the inscription "Blessed be the peacemakers." It is both a memorial to Eddie and a tribute to his parents, John and Kathy, and his three siblings for reasons summarized in the title of the Bryn Freeman-William Knoedelseder book, "In Eddie's Name: One Family's Triumph Over Tragedy."

It is that triumph that lifts the book out of the realm of being just another true-crime story. Not only did the Polecs triumph over indescribable grief, an unwanted media frenzy, front-page trial coverage and brazen lawyerly behavior, but they triumphed as well over familial trauma, political posturing and a faulty crime-prevention structure.

The truth is that Eddie Polec and other Fox Chase youngsters could have been saved from the marauding invaders had police been directed to respond to a series of frantic 911 calls over a two-hour period. Thus among the family's greatest triumphs was the perseverance that eventually led to the reform of the 911 system.

The family's story is told with passion by Freeman and Knoedelseder, a husband-and-wife team that covered the trial that followed the murder, arrests having come quickly thanks to energetic detective work and public outrage.

While St. Cecilia's is not the focal point of the story, it is apparent that the support of the parish — priests, nuns and people — was central in sustaining the Polecs in circumstances difficult to imagine. Eddie's slaying, for instance, was so brutal that even the most hardened reader is likely to cringe over details of the bludgeoning he was subjected to.

"In Eddie's Name: One Family's Triumph Over Tragedy"
By Bryn Freedman and William Knoedelseder
Faber & Faber (New York, 1999)
264 pp., $24.00.

Throughout, the authors document the strengths of the family, including their refusal to sue the city although they could easily have done so. Symbolic of their strengths, perhaps, are the comments of Billy Polec, Eddie's adoring younger brother, made after the verdicts against the six defendants proved to be less than the family, the police and prosecutors expected.

For 15 months after the killing he had kept his grief and his anger to himself, refusing to say anything publicly. But after the trial he responded to a question with these words:

"My brother was the most forgiving person you will ever meet in your life. And I wouldn't be surprised if he had a hand in saying to the jury, 'These kids are 16. Why don't you make them think about what they did, but one day let them go back to their families.' That's just the way Ed was."

Convicted of third-degree murder, rather than murder in the first degree, the defendants are now in jail with parole as a possibility. ▼

Thomas is a retired publishing executive and a free-lance book reviewer.

Bestsellers

Here is the Catholic Bestsellers List for November 1999, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. "She Said Yes." Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
2. "Recovering Life." Darryl & Charisse Strawberry. (Plough Publishing)
3. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
4. "Witness to Hope." George Weigel (HarperCollins)
5. "Imitation of Christ." Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
7. "Maurice and Therese." Patrick Ahern (Doubleday)
8. "Here and Now." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
9. "Wounded Prophet." Michael Ford (Doubleday)
10. "Celtic Prayers from Iona." Philip J. Newell (Paulist)

Paperback

1. "Workbook for Lectors & Gospel Readers" (RNAB translation — Year 2000). Susan E. Myers (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. "At Home With the Word 2000." Martin F. Connell (Liturgy Training)
3. "The Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Doubleday)
4. "Sourcebook for Sundays & Seasons, Year 2000." Peter J. Scagnelli (Liturgy Training)
5. "Return of the Prodigal Son." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)

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Word to Life

November 7, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Wisdom 6:12-16
   Psalm 63:2-8
2) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
3) Matthew 25:1-13

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It's tempting, in reading today's Gospel about the foolish bridesmaids, to see it as a warning to "be prepared" in the way the Boy Scout motto suggests one should bring rain gear "just in case," because you never know when the weather might change. The implication is that it probably won't rain, but if it does and you made preparations ahead of time, you won't get caught off guard — and wet.

Although Jesus says the moral of his parable is to be alert because you never know, the reading from Wisdom indicates that he doesn't mean "just in case."

Both passages are talking about the coming of the Lord, but the Old Testament reading emphasizes expectant watchfulness and the promise that constant vigilance will be rewarded.

So Jesus is telling us that like the sensible bridesmaids we should not only light the torch "just in case" the Lord shows up, but we should keep it burning because he is going to be there, and we always want to be able to see him.

I know a deacon whose attitude exemplifies the sensible bridesmaids. Deacon Mike serves in a midsize parish in a college town. He gives homilies periodically, teaches, officiates at weddings, baptisms and funerals. He accompanies youth groups and leads retreats.

He works with the campus ministry at the large state university where he also is a professor. There he conducts Communion services, gives talks and teaches too — and goes on retreats.

As a professor, students know him as a man of faith, and he is always available and interested when they come to him for counsel or just to talk. He serves as a chaplain to the university's football team and continually finds ways to support the spiritual lives of players and coaches who seek him out for guidance and fellowship.

Recently his wife took a job as youth minister of a parish in a neighboring town. Deacon Mike now also gives the homily there once a month, leads an occasional confirmation session and substitute teaches in religious education classes "every chance I get."

Deacon Mike keeps a lit torch, expecting the Lord to come at every turn. As Scripture promises, "He who watches ... shall not be disappointed, for he shall find (what he anticipates) sitting by his gate."

Questions:

What are the distractions and worldly activities that allow your torch to burn down, keeping you from seeing God's presence? What effort will it take for you to keep vigilant?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 7 - 13, 1999

Sunday, Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13; **Monday**, Wisdom 1:1-7, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday**, Ezekiel 43:1-2, 4-7, John 2:13-22; **Wednesday**, Wisdom 6:1-11, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday**, Wisdom 7:22-8:1, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday**, Wisdom 13:1-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday**, Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9, Luke 18:1-8

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Mary's life story 'not a boring movie,' Shriver says

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Portraying the life of Mary on the small screen is exciting, said Bobby Shriver, who with his mother, Eunice, is executive producer of the upcoming NBC program.

"This is not a boring movie" Shriver said in an interview after a Hollywood press conference promoting "Mary, Mother of Jesus," which will air Sunday, Nov. 14, 9-11 p.m. EST on NBC.

"You know how people said, 'This is not your father's Oldsmobile'? Well, this is not the Mary you know from Renaissance paintings," he explained. "We're not trying to make Mary rock 'n' roll, but to make her more modern."

Nor will the film be dependent on special effects, Shriver said. "There's some angels swirling around, but it's not like we have a lot," he said. "You don't need a lot to show water changing into wine."

The movie doesn't always show Mary witnessing the pivotal events in Jesus' life. Because Mary is mentioned so infrequently in the New Testament, outside of the infancy narrative, "she runs off to do certain things that we imagined she would have done," Shriver said.

The show's makers have created a film they hope will appeal to non-Catholics as well as Catholics.

"We try to imagine her life as a young Jewish girl born in this kind of world, and what was her life like," he said. "I imagine some people are going to be offended, and other people will say we did a good job. It's a tough job to imagine that. That's why we worked so long on the development (of the project)."

"Mary, Mother of Jesus" stars Pernilla August as Mary. August played the mother of Anakin Skywalker, a.k.a. the future Darth Vader, in the summer blockbuster "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace." Christian Bale, who starred in this year's movie version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," plays Jesus.

The TV movie takes a look at the events in Jesus' life as seen through the eyes of his mother.

NBC bills the movie as "a timeless story of love, sacrifice and faith" that "both humanizes and celebrates Mary's pivotal role as the mother of Jesus."

The announcement promoting the film said: "While Mary's concerns for her child's welfare and her desire to protect him are those of every mother, her remarkable faith is continually tested as she must endure Jesus' suffering and death, accept his miraculous destiny and dedicate the rest of her life to the sharing of his message."

Kevin Connor, who directed the cable TV feature "Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Poor," directs "Mary, Mother of Jesus." Much of the filming was done in Budapest, Hungary, and Prague, Czech Republic.

"I hope this isn't seen as religion on TV — more like spirituality on TV or wisdom on TV," Shriver told TV writers in Hollywood. "We hope it's not going to be — and (that) you all won't write about it as — 'a Catholic movie' and people think, 'Oh, that's really boring,' and watch asteroids (on some other TV movie)."

NBC executives didn't roll their eyes when Shriver pitched the movie idea to them, he said. "There was a lot of interest. People go, 'You're doing what?' And then they're interested. They go, 'How are you going to do this?' and 'How are you going to do that?'"

"Mary, Mother of Jesus" had originally been titled "Mary and Jesus." Shriver said he had been pushing for a name change to "Mary of Nazareth." The current title, "Mary, Mother of Jesus," was announced earlier in the fall.

Eunice Shriver is new to the Hollywood production business, but Bobby has a little experience, having been one of the producers of the enormously popular action film "True Lies," starring his brother-in-law, Arnold Schwarzenegger.

CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

Christian Bale stars as John, Permilla August, plays Mary and Simone Bendix play Mary Magdalene in the NBC-TV movie, "Mary, Mother of Jesus" to air Nov. 14.

Schwarzenegger's wife, Maria Shriver, is an anchor and reporter for NBC News. Her brother said the family connection played no part in NBC agreeing to air "Mary, Mother of Jesus."

"We thought they did a terrific job on these kinds of projects," Bobby Shriver said. ▼

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope defends family after aid granted to unmarried couples

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, reacting to a recent Italian regional law that provides child support to unmarried couples, defended the traditional family and said it must not be equated with irregular unions.

"I once again ask civil authorities to insure that the family founded on marriage be promoted and protected, without being confused with other very different forms of union," the pope said Oct. 31, during a visit to a parish on the outskirts of Rome.

The pope was reacting to a law passed by the Latium region in October. The law offers financial "assistance to family groups," including couples with children who are registered civilly, without specifying whether the parents need be married or unmarried.

The law drew a sharp critique from the region's bishops, and the pope said he agreed with the bishops' arguments. Several times in recent years the pope has warned against legislation in Italy that would blur the distinction between family groupings based on marriage and those of unmarried, cohabiting couples.

Latium officials have defended the program, saying it was not designed to promote irregular unions but to meet a real need. Many of the region's poorer children have parents who are unwed, they said.

During his visit to the church of San Benedetto Giuseppe Labre, the pope spoke at length to the children of the parish, joking at one point: "I don't know why young people follow me so willingly."

He said he was sure Holy Year 2000 would go well and encouraged the young people to join him at World Youth Day celebrations in Rome next August.

Pope urges world support for fight against cancer

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the church and society to do all it can to support the fight against cancer and to help the millions of cancer patients around the world.

The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Oct. 31, a week before the Italian celebration of National Cancer Research Day.

"I want to encourage scientists and whoever supports their research, along with all those who offer daily care to people stricken by this illness, to continue in their generous work," he said.

"I also invite civil society and the Christian community to support every effort aimed at weakening the disease of cancer, so that hope may be given to the sick and their families," he said.

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY, C.M.
Guest Columnist

Hispanic Ministry studies and statistics

This month I would like to share with you some statistics that might be of interest to us all. Recently, a couple of studies on Hispanic Ministry have been done by the Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in preparation for the Encounter 2000 that will take place in Los Angeles, California on July 6, 2000.

Those studies were conducted of all dioceses in the United States that in the year 1990 had a minimum Hispanic population of 25,000. It was found that in the six-year period between 1990 and 1996, the diocese in the whole country with the highest percentage increase in Hispanic population growth was Charlotte, North Carolina. It had in those years a percentage increase of 84.3 percent. The Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina was number four on that list with a percentage increase in Hispanic population growth of 71.4%.

Here are some more statistics taken from the National Study: "Hispanic Ministry at the Turn of the New Millennium" done in May of 1999 by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs, Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Hispanic Reality at a Glance

Total population of US Hispanics: 28-30 million

Percent of US population: 11.3%

Percent of US population under 25: 14%

Hispanic percent of US population in 2010: 13.8%

Black percent of US population in 2010: 12.6%

Percent of Hispanic population, native-born (1980): 80%

Percent of Hispanic population, native-born (1990): 64%

Percent of Catholic growth since 1960 due to Hispanics: 71%

Percent of Catholics who are Hispanic: 30%

Percent of Hispanics who are Catholic (1994): 71% (low), 77% (high)

Percent of Hispanics who are Catholic (1998): 67% (low), 71% (high)

Number of Hispanic parishes:3509

Hispanic percent of US parishes: 17.9%

Number of Hispanic priests: 2005

Hispanic percent of US priests: 3.8%

Catholics per US priest: 1230

Hispanic Catholics per Hispanic priest:9925

Number of Hispanic seminarians: 511

Hispanic percent of US seminarians: 11.1%

Hope this has been informative and useful. Again, you may write me at 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205. Thank you.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Remembering Gary Cooper

Everybody knows his name: Gary Cooper, the famous Hollywood star we sometimes thought of as Lou Gehrig or Sergeant York. Yet because he preferred his family and the outdoors to the limelight, few fans ever knew much about what kind of a man he really was.

A new book, "Gary Cooper Off Camera, A Daughter Remembers" (Abrams), gives another picture of this American icon. Written by his only child, Maria Cooper Janis, we get to see the legendary actor in family photos, letters to his wife Rocky and personal father-daughter stories.

It is an authentic mosaic of a father, remembered by a daughter as gentle, giving and loving, a spiritual man who embraced the Catholic faith of his wife and daughter in his later years, dying at peace in 1961 at age 60. Actor Tom Hanks, writing an introduction, poetically recalls Cooper as an "artist of great mystery."

I had the privilege of meeting Maria Cooper Janis about 15 years ago at the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Conn. She was visiting Mother Dolores Hart, a beautiful woman we both call friend. Janis knew her much longer than I, for their friendship went back to the late '50s when Hart was a gorgeous young Hollywood star.

I soon got to know Janis as a deeply spiritual woman, an accomplished artist and the wife of the incredible pianist Byron Janis.

Maria Cooper Janis said the book came about because she had been working on documentaries about her father for major cable stations. She looked back at home movies, personal papers and family photos. "My mother, who's not well now, had kept albums, with everything labeled," Janis said in a recent interview with me. The tape was dried, but the pictures were fine.

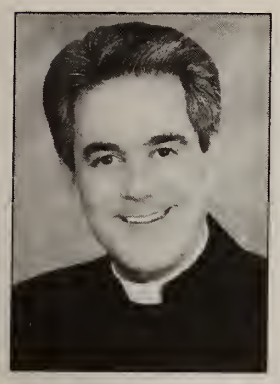
"I thought maybe I could put these unpublished photos together to give people a feeling for what this era and our family were like — a real family unit, a threesome — extraordinarily wonderful and harmonious in spite of the celebrity, the fans, the privilege."

Janis doesn't go into the dark period in her family's life when her father had a long affair with the actress Patricia Neal. "My mother never conveyed any bitterness to me. Yes, I was angry at the moment. But I was able to talk to God about what I was feeling. I felt a spiritual support, so balanced by my mother's support. Maybe my father needed to find out what he really wanted in life. My parents learned they loved and respected each other. They chose each other in the end. I try to point this out in my book."

Janis, raised in her mother's Catholic faith, recalls how her father started going to Mass with them, becoming intrigued by the sermons of Father Harold Ford, nicknamed "Father Tough Stuff" by the actor. Ultimately he converted, becoming a quietly devout Catholic.

The book is important to his daughter. She says she thinks "people should know it's possible to have all the hoop-de-do of fame, fortune and celebrity, and still create a wholesome, positive family life, keeping a hold on one's personal ethics. My father never got caught up in the whole stardom, ego trip. He had very little patience for that."

I found Janis' book fascinating because it is truly a family love story.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Making a margin, living a mission

Bean counter, n. Informal. *A person who makes judgments chiefly on the basis of numerical calculations, as an accountant, financial analyst, or statistician.*

That is Webster's characterization of the unfair but popular view that most fiscal managers are insular number-crunchers whose creativity begins and ends with spreadsheets and financial tables. Bean counters are widely represented as Scrooge, the Grinch, and the lamentable Midas — all gloomy souls ensconced at counting tables in marbled vaults and granite banks.

That is a far cry from the group of "bean counters" I met last month at the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. Here were the Chief Financial Officers of archdioceses and dioceses of the United States exchanging ideas and information about the fiscal administration of their local churches. I had been invited to provide a motivational speech for their conference, but I must report — it was I who was moved by the enthusiasm these unsung heroes have for their special ministry.

There I was reminded of the story of Sister Margaret Hickey who headed up Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C. back in the 1970s. Publicly criticized for raising across-the-board hospital rates at a time when the homeless were being shunted from one District hospital emergency room to another, Sister Margaret asserted the Daughters of Charity were not reneging on their commitment to the poor.

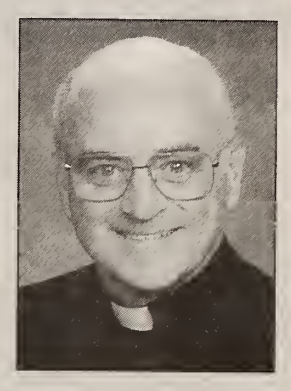
"We have not forgotten our mission here at Providence Hospital. Our mission has always been and will continue to be a ministry of service especially to the poor and homeless. But without a financial margin, we won't be able to sustain our mission. It's fairly simple — no margin, no mission!"

Like Sister Margaret, all managers of church funds wrestle daily with marketplace forces that affect the financial margin. Whether at a soup kitchen, charitable nursing home, or parish school, there is some brave soul keeping track of the money. I doubt very much that any one of these folks takes on such a responsibility simply because they enjoy bean-counting. No. They are individuals who commit their knowledge and skills to the people of God with as much enthusiasm and hope for the mission as anyone else.

One of the earliest financial talents put to work for the mission of Christ was that of Matthew the Evangelist. As a customs officer, he exacted duty on all goods and commodities as they entered and left the territory of Herod. As a follower of Christ, Matthew became an intriguing example of how the Lord uses whatever gift one person may bring to him.

Because of Matthew we have the best accounts of how the temple tax was collected, the most details of how people went about paying their debts, and the most vivid account of the peril of riches. Accustomed to systematizing information, he organized Jesus' teachings in terms of numbers, like the three denials of Peter and the seven parables of the Kingdom. In the story of the wise and foolish virgins Matthew underscored the need to anticipate needs and expenses — or else miss out on the party.The Gospel according to Matthew also presents the only record of the parable of properly investing one's talents. The story is about the way God expects us to use all our gifts, spiritual, intellectual, financial, whatever, to undertake and fulfill our mission in life — whether that means counting beans, planting beans, or sharing them with hungry people who don't have beans. And, ultimately, hearing God's praise for a life of generous service: "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Questions for the life sciences

My first assignment as a priest was to St. Monica's parish in Sussex County, N.J. It was in the summer of 1960, and I learned a lot about dairy farming that year.

One of our parishioners was an artificial insemination technician. He explained how farmers could now improve their herds with the frozen semen taken from bulls. I thought to myself, those must have been bulls that longed for the good old days.

Today huge transnational corporations have taken over most of our nation's farms. They are using biotechnology in ways we never dreamed possible. Cloning to achieve genetic uniformity is only one of the ongoing experiments.

Scientists are also mixing human semen with animal semen to produce a hybrid animal. The idea is to harvest organs that are less likely to be rejected when they are transplanted into humans.

These new "life sciences," as they are now called, are supposed to pave the way for a brighter tomorrow. But will they? Not every invention works out as well as we might hope.

When I look at the huge quantities of nuclear waste we will have to live with for the next 25,000 years, I wonder about the highly touted benefits of nuclear power.

The miracle of science has many benefits. On a hot summer day when I turn on my air conditioner, I become a true believer. But in spite of all the advantages, I am becoming more and more skeptical about the life sciences. Take for instance the business of assisted pregnancy.

Last summer I read that 35 of the 49 human sperm banks across Canada were forced to close because of faulty testing and record keeping. The government stopped the distribution of semen frozen in flasks of liquid nitrogen because investigations revealed serious violations in the record keeping.

An unknown donor with AIDS, hepatitis C or syphilis easily could infect an innocent woman if controls are not stringently enforced. When you have sloppy testing and record keeping, the "life sciences" can turn out to be death sentences.

Scientific advances that can be used for profit-making purposes easily can become corrupted by human greed. Cutting corners to increase the margin of profit is almost a universal practice in the business world. Maybe science itself is not always to blame when problems occur, but the negative effect on human beings is the same nevertheless.

Some people complain how slow the church is when it comes to approving the latest scientific advances, especially in the field of biotechnology. But more and more of them are beginning to see the wisdom of using caution in these matters.

The moral issues involved are highly consequential. Scientists will probably clone a human being some day. Many of them are working on it right now, even though it is against the law. Will the clone be a normal human being? Will it be raised in a lab? Will it have human rights? These are moral questions we must answer.

I don't have all the answers. That's why I am grateful we have the teaching authority of the church to guide us in these matters.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Understanding the resurrection of the body

Q. Belief in the resurrection of the body is central to Christian faith. I know it refers to a "spiritual body," but could you explain this belief in light of what the pope said recently?

According to him, heaven and hell are states of being, not physical places, generally downplaying the terrors of hell. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, however, which the pope introduces as "a sure norm for teaching the faith," takes the traditional approach that says heaven is a "place" (No. 326) and that the teaching of the church affirms the existence of hell (No. 1035). How can these two viewpoints be reconciled?

A. Judging from the volume of mail I've received on the subject, our Holy Father's remarks struck a sensitive nerve in a lot of people. In fact, we find here another of those occasions when he challenges us — in encyclicals, other writings and weekly audiences — to take a fresh and thoughtful look at what we say we believe.

When we hear key words of our faith, we often pay more attention to familiar and popular images than to the doctrines themselves. "Heaven," "purgatory" and "hell" are all strongly evocative words for Christians. A little reflection should warn us to be cautious about the pictures and notions that pop into our heads.

What Pope John Paul II has done is simply make explicit what has been implicit all the time. Does anyone really believe, for example, that heaven and hell are places in our ordinary sense of that term? Are they somewhere out in material creation on an unknown planet? In a galaxy on the other side of a distant black hole?

The same must be said for purgatory. It "is not a place," he explained, but a "condition" of purification for the saved whereby Christ "frees them from their imperfections."

The Gospel stories of his appearances and actions after the resurrection, for example, make clear that the risen Jesus (and therefore we ourselves in our risen bodies) exists in a frame of space and time which is outside our normal experience.

He obviously did not dash in and out with the speed of light. He simply was not there, visible and touchable, and then he was there.

Interestingly, the catechism references you give hint that we need to walk carefully here. When it says heaven is a "place," it puts the word in quotation marks, indicating that, in this context, it does not have its usual meaning. Similarly, in the words of the catechism, the condition of self-exclusion from communion with God is what we call "hell."

As for the graphic biblical descriptions of heaven and hell, John Paul II repeats the best long-standing Scripture scholarship when he says the symbolic and metaphorical language we find in the New Testament only attempts to put into human words the reality of eternal "joyful communion with God," or "the complete frustration and emptiness of a life without God."

Far from downplaying the terrors of damnation, he contends that "the situation in which one finds himself after freely and definitively withdrawing from God, the source of life and joy," is one that can only be approached figuratively, with images like "inextinguishable fire" and "the burning oven."

Are any human beings (Judas? Hitler? Stalin?) actually in this condition of eternal separation? As he has in the past, the pope reminds us that this "remains a possibility, but is not something we can know."

We would do well, it seems to me, to dwell more on the conclusion Pope John Paul draws from see-

See RESURRECTION, page 14

Bridging the ocean in faith

World Youth Day 2000 to include NC participants

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — When youth and young adults around the world gather to jointly celebrate World Youth Day 2000 *Italian-style* next August, a contingency from the Diocese of Charlotte will be counted among the Roman ranks.

"There is no greater celebration of Catholic identity for the young Church," says Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. Kotlowski, along with Colleen McDermott, director of campus and young adult ministry are spearheading this diocesan pilgrimage of faith.

For the Diocese of Charlotte, this international pilgrimage for youth and young adults is a first. While World Youth Day celebrations spring forth every other year, this is an introductory venture for the diocesan young people to join with Catholics from the four corners of the earth.

In many respects, the diocese is right on track with the sentiments of the Holy Father on the Great Jubilee year. In his Papal Bull, "Incarnationis Mysterium," Pope John Paul II discussed a central theme of the Jubilee being that of pilgrimage. "In the course of its history," he said, "the institution of the Jubilee has been enriched by the signs which attest to the faith and foster the devotion of the Christian people. Among these, the first is the notion of pilgrimage."

The Aug. 15-20 gathering of young people with the Holy Father in Rome is open to all — with a suggested minimum age of 16 — and pilgrims must be registered. Registration will be coordinated through youth or young adult, or campus ministry offices.

With preliminary expectations of 150 pilgrims, Kotlowski and McDermott have embarked on the enormous task of fine-tuning details for the diocesan journey. "We hope to have the information out to all the parishes before Thanksgiving," says Kotlowski, who points out parish groups intent on this opportunity should begin fundraising efforts.

McDermott and Kotlowski selected a Youth Day package that covers virtually every expense. In addition to airfare, hotel, World Youth Day registration and two meals a day, a side-trip to Assisi and Sienna will offer young pilgrims an additional slice along their Italian faith journey.

Kotlowski sees the entire pilgrimage as an opportunity for the teens and young adults "to become further affirmed in their Catholic identity," and hopes the experience provides "growth and appreciation of being part of a universal Church."

World Youth Day 2000, according to Vatican officials, is likely to be the largest event of the upcoming Holy Year. And while Rome readies itself for an influx of youthful visitors, the Pope extends his invitation in faith, calling young Catholics around the globe "to undertake with joy the pilgrimage to Rome" for World Youth Day next year. ▼

For more information, individuals over the age of 18 should contact Colleen McDermott, 704.370.3212. All others, call Paul Kotlowski, 704.370.3211.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Autumn fun Games, ornately carved pumpkins and bobbing for apples were among the highlights at "The Great Pumpkin Festival," hosted at Our Lady of Annunciation Church in Albemarle Oct. 24. Parishioners voted on their favorite carved gourds with bids. The proceeds were given to charity.

Resurrection, from page 13

ing heaven and hell not as places of merriment forever or eternal fire, but having or not having "a living personal relationship with the Trinity."

We should pay more attention, he suggested, to significant spiritual moments in this life: the pain brought about by sin, the satisfaction we experience in doing good. The happiness and distress of this life are clues to the next.

The suffering caused by sin, he states, is often said to "make life hell," whereas when we enjoy properly "the good things that the Lord showers upon us every day of our earthly lives, we have begun to experience the joy and peace which will be completely ours in the next life." Obviously, the pope hopes we will all profitably reflect on that truth.

These remarks were given by our Holy Father at his Wednesday general audiences on July 21 and 28, and Aug. 4, 1999.

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Priest helps comfort families of passengers on doomed flight

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Many relatives of Egyptians lost on Egyptair flight 990 Oct. 31 were Muslims and had Muslim counselors, but they also welcomed the presence of a Catholic chaplain.

"When they see the collar, they are very receptive and grateful for the prayers," said Father James T. Devine, chaplain at Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Some of the Egyptian families involved were Christian, and some were Eastern-rite Catholic. "I told them that I would remember them at Mass, and they were very grateful for that," he said.

Father Devine told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Nov. 1 that he got a call at his residence about 7:15 a.m. the day of the crash, a few hours after the plane took off at 1:19 a.m. from Kennedy with Cairo as its destination.

The plane, a Boeing 767, carried 199 passengers, a crew of 15 and three off-duty crew members. It was reported to have crashed in the Atlantic Ocean south of Nantucket Island at 1:52.

"They said the families would be notified to go to the Ramada hotel, so I went over there and the families were arriving. I began counseling and trying to be of comfort."
— Father James T. Devine, Chaplain at the Kennedy International Airport in New York

"I went over to the airport right away, and went to a press conference the authorities held to give reporters a briefing on the event," Father Devine said.

"They said the families would be notified to go to the Ramada hotel, so I went over there and the families were arriving. I began counseling and trying to be of comfort." He went again the next day, and planned to continue his visits.

Father Devine said one of the first people he talked with was a woman whose father and stepmother were on the plane, going to Egypt for a tour up the Nile. The couple had come from Los Angeles, where the flight originated, and had a two-hour layover that enabled the woman and her husband living in the New York area to have dinner with them.

"She was grateful for that opportunity," he said.

Father Devine said he also spent time with four young Catholic men who were Italians working for Alitalia. They provided the passenger check-in service for the Egyptair flight and served food to passengers during a delay before takeoff, he said.

"They knew some of the crew members, and were upset and distraught," he said. "They requested that we have a Mass, and we will do that this Friday — for all those affected by the crash but remembering especially the crew members and those close to them."

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, who has been recuperating from surgery to remove a brain tumor, had called Father Devine earlier Nov. 1 to offer prayers and support, the chaplain said.

Father Devine, a former president of the ecumenical International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains, said that many association members in foreign and U.S. airports called to tell him they would be offering prayers for victims of the crash. However, he said the association did not have a member at the Cairo airport.

A call to assist in an emergency situation is not new for Father Devine. Shortly after he was appointed as airport chaplain in 1988, a Pan Am 747 crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland, and Father Devine was called to counsel family members at Kennedy "waiting for the plane that never came."

In 1996, he responded with counseling and said special Masses after the crash of TWA flight 800. It went down off the southern coast of Long Island shortly after it took off from Kennedy. ▼

Choir, from page 3

"We wanted to show that we are a versatile group, and we wanted to have a link with the United States through our music with American songs that the audience could identify with," said Hunt.

"The choir reminded me of the wonderful Latin tradition of the church combined with the nourishment that music is to the spirit," said Mary Ann Sullivan, who works at St. Peter Church, attends St. Gabriel Church, and hosted two of the choir members.

On this tour, it was a family affair with Hunt's brother Simon as the organ soloist on "Coronation Anthem: Zadok the Priest," arranged by G.F. Handel and "Fantasia and Toccata in D Minor," arranged by C.V. Stanford. Also, Simon's fiancée was one of the sopranos in the choir. ▼

Contact Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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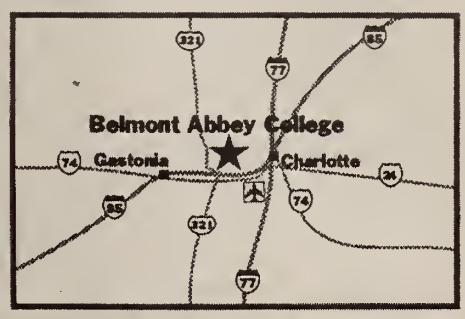

If you're considering other North Carolina colleges, note that Belmont Abbey College is conveniently located off I-85 (exit 26), 10 miles southwest of Charlotte. In addition, the open house dates coincide with open houses at other North Carolina colleges. Thus it is possible to visit several colleges during a two or three day period. Check with the colleges you are considering for more information.

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Duke senior is leader on campus, in community

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

DURHAM — Charlene McCain knows all about juggling hectic schedules. A pre-med senior majoring in biology and the new president of the Duke University Black Pre-Health Organization, she is doing her best to help other students keep up with their frantic lives, too.

McCain is scheduled to graduate next year with an eye on medical school. A Charlotte resident before college, she spent her formative years with an optimistic outlook for a bright future — and with a keen sense of community awareness and connection.

"I think it's important to stay involved," says McCain. "By using your skills, you're able to somehow help people in whatever situation."

"We try to be an outreach for people so they won't feel alone trying to get through the pre-med classes. That really helps because being pre-med is hard enough, but you definitely need some guidance. That's what I've found in the group."
— Charlene McCain

The Duke University Black Pre-Health Organization provides peer support, networking and information to students planning to graduate to medical school or other areas of healthcare. Current membership comprises about 50 African-American students, and McCain says the group is open to anyone.

The group regularly hosts guest speakers in healthcare fields, does healthcare-related community service, and relays information to students and the community about ethnic healthcare issues like diabetes, hypertension and sickle cell anemia. Thanks to McCain, it also now participates in a mentoring program involving high school students interested in medical careers.

"I'm trying to initiate some new things this year," says McCain, who joined the organization as a sophomore. Her presidency runs throughout her senior year.

"We try to be an outreach for people so they won't feel alone trying to get through the pre-med classes," says McCain. "That really helps because being pre-med is hard enough, but you definitely need some guidance. That's what I've found in the group."

McCain's new post continues that personal commitment to being involved.

At age 17, she was baptized into the Catholic faith and was an active member at her family's parish, Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. She participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, taught Bible classes to youth and, noted for her dedication to her parish and community, was in 1996 awarded the June Chavis Davenport Memorial Scholarship by the parish's gospel choir.

On campus, she has been a member and officer in "United in Praise," a primarily African-American, ecumenical gospel choir that travels to local churches and various regions in the country to share songs of worship.

Civic duty and academic life have been priorities as well. She has volunteered extensively both in high school and college, and has tutored elementary school children.

Long interested in science, McCain had inklings of interest in a health-related career in middle school. By her senior year at West Charlotte High School, she began to actively pursue the idea.

She says with a laugh that she hopes to "just keep it simple" with her future career, perhaps in the field of family practice.

"If God allows me to become a doctor and this is really for me," she says, "I would just like to be a doctor who shows not only professionalism towards her patients, but also at the same time treats people fairly."

COURTESY PHOTO

Charlene McCain is the new president of the Duke University Black Pre-Health Organization. She is a pre-med biology major in her senior year.

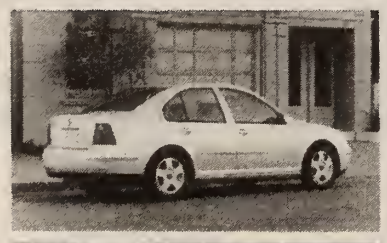
A faithful Catholic and the daughter of an African-American father and Japanese mother, McCain says an appreciation for religious and ethnic diversity helps her realize that she wants "to be someone who shows concern for people, regardless of where they come from."

It's a lesson that continues to serve her well — not only in her daily living, but in her involvement with the Black Pre-Health Organization, she says.

"Charlene carries for everybody," says her father, Gregory, of his daughter's concern for not only minority groups, but for all the community.

"We're just thankful to God for the type of person that she is," adds Gregory McCain, who still lives in Charlotte with his wife and Charlene's mother, Keiko. "She's really into wanting to help. I could just go on and on. She's a very giving person." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.



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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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"Be good, keep your feet dry, your eyes open, your heart at peace, and your soul in the joy of Christ."
— *Thomas Merton*

Belmont woman's life like pages of history

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — In 1962, at a time when segregation was commonplace, a woman committed a quiet act of defiance that startled the people around her.

It was a hot day, and Pauline Leeper was on her way via bus from Belmont to Gastonia to go to the dentist. She decided that she would sit in the front of the bus, which was something that African-Americans were not allowed to do during that time in history.

Amid the shocked mumbles of the other passengers, the bus driver asked her to move three times. An African-American man on the bus sitting in the back in one of the "hot seats," the seats above the motor where African-Americans had to sit, pulled the cord out of fear and jumped off the bus in the middle of nowhere into a ditch. Leeper, inspired by the words of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., remained in that front seat until she arrived in Gastonia.

En route, she told the bus driver with a smile, "This is my seat, and I paid for it."

When she reached her stop, she said stiffly, "save my seat; I'll soon return." When she boarded the bus again, the seat was waiting for her.

She told people in Belmont that "the 'hot seat' days were over." After that, no one rode in the back of the bus in that area. That act was so inspiring that she was a feature on the early morning local news and featured on a page in Oscar DePriest Hand Sr. and Julia Neal Sykes' "Footprints on the Rough Side of the Mountain," a book about local African-Americans and their achievements.

Now 82, Leeper, a member of Queen of the Apostles Church, recalled that incident with a proud look in her eyes. Her life, at first glance, is not unlike many others, but it has been marked with other significant and remarkable events that make her stand out among other African-American women of her day.

"I have really enjoyed this life. I didn't think I would live this long," said Leeper.

She is one of eight children born to a father who worked in a mill in McAdenville and a mother, racked with illness, who worked as a housekeeper when she was well. Her grandmother, of Native American descent, was a modern-day medicine woman who used herbs and other natural remedies to tend to the medical needs of the Springwood, McAdenville and Belmont communities.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mrs. Pauline Leeper, a member of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, sits and reminisces about her days of poetry, records and civil rights protests, while looking at an article about her refusing to sit in the back of the bus from Belmont to Gastonia and holding a recording of her war protest poetry.

"She had a cart of medicines that she would take with her on her visits," said Leeper. "It was like she had a magic touch because she was able to cure some people that other doctors had said would die."

She and her siblings attended St. Benedict's School for "as long they could." The family went to Belmont Abbey for Mass, also segregated in those days.

"It was a two-way street because it seemed like our race was pulling away from them while they were pushing us away," said Leeper. "I can remember Father Charles Kaster saying that 'there wasn't a separate heaven or hell, and we would all be together in the end.' Some time after that, we sat together from then on."

Leeper, being one of the oldest girls, stopped attending school to take care of her parents, who had both become ill. As a teen-ager, she began serving food in the canteen of the mill as a teen-ager to help support her family.

"Most children back then didn't have the chance to finish school," she explained. "Things were so different back then; things were much harder."

After she married and had eight children of her own, she was determined that her children would finish school. The two oldest attended St. Benedict's School like their mother, and all eight graduated from college with most of them living and working in and around Charlotte and Gastonia.

Leeper would serve as the hostess of parties and gatherings in her house for her children and their friends during the holidays, after school, and at other times during the year.

"I enjoyed my children and their friends, and I wanted them to have a good time when they were at my house. The music almost shook the house, but I didn't mind. The dining room table was always full of food. I always told them you have to enjoy yourself while you can," she said.

She also cared for neighborhood children when she was not working at Holy Angels, Inc., a residential care facility in Belmont for children and adults with mild to severe mental retardation and other physical disabili-

See LEEPER, PAGE 9

Pope urges closer cooperation between Eastern and Latin rites

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged closer cooperation and exchange between Eastern- and Latin-rite Catholics in North and South America and Australia. A better relationship would further the search for unity with Orthodox churches and enrich the Latin-rite churches, he said. The pope's remarks came in a message to Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches. The cardinal was in Boston for a Nov. 7-12 meeting with about 100 bishops and priests from the Armenian, Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Ruthenian, Syrian and Ukrainian Catholic Churches.

Court allows Cleveland voucher program to add new students

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court is allowing Cleveland's school voucher program to continue and to include new students while a lower federal court hears a lawsuit aimed at stopping the program. In a Nov. 5 order, the high court agreed with an appeal from Ohio's Attorney General Betty Montgomery that the program be allowed to continue while a U.S. District Court hears a lawsuit filed by civil liberties and taxpayers groups. The suit says the pilot program in Cleveland is unconstitutional because it allows students to use state-funded vouchers to attend religious schools.

Arrested Chinese bishop not expected to be released soon

HONG KONG (CNS) — Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo of Zhengding is under arrest and not likely to be released soon, sources say. Sources quoted an underground priest in northern China as saying Nov. 4 that public security officials had asked Bishop Jia's relatives to send him winter clothes and a quilt, implying that the bishop may be detained for some time. The priest, who was ordained by Bishop Jia, said the request had been made a few days earlier, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rising waters in Venice

A man canoes in high water across St. Mark's Square in Venice Nov. 7. Heavy rains hit Italy that weekend causing flooding in northern Italy.

Zhengding Diocese is in Hebei province, in northern China. Bishop Jia will probably not be released soon, because the government does not want him to preside at a planned late-December liturgy celebrating the beginning of the new millennium, the sources told UCA News.

Bishops call South African euthanasia report 'comprehensive'

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The southern African bishops called a government report on euthanasia a "comprehensive and measured attempt to address matters of great emotion and controversy." While some of the commission's recommendations "offend Catholic teaching and a Christian or religious understanding of human life," South Africa is a pluralistic society "and organs of state such as the law commission are not there to uphold a given religion's teachings," said the Cape Town-based liaison office for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. In a briefing paper, the commission "would have failed in its duty had it not put forward the range of opinion and thinking that exists on this topic," the bishops said.

Israel to open emergency exit in Jerusalem church

JERUSALEM (CNS) — An Israeli government ministerial committee will oversee the opening of an emergency exit in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher, since churches that share the shrine have not implemented their agreement on the new door. The government announced the appointment of the committee Oct. 31 and named as its head Internal Security Minister Shlomo Ben Ami. He told the Ha'aretz newspaper that Israel bore the responsibility for the well-being of worshipers at the church and that in the face of the continuous refusal of the church leaders to open an emergency exit, the government was left with no choice but to intervene.

Fire ravages La Salette provincial house, killing priest

ATTLEBORO, Mass. (CNS) — A three-alarm fire ripped through the provincial headquarters of the La Salette religious community Nov. 5 in Attleboro, killing a visiting priest and destroying the nearly 100-year-old building known by many as "The Castle." The fire was reported at 4:22 a.m. and began on the left side of the third floor which was occupied by nuns and priests in the La Salette Shrine's sabbatical program. The priest, whose name was not released by fire officials, was described as in his 40s and was a member of Formation Consultation Services Inc. of Whitinsville. The La Salette community's complex includes the famous Shrine at La Salette, which is east of the destroyed building and escaped the blaze.

Vatican official decries neglect of penance before Communion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Fewer Catholics worldwide are going to confession, leading to "distressing and worrying" abuses in the reception of the Eucharist, the Vatican's top official for church law said. Church norms require that those "who have violated any of God's commandments in a grave manner must purify themselves of the sin through the sacrament of penance before approaching eucharistic Communion," said Archbishop Julian Herranz, president of the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts.

Britain won't repeal law forbidding Catholic monarch

LONDON (CNS) — The British government has refused to change a law that forbids an English monarch to marry a Catholic or become a Catholic. In response to calls from politicians, Prime Minister Tony Blair announced he has no plans to repeal the 1700 Act of Settlement as part of reforms of the British Constitution. The process has so far seen some political authority transferred to Scotland and Wales and the voting rights stripped from hereditary peers in the House of Lords. Blair's comments came in a late-October letter to Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, a member of the Scottish Parliament who believes the provision against Catholics is a "harsh and intolerant 18th-century anachronism."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 15 - 18
Meeting of National Conference of Catholic Bishops
Washington, DC

November 20— 11 am
Confirmation
St. Matthew, Charlotte

November 21
Raleigh Diocese
Anniversary Celebrations
Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville

November 25— 9 am
Thanksgiving Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

Diocesan planner

November

14 SALISBURY — For information in dealing with life's ups and downs, Sacred Heart Church, 128 North Fulton St., is hosting "Get Real," a parish renewal with Dominican Father Hugh Burns starting tonight at 7 p.m. and continuing through Nov. 17. There will be 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. sessions from Nov. 15-17 with babysitting provided in Helfrich Hall during the evening programs. Call the church office at (704) 633-0591 for more information.

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre presents "Little Shop of Horrors," a musical by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, continues tonight through Nov. 20 at Belmont Abbey College, 1 Abbey Place. For time, reservation and ticket information, call (704) 825-6787.

16 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Christian Mothers' Group and the Health Ministry are sponsoring "De-Stressing the Holidays" in Room A of the Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. Leslie Mason, a licensed therapist and counselor, is the facilitator. For details, contact Lisa Foster at (704) 542-4558.

WINSTON-SALEM — Natural Family Planning class is taking place tonight at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., from 7-8:30 p.m. Contact Thomas and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

17 GREENSBORO — The Ancient Order of Hibernians is meeting at 8 p.m. in Our Lady's Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. The election of officers, establishment of dues and the discussion of information about National Charter Status is on tonight's agenda. Call Ed Kilmartin at (336) 288-9031

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Rev. Dr. J. Larry Yoder, Rev. Dr. Michael C. D. McDaniel and Rev. Dr. Otto Hermann Pesch pause for a photo at the reception following the Peschio keynote speech.

Catholic, Lutheran scholars gather for annual N.C. conference

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "Who spoke? Otto Hermann Pesch. What did he talk about? The Trinity Doctrine. What did he say? He was in favor of it."

That was how the Rev. Dr. Otto Hermann Pesch humorously summarized his own keynote address, "Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther on the Triune God: A Comparison in View of Their Understanding of Christian Existence," at the seventh annual Aquinas-Luther Conference Sunday night, Nov. 7. The conference is sponsored each year by the Center for Theology of Lenoir-Rhyne College. This year's topic was "Aquinas and Luther on the Holy Trinity."

Pesch, Roman Catholic professor emeritus of systematic theology at the University of Hamburg, Germany, gave his address immediately following an opening worship service attended by 200 people at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Dr. J. Larry Yoder, professor of religion and philosophy at Lenoir-Rhyne College and pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Newton, was installed as the new director of the Center for Theology at the beginning of the service. The Lenoir-Rhyne A Capella Choir and Brass Ensemble provided the music at the event. A reception following the service and the keynote address was held at the home of Lenoir-Rhyne College President Dr. Ryan LaHurd.

In his address, Pesch gave an overview of the writings of Aquinas and Luther as they pertained to the Trinity Doctrine, and talked about the different approaches of the two theologians to that topic. He also talked about the difficulty in finding a simple way to explain the Holy Trinity to the lay person.

The Rev. Dr. Michael C.D. McDaniel, founder and director emeritus of the Center for Theology and retired bishop for the N.C. Synod, called Pesch the "conceptual grandfather of the whole (Aquinas-Luther) series" in his introduction, because of Pesch's book, "The God Question in Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther," which Bishop McDaniel read many years ago.

Pesch gave the summation speech at the first Aquinas-Luther Conference in the fall of 1993, and was present at the signing of the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" this year on Oct. 31 in Augsburg, Germany, because his

SEE CATHOLIC/LUTHERAN, PAGE 9

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE PASTORAL CENTER
THE CHANCERY

November 12, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Bishops' collection dealing with the root causes of poverty — the Catholic Campaign for Human Development — began in 1970, with the Bishops expressing both regret and hope. The regret was their sense that acts of charitable works and direct service to the poor, though helpful, were not changing the conditions causing the low income, the joblessness, the poor health delivery and the lack of affordable housing.

Their hope, expressed in an annual collection, was that the Church could help people in poverty to become the agents of change and decision-makers in the shaping of their own lives. The hope was also based on the belief that Catholics would see their Faith as intimately bound up with the fate and future of the poor among us. This Faith principle leads us in CCHD to work with the poor, not just on behalf of them.

The weekend of November 20-21 offers all of us the opportunity to respond to the hopes of the Bishops. This collection, just a few days before we, at the Thanksgiving table, thank God for our blessings, is intended to give us a chance to "hear the cries of the poor," and to respond. It is a challenge to reach out to the poor with the same sense of urgency that we feel in seeking our own health and security.

Please, then, remember our brothers and sisters with generosity and a sense of both justice and charity.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM — For spiritual preparation for the holiday season, a pre-Thanksgiving Taize service is being held at Joseph's House, 1903 S. Main St., this evening at 5:30 p.m. For details, call (336) 722-0028.

18 GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Lane, is the location for a health and safety fair, featuring exhibits, demonstrations and information, today from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry and the churches in the Gastonia Vicariate. Mass is being celebrated at 11:30 a.m., and there is a speaker and panel discussion from 12:15-12:45 p.m. For Nov. 8 registration and other details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

GREENSBORO — The Our Lady of Grace Church Music Ministry is presenting their second concert for Our Lady. The concert is being held at 2205 West Market St. tonight at 7 p.m. Music by Mozart, Haydn, and other Renaissance composers is being sung by the children's choir, the Sanctuary Adult Choir, and the string orchestra. A reception by the Our Lady of Grace Church Women's Club will follow the concert. Call the church office at (336) 274-6520 for further details.

19 GREENSBORO — There is a fish fry this evening from 5-7 p.m., co-sponsored by Fourth Degree Abbott Vincent Taylor Assembly and Council 939 of the Knights of Columbus. The event is being held in the Our Lady of Grace School Cafeteria, 2205 West Market St., and the proceeds will benefit the personal needs of the seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte.

WINSTON-SALEM — Celebrate eight decades of dance starting with the swinging twenties at the "Dance of the Decades" tonight at 8 p.m. at Bishop McGuinness High School, 1730 Link Road. This event will benefit the school's fine arts programs. Call the school's event office at (336) 725-4248 for location and ticket information.

20 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a book discussion of Tracy and Judy Kennedy's "Mistrial of the Century." Bring snacks and beverages, and call Lois for book information, directions and donations at (336) 855-8471.

21 CHARLOTTE — There is a Mass for parents and/or grandparents of a deceased child or children at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Candles can be lit in memory of the deceased, and pictures or memorabilia can be placed on tables in the sanctuary beginning at 2 p.m. A reception, sponsored by the Christian Mothers' Group, follows the Mass.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is having a choir concert at 5 p.m. this evening. All are invited to attend this musical celebration of faith.

GREENSBORO — "Celebrating the Church in the African Diaspora" is the theme for the Second Annual Gospel Mass in celebration of African-American Catholic History Month at 4 p.m. this afternoon at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. Father Paul Williams of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C., is the celebrant, and Holy Cross Choir from Durham is providing the music ministry. The Mass is followed by a Karamu, or community meal, in the St. Pius X Kloster Center. The event is sponsored by the North Carolina A & T University Catholic Campus Ministry, St. Pius X Church and the Women's Friendship Club of St. Mary Catholic Church. For more information, call Alberta Hairston at Thea House at (336) 272-5868 or e-mail theahouse1@juno.com.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

About 200 to raise their voices for Celebration of Years Nov. 21

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — About 200 people will raise their voices in song and praise for the special diocesan Mass Nov. 21 in Fayetteville. But first they have to practice.

The fourth annual North Carolina Choral Festival will kick off the weekend Saturday, Nov. 20, in Fayetteville; participants will stick around to sing during the Celebration of Years Mass the next day at 4 p.m. in the Crown Coliseum.

"The liturgy is the focus," said Paul Monachino, minister of music at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

But first is the choral festival, which will be held at St. Patrick Church in Fayetteville. The day begins with registration at 9:30 a..m. and continues with a one-hour rehearsal. The festival will also offer "breakout sessions" for cantors, choirs at prayer, keyboards, and other topics, as well as lunch and more rehearsals. The day ends at 8 p.m. with a handbell concert by the Raleigh Ringers.

The choir will rehearse at the Crown Coliseum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and again 2-3 p.m. before the big event at 4.

Darren Dailey, former music minister at St. Patrick and current director of music ministry for Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, will be the festival clinician. "I'm hoping that people will experience the various styles of liturgical music available to them," said Dailey, "and take them back to their parishes."

Liturgical music, he said, "needs to represent who we were, who we are, and who we're called to be."

As such, he said, liturgical music in a parish needs to be diverse throughout the liturgical year. The music selected for the Celebration of Years was selected to meet that standard, Dailey said.

For example, the recessional — "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" — with brass and percussion can be considered contemporary; the processional hymn — "The Church's One Foundation" — is traditional. The brass prelude of "Fanfare for the Common Man" by Aaron Copland is classical, while "Taste and See," a Communion song by African-American composer James Moore, has an African-American, contemporary flavor.

Dailey said that when he was music minister at St. Patrick Church, with some 4,000 parishioners, he knew he had done "a great job" when "someone is really touched by a piece of music we selected." Diversity, he said, almost guarantees that some of the music will appeal to most of the congregation.

Registration for the festival is $10, which includes lunch Saturday and Sunday. Participants can order music packets from Burrage Music Company in Raleigh at (919) 872-0211 or (919) 872-9454.

Monachino said choir members will not need tickets to be admitted to the Celebration of Years. In addition, a section of seats for choir family members will be reserved near the choir. Again, he said, no tickets are needed.

The Diocese of Raleigh is celebrating its 75th anniversary at the Crown Coliseum during the Mass, as well as the 100th anniversary of the founding of Catholic Social Ministries in North Carolina and the 25th anniversary of the appointment of Bishop Joseph Gossman as the fourth bishop of Raleigh.

Featured in the Mass will be Baltimore's Cardinal William Keeler, who will deliver the homily, and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States and the Holy Father's representative. The two Catholic leaders are expected to be joined by as many as 15 U.S. Catholic bishops and state dignitaries. The bishops will include Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, Bishop William Curlin of Charlotte, Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah, and bishops David B. Thompson and Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C.

Each parish will receive a minimum of eight invitations, depending on the parish's size, for parish leaders, such as the pastoral council chair and the chair of the parish's anniversary committee. Each parish will also send two altar servers for the event.

Next, as many as 304 tickets, again depending on the size of the community, will be sent to each parish to be distributed as the parish decides. These tickets are for reserved seating in the coliseum.

Further, as many as 8,000 of general admission seats will be left open. About 4,000 of those seats will be available through the parishes; the rest will be available at the door.

Parking will be free and is expected to be plentiful. ▼

Catholic War Veterans post honored at national convention

ARDEN — The Rev. Ralph Neagle Catholic War Veterans Post 1914 of Arden was honored in two program categories recently at the Catholic War Veterans of the U.S.A. national convention in San Antonio, Texas. Post 1914's newsletter, "The Updater," was selected as the best post newsletter in the country for its layout, format and content. The second recognition was for post members contributing the most Catholic War Veterans volunteer hours nationally in the Department of Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) program. From Oct. 1, 1998, through July 31, 1999, Post 1914 members contributed 2,682 volunteer hours to the VA medical system. In addition, Post 1914 Commander Herbert Reith was awarded the Catholic War Veterans National Distinguished Service Award for his service as the national VAVS deputy representative.

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1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

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The Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

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Family Life	(704) 370-3250
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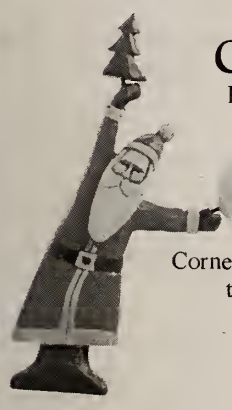

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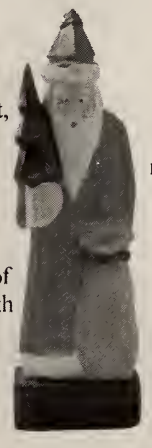

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As Elder Ministry expands, leaders localize efforts

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — As the diocesan Elder Ministry expands its efforts to reach a growing senior population in western North Carolina, ministry leaders are encouraging more localized participation by individuals and parishes in all of the diocese's vicariates.

Sandra Breakfield, program director of the ministry, said that as the Diocese of Charlotte moves into the 21st century, parishes must continue to address the needs of their senior parishioners — a group that will steadily grow over time.

"We want to make sure that we reach out to everyone," she said. "As the vicariates come together, they will be able to address and bring to the forefront the most pressing needs that they want to see met. We want to bring a sense of community and connectedness."

Breakfield commended efforts already in place in parishes throughout the diocese. Her office is a resource center for parish-based ministry to elders, and she serves as the primary liaison between diocesan and parish programs. She also coordinates several diocesan gatherings each year, like the Fall Day of Reflection and the Spring Fling.

"We're looking to get people together to give them a view of what elder ministry can be, give them some education on what the needs are and give some options that they might be interested in at the parish."
— Meg Smith

She shares existing models of ministry, helps develop new ones, promotes volunteerism and seeks ways to keep seniors involved in the vibrant life of the church. Moreover, the ministry reaches out to seniors themselves, calling on them "to share their wealth of knowledge, information and resources," Breakfield said.

And as the Elder Ministry strives to help meet the needs of these ever-growing numbers of people, thousands of whom are Catholic, Breakfield said the obligation to focus educational efforts on the parish and vicariate levels has become necessarily more prevalent.

"It is amazing when you look at what the projected change is going to be," she said. "The numbers are really quite awesome — which says to us that we've got to get (more) programs and plans in order now so that we're prepared as those numbers increase."

Enter Meg Smith, the new regional coordinator for Elder Ministry in the Hickory/Morganton area, whose area of responsibility covers the 16 counties in the Hickory, Boone and Salisbury vicariates.

Like Breakfield, Smith is a presence of Elder Ministry to parishes, and offers training and technical assistance specific to senior needs relating to faith, housing, care giving, transportation and planning for the future.

The ministry hopes to have four regional coordinators in place within the next couple of years.

Meg Smith

"We really think that everybody has something to give, and everybody has something to gain in dealing with the elderly," said Smith, who has worked for 15 years in North Carolina as a registered nurse. "We really want the parishes to be looking at what they can do, and what the vicariates can do."

Smith is already playing a key role in the ministry's work, having organized a training seminar for pastoral care to the elderly and sick in Hickory recently and assisting Breakfield plan a senior health safety fair Nov. 18 at St. Michael Church in Gastonia. The meetings are the products of entire vicariates' coming together in concern for its elders.

"We're looking to get people together to give them a view of what elder ministry can be, give them some education on what the needs are and give some options that they might be interested in at the parish," Smith said.

One goal is to establish a network of representatives in each vicariate who will foster working, educational relationships between the diocesan ministry and parishes.

"Education is the key — providing people with the education and the information about what the resources of the community are and helping them link up with what is available," Breakfield said.

Smith, who hails from upstate New York and is currently a participant in the diocesan Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program, said her time with seniors has been truly rewarding.

"I have worked with a lot of elderly patients in home care and in the hospital," she said of her nursing days. "I have, every single time, learned more and taken away more than every visit that I've ever given because of the wisdom and the light that these people have."

Smith said meeting the needs of seniors — Catholic seniors in particular — means the diocese and parishes working together to offer an array of services and keeping elders active in church and social circles. "It's having your spiritual needs met, having your social needs met, having somebody there to care and be involved." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

CNS PHOTO BY AGOSTINO BONO

Rebuilding in Honduras

A mother and daughter stand in the doorway of a new home in the rural community of Casas Viejas, Honduras, in late October. A building program, aided by Catholic Relief Services, gave people food in exchange for work in helping rebuild homes lost to Hurricane Mitch last year.

U.S. embargo against Cuba has benefited Castro, priest says

NEW YORK (CNS) — The U.S. embargo against Cuba has greatly benefited Cuban leader Fidel Castro, a Havana priest said in an interview in New York. Cuban officials attribute problems to the effects of the embargo, and ordinary Cubans tend to accept what they say, according to Msgr. Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Garcia-Menocal, one of three vicars general of the Havana Archdiocese. The Cuban bishops would like to see the embargo lifted because that would lead to more rational discussion and because it is economically damaging, he told Catholic News Service.

U2 star Bono joins bishops in debt relief plea

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U2 lead singer Bono joined religious and political leaders in Washington Nov. 4 to urge Congress to relieve the debt of the world's poorest countries. Congress was due soon to vote on a key appropriations bill in which the Clinton administration has asked for a $370 million allocation to fund its declared debt relief commitment for the year 2000. Citizens should "call your congressman. Sit in his garden," Bono said. "It's immoral, it's obscene that at a time of unimaginable wealth here in the First World, we can't seem to get to grips with the unimaginable impoverishment of a billion people living on less than a dollar a day," he said on the steps of St. Peter's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill.

Symposium looks at ethics in managed health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If one lesson emerged from a Nov. 2 symposium on ethics in managed health care, it was that the debate is not only over different answers — those involved are still struggling over the questions. Two of the participants highlighted the polarities and different perspectives involved: Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, a prominent Georgetown University physician and professor of medical ethics, argued that managed health care as currently organized and operated "is not ethically defensible" from the doctor-patient perspective. Dr. Richard H. Bernstein, senior medical director of Aetna U.S. Healthcare, argued that "we must justly ration health care" and defended the role of managed health care in balancing conflicting interests and bringing cost management into systems that had been spiraling out of control in the 1980s.

Msgr. Koch, of Raleigh, dies at 83

SOUTHERN PINES — Msgr. Frederick A. Koch, 83, died at St. Joseph of the Pines Health Care Center Sunday, Nov. 7. He had been a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh for almost 56 years.

Msgr. Koch was born in Scranton, Pa., July 16, 1916, the son of Theodore and Wilhelma Guenthoer Koch. Early in his childhood the family moved to Staten Island, N.Y., where he attended St. Peter's elementary and high schools.

He received a degree at St. Mary College in St. Mary, Ky., in June 1939, and then entered the Sulpician Seminary (Theological College) of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He was ordained a priest on May 23, 1943, in the Trinity College Chapel of Washington by Bishop J.M. McNamara, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, for the Diocese of Raleigh.

Upon ordination, he served as associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Charlotte, and St. Paul Parish, New Bern. While at St. Paul's he was also chaplain at St. Luke Hospital.

In 1947 he was named the second editor of the North Carolina Catholic newspaper, a position he held until 1954, and again from 1967 to 1976. The paper was only a year old when Msgr. Koch first took the position.

In 1948 Msgr. Koch was named administrator of St. Eugene Parish in Wendell, and in 1952 he became pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Wake Forest. He held both positions while serving as editor of the diocesan paper.

In May 1954 Msgr. Koch went to Rome for advanced study in theology at the Lateran University and received the Licientiate in Sacred Theology in June 1955. He returned from Rome, and was appointed pastor of Newton Grove and director of the Diocesan Missionary Apostolate. There he was in charge of training the newly ordained priests during their first year of priesthood. He oversaw ministry in Wayne, Johnston, Duplin and Sampson counties.

In 1962, Msgr. Koch moved to the western part of the state at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Winston-Salem, followed by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in High Point. He then returned to the east in 1967, serving as pastor of St. Michael in Cary and as the editor of the North Carolina Catholic. He also served as pastor of St. Patrick in Fayetteville from 1976 to 1981, and at Sacred Heart Parish in Pinehurst from 1981 to 1990.

Then, not wanting to retire, Msgr. Koch served as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh for the next three years. He retired in 1993.

In addition to serving as diocesan newspaper editor, Msgr. Koch held several diocesan positions. He was diocesan consultor for 20 years, a member of the Priests' Personnel Committee for eight years, serving as chair for four years. He was diocesan director of communications for 18 years.

In 1974, he was named a monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

He is survived by his sister, Marie Koch, of Southern Pines. ▼

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Protests fizzle, good will prevails during pope's India visit

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — Despite much talk of fundamentalist Hindu protests and the potential for extremist violence, Pope John Paul II's visit to India went off without a hitch — much to the delight of church planners and government hosts.

Those expecting an interreligious battle in New Delhi were disappointed. In the end, protests fizzled and good will prevailed during the Nov. 5-8 visit.

That's not headline news, perhaps. But many Indians appeared tired of what they saw as "media hype" over the Hindu extremist agenda, with its demand for a freeze on Christian conversions and a papal apology for historical church misdeeds.

"This is a free country, a democracy, and there are small groups of protesters. I don't think it goes beyond that," Margaret Alva, one of 22 Christians in India's Parliament, said as she waited for the pope's arrival at the presidential palace Nov. 6.

Even Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, whose Hindu nationalist coalition has links to some of the most strident Hindu organizations, told the pope that it was the "intolerant fringes" of Indian society who were causing problems.

The government allowed demonstrations but banned them near papal event sites, saying the pope should be welcomed as a guest and a holy man. That was a prevailing sentiment among Indians, according to Divine Word Father Dominic Emmannuel, spokesman for the Indian bishops' conference.

"The people making protests have managed to get a lot of attention because of the way they have handled the media," he said.

The much-ballyhooed cross-country caravan of Hindus protesting the church's history of missionary work in India rolled through the streets of New Delhi Nov. 4 "without many people noticing it," according to The Times of India. The caravan involved only 20 people, and about 300 others attended a closing rally.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Hindu holy man Shankaracharya Madhavananda Saraswati greets Pope John Paul II at an interreligious meeting in New Delhi Nov. 7.

A handful of demonstrators were arrested when they shouted slogans outside a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, where the pope was making a visit. Reporters, meanwhile, ran up big taxi bills hunting for protest banners.

Contrary to press reports, security was less stringent than during most papal trips.

Although long-forgotten, the Hindu protests during the pope's visit in 1986 were actually bigger. During that visit, death threats were made against the pope, thousands of Hindus marched through the capital and police arrested at least 300 demonstrators, including those who burned an effigy of the pope.

This year, the protests have received more attention for several reasons, according to church sources. For one thing, the Hindu objections have been preceded by more than 100 sporadic acts of violence against Christian missionaries in a few Indian states. For another, the ruling political coalition has encouraged a national debate about Christian conversion.

Some of the Hindu requests made during the pope's visit bordered on the silly. For example, the National Volunteer Corps asked the pope to refrain from saying or doing anything "religious" during his visit to India.

However, deep differences were respectfully aired. Many Hindus, who regard their religion as "non-aggressive," have a hard time accepting the Christian idea of conversion. So when the pope defended the church's "call to conversion" in a speech to bishops, Indian television predicted a new flare-up in the simmering controversy.

"The Indian people might misunderstand this call, because they have not understood quite clearly what is the meaning of conversion in the Christian sense," said Father Emmannuel.

"They have understood conversion only as a change of religion. But for the church, conversion means first of all a change of heart," he said.

But if local Catholics were speaking gently about conversion, the pope was more blunt. At an interreligious encounter Nov. 7, he told Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, Jewish and other religious representatives that churches must have the freedom to make a "respectful appeal" to people's consciences, and individuals must have the "right even to change their religion, if their conscience so demands."

The interfaith event was a great success that displayed India's overwhelming sense of religious tolerance. The pope and Christianity were praised, commitments to dialogue were renewed and songs of prayer were sung for the pope's health.

But afterward, some of the participants voiced mixed feelings about Christianity's emphasis on evangelization.

"Everyone is free to be converted if he likes, but no one should press anybody," said Bhai Manjit Singh, the Sikh representative.

Samdhong Rinpoche, a Buddhist monk, said persuasion and motivation were unacceptable forms of conversion for Buddhism. The Hindu representative, Shankaracharya Madhavananda Saraswati, while stressing the "love" that prevails between Hindus and Christians, said he thought that one's original religion "remains inside the person forever," even after outward conversion.

The Jain speaker, Acharya Mahaprajna, said it was too bad that religions seemed more busy "increasing the number of their followers" than responding to the common challenges.

Ironically, the only reported security incident at a papal event came at the interreligious meeting. The blue-turbaned Sikh representative took his place near the pope 30 minutes late because police did not want him to enter with his full-length silver sword. He eventually convinced them that it was a symbol of his religious authority, not a security risk.

"I carry it with me all the time," he said. ▼

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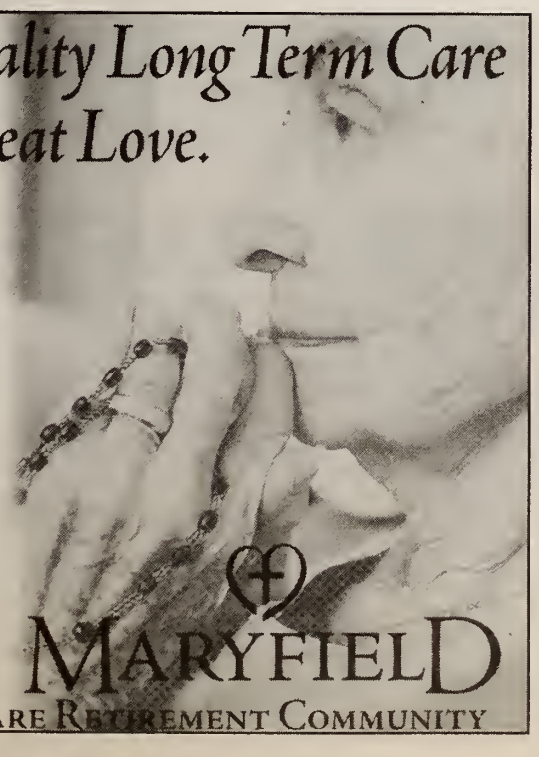

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CCHD-funded program develops ideal recipe for change

CHARLOTTE — The Community Culinary School of Charlotte has developed the ideal recipe both for feeding hungry people and uniting food suppliers, food preparation employees and culinary trainees. The result of the school's work is that people receiving assistance from agencies in town serving the poor, the homeless and persons in recovery are getting a chance to fill a portion of the 6,000 job vacancies in the food service/hospitality industry in Charlotte.

Formerly known as the Charlotte Community Kitchen, the culinary school is a locally funded project of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty campaign. The stories of its participants and graduates are ones of triumph and hope:

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Working to End Poverty and Injustice in the United States

There is Bob McRae, who says his self-esteem was restored through work with the program. He became eligible for chef training at the school, graduated 14 weeks later and moved on to become a teacher's aide for the next class. He is also being honored with the Personal Achievement of the Year Award from the Homeless Shelter Network.

There is Sibyl Durant, a cold cook now in charge of salads, breads and desserts prepared for Friendship Trays, which distributes food to the needy. She emerged from a troubled past into a supportive and structured work environment at the school, which provided direction, encouragement and incentive.

And there is Dwayne Brown, whose dreams of becoming a professional football player were shattered when he was shot in a drive-by shooting. Through rehabilitation and bouts with depression, he enrolled in the first class of the school, helping the head cook and another chef with kitchen tasks. A graduate of that first class, he is now employed at McDonald's Cafeteria in Charlotte.

The Community Culinary School is an example of how CCHD helps people help themselves by working through the root causes of poverty and injustice. Linda Vogler started the school last year, integrating three community services — all of which are funded in part by CCHD: Community Food Rescue, Friendship Trays and the school itself. Four cycles of classes have been completed thus far, and the school seeks to ensure that graduates earn a living wage in their entry-level jobs. ▼

Catholic/Lutheran, from page 3

writings contributed to the development of it.

The conference was held from Nov. 7 to 9, and featured several prominent Catholic and Lutheran theologians from Europe and the United States. Dr. William T. Cavanaugh, assistant professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and associate editor of the journal "Pro Ecclesia," gave a speech Monday morning entitled "Participation in the Trinity in Aquinas and Luther." Monday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Jensen, the senior scholar for research at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J., and president of the American Theological Society, gave a lecture entitled "Luther and the Trinity."

The Rev. Phillip M. Johnson, pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jersey City, N.J., associate editor of the "Lutheran Forum," and Senior of the Society of the Holy Trinity, gave the Monday evening banquet address entitled "'The Mystery of Godliness' and the Baptized Intellect."

Tuesday morning, the Rev. Dr. Brian E. Daley, S.J., professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame and editor of the journal "Traditio," gave a lecture entitled "The 'Errors of the Greeks': Thomas Aquinas, the 'Filioque' and Ecumenical Dialogue." Tuesday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. William H. Lazareth, bishop emeritus for the Metropolitan New York Synod and a member of the executive staff of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, N.J., gave a lecture entitled "Trinitarian Ecumenical Criteriology."

Each lecture was followed by a panel discussion, and then a summary panel discussion was held late Tuesday afternoon, near the end of the conference.

Bishop McDaniel commented on the importance of the work of many Catholic and Lutheran volunteers who help to put the conference together each year. Members of many churches in the community open their homes to provide places for conference guests to stay. Bishop McDaniel said that 158 people pre-registered for the conference this year, but that additional people registered during the three-day event.

The Hickory Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee, consisting of representatives of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, St. Aloysius Catholic Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, acted as co-sponsor for the event. Pastors of those congregations and the pastor to Lenoir-Rhyne College take turns presiding at the opening worship service each year. The ministers presiding over the opening service this year were Father Edward J. Sheridan of St. Aloysius Church, the Rev. Robert H. Shoffner of Holy Trinity Church, and the Rev. Andrew F. Weisner of Lenoir-Rhyne College. The organist at the service was Florence M. Jowers, assistant professor of church music at Lenoir-Rhyne College. ▼

Leeper, from page 1

ties. She helped with caring for the children, cleaning, and keeping up the spirits of the families and their children.

During that time, Leeper decided to go back to school. As a child, she would write poetry and other stories during her spare time, so she began attending night class in writing at the former Sacred Heart College. Some of her poems include "Say No to Drugs," "A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King," "Merely Trying to Help," which was made into a song, "Live Always," and "The World Needs More Love."

One particular poem about the Vietnam War set things into motion for a recording and a writing credit after she had received a certificate to write poems for recordings.

The teacher sent her poem "End the War," a mother's protest about her son being drafted, to the Hollywood Songwriters' Service. They sent it to a record company which made the poem into a song with a blues groove performed by a group called The GoodTimers.

"I was so scared that my son would be killed; I wanted the war to end, so I decided to write the poem," explained Leeper. "I helped to sell the records in and around Belmont, and they were sold in other places. I wanted my son to come home." Fortunately, her son did come home safely from Vietnam.

Her writing also earned her a trip to Hawaii, which she turned down because she "just didn't want to leave her children for any amount of time."

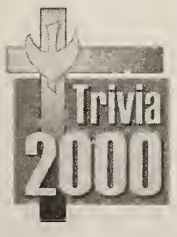
Some may wonder how Leeper has lived such a long and full life. Her words of wisdom are simple: "God has been good to me and has given me a long life. The better you live and the better you treat people, your life will be long and pleasant." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Trivia 2000: Feet first-aid proposed for Rome pilgrims

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Rome cobblestones are notoriously tough on pedestrians, but pilgrims in the year 2000 may benefit from a novel service: first aid for feet.



An institute of Italian podiatrists has proposed a mobile station to minister to the expected millions of holy year visitors who will be forced to walk to major events because of new restrictions on tour bus access to downtown Rome.

"A typical tourist day in Rome, with overexertion, heat and perhaps inappropriate shoes, can cause blisters, calluses, tendinitis and metatarsal bone stress," warned Mauro Montesi, head of the association.

The first-aid station, positioned at St. Peter's Square and other gathering sites, would provide immediate treatment for emergency cases — along with advice on how to avoid sore feet in the future. ▼

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Book Review

MIT professor makes good case for changing the American labor market

REVIEWED BY ANNE BINGHAM
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

From 1979 to 1993, I had a front-row seat on the dismantling of the employment contract between business and American workers.

While this re-ordering might have been due to impersonal, global market forces, opinion at the union where I worked attributed it to good old-fashioned greed.

"Securing Propserity"
By Paul Osterman
Princeton University Press
(Princeton, N.J., 1999) 222 pp., $24.95.

Perhaps this was because we watched factory after factory close, costing our members tens of thousands of jobs.

Sometimes the factories were old or their industries dying, but just as often shutdowns happened in plants that were making healthy contributions to the corporate bottom line. In those days, a profit that was merely healthy couldn't compete with the truly obscene return available below the Rio Grande and across the Pacific.

So it's with a fair amount of interest that I picked up Paul Osterman's "Securing Prosperity," subtitled "The American Labor Market: How It Has Changed and What to Do about It."

A brief introduction sketches the relative employment stability and shared vision of labor-management rights and responsibilities that lasted from 1945 until the early 1980s. Then came the shift — to an economy built on contingent workers; corporate down-sizing with accompanying massive, permanent layoffs; and a labor-management mix wherein management has the rights but labor bears all the responsibility and most of the risk.

Osterman, professor of human resources and management at MIT's Sloan School, makes a good case that the resulting "prosperity" rests on a foundation of sand. It can last only as long as stock prices rise, stagnant wages keep inflation at bay, and politicians pretend to balance the federal budget by ignoring inconvenient debts and the Social Security offset.

To achieve a more solid foundation, he calls for a better safety net that includes improved unemployment insurance and more portable pension and health benefits. He recommends that regional employment networks be scrutinized to assess their effectiveness, with the goal of upgrading skills at the tech school level and improving skill portability. These measures would prevent the community and regional devastation caused by major corporate restructurings.

It is also time, Osterman declares, for public debate about the legitimate objectives of business. The current view — that the modern corporation should be an entity devoted solely to the accumulation of wealth for its owners (stockholders), regardless of its effect on those whose work creates the wealth — needs moderation to recapture the human element. ▼

Bingham formerly was managing editor for a labor union that merged with the United Paperworkers International Union in 1993.

'Crossing the Threshold of Hope' Spanish best-seller of decade

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — The Association of Spanish Publishers announced that Pope John Paul II's 1994 book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," was Latin America's best-selling Spanish-language religious book of the decade.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" was the second-best seller.

The association also announced the Spanish version of the pope's book, with more than 1 million copies sold in Latin America, was among the highest-selling books in all categories.

The surprise of the decade was "The Return of the Prodigal Son," a book of spirituality written by the late Dutch-born Father Henri Nouwen, which was the best seller among Spanish religious books from January to August. The book is a meditation on the image of God the Father that coincides with jubilee year preparations during 1999, the year Pope John Paul has dedicated to God the Father.

The pope also took ninth and 13th place among the top 15 religious best sellers. The books were "Orar" ("To Pray"), an anthology of his meditations on prayer published by Planeta-Testimonio, and "Fides et Ratio," ("Faith and Reason") his 1998 encyclical. ▼

Word to Life

November 14, Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A Readings:

1) Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 128:1-5
2) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
3) Matthew 25:14-30

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the ravine, squatting down and pointing up at the bridge his Honduran co-workers had built, was Franciscan Father Ronaldo Roll, originally of Brooklyn. Kyle Walterscheid, a seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Worth and a former engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, squatted beside him, evaluating the sturdiness of this bridge, one of two which replaced ones washed out by last year's monster hurricane, Mitch. This simple but vitally important concrete bridge makes it possible for the mountain people living along this road to travel by vehicle to Tegucigalpa or Juticalpa.

A group of us, including Bishop Joseph Delaney, eight priests, our director of finance, another seminarian studying for our diocese and myself, were on a familiarization tour of a highlands region of the Diocese of Juticalpa, here at the beginning of the twinning of our two dioceses in late October.

In addition to the bridge project, Father Ron showed us a water project he had helped organize that brought clean, drinkable water flowing through PVC pipe to simple adobe homes in a remote valley.

The village church at Guayape where Bishop Delaney had celebrated Mass the night before had a new brown-and-yellow ceramic tile floor, not a month old, the first one to cover the dirt floor where people had worshiped for over a century. Again, a project empowered by Father Ron, working with the local lay leadership. The list goes on and on.

Father Ron is like the servant whose master gave him 5,000 silver pieces in today's Gospel. The servant on his master's return says to him: "My Lord, you let me have 5,000. See, I have made 5,000 more." His master says in reply: "Well done! You are an industrious and reliable servant. Since you were dependable in a small matter I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share your master's joy!"

In Matthew 24 and 25 Jesus tells us there's a serious judgment coming; that we'd better get ready; that he has given us abilities and riches to use and increase for the purposes of his kingdom. Then tossing aside the parable format, he tells us plainly that how we have treated him in the guise of the poor — the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and those in prison — determines whether we fall into the group with the sheep or the one with the goats.

I have to think Jesus is speaking directly to you and me. I know few of us can be as dedicated to such service as Father Ron, but we are all expected to do something substantive. Personally, I want to end up in the group with the padre from Brooklyn.

Question:
Has God called you to some work of compassion or justice toward the poor?

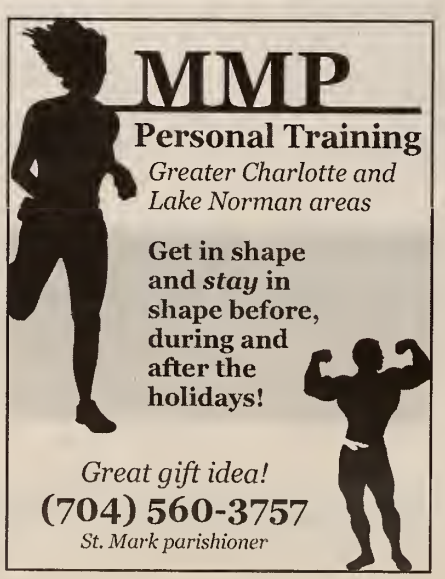
"You are not in the dark, brothers, that the day should catch you off guard, like a thief. No, all of you are children of light and of the day."

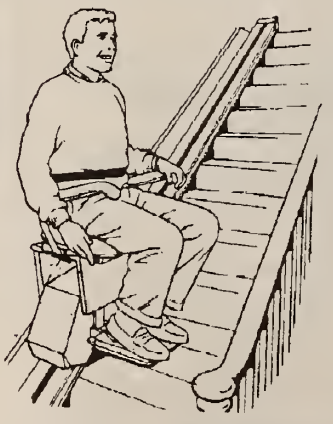
— 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5a

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 14 - 20, 1999

Sunday, Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30; **Monday**, 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday**, 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**, 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday**, 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40





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Nun - lawyer says CBS' show 'Family Law' sticks close to reality

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A nun who was a practicing lawyer for years says the new CBS-TV drama "Family Law" sticks close to reality.

Sister Simone Campbell had a family law practice in Oakland, Calif., for 18 years prior to accepting the call to head her congregation, the Sisters of Social Service.

"I find it to be much more interesting than I expected it to be," she said about the series, but added its late hour rules out repeated viewing for her. "It's on past my bedtime."

"Family Law"
10-11 p.m. EST Mondays on CBS

"Family Law," which airs 10-11 p.m. EST Mondays on CBS, focuses on the family law practice of a ragtag group of Los Angeles attorneys headed by Lynn Holt (Kathleen Quinlan), who had to start the firm virtually from scratch after her ex-husband spirited away their joint law firm's assets and clients.

Other notables in the cast include Dixie Carter as Randi King, who learned enough about law in prison that she was able to get overturned her conviction of murdering her husband, and Catholic actor Christopher McDonald as Rex Weller, a smarmy lawyer known for advertising on TV who brings a built-in client base to the firm.

TV is best at showing emotion, said Sister Campbell in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from her order's Los Angeles headquarters, and "the emotional issues are very true" on "Family Law."

As a lawyer, "I worked not to get affected" by her clients' situations, she noted.

"In real life, you put your emotions on the back burner. The show obviously plays more with that than would happen in real life," Sister Campbell said.

But on TV "it's important to show the emotional struggles, since half of the marriages end in divorce," she added.

Sister Campbell helped establish the Community Law Center in Oakland, which has since merged with that city's Legal Aid clinic for indigent clients.

Her case load dealt with divorce, custody and support issues. Broadly speaking, she said, her role was to "make the family work better" even if it was "not in the same configuration" as before.

Sister Campbell said sometimes her job was to represent the children affected "when the parents were warring with each other."

Other times, she added, she had to deal with conflicts arising out of changed attitudes among members of immigrant families, like when the wife in a household "wanted to be a woman in the U.S. culture and the man wanted the woman to be the way she was when they were married back in the homeland."

Actress Kathleen Quinlan (right) stars as a family practice lawyer in the new CBS series "Family Law." A Catholic nun and attorney for 18 years says the drama sticks close to reality.

CNS PHOTO FROM CBS

About the only false note she detected in viewing three "Family Law" episodes was Holt's firm accepting a malpractice case a week before it was scheduled to go to trial. Such a thing would not happen, she said, and even if it did the case would likely have been handled by a law firm specializing in malpractice.

But cases handled by Sister Campbell in her own legal career were not always cut and dried.

She recalled representing "a guy who had 22 kids by 18 women."

"The real problem was that he had lost his job" and had to adjust his child support payment obligations, she said. And then there was the couple who "fought over an aquarium tank," she added.

The pilot of "Family Law" didn't appeal to Gerri Pare, who is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. She called it "a jumble of characters and cases whose outcomes were predictable — making it uncertain if there will be dramatic conflict worth watching" beyond the first episode.

But "Family Law," through the first five weeks of the TV season, ranked 18th of 127 shows put on the air by the six commercial broadcast networks. That was the third-best performance among all new shows this season, and CBS has rewarded it by giving an order for a full 22-episode season.

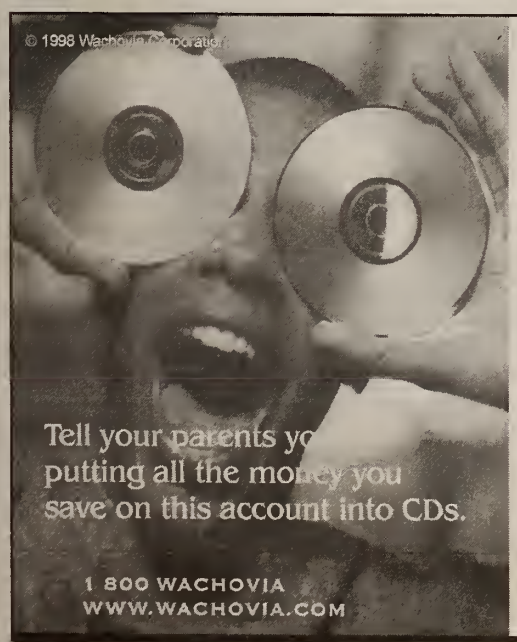
The show seems to have a winning formula, but Sister Campbell offered some advice for its writers: "Focus more on the two sides of the story. It's not crystal clear, one side or the other. Keep it so that each person has a piece of the truth, and that the psychological dynamic is understood."

She added, "Everyone's right in family law, but no one has the whole picture." ▼

New at the Box Office

"Train of Life" (Paramount Classics)

Bittersweet Holocaust fairy tale in which the village idiot persuades his Jewish neighbors to buy a train, dress some of them as Nazis and pretend they are being sent to the camps while they are actually attempting to get to freedom and Palestine. Writer-director Radu Mihaileanu creates an occasionally poignant fable of hope flawed by contrived humor. Subtitles. Fleeting violence, implied sexual encounters, brief shower-room nudity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, in jubilee message, asks Romans to open homes to pilgrims

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked the citizens of Rome to open their hearts and their homes to Jesus and to the thousands of pilgrims who will visit the city in the year 2000.

"Christian Rome, do not hesitate to open the doors of your homes to pilgrims," the pope said in a Nov. 3 message to the city.

"Exercise fraternal hospitality with joy, particularly during the most meaningful and largest events such as World Youth Day," planned for Aug. 15-20, he wrote.

The press officer for World Youth Day at the Italian bishops' conference in Rome said Nov. 3 that organizers have just begun their appeal to families to host young people during the event.

While most World Youth Day participants will be housed in hotels, religious institutions or schools, the willingness of families to participate is important as a sign of welcome and involvement, the spokesman said.

Pope John Paul said those who offer hospitality and assistance to Holy Year pilgrims — especially to those who are poor, elderly, ill or have handicaps — will experience "the joy of those who welcomed Jesus in Galilee, Samaria and Judea."

The eyes of the world will be on Rome and how it celebrates the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' birth, the pope said.

An "intensity of faith and Gospel love," especially in hospitality, will help the world see the transforming and life-giving power of Christianity, he said.

"For believers," the pope said, "the jubilee is a fitting time to leave aside their habitual way of living the faith and rediscover true friendship with the Lord.

"It is an opportune time to give conversion the meaning of a complete break with sin, experiencing the joy of pardon accepted and given," he said.

The jubilee, the pope wrote, "is a most favorable time to rediscover communion and brotherhood in parishes, movements and communities" by promoting inclusion and reconciliation.

Pope John Paul said Romans must be spiritually as well as practically prepared to host millions of visitors.

"It is important that upon their arrival our brothers and sisters find not only a city ready to receive them and able to show them places rich in the memory of history and of faith, but especially a community which incarnates the Gospel and shows concrete signs of the supreme precept of love," he said.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

After you mail your college application

It's done — you think. Should you check it again? Go ahead, look through the envelope if you need to make sure: The check is there, the essays too, the letters of recommendation and — at last, presenting the most important piece of paper in the universe at this moment — your college application.

A seemingly innocuous set of questions and answers that only symbolizes the rest of your life! Are you ready to let it go and allow life to take its course?

I have a son who is 17 and a senior, so this is a rather personal topic at the moment and a matter of some anxiety.

For you see, my son, gifted as he is in many ways, has not exactly glimmered with motivation and academic enthusiasm the past three and one-half years. It's been a struggle, not because he can't make good grades, but because he can.

Like any good-natured, highly distractible young man, when he's confronted with that difficult, daily choice of study or "doing something else," he tends to pick the something else.

So here he is now, with grades that are not terrible, but do not guarantee admission into the college of one's choice, either.

Excuse us if things are a bit tense around here the next few weeks. You see, there's only one college my son is interested in. I won't name it, but it's the school both his father and I attended and at which his grandfather (my dad) was a professor for many years.

Somehow, around age 2, my son's blood turned into the colors of this university, and he's lived for the place and, in particular, its not-unsuccessful football team.

It's a large state university, so we don't have the angst of private-school admission and tuition, but there are problems. We don't live in that state anymore, so he'll be trying to get in as an out-of-state student. We just don't know.

He'll apply to a couple of other schools, though he doesn't want to. I guess he sees it as bad luck in a way.

He's putting all his eggs in one basket, and it's worrisome. He's meeting with his guidance counselor today to fill out the rest of the application. A couple of days from now, he'll have it all together, along with his best standardized test scores.

He'll stand at the mailbox and, in a moment of faith, let go.From that point, it's out of his hands.

All of you applying to college are facing that exact same moment. You never know what's going to happen. You may be a good student, but you're not the only one. There are always students out there, seeking the same spot you are.

So what are you going to do while you wait, and what are you going to do when you get your news in a few weeks or months?

You could, of course, pray. Not so much for the results you want, but for a spirit of openness and acceptance of whatever happens.

Faith is a trusting relationship with God. At its root, it involves believing that God is God and in control. After that, it means trusting that God wants the best for you, and accepting it with a gracious and grateful spirit.

I know it's really hard to understand, especially if the news is "bad," but faith means being grateful either way.

After all, you may have hoped to go someplace good, but could it be possible that God's care and love for you is going to send you someplace better?

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Games grandfathers play

I already know what my grandson Bull's favorite Christmas present is going to be — a box of rocks. These will be river rocks worn smooth and just about the size and heft of a golf ball. In other words, perfect for throwing.

Actually, it's not going to be a box. I'm going to recycle a couple of two-gallon plastic buckets that held wall texturing mud and paint "Bull's Throwing Rocks" on the side of them.

We are lucky on the West Coast because there are any number of rivers where we can find these rocks. In other parts of the country, grandfathers are reduced to collecting dirt clods for the grandsons and the occasional granddaughter who also enjoys seeing a good dirt clod explode on impact against a deserted building.

Don't get me wrong. I respect a good dirt clod. In parts of Texas a lot of people even name their kids after them: Claude and Claudette. In other parts of the country dirt clods are more properly "clay clods," given the geography. These do not explode on impact as much as they splat and stick.

Yet, splat and stick can be fun. And the name Clay is nice.

That admitted, however, for pure throwing pleasure a river rock packs it. And Rocky is a great nickname.scrounge from my neighbor, Bud.

Actually, glass-smashing facilities have the potential of outpacing tree forts in popularity among sub-10-year-old males. I have always claimed this. There is nothing quite like the sound and excitement of seeing a rock hit a mayonnaise jar unless you have a connection who can supply you with an occasional gallon jug, the kind cider comes in. Then we're talking major fun.

You set up the jars and bottles on a shelf inside the target house, then fire away. For people who live in neighborhoods where houses are pretty close, it is wise to notify the neighbors in advance of what you are doing. Police have little sense of humor about being called out to investigate broken mayonnaise jars.

After 15 or 20 minutes of throwing the rocks, you sweep the glass into a recycle pile and re-collect the rocks. This is an ecological dream. The only real danger is that someone like "Plastic-and-Batteries 'R' Us" will glom onto the idea. Then you'd have rock harvesters stomping up and down rivers of the West trying to get a corner on the good throwing rock market. That would be terrible.

Anyway, please start setting aside your mayonnaise jars for us.

And the next time you hear someone say, "That's about as smart as a box of rocks," think of us.

For his birthday I am going to harvest a bucket of "skippers" for him. You know, throw those nice, smooth, flat rocks side-arm across a still piece of water.

I'll bet little Bull will be up to a half dozen "skips" in no time.

Comments are welcome. Write Uncle Dan at 6363 Christie Ave. No. 222, Emeryville, Calif. 94608; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Finding a respectful distance

While many Americans sweated their way through last July's record breaking temperatures, the news that yet another calamity had befallen the Kennedy clan brought millions to their televisions. John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn and her sister Lauren Bessette slammed into the ocean 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard in a single-engine Piper Saratoga.

People followed the tragic news even when there was little to report. And when the bodies were recovered and their cremated ashes returned to the sea, and when family and friends gathered for the next day's memorial service, people kept watching even though their was little to see.

The Kennedy family's wish that the media keep "a respectful distance" challenged the professionalism and resourcefulness of commentators to come up with ways that honored that wish yet responded to the intense interest of the public. At the burial, cameras showed a glimpse of a small boat bobbing on the horizon. Visual coverage of the memorial service was limited to the exterior of Saint Thomas More Church in Manhattan.

Because my work with The Christophers revolves around the media, I was invited to provide commentary on the liturgical and spiritual aspects of Catholic ritual as well as the meaning of faith in the face of unrelenting heartbreak. I spent a total of eight hours on MSNBC's set with anchor Brian Williams, political analyst Tim Russert, Kennedy family historian Laurence Leamer and other sensitive and insightful folks.

At the very outset, I sensed that our commentary was different from the usual high-energy banter that accompanies most media reporting. Our participation, like the mood of viewers in front of their televisions, took on tones you might hear during a hushed, thoughtful heart-to-heart conversation at a funeral home. Our "respectful distance" actually created a poignant nearness to the experience, putting us in touch with our most personal feelings and responses to human tragedy. In the midst of this, Williams and Russert provided me with an opportunity I never had before on secular television. Without proselytizing, I was able to minister to the hearts and minds of millions of fellow travelers in this valley of tears. I was permitted to explain faith's impact on the grief-stricken, the spiritual dynamic of the healing process, and the fundamental themes of Resurrection and Everlasting Life.

The ever vigilant Williams, who impressed me with his ability to stay focused while monitoring several technical matters at once, softly observed that the demeanor of those who were leaving the church after the memorial service seemed remarkably different from when they entered.

"Father Tom, the family and friends, who were so agonizingly pensive before the service, now appear to be actually buoyant, joyful, some are even laughing. How does one explain this change?"

My response was one I could have said about any of those I have tried to comfort over the years. "They have just celebrated the light which is John, Carolyn and Lauren. The joyous gift they were in this life is now joined with God. Even in their loss, the family and loved ones believe that, and are transforming their grief by ministering to one another."

This is the belief I tried to share: God weeps with us. God comforts us. And, as time dissolves into eternity, He welcomes us.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

An "integral" confession

Q. We were taught that in the sacrament of penance, if there are no serious sins, it is sufficient and good to mention some past sin or present fault that we are bothered about and want to overcome. That is what I usually do, and it has helped a lot.

Recently I read in a Catholic magazine that this is wrong. We should not "confess just one sin," but every confession must be "integral." What does that mean?

A. An integral confession, in traditional sacramental terminology, simply means that if any serious, mortal sins have been committed since one's last reception of this sacrament, all those serious sins must be confessed.

Some ambiguity apparently has arisen over a practice in certain communal penance services at which each penitent is asked to "mention one sin" at the time of individual confessions at that service. There is nothing wrong with that, if one is speaking of lesser ("venial") sins.

It would be misleading, however, to imply that only one serious sin might be confessed if there has been more than one.

Some explanations of this subject have been, I believe, ambiguous, as obviously one was in your case.

What you are doing is fine and commendable. One of the advantages of this sacrament is that it helps us articulate and zero in on aspects of our life that, while a long way from seriously sinful, are leading us in directions we know are not good and virtuous.

With the influence of God's grace and life and love, which are the fruits of the sacrament of penance, such confessions, as the church's official Rite of Penance indicates, help us to "perfect the grace of baptism" and "to conform most closely to Christ and to follow the voice of the Spirit more attentively" in our lives (No. 7).

Bound by marriage

Q. Your recent question column dealt with Catholics who have affiliated with a different religion and marry out of the church.

Consider two Catholics who marry in the church, and years later are divorced. One of the spouses then embraces another religious faith and marries out of the church.

Does the church recognize that second marriage? Are not both parties of the first marriage still bound by that marriage?

A. According to Catholic belief and regulations concerning marriage, both spouses would still be bound by that first marriage.

As I said in the response to which you refer, according to Catholic canon law, when former Catholics who have affiliated with a different religion marry out of the church, that marriage is very probably valid, even in the eyes of the church, assuming there is no other impediment to the marriage.

A previous valid marriage would be such an impediment. One spouse's joining another faith does not change that.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Marriage among African Americans

A few years ago I (Terri) got into a conversation with a patient while doing an ultrasound procedure. We talked about marriage and the need for good preparation. I told her about the marriage programs we coordinate for the African American community of Chicago. Her response was, "I didn't think that there were many marriages among African Americans." At first I felt a bit offended by her apparently innocent response. However, after deeper reflection, I had to admit that very many share her beliefs about marriage among African Americans, including many African Americans.

The prevalent negative perceptions on marriage create a culture that seems unfriendly if not hostile to Christian marriage. This isn't something unique to African Americans. Perhaps, though, this lack of social support is felt more pronounced among African Americans.

From our perspective through our work in marriage ministry among African Americans, marriage is very much alive. It's just that the broader community doesn't know it. And the bar of expectations of marriage is getting lower and lower. Imagine being in a car on a multilane highway. Ahead are several cars with couples in them. Some couples are sitting apart from each other; some are cuddled next to each other. Our cultural bias tells us that the couples sitting right next to each other aren't married — at least not to each other. We live in a culture of cynicism about marriage. Who suffers? Families.

Talking with a group of African American and interracial couples at a recent marriage retreat in Milwaukee, it was clearly the common experience of feeling like "the last couple on earth" for the group. Feelings of isolation when disillusionment sets in are also common. Yet, their very presence at the retreat expressed a hopefulness and willingness to invest in their marriage.

How do we encourage married couples to persevere? What can we do to help married couples believe that what they're striving for is really doable? How can the Church marshal its resources to help the institution of marriage thrive among African Americans? While this is a problem of our modern society, it is also an opportunity for the Church to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a "niche market" in the African American community.

A plan in the works in Chicago is an archdiocesan celebration of African American marriage for the year 2000. Married couples from around the Chicago area will gather in celebration of their sacramental unions. Other ways to encourage marriage among African Americans are to make available to them marriage enrichment resources created with them in mind. Marriage programs designed for the dominant culture, even when we retrofit them, aren't inviting enough and aren't always relevant to the unique experiences nuanced by culture, history, politics, spirituality and economics.

These are simple ideas that will help. They aren't the total solution. However, either can be a step toward empowering African American marriages to be good news in a bad news world. Something else that is good about them: they can help any marriage.

Holy Land Christians announce protest closure of holy sites

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The heads of Christian churches in the Holy Land announced they would close all Christian holy sites to protest an Israeli government decision to allow a mosque next to a Catholic basilica in Nazareth.

"To express the disapprobation of all the churches at the way that their rights have been summarily violated ... all the sanctuaries of the Holy Land will be closed on Nov. 22-23," said the Nov. 4 statement signed, "with a heavy heart," by Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem; Franciscan Father Giovanni Battistelli of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land; and the Greek Orthodox and Armenian patriarchs.

The Custody of the Holy Land functions as a Middle East province of the Franciscans, but with the specific mission of providing a Catholic presence and ministry at the holy sites and shrines.

"We trust that we do not need to take any further steps in the near future and that the government will rise to the challenge by applying law and order for all," the statement said.

The Christian officials described Israel's decision as "clear discrimination" against the Christian community and charged that the government had abandoned the rule of law by giving in to Muslim fundamentalists' demands in hopes of electoral gains. They said they viewed the decision with "grave concern."

"Despite the ruling of the court of law in Israel that the land adjacent to the Basilica of the Annunciation is state land, the government has supported a small group of fundamentalists who are intent on building a mosque only a few (feet) away from the historical Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth," they said. In their statement they noted that Christians and Muslims have existed peacefully in Nazareth since the Ottoman period some 500 years ago.

"The common bonds that link Christianity and Islam in this city are firm and have made the City of the Annunciation an example of traditional harmony and peace," they said. "This sense of peaceful co-existence and confident harmony has recently been shaken by a series of sad events that have been painful and counter-productive for the majority of both faith communities."

The Christian officials described Israel's decision as "clear discrimination" against the Christian community and charged that the government had abandoned the rule of law by giving in to Muslim fundamentalists' demands in hopes of electoral gains.

Two years ago Muslim fundamentalists took over a plot of land in front of the basilica intended for an Italian-styled piazza as part of the city's preparations for thousands of Christian pilgrims expected during the jubilee year. The fundamentalists claimed the land belonged to the Waqf, or Islamic Religious Trust. They erected a protest tent and declared their intention to build a mosque that would tower over the basilica.

In October, an Israeli court ruled that the land belonged to the Israeli government but, in an attempt to reach a compromise, the government decided to permit a much smaller mosque on part of the disputed land. The remaining land will be given to the Nazareth municipality, which was to build the piazza.

The tent was supposed to be taken down Nov. 8, and a cornerstone laying ceremony for the mosque is slated for Nov. 23. Construction on the site is not to begin until after March, which has been discussed as a time for a potential papal visit.

According to the agreement, Israel is to transfer some $95,000 to the shopkeepers in the area whose shops would have to be torn down, and the Waqf is to receive another 2.5 acres of land from the government for the construction of other institutions.

The Christian leaders called on Muslims to support their decision to close the churches.

"We pray to the Almighty that the wounds of Nazareth will soon be healed, and that it can re-discover its special role as a symbol of the traditional and centuries-long peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims and as a stimulus for the peace which the Holy Land needs so much," the statement said.

An Israeli official expressed regret over the churches' decision and said Israel was committed to freedom of religion for all.

In a Nov. 5 interview with Vatican Radio, Patriarch Sabbah said it was unclear whether the government's decision to allow the mosque would compromise a possible papal visit to Nazareth.

"The pope's visit depends on what concrete situation there will be in Nazareth. If the population will really be in division, if there will be disturbances — we don't know yet, nor can we predict. The story is not yet concluded, the last word has not yet been said," he said. ▼

Elder Ministry sponsors pastoral training sessions; make-up date scheduled

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Elder Ministry recently completed its first four-session pastoral care training seminar, at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Sessions focused on parish ministry, eucharistic ministry, senior sensitivity, and confidentiality, compliance and consistency in ministry to seniors. Completing the course and receiving certificates were: Claire Roux, Lucille Moses, Virginia Williamson, Joan Shearer, Doris McGinnis, Larry McGinnis, Monica Beach, Dale Brown, Margaret "Peggy" Immel, Stephanie Strassner, Mary Moore, Ann Borsuk, Robert Hollmeyer, Thomas Lewis, Kathleen Shelton, Carole Buckley, and Lucy Jones. They represented the following parishes: St. Gabriel, Our Lady of Consolation, St. Patrick Cathedral, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Ann, and St. Matthew, all of Charlotte; and St. James in Concord. A make-up date for those who missed a session and did not receive certificates is Nov. 20 from 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220.

Charlotte parish celebrates ESL program

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of the Assumption Church celebrated its 2nd annual picnic cookout and awards ceremony for participants in the parish's English as a Second Language program Sept. 30. The parish hosts classes each Monday and Thursday, from 6:30-8 p.m. For details on the program, call Marilee Battaglia at (704) 921-1818 or Pat Onaindia at (704) 536-0850.

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REAL ESTATE

Interesting Family Home: First floor has slate entry and living, dining, den, multi-purpose rooms; 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Second floor has large master suite, sewing room, full bath; masses of storage; zoned heating/air conditioning. On quiet cul de sac adjacent to greenbelt meadow in Salisbury, Rowan County. 2,800 square feet. $139,000. Tel/Fax: (704) 552-5863.

Home for Sale: North Charlotte. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, modular, $18,500 unfurnished. $22,500 furnished. Many extras. Must be moved. Call (704)597-1545 for appt.

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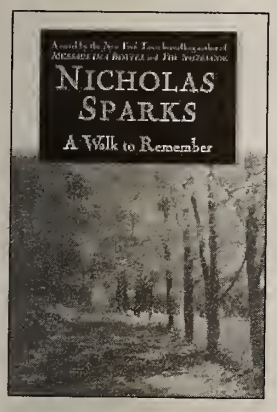
Author Nicholas Sparks remembers his Catholic roots

The bestselling writer hopes to move people with his latest book, "A Walk to Remember"

By DEIRDRE C. MAYS
THE MISCELLANY

In between selling millions of copies of his novels and touring the country on book signings, author Nicholas Sparks can literally count his blessings.

The writer's debut novel, The Notebook, spent a combined 132 weeks on the New York Times hardcover and paperback bestseller lists. "Message in a Bottle" spent over 30 weeks on the list and was made into a top box office movie. The author is happily married and has two young sons, Cody and Ryan, with a third on the way.



While promoting his latest effort, "A Walk to Remember," Sparks spoke with The Miscellany from his grandmother's home in San Diego. He discussed his spiritual life, his gratitude for blessings he has received, and the faith that carries him through in times of tragedy.

As someone who laughingly refers to himself as a Catholic poster child, Sparks, 33, is not far off the mark. He was raised by two Catholic parents in Nebraska, Minnesota and California. He went to the University of Notre Dame on a track scholarship (he still runs nine miles a day) where he met his future wife, Cathy, also a cradle Catholic.

The couple married in 1989 and settled in New Bern, N.C. The family belongs to St. Paul Catholic Church, and the children attend parochial school. The Sparks value their family life intently and are active in their school and parish. Sparks regularly attends Mass, "even while on tour."

The author places great import on his faith.

"At times it gives me someone to yell at and at times it gives me someone to thank," he said. "You have to have someone greater than yourself, it gets you through. If you believe you are the center of the universe it's difficult to live a fulfilling life. You are alone."

When it comes to the success of his writing, Sparks acknowledges his blessings.

"Everything you receive in life is a gift, but at the same time the Lord helps those who help themselves," he said. "The Lord gave me a desire to work hard, be willing to learn and have the patience necessary to do what I do."

His hard work and success has also been tempered with hard times.

"I have had my ups and downs," Sparks said.

Some of those low notes have been the loss of his parents over the last decade and the discovery that his sister, Danielle Sparks, has cancer. At those times, an active faith helps the author through.

In his books, Sparks said he cannot help but let his belief system shine through. He described "A Walk to Remember" as a novel about the beauty, power and innocence of a first, true love set in the 1950s.

"And of course morality plays into that," he explained. "I did not want to write a book that includes premarital sex — that does not prove true love, and it is not where my moral underpinnings lie."

He views novels with explicit sexual content as a lazy form of writing.

"It's a quick way to garner attention, but it doesn't last," he opined.

Spirituality plays an important role in who the author is.

"There are four areas: emotional, physical, mental and spiritual," he said. "It's one of the areas I'm always striving to improve and be the best I can possibly be."

PHOTO BY DEIRDRE C. MAYS

Nicholas Sparks, the bestselling author from New Bern, N.C., talks about the importance of the Catholic faith in his life.

That, however, is not always an easy task.

"Sometimes, it feels like God plays poker with my life, but that is not unique to me," he said. "There are times when you come to question your faith. That's a very typical thing. Does my faith sustain me? Yes. I continue to go to church and pray, and in the end, my life has been very blessed in many ways."

He hopes people are entertained and moved by his work. Sparks himself tries to read about three books a week of different genres.

"I've always been a big reader. I always was a good student. I just decided when I was 28 to give writing 100 percent of my effort. With my first effort I was blessed and fortunate to have it turn out the way it did."

The celebrity that comes with success is just another aspect of his job. Sparks said authors can retain some of their anonymity because people evaluate them by their work and not what they look like.

"I'm never recognized; I prefer it that way," he said. "I have young children. That is one of the reasons why we live in North Carolina because people respect our privacy."

The Sparks try to raise their children with church teachings about charity, faith, honesty and morality.

"We probably work harder on those than anything else," Sparks said. "There are many many ways to raise children, but for us, you start with the basics of right and wrong. I would rather have a C student who was a quality person than a straight A student who was not."

Sparks is an optimist. He doesn't worry about his children's future.

"I tend to believe people have changed less than you think," he said. "People want to be good parents, good people, good spouses. Most have a good work ethic, most haven't changed. The media is so much more pervasive. You can see bad stuff instantly, so it seems like it's happening all the time, everywhere.

"Ninety-nine percent of people out there are pretty good people," he said. "I never believe the stuff about morality dying. People are still going to church. It's the rare that is written about and that makes it news. Spirituality and morality is very pervasive."

When it comes to his marriage, he finds his spirituality is fortifying.

"It keeps you doing the right thing when you'd rather not," he said. "It gives you more patience such as when you are in a fight, you realize you made a commitment before God, and you don't do stupid things that would threaten that. You know you are in it for the long haul. You can fight, get mad, but be comforted knowing that commitment means they are not going to leave, not going to do anything stupid, and that it will pass."

In need, Sparks turns to the Serenity Prayer for comfort.

"It's always appropriate when you are frustrated," he said. "It's the acceptance of things you can't change, it's always important to remind yourself of that." ▼

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Youth group members strike a pose to benefit their church funds

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It was an autumn night of pageantry and splendor as young and older members from Our Lady of Consolation Church modeled fashions from area boutiques and clothing stores to benefit the church's various funds.

The Southern Renaissance Restaurant was the location for the "Reaping the Harvest Program — An Evening of Fashion and Fellowship," a Youth in Action-sponsored fundraiser on November 6. Youth ministers Nanette Lide and Leslie Johnson, with the help of many others, led their group of children and teenagers through clothing and scene changes, posing styles, and smiles for the audience of family, friends and parishioners.

"I was overwhelmed and very pleased [with the fashion show]. We had a great group of adult volunteers who helped with monitoring the dressing rooms and coordinating the flow."
— Nanette Lide, Youth minister

The night's festivities began with a candlelight dinner buffet of traditional Southern cuisine provided by the cooking staff at the downtown eatery. The dinner music was provided by Soothing Touch, a local gospel quartet made up of an Our Lady of Consolation Church parishioner and young men from Christ's Gospel Church. As they sang their harmonized tunes of praise and worship, the youth and adults were preparing for their first fashion sequence.

The show was divided into seven different fashion "scenes," each with a particular theme: Back-to-School, Sunday Worship, Honoring our African Heritage, Casual Wear, Prom, After Five and Wedding Bells. Robin Plummer added her own humorous narrative touch as she described what the participants were wearing to the audience.

The adults modeled clothes during the Sunday Worship, African Heritage, Casual Wear, and After Five scenes, while the children and teens strutted their stuff for the cheering crowd for all seven scenes.

The third scene with the African-inspired clothing led into a musical and dance intermission featuring the Kabaka Drummers and Dancers. This group, founded by Sandy Murdock with lead drummer Willis Joseph, performed the Lumba, a West African traditional dance.

The showstopper scenes of the evening included the Prom and Wedding Bells sequences in which the youth group modeled prom and bridesmaid dresses, tuxedos, and wedding gowns all donated by a local wedding boutique.

The night also included a raffle of a wood carved Sankofa bird. This is significant to the youth because the bird looks over its shoulder, a reminder to the kids to always remember their history and their past and to bring positiveness into all aspects of their lives as they move forward, said Lide.

"I was overwhelmed and very pleased [with the fashion show]. We had a great group of adult volunteers who helped with monitoring the dressing rooms and coordinating the flow," said Lide. "They are a great group of kids. They don't realize it, but they are ministering to me as I am ministering to them, and I felt much gratitude from them."

The youth group presented flowers to a tearful Lide and Johnson at the end of the fundraiser. The proceeds will benefit the church's resource room restoration fund, the retreat fund, the "Toys and Toiletries" collection for the battered women's shelter, and food for ten families through the city's Department of Social Services. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photos by Alesha M. Price

Our Lady of Consolation Youth in Action members participate in a fashion show fundraiser at Southern Renaissance Restaurant on Nov. 6. The proceeds will benefit the church's resource room restoration fund, the retreat fund, the "Toys and Toiletries" collection for the battered women's shelter, and food for 10 families through the city's Department of Social Services.

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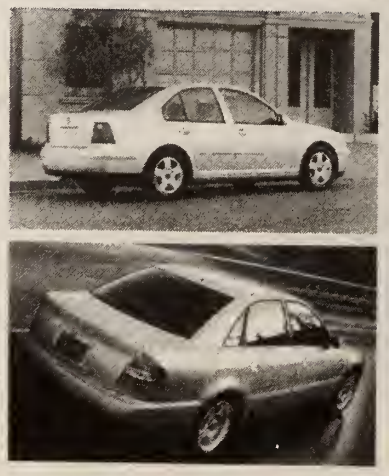

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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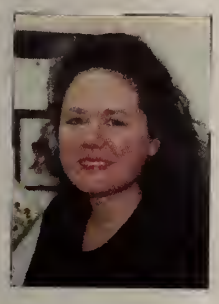

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Pilgrimage celebrates faith, culture

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. - For some, the Nov. 12-14 pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was a renewal of their faith, and for others, it was an opportunity to learn more about their heritage. All 118 people left the nation's capital touched in some significant way from visiting the shrine, the Our Mother of Africa Chapel and St. Augustine Church in Washington, D.C.

Three busloads of people from across the diocese embarked upon the trip, sponsored by the African-American Affairs Ministry, with many expectations and hopes.

"I want to see the National Shrine and to have the experience of meeting other Catholics from across the diocese," said Jasper Dunlap from the St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville.

St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine parishioners Mike Lyons and his mother, Mary, both agreed that their "great devotion to the Blessed Mother and the desire to see the shrine for the first time" is why they decided to go on the trip.

Upon arrival at the shrine, many of the people were awestruck at the size and the outer construction. After a tour of the over 60 chapels in the upper and lower levels with a choir rehearsal in the background, people expressed what they had seen and heard in various manners.

It was a moving experience for Carol Cerar who attends Belmont Abbey Basilica. She was brought to tears at the sight of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel because her birthday and the feast day are both on Dec. 12.

"The Blessed Mother symbolizes hope, and with this great edifice, I see hope for all people," reflected Gregory Lewis, a member of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. "This is such a blessing, and it stirs my spirit."

The focal point of the trip was the Our Mother of Africa Chapel, with its renditions of the Madonna and Christ Child with African-American features, the crucifix made of ebony, a native African wood, and a wooden wall carving of the history of the African-American people from slavery to the civil rights movement.

The sculptures form a triangular pattern with the Christ Child pointing to His people, and the people in the wall carving looking at the crucifix. It has historical and religious significance and served as an important aspect of the trip for many of those in attendance. During the tour, many people lingered behind to either sit or stand in silence or pray silently while gazing at the Madonna and Christ Child sculpture.

The prayer service in the chapel included "Oh Freedom" and "We Shall Overcome" as the opening and closing songs. The prayers and songs all had one central theme — Christ as the Light of the World who has the power to guide His people out of darkness. The theme involved everyone living as one harmoniously as God's people and being able to share individual talents and ideas with everyone.

Esther Rackette, a St. Benedict the Moor Church parishioner in Winston-Salem, said, "The prayer service was truly uplifting. It is wonderful to see how we [African-Americans] are depicted in several of the mosaics in the shrine in addition to the Our Mother of Africa Chapel. It shows that we do have a presence."

The singing and the group prayer caught the attention of passersby who joined in the prayer service and the Mass at the Memorial of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese, was the celebrant and homilist, and Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor of the diocese, and Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp, permanent deacon at St. Pius X in Greensboro, concelebrated the Mass.

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Kaheem Pickett, son of Stephen and Deboriah Pickett from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, carefully lights a candle in the Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during the November 12-14 pilgrimage.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

U.S. 'truth commission' needed on Central America, panelists say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States needs its own version of the truth commissions that uncovered culpability for crimes committed during Central America's civil wars, said panelists at a Nov. 11 forum marking the anniversary of 1989 murders at Central American University. The panel at Georgetown University kicked off more than a week of events at Jesuit institutions around the country commemorating the 10th anniversary of the deaths of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter at the Jesuit school in San Salvador. "The United States needs its own version of a truth commission on Central America," said Robert E. White, ambassador to El Salvador in 1979-81 and now president of the Center for International Policy.

U.S. Catholics, Anglicans issue agreed report on church issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A. has called for serious attention to joint decision-making by the Catholic and Anglican churches. "Our proximity offers us many opportunities for growth in communion which even now is real yet imperfect," the group said in an agreed report issued Nov. 15. "Among the salient practical issues posed is the question of joint decision-making." The report said Catholics and Episcopalians already experience real communion in many places, but the limitations and imperfections of that communion are "wrenchingly evident in the inability of people who work, study and pray together to share the Eucharist together regularly."

Sudanese bishop says buying back slaves is worth the risk

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Sudanese bishop said buying back slaves, including children, who have been seized during Sudan's civil war outweighs the risk that slave traders may profit. "It really pains me when there are some people who question the morality of redeeming these kids and they say it might fill the wallets of the slave traders," said Bishop Macram Gassis of El Obeid, Sudan, at a Nov. 10 press conference at the National Press Club in Washington. The press conference was co-sponsored by Christian Solidarity International, or CSI, which claims it has helped free more than 15,000 Sudanese enslaved by militias of Sudan's National Islamic Front regime, and the American Anti-Slavery Group, which campaigns against slavery worldwide. The groups estimate that tens of thousands of black Africans, mainly women and children, have been captured during slave raids to carry out the government's policies of "forced Islamization and Arabization."

CNS PHOTO FROM VATICAN

New altar at Vatican church Cardinal Angelo Sodano consecrates a new altar at the Church of Sts. Martin and Sebastian Nov. 11 at the Vatican. A restoration project was recently completed on the 431-year-old church, which is use by the Swiss Guards and their families.

U.N. renews support for Palestinian millennial observance

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Bethlehem 2000, a millennial observance sponsored by the Palestinian National Authority, won renewed support from the United Nations Nov. 10. In a resolution adopted by consensus, the General Assembly commended "the efforts undertaken by the Palestinian Authority" and expressed appreciation for assistance the international community had given "this monumental commemoration." The resolution also called on the U.N. secretary-general to "continue to mobilize the pertinent organizations and agencies of the United Nations system" to ensure the project's success.

Indian bishops' president says pope spoke of 'inner conversion'

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — The president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India has offered a clarification of Pope John Paul II's reference to conversion, which sparked controversy among the mainly Hindu population. Archbishop Alan de Lastic of Delhi told journalists at a press conference after the pope's departure from India Nov. 8 that the pope had spoken only of "inner conversion" in the final document of the 1998 Synod of Bishops for Asia. The archbishop's remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The pope's "call to conversion" in the post-synodal apostolic exhortation, "Ecclesia in Asia" ("Church in Asia"), which he presented in New Delhi Nov. 6, has generated debate among various groups, with some alleging that the pope came to India to sanction conversions.

Vatican agency reports Chinese plans to crack down on church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — China's communist leadership has outlined plans for a full-scale crackdown on the country's underground Catholic Church should diplomatic ties be re-established with the Vatican, according to Fides, the Vatican's missionary news service. The plan calls for the destruction of underground churches, seminaries and convents and the "re-education" through hard labor of underground clerics who fail to submit to the government-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association, Fides said Nov. 10. Fides said it obtained from sources in Beijing large sections of a secret 16-page policy paper prepared by the Communist Party's central committee.

Vatican official asks Georgia to consider release of CRS worker

TBILISI, Georgia (CNS) — A top Vatican official asked Georgian authorities to consider releasing a U.S. development worker who was arrested after a fatal traffic accident in July. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said it would be a good humanitarian gesture to mark Pope John Paul II's visit. Loren Wille, 54, a Catholic Relief Services employee from Golden, Colo., was facing up to 10 years in prison in a case that his lawyer says may be politically motivated. ▼

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 20 — 11 am
Confirmation
St. Matthew
Charlotte

November 21
Raleigh Diocese
Anniversary Celebration
Crown Coliseum
Fayetteville

November 25 — 9 am
Thanksgiving Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

November

24 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church and Living Savior Lutheran Church are celebrating a Thanksgiving service tonight at 7:30 p.m. at 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. The church asks that participants bring non-perishable food items as an offering. For details, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — For a time of meditation and reflection, all are invited to Contemplative Prayer tonight at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., at 7 p.m.

25 GREENSBORO — The members of Single Again Catholics are having a Thanksgiving dinner today at 2 p.m. Guests should bring a covered dish and beverages to complement the turkey. For location, donation and carpooling information, call Nancy at (336) 659-0478.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., is hosting a "Thanksgiving Dinner for the Alone," a traditional sit-down dinner for those who would otherwise be alone for the holiday. The dinner begins at 1 p.m. today, and dinners are also available for the homebound. For transportation and other information, call (336) 996-5109.

28 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. New members and visitors are welcome. For details, call Chuck Cowen at (828) 884-4246.

December

1 WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., is hosting an "Advent Evening of Recollection" with Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools for the Diocese of Charlotte, from 7-9:30 p.m. tonight. A

Bishops open annual meeting, begin work on ambitious agenda as millennium approaches

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops opened their last meeting of the millennium Nov. 15 by beginning work on an ambitious array of documents on topics ranging from Catholic colleges to the elderly, from adult faith formation to the new millennium itself.

The bishops devoted the first morning of their Nov. 15-18 general meeting at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington to preliminary consideration of eight action items.

A ninth, involving changes in the structure of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, was postponed until Nov. 16 because Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, who chairs the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Revision of Statutes and Bylaws, was hospitalized in Washington with chest pains.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, NCCB-USCC president, opened the meeting with a talk summarizing distractions and challenges facing the church as it enters the new millennium, but calling on the trust and courage exhibited by U.S. church leaders throughout its history.

"Our predecessors bequeathed to us a strong and dynamic church," Bishop Fiorenza said. "They faced the significant issues of their times, and, like them, we must face the issues that will come our way in the future."

Through this century, the bishops' agenda has dealt with the defense of life from conception through natural death "from the threats of abortion, hunger and poverty, racism, war and weapons of mass destruction, capital punishment and euthanasia," he added.

The review of those agendas "is a wholesome reminder that we are part of a great tradition of episcopal service which stretches across the centuries, and, in our case, from Archbishop (John) Carroll (of Baltimore) and the other bishops who have gone before us," Bishop Fiorenza said.

The tradition stretches into the new millennium "and we are the ones who, in Gods' providence, will bring

FALL MEETING
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
WASHINGTON

the teaching of the apostles into the next millennium of Christian faith," he added.

Among the issues to be tackled were Catholic higher education norms, pastoral messages on charity and on the blessings of age, and two messages — one long, one shorter — for the jubilee year.

The proposed norms implementing Pope John Paul II's 1990 apostolic exhortation, "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," have gone through a number of drafts during the past eight years. The papal document sets general norms for Catholic colleges and universities around the world but leaves it to bishops' conferences to make more specific applications in light of the situation in each country.

Bishop John J. Leibrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., chairman of the bishops' Committee for the Implementation of "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," said the latest draft, which was to be voted on Nov. 17, builds in "more flexibility" than earlier versions.

The proposed document on the blessings of age is addressed not just to the elderly, but to all Catholics, Bishop Joseph P. Delaney of Fort Worth, Texas, said in introducing the text Nov. 15.

"It challenges faith communities to fully incorporate older persons into those communities," he said. The 6,000-word document was to be voted on Nov. 18.

Presenting two proposed statements on the jubilee year, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., said the bishops hoped to bring about "a national attitude adjustment" for the new millennium.

The bishops were to vote Nov. 17 on two versions of the message — a brief "popularized" version addressed to all Americans and a longer message directed to church leaders and lay Catholics.

The primary message of both texts is that "because of God's love for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, each person has the capacity for good," Bishop Gregory said.

Other action items receiving a first look Nov. 15 were:

— Proposed guidelines for the concelebration of the Eucharist.

— A 10,000-word pastoral message on charity that says Catholics "cannot remain idle witnesses" amid the tragedies of poverty, hunger, human suffering and other social sins.

— A pastoral plan on adult faith formation that stresses the importance of lifelong education to help adult Catholics make their faith stronger and more mature.

— A series of norms on admission of seminary candidates who had formerly been in other seminaries or religious order formation houses.

The meeting's first day also included the bishops' annual budget and planning decisions, including approval of a $52.7 million budget for 2000 and a diocesan assessment increase of 1.6 percent in 2001.

Due for discussion but no vote were draft documents on church art and architecture, the ongoing formation of priests and ecclesial lay ministry.

Added to an already crowded agenda at the last minute were reports on the effects of the U.S. embargo on the Iraqi people; the tense situation over the building of a mosque in Nazareth; and the cause for beatification of the late Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador.

On the day before the meeting opened, about 60 bishops participated in a workshop on human stem-cell research.

Jesuit Father Kevin T. FitzGerald, a cancer researcher at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago who is studying for a doctorate in bioethics from Georgetown University, told the bishops they face a "huge challenge" in making their voice heard on the controversial issues surrounding stem-cell research.

Additional coverage of the bishops' meeting will be featured in next week's issue.

free will donation will be taken during the talk. For details, call Joseph's House at (336) 722-0028.

4 CHARLOTTE — Missionaries of the Poor Father Richard Ho Lung, who has been called the "Mother Teresa of the Caribbean" and founder of the Jamaica-based Missionaries of the Poor, is speaking at all Masses at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., today and tomorrow. Father Ho Lung is conducting a parish mission beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. and continuing through Dec. 7. For details, call Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej at (704) 543-7677, ext. 39.

MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., is having a Cookie Walk for the Holidays, sponsored by the Ladies' Guild, this morning from 9 a.m.-noon in Murray Hall. For details, call the church office at (828) 437-3108.

5 CHARLOTTE — In preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., is hosting an "Advent Mission: Living the Gospel Today — Preparing for the New Millennium," conducted by Good News International, a Catholic Lay Ministry. Brent Heiser and Bill Wagner are the speakers tonight through Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and childcare are provided, and a love offering will be taken. For further information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having a bilingual charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Laying on of hands by Father Fidel Melo follows the Mass.

HIGH POINT — There is a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

10 CHARLOTTE — A recreation of Charles Weidman's modern dance classic "Christmas Oratorio," celebrating the birth of Christ with angels and featuring the music of J.S. Bach, is being presented by Dance Central tonight at 8 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. A second performance will be held tomorrow at 8 p.m. also at the church. For ticket, reservation and reduced group rate information, call (704) 330-4029.

12 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is having a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer team are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. Contact Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

Upcoming

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The "Celebrate Jesus 2000" Group Trip is scheduled for June 2000. Over 10,000 have already registered for this ecumenical charismatic renewal event. For those in the diocese who would like to attend, the deadline is Nov. 30. For registration, hotel, travel and other information call Bruce and Ellen Brodowski at (704) 856-4638. For specific details, the web address is www.celebratejesus2000.com.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — Rachel's Children is a support group for parents who have lost a baby to miscarriage, stillbirth or SIDS. For further information and possible group participation, call Lynn Schilling at (704) 831-9475 or Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast at (704) 543-7677, ext. 43.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a non-denominational group for single over 21. Events include Mass and brunch, trips, movies, dinners and much more. For more information and a calendar, call Ken Kinner at (704) 764-7399 or Dawn Robertson at (704) 643-9950.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Room at the Inn ministry celebrates five years of hope

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Editor's note: The name of the resident included in this story has been changed in respect for her privacy.

CHARLOTTE — Maria's world was in turmoil.

A single mother in her '20s who suffered a lifetime of abuse, she was working two jobs to make ends meet when she became pregnant again. Homeless and broken in spirit, she discovered a place where she could face her future in an environment of love, support and optimism.

At this place, Maria built relationships with others and with God. She is now in college, working toward a degree. At this place, she did indeed find hope.

Room at the Inn in Charlotte is that place, a nonprofit, independent Catholic haven for single mothers and their children that focuses on helping residents achieve healthy, self-directed, faith-filled lives. It is a place that serves the spiritual, intellectual and human needs of those who call it home.

"Room at the Inn is about hope," says Cindy Brown, the ministry's executive director since May. "These are beautiful girls who come to us, and they receive support, a peaceful environment and the love of Christ here. We offer hope to them — hope for them as women, and hope for their children in the womb."

Incorporated in March 1994, Room at the Inn welcomed its first resident in December of that year. It has served more than 180 women and children, born and unborn, since then. The ministry provides residential, health care, child care and educational services to its residents. Because it is a faith-based organization, it also focuses on spiritual enrichment.

There have been two other projects established — Room at the Inn of the Triad in Greensboro and Angel Place in Raleigh — though each currently operates as a separate legal entity.

Room at the Inn is a licensed provider of maternity care and child care services, and is unique in that it admits women with previously born children.

Residents may stay for up to two years, and the ministry can house as many as six women and their children at one time. In 1998-99 alone, Room at the Inn served 22 women and 30 children. There is a staff of seven, five of whom are on site.

"Primarily, we are a Catholic home for unwed mothers," says Brown. "Catholicism is our essence, and we want the very best for the women that Christ brings to us."

From a faith perspective, that means mandatory Sunday attendance at the church of residents' choice, as well as faith-based counseling, direction from a spiritual adviser, and an upcoming chastity program. Prayer is an integral part of the day, Brown says, and a weekly Mass is celebrated at the house.

Cindy Brown, executive director of Room at the Inn

The mothers also maintain a comprehensive life skills training program designed to help them make the healthiest decisions for them and their children.

"The core of the program is education," says Brown, noting that residents agree to attend school appropriate to their situations. There is a no-dating policy, and residents run the household as an extended family — one that takes care of all the cooking, cleaning and other domestic chores.

Residents "are given foremost the hope of Christ, and through our services the means for attaining self-sufficiency and independence," Brown summarizes.

Working in this ministry has been a calling, Brown says. A cradle Catholic with a background in chemical engineering, she says her opportunity with Room at the Inn is the latest step in a faith journey highlighted by an ever-growing appreciation for the church's stance on life issues.

The ministry's work is garnering appreciation from those touched by it, as well as in the Charlotte community.

"There are so many people working to save unborn children, as we should," said Bishop William G. Curlin at the ministry's annual fundraising banquet Nov. 11. "It's God's work."

The banquet is largest single fundraising effort for the ministry, whose funding primarily comes from private donations. Like the mothers themselves, Brown notes, the ministry's benefactors are heroes of hope, too.

Bishop Curlin continued his comments by commending the ministry and those who support the respect life effort.

"As long as there are people like you in the world," he said, "the next century is going to be beautiful. You are the living Christ for us. You are the proof that God is alive in our world."▾

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner event to be hosted by St. Joseph Catholic Church

NEWTON — St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Newton, NC, will again sponsor a Thanksgiving Dinner for the local community this year. The dinner has become a local tradition over the last decade, with St. Joseph Church hosting the dinner in alternating years with First United Methodist Church, also of Newton. Anyone in Newton and the surrounding areas of Catawba County, can receive a free homemade Thanksgiving Dinner, complete with all the trimmings and dessert.

The event is designed to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner for individuals, or small families who do not have the means to prepare such a meal on their own, particularly shut-ins, elderly individuals or other single people who have no family or close friends with whom they can share the Thanksgiving tradition.

In 1997, nearly 400 people received meals, of which 300 were delivered, and similar numbers are expected this year.

Church members of St. Joseph Catholic Church, as well as volunteers from many other churches in the Newton area, donate the food, prepare the meals, and deliver boxed meals to people who request them. Volunteers also transport individuals who would prefer to enjoy their meal in fellowship with others at St. Joseph's Holy Family Hall, adjacent to the church. Some St. Joseph's members also eat their Thanksgiving meal in the Hall, beginning immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass.

The event brings many church members together in the work of helping others and many parishioners comment that the Thanksgiving holiday has taken on more meaning for them and their children because of participating in this event. On years that St, Joseph's does not host the Thanksgiving dinner, the church hosts a similar event on Christmas Day. ▾

Anyone who would like to participate in this event, either as a volunteer, or as a recipient of a dinner, should call the church at (828) 464-9207 or (828) 465-2878.

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Wilson matriarch watches N.C. Catholic Church grow

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

WILSON — Almost 100 years ago, in the small town of Oxford, Bessie Richardson's grandmother would rest her hand on her granddaughter's head, and place the child in God's care.

"She would pray, and ask God to give me a long, healthy life. A Christian life," says Richardson, known as Miss Bessie at St. Therese Church. "I tell people who have children, 'Put your hand on them. And pray. Give them to God. Put your hand on them, and let him know you want him to take that child in his care.'"

Miss Bessie was born Aug. 17, 1899. When she was a baby, Father Thomas Frederick Price, co-founder of Maryknoll, was establishing the Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh, a precursor to the Diocese of Raleigh, which is celebrating a 75th anniversary this November.

In fact, Miss Bessie says, there weren't many Catholic churches in the state at the time, and certainly none near Oxford. "I remember there was only one in Durham at that particular time. I believe there was one in Raleigh, and Wilmington. They were so scattered apart. There weren't any Catholics in North Carolina anyway."

She held on to her faith, Miss Bessie says, thanks to her grandmother. Her mother had died at a young age; her father had "strayed," and her grandfather was Cherokee, and was a "staunch Methodist."

There was only her grandmother to instill her faith. "It's something that never leaves a child's heart and mind," says Miss Bessie, sipping from her soup-bowl-size mug of coffee. "If I hadn't had her, I wouldn't have been me."

So Miss Bessie and her grandmother went to a Methodist church because there was nowhere else to go, "and I grew up there." They were welcome, she says, despite their Catholic faith.

She says she was 17 or 18 when she saw her first Catholic priest. "We didn't have any priests. They just came through. They rode on horses through the country to see if there was anybody they could find who was Catholic."

Photo by John Strange

Bessie Richardson recalls a century of living the faith in North Carolina.

Miss Bessie's grandmother died when Bessie "was able to know something." She was about 12 years old.

After her grandparents died, Miss Bessie moved to Virginia to be with members of her extended family. She worked for some time for sisters in a Petersburg convent, and later she went to nursing school. "The sisters taught me how to scrub and clean up. They would work you to death. Two buckets of water, scrubbing on your knees. If you weren't praying before, you're praying now, because you're praying to get up off your knees."

In 1924, as the Diocese of Raleigh was being officially established, she was offered a job in Wilson to care for a family. There were children, and the mother was pregnant, and sick, and needed help.

"I came to Wilson to stay three months," she says. After the baby was born, she planned to go to New York. "When you're young, sometimes you got a traveling mind. I guess it was in me to kind of view the country."

But she stayed in Wilson for the rest of her life. Why? "I don't know — I just kept on staying."

She remembers little about the new diocese that was being formed at the time. "I don't think it was so important to people," she says. "If you didn't go to the Baptist church, you were nobody. So I was nobody."

She says she has never understood the prejudice of those days against Catholics. "They didn't understand. They didn't understand," she says, her voice rising in frustration and disappointment. "They didn't know any better."

She was married in 1926, but she says it didn't last long. She had no children, and when she took back her maiden name of Richardson, she knew it would stay that way.

"I didn't want to hang that up to nothing else. You want to live your life. You want to live a life that you can be happy in."

She remembers the first church in Wilson - St. Therese - which had its beginnings in an old storefront on Maplewood Avenue. She attended Mass there "a few times," but she hardly got the chance to go. "I was on the job morning and night."

It was only with the arrival of St. Alphonsus Church, a church built by the Redemptorist Fathers for black Catholics in Wilson in 1941, did she find her spiritual home. Father Francis Walsh was the first pastor.

"Father Walsh had a hard time building that church," says Miss Bessie. "The Wilson folk - the Protestant people - fought the Catholic church. They said there were enough Catholic churches here already.

"To me, Father Walsh was an angel, because you had to be to fight Wilson."

Miss Bessie finally had a church family. "St. Alphonsus was a glorious place to me. Everybody went there." There was a tobacco field nearby, and it wasn't rare, she says, for a man to walk into the church chewing on a leaf of tobacco. "It was a trial of my faith," she says now, "but I accepted it, because I was where I wanted to be, and I was happy."

St. Alphonsus closed in 1987, although the building serves the diocese as a center for African-American ministry. The parishioners of St. Alphonsus moved on to worship at St. Therese Church. "They accepted us just like they do anyone else."

Miss Bessie says that at one point she and Bishop Vincent Waters, the third bishop of Raleigh, met, and they became friends. "I don't know how, but we just got to be good friends."

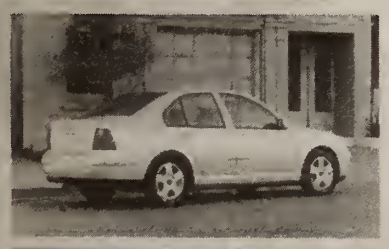
"He wanted us to stay together. He wanted to build a church where everybody would be welcome, to serve and to help one another."

In 1953 Bishop Waters issued a ground-breaking pastoral effectively ending segregation in Diocese of Raleigh facilities.

"He said, 'This congregation is mixed. And it should be.' He said, "We are here for the same cause each one of us. We are God's children, and we are going to accept God as our father. And we are going to accept each one of us as our brothers and sisters. And that's what you had to do for that bishop."

Many Catholics, Miss Bessie says, "didn't want to understand, and they still don't understand. There is still confusion in people's hearts.

See WILSON page 16



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CRS official tours Sierra Leone, praises peace process

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — The same day that Sierra Leone embarked on voluntary disarmament of some 45,000 combatants, a U.S. bishop concluded his weeklong visit to the country with a message of support for its fragile peace process. "The Sierra Leonean leadership has taken a huge risk in calling for reconciliation with (the rebels) by inviting them to take a full place at the table, and I can assure you we will pray for you," said Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell of Palm Beach, Fla., treasurer of Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services' board of directors. He spoke to church, government and nongovernmental organization officials at CRS Sierra Leone headquarters in Freetown Nov. 4.

Developer buys Los Angeles cathedral, plans mixed-use project

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A developer has purchased the earthquake-damaged St. Vibiana's Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles for $4.65 million and plans to make it the centerpiece of a new mixed-use project. The cathedral's sale to Gilmore Associates was announced at a press conference Nov. 2 held in the old cathedral's parking lot and attended by, among others, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and Msgr. Terrance Fleming, vicar general for the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Cardinal Arinze emphasizes saintly living at Mass in Indiana

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — The greater your charity, the holier you are, a Vatican official told Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered for Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. "It is not good theology to think holiness is only expected of priests, nuns and brothers. The others constitute 99 percent of the church," said Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He was the principal celebrant and homilist at Mass on All Saints Day, Nov. 1.

U.S. official: Danube cleanup requires East-West cooperation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Industrialization, dams and the effects of war along the Danube River have created a "sewer going right to the Black Sea," said a U.S. Catholic Conference official. "This is complex if it's going to be cleaned up, because you can't do it without cooperation. ... People in the East are going to need help, people in the West need to reduce pollution. It has to be a win-win (situation) or it's a lose-lose with this river," said Walter Grazer, director of the conference's Environmental Justice Program and policy adviser for European affairs. Grazer was among some 70 participants who attended an Oct. 17-26 symposium, "A River of Life: Down the Danube to the Black Sea." Participants traveled by boat along the river to the sea.

PHOTO COURTESY ST. VINCENT SEMINARY

Rite of Admission to Candidacy

Tien Hung Duong, a St. Vincent seminarian from the Diocese of Charlotte received the rite of admission to candidacy for ordination on Oct. 26 by the Most Rev. Nicholas C. Dattilo, Bishop of Harrisburg, Pa. The son of Sach Minh Duong and Toa Thi Pham, he is a graduate of Thanhda High School, Vietnam; and Saint Joseph Seminary College, St. Benedict, La. His home parish is St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church in Charlotte.

Taking part in the Mass for Rite of Admission to Candidacy at St. Vincent Seminary were, from left, Rev. William Fay, St. Vincent Seminary Vice Rector; Rt. Rev. Paul R. Maher, OSB, retired Archabbot of St. Vincent; Most Rev. Nicholas C. Dattilo, Bishop of Harrisburg, Pa.; Tien Hung Duong, admitted to candidacy; Rt. Rev. Douglas R. Nowicki, OSB, Archabbot of Saint Vincent; Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, OSB, Seminary Rector.

Mexican bishop expects indigenous to change, enrich church

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, readily admits to being changed by the Indian people to whom he has ministered for the past four decades. And he said he expects they will change the church as well. "I am expecting an extraordinary springtime for the church" now that around the world there is an "emergence of indigenous communities conscious of their cultural identity," Bishop Ruiz said. He made the comments while in Milwaukee to address the national Call to Action conference held Nov. 5-7. The meeting drew about 3,500 people.

Cardinal blesses shrine sculpture as 'proclamation in stone'

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Calling the massive marble artwork "a proclamation in stone," Cardinal James A. Hickey Nov. 14 blessed "The Universal Call to Holiness" sculpture at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. It was Cardinal Hickey, archbishop of Washington, who suggested the theme of the sculpture to evoke a central message of the Second Vatican Council, stated in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, that "all in the church ... are called to holiness."

NCC anniversary meeting features panel on ecumenical perspectives

CLEVELAND (CNS) -- The 50th anniversary celebration of the National Council of Churches in Cleveland featured Catholic leaders joining their Orthodox and evangelical counterparts in several panel discussions on ecumenism. Billed as the ``Great Conversation," the event was described by NCC officials as ``an opportunity to formulate ecumenical expectations for the next century." It drew an audience of several hundred people.

Planet's resources need management, U.S. biologist tells Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The overwhelming evidence of global injustice -- including 1.3 billion people living in acute poverty and 840 million ``literally starving" -- demands a new phase of planetary management, a U.S. biologist told a Vatican conference. One key to the solution must be more moderate resource consumption among the wealthiest countries, said Peter H. Raven, a professor at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. He made the remarks Nov. 13 at a c onference on ``Science for Man and Man for Science," sponsored by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

Jesuit-run center says harassment linked to defense of prisoners

. MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- An investigation by a Jesuit-supported human rights center in Mexico whose staff has been harassed and threatened traced the threats to the center's work in defense of political prisoners in Guerrero state. Digna Ochoa, head of the legal defense department of the Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center in Mexico City, was seized twice in recent months. The latest incident took place in her home Oct. 29, when she was interrogated by two men for eight hours. Interior Secretary Diodoro Carrasco met for three hours Nov. 9 with members of the Mexican bishops' conference and later with Jesuit Father Edgar Cortes, the center's director.

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Encuentro 2000 to bring together cultures

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Previous encuentros may have been only for the nation's Hispanic Catholic community, but Encuentro 2000 will aim to bring together many cultures.

The planned July 6-9 event in Los Angeles "marks the first national gathering to recognize the richness of the church's racial, ethnic and cultural diversity," said Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala, who chairs the subcommittee on Encuentro 2000.

He made the comments in a report to the U.S. bishops Nov. 15, the first day of their annual general meeting in Washington.

Such a focus is appropriate during the coming jubilee year, he said, because it "is a time for the church to examine what comprises its current racial, cultural and ethnic makeup, where it needs reconciliation and where change is necessary."

Liturgies and rituals will incorporate elements from a wide range of cultures, he said, and speakers will include Vatican officials, bishops and others who represent the diversity of the church. "Encuentro" is the Spanish word for encounter.

In preparation for the national event, some dioceses and regions are already holding their own related activities, Bishop Zavala said.

Catholics from 14 dioceses and 17 ethnic groups participated in a musical celebration in California in October, for instance.

"The sharing of stories, music and food created an ambiance that made all the participants aware of the presence of the other, the presence of Jesus," he said.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis planned a one-day encuentro to be held in four different regions, Bishop Zavala reported. The Archdiocese of San Francisco is planning a presentation at the Palace of Fine Arts during Advent, which will focus on stories from different ethnic groups as expressed in song, dance, rituals and symbols.

And in El Paso, Texas, every parish is holding a monthly encuentro, which will lead up to a diocese-wide celebration in June, said Bishop Zavala.

Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Hispanic Affairs, said during the report that this time in the church is "a critical moment, one that calls for the participation of people from every diocese."

In particular, he said, "there is a need for U.S. Catholics to become more aware of the cultural diversity of the church and its richness."

Catholics also need to reinvigorate parishes by taking advantage of that diversity, and to "develop a richer sense of how the church's sacramental life gives birth to and fosters mission, reconciliation, communion and solidarity," Bishop Barnes said.

Previous encuentros in 1972, 1977 and 1985 were gatherings of Hispanic Catholics that focused on their cultural heritage and developed plans for the growing role of Hispanics in the church.

After the presentation, Auxiliary Bishop Gordon D. Bennett of Baltimore was one of several bishops to speak in support of the Encuentro 2000 plans.

He saluted the planning committee for "having the courage to be the first (ethnic) group to break out and have something for the whole church. All the other ethnic groups that have and promote their own agendas could have done this, too." ▾

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Bishop Gerald Barnes (left) of San Bernadino, Calif., and Auxiliary Bishop Zavala of Los Angeles have a report to the U.S. bishops on plans for Encuentro 2000, a national gathering of all the diverse cultures that make up the church. Their report was given Nov. 15 during the bishops annual fall meeting in Washington.

All are called to be saints, Cardinal Hickey says at Mass

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington said Nov. 15 that the newly installed "Universal Call to Holiness" sculpture at the national shrine is meant to portray that "we are called to be saints."

"We are all called to be God's children by adoption," said the cardinal, still enthused about the sculpture he formally dedicated a day earlier at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

He was the homilist at a Mass celebrated at the shrine on the first day of the U.S. bishops' general fall meeting, held Nov. 15-18.

The theme of the sculpture was suggested by the cardinal, although "I cannot tell to this day where or when I got the idea" for such a "monumental" work, he told the congregation. But, he added, "I am grateful to the Lord that it did reach me."

The high-relief sculpture "captures so well the mission of this shrine, and the mission of us bishops," Cardinal Hickey said.

In describing the sculpture that was behind the assembly at the back of the shrine, the cardinal said it shows "the Holy Spirit is on top sending rays of great light to men, women and children of every language and race and culture."

"This beautiful work of art captures so well what our work is all about. It all captures so well the core mission of the bishops," he added. "We are not company executives or politicians. We are bishops and priests. Our fundamental mission is to help those we serve."

The 50- by 17-foot sculpture is carved in Botticino-Classico marble and adorns the interior back wall. Its installation completed the nave of the shrine's Upper Church.

Cardinal Hickey noted that he was a seminarian across the street from the shrine when in 1957 the large stone cross was erected in its apse. "It was a solemn moment. It was a solemn moment for me also. I felt somehow I was a part of all of this," he said. ▾

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Local Briefs

CCHS band marches again

CHARLOTTE — The first Charlotte Catholic High School marching band in 22 years made its debut at Keffer Stadium during the annual Cooke Cup football game Sept. 9. The band was accompanied by the new CCHS flagline. Both groups spent a week of intensive training this summer at a camp at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, mastering music and routines. Though delayed by lightning, the 67 Marching Cougars made their debut to a packed stadium. The band is directed by David Schoff and sophomore drum major Leslie Hall. Libby Lerner, a math teacher at CCHS, directs the flagline.

Human rights worker speaks at Morganton parish

MORGANTON — A Guatemalan human rights worker who investigated and documented human rights violations during her home country's decades-long civil war spoke at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton Oct. 13 about her work. Irma Graciela Azmitia Dornates spoke of how her own life was affected by the war, during which her father, a brother and a pregnant sister "disappeared" at the hands of the Guatemalan military. She has worked with the Project for the Recovery of the Historic Memory, which has collected thousands of testimonies from people who reported human rights abuses during the war. She said her work with the project "gave me a chance to do something about the repression that I and so many others suffered." "It helped me to overcome the sense of powerlessness that I felt when my family members ... disappeared," she added. Her speaking tour is sponsored by Witness for Peace, a Washington-based human rights organization.

BMHS contributes to Floyd relief

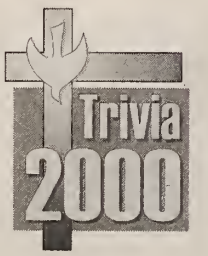
WINSTON-SALEM — Students at Bishop McGuinness High School collected donations, food and clothing for the people in eastern North Carolina suffering in wake of Hurricane Floyd. The students collected $2,000 over a week. The funds will be sent to Ahoskie, where students worked with Habitat for Humanity last summer, and to St. Mary Catholic School in Goldsboro. The students also collected a sizable amount of food and clothing.

Celebrant Singers to perform in Franklin

FRANKLIN - St. Francis of Assisi Church has invited the Celebrant Singers and Orchestra on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. This group is world-renowned and has performed for the pope. The church will have an area set aside for the group provided reservations are called in advance. For details contact Joanne Kramer at (828) 524-2289. ▼

Giant field prepared for Holy Year 'Woodstock'

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In what's being called the "Woodstock" of Holy Year 2000, Rome planners are readying an 800-acre field for World Youth Day celebrations, expected to draw up to 2 million people.

The city is spending some $70 million to create a road network, water and electrical service, a security system and basic health care for those in attendance. The site, located on Rome's southern outskirts, has been a sheep pasture until recently.

Organizers expect to have 15,000 chemical toilets operating by the time young people arrive. That's about one per 100 people — not ideal, but the best the city can do, officials say.

Youths are being encouraged to spend most of the time at the meadow site, since Rome is hardly equipped to handle such a huge crowd. Many will camp out there, and they'd be wise to bring a pair of binoculars: Some sections of the field are more than a mile away from the papal altar.

For that reason, 12 giant video screens will be planted throughout the crowd — something Woodstock never had. ▼

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Southern Catholic Conference focuses on Jubilee spirituality

By GRETCHEN KEISER
THE GEORGIA BULLETIN

ATLANTA—"It will begin with this sound," said the speaker, rapping her knuckles loudly on the podium several times.

"With a knocking at midnight on Christmas Eve in the city of Rome," Maria Harris continued. "The whole world will be attuned to the knocking on the Holy Door in Rome."

Speaking to approximately 1,300 people who teach in Catholic schools and parishes in Georgia, North and South Carolina, Harris described the Great Jubilee Year 2000, which will begin Christmas Eve, as "a powerful gift for all of us."

"We are called to celebrate it, but first we are called to the Scriptures of the jubilee," said Harris, who teaches Catholic religious education at the university and college level and has written several books on jubilee spirituality.

"You discover celebrating the jubilee does not come first. On the way to celebrating the jubilee there are five jubilee commandments ... You are to let the land lie fallow; you are to forgive debts; you are to set free the prisoners, especially children; you are to do justice; you are to throw the party of your lives ... to sing and to dance in the streets. It is a time of jubilee."

The keynote speaker at the Southern Catholic Conference '99 encouraged teachers from Catholic schools and religious education classrooms in the Province of Atlanta to apply the jubilee teachings found in St. Luke's Gospel and in the Books of Leviticus and Isaiah within their school environments. The Jubilee Year begins when Pope John Paul II opens the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 1999 and closes on Epiphany 2001.

"Think about the possibilities of teaching the spirituality of the jubilee," Harris said in her talk Oct. 8 at St. Pius X High School, Atlanta, where the two-day Southern Catholic Conference was held.

The commandment that the Jubilee Year is meant to be a sabbath, or resting time for the land, means teachers need to "cultivate stillness and quiet" in their classrooms and create "the kind of classrooms where kids get the sense 'I'm really valued. There is something safe about this place.'"

"Attend to this," Harris urged. "Create an environment where people can work soft, not hard ... Let the land lie fallow. Let the kids lie fallow."

Forgiveness of the international debt of 36 poor nations in sub-Saharan Africa is being considered by the United States for the Jubilee Year, Harris said, "in order to feed the children" in those countries with funds that would otherwise go toward the interest on the debt.

Teachers face the challenge of forgiving individual students every day for disruptions they cause or because their personalities are hard to handle, Harris said. But she encouraged teachers to send students home every day with gestures of acceptance.

"Forgiveness is never easy ... Every day it must be fought for and prayed for and struggled for and won," she said.

When Jesus began his public ministry, in the synagogue in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah, chapter 61, about the year of the Lord's favor, Harris said, and about comforting those who mourn and giving them a garland instead of ashes.

"Even in our classrooms, there are children whose lives are filled with ashes," Harris said. "Give that child the oil of gladness. Give that child a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit ... Isaiah says the spirit of the Lord anoints us to do that work."

The call to free prisoners during the Jubilee Year can be applied to children, she said. "We must care for the freedom of children ... Make sure they have enough nutrition, enough health care, enough education."

The speaker affirmed the profession of teaching and the teachers who sat before her in rows of chairs and in the bleachers of the St. Pius gymnasium.

"If you work with children, take a bow," she said, "because you are doing the work of jubilee."

The theme of the conference, "Celebrating the Jubilee," was set by the talk of the keynote speaker, who addressed participants both Friday and Saturday morning and also gave several workshops on the topic of the Jubilee Year. On both days, partici-

SEE YOUTH CONFERENCE, PAGE 14

Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry, leads a discussion at the Southern Catholic Conference '99 in Atlanta, Ga.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, THE GEORGIA BULLETIN

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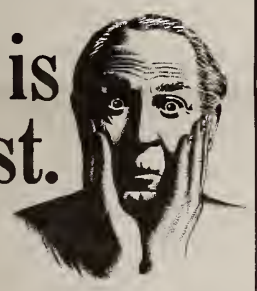

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Book Review

New McCourt memoir is no 'Angela's Ashes'

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"'Tis," simply put, 'tisn't.

Which is to say that Frank McCourt's second memoir (Scribner, $26) isn't the equal of "Angela's Ashes," his Pulitzer Prize-winning account of growing up poor in Ireland. The Child of Poverty has evolved into the Organ Grinder, shaking his tin cup of Irish stereotypes as much for the entertainment of the masses as for anything else.

Additionally, the suspicion arises that, for McCourt, "'Tis," which takes up his story on his return to America at age 18, serves as a confession of sorts, a kind of public substitute for the private confession he could never bring himself to make despite a claimed longing to do so.

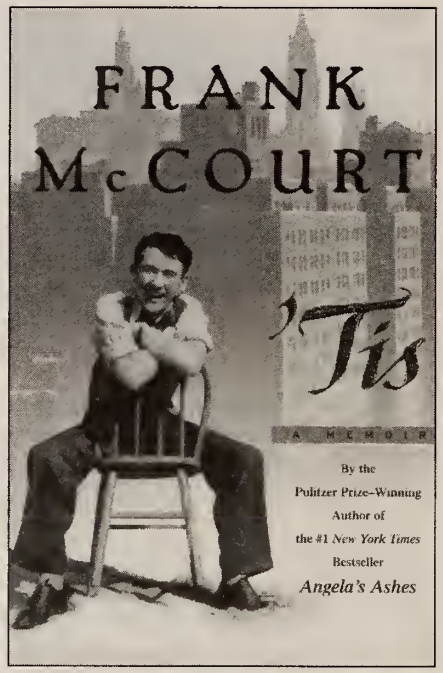
For instance, of a visit to Limerick in the uniform of an American soldier, he writes: "I sit in silent churches to look at altars, pulpits, confessionals, I'd like to know how many Masses I attended, how many sermons frightened the life out of me, how many priests were shocked by my sins before I gave up going to confession altogether. I know I'm doomed the way I am, though I'd confess to a kindly priest if I could find one."

It's a sentiment he repeats several times, weaving a sense of guilt, exaggeration, Irish anti-clericalism and poor theology into the whimsical but whiny tapestry that is the sum of "'Tis."

McCourt's portrait of himself on his arrival in New York in 1949 is that of an unknowing bumpkin, a charming lad and a quite willing pub companion, guilt-ridden and sexually repressed and doomed to hell for his sins because he had the misfortune of being born Catholic rather than Jewish or Protestant, although the aura of blarney seems evident in some of this.

Continuing to struggle with poverty (some of it surely stemming from his willingness to take his recreation in New York's Irish bars), he finds his salvation in a love for books and education. His professors seemingly are anti-Catholic, his co-workers are bigots as often as not, his landlords are pinch-pennies and he's filled with self-pity because his eyes are red-rimmed, his teeth are rotten, he is lonely, and girls — especially effervescent, book-carrying college girls — ignore him.

Still, McCourt does know how to make a point. His accounts of the prejudice he encounters (prejudice directed not so much at him as at other minorities), of the life of the newcomer, of the challenge of teaching in city schools, and of the tug of nostalgia all ring with authenticity, although the accounts are but an echo of stories told by countless others — original insights not being McCourt's strong point.



'Tis
By Frank McCourt
(Scribner, $26)

What gives "'Tis" its appeal — and it is appealing — is the manner of the telling rather than the substance. Even so, his style, comprised as it is of exaggerations, embellishments and run-on sentences humorously linking unrelated components, wears thin after awhile, the superficiality of it all being covered with a veneer of Irish wit while failing to mask unnecessary reliance on vulgarisms and the use of faux-quaint euphemisms to gloss over sexual struggles and desires.

Here, in a rumination about things religious, is an example of the McCourt style:

"Fifth Avenue is nearly deserted except for people making their way to St. Patrick's Cathedral to save their souls, mostly old women. ... When the priest dispenses Communion the pews empty and I envy the people coming back down the aisles with the

SEE BOOK REVIEW, NEXT PAGE

Word to Life

November 21, Feast of Christ the King, Cycle A Readings:

1) Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
   Psalm 23:1-3, 5-6
2) 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
3) Matthew 25:31-46

By DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm hurrying across the parking lot toward the home improvement superstore, thinking about paint colors and door hardware and room dimensions. I am imagining a newly refurbished house, understated but elegant, free at last of the ugly fixtures and worn carpet and dingy paint. I am not expecting a spiritual challenge.

Intent on crossing the busy parking lot, I'm surprised when the young man in the blue jeans and T-shirt steps in front of me. I swerve slightly to avoid a collision, but he mirrors my swerve and smiles ingratiatingly.

"Sir," he says confidently, "could you help me and my girlfriend?"

Huh? What's this got to do with brass hinges vs. painted, quarry tile vs. carpet? Barely breaking stride, I mumble, "No, not today," then, incongruously, "Thanks," and go inside.

Standing in the plywood aisle a minute later, I shake my head. "Thanks?" I mutter to myself. "Duh!" I launch my search for the items I need.

Twenty minutes later, approaching the exit, I remember the man asking for help. The refrain from a song based on this Sunday's Gospel passes through my memory: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me." I take a dollar from my wallet and put it in my pocket, ready this time. But the man needing help isn't there.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that at the end of the day, the issue won't be whether or not the man was truly in need or just a scoundrel who preferred begging to work. The issue will be how deep our instinct to generosity goes, how ingrained our impulse to give has become over a lifetime of practice. Judgment will turn on how we perform the crucial Christian task of looking for the face of Jesus, especially in the faces of those who present us with the opportunity to share our gifts.

Questions:

Where do I have opportunities to share my gifts with people in need? What's one time in my life when the presence of Christ has become evident to me in the need of another?

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me."
— Matthew 25:35-36

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 21 - 27, 1999

Sunday, Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46; **Monday**, Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Daniel 2:31-45, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday**, Daniel 6:12-28, Luke 21:20-28; **Friday**, Daniel 7:2-14, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday**, Daniel 7:15-17, Luke 21:34-36

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On Television

John Logan's fictional account of Welles filming "Citizen Kane" plays hard and fast

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Providing a fictional account of how Orson Welles filmed "Citizen Kane" despite William Randolph Hearst's opposition is the overheated dramatization, "RKO 281," being repeated Tuesday, Nov. 23, 8-9:30 p.m. EST on the HBO pay cable channel.

Scriptwriter John Logan plays hard and fast with the facts and fables about the Welles classic film that was assigned the production number 281 by RKO Studios.

With James Cromwell as Hearst, John Malkovich as scriptwriter Herman Mankiewicz and Liev Schreiber as Welles, the cast is better than the story.

Directed by Benjamin Ross, the bankrupt Hearst is presented as delusional while his dim mistress, Marion Davies (Melanie Griffith), whines about everything.

The worst thing about this scenario is its picture of Jewish studio heads panicking over Hearst's threat to expose Hollywood as a hotbed of immorality and run by Jews.

Though this kind of baloney isn't very interesting, the production has lush sets and plenty of art deco furnishings.

As usual with pay-cable movies, the dialogue is awash in four-letter expletives and profanity as well as sexual references. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"RKO 281"
Tuesday, Nov. 23
8-9:30 p.m. EST on HBO

Don't go to 'Dogma' for the theology, theologian advises

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a theologian at The Catholic University of America, there's precious little theological insight in the new movie "Dogma."

"There so little in the way of theology there," said Benedictine Father James Wiseman. He attended a critics' screening in Washington of the film, which was scheduled to open nationwide Nov. 12.

Writer-director Kevin Smith, who also appears in the movie, "obviously remembers a lot of stuff from his grade school days" and has thrown it all into the film, Father Wiseman told Catholic News Service.

"Dogma" focuses on the efforts of two angels (Matt Damon and Ben Affleck), long ago kicked out of heaven, who try to get back using a so-called loophole in Catholic dogma — a plenary indulgence.

Father Wiseman said people discussed plenary indulgences "a lot more in that time (of Smith's childhood) than you do today."

According to the plot, if the angels get back to heaven via the loophole, it proves that God's not perfect and existence would come to an end. The plot device, Father Wiseman said, is "off the scale, totally off the scale."

Chosen to stop the angels' scheme is a Catholic who works at an abortion clinic (Linda Fiorentino) and who is a descendant of Jesus since — in the movie's version of reality — Jesus had brothers and sisters.

Among the other imponderables in the plot are a 13th apostle named Rufus played by comedian Chris Rock and a female God played by rock singer Alanis Morissette.

God doesn't show up until the movie's end because, according to the film, he likes to come to Earth on occasion incognito to play skee-ball. But when badly beaten by three of Satan's minions, he languishes in a hospital near death, and heaven's emissaries don't know where God has gone. Fiorentino's character has to take him off artificial life support so God in human form can die and stop the angels' plan by returning in divine form.

CNS PHOTO FROM LIONS GATE

Chris Rock, Jason Mewes and Salma Hayek star in the film "Dogma." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has been an early and vocal opponent of "Dogma" since league officials saw one version of the script earlier this year. The league organized a protest Oct. 4 in New York, where the movie was being shown as part of a film festival.

Father Wiseman, editor of the journal Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, said that he doesn't think "it would be injurious to faith" if a Catholic saw "Dogma." It is possible, he added, that a non-Catholic could come away with erroneous impressions about the church after having seen it.

A long disclaimer at the start of "Dogma" calls the movie a "comedic fantasy," while reminding viewers that "passing judgment is reserved for God and God alone."

But Father Wiseman wasn't buying the disclaimer. "I don't believe that. I thought they were trying to avoid criticism," he said.

He said scenes of mass killing in the film were insensitive, "especially in view of the shootings at Columbine (High School in Colorado) and Conyers, Ga."

And an early scene which showed a cardinal (George Carlin) dispatching the traditional crucifix representation of Jesus in favor of a sendup of the Sacred Heart statue called "Buddy Christ" was "very, very insensitive," Father Wiseman said.

One line in the movie — "The Catholic Church makes no mistakes!" — received generous laughter from much of the audience at the screening.

"To think that some people in the auditorium were belly-laughing at some of this stuff," he remarked. "They themselves are insensitive to genuine values."

The priest also noted that Pope John Paul II has called for the church to recognize and apologize for its failures during the first 2,000 years of Christianity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting gave "Dogma" a classification of O — morally offensive — for "anti-religious japes, some intense violence, sexual references, substance abuse, assorted vulgarities, profanity and recurring rough language."

Henry Herx, director of the office, in a review called "Dogma" a "sophomoric religious satire" whose plot hinges on a "false understanding of an indulgence as effecting the forgiveness of sins." ▼

Book Review, from previous page

wafers in their mouths and the holy look that tells you they're in a state of grace. They can go home now and have the big breakfast and if they fall dead while eating sausages and eggs they go straight to heaven. I'd like to make my peace with God but my sins are so terrible any priest would drive me from the confessional ..."

In "'Tis," McCourt takes us leisurely through his 29th birthday, his college graduation and his City Hall marriage, and then hurriedly through the birth of his daughter, the breakup of his marriage (like his father, he walks out) and then the deaths of his parents. That brings us to the mid-1980's, before his second marriage and his debut as a literary lion and suggests another volume is in the offing — for better or worse. ▼

Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope returns to Rome, hopes pastoral seed will bear fruit in Asia

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, back from a five-day trip to Asia, said he hoped the pastoral seeds planted during his visit will bear fruit in the years to come.

The pope made the remarks from his apartment window Nov. 10 to several hundred pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square. The Vatican announced before the trip that the pope would not hold his regular weekly general audience that day.

The pope said he was able to share the hopes and expectations with numerous Asian bishops during his stay in New Delhi, India, where he unveiled a document on the future of evangelization on the continent.

In Georgia, he said, he visited the small Catholic community and was cordially welcomed by Georgian Orthodox Patriarch Ilia II, to whom he offered a special thanks. He also expressed appreciation to civil leaders of both countries.

"I ask you, dear brothers and sisters, to join me in asking God to make fruitful the seeds planted during this apostolic trip," he said.

The pope appeared in relatively good condition during his brief appearance. Many Italians were concerned about the pope's health after TV networks repeatedly broadcast images from a meeting in Georgia Nov. 8, in which the pope, his body shaking uncontrollably, was steadied by an aide.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the cold weather in Georgia had triggered the shaking, and that the pope's condition was good. For several years, the pope has suffered from a nervous system disorder generally believed to be Parkinson's disease. A constant tremor in his hand is now sometimes evident in his arm and leg, while his speech has become less distinct and mobility more difficult.

The day after the pope was shown shaking intensely, he appeared in good form celebrating a morning Mass in Tbilisi and later that day bantered with nuns at a church in the city.

Pope celebrates memorial Mass for deceased cardinals, bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During an annual memorial Mass for deceased cardinals, archbishops and bishops, Pope John Paul II underscored Christian teaching that death means passage to new life. Among the deceased prelates the pope prayed for by name was Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster, England. "Faith infuses in us the consoling certainty that death is a passage to eternal life," the pope said during the liturgy Nov. 12 in St. Peter's Basilica. "I dearly remember, in particular, the venerable Cardinals Carlos Oviedo Cavada (of Santiago, Chile), Raul Silva Henriquez (also of Santiago) and George Basil Hume," the pope said. "In their apostolic activity founded on faith and in their attentive pastoral service, they turned their gaze well beyond the earth's limits by hoping in the Lord," he said.

Giving thanks in the wake of the storm

Even at the time I remember thinking to myself how really stupid it was for me to have climbed up those stairs and to have walked across the scorched floorboards to retrieve that small satchel of memorabilia from under her bed. The smell was overwhelming and the passage made even more difficult because the apartment was in near total darkness, with the only light coming from the gaping hole in the roof used by the firefighters to fight the flames. I just wanted to help. Actually, I needed to help. I needed to do something as my sister stood outside the building looking at what was once her home. A small natural disaster, lightening, had destroyed five apartments in her building.

It wasn't just I who helped her out. Countless family members, co-workers and friends lent their time and effort to help her begin to reassemble her life. Insurance helped her replace the stuff in her apartment, but the people in her life helped her recreate her home.

I am especially reminded of this event from my past as I have been privileged to work in the area of disaster relief. We have all certainly heard or read countless accounts of the suffering resulting from Hurricane Floyd. An estimated 40,000 homes were damaged and nearly 50 people lost their lives. The monetary damage estimates alone are in the billions.

When the breath of destruction became clear, my office received numerous calls from individuals and parishes willing to send volunteers and supplies immediately. So many felt the need to help.

With money being the donation preferred by relief agencies during the early stages of floods, a call went out to our parishes and schools requesting help in raising funds to assist those impacted by Hurricane Floyd. The total raised from thousands of parishioners, school students and benefactors currently stands at $260,146.34. When you consider that just last November Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte contributed $251,526.40 to hurricane relief, it's easy to see that this pattern of generosity is part of the life of our church community here in western North Carolina.

Unfortunately, the real impact of Hurricane Floyd is now being felt. As homes in eastern North Carolina have begun to dry out, teams are being recruited from parishes to help cleanup or demolish homes. The aftermath of the storm is expected to be felt well into 2000. I am confident that our generosity will continue.

Finally, the picture of our diocesan disaster relief to Hurricane Floyd is by no means complete unless we recognize the important role which prayer played in our responsiveness. In prayer we offered up to God our solidarity with the homeless, the wounded, the grieving and the marginalized.

With Thanksgiving approaching, I wish to express sincere gratitude to you on behalf of those who benefit from your generosity. You won't know their names or recognize their faces but you can be assured that Thanksgivings and Christmas 1999 will be remembered in their lives not just for the losses but also for the gain of support, prayer and fellowship with their friends in western North Carolina.

Gerry Carter is the diocesan director of Special Ministries

Giving Thanks

GERRY CARTER
Guest Columnist

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

In defense of Pius XII

"What is truth?" Pilate once asked the Lord. Many are asking that question today as a book claiming that Pope Pius XII was "Hitler's Pope" is on its way to becoming a best seller. The author, British journalist John Cornwell, alleges that the man who was pope during Hitler's regime was anti-Semitic and therefore silent during the Holocaust carried out to exterminate the Jews. What is the truth?

One nun is trying to answer that question, offering her firsthand historical research, which she completed long before Cornwell's book appeared. She is Sister Margherita Marchione, of the order of the Religious Teachers Filippini, a Fulbright scholar, professor emeritus of Italian language and literature at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and author of 30 books. Her greatest honor, she says, is to have been called "the defender of Pius XII."

This dynamic 77-year-old nun spoke at my parish, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys in Brookfield, Conn. My parish priests invited her because they knew she had documented the efforts of Pius XII and the Italian people to rescue Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

Her book, "Yours Is a Precious Witness, Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy," was published by Paulist Press in 1996. It is must reading for anyone seeking the truth about the allegations against this pope who served in such treacherous times.

Sister Marchione told us the "lies about Pius XII" began in 1963 with the play "The Deputy," by Rolf Hochhuth. She called the play a fiction that was contradicted by the testimony of survivors.

She told the audience at St. Marguerite's that considerable defense of the pope came from the Jewish people themselves. She said Jewish scholar Jeno Levai testified at Nazi war-crime trials that the bishops of the Catholic Church "intervened again and again on the instructions of the pope. The one person who did more than anyone else to halt the dreadful crime and alleviate its consequences is today made the scapegoat for the failures of others."

Sister Marchione credits Pius with having saved the lives of thousands of Jewish men, women and children from 1943 to 1945. With the urging of the Vatican, at the risk of their own lives, priests and nuns opened their convents and monasteries to hide Jews. Her own order concealed 114 Jewish neighbors in three convents in Rome. Sister Marchione said while some Italians were Nazi collaborators, many more were compassionate friends to the Jews. Although two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population was killed, about 85 percent of the Italian Jewish population survived the war, she said.

In truth, Pius despised Hitler and the Nazis, she said. Still, too many remain unsatisfied that he didn't "speak out" enough to denounce the atrocities against the Jews. Yet, even one of his severest critics, Belgian historian Leon Papeleux, acknowledges: "It is indisputable; Pius XII felt himself impaled on the horns of a terrible dilemma: to speak out with no certainty that this would halt the crimes and with the risk of worsening the victims' fate; or to remain silent and risk the impression that the highest authority was covering the crimes with his silence."

Sister Marchione's final message was that Cornwell's book is "fiction," with a "real object of destroying the papacy and the church." She challenged us to make known the truth about Pius XII.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Thanks, again

The following quote is more than a hundred years old, but still holds true today: "The year that is drawing toward its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God."

A deep appreciation of God's blessings is obvious in these lines. Perhaps so much so that we might be excused for thinking the author spoke at a time of general tranquility and personal contentment. But not so. They are the first words of Abraham Lincoln's presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving in 1863 "in the midst of a civil war of unequaled magnitude and severity."

He knew the carnage, the hatred, the grief that was tearing apart the people of the United States. He knew his own private failures, disappointments and loss, including the deaths of his two young sons. Still, Lincoln was able to recognize blessings of no small significance: the continued peace with other nations, the preservation of civil order, the prosperity of business and industry.

"They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God," he wrote, adding, "It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People." So a Thursday in November was set aside as a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise."

The actual idea — and urging — to proclaim such a day came from Sarah Hale, a magazine editor and champion of higher education for women. Some individual states, especially in New England, had occasionally observed a thanksgiving day earlier in our history based on the tradition of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag tribe feasting together and popularly considered the "First Thanksgiving." Although, the practice of setting aside a day, particularly around harvest time, to celebrate and offer thanks to the Creator, is an ancient one. Not until the 1940's did it become a permanent national American holiday.

What Abraham Lincoln and all who celebrate Thanksgiving share in common is a recognition of our dependence on Divine Providence. It's not hard to be grateful for the good things we have been given. But can we appreciate everything that is part of our lives, including all that is painful and hard to bear, let alone manage to say "Thank You, God?" The answer is "Yes." It is exactly what we are asked to do.

God deserves thanksgiving not just when we feel content and happy with life, but when we don't understand and can't control our circumstances. Gratitude is an expression of our faith, opening our souls to God's grace and peace. More than that, I am convinced that a grateful heart is a happy heart.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul said, "Always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God."

This Thanksgiving Day, "do good to one another." Thank the people around you and thank God. And don't forget to do it again the day after Thanksgiving, as well.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Coping with abusive In-Laws

Q. We have beeu married for 15 years aud have five children. I couverted to Catholicism early iu my marriage, and we are raisiug our children as Catholics. My husband's family goes to Mass daily, and their home is filled with religious articles. But when they come to visit, they use foul language, are hateful, and treat us and our friends horribly.

Through the years I've kept my smile, welcomed them and have always been cordial. But every visit ends with them exploding into a rage. I take the children out of earshot and pray daily for everyone to be civil. But it becomes more and more difficult as their behavior gets more bizarre.

Is there a Catholic program, Bible study or anything else my husband can direct them (and me) to in order to come to peace with this situation? It is sad.

My husband doesn't confront them when they are abusive. He remains "neutral" and caters to them until they feel he is doing what they want, which usually means neglecting me and the children in some way. He defends his action by saying he must honor his parents first and foremost, and to confront them would disrespect them. Any help for us?

A. Judging only from what you have told me, I doubt that there is any way you or he will change his parents. They could, and should, arrange for serious counseling, but they apparently feel they don't need it, and you cannot make them.

You and your husband, however, also could use some good help to deal healthily with a very hurtful circumstance in your lives. Perhaps he would be more open to such help if he realized that what he is doing has nothing to do with genuine respect and love for his parents.

First of all, his highest responsibility now is to his wife and children. Concern for them must take first priority, especially when they are being psychologically abused, as is happening here.

It needs to be repeated often that enabling someone to continue abusing other people is not love. Your husband's catering to them, allowing them to maneuver him and the rest of your family by their hostility, is no favor to them.

If he loves them, he will not allow them to further demean and injure themselves by succeeding in their angry attempts to manipulate your family. And if he loves you, it is not right for him to cooperate with their abuse by appealing to some wrong idea of respect for parents.

One reason I'm using your letter is that your situation is unfortunately not uncommon. In-laws, parents, spouses and children too often do great harm to the perpetrator of abuse as well as to the victims because of a misplaced and dangerous sense of loyalty and love.

Again, deliberately permitting someone to continue mistreating and hurting another is never an act of affection or love for anyone involved.

Mass in Transit

Q. Can you tell us where to learn the times of Masses in other cities? We've been told there is a number to call, but none of our friends knows about it.

A. A group called Mass in Transit has this information. It's a great service, available 24 hours a day. Their phone number is 800-627-7846. You must have the zip code of where you are going, which you can obtain from the post office. You will receive the name of the church, phone number, address and times of Sunday and weekday Masses.

The Joy of Advent

FATHER MARK LAWLOR
GUEST COLUMNIST

Advent: A joyful anticipation

During my years in the seminary, I came to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the liturgical year and the appropriate postures of the different seasons. Since I returned to the "real world" of parish life, I have tried to convey to the faithful our Catholic liturgical tradition.

Advent is, perhaps, one of the more challenging seasons to understand and live. For example, I remember that on the first Sunday of Advent a few years ago, I preached a homily on the need for preparation andpatience as we await the celebration. That apparently did not sway one sincere parishioner who greeted me after Mass with "Merry Christmas, Father Mark." My reply was, "Not yet, Happy Advent."

The word Advent comes from the Latin word adventus which means "arrival." It was originally a secular term used to describe the arrival of the emperor. For Christians, the accent of the season is on preparation. During the four weeks, we reflect on the prophesies of the Old Testament as our forefathers in faith longedd for the coming Messiah. In hope, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the joy and mystery of the Incarnation of our Savior, the Divine Son on Christmas.

Advent is also the time when we reflect on our readiness to meet the Lord when he returns in glory. This is the focus of the Gospel passage for the first Sunday of Advent. Jesus challenges his followers to, "Be constantly on the watch! Stay Awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come!" [Mk. 13,33]

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. It is a period of preparation and waiting. Remember that according to our liturgical year, Christmas begins with the first vigil Mass on December 24 and lasts through the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord on January 9. Christmas is not a day but a season. I trust that all of you realize that our liturgical year is somewhat counter-cultural.

The society in which we live has already begun to celebrate Christmas and many will end on Christmas day, perhaps from shear exhaustion.

We may ask ourselves how we may prepare for the celebration of Christmas and the beginning of the Great Jubilee. My sugggestions are for families to spend some time together in prayer. It may be a good time to reflect on the Sunday readings, to give thanks for blessings and to participate in some charitable outreach. Most parishes and missions will offer the opportunity to celebrate God's mercy and peace during a Communal Penance Service. Our spiritual preparation is paramount. This does not have to be a season of fighting crowds at malls and constant activity. Remember that the spirit of Advent is hope and joyful anticipation.

Father Mark Lawlor serves as parochial admiuistrator of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson.

Youth Conference, from page 9

pants were able to select from over 100 workshops taught by master catechists, youth and young adult ministers, or Catholic school educators on a wide variety of topics. Four workshop sessions were offered throughout each day. At lunchtime, those attending could talk to their peers, visit exhibits or join discussion tables set up around particular topics of interest with a facilitator.

Kathy Wolf, archdiocesan director of religious education, who coordinated the provincial conference, said the conference was the first held in Atlanta since 1994. It attracted a total of 1,300 people, with approximately 1,100 attending on Friday and approximately 750 attending on Saturday. Some participants attended both days.

In addition to Harris, a featured presenter was Donna Peña, a bilingual musician and liturgist, who led workshops and also gave a concert at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Atlanta, on Oct. 8.

"It is very important that the Catholic Church be a church of diversity and a church of more than one language," Peña said in a workshop on bilingual liturgy. "Even though English is the language spoken in America, Spanish is quickly coming along. The future of the church is going to be in the Spanish language. It is very important that the church come along with that. We should all become comfortable with that."

Playing her guitar and leading workshop participants in bilingual liturgical music, Peña encouraged them to help congregations sing the parts of the Mass in both Spanish and English.

Bilingual music is available through publishers GIA in Chicago and Oregon Catholic Press, she said, and the Lutheran publisher, Augsburg Fortress, has produced a new all Spanish hymnal, which can be an additional resource. Peña also recommended the World Library missalette for its presentation of Spanish and English translations.

St. Paul of the Cross parishioner Frances Kennedy, who is in the parish choir and works with the youth choir, said she was looking for bilingual music.

"We have a group of Hispanics within our community," said the Atlanta parishioner. "We have taken familiar parts of the Mass and used them in different languages," particularly on Pentecost Sunday.

In two workshops, Jim McGinnis, founder of the Institute of Peace and Justice in St. Louis and author of materials for families, schools and parishes on these topics, offered practical strategies for teaching students how to resolve conflicts without violence.

With dozens of participants offering ideas, the workshop discussed providing a "peace table" in classrooms where students learn to negotiate and "where you use words and not fists" to resolve disagreements. One middle school, McGinnis said, has a special flag that is raised every day the school is "fight-free" so students develop peer pressure for that atmosphere to continue in the school.

He said that in touring schools in India modeled on Gandhi's nonviolence, "every one had a vegetable and flower garden. The kids learned how to grow food. They were learning to appreciate life, how to tend life and nurture it. It has a powerful effect," McGinnis said. "A place of beauty can be used to gentle down. Beauty gentles. Trees and gardens make a difference."

He also spoke in his workshops of the need to prepare children to live in a world that is multi-racial and multicultural. "We probably grew up in a mono-cultural world," he said. "We are the bridge generation."

Sts. Peter and Paul School Principal Queen Grady said she found the keynote speaker and the workshops valuable for her work as a teacher and administrator.

"It has been a wonderful day," said the Decatur school principal. "The keynote speaker and this (workshop) —because we are focusing on nonviolence in all our schools. We are teaching our kids to be peacemakers. We try to be peacemakers ourselves in relating to one another."

Grady said the emphasis on verbal and non-verbal communication was relevant to her work.

"Students, teachers, parents-everyone wants to feel important" in the life of the school, she said. "It is our challenge to make them feel that way. When you set a positive environment in a school, you feel it the minute you step in."

Conference planners overall received positive feedback, Wolf said. "St. Pius High School was a wonderful host. They made my job easier."

"The overall feedback has been very, very positive," she said, particularly on the caliber of the speakers and workshop presenters, the planning, organization and punctuality of all the sessions. Coming together as Catholic school teachers and religious educators in the province "helps us to realize a lot of people are working together to pass on the faith to young people," Wolf said. ▼

Pilgrimage, from page 1

Father West addressed the pilgrims during his homily: "The purpose of a pilgrimage is to move closer to God, and the primary purpose of this trip to the shrine is to do more for God. We have today, in the image of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a sign of God's grace before us. Mary said 'yes' to God, and we must also willingly accept what God asks of us."

A chorus of amens was heard during the homily, throughout the Mass and during the individual Prayers of the Faithful spoken aloud. Some people began to weep, so overcome with emotion during the closing song "Sign Me Up," as Mae Culbert, from Our Lady of Consolation Church, spontaneously led the song in her soprano voice.

Clarence and Marie Malveaux from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte both found that the trip renewed their faith as Catholics.

"I was born and raised Catholic but never had the full knowledge that I have gained today. I know where I come from, and I know where I am going now that I better understand the depth of my religion," said Mrs. Malveaux.

"I also enjoyed learning the knowledge that the Catholic faith offers. The importance of visiting the Our Mother of Africa Chapel is important in order to appreciate our heritage, where we come from, and the progress we have made through the years," added Mr. Malveaux.

On Sunday, the group joined the congregation at St. Augustine Church, the oldest African-American church in Washington, D.C., for a rousing and spiritual Mass featuring the youth choir.

"I have lived a long time, and this is the first pilgrimage I have been on. I am 76 years old, and the older I get, the more I know I have to give God praise and thanks," said James Bingley from St. James Church in Concord. "Our people have had a lot of faith in the past. Now, we have to have twice as much in order to hold the race together."

For four sisters, the trip was a joyful yet solemn reminder of their mother. Thomasina Carr, Clara Patterson, Dolores Manigo, and Helen Johnson, parishioners of Our Lady of Consolation Church, reflected on the passing of their mother while on the trip.

"This trip has really brought her to mind because I know how much she would have loved to have been a part of this pilgrimage," said Johnson. "The trip itself has been such an inspiration and has reminded me of how she taught us to be good Catholics."

Herb and Mary Pahren, parishioners at St. John the Baptist in Tryon, had been to the shrine 44 years ago during their honeymoon trip. They summed up the feelings of the majority of those who traveled to the shrine: "The Blessed Mother is the patronness of the United States, and the United States is a melting pot of all cultures, and this shrine shows the religious significance of each culture. ▼

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Court takes case involving prayer at high school games

By Nancy Hartnagel
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court Nov. 15 agreed to hear an appeal in a Texas case that will decide whether student-led prayer before public school football games violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

The case, Santa Fe Independent School District vs. Doe, involves a suburban Houston school district and two families — one Catholic and one Mormon — who in 1995 sued the school district over its policies regarding prayer.

Anthony Griffin, the Galveston attorney representing the families, said the original lawsuit was prompted by the parents' unhappiness over "a series of incidents" in a predominantly Baptist school environment that discriminated against their children.

Speaking by phone Nov. 16 with Catholic News Service, Griffin said one of the Mormon children had asked a teacher about attending a Baptist revival that was announced in school.

"She was told, basically, 'you can't come, your religion is a cult,'" he said.

He also said the Catholic parents objected to their children's public school, in effect, teaching religion and "having prayers every morning."

After the parents complained about morning prayers, he said, one of their children was taken to sit on the school steps during prayer time and then was returned to the classroom.

Griffin noted that pre-football prayer was just one of several issues in "a wide-ranging pattern" that prompted the lawsuit.

In 1995, four students were involved in the case, he said. Currently, two students are involved because the other two have graduated from high school.

According to local press reports in Texas, the school district's policies allowed students to deliver any "message" or "invocation" over the public address system at home football games and to lead prayers at graduation ceremonies.

A federal judge ruled in December 1996 that these policies were permissible only if students were told by school officials to keep their messages or prayers "nonsectarian and non-proselytizing."

But, both school officials and the students' families challenged that ruling.

Last February, a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans agreed in part with the federal judge's ruling, but found that student-led prayers at public high school football games are unconstitutional.

The appeals court panel said in a 2-1 decision that football games are "hardly the sober type of annual event that can be appropriately solemnized with prayer."

This ruling was upheld in April by a 9-7 vote of the full court.

In deciding to hear the school district's appeal, the Supreme Court limited its review to the issue of prayers at football games.

"I think it's amazing that now the only issue left in the case is football," Griffin told CNS. "The 5th Circuit opinion is some 40 pages long. Football was discussed in two paragraphs," he noted.

He said arguments in the case likely will be heard this term, after additional briefs have been filed by both sides. A decision could come by late June.

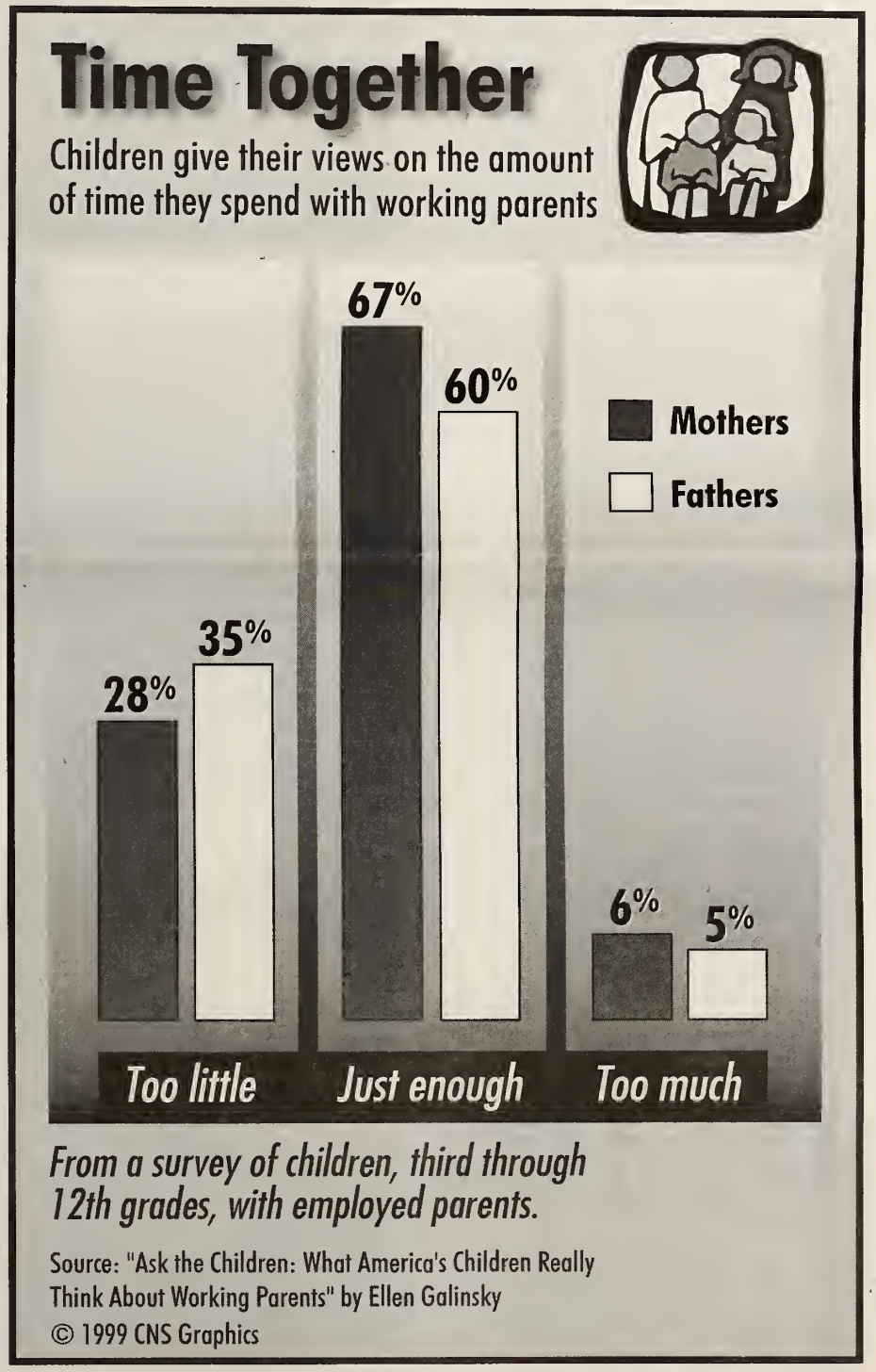
In his brief to the Supreme Court, Griffin wrote, "The fact that graduation prayer or prayer before footballs games is led by students does not diminish the pressure to religious conformity. If anything, it may increase it."

Commenting on the Supreme Court action, an official of the American Center for Law and Justice in Virginia Beach, Va., called the case "a critical free speech case."

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the public interest law firm, said in a Nov. 15 statement, "The decision today to hear the case clearly puts the issue of student-led and student-initiated prayer squarely before the Supreme Court.

"This is a critical free speech case that has national implications in every school district in America."

The high court's last major school-prayer ruling — Lee vs. Weisman in 1992 — barred clergy-led prayers, including invocations and benedictions, at public school graduation ceremonies. ▼



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Fire In The Mountains focuses on internalizing the faith

By Joanita M. Nellenbach
Correspondent

So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. He said to me, Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it. I ate it; and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey. (Ezekiel 3:2-3)

CLYDE - Internalizing the word of God - that was the idea behind Fire in the Mountains '99, held Nov. 13 at Haywood Community College.

Father David Valtierra, C.O., led some 150 attendees in discovering how to internalize the word. In his theme, "Be Still and Know Our Creator," Father Valtierra showed how to use Scripture to take God's word into oneself.

"Where are you on the journey of faith with the Lord?" Father Valtierra asked as he opened his morning session. "What have you brought in your heart to this gathering?"

Bishop William G. Curlin had already told the gathering what he had brought in his heart. Opening the program, Bishop Curlin stressed that Christ must be born in each person's heart.

"We wear religious symbols, but do we really believe that when we get up in the morning Christ rises in us?" Bishop Curlin asked.

After the bishop's remarks, Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, explained that the sixth annual Fire in the Mountains would be a day of Scriptural exploration.

"What is God telling us?" Villapando asked. "We want everyone here to eat the word of God so that we internalize it."

During a break in the program,

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Musicians perform during Fire in the Mountains '99,

Villapando said, "The thing we're trying to do is move to internalization .... We need to create a habit in people that unless they internalize the faith all these lectures will be just passing titillation. We can talk to people until they're blue in the face, but we cannot convert people or transform people unless they internalize the faith."

Father Valtierra showed how to foster such internalization.

He began by reading Genesis 2:4-25, the second creation story, after which he invited the attendees to reflect privately on how the passage had touched their lives. People closed their eyes and the auditorium became silent as they thought about what they had just heard.

After several minutes, Father Valtierra suggested ways of relating Scripture to life. For instance, in Genesis 2:7, God breathes live into "the man's" nostrils; this can be seen as a metaphor for the life of faith. "Where did you receive the breath of (faith) life?" Father Valtierra asked. "Who blew the breath of God into you? Sometimes we are the life givers, imaging God for others; sometimes we are the recipients."

Father Valtierra next read the story from 2 Kings of Elijah taking refuge in the cave and hearing God's voice — not in earthquakes, fire, and hurricanes, but in a "tiny whispering sound."

This, he said, reminds us to "experience listening - in the quiet presence of God, the invitation to be quiet and simply listen."

Attendees broke into small groups to discuss what they had discerned in their personal reflections, and later shared some of their thoughts with the whole group. Internalizing, some said, involved listening and trusting: "God is creating something new in us, being able to let go and let God be in control." There were also the ideas of ongoing creation, and that there must be a daily commitment of time to listen to God.

But it's not easy. One attendee remarked that it's "dangerous to say 'yes' to God, because you don't know what you're letting yourself in for."

In the afternoon, Father Valtierra read the Gospel of Mark story in which four men lower a paralytic through a roof so Jesus can heal him. The four men can be a metaphor for each person in the room, Father Valtierra said: "Their faith gesture is the same as you in your ministries. They're practical and hands-on. They do what needs to be done. They make it possible to get to Jesus, and I think that's the gesture of faith in the story."

In contrast, he said, when we resist Jesus we are like the scribes, who also resisted Jesus.

Talking about his own reflections on the discussions after the Scripture readings, one man said he had discovered the "possibility of spiritual intimacy with strangers."

"It opens up possibilities for the future," he added. "Why can't tomorrow be like that? Why can't every day be like that?" ▼

Wilson, from page 5

Some people don't even know where they're standing, and some people don't even know what religion means. They don't know what baptism means."

But today, she is happy. "Wilson has come a long, long ways since I came here. The town has grown, and people have come to a better understanding."

Every Sunday she goes to St. Therese, where she is considered a matriarch, says Atonement Sister Maxine Towns, director of African-American ministry. "The people of St. Therese just love her to death. They have always held her in high esteem,"

When it is time for her guests to leave her home, where she still lives alone, Miss Bessie offers to pray for them. "Every day of my life I put my life in God's hands. I know he's got it, and he will use it," she says.

Hands are shaken, hugs are given, and her guests get into the car. Miss Bessie sits down on her porch, covers her face with her hands, and begins to pray. ▼

Pope: Thanksgiving should be time of appreciation for creation

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope John Paul II said Thanksgiving should be a time to show renewed appreciation for God's gift of creation and the ``fruits of the earth."

``This observance should be an occasion to better appreciate the created world, which God entrusted to human beings so they could cultivate it and keep it as a precious gift," he said at an Angelus blessing Nov. 14, the day on which Italy marked its annual Thanksgiving celebration.

The pope said Thanksgiving, traditionally celebrated at harvest time, should highlight the special contribution made by farmers, many of whom are facing economic problems.

"We ask for a divine blessing on the countryside and the rural world, so that the Lord supports those who dedicate themselves to work in the fields," he said.

He expressed his esteem for all those employed in agriculture and his appreciation for the energy and commitment they bring to their work. ▼

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Volume 9 ▾ Number 13

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Hmong celebrate their New Year, welcome new catechist

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

MORGANTON — "Nyob zoo xyoo tshiab!" ("Happy New Year!") Hmong Catholics and others attending a special Hmong New Year Mass and celebration exchanged this greeting, along with the traditional eggs, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church on Sunday, Nov. 14. Many of the Hmong in attendance wore brightly colored native clothing elaborately decorated with beads that rattled and coins that jingled, adding to the music of the day.

The Hmong had more than the start of their New Year festival to celebrate. They were also rejoicing in the arrival of Pe Lee, the new Hmong catechist for the Diocese of Charlotte. Lee and his family moved from California to North Carolina at the end of July so that he could assume his new role.

"Hmong Catholics are concerned that they don't lose their culture, but they also want to remain faithful to Catholicism," said Father Bill Tanguay, director of Hmong and Lahu ministries for the diocese. "Mr. Lee is very good at these things." Father Tanguay and Father Ken Whittington of St. Charles Borromeo concelebrated the Mass, with Lee assisting. The Mass was mostly in the Hmong language, but parts of it were translated into English by Father Tanguay, and into Spanish by Father Whittington.

According to Father Tanguay, the Hmong have elaborate rituals for birth, death and marriage, and for their traditional celebrations. A large part of Lee's job is to combine these traditions with the traditions of the Catholic Church.

One example of this was Sunday's Mass and celebration. The group first

SEE HMONG NEW YEAR, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Pe Lee, catechist for the diocesan Hmong Ministry, shares a smile with his wife, Shoua Chang.

Arden parishioners blanket flood victims with concern, handiwork

By DIANNE RIGGS
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Colorful quilts will soon be making their way into the hands of people in the Goldsboro, N.C., area devastated by Hurricane Floyd flooding. The 15 quilts are the products of a "Quilting Bee" which meets weekly at St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

"We decided to give all our quilts made before Christmas to flood victims," said Kathleen O. Walsh, leader of the group.

After receiving a tag that says "May this quilt warm your body and soul. Made with loving care and prayers by St. Barnabas Quilters," the quilts will be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Goldsboro for distribution to individuals. "It is important to us that the quilts go directly into the hands of people who need them and not sit in a warehouse somewhere," said Walsh.

The quilts are part of a larger project that began in August of this year. Walsh, who found herself with an abundance of fabric and a love of quilting, decided to see if others in her church shared the same passion. Soon, four or five women gathered weekly to "tie" quilts which Walsh had assembled. In the beginning, quilts went to a foster group home and safe houses. But when the floods came, the group's direction changed for the rest of 1999.

Members joined for various reasons. Most wanted a constructive way to help people, as well as a place to learn new skills and to enjoy the camaraderie present at a "bee." "It's the old stewardship idea," said Walsh. "If you have a talent, use it."

The work goes fast. Members are able to turn out two tied quilts per meeting. "It is important that the quilts are pretty," said Walsh, who believes that people who have suffered need something not only useful, but beautiful in their lives. The quilts are made from simple patterns, but the fabric colors are coordinated carefully. They are also easy to care for, being washer and dryer ready.

"Any parish could do this," said member Mary DeGroot. "All have needs. And, it's a great way to socialize."

The quilters hope to increase their membership in the spring and expand their outreach to local nursing homes. ▾

Parishioners from St. Barnabas Church in Arden display their colorful handiwork destined for eastern North Carolina flood victims. Pictured from left, front row, are Laura Lillig, Kathleen O. Walsh, and Willie Hinkel; from left, back row, Mary DeGroot and Kathleen Frischmann.

PHOTO BY DIANNE RIGGS

Pro-life leaders praise abortion limitations in budget deal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life leaders are cheering a budget compromise between the White House and Congress over foreign-aid dollars for abortions and unpaid U.N. dues. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, called the deal a policy victory. Said Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee in Washington: "If the administration abides by the law, 96 percent of the population-control budget will be fenced off from groups that promote legalized abortion." In the compromise, the White House agreed to new statutory language restricting assistance to foreign family planning organizations that spend their own money to provide abortions or lobby for liberalized abortion rights in the countries where they operate.

Pittsburgh churches join in erecting replica of Vatican creche

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Eleven Christian faith communities, including the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, are working together to erect a replica of the Vatican creche in downtown Pittsburgh. To be dedicated at a blessing service Dec. 6, it is believed to be the world's first replica of the larger-than-life renderings of the Holy Family, the magi, shepherds, animals and a stable that grace St. Peter's Square in Vatican City each Christmas season. "We are very proud to sponsor this spiritually uplifting and striking display," said Father Ronald Lengwin, secretary for pastoral life in the Pittsburgh Diocese and staff for the Christian Leaders Fellowship, the Pittsburgh group that sponsors an annual Christmas festival in the city.

Efforts focus on food, shelter after Turkey's second quake

ISTANBUL, Turkey (CNS) — Relief efforts in Turkey, already moving into the reconstruction phase after an earlier earthquake, were refocused on emergency food and shelter after the country's second major quake in three months, said a Catholic Relief Services spokeswoman. CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, and Caritas, the church's local charitable agency, were coordinating efforts to meet the emergency needs of victims of the Nov. 12 earthquake, said Franne VanDerKeilen, communications associate, from Istanbul, the Turkish capital.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Holy sites close in protest of mosque

Christian pilgrims wait outside the closed doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher after finishing the Way of the Cross Nov. 22 in Jerusalem. The church and other Christian sites in Israel were closed for two days in protest of Israel's decision allowing a mosque to be built in the shadow of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Court takes case involving prayer at high school football games

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court Nov. 15 agreed to hear an appeal in a Texas case that will decide whether student-led prayer before public school football games violates the constitutional separation of church and state. The case, Santa Fe Independent School District vs. Doe, involves a suburban Houston school district and two families — one Catholic and one Mormon — who in 1995 sued the school district over its policies regarding prayer.

Indonesian bishops ask Catholics to build more humane nation

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Indonesia's bishops asked Catholics to become more involved in national life and to care for victims of violence and injustice in order to help build a more humane nation. Catholics are called to cooperate in building a democratic Indonesia that respects all groups and individuals, because "human dignity lies in the responsibility and participation to maintain a more humane common life," the bishops said in their mid-November pastoral message, "Let Us Change." The message urged Catholics to repent for any previous lack of involvement through transformation and reconciliation in their personal and social lives.

Second parish denied registration under Russia's religion law

MOSCOW (CNS) — A second Catholic parish in Russia's Volga region has been refused registration under the country's 1997 religion law, the parish's administrator said. "They are telling us that our parish charter does not conform to Russian law," said the administrator, Franz Payanovsky, in a telephone interview from Togliatti, an industrial city of 870,000 on the Volga River. Local Justice Ministry officials rejected the parish's application for the same reasons used in denying the application of a parish in Syzran, a smaller city in the same region of Samara. In both cases, the officials objected to a bishop having the right to control parish property.

Aid agency urges WTO to make reducing poverty a priority

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The Catholic aid agency CAFOD is urging the World Trade Organization to make poverty reduction a priority during its conference in Seattle at the end of November. The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, the official aid agency of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, is sending three staffers to the Seattle conference Nov. 30-Dec. 3. One of the three, George Gelber, chief policy analyst for CAFOD, told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 17 telephone interview that the Seattle conference should aim to help achieve international targets set for poverty reduction.

Yugoslav bishop tells of poor conditions, urges continued aid

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Yugoslav bishop said NATO bombing and sanctions had caused "very serious problems" for local people and urged foreign donors to continue giving aid. "The general economic situation is grave in Vojvodina and the rest of Yugoslavia," said Bishop Janos Penzes of Subotica. "Thanks to Caritas and other agencies, emergency supplies are still getting through," he added. In a Nov. 17 telephone interview, Bishop Penzes said hospitals in the Vojvodina region were still accepting patients and performing operations.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 3 — 7:30 am
Mass for the Order of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral
December 4 — 2 pm
Catholic Heritage Foundation
Mass and Dinner
Charlotte
December 5 — 7 pm
Address to Young Adult Group
St. Gabriel Church
December 8 — 9 am
Mass at Charlotte Catholic High School
7:30 pm
Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Holy Day of Obligation

Diocesan planner

November

30 CHARLOTTE — All adults are welcome to attend any or all of the workshops of the Advent Series on the Infancy Narratives, presented by Brother Joe Spindler, at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., from 7-8:30 p.m. starting tonight and continuing on Dec. 7 and 14. For details, call (704) 535-4197.

CLEMMONS — Tony O'Meara is hosting a six-week series of workshops beginning tonight at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., from 7-8:30 p.m. and continuing through the beginning of the year. Tonight's session is "The Kingdom of God and Repentance." The Advent sessions are as follows: "The Apocalyptic Writings of Scripture" on Dec. 7 and "Matthew's and Luke's Approaches to the Birth Narrative" on Dec. 14. The sessions for the New Year are as follows: "Genesis — Chapters 1-11" on Jan. 11, "Sin" on Jan. 18, and "God's Saving Plan" on Jan. 25. For further details, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

December

1 WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., is hosting an "Advent Evening of Recollection" with Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools for the Diocese of Charlotte, from 7-9:30 p.m. tonight. A free will donation will be taken during the talk. For details, call Joseph's House at (336) 722-0028.

3 BELMONT — The community is invited to hear the Belmont Abbey College Chorus Holiday Concert of sacred and spiritual music tonight at 8 p.m. in the Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. The chorus, which includes students, faculty and staff who perform each semes-

Charlotte principal receives honors from students and faculty

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Anyone acquainted with Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS), knows she is someone who is usually aware of what is going on in her school and what her students and faculty are doing at all times. There is a first time for everything.

At seventh period on Nov. 18, the participants walked stealthily into the gymnasium and sat in excitement as they waited for their guest-of-honor to arrive.

Much to the shock and astonishment of Sister Paulette, students, faculty, family, friends and fellow Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools principals gathered in the gymnasium to honor her with a surprise assembly and reception for her 20 years of service as an administrator.

"This was probably the first time I can remember that I was ever surprised," said Sister Paulette. "I was totally overcome and shocked to see everyone there, especially my parents and my brother. Usually, someone leaks the surprise, but this time I had no idea what was taking place."

Sister Act

Born and raised in Concord, Sister Paulette says that "the feeling to become a sister came to her often." That feeling led her to the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina in Belmont in 1969, when she entered the convent.

Mercy Sister Mary Andrew Ray, Motherhouse coordinator, said, "over the years, I have known Sister Paulette to be kind, caring and a good organizer. She was elected to be a member of the Regional Council, the governing body of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina. We are very proud of her, and she is definitely a leader among the sisters."

Class is in Session

Sister Paulette attended the former Sacred Heart College for a year before transferring to UNCC to obtain a bachelor's degree in math and moving on to Notre Dame University, where she received her master's degree in administration.

"Even before I decided to enter the convent, I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher," said Sister Paulette.

She spent five years teaching math and religion at CCHS, and when it was suggested that she try her hand at being an assistant principal, she decided that it was a direction in which she should go. When the position of principal became available, Sister Paulette simply followed the path in front of her.

She has received many awards during her years as principal: the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award in 1991, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Award of Merit in 1995, the Charlotte Jaycees Outstanding Educator Award for 1997-1998, and many others.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of diocesan schools, said, "I have had the pleasure of working with her for the past 10 years, and one of the most important accomplishments is her overseeing of putting together the new facility for CCHS."

"CCHS and the Sisters of Mercy have been my life. The beautiful people I have met along the way have been my gifts," Sister Paulette explained. "The ministry of education is one of giving and taking; that is the attraction for me. It is hard to look at this as a job because I come to be with family everyday."

"Her staff look at her as an excellent administrator, and progress is continually made for the students," continued Dr. Skube.

Much to Her Surprise...

Sister Paulette was treated to many added surprises throughout the assembly, held on Principals' Appreciation Day in honor of her 20 years as principal and 27 years working in CCHS. The jazz band, cheerleaders, dance squad, honors choir ensemble and the other students all helped to make the assembly a memorable one for their principal.

File photo by Joann S. Keane

Mercy Sister Paulette Williams

"Whoever was able to pull the assembly off without her knowing did a good job," said Sister Mary Andrew.

David Shoff, the school's music director, wrote a new alma mater for the occasion and had the honors choir ensemble perform the new school song.

A committee produced the idea and plans to have a scholarship in honor of the principal. The Sister Paulette Williams Scholarship Fund will be awarded annually to a senior who demonstrates a love of Catholic faith, a dedication to CCHS, service and a commitment to excellence, said Jennifer Johnson, the school's development director.

"Sister Paulette's vision and commitment to the needs of the students and faculty have given all who have passed through these halls the opportunity to be successful," said Johnson.

The students and faculty presented her with a plaque which reads: "CCHS honors Sister Paulette Williams, RSM, for twenty years of ministry through unwavering faith, leadership and perseverance towards excellence and a commitment to Catholic education."

Steve Carpenter, assistant principal, who served as master of ceremonies at the assembly, said, "It was unbelievable that we were able to surprise her. She is an extraordinary administrator and is someone who is usually three steps ahead of everyone. She has a wonderful vision for the school, keeps that in mind, and leads us all in that direction."

"I am amazed of all that she does. Her drive for excellence, compassion and the Catholic faith has always stood out," continued Carpenter. "She has an enormous ability to understand the needs of her students, faculty and staff, how to approach them, and how to adjust to everyone's needs properly."

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese, said, "Sister Paulette is an institution in this diocese. With 20 years as principal, she has the longest tenure as principal for CCHS and can be proud of her indelible mark on the many students she has seen graduate from the school."

"The assembly was the most special moment of my life," said Sister Paulette. "This community has always been very giving, and I feel extremely blessed to be ministering with people who are so caring." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

ter, is directed by Jocelyn Thompson and accompanied by Jackie Gallagher.
HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., is having a Latin Mass at 7 p.m. The rosary is being prayed at 6:30 p.m. with Benediction to follow the service. For details, call (336) 884-0244.
4 CHARLOTTE — Missionaries of the Poor Father Richard Ho Lung, who has been called the "Mother Teresa of the Caribbean" and founder of the Jamaica-based Missionaries of the Poor, is speaking at all Masses at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., today and tomorrow. Father Ho Lung is conducting a parish mission beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. and continuing through Dec. 7. For details, call Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej at (704) 543-7677, ext. 39.
LEXINGTON — For a time of spirituality and reflection, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is sponsoring Salesian Leadership Days, presented by Oblate Father Mike Murray, executive director of the DeSales Spirituality Center in Washington, D.C., today and tomorrow at all Masses, including a youth convocation Dec. 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. The mission will continue from Dec. 6 through Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. For Mass times or other information, call the church parish at (336) 248-2463.
LINCOLNTON — St. Dorothy Church, 148 St. Dorothy's Lane, is having a religious articles sale today and tomorrow at all Masses. Proceeds will go to the church's pro-life account. For Mass times, call the church office at (704) 735-5575. For ordering and other information, call Joan Jobin at (704) 276-1647.
MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., is having a "Cookie Walk for the Holidays," sponsored by the Ladies' Guild, this morning from 9 a.m.-noon in Murray Hall. For details, call the church office at (828) 437-3108.
5 CHARLOTTE — In preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., is hosting an "Advent Mission: Living the Gospel Today — Preparing for the New Millennium," conducted by Good News International, a Catholic lay ministry. Brent Heiser and Bill Wagner are the speakers tonight through Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and childcare are provided, and a love offering is going to be taken. For further information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.
6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having a bilingual charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Laying on of hands by Father Fidel Melo follows the Mass.
HIGH POINT — There is a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.
10 CHARLOTTE — A re-creation of Charles Weidman's modern dance classic "Christmas Oratorio," celebrating the birth of Christ with angels and featuring the music of J.S. Bach, is being presented by Dance Central tonight at 8 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. A second performance will be held tomorrow at 8 p.m. also at the church. For ticket, reservation and reduced group rate information, call (704) 330-4029.
11 HIGH POINT — In the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Gym, 605 Barbee Ave., children in grade five and under can have "Breakfast with Santa." This includes breakfast, a visit and a picture with Santa, craft tables, a children's Christmas shopping center and coffee and doughnuts for parents. Call Sharon Kafana at (336) 841-0933 for more information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Pope canonizes new saints, including 10 Spanish Civil War martyrs

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II canonized 12 new saints, including 10 victims of the Spanish Civil War, and said they offered spiritual lessons for all modern Christians.

The pope appeared tired as he presided over the two-hour-long liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica Nov. 22, the last canonization ceremony of the 20th century.

With the latest group, the pope has named 296 saints in his 21-year pontificate, almost as many as were named by his predecessors combined since modern saint-making rules were established in the 16th century.

The 10 martyrs were all priests or brothers working in Spanish schools during the 1930s when extremist members of a Marxist rebel movement led attacks against priests and religious. St. Cirilo Bertran and eight fellow members of the Christian Brothers, and St. Inocencio de La Inmaculada, a Passionist priest, were all shot to death.

In a sermon, the pope said the martyrs were not war heroes but witnesses of the faith, who with their deaths gave "the last lesson of their lives."

The pope also canonized St. Tommaso da Cori, an Italian Franciscan well-known as a preacher and confessor until his death in 1729, and St. Benedetto Menni, an Italian member of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, who in the late 1800s founded an order of nuns who worked in hospitals.

Among the 11,000 people attending the Mass was Argentine President Carlos Menem, who traveled to Rome for the canonization of the country's first native-born saint. St. Hector Valdivielso Saez, one of the Christian Brothers martyred in Spain, was born in Buenos Aires to Spanish immigrants who later returned to Spain.

The pope, who has walked with increasing difficulty in recent weeks, proceeded slowly up the aisle of the basilica at the beginning of the Mass. He looked fatigued and coughed several times during the liturgy.

Later, addressing pilgrims from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square, he appeared frustrated that a costumed group of musicians and flag-wavers continued their performance as he was trying to speak. He rapped his lectern twice and raised his voice to a shout in order to make himself heard. ▼

Decisions at a Glance

National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Some actions taken by the U.S. bishops during their Nov. 15-18 meeting:

General interest

- Adopted a set of norms to implement "Ex Corde Ecclesia," Pope John Paul II's 1990 exhortation on Catholic higher education
- Approved "Blessings of Age," a pastoral message about ministry involving the elderly
- Agreed to release "In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium," calling Catholics to greater involvement in charity and justice
- Approved a pastoral plan for adult faith formation
- Agreed upon messages for the jubilee year
- Moved to establish May 10 as an optional memorial for Blessed Damien of Molokai
- Discussed a proposed new document on church art and architecture
- Endorsed efforts for the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador and Redemptorist Father Francis X. Seelos, who ministered in New Orleans

Internal matters

- Approved a $52.7 million budget for 2000 and a diocesan assessment increase of 1.6 percent in 2001
- Sent revised guidelines for concelebration of the Eucharist and on norms for admission of seminarians who left other seminaries for final approval by the Vatican
- Discussed a draft of a plan for ongoing formation of priests
- Elected Bishop Henry J. Mansell as new NCCB-USCC treasurer, and Msgr. William P. Fay as general secretary-elect

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Bishops approve tighter church control of Catholic Colleges

Ex Corde Ecclesiae: NCCB returns document to Vatican for final approval

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — American bishops reached consensus during their November meeting on 75 specific elements of a document that could relegate the orthodoxy of Catholic higher education to local bishops.

While the 223-31 vote on Nov. 15 sends two decades of debate back to the Vatican for sanction, it concludes the latest round of dialogue between the Vatican and the nations' bishops on the development of theological standards for the nation's 235 church-affiliated universities and colleges.

The document does not place bishops at the helm of college and university governance. Rather, the directive could institute a mandate [or endorsement] for professors of theology and theologians from the local bishop.

In this diocese, where Belmont Abbey College is the only Catholic college between the District of Columbia and Florida, a mandate could place Belmont Abbey's theological direction under the discretion of Bishop William G. Curlin.

Belmont Abbey College has been an institution in Belmont since 1886. And while the college has undergone changes throughout its century of service, what has remained constant is its commitment to its Benedictine roots.

Though this document out of Washington may contain some of the most hotly contested issues among Catholic institutions of higher education, it's the way of life for Belmont Abbey, where Scripture and Introduction to Theology are required courses for graduation.

"In the practical sense it will have little effect on Belmont Abbey," said Dr. Robert Preston, the college president. "What this affects is the teaching of theology," he says, adding, all of Belmont Abbey's full time theology faculty are practicing Catholics.

"The local ordinary is responsible for whomever gets up in the pulpit and preaches or teaches in the name of the Church," says Preston. This document is simply a logical application if you're going to have a Catholic university with Catholic theologians.

Faculty and administration of the Belmont college "recognize its responsibility to search for understanding in the context of the Scriptural message as it comes to us through the Church," states the college mission statement. "This requires constant application of the intellect and careful study of the human experience, together with reflection on, and reverence for, God. In its curriculum, the College exposes students to many of the world's major problems and helps them develop a responsible social consciousness guided by Catholic teaching."

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Marcy Sister Sharon Euart, associate general secretary for the U.S. bishops' conference, collects bishops' votes on a document spelling out new norms for Catholic higher education. The bishops overwhelmingly approved the new norms Nov. 17 at their fall annual meeting in Washington.

Conventional wisdom traces the roots of ecclesiastical involvement at the college level back to the 1960s, when some Catholic colleges and universities sought independence from church authority. In the years that ensued, the topic of has been embraced, rejected, supported and scorned.

It's been 20 years since the Vatican instituted dialogue, seeking norms — worldwide — for Catholic universities and colleges. This request for consistency came from a then-newly elected Pope John Paul II.

In 1983, the new Code of Canon Law included a new law saying those who teach theological subjects in institutes of higher learning need a mandate to teach from the competent ecclesiastical authority.

The first draft for 49 educational norms for higher education was issued in 1985, and was received with a flurry of controversy. Three years later, a second draft received more favorable response, but the number of norms increased to 72.

In 1990, Pope John Paul II issued "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" [From the Heart of the Church], an apostolic constitution on higher education. The document set general norms for Catholic colleges and universities and colleges around the world, but requested bishop conferences around the world to establish local implementation in light of civil laws and conditions as applicable in their nation or state.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the U.S. spent a substantial portion of this decade in dialogue with Catholic higher education leaders. In 1995, a near-unanimous vote by the bishops sought to implement Ex Corde Ecclesiae, by stating principals of mutual trust, cooperation and continuing dialogue between bishops and educators as a means of achieving the vision and goals of Catholic higher education as written in the papal text. Rome quickly rejected the American document, saying it clearly lacked juridical binding norms.

While this November's conference approved a revised document, the U.S. norms still require the papal seal of approval.

"At the Abbey, we're going to follow Catholic moral teachings...," says Preston. "It's always been that way." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

Read it online

The final draft adopted by the bishops is available on the Internet at www.nccbuscc.org/bishops/excorde.htm.

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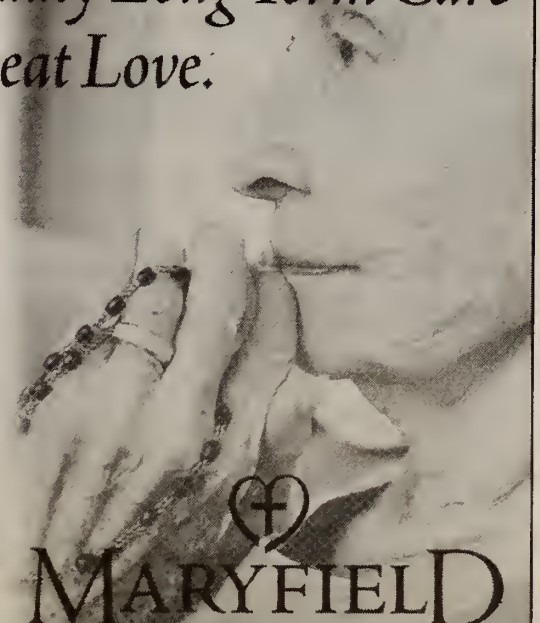

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Prayer, support needed in wake of Vietnam floods, priest says

CHARLOTTE — The victims of the worst flooding in a century in Vietnam are in tremendous need of prayers, financial support and medical outreach, a priest serving the Vietnamese community in Charlotte said. Father Peter Tan Van Le, pastor of St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Church in south Charlotte, said the flooding that ravaged eight provinces in central Vietnam earlier this month has stricken thousands with disease, hunger and a ruined infrastructure. The floods killed some 600 people and caused damage estimated at $250 million. "It's an underdeveloped part of the country, and many cannot reach out to their own people," Father Le said of many parts of the flood zone. "Some people are far from the cities; people are dying hungry." St. Joseph Church was to take three second collections by month's end to contribute to the relief effort.

Plane crash leaves people wanting spiritual answers

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — In the aftermath of a tragedy like the EgyptAir crash, people are left looking for spiritual direction and a way of making sense of what has happened, said a Pittsburgh pastor who is also an FBI chaplain. "It goes to show what happens when real people look at life with defenses down," Father Joseph McCaffrey said in an interview with the Pittsburgh Catholic, diocesan newspaper. "It shows there is a spiritual sense to human beings that cannot be ignored." Father McCaffrey, pastor of St. James the Apostle in New Bedford, spent a week in Newport, R.I., in his role as a volunteer chaplain for the FBI's Employee Assistance Program.

Top U.S. Lutheran bishop praises Augsburg accord

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hailed the Oct. 31 signing of the Catholic-Lutheran joint declaration on justification as "a testimony to the distance we have come in my lifetime." Lutheran Bishop H. George Anderson, in a Nov. 17 address to the U.S. Catholic bishops during their fall general meeting in Washington, said, "Just as I thought I would never live to see the year 2000, I never thought I would live to see Lutherans and Catholics coming together like this." The joint declaration, called the Augsburg accord by some, says that Lutherans and Catholics have reached a consensus on the subject of justification by God.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Former student mourns dead in Texas bonfire collapse
Former University of Texas A&M student Rebecca Hoagland prays Nov. 21 next to 12 crosses representing the victims from the Nov. 18 collapse of a bonfire structure in College Station, Texas. At least 11 people were killed in the accident. The structure was built for a traditional bonfire lit for a game against rival University of Texas.

Salvadorans mark 10th anniversary of Jesuit murders

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Ten years after their deaths, the six Jesuit priests murdered by the Salvadoran army for their promotion of social justice shine "like beacons ... transmitting their ideals and dreams," said a Vatican official. "They lived full lives ... transmitting their ideals of a country of justice. They showed us a motive for living," said Archbishop Giuseppe Pittau, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. The archbishop gave the homily Nov. 16 at an open-air Mass on the grounds of the Jesuit-run Central American University in San Salvador, where the priests were killed.

Pope says health care providers must help society's poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Though health care providers face increasing economic challenges, they must guarantee care for society's poor and defenseless, said Pope John Paul II. "It is not tolerable that the limitation of economic resources, experienced today to different degrees, primarily affects the weaker segments of the population and the less wealthy areas of the world, depriving them of necessary health care," the pope told participants in a Vatican-organized conference on health care Nov. 19.

Burundi crisis demands global help, says British Catholic agency

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The English bishops' aid agency is calling for international help for the humanitarian crisis in Burundi. Julian Filochowski, director of the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, or CAFOD, said more than 300,000 people had been rounded up from their homes in the capital, Bujumbura, and forced to live in camps during a recent security operation by the Burundi government. "A human tragedy is unfolding in Burundi, far away from the gaze of the media and the international community," Filochowski said in a Nov. 17 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. He had just returned from a 10-day tour of the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Vatican appeals for more aid in clearing land mines

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican appealed Nov. 19 for more international assistance to programs to clear land mines and help their victims.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, nuncio to the United Nations, said many of the countries where the problem was most severe would need outside support, and said programs of international aid should include funding for this purpose.

He noted that many victims of mines that had exploded were children with "very special long-term needs." In many cases, the countries where these children live will be unable to meet their needs unless help comes from outside, he said.

Speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, the archbishop also called for an immediate stop to use of land mines. "It is an unbelievable and inhuman paradox that mines are still being laid, even in places where they had already been cleared," he said.

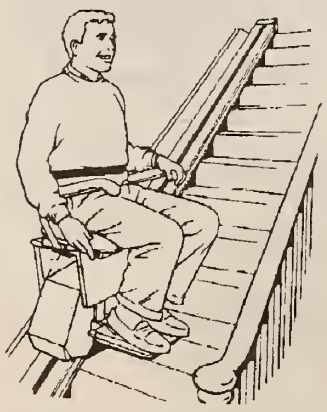
Archbishop Martino quoted a statement by Pope John Paul II on Feb. 28, the day before the Convention on the Prohibition of Land Mines went into effect, noting that the Vatican had ratified it and calling the convention "a victory of the culture of life over the culture of death."

The Clinton administration declined to sign the convention, commonly known as the Ottawa treaty for the city where it was signed in December of 1997, and said land mines were still needed to provide security for some areas, particularly South Korea.

Archbishop Martino told members of the General Assembly that the land-mines issue was a moral question, and not merely a political matter.

Calling land mines "both the seeds and fruit of war," he said they affected "the very life and dignity of countless people."

Although land mines are small, they are capable of "blocking the path to peace and development," he said. ▼



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Introspection, community stream from Living Waters

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Augustinians probably didn't think of it that way, but a statement in their general chapter in June 1998 heralded the order's new foundation. Not three months after that meeting, friars arrived in Maggie Valley to staff St. Margaret Church and Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.

The statement — "To look at nature as God's work is to do theology; to call for respect for it and its enjoyment by all is to practice justice and solidarity" — is carried out daily in the hospitality that is a hallmark of the Order of St. Augustine. And since Living Waters is only a few miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, visitors to the reflection center can look at nature in some of its most glorious aspects and in an atmosphere that fosters introspection and community.

"I think people need a time and place where they can experience God; if people can give themselves that time, they benefit spiritually, mentally, and emotionally," said Brother Bill Harkin, Living Waters' associate director. "Just living here in the mountains, God is visualized much more. I'm a city person, but I'm just in awe when I look out the windows and see what God has created."

What God has created is the valley holding Living Waters. Jonathan Creek tumbles over rocks as it flows past the retreat center, built more than a quarter of a century ago by William Murphy. For a while, the building was a motel, then a motel and retreat center. It became a full-time retreat center in 1980.

Mr. William Murphy, who became Father William Murphy, was pastor at St. Margaret Church for 19 years until his death at age 99 in 1991. Until 1998, Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, staffed Living Waters. Sister Jane Schmenk headed the reflection center's staff from 1976 to 1998.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

St. Margaret Catholic Church sits just above Living Waters.

"I think people need a time and place where they can experience God; if people can give themselves that time, they benefit spiritually, mentally, and emotionally," said Brother Bill Harkin, Living Waters' associate director.

"This place would not exist if it weren't for Father Murphy and Sister Jane," said Father Terry Hyland, director.

Living Waters' staff consists of Father Hyland, Brother Bill, and Father Frank Doyle, St. Margaret's pastor. The Augustinians are building on the work begun by their predecessors.

It's all about "finding God in friendship, finding God within, finding God in dialogue and conversation — that's very Augustinian," Father Hyland said.

Retreats are held year round with 24 scheduled from Dec. 31, 1999, through Nov. 12, 2000. Titles include "Conscious Breathing: Taking a Journey to Wholeness," "Our Hearts are Restless Until They Rest in You," "Augustinian Spirituality for Today's World," and "Soul Medicine for Speed Sickness."

Given Living Waters' setting, a variety of nature retreats are included in the list: "Recreate in Us A New Spirit, Lord," "Be Still and Know That I Am God," and "Drink the Living Water," are just some of the subjects available.

In addition, the center has scheduled more than 20 retreats for groups from around the country, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Engaged Encounters, and the annual retreats for priests from the Dioceses of Charlotte, N.C., and Knoxville, Tenn., and the Oratorians from Rock Hill, S.C.

"The challenge," Brother Bill said, "is to keep changing the programs to meet people's needs without losing what we have that people come back for year after year.

Apparently Living Waters is doing just that. More than 4,500 visitors spent time there this year. Some, such as Tom and Nancy Sparacino, come back again and again. The Sparacinos, parishioners at St. Lawrence in Asheville, have made about a dozen retreats in the last six years. Tom was at Living Waters just last month for an Emmaus team leaders retreat.

"Father Terry is just wonderful, very spiritual, a great facilitator," Tom said. "And the center is just gorgeous. Every time I go there I feel like I'm going home. I feel that's where I met Jesus."

One of Living Waters' advantages is its size; 55 is the maximum number who can stay at the center at one time. "We're small," Father Hyland said. "You could bring 20 or 30 people here and have a very nice retreat."

Another advantage is a new facility. The house which was home to the Franciscans has become a hermitage named Lecceto — named after an Augustinian hermitage for cloistered nuns, one of the order's oldest foundations, in Lecceto, Italy. Five people can stay there, or it could be used for one-day meetings. Sitting above both Living Waters and St. Margaret, it offers a spectacular view of Maggie Valley and the surrounding mountains.

All who come, whether to stay at Living Waters' main facility or at Lecceto up the hill, will find a respite from the crush of the busy world.

"We want to provide a welcoming place for people to talk about God within themselves and with others," Brother Bill said. ▼

For more information, write to Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751; call (828) 926-3833; or e-mail LWCRC@MAIN.NC.US.

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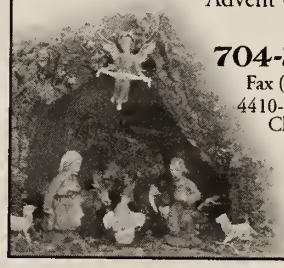
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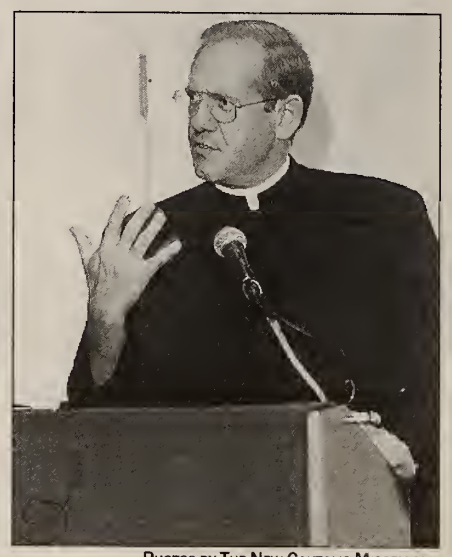
Life's work of Cardinal Bernardin examined at lectures

By JORDAN McMORROUGH
The New Catholic Miscellany

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The inaugural Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Lectureship, held at the University of South Carolina to honor the life of legacy of Cardinal Bernardin, featured perhaps the three persons most qualified to speak on the cardinal's life.

Three lectures on Nov. 18 from Msgr. Kenneth Velo, Father J. Bryan Hehir, and Eugene Kennedy, offering their personal reflections and a focus on the book, "On Common Ground," enabled attendees to better understand and appreciate Cardinal Bernardin's accomplishments.

And while the event was held primarily to honor the life and legacy of the cardinal, funds were also being raised to established a chaired faculty position in Cardinal Bernardin's name at the University of South Carolina, an effort that began before his death.



Photos by The New Cahtolic Miscellany

Msgr. Kenneth Velo was one of three speakers at the University of South Carolina's inaugural Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Lectureship on Nov. 18. The lecture series offered reflections on the accomplishments of the cardinal during his life.

Msgr. Kenneth Velo: "This Man Bernardin ... Was a Gift of Peace"

Following his introduction by Elaine Addison, Cardinal Bernardin's sister, Msgr. Velo initially described the cardinal as "a teacher, administrator, ecumenical leader, priest, bishop, cardinal, brother, friend."

However, he stressed that the cardinal always prefaced his remarks by saying, "I come to speak to you as a pastor."

Msgr. Velo served as Cardinal Bernardin's executive assistant from 1985 to 1994 and was one of the cardinal's closest friends during his ministry in Chicago. The cardinal himself requested that the monsignor offer the homily at his funeral Mass.

In an opening lecture in which he used imaginative photographs to chronicle the life of Cardinal Bernardin, Msgr. Velo talked of the young Joseph growing up in Columbia at the height of Depression. Following his father's death from cancer, his mother Maria worked long hours as a seamstress at Fort Jackson. "He knew the feeling of being poor," the monsignor emphasized.

As he got older, Joseph worked as an orderly at Providence Hospital, and later thought of a career in medicine. However, he was called to the vocation of the priesthood, and was ordained in 1952 to serve the church in the Diocese of Charleston. He taught at Bishop England High School and later worked in the Chancery offices as vicar general, vocations director, archives curator, and cemetery director.

On April 26, 1966, Joseph Bernardin was ordained as the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. There he served as chancellor and pastor of the cathedral parish. Later, in 1968, he was appointed to be the general secretary of the newly restructured National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. After five years, he was called to serve the Church in Cincinnati as archbishop. Then, 10 years later, he was appointed archbishop of Chicago by Pope John Paul II.

"1982 ushered in a new era of leadership for the church in Chicago as Charleston's son became Chicago's gift," said Msgr. Velo. "Cardinal Bernardin brought out hidden issues through brutal honesty. That honesty brought out the truth."

The monsignor described the November 1994 allegations of sexual abuse by former seminarian Stephen Cook against Cardinal Bernardin as, "the worst of times, and the best of times. It was the worst, but maybe the best came out," said Msgr. Velo, who elaborated on how the cardinal handled the situation publicly and later reconciled with Cook after the allegations were dropped.

Dealing publicly with another difficult circumstance, the monsignor recalled how Cardinal Bernardin spoke to the family of the Archdiocese of Chicago following his diagnosis of terminal cancer of the pancreas.

"He told us what was happening in his heart," said the president of the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Msgr. Velo then emotionally described how the cardinal "slipped away" on Nov. 14, 1996, saying the cardinal thought it would be like being home.

"He had an uncommon common touch. He had an uncommon common sense," the monsignor said in summing up his mentor's life. "He shared all of himself. He died too soon."

Father J. Bryan Hehir "Cardinal Bernardin: The Church and Public Policy"

In his talk, Father Hehir, professor of the practice of religious and society at Harvard Divinity School and faculty associate at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, described his working relationship with Cardinal Bernardin from 1973 until his death.

Father Hehir's writing and research engage issues of ethics, foreign policy, and international relations, as well as Catholic social ethics, all areas in which he consulted and advised the cardinal for more than two decades.

"He was a pastor who was a churchman. He had an enormous capability to forge policy in the church," said Father Hehir of Cardinal Bernardin. "At the bishops' meetings he was a person to be dealt with. The cardinal was the man to see."

The recently appointed chair of the executive committee at Harvard Divinity School described the public life of Cardinal Bernardin in three stages:

- 1968 to 1978 — Dearden/Bernardin period
- 1979 to 1989 — Center stage
- 1990 to 1996 — Return to primacy of the cardinal as pastor

After Vatican II, Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit asked a young Bishop Bernardin to come to Washington to set up the newly redesigned National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Father Hehir. In that role, he dealt with issues surrounding the Vietnam War and the Roe vs. Wade decision.

In the decade of the '80s, Cardinal Bernardin was at center stage, Father Hehir said. "It was remarkable in the way he carried it off, dealing with issues of the new Cold War, post-Vietnam debate, Central American wars, domestic policy, and abortion debate."

Following the 1980 bishops' meeting, Cardinal Bernardin was asked to chair an ad hoc committee on War and Peace, and that committee proved to be a case study of his leadership, said Father Hehir, who served in Washington at the U.S. Catholic Conference from 1973 to 1992.

"His mandate developed into full scale public policy analysis. It started a national conversation about the nuclear question," said the former director of the Office of International Affairs for the bishop's conference. "It became a major case study in religion and public life. It also raised questions in the universal church."

Then, in December 1983, one month after he was named chair of the bishop's Pro-Life Committee, Cardinal Bernardin gave a speech at Fordham University in New York where he first promoted the consistent ethic of life.

"How you defined the sacredness of human life was not one threat, but several. It was more than an ad hoc response to a moral question. It was complicated and not without risk," said Father Hehir, who has also served the U.S. bishops as counselor for social policy. "It's (the consistent ethic of life) always been a complicated sell. There are questions whether you can create a coherent policy around it."

Dr. Eugene Kennedy "Joseph, My Brother"

In his evening presentation at St. Peter's Church, the parish where Cardinal Bernardin was baptized, the cardinal's primary biographer said, "My brother Joseph was your brother Joseph. I was fortunate to be his friend."

Kennedy has authored four books on the late Cardinal Bernardin: My Brother, Joseph, a memoir of their friendship; This Man Bernardin, essays written to accompany John White's photographs of Cardinal Bernardin's Chicago years and the subsequent book of his final years; and Cardinal Bernardin, a biography of Bernardin's life, as well as conflicts and issues of his career.

Following an invocation by retired Bishop David B. Thompson, Kennedy said he thought Cardinal Bernardin would be elected pope someday, "but he had a greater calling.... He was called to live in our presence the life of Jesus. To be a saint for our times."

A professor of psychology at Loyola University Chicago for more than 25 years, Kennedy said the cardinal was the intellectual leader of Catholicism for the last quarter century. ▼

Jordan McMorrough is editor of The New Catholic Miscellany, the newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

"He had an uncommon common touch. He had an uncommon common sense. He shared all of himself. He died too soon."

— Msgr. Kenneth Velo

African-American ancestors and saints remembered at Mass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — In African history, the various tribes used drums as a form of communication and a way to call the attention of a nearby village. Similarly, percussion instruments served as a "call to worship" in the second annual African-American Mass held at St. Pius X Church on Nov. 21.

In celebration of African-American Catholic History Month, the Catholic campus ministry of North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) and Bennett College and the Women's Friendship Club of St. Mary Church sponsored a Mass with the theme "Celebrating the Church in the African Diaspora."

"The purpose of the Mass is to give honor to our ancestors and to teach," explained Alberta Hairston, campus minister of NC A&T and Bennett College. "People, especially our students, need to know that they are part of history and the Church."

Michael Roberto, instructor of history at NC A&T, who attends St. Pius X Church, played the wood drums and other percussion instruments to begin the Mass.

"Percussion adds a spiritual dimension to the Mass which is vital to the celebration," said Roberto.

Hairston presented the introduction from Dr. Ben Jamal Ali's video series "The Triple Heritage": "The beginning of wisdom is to know who you are... Way back before slave days, we were in one huge village called Africa... But now we are scattered so widely the sun never sets on the descendants of Africa..."

In remembrance of the people of African descent in the Catholic Church, a "roll call of ancestors" was read with a background of colorful banners depicting the continents and the countries where slaves were transplanted and the descendants of those original slaves were born. Africa, Europe, South America, the Caribbean and North America were designated with many familiar names: St. Augustine, Blessed Josephine Bahkita, St. Benedict the Moor, Pierre Toussaint, St. Martin de Porres, Archbishop James T. Lyke of Atlanta and Sister Thea Bowman.

Genea Mobley, an elementary education graduate student at NC A&T who made the banners for the Mass, said, "People of African descent need to know that they have a place in the history of the Catholic Church."

"The banners are a visible reminder of where we come from. The roll call brings in the idea that Africans were brought not only to the United States but to all corners of the world," said Hairston. "This shows that from day one, we chose to be a part of the Church."

The Holy Cross Church Gospel Choir from Durham, N.C. led the procession with Father Paul Williams from St. Anthony of Padua Church in Greenville, S.C., as the celebrant.

In his homily, Father Williams said, "We are called by God to share with others, to willingly give of self and time, and to share the gifts God has given us. God's sovereignty demands that we strive to build up the kingdom of God, and every one of those ancestors gave their sovereignty to God."

Father Williams then led the congregation into an impromptu singing of "Amazing Grace," complete with choir and piano accompaniment.

"We are trying to take in all types of cultures," said Roxanne Jacot from St. Paul the Apostle Church on Greensboro. "This African-American celebration was very moving and spiritual, and the music was inspiring."

St. Pius X parishioners the Nsonwu family dressed in African attire, brought the gifts to the altar: "In the Catholic Church, many people don't know how many African-Americans and Africans have dedicated their lives to the Church and how important a Mass like this is to everyone," said Victor Nsonwu.

"This represents me as a black Catholic. I feel like I have been 'to church' when I attend a Mass like this because it goes to my soul," said William Boyers of St. Mary Church in Greensboro.

In 1990, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus decided to designate November as African-American Catholic History Month because of the amount of important events that have taken place in the month of November, such as the feast of St. Martin de Porres, the only saint of African descent in the Western Hemisphere, on Nov. 3 and the birth of St. Augustine, the first doctor of the Church from North Africa on Nov. 13. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

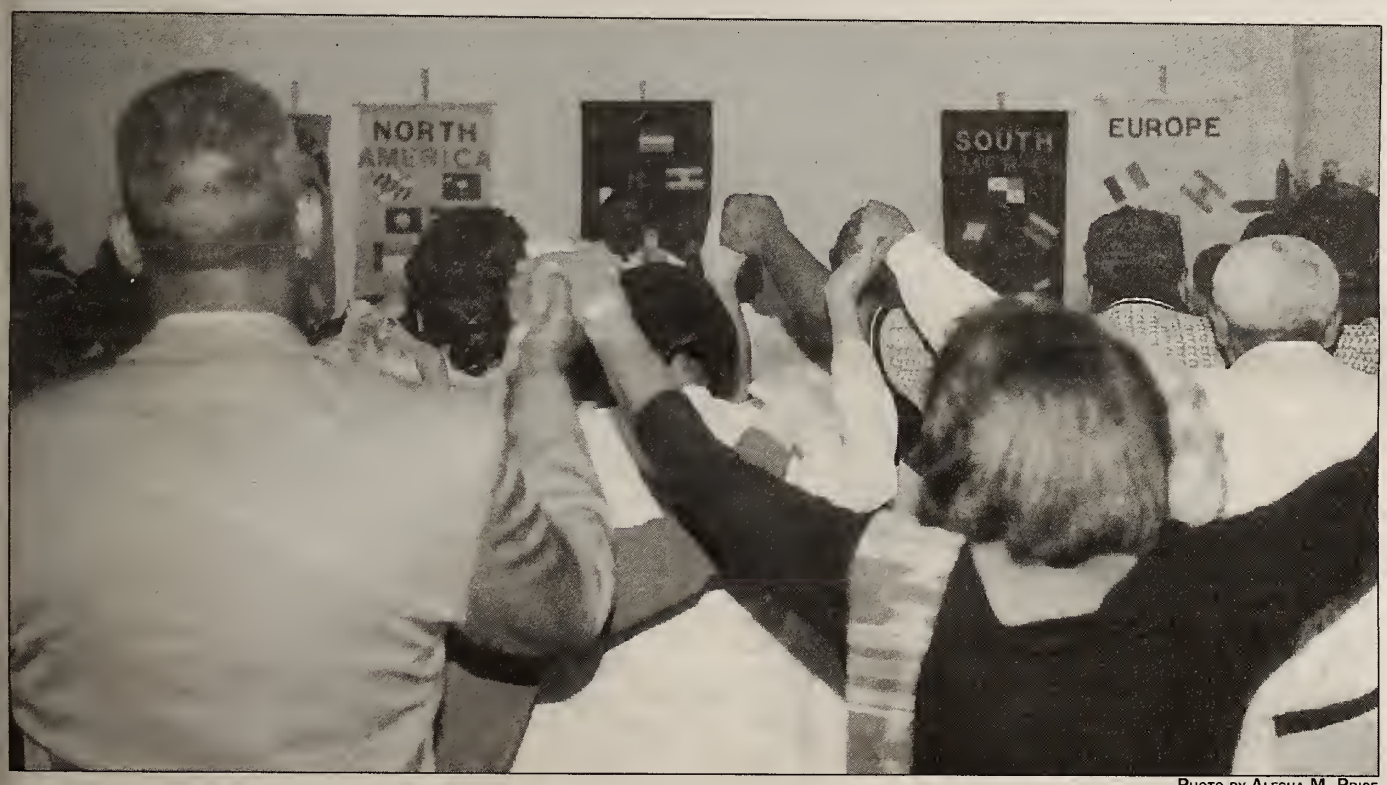
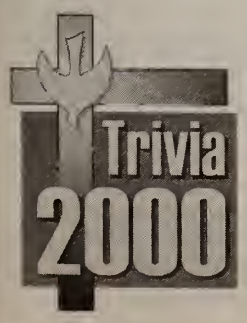


Photo by Alesha M. Price

Participants join hands during the Our Father in the November 21 second annual African-American Mass held at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. This year's theme was "Celebrating the Church in the African Diaspora."

Trivia 2000: World church bells ring on Vatican jubilee Web site

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If something about the Vatican's official jubilee year Web site has a familiar ring, it might be a recently added page with the sound of church bells from around the world.



"Bells for Peace" is the page's title, and it features recent papal writings on the subject.

A map of the globe shows more than a dozen red dots on which cyberpilgrims can click. With the right software, they will hear church chimes from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. There are five church bell tunes available from North America.

The site's other offerings include information for potential year 2000 visitors to Rome. Gospel readings for each day and copies of major Vatican documents are also available. The text is written in several languages, including English.

New book by priest-editor examines meaning of Christmas symbols

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (CNS) — "The Greatest Gift of All: Reflections and Prayers for the Christmas Season" by Father Mark G. Boyer, offers seasonal reflections, biblical quotations, prayers based on Psalms and has suggestions for evoking holiday memories.

Father Boyer, editor of The Mirror, newspaper of the Diocese Springfield-Cape Girardeau, has written individual meditations on the religious significance of bells, cards, holly, kings and reindeer, but he also focuses on Mary, Joseph, Jesus, St. Nicholas and other figures from the Christmas story and religious tradition.

The author, who has written 17 other books on biblical and liturgical spirituality, also explains the spiritual meaning found in ornaments, cookies, wreathes and camels.

There are 42 exercises arranged in alphabetical order. Each exercise includes a title, a selection from Scripture, a prayer, and an activity, called a "memories exercise."

In the introduction, Father Boyer says that the exercises are meant to help the readers connect God with the celebration of Christmas and to encourage personal contemplation and personal record keeping about personal experiences of Christmas.

The book also contains a section called "Blessings for Advent and Christmastime." ▼

Book Review

Haught addresses conversation between science and theology

REVIEWED BY JESUIT FATHER CHARLES L. CURRIE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

John Haught has once again made a significant contribution to the contemporary conversation between science and theology. In previous books he found an element of purpose behind the workings of the universe ("The Cosmic Adventure," 1984), challenged the ecological insensitivity of many theologians ("The Promise of Nature," 1993), and provided a masterful roadmap on science and religion's journey from conflict to conversation ("Science and Religion," 1995). Now in "God After Darwin," arguably his most important book thus far, he develops a theology that is very comfortable with — and is indeed enriched by — an understanding of evolution.

"God After Darwin"
By John Haught
Westview Press (Boulder, Colo., 1999), 224 pp. $25.00

Very importantly, he does not make the mistake of building his theology on evolution, but rather shows how an understanding of evolution can suggest fresh ways of thinking about God, ways that are sometimes rediscoveries of a forgotten biblical theology.

Haught faults both the "intelligent design" and materialist interpretations of evolution for suppressing a vibrant sense of life's openness to new creation. For him, God is less concerned with imposing a design on the continuing creation of the universe than with providing it with opportunities to participate in its own creation. Darwin's challenge turns out to be a great gift to theology by awakening a fresh way of thinking about the central claims of traditional theistic faith.

Haught proposes a theological engagement with neo-Darwinism that he calls "evolutionary theology." The otherwise-threatening randomness of evolution suggests that we think of God not as a coercive divine power but as a self-effacing, persuasive love, allowing for a considerable degree of autonomy and self-creativity. The Darwinian world of struggle and pain can lead us to contemplate the mystery of God made manifest in life's suffering, the epitome of which lies in the crucifixion of Jesus. Haught reminds us that the image of a self-emptying or "kenotic" God lies at the heart of Christian revelation.

In place of what he calls a "metaphysics of the past" in contemporary pessimistic interpretations of evolution, or a "metaphysics of the present" in much traditional thought, Haught advocates a "metaphysics of the future." He argues that such a metaphysics not only relates better to a biblical faith in being grasped by "that which is to come," but also provides an open-ended framework for the adventure of scientific discovery. The author notes that neither an emphasis on the explanatory primacy of the past (in much of contemporary science) nor the hierarchical view of being (in much of traditional philosophy and theology) leaves room for the emergence of genuine novelty, such as is suggested in current studies of complexity and chaos.

Developing and deepening themes from "The Promise of Nature," Haught links evolution, eschatology and ecology, emphasizing that nature is not just a gift or a sacrament, but an unfolding promise, with intrinsic, but by no means ultimate, value.

Haught's book is filled with fresh insights that will be an important part of ongoing conversations among scientists and theologians, and will open up wholly new perspectives for the serious general reader who might have thought that evolution poses a threat to religion and theology. ▼

Father Currie is a chemist with a strong interest in the relationship between science and theology, and is also current president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Word to Life

Dec. 5, Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalms 85:9ab-14
2) 2 Peter 3:8-14
3) Gospel) Mark 1:1-8

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A 10th-grader in religious education class, Patsy, had a knack for cutting to the chase. One evening, in a class about reconciliation, Patsy asked the question for the ages: "Why should you go to confession for a sin you know you are just going to turn around and do again the next week?" All eyes were riveted on the teacher as she explained that such an attitude indicated that one's heart was not fully prepared for repentance.

There was obvious discomfort among Patsy's teen-age classmates when it was suggested that reconciliation to God means committing oneself to change.

It wasn't the answer they had hoped for: Just keep going back to confession every time you do that sin and you'll be fine. On the other hand, they seemed somewhat relieved to be reminded that Jesus himself will actually provide them with the strength they need to change.

This isn't simply an adolescent concern. We all have bad habits, and it's the habitual sins that seem to be the hardest to overcome.

All of this week's readings offer repentance — turning to God — as the answer to Patsy's question. The Lord wants us to change our bad habits, to his ways, in this life to prepare ourselves to accompany him in the next.

During the season of Advent our spiritual concentration is on hope and waiting for the coming of the Lord. Readings for the second Sunday, however, emphasize our own preparation.

Peter gives us assurance that the Lord "shows you generous patience since he wants none to perish but all to come to repentance," and Isaiah promises God's powerful assistance in that matter: "Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm.... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom."

Peter urges us to make necessary changes: "What we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to his promise, the justice of God will reside. So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in his sight."

Again, the Gospel promises that a baptism of repentance leads to forgiveness of sins. In the words of John the Baptist, "I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit." ▼

Question:
What sinful habit do you need to ask God to help you break this Advent season so you can be better prepared for his coming?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 28 - Dec. 4, 1999

First Sunday of Advent, Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37; **Monday**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday**, Isaiah 29:17-24, Matthew 9:27-31; **Saturday**, Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8

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Out on Video

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Entrapment" (1999)

Mindless escapist caper in which a wily insurance investigator (Catherine Zeta-Jones) joins forces with the world's craftiest art thief (Sean Connery) to nail him red-handed. Jon Amiel's sluggish direction and the bogus emotions on display limit suspense in this glossy fantasy of double-crossing daredevils defying the odds and each other. A romanticized view of crime, fleeting violence and a few instances of rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox, rental)

"Wild Wild West" (1999)

Glossy adaptation of the 1960s TV series in which two post-Civil War government agents — one trigger-happy (Will Smith) the other skilled at disguises and inventions (Kevin Kline) — must disable a behemoth killing machine operated by a wheelchair-bound madman (Kenneth Branagh) bent on bringing down the United States. Director Barry Sonnenfeld blends sci-fi contraptions, a comic tone and the Old West setting for a hollow, gimmick-driven plot with impossible stunts and decorative femme fatales for giddy escapist entertainment. Intermittent explosions and stylized violence, some sexual innuendo and double entendres and fleeting rear nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner, $22.96)

"William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1999)

Fanciful adaptation of the Bard's comedy is updated to 1900 Tuscany in a magical forest, where the fairy Puck (Stanley Tucci) causes all manner of romantic mix-ups by casting spells on mismatched young lovers (including Christian Bale and Calista Flockhart), an aspiring actor (Kevin Kline) and the fairy queen (Michelle Pfeiffer). Some cast members excel while others do not in articulating Shakespearean dialogue in writer-director Michael Hoffman's whimsical adaptation whose luminous visuals look sprinkled with fairy dust. Romantic complications and fleeting nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox, rental)

"Twice Upon a Yesterday" (1999)

Breezy romantic fable in which the clock is magically turned back so that a cheating boyfriend (Douglas Henshall) can have a second chance with his girlfriend (Lena Headey) only to discover that she too had begun a clandestine affair. Director Maria Ripoll's bittersweet tale follows four characters who learn that love can't flourish in an atmosphere of betrayal and deceit. Brief sexual encounter, a live-in relationship, intermittent rough language and a few instances of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Trimark, rental)

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

"Liberty Heights"

Ben Foster, Bebe Neuwirth and Frania Rubinek star in a scene from the film "Liberty Heights." Winning comedy-drama set in 1954 Baltimore as two Jewish brothers (Adrien Brody and Ben Foster) seek romance with non-Jewish girls and their decent father (Joe Mantegna) struggles to save his failing burlesque business with a smalltime numbers racket. Writer-director Barry Levinson uses gentle but telling humor to examine religious and racial prejudices in a warm-hearted portrait of a family and a class-conscious community. Sexual situations, fleeting rear nudity, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Animated bedtime stories air Dec. 6 on HBO

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Reassuring bedtime stories are whimsically animated for the delight of little ones in the charming "Goodnight Moon & Other Sleepytime Tales," airing Monday, Dec. 6, 7:30-8 p.m. EST on the HBO pay cable channel.

With a velvety voice that would calm a tot caught in the jaws of a jaguar, Susan Sarandon liltingly narrates Margaret Wise Brown's 1947 children's story "Goodnight Moon" as darling images of a bunny rabbit going through his nightly bedtime ritual float across the screen.

Plumping up the half-hour program are momentary interviews with young children who offer their pint-sized views on things that go bump in the night, and who they fall in love with in their dreams.

Each story has a celebrity narrator or singer. Billy Crystal relates a little boy's practical solution to the nighttime monsters in his closet, Natalie Cole conjures up a family's summer evenings on "Tar Beach" and Aaron Neville sings Brahms' lullaby to colorful images of baby animals bedding down in the natural environments.

The back-and-forth of animated tales followed by real children's anecdotes flows quite smoothly and the result is a delightful program young and not so young children will enjoy. There are also classic lullabies sung by Tony Bennett, Patti LaBelle and Lauryn Hill. Produced and directed by Amy Schatz, it's a visual and aural treat. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Asian trip was important for dialogue, evangelization

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said his November visit to India and Georgia marked a new chapter in Asian evangelization and opened new opportunities in ecumenical relations. Speaking at his weekly general audience at the Vatican Nov. 17, the pope called the Nov. 5-9 trip "unforgettable" and said he was convinced it would bear fruit.

The pontiff, wrapped in a cloak against a chilly breeze, addressed several thousand visitors in St. Peter's Square. He coughed occasionally as he read his main talk and addressed pilgrims in several languages.

In India, where violent attacks against minority Christians have increased in recent months, the pope said the country's centuries-old tradition of religious tolerance appeared to be "in difficulty."

"Therefore it was important to reaffirm the church's strong desire for a fruitful dialogue among the followers of all religions, which can lead to renewed relations of understanding and solidarity in the service of the whole human family," he said.

The pope said he took care to emphasize that interreligious dialogue and evangelization "are not mutually exclusive." The church's efforts to proclaim the Gospel always respect the consciences of listeners, he said. On the other hand, the freedom to exercise one's faith in society is a fundamental human right, he said.

During his 30-hour visit to Georgia, the pope said, he tried to build "new points of contact" with the Orthodox Christian majority, in the hope that at the start of the third millennium Christians could announce the Gospel to the world "with a single heart and a single soul."

He said he enjoyed cordial encounters with Georgian Orthodox Patriarch Ilia II, meetings that held out promise of a "new phase" in ecumenical relations. Pope John Paul expressed joy at celebrating Mass with the small but fortified Catholic community in the country.

The pope said he wanted to pay homage to the witness which Christians in Georgia have given over the centuries, particularly during 70 years of communist rule, an era that he said had produced many martyrs, Catholic and Orthodox.

While the pope was in Georgia, he elevated to the status of bishop Father Giuseppe Pasotto, the Georgian-based apostolic administrator of the Caucasus region. While the move was strictly a change in title and not in the church's structure, it prompted a negative reaction among some Orthodox.

Patriarch Ilia, in an interview published Nov. 17 by the Italian newspaper Avvenire, said he thought there were "not enough Catholics to justify the naming of a bishop." But he said his church would accept the pope's decision and would not make any objections. He termed the papal visit "a step forward" in relations between the two churches. He said he was particularly impressed by the pope's courage in carrying out the visit despite the physical toll it took.

Advent: A time of anticipation and hope

When I was young, the Christmas season began with the appearance of Santa and his sleigh at the end of Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. This year I began to notice newspaper advertisements for Christmas merchandise several weeks before Halloween. About the same time, television commercials were warning, "If you don't order now, we cannot guarantee delivery before Christmas." We often hear the cry "We must get back into the real meaning of Christmas," but what do we really do to prepare? Advent is the season to think about the why of Christmas — why all the preparation, decorations, parties, and gift giving?

Advent is a time to prepare, a time to look into our hearts to see if there is anything that stands in the way of Jesus' coming. If Advent is to mean anything to us today, that meaning should be centered around family and home. Attending Sunday Mass together during Advent is one way of preparing for Christmas. Advent liturgies are beautiful and inspire a self-examination that might motivate changes in our lives.

One of our weaknesses is the delusion that we have plenty of time to straighten out whatever is wrong in our lives. There is a fable about three apprentice devils who met Satan just prior to leaving for earth. All three were trying to impress Satan with the ideas they had for the ruination of souls. The first said: "I'll tell them there is no God." Satan replied: "That won't fool many; most people know God exists." The second said: "I'll tell them there is no hell!" Satan said: "That will fool no one, for everyone knows there is a hell where they will be punished for their unforgiven sins." The third said: "I'll tell them there is no hurry to seek forgiveness of their sins." Satan exclaimed: "Go forth, my son. You will ruin them by the millions!" The moral of the story? Prepare now — don't wait!

Advent is a time of anticipation and hope. Most of us have had the experience of anticipating great moments in our lives such as graduation from school, marriage or the birth of a child. Sometimes the anticipation of important events can make us so nervous we don't think we'll survive. Imagine what it must have been like in the time before Christ when people were waiting with eagerness for the Messiah. They had been told of his coming by the prophets, so they waited with nervous anticipation for his arrival. Millions and millions of people waited until their deaths and never, in their lifetime, experienced the salvation found in the words of Jesus. Spend some time each day in prayerful thought about what is to happen in just a few weeks, the celebration of the entry into our world of the human God, Jesus Christ, and enjoy the anticipation that was the hope of our ancestors.

Advent is a time to reflect upon the quality of our lives. We look into mirrors in anticipation of important events, to make sure makeup is applied correctly, hair is brushed to perfection and clothes are properly pressed. Advent is a time to use the mirror of our minds to look into our hearts and souls. If we see a destructive pattern of self-centeredness, greed, uncharitableness or injustice, it is time to change in preparation for the arrival of the one who is to make his home in our hearts.

Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw is the permanent deacon at St. Mary Church in Greensboro.

Advent Reflection

REV. MR. VINCENT SHAW
GUEST COLUMNIST

Letter to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

Celebration of the life of Msgr. Koch

Last week, I was privileged to be part of the celebration of the life of Msgr. Frederick Koch at his funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Pinehurst, N.C. Father Charles Mulholland of Raleigh, Father Joseph Waters of Taylorsville and I were blessed by having Father Freddie as our first pastor as newly ordained priests for the Diocese of Raleigh back in the mid '50's. We were in a small rural community of Newton Grove, in the midst of the tobacco and cotton fields, adjusting to the phenomena of segregation.

A 'Yankee' pastor was guiding us.... Most of us Yankees ourselves, venturing into an unknown mission area, where Catholics were still quite suspect, to say the least. Father Freddie, during our first few months as priests, would patiently encourage us, as we returned to the 'main' parish at Newton Grove from our mission outposts on the weekend.

Collectively and individually he would give us a new insight of what Church was all about.... He was a good teacher... he was a breath of fresh air — before there was even a hint of a Council that would open the window to a new era of Church and worship experience.

So much of my own priesthood was built on those first twelve months with this insightful pastor. For many years, I enjoyed his weekly forays into Church and secular life as editor of the Diocesan newspaper. I always put a smiling face to his written word.

I write this as a public word of gratitude for this pioneer friend, priest, and pastor. He has taken his well-deserved place in the list of the early pioneers of our Catholic Church in North Carolina... He is a true TAR HEEL APOSTLE.

Thanks to the editors for including his memorial in a recent edition of The Catholic News & Herald.

Msgr. Richard Allen
Pastor, St. Ann Catholic Church
Charlotte, NC

We welcome your comments and letters.

Send your Letters to the Editor to:
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Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Hanukkah: The miracle of light

On the evening of 4 December, Jews around the world begin the celebration of Hanukkah, which commemorates both a victory and a miracle.

First, the holiday recalls the major and unexpected military success of the Jews over the larger Syrian forces more than 2100 years ago. Then, when the Temple at Jerusalem was rededicated for worship, the great menorah was lit with oil from the only unopened container left. The oil was only enough to last one day, but it kept burning for eight days. Today, Hanukkah, which means dedication, also lasts eight days and the brightness of each home's menorah increases by one candle each night.

The real victory that is celebrated is not simply triumph over enemies, but the freedom to live and worship as one chooses. And that is forever joined to the miracle of the oil. Not only because the oil burned eight times longer than it should, but also because of the power of faith: the belief it took to even light the menorah. It is the miracle of the light of faith overcoming darkness of despair.

Michael Strassfeld, in his book, The Jewish Holidays, remarks that "By lighting the menorah, we ignite the flame in our souls, the spark that can not be extinguished, that will burn not for eight days but for eternity. We place the menorah in our windows to be visible to those passing by, just as our inner light must shine against the darkness of evil and indifference and must kindle the spirits of our fellow humans. The menorah reminds us of the miracle that no matter how dark life may be, there remains a source of light deep inside us. The light in our souls reflects and refracts the light from the One who is all brightness. This light can accompany us on our way and illumine the darkest path. We need not walk through life's paths stumbling over obstacles as though we were blind. The plague of darkness is all around us, but the light is there for those who continue to fan it into flame."

The proximity of Hanukkah to the Christian celebration of Christmas focuses the vision of all believers on the miraculous power of the light — even after a history of anti-Semitism that has encouraged ghettoes and pogroms, the Inquisition and The Holocaust.

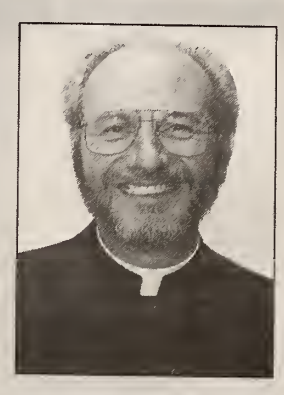
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, this century's "Jewish apostle to the gentiles," exerted a profound influence on the spiritual renewal of Judaism as well as on Christians. "No religion is an island," he asserted. "We are all involved with one another. God is greater than religion." His call to examine our common faith in the God of Israel resulted in the historical document issued at the end of the Second Vatican Council which affirmed the Church's kinship with Judaism.

Now Pope John Paul II has set Ash Wednesday, 8 March, 2000, as a day for Catholics to reflect on the pain inflicted on the Jewish people by many members of the Church during its 2,000 years. What a perfect opportunity for all Christians and Jews, and indeed all people of faith, to spend the time between these two holy days to forgive and seek forgiveness for sins of intolerance.

This grace-filled season reminds us of the never-ending miracle of light which pushes back the darkness and illuminates all alike without being diminished in the process.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

The Spirituality of Recycling

Brown bottles this bin, green ones here. Aluminum cans this shoot. Real important to separate #2 plastic milk jugs from #1 clear plastic soda containers. Newsprint big slot right here.

Local residents at the Madison County Recycling Center twist and turn between bins and slots sorting their recyclables till they get the hang of it. No lids on containers they go into the "Oops" bin the only part of the operation destined for the landfill.

Since the mid-1980s both rural and urban communities have initiated recycling programs to deal with household and commercial waste. Fully 76% of Americans now consider themselves environmentalists, encouraging their participation in these programs. Typically American suburban communities achieve participation rates of 80% for curbside pickup, while semi-rural Madison County alone recycled three million pounds of material in 1998.

Concerns about pollution, global warming and the depletion of natural resources have persuaded many to conserve and recycle. Yet, critics of recycling frequently hide behind arguments from economics and politics: recycling is too costly, or it represents still further government regulation.

From a faith perspective consideration focuses on personal responsibility and the common good, as well as patterns of consumption. What moral response can address the disproportionate use of resources by Americans? With only 4% of the world s population, the U.S. regularly consumes over 30% of the world s annual resources and accounts for 22% of global emissions. And, according to economist Richard Barnet, over a lifetime a child born in the U.S. will consume three times more than an Italian child, but leave 280 times more trash than a Rwandan child. American Christians need an ethic of consumption.

The three "Rs" of managing waste are "reduce, reuse and recycle." A Christian ethic of consumption would address recycling as a spiritual expression of solidarity with creation and the rest of the world. From a flyer on "Recycling Trivia": "The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle is enough to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours." And, "It takes 95% less energy to make aluminum cans from recycled cans than to make them from raw ore." Part of global responsibility and an ethic of consumption recognizes the stewardship of creation and a fairness about the use of resources. Both reusing and recycling save resources, and hence, make them more available for others.

"To reduce" forms another part of the Christian ethic of consumption. It balances the importance of things. Do people own possessions or do possessions own them? A spiritual question. Consumption aims at completing a person, enhancing a person, making that person whole. Frivolous consumption, conversely,

See RAUSCH, page 14

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Is Advent much different from Lent?

Q. I am writing about a trend in our parish recently that has made Advent almost indistinguishable from Lent. Only penitential songs are sung, the Alleluia is only recited, not sung, no decorations of any kind are allowed until Christmas Eve.

The homilies are on sinfulness and repentance. Advent Masses are almost like Good Friday. It is all very discouraging and confusing to our family. Isn't the idea of Advent to be a preparation for Christmas, with some anticipation and festivity about it? Or is this changed?

A. Assuming you reflect the circumstances accurately, the observance of Advent in your liturgies is, to say the least, unusual. Whoever is responsible for your liturgical planning seems out of touch with, or perhaps never learned, the church's tradition and teaching about this beautiful season.

Certainly there is a penitential aspect to these weeks, but their framework, spirit and focus differ significantly from that which characterizes the time of Lent.

At least since the time of St. Bernard, nearly 1,000 years ago, the time of Advent has focused on the three comings of our Lord: his birth in the incarnation, the final coming at the completion of his work of redemption and, between these two, his presence and saving power at work in the community of faith through the ages.

Advent, in other words, is primarily a time of joyous waiting, anticipating the commemoration of his birth and celebrating his continued presence and saving grace among us. All this happens under our awareness that, by living the mystery of Christ, we await with him his final victory over sin and death.

The church repeatedly emphasizes that all Advent liturgies should reflect this watchful joy. In music, visual environment and the overall tone of the liturgy, it is quite distinct from the penitential time before Easter. As the introduction to the Sacramentary (Roman Missal) says, these weeks before Christmas are a "season of devout and joyful expectation."

Throughout the centuries, even before Christianity, the acclamation "Alleluia" ("praise to the Lord") has been by nature a sung prayer. Speaking instead of singing it is like reciting instead of singing "Happy birthday to you."

The church's liturgical documents generally simply assume Alleluia is always sung. (See, for example, the 1972 decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship governing chants at Mass, No. 7). The "Instruction on Sacred Music" of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy says, "If not sung, the Alleluia should be omitted" (55).

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651 or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Hmong New Year, from page 1

gathered outside in front of the church so that they could go around the tree. This was the first time, according to Father Tanguay, that this has been done in North Carolina. They walked around three times counterclockwise to say goodbye to the old year, and then three times clockwise to welcome the New Year. They then processed into the church, where many of the Hmong had already placed bowls containing rice, eggs, flowers and candles in front of the altar. "Everyone eats an egg during the New Year so that the life given to us through our ancestors can live with us through the New Year," said Father Tanguay.

The Hmong New Year celebration traditionally begins in early December and lasts from nine days to two weeks. In Laos and Thailand, Hmong villages shut down during this time. The young women stay in their villages while the young men travel from village to village for the celebrations. Many young men find their wives this way. In the United States, the Hmong people celebrate earlier, in November, when they have a few days off from work (usually during the Thanksgiving holiday). Since many of the events take place outdoors, they also celebrate earlier to take advantage of the warmer weather.

Sunday's Mass marked the beginning of this celebration for the Hmong in this area. After the Mass, the group watched girls and women in colorful costumes perform traditional dances. Then they ate a meal consisting of many Hmong dishes, especially rice, which is also a tradition for the Hmong New Year.

Lee and his wife, Shoua Chang, have lived in the United States since 1991. They have five children, ages 13, 11, 9, 7, and 6. Lee served the Diocese of Sacramento, Calif., as one of three catechists until he came to North Carolina. The family currently resides in Marion.

Lee first came in contact with Catholicism as a boy living in the Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand. "When I saw the priest and catechists, I thought in my mind, when I grow up, I should be one," he said. Lee went to Catholic school in Laos and later became a catechist in 1984, serving in the refugee camp. It was there that he first met Father Tanguay, who was there to serve in the camp and to learn the Hmong language.

One of Lee's duties will be to conduct Communion services for the Hmong communities at the Catholic churches in Hickory, Morganton and Albemarle. He will also teach children's, youth and adult classes, pray for and visit the sick, and help with birth, death, burial, and marriage rituals. "It brings a lot of consolation to the older people that they can be buried properly," said Father Tanguay.

Father Whittington welcomed all in attendance during the Sunday Mass. "As we look out today, we see a strong supporting group of Guatemalans and Anglos," he said.

"Jesus, in coming to the world, transformed the family," he added. "We are not just a natural family bound by blood, but now are a supernatural family bound by baptism. We are no longer Hmong, or Guatemalan, or American, but people of Jesus."

"I see our coming together today as a great gift from God. We grow rich with each other's cultures even as we become brothers and sisters in God." ▼

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Dancers entertain the group with native dances during the Hmong New Year celebration following Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

Rausch, from page 13

dissipates the spirit.

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia produced an innovative pamphlet called "Powering Down" encouraging a special sacrifice on each first Friday of the month. In keeping with Catholic tradition of Friday as a day of self-denial, it calls Christians to scale back on energy consumption, to do more with less and to live in harmony with creation. An ethic of consumption liberates people of faith from the "must-have" mentality of materialism, while it develops a solidarity with the poor and a respect for all created life.

A Christian ethic of consumption rises above simply saving a tree or preserving a mountain. Recycling, for example, connects people with future generations and recognizes the interdependence of all life. It also reflects about personal responsibility and patterns of consumption. In this light, recycling becomes a deeply spiritual matter.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches, writes and organizes in Appalachia.

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Myths about church, Jesus persist after 2,000 years

By JAMES BREIG
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Many Catholics misunderstand the nature of the church itself, according to a panel of scholars who were asked to name the greatest myth or misunderstanding about the Catholic Church among its members.

The panel, which includes theologians and history professors, was responding to the latest in a yearlong series of questions by The Evangelist, Albany diocesan newspaper, as part of its coverage of the first 2,000 years of church history.

"The greatest myth or misunderstanding is imaging the church as having all the answers or accusing the church of thinking that it has all the answers," said Father James Dallen, professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. "The first view is idolatrous; the second, as superficial as the view it rejects.

"The church lives by faith, not by answers. So, of course, must its members: They must take the risk of faith and not seek another security."

A similar reply came from Benedictine Father James Wiseman from the department of theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

"The greatest misunderstanding, even among many supposedly well-educated Catholics," Father Wiseman said, "is that practically anything the pope says is infallible."

The concept of infallibility was also chosen by Francesco C. Cesareo, associate professor of history and director of the Institute of Catholic Studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland. "Many people believe that infallibility applies to every pronouncement made by the Roman pontiff," he said.

"However, both Vatican Council I, which defined papal infallibility, and the Second Vatican Council, which confirmed papal infallibility, were clear" that infallibility only applies, he said, when the pope "as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful ... proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals."

"Since the definition of papal infallibility at the First Vatican Council, only two doctrines have been pronounced under its auspices, that of the Immaculate Conception and that of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary," Cesareo said.

Maureen A. Tilley, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio, believes that the greatest myth about the Catholic Church among its members "is a twofold mistake about the nature of the church itself. It mirrors misconceptions about Christ.

"Some see Christ as truly divine, never subject to hunger or fatigue; they forget about his true humanity. Others see Christ as just a nice guy, a great teacher, a person who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and was executed by the Romans."

In addition, "there is the tendency to see the church as a super-institution, to envision it only as a perfect entity, created before time in the mind of God," Tilley said. "At the other extreme is the idea that the church is simply a human organization, the collection of individual Christians who are just going along, doing the best they can and making lots of mistakes along the way."

William R. Barnett, associate professor of religious studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, chose the misunderstanding of the full humanity of Jesus on the part of some Catholics as a common flaw.

"Many Catholics readily affirm the divinity of Jesus, referring to him as God without another thought," he said, warning Catholics against "emphasizing the divinity of Jesus at the expense of his humanity in their understanding and proclamation of the tradition."

Who makes up the church is a common misunderstanding, in the view of Father Conrad Harkins, associate professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio.

"For many centuries," he said, "vast numbers of the Catholic people have been lulled into lethargic complacency regarding their relationship with the Lord." In the past, he added, "no one expected an 'ordinary Catholic' to be holy. If a young person aspired to holiness, he or she was packed off to a nunnery, monastery, friary or seminary."

Seeing Catholics in that way, Father Harkins said, is a "great misunderstanding. It leads to a mentality that considers the demands of the Gospel met if one is safely in the 'club' of the church, and misses the challenge of the Lord's invitation to each one to grow in a personal relationship with him."

John Dwyer, who teaches at St. Bernard's Institute in Albany, also finds misunderstanding in people confusing "the church" with "the hierarchy." Such confusion, he said, "lives on in phrases such as 'the church forbids this or that action' and in questions such as 'What does the church teach on this or another matter?'"

"The apostolic ministry of popes and bishops is important, even essential for the church," he added, "but popes and bishops should never be identified with the church. We — all of us — are the church."

Jesuit Father Robert Scully, assistant professor of history at Le Moyne College, believes that the greatest myth or misunderstanding about the church is "the belief that the contemporary church (in each century) has mirrored, or at least closely resembled, the earliest Christian community."

That notion is wrong, he said. "Although the seeds of the major doctrines emanate from Christ and the apostles, the church in the first century and in the 20th century (or almost any other century) would likely seem quite foreign to each other.

"The Second Vatican Council, especially through the important concept of the development of doctrine, has taught us that there have indeed been significant changes and developments in our understanding of many central, not to mention more peripheral, Christian beliefs," Father Scully said, citing concepts of religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

Jesuit Father Ben Fiore, a professor at Canisius College in Buffalo, believes that a common myth about Catholics is that Protestants are more knowledgeable about the Bible and rely on it more than Catholics do.

"It may have been true from the Protestant Reformation until Vatican Council II that Protestants made more of the Bible in the daily life and practice of the faithful than the Catholics did," he said.

"Since Vatican II, however, the situation has changed radically," he added. "The days when Catholics were inferior to Protestants in their awareness and use of the Bible are over." ▼

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 3, 1999
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Photo by Joann S. Keane

Belmont monks elect new Abbot

Photo by Joann S. Keane
Bishop William G. Curlin and the new abbot of Belmont Abbey, Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari.

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Placid Solari became the Right Reverend Placid David Solari, OSB, SThD on Thanksgiving: elected by his confreres to serve his brother monks as abbot of Belmont Abbey.

With his election, Abbot Placid accepted jurisdiction as spiritual and administrative head of the abbey, also assuming the role of chancellor of the Benedictine Belmont Abbey college.

"It's an enormous honor to be asked ... to take on that role," says Abbot Placid. "It is very humbling." For the new abbot, it means giving up the role of dean of the college, a position he's held for four years. "Although," he says, "I will be very much a part of the college as chancellor, and intend to continue to teach a course, if that's possible."

While the abbot heads all functions of the abbey, first and foremost, he is spiritual father to the 20 monks in residence. "To make sure the monks can see God. That is what we're there for." says Abbot Placid. "We do a lot of other work, but there is a proper balance."

In some respects, Abbot Placid sees his role as orchestrating a vision of what Benedictine life ought to be at Belmont Abbey at this time and in the future. Fulfilling the traditional mission of Belmont Abbey and college and the local church as a monastic community, says Abbot Placid. Creating a synergy of what has been and

See ABBOT, page 6

Rabbi hopes pope's millennium message heeded by all faiths

GREENSBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Rabbi A. James Rudin hopes people, no matter their faith, follow Pope John Paul II's advice when the third millennium arrives. "It's so important to use the millennium not as a time to have a nice drink and write our checks with the year 2000, but to use it as the pope suggests: as a time of introspection and repentance," said Rabbi Rudin. "It provides an opportunity for other religions to gather together with Christ and take stock. That's certainly how Jews can join with our Christian neighbors." Rabbi Rudin, national interreligious affairs director for the New York-based American Jewish Committee, was interviewed before a Nov. 28 talk at an interfaith gathering to open the Diocese of Greensburg's Jubilee 2000 celebration.

Israeli official rejects accusation of stirring antagonisms

ROME (CNS) — Israel's ambassador to the Vatican rejected a Vatican accusation that his government was stirring up religious antagonisms by its approval of a new mosque next to a major Christian shrine. Ambassador Aharon Lopez said the Israeli government had effectively defused Christian-Muslim tensions by allowing a smaller mosque to be built adjacent to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. The whole episode was being "overdramatized," Lopez said Nov. 26 in a meeting with reporters in his Rome office.

Priests charged in Sudan refuse to accept government amnesty

ROME (CNS) — Two priests charged by Sudan with terrorism have refused to accept a government amnesty because it would imply confession of guilt, said MISNA, a missionary new service based in Rome. Fathers Hilary Boma and Lino Sebit of the Archdiocese of Khartoum, Sudan, have decided to continue with their trial, in the hope of receiving "full absolution" from the terrorism charges, MISNA said Nov. 26. The two priests were arrested in July and August 1998 after a series of bombings in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. Initially, they were on trial with more than a dozen defendants before a military court; earlier this year, their case was transferred to a local civil tribunal.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Burial of East Timorese priest

A cross is placed on the grave of Jesuit Father Tarcisius Dewanto in Dili, East Timor, Nov. 27. The remains of three priests were found in a mass grave containing about 25 bodies in Indonesian West Timor, near the East Timor border town of Suai.

Evangelical, Catholic scholars discuss communion, witness

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Meeting for the first time in the United States, an international dialogue team of evangelical and Catholic scholars discussed Christian witness, religious freedom, proselytism and the meaning of church communion. "As we listened jointly to the Scriptures, prayed together and spoke the truth to one another in love, we recognized and rejoiced in the fellowship we have in Christ based on our common faith in him," the 13-member group said in a communique at the end of the meeting. The participants cited a number of points of agreement but acknowledged "sharp differences" on other issues, including who should be regarded as "unchurched" or "nominal Christians."

Bishops see improved church freedom in Vietnam, call for more

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After a visit to Vietnam this year, four U.S. bishops came away appreciative of improvements in religious freedom but with criticism of some ongoing problems. In a statement issued Nov. 24, the feast of the Martyrs of Vietnam, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, described the Aug. 26-Sept. 2 visit as one of friendship and solidarity with the church of Vietnam. The bishops "came away with a new appreciation of the spiritual dynamism of a people who have suffered as much as any other in this violent century, and who have every right to look to the church in other countries to offer them solace, solidarity and support," Bishop Fiorenza said.

Colombian government, bishops set up fund to rebuild churches

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNS) — Government officials and the Colombian bishops' conference have created a fund to rebuild several Catholic churches destroyed by guerrilla groups and paramilitaries in rural areas in the country. Fernando Medellin, an official of the Ministry of the Interior that will head the fund, explained that the Social Solidarity Network will solicit donations from individuals and corporations to help rebuild churches destroyed by political violence. Medellin said that "unlike churches burned or destroyed by acts of God or common crime, churches destroyed as a consequence of political violence are not covered by insurance companies."

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
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Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 5 — 7 pm
Address to Young Adult Group
St. Gabriel

December 8 — 9 am Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

7:30 pm — Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Holy Day of Obligation

December 11 — 8 pm
Marian Hispanic Celebration
Mass for Our Lady of Guadeloupe
St. Matthew, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

December

5 CHARLOTTE — For those who are ill or facing surgery, St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is having a healing Mass to celebrate the sacrament of anointing of the sick at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having a bilingual charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Laying on of hands by Father Fidel Melo follows the Mass.

GREENSBORO — The Catholic Daughters of America Court 1200 in Greensboro are inviting newcomers to their monthly meeting and Christmas party tonight at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., in the Our Lady Cottage at 7 p.m. For details, call Mrs. Lawrence Kirwan at (336) 292-2776.

HIGH POINT — There is a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

7 CHARLOTTE — For family caregivers of those who suffer from chronic and long-term illnesses, Suzanne Bach, mental health counselor, and Eileen Correll, St. Gabriel Church parish nurse, are leading a session "Helping Caregivers Survive the Holidays." The discussion, held at 3016 Providence Rd., lasts from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring a bag lunch, and beverages and dessert are being provided. For registration and other information, call Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, ext. 217.

8 GREENSBORO — In honor of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, there is a National Night of Prayer held at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. All are invited to come and pray for an hour before the Blessed Sacrament for all human life at the moment of conception. Call Bette Steinkamp for more information at (336) 882-9717.

Charlotte couple takes on flooding damage in eastern Carolina

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Floodwaters have drained away, and the 1999 hurricane season is over. Clean-up efforts are now the focus for many eastern North Carolina residents who were the bull's eye for the now infamous hurricanes Dennis, Irene, and the most devastating of all, Floyd.

One couple from St. Patrick Cathedral decided to travel to Princeville, Rocky Mount and Tarboro to help with the assistance sponsored by the Salvation Army.

"I had no idea what to expect before I went there. Living in Louisiana for 20 years exposed us to hurricanes and floods on a regular basis, but this area has never had flooding like this before," said Rosemary Hubbard. "The smell of the mold is so sickening that it chokes you. Once you go over there, it changes you."

She and husband Allen traveled to some of the devastated cities and towns, mostly in Edgecombe County, to offer their skills to groups already in place.

"My husband had previously worked professionally with an African-American Baptist church community in Rocky Mount and had established a connection with many of the families. We also wanted to see what was going on with the Catholic churches," explained Mrs. Hubbard.

She spoke with Father JaVon Saxon from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and School in Rocky Mount, who said that 27 of their families have been left homeless from the floods. The school now has seven of its children attending with tuition waivers because their families are without homes and businesses. Father Saxon wonders how the teachers will be able to be paid in the coming months.

While Mrs. Hubbard worked mostly at the distribution center sorting clothes and handing out food and other types of assistance, Mr. Hubbard worked with a crew from the Charlotte area Habitat for Humanity, led by Bob Greene, executive director. He helped tear out ruined sheet rock, damaged wiring and insulation in many homes for two days in Chinquapin in Duplin County and also spent time in other cities also helping with distribution.

Mr. Hubbard said, "It is very depressing to see house after house destroyed. One family had been living in a house with no walls because they have nowhere else to go."

"I wasn't ready for the long lines of people waiting for aid. Most of them were in a daze, and some felt too humble to ask for things that they desperately needed. Even something simple like a toothbrush gave some people so much joy. It was heartbreaking," said Mrs. Hubbard.

Unfortunately, more of that same type of destruction seems to be everywhere in many of those counties. In Edgecombe County alone, which includes Tarboro, Rocky Mount and Princeville, there have been 7,550 applicants for federal aid with over $81 million dollars in assistance to that county alone.

The town that affected Mrs. Hubbard personally was Princeville, the oldest existing African-American town in the United States, incorporated in 1885 by free slaves. Out of 700 homes, 699 were destroyed. A $1.5 million school recently built in the town had to be bulldozed because it was destroyed by the floodwaters. All of the families in Princeville need to be adopted, suggested Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Hubbard, an environmental geologist, expressed concern over 400,000-plus water wells that are contaminated on properties in various counties. He said he cannot even make an educated guess on how the hurricane will impact natural resources for years to come because this type of devastation is unprecedented.

Mrs. Hubbard noticed how small gestures helped many of the people who were depressed and downtrodden. She saw someone playing a guitar in a free concert and watched a librarian read books to children to comfort them.

She noted how people will be psychologically damaged from this for years, especially children. She encountered one young boy from Rocky Mount who is now terrified of water in any form because he and his family were trapped in the attic of their house as the floodwaters slowly crept up the walls. Many of the children are

See HUBBARD, page 4

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
THE CHANCERY

December 3, 1999

Dear Friends in Christ:

"I have been young and now I am old (PS. 37:25)" is the theme for the 1999 Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, to be taken the weekend of December 11-12.

Over the past decade, more than 30.5 million dollars have been raised on behalf of the Retirement Fund for Religious; certainly, this generous outpouring has helped defray some of the un-funded liability facing our elderly sisters, brothers and Order priests.

According to the latest survey data, 50 percent of the 73,197 women religious are older than 70; 26 percent are older than 80. Of the 17,170 men religious, 32 percent are older than 70; 11 percent are older than 80. With fewer wage earners, the religious orders continue to face a widening gap between income and expenses. Since 1987, 42 percent of our religious institutes have sold property, including some motherhouses to help fund their retirement needs.

When sisters, brothers or Order priests leave full-time paid ministry, they devote more time to prayer; they volunteer at soup kitchens; they tutor children and assist in various ways throughout their local communities. They continue in traditions of service and contemplation.

Great strides have been made, yet there is still much to be done in support of our retired religious, who continue to serve us all. Let us work together to bring hope and security to those who have given — and continue to give — so much. We ask your generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

HICKORY — The Women's Guild of St. Eugene Church is having its Christmas party this morning at 11:30 a.m. at the Greenery on Tunnel Rd. Are all welcome to attend, and those who come should please remember to bring an inexpensive wrapped gift. For gift ideas, reservation and location information, call Carole Horvath at (828) 645-7015.

9 GREENSBORO — The 50+ Club of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Creek Pen Rd., is having their Christmas luncheon, featuring the Senior Ambassador Singers, today at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a wrapped gift for a male or female resident at Maryfield Nursing Home. Call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099 for further information.

10 CHARLOTTE — A recreation of Charles Weidman's modern dance classic "Christmas Oratorio," celebrating the birth of Christ with angels and featuring the music of J.S. Bach, is being presented by Dance Central tonight at 8 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. A second performance will be held tomorrow at 8 p.m. also at the church. For ticket, reservation and reduced group rate information, call (704) 330-4029.

11 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is transforming their activity center into a unique children's Christmas shop for kids aged 12 and under. Younger children can do their holiday shopping from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. today with elves courtesy of Santa Zita Circle. Call the church office at (704) 549-1614 for further information.

HIGH POINT — In the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Gym, 605 Barbee Ave., children in grades five and under can have "Breakfast with Santa." This includes breakfast, a visit, and a picture with Santa, craft tables, a children's Christmas shopping center and coffee and doughnuts for parents. Call Sharon Kafana at (336) 841-0933 for more information.

HIGH POINT — Single Again Catholics is participating in 6 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave. For carpooling, direction and other information, call Gerry at (336) 856-0390.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Hispanic community is celebrating the Greeting of the Morning and the re-enactment of the Marian apparitions to Blessed Juan Diego. The event is taking place tonight from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 South Main St. Call the church office for more details at (336) 722-7001.

12 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is having a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer teams are available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner follows Mass. Contact Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

CHARLOTTE — The adult and youth choir of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., are presenting a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols, featuring works of Mozart, Yon, Burt and Holst this afternoon at 2 p.m. A reception is taking place in the activity center after the concert. Call the church office at (704) 549-1614 for more information.

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, is having their Family Winterfest, featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, refreshments, entertainment and gift giving and beginning at 2:30 p.m. Parents should please bring an inexpensive, wrapped gift for a child up through the sixth grade. Call the church office at (828) 686-3243 for further details.

SWANNANOA — "Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story - A Play for the Advent Season," created and performed by Olivia Woodford, is a play about the events and women that surround the birth of Jesus. The play begins at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place. Call the church office at (828) 686-3243 for information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

CSS aids flood victims, asks community to help

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — When Catholic Social Services of Charlotte (CSS) asked two of its employees to travel to the devastated counties to work with flood relief efforts with Catholic Social Ministries of Raleigh (CSM), Barbara Douglas and Kim Vasquez quickly agreed.

Kathleen Walsh, director of CSM, contacted the Diocese of Charlotte to ask for volunteers to help with the victims in eastern North Carolina. CSS responded to that call with two of its own workers.

"In the early stages of disasters, typically, what is needed is money. Once the flood waters recede, and things begin to dry out, the massive clean-up efforts can begin," said Gerry Carter, director of Special Ministries for the Diocese of Charlotte. The Disaster Relief Program, under the Special Ministries' umbrella, is working with the interfaith task force on disaster response, a group of churches who are offering ongoing assistance.

"When CSM contacted us about human resources assistance, we were able to respond immediately," continued Carter.

Organizational Help

Barbara Douglas, administrative assistant for the Refugee Resettlement Office, and Kim Vasquez, caseworker for Programa Esperanza, went to Greenville and Tarboro to aid with paperwork and handing out supplies. Sending Douglas and Vasquez to CSM is the second part of a three-phase plan to help the flood victims, said Carter.

The first phase involves the collection of money, and to date, the Diocese of Charlotte has collected over $260,000 for the victims. The grand total for federal and state assistance to the flood victims is over $504 million dollars.

From Nov. 2 through 4, Douglas collected request forms and gave out Red Cross clean-up kits, water, and food supplies, while Vasquez translated the forms into Spanish and typed up two versions — in English and Spanish — and sat at the front desk. They also transported tools, baby supplies and food to Tarboro on Nov. 5 and 6.

They spoke with Father Bill Murphy of St. Catherine of Sienna in Tarboro to determine what those local victims needed. Vasquez also communicated with the Spanish-speaking members of the parish that emergency food stamps were available through the Department of Social Services.

Want to help?

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the flood relief efforts, you may do so through your parish or local church by indicating flood relief on the check. For those who would like to volunteer either during the week or on a weekend to travel to eastern North Carolina to help with clean up, overnight accommodations are available through Catholic Social Ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh. For more information, call Gerry Carter at (704) 370-3228 or Marlo Wallace at (704) 370-3228.

Both women are not new to this type of work. Douglas worked with victims of Hurricane Andrew mostly in Homestead, Fla., as a trained Red Cross volunteer with a disaster services background. Unfortunately, Vasquez lived it. The hurricane destroyed her Homestead family home, forcing them to start from scratch.

"I know what the people are feeling to see everything you have gone in an instant," said Vasquez.

One thing that affected Douglas the most was the trailer communities. She said they were "clean and dry but not like having your own home."

"I ask that people not forget about the victims. Simply because six months have passed doesn't mean that things are all right. Homestead took five years to rebuild. Who knows how long rebuilding efforts will take in eastern North Carolina," commented Vasquez.

"There is so much that has to be done before these people can go home," said Douglas. "With the holidays around the corner, when we celebrate so much of what makes us who we are, people should make a commitment to helping those people in some way."

Community Assistance

The third phase is the solicitation of volunteers from parishes, said Carter. When Joyce Brown read that CSS was asking the community at large to volunteer their time and skills to help people affected by the hurricane, she did not hesitate to travel with Rosemary and Allen Hubbard to work on behalf of St. Patrick.

"Early on, I had started thinking about how I could help, but I had only thought about making monetary donations through the church," said Brown. "When I read the bulletin, I thought that I should go and help."

On the weekend of Nov. 12 through 14, Brown traveled with fellow parishioners, the Hubbards, to Princeville, Tarboro and Rocky Mount to collect names of families who needed help, especially at Christmas. With the help of a teacher in Rocky Mount and other people, she gathered names of 35-50 people and placed them on the angel tree for 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick this past weekend. Within minutes, all of the names were gone. There is a great interest in trying to help, said Brown, but now, we don't have anymore names.

"Listening to people talk about their experiences was shocking," admitted Brown. "It was a surreal feeling especially in Princeville that Sunday because the town was totally void of people, cats and dogs, like something out of a science-fiction movie."

She said that one of the easiest things that people can do is to send cards and letters to the victims to let them know that they have not been forgotten.

Working for the Future

Several people have already answered the call for help to travel to the eastern half of the state. Unfortunately, much more help will be needed because experts are predicting that clean-up efforts will continue into 2001, said Carter. Tens of thousands of people have no insurance and no money to help with rebuilding.

"We are going to facilitate individuals and groups to go to eastern North Carolina do help with clean-up," said Carter. "The issue is that we may not be able to help the thousands of people, but even helping one or a few families with rebuilding their homes is something significant." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Hubbard, from page 3

having nightmares and are watching the bodies of waters to see if they will rise suddenly.

"What I have been hearing is that people feel forgotten and depressed because the attention has now shifted elsewhere," said Mrs. Hubbard. "More people from this area need to volunteer some of their time and talents to help."

The real, physical work is going on now and will continue well into the New Year. This is when people are needed the most. People need to pay more attention to what is needed to be done, said Mr. Hubbard.

What impressed both of them the most is how the churches and races have joined together to help volunteers and those in need and how people are still keeping up their spirits despite what they have experienced. The Hubbards will continue to help in whatever way they can and want others to join them in their volunteer efforts.

"Many of them have positive attitudes and are grateful for what they have," said Mr. Hubbard. "They are convinced that God has something planned for them. What He has taken away, He will provide later." ▼

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Season's spirit floats through Lenoir parish

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

LENOIR — A dozen parishioners from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church met on Sunday afternoon to eat pizza and construct a float for the town's Christmas parade the next day, Monday, Nov. 29.

"We have so many big projects going on.... We have to take time out for things like this, too," said Dale Rascoe, head of the Knights of Columbus for the parish.

One of the biggest projects the church has before it now is the construction of a new sanctuary. The cross-shaped building is starting to take shape, with a tentative schedule of spring of 2000 to lay the cornerstone, and summer of 2000 for completion.

The Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, and the Family Life Council of the church joined together to sponsor and construct the float, which depicted the Nativity. They built a stable on it and then added Christmas trees, wreaths, greenery, decorations, and lights. Several children from the church dressed in costumes and rode on the float during the parade.

Sandy Fekete, a parishioner, made five new animal costumes for the kindergartners to wear on the float. These included a rooster, a cow, a cat, a lamb, and a donkey. Three youth at the church, Lydia, Jesse, and Hannah Doll, dressed up as Mary, Joseph, and an angel, respectively, and several more parishioners dressed as angels followed behind the float on foot.

The float also included a banner with the name of the church, and a large sign at the front proclaiming, "Keep Christ in Christmas," which was the float's theme.

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

St. Francs of Assisi parishioners Hannah and Lydia Doll decorate a wreath on the front of a float featured in Lenoir's annual Christmas parade.

Lenoir has a Christmas parade annually. Rascoe said that the church has participated for the last five years, but that this was the most elaborate float so far. He also said that this was the first time that the three parish groups in the church had joined together for the project.

The parade started at 6 p.m. and followed a route through Lenoir's downtown area. ▼

COURTESY PHOTO

The Catholic Hispanic Center Soccer team holds up the number one gesture in celebration of their undefeated regular season in the under-12 division of the Youth Christian Soccer League.

Hispanic soccer team kicks up a storm of wins

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Former soccer pro Bob Janda knew he had much work ahead of him. As coach of the Catholic Hispanic Center Soccer team, he volunteered for the daunting task of transforming a group of non-soccer playing, non-English speaking kids into a virtually unstoppable team.

After talking to Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, director of the Catholic Hispanic Center, Janda went to the Masses at the center in the summer to talk to the congregation about forming an Hispanic boys' soccer team.

His Sunday recruitment resulted in gathering children, ages eight to 11, who wanted to participate in the extracurricular activity. Janda, who owns a small business, had played soccer professionally in South America and for the Madison Chargers in Wisconsin. He decided to combine his 20 years of volunteer work with the Hispanic community with his love of soccer.

"All I hoped was to get enough players for a team of 11 on the field, so we wouldn't get disqualified," admitted Janda.

Fourteen of the 16 boys and one girl had never played soccer at all. Therefore, he had to start teaching them the basics of the game in Spanish mixed with the English they would be hearing on the field. The most difficult challenge for him as coach would be trying to get them to understand the some of the adversities they would be facing, he said.

"The language barrier was a huge obstacle, and they competed against advanced teams in an established league," said Janda. "None of them had ever put on a uniform or had ever worked with referees and umpires."

They comprised one of seven

SEE SOCCER TEAM, PAGE 8

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Official says Holy Land infrastructure not ready for pilgrims

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A Latin-rite Patriarchate official expressed concerns that Israeli and Palestinian infrastructure will not be ready for pilgrims at Christmas and might not be ready for the pope's scheduled visit in March. "I think a lot of infrastructure is just not there," said Father Robert Fortin, director of the Latin Patriarchate Jubilee Committee. "We have been terribly concerned about it for a long time."

Attack on Sri Lankan church kills at least 40 refugees

ROME (CNS) — At least 40 refugees were killed and 60 injured when a 450-year-old Marian shrine in Sri Lanka was shelled, according to church missionary news agencies in Rome. The Sri Lankan army and Tamil rebels blamed each other for the Nov. 21 attack at the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu. Thirteen victims were children sleeping in a makeshift dormitory in a chapel on the premises, said the Vatican's Fides agency. Bishop Rayappu Joseph of Mannar said the attack represented an unprecedented desecration of the ancient shrine, where thousands of people have sought refuge from civil strife in recent years.

Pope likely to visit Fatima in May to beatify shepherd children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Portuguese bishops and Vatican sources said it was likely that Pope John Paul II would visit Fatima, Portugal, next May to beatify two shepherd children who had visions of Mary in 1917. Although papal travel will be kept to a minimum during the jubilee year, it appeared the pope would visit the Marian shrine on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, May 13, the sources said Nov. 29. Local church officials in Portugal were said to be preparing for a possible May 12-13 visit by the pope, who has a special attachment to the Marian shrine.

Bishop's clinic protest case ends with no government appeal

NEW YORK (CNS) — The U.S. government will not appeal a federal court ruling upholding a decision to throw out criminal contempt of court charges against a retired Catholic bishop and a priest. The government's decision brings to a close a four-and-a-half-year court case involving retired Bishop George E. Lynch, 82, and Brother Fidelis Moscinski, 30, and their challenge to the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. Bishop Lynch and Brother Moscinski said they were pleased with the outcome, even though it did not result in overturning the 1994 law enacted to prevent blockades of abortion clinics.

George Will says much to cheer about at century's end

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — As we head into the 21st century, Americans can cheer about the nation's social gains, including a booming economy, a declining crime rate and low unemployment, said George Will. But the nationally known columnist and television personality said there are still areas in need of improvement, including educational achievement and the level of morality. Will made the comments at Catholic-run Loras College in Dubuque. He delivered the Msgr. James Barta Distinguished Lecture in early November to a near capacity crowd of 1,800.

CNS PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

Feast of Blessed Juan Diego, Dec. 9

Blessed Juan Diego, the visionary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico in 1531, is depicted in a work by southwestern painter Ted De Grazia at the Mission of the Sun in Tucson, Ariz. Diego's feast day is Dec. 9 in the United States.

Abbot, from page 1

what can emerge.

Abbot Placid was born David Leo Solari in 1952 to the late J. Kenneth and Frances Meagher Solari of Richmond, VA. A monk of the Order of St. Benedict, he joined Belmont Abbey in 1974 and was ordained a priest in 1980. He has been a teacher of theology at Belmont Abbey since 1978 and has served as academic dean since 1996.

He is a member of the college's Board of Trustees Executive Committee. Abbot Placid is a member of the board of directors of the Ecumenical Institute of Wake Forest University. He attributes his ecumenical interest to mentoring on behalf of his predecessor, Abbot Oscar Burnett.

Abbot Placid was subpior of the monastery from 1990-1996, served as director of formation from 1991-1996 and as director of vocations from 1994-1996.

"We rejoice at the election of Father Placid as the new abbot of Belmont Abbey," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "He brings to his position years of experience both in academics and as an outstanding example of dedication to his vocation to the monastic life."

"I am confident that under his guidance, Belmont Abbey will prosper," says Bishop Curlin. "He is assured of the loving generous support of the many friends of Belmont Abbey and especially from all those who hold him in such high esteem."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Abbot Placid has been assistant pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia [1979-1982] where he was director of parish religious education and had involvement with the diocesan youth ministry program. Most recently, Abbot Placid has been an instructor with the diocesan permanent diaconate program. ▼

On Jan. 15, the Benedictine calendar marks the feasts of Saints Maur and Placid, the first disciples of St. Benedict. At 10:30 on that January morning, Abbot Placid will receive the liturgical rite of the blessing of an abbot, a distinction to be bestowed by Bishop Curlin.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

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Vatican says fight against poverty should guide WTO meeting

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As representatives from more than 100 countries began major negotiations in Seattle on world trade, the Vatican said discussions should be guided by the need to fight poverty.

In a 30-page pamphlet prepared by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Vatican said the World Trade Organization should give priority to the needs of developing countries, increase working links with other organizations to promote development, and focus on full implementation of past agreements before tackling new issues proposed by some countries.

The WTO's third ministerial meeting, held Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Seattle, launched the so-called "Millennium Round" of free trade negotiations. It was the first major round of trade talks since the "Uruguay Round," begun in 1986.

The Vatican enjoys permanent observer status at the World Trade Organization.

Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Vatican justice and peace council, said the pamphlet, released at the Vatican Nov. 30, was a "stimulus for reflection" rather than a "formal document" of the council.

"The reflections are offered as a contribution to the search for new ways of strengthening a rules-based world system, in which trade and development are placed at the service of the global human community, especially in the fight against poverty," the bishop said in the pamphlet's introduction.

Quoting Mike Moore, WTO director general, the pamphlet underlines that the "aims of trade, development and the alleviation of poverty are inextricably linked."

Though previous WTO agreements have aided market liberalization in developing nations, more must be done to reduce poverty and marginalization in those countries, the pamphlet said. Over the past 10 years, the Least Developed Countries' share in international trade has dropped to just half of 1 percent, the Vatican said.

The Vatican pamphlet included several specific proposals:

— Reduce tariffs and subsidies on agricultural goods which hamper market access for developing countries.

"While subsidies may still have an importance for the agricultural development of the poorest countries, as a provisional help to gain competitiveness on international markets, they are no longer acceptable in their actual levels for developed countries," the pamphlet said.

— Formulate standards on genetically modified foods in accordance with sound science and the "principle of precaution" contained in an earlier agreement.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Scott Larsen of Philadelphia holds a huge red banner during an anti-World Trade Organization protest march at the University of Washington in Seattle Nov. 23. Officials estimate more than 30,000 protesters will be in Seattle when the WTO meeting starts Nov. 29.

Trade in genetically modified foods has significantly increased in recent decades, the Vatican said, and its "impact on plant, animal and human health is still to be definitively tested according to internationally recognized standards."

Health and quality nutrition should always be put before commercial targets, the Vatican said. It added that substantial financial support should be given to other types of agricultural research, "such as in organic agricultural systems being already applied with success in various local communities."

— Reinforce juridical and operational means to promote the transfer of technology, intellectual property rights and technical skills to developing countries.

The Vatican called for a "substantial increase of the regular WTO budget and of contributions for trade-related technical assistance" to fully integrate poor countries.

— Assist developing countries in implementing an environmental protection policy, including eliminating restrictions on trade in environmental goods and services to promote environmental technology transfer at lower costs to developing countries.

— Strengthen cooperation between the WTO and the International Labor Organization to protect workers' rights. Countries which fail to comply with the labor organization's 1998 declaration on basic workers' rights should not be automatically excluded from world markets, through economic sanctions and blockades, because it "would only penalize those who are in the most extreme poverty."

— Increase the ability of the Least Developed Countries to take advantage of opportunities provided by WTO agreements, like the mechanism to settle trade disputes between countries. A proposed Legal Advisory Center should be established without further delay, the Vatican said. The pamphlet also called for fast-tracking WTO membership requests by developing countries. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Filipino activists shout anti-American slogans during a rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Manila Nov. 30. The protesters said World Trade Organization talks in Seattle could lead to unneeded food imports by the Philippines hurting local farmers.

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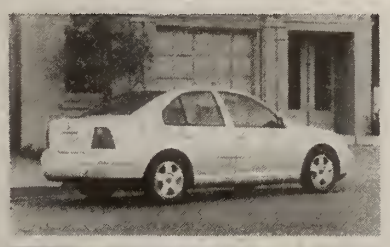

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Vatican says Israel's decision on mosque foments divisions

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican sharply criticized the Israeli government for "fomenting divisions" between religions by allowing construction of a mosque near a Catholic church in Nazareth.

The blunt Vatican statement by spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls was issued Nov. 23 as the cornerstone of the new mosque was placed on a lot adjacent to the Basilica of the Annunciation.

Muslim militants occupied the site nearly two years ago and announced plans to build a mosque; in October, the Israeli government stepped in and approved a smaller mosque for the site. Outraged church leaders in the Holy Land closed churches for two days Nov. 22-23 to protest the government decision.

The brief Vatican statement was its sharpest comment yet on the controversy.

"The decision of the Israeli government seems to lay the groundwork for future contrasts and tensions between the two religious communities, Christian and Islamic," Navarro-Valls said.

"I think the political authorities have a great responsibility in this case, because instead of favoring unity they are creating a foundation for fomenting divisions," he said.

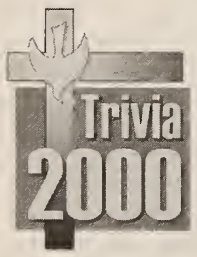
The spokesman noted that Muslim leaders in Palestine had recently asked that the mosque not be built next to the Nazareth basilica, thus showing their "solidarity with the Christian church authorities in the Holy Land."

Pope John Paul II was expected to visit Nazareth next March as part of a visit to the Holy Land. Construction of the mosque was scheduled to begin after his visit.

Both the Vatican and Palestinian church leaders, however, have hinted that the mosque controversy could alter the plans for the papal visit. ▼

Vatican to distribute 'The Pilgrim's Newspaper'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is launching a biweekly newspaper and plans to distribute 1 million copies of each issue free.



Regular issues of "The Pilgrim's Newspaper" will be available in Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish beginning Dec. 22, the Vatican said.

The newspaper "aims to become the traveling companion of every single pilgrim," said a statement from its publisher, the communication and documentation office of the Vatican's central jubilee committee.

Each issue will contain a detailed list of Holy Year events for the following two weeks, an explanation of the spiritual meaning of the events, information about the major pilgrimage and tourist sites in Rome and useful telephone numbers and addresses.

Volunteers will distribute the newspaper near the Vatican, Rome's major basilicas and other areas hosting a large number of Holy Year pilgrims. ▼

Soccer team, from page 5

teams playing in the under 12 division of the Youth Christian Soccer League. This is an ecumenical league made of church teams like Our Lady of Assumption Church, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, St. John Neumann Church and others. This is the only Hispanic youth soccer team out of the 100 Hispanic young adult soccer teams in Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas.

After training and practice, they were ready for their games. Every time they stepped onto the field in their red and green uniforms, Janda felt their nervousness. The team was triumphant despite the fact they were a few steps behind everyone.

Janda said, "Initially, they didn't understand, but they got a feel for what they could and could not do. They challenged themselves to become part of an unfamiliar territory."

They met that challenge and were victorious during this fall's season; they went undefeated as league champions. They played everyone in the league once and met those same teams in the tournament, where they placed second overall.

"The majority of the kids are from Mexico with some from Peru, and they probably grew up kicking balls around in the street. Some of their skills can be said to be inherited because they grew up in an environment where soccer is prevalent," explained Janda.

This team has spawned another team of older, more experienced youth to form a team for the Challenge Soccer League in spring and fall, which may lead them to the Select League Category, both sponsored by the U.S. Youth Soccer League Teams.

"We used this team as a pilot project that will hopefully continue to develop," said Janda. "We want the program to grow, and the goal is for it to produce an athletic association for kids and adults at the Catholic Hispanic Center."

The team has lined up some corporate sponsors, and Janda is currently looking for more. For next year's youth team, the Police Athletic League of Charlotte will assist with transportation, insurance coverage and the use of fields, said Janda. He will concentrate on the team of older kids next year, while the parents who assisted him this year will take over the youth team.

"We used this team as a pilot project that will hopefully continue to develop," said Janda. "We want the program to grow, and the goal is for it to produce an athletic association for kids and adults at the Catholic Hispanic Center."

"I think this experience gave them more confidence in school, as far as discipline is concerned. It brought them closer to their families and gave them a chance to make solid friendships with other children," said Janda. "These kids will never forget this season, and this was as gratifying and as emotional for me as it was for them." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Look for the "Stories of Faith" winners in next week's issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

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The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors composed of clergy and lay people. The Board's objective is to pursue an investment policy consistent with reasonable growth while prudently safeguarding the principal. The directors are leaders in their parishes and communities, and are accountable to both donors and recipients. This accountability includes the professional investment of The Foundation's assets while ensuring that the funds are disbursed according to the donor's wishes.

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Vicar General and Chancellor,
Diocese of Charlotte,
Charlotte, NC

1998-1999 Annual Report

THE FOUNDATION
of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is a nonprofit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good stewards through gifts of assets, provides for the investment of those assets, and distributes the income to recipients. The principal remains untouched. Endowments through The Foundation are a means to greater financial stability and growth for our diocese and its entities.

Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring those who provide for the future.

The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the Church. Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to The Foundation, the Diocese of Charlotte, or any of its parishes, schools, agencies, or organizations. Consider the following planned gifts:

• **A Bequest In Your Will** is perhaps the simplest way to give. You can name The Foundation to receive a gift of cash or other property from your estate. You can stipulate that The Foundation receives a specified amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all other bequests are fulfilled.

• **Gifts of Cash, Securities, Real Estate or other Tangible Assets** sufficient to establish an endowment are an ideal way of giving to The Foundation, particularly when the donated assets are highly appreciated.

• **Gifts of Life Insurance** allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can give The Foundation a paid up policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

• **Life Income Arrangements** allow you to make gifts to The Foundation 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** are often an excellent method of making a planned gift to The Foundation. You can designate The Foundation 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 a Life Estate in Real Property** allows you to enjoy your home or vacation home during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your Church will benefit from the gift after your death.

These and other opportunities for giving to The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte can be explored with you. The Foundation staff will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help determine which gift is right for you. ◆

For more information, please call:

Jim Kelley, Executive Director
The Foundation of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
(704) 370-3301
fax: (704) 370-3378

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

It is very gratifying to see the accomplishments of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte since its beginning five years ago. Through the Foundation, our community of faith has a tremendous opportunity to provide for the future of the church for generations to come.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who have helped make the Foundation so successful. I am particularly grateful to the individuals, living and deceased, who have established endowments in the Foundation to support the work of the Church. These individuals have shown great foresight and confidence in what the Foundation can become and have set a legacy for others to follow. I am also grateful to the pastors, principals, and agency directors who established endowments for their respective parishes, schools, and agencies. I encourage more of our individuals and Catholic entities to establish endowments in this Foundation. If you would like to add to an existing endowment or explore ways to create a new endowment, please call Jim Kelley, our Executive Director.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the board who serve our Catholic Community by sharing their time and talent with the Foundation. Through their commitment and the stewardship of our generous contributors, we can offer financial support to Catholic entities that will help us achieve our mission of proclaiming the Good News and teaching the Faith to succeeding generations.

As your Bishop, I know that what we do today with the Foundation will better prepare the Church to face the future.

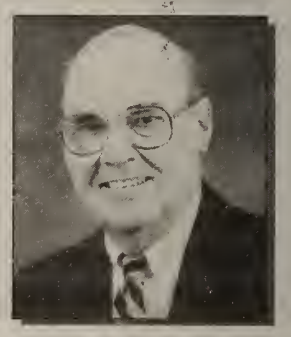
Begging God's blessings on you and your loved ones, I am as always,

Devotedly yours in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

"Through the Foundation, our community of faith has a tremendous opportunity to provide for the future of the church for generations to come."



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am proud to present the Foundation's 1998-99 Annual Report to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte. As this report reflects, our first five years have been ones of significant growth.

During the past year, four new endowments were added to the Foundation to support the following: Holy Angels Catholic Church, Room At The Inn, St. Gabriel Catholic School, and charitable ministries in the diocese. Those additions increase our number of endowments from 50 to 54.

Our total assets at the end of the fiscal year were $6,129,850, an increase of 16% over the previous year's amount of $5,269,918. Invested assets generated a return of 15.2% for the year ending June 30, 1999, after generating an average return of 16.9% the previous four years. We believe those numbers represent a significant accomplishment for our first five years.

In this year's report, we have included a story of an individual who established an endowment for the Catholic schools in Charlotte and a story of a couple who established a trust that will benefit their parish, an area Catholic school and the Diocese. We hope these stories will encourage other individuals, to do the same.

Our first five years have been good ones. All of us on the board are committed to expanding our current endowments and building new endowments to ensure the future of our diocese, parishes, schools and ministries.

Sincerely yours,

John Nussbaum Jr.

Vic Nussbaum
President

"All of us on the board are committed to expanding our current endowments and building new endowments to ensure the future of our diocese, parishes, schools and ministries."

Endowments as of June 30, 1999

DIOCESAN ENDOWMENTS

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Priest Retirement Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for our retired priests.

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) Endowment Fund
Established to provide financial assistance for ministries supported by the DSA.

The Maffitt Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides assistance to Catholic missions in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Income from this fund is used to assist in the work of the Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other restricted funds.

EDUCATION ENDOWMENTS

The American Schlafhorst Scholarship Endowment Fund
Established to provide scholarship assistance for students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The Asheville Catholic School Foundation Endowment Fund
This fund was established to enable the school to retain quality teachers, to offer scholarship assistance, to offer continuing education for teachers and to enhance the school's curriculum.

The Bishop McGuinness High School Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for the education of the students at Bishop McGuinness.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund established by the CCHS Alumni Association provides scholarships for graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Faucette Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund was established to benefit the educational ministry of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Megan Healy Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarship assistance for students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The Francis J. McGrail Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides for scholarship aid to students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation Endowment Fund
This fund was established to meet the needs of the students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

The Kim Piccolo Scholarship Endowment Fund
Established through the Catholic Campus Ministry Office at UNC Charlotte, this fund provides scholarship assistance for Catholic students at UNC Charlotte.

The Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Salisbury.

The Frank Spinks Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for professional development activities for the staff at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

The Mary Spinks Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to minority students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

St. Gabriel School Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Charlotte.

profile

The F. Joseph Treacy Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to students of single parents in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

MINISTRY ENDOWMENTS

The African American and Native American Endowment Fund
This fund benefits the needs of minorities across the diocese.

Bishop Michael J. Begley Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of charitable ministries in Western North Carolina.

The Catholic Social Services Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this diocesan ministry across the western half of North Carolina.

The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the program needs of this retreat center in Maggie Valley.

profile

Education endowment to assist MACS students

By MIKE KROKOS
The Catholic News & Herald

CHARLOTTE — Joe Treacy was always committed to Catholic education. The 1967 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS), who also attended St. Patrick and St. Ann's elementary schools as a youngster growing up in Charlotte, spent a good portion of his adult life working to improve the parochial education offered to students. Treacy was a member of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Board of Education from 1992-94 and a founding member of the MACS Education Foundation Board of Directors.

When Treacy passed away in 1997, he left $10,000 to the MACS Education Foundation, which raises funds for MACS schools, including CCHS. As a result, the F. Joseph Treacy, Jr. Endowment Fund was recently created in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to provide tuition assistance to MACS students of single parents.

The money is earmarked for the continuation of Catholic education and the work Treacy was a part of as a MACS supporter, his widow, Sheila Treacy Williams, said. "Joe believed in evangelization, and he saw this as a way to reach out to others in the community, including non-Catholics entering our schools."

"Joe always tried to give back what was given to him," she continued. "He believed in MACS and in providing a Catholic education to all. Joe saw a place where he could make a difference (serving on the boards)."

"He also believed in the 'four r's': reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and religion, and saw those as another reason to support Catholic education," Sheila Treacy Williams added.

While on the school board, Treacy served as chairman for two years. During that time, the decision was made to move CCHS to its present location on Pineville-Matthews Road. Treacy was also a very active member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet, which raised more than $3 million for the new high school.

As of June 30, the Treacy endowment totaled more than $11,864. The gift will continue to generate funds for MACS, because as an endowment, the principal is never used. The number of endowments in the Foundation is up to 54, and the total assets of the diocesan Foundation are at $6.1 million.

"Through his gift, Joe Treacy left a legacy that will allow MACS to grow and meet its needs in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation.

More and more individuals across the diocese are following the example of Treacy's legacy by remembering the church in their estate plans. Kelley added that 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 the accumulated assets to endow schools, churches and other organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte," he said. ◆

The Manger Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the program needs of the Room At The Inn in Charlotte.

PARISH ENDOWMENTS

The Basilica of St. Lawrence Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this endowment assists in meeting the needs of the historic Basilica in Asheville.

The Joseph M. Bryan, Sr. Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the maintenance and enhancement of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

The Alma Cornely Memorial Endowment Fund
Established through St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, this fund provides support to the Missions of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Jack Driscoll Endowment Fund
This fund was established to help meet the needs of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard.

Holy Angels Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Mount Airy.

The Holy Family Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Clemmons.

The Immaculate Conception Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this endowment provides for the needs of this parish in Forest City.

The Amber Lundgren Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides for scholarship aid to a St. Barnabas parishioner for attendance at a post secondary school.

The Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Our Lady of the Highways Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Thomasville.

The Our Lady of Mercy Endowment Fund
This fund provides for corporal works of mercy for parishioners of this parish in Winston-Salem.

(con't.)

profile

The Hilbert Charitable Trust

Edith and George Hilbert generously established a charitable remainder uni trust that upon their deaths will become the Edith I. and George P. Hilbert Endowment.

The Sacred Heart Threshold Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Salisbury.

The St. Benedict Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Greensboro.

The St. Francis of Assisi Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Franklin.

The St. Gabriel Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The St. James Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Concord.

The St. John Memorial Endowment Fund

This fund provides for scholarships to graduating high school seniors from this parish in Tryon for attendance at a post secondary school.

The St. Jude Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this mission in Sapphire Valley.

The St. Leo Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The St. Luke Founders' Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the local, national and international outreach activities of this parish in Mint Hill.

The St. Philip the Apostle Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Statesville.

The St. Therese Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Mooresville.

The St. Vincent de Paul Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Olga and George Testa Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the faith formation needs of St. Michael parish in Gastonia.

The Father Peter Tomaino Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the faith formation needs of children in Christ the King parish in High Point.

The Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Holy Name Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

VOCATIONS ENDOWMENTS

The Conklin Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Lee Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

profile

Black Mountain couple sows seeds of stewardship

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
The Catholic News & Herald

BLACK MOUNTAIN — George and Edith Hilbert will never see the flowering of the seeds they've planted, but countless other people will enjoy the fruits of their generosity for years to come.

In late 1998, the Hilberts put 5,054 shares of Pfizer stock, worth almost $600,000, into a trust to benefit their parish, a Catholic school, and the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We couldn't have timed it better," Edith said. "It was right after Viagra (manufactured by Pfizer) came out."

The trust sold the stock. A charitable remainder uni trust, administered through Wachovia Bank, has been created for the Hilberts. The couple will receive lifelong income from the trust. After their deaths, the funds will go into an endowment in the diocesan foundation and be divided three ways: 50 percent will go to the Charlotte diocese, 25 percent to Asheville Catholic School, and 25 percent to their parish, St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa.

"This is irrevocable," Edith said.

"We can't change our minds," George added. "We've been investing in Pfizer stock since about 1960. All we were doing was reinvesting. It got to the point where we said, at our age, what do we need more for."

They could have specified how the beneficiaries would use the money, but decided against that.

"They were very strong in saying they wanted the money to be used where it was most needed," said Cindy Rice, the diocese's director of planned giving.

Like the Hilberts during their lifetime, the beneficiaries will receive income from the endowment, but the principal will remain in the diocesan foundation to continue to generate income.

"It's a double thing," Edith said. "We get a benefit, and they get a benefit."

The Hilberts moved to Black Mountain from Schenectady, N.Y., in 1987. Married 50 years ago next month, they have no children. She was a secretary for General Electric; he was a salesman for firms in the transportation industry. And, they had invested in the stock market.

"Merrill Lynch had a plan where you could send in $40 a month," George said. "So, we did that, and we just left it there for years. If we sold it, we'd get clobbered with the capital gains taxes."

"We gain more by doing it this way," Edith said.

Among the benefits the Hilberts are enjoying is increased income from their investment. The Pfizer stock was paying them about $4,000 a year in dividends. However, the trust pays them nearly 10 times that much annually.

"In addition to the income, they get a significant charitable deduction on their income tax," Rice said, "and at some point the parish, the school and the diocese will be the beneficiary of a very generous gift." ◆

Joanita M. Nellenbach is a correspondent for The Catholic News & Herald.

"In addition to the income, they get a significant charitable deduction on their income tax and at some point the parish, the school and the diocese will be the beneficiary of a very generous gift."

— Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving

FINANCIAL REPORT

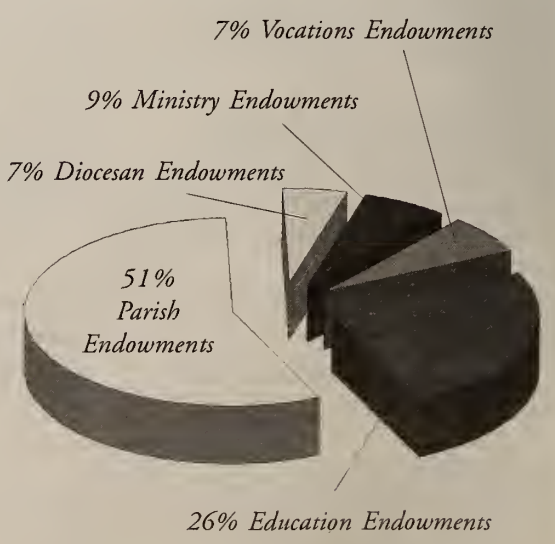
The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position, June 30, 1999 and 1998

Assets:	1999	1998
Cash	$ 43,342	$ 52,814
Receivables -		
Support and other receivables	8,232	18,752
Interest and dividends receivables	2,381	12,118
Total receivables	10,613	30,870
Assets held in trust	423,966	264,589
Investments	5,651,929	4,921,645
Total Assets	**$6,129,850**	**$5,269,918**
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	$ 13,931	$ 12,165
Custodial and annuity obligations	2,996,724	2,580,385
Total Liabilities	3,010,655	2,592,550
Unrestricted net assets	758,459	687,437
Temporarily restricted net assets	725,671	533,534
Permanently restricted net assets	1,635,065	1,456,397
Total Net Assets	3,119,195	2,677,368
Total Liabilities and net assets	**$ 6,129,850**	**$5,269,918**

A copy of the independent audit by Arthur Andersen and Co. is available upon request.

Percentage of Endowments in the Diocese of Charlotte



N. Ireland Catholic leaders welcome coalition government

By CIAN MOLLOY
Catholic News Service

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Catholic leaders welcomed an agreement on the formation a new coalition government for Northern Ireland which they said will help build trust between Catholics and Protestants.

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, hailed the Nov. 27 vote by members of the Ulster Unionist Party in favor of a peace formula that led to the formation of a cabinet in which Catholics and Protestants will share power.

He called the agreement a "further step towards building trust between the two communities." The Ulster Unionist Party is the largest Protestant party.

The agreement was needed before ministers could be appointed to the 10-member coalition cabinet and powers devolved from Britain's Parliament to the 108-member Northern Ireland Assembly created as a result of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement.

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell has brokered talks between unionists, who are predominantly Protestant and support continued British rule, and nationalists, who are predominantly Catholic and favor a united Ireland.

Archbishop Brady said that the most important contribution that Christians can make to the peace process is to "build trust and reconciliation."

The unionists voted in favor of the deal on the condition that the Irish Republican Army begin decommissioning of weapons by Jan. 31. If decommissioning has not started by then, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will resign as first minister of the Northern Ireland assembly.

The bill allowing devolution of powers was to be passed through

See COALITION, page 18

CNS photo from Reuters

Newly appointed ministers — Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness (left), minister for education, and Bairbre de Brun (center), minister for health, social services and public safety — stand with party leader Gerry Adams at the Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast Nov. 29. Catholic and Protestant parties nominated ministers to a coalition government of pro-Irish republicans and pro-British unionists in Northern Ireland.

Parishioners flee as naked man with sword attacks during Mass

LONDON, England (CNS) — Mass-goers at a church in south London fled in panic when a naked man wielding a sword burst into the church and attacked members of the congregation.

Eleven people needed hospital treatment after the attack during Sunday morning Mass Nov. 28 at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Thornton Heath. A 55-year-old man was said to be in critical condition after being slashed in the face and neck and having his index finger and thumb severed.

Several parishioners subdued the attacker, a 26-year-old man from Thornton Heath who was arrested after the attack. Police gave no motive for his actions.

Witnesses said the naked man entered the church as the congregation finished the Creed.

Marie Parcou, 66, said the man was waving a three-foot sword with his right hand and silently slashing victims. She described the attack as like something out of a horror movie.

"I was just standing next to my husband, Jules, and all of a sudden the man repeatedly cut him with his sword," she said. "My husband was spouting blood and I had to pull him to the ground before the maniac chopped his head off."

Father John Lennon, 78, who was celebrating Mass, said the 400 worshippers gathered in the church were in a "terrible panic" during the attack.

"I have been a priest for 52 years and I have seen most things, but I have never seen anything like this," said Father Lennon.

"Coming down the aisle toward me was this naked man wielding a sword and hacking at people as he went. You can imagine the panic that set in," he told reporters.

Archbishop Michael Bowen of Southwark said Nov. 28 after visiting the parish: "My sympathy and prayers are with all those who have suffered from this tragedy: those who have been injured, their families, all those present at Mass this morning and the clergy and all members of this large and thriving parish community. I wish to pay tribute to those who acted so quickly and bravely to disarm the attacker and those who gave first aid to the injured."

The archbishop also thanked local members of the Salvation Army who allowed parishioners to celebrate the Sunday evening Mass in their hall.

An off-duty policeman was among those praised for tackling the attacker. Police officer Tom Tracey, a member of the choir at the church, described the man as "absolutely wild."

Attending Mass with his daughter, Tracey grabbed a pipe from the church organ and hit the attacker over the head. He was aided by a fellow worshipper, who grabbed a large cross to keep the man at bay.

Tracey told Sky News: "I looked over and I saw a man wielding a sword around. People were rushing past, and myself, along with several other male members of the parish, subdued the man just as he was near the altar.

"I was very scared but one feels obliged to try to prevent people being hurt and limit the damage as much as one can," Tracey said. "Thankfully, there were some other members of the parish who showed great bravery and backed me up." ▼

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Book Review

Book documents monk's life as a Trappist at Mepkin Abbey in S.C.

REVIEWED BY PATRICK J. HAYES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Adding to the recent spate of writing on the monastic life is a fine contribution by Paul Wilkes, "Beyond the Walls," in which Wilkes describes a series of encounters with the Trappists of Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina.

Wilkes himself has been something of a closet Trappist for most of his adult life, living for a time at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass., and writing about and frequenting several cloisters over the last 20 years.

"Beyond the Walls: Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life"
By Paul Wilkes
Doubleday (New York, 1999),
245 pp., $21.00

His book is a spiritual chronicle. He does not simply rehash what he did while at the abbey, but gives the reader a peek into the monastic wisdom which he experienced. He is a devotee of Thomas Merton, but more so the Trappist life. He is also willing to invest in it by donating a portion of the book's sales to Mepkin Abbey.

Mepkin itself sits on abundant acreage once owned by Henry and Clare Booth Luce where they have their burial plot. Previously it had been a rice plantation. Today, the abbey is home to two dozen monks and 35,000 chickens. The eggs and manure that are generated there give the monastery its means of support.

The reader gets the impression that Wilkes is relaying what he managed to jot into a notebook while behind the monastery's walls. Some of this is hurried and labored, fresh and raw. The narrative, however, is balanced by eventual reflection on these notes, and the end product is of a higher grade. Although these reflective moments can sound somewhat preachy at times, they never betray anything less than an earnest, genuine voice.

Wilkes is always trying to understand himself better — as spouse, parent, writer. He finds that the stability of the monastery has a calming effect on the soul. It is especially in his relations with the monks at Mepkin that he is able to grasp who he truly is in life. Their insights are gladly received. For instance, their detachment from the outside world is the source for some of Wilkes' most compelling and melodic passages. I found his thought on detachment to be particularly engaging. "Detachment opens up to abundance," he says.

Wilkes also has a number of pithy statements strewn through the book which pop up and confront the reader, providing a spiritual jolt of sorts. Some might accuse him of trying to work through these realizations as a response to midlife crisis. He is fleeing to the abbey, they'll say. Yet, it seems to me, anyone who hungers after spiritual grounding has a makeshift abbey to which they must return, if only to check their moral compass.

Each chapter is arranged by month. They bear such titles as "Faith" or "Discernment." Wilkes has a soft-spot for solitude and the message he is sharing is as clear as a bell in the night air: Come apart from the rat race. Be still. Listen to the song of your own soul. ▼

Hayes is a doctoral student in ecclesiology at The Catholic University of America, the editorial assistant for the journal The Living Light, and is currently teaching a course in Christian spirituality at Trinity College in Washington.

Word to Life

Dec. 5, Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalms 85:9ab-14
2) 2 Peter 3:8-14
3) Gospel Mark 1:1-8

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A 10th-grader in religious education class, Patsy, had a knack for cutting to the chase. One evening, in a class about reconciliation, Patsy asked the question for the ages: "Why should you go to confession for a sin you know you are just going to turn around and do again the next week?" All eyes were riveted on the teacher as she explained that such an attitude indicated that one's heart was not fully prepared for repentance.

There was obvious discomfort among Patsy's teen-age classmates when it was suggested that reconciliation to God means committing oneself to change.

It wasn't the answer they had hoped for: Just keep going back to confession every time you do that sin and you'll be fine. On the other hand, they seemed somewhat relieved to be reminded that Jesus himself will actually provide them with the strength they need to change.

This isn't simply an adolescent concern. We all have bad habits, and it's the habitual sins that seem to be the hardest to overcome.

All of this week's readings offer repentance — turning to God — as the answer to Patsy's question. The Lord wants us to change our bad habits, to his ways, in this life to prepare ourselves to accompany him in the next.

During the season of Advent our spiritual concentration is on hope and waiting for the coming of the Lord. Readings for the second Sunday, however, emphasize our own preparation.

Peter gives us assurance that the Lord "shows you generous patience since he wants none to perish but all to come to repentance," and Isaiah promises God's powerful assistance in that matter: "Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm.... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom."

Peter urges us to make necessary changes: "What we await are new heavens and a new earth where, according to his promise, the justice of God will reside. So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in his sight."

Again, the Gospel promises that a baptism of repentance leads to forgiveness of sins. In the words of John the Baptist, "I have baptized you in water; he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit."

Question:
What sinful habit do you need to ask God to help you break this Advent season so you can be better prepared for his coming?

"Here comes with power the Lord God.... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock. In his arms he gathers the lambs"
— Isaiah 40:10-11

Top 10 December Bestsellers — Hardcover

1. **"She Said Yes."** Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
2. **"Recovering Life."** Darryl & Charisse Strawberry. (Plough Publishing)
3. **"Witness to Hope."** George Weigel (HarperCollins)
4. **"Life of the Beloved."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
5. **"Imitation of Christ."** Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. **"Lives of the Saints."** Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
7. **"Maurice and Therese."** Patrick Ahern (Doubleday)
8. **"Here and Now."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
9. **"Wounded Prophet."** Michael Ford (Doubleday)
10. **"Holy Rosary."** (Catholic Book Publishing)

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 5 - 11, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8; **Monday**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 40:1-11, Matthew 18:12-14; **Wednesday (Feast of the Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13

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Movie Review

"End of Days" is overblown, violent millennium thriller

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — It's Satan vs. Schwarzenegger in the violent millennium thriller, "End of Days" (Universal) — with violence as the victor.

An overwrought and overblown big-budget production, it presents a sneering Gabriel Byrne as Satan prowling the streets of New York City for a troubled young woman (Robin Tunney) born with the mark of the devil 20 years earlier. He must impregnate her in the last hour of the century so that his supremacy over heaven and hell can begin.

Byrne seems to be specializing in trashy movies with a bizarre perspective on Catholicism — in his last, "Stigmata," he played a priest out to save a seductive stigmatic from a murderous cardinal.

In this equally ludicrous plot, the pope has been aware of this woman since her birth but does not want her harmed to eliminate the millennium problem; however, a group of zealots set out to kill her before Satan can rape her.

Into this mess stumbles embittered ex-cop Schwarzenegger, a bodyguard who lost his faith when his wife and child were murdered.

After a violent encounter on the job with a mysteriously homicidal priest, Schwarzenegger finds the woman's photo in the priest's creepy hovel. Unbelievably, our hero is able to deduce the woman's name from words carved onto the priest's crucified body — which turns up on a hospital-room ceiling after a visit from Satan.

Upon confronting the woman, whom he meets as she is being attacked by zealots, the violence only escalates as he realizes Satan will stop at nothing to seduce her.

Friends and colleagues have been compromised by the evil one and only angry Arnold stands between the Prince of Darkness and Armageddon.

As directed by Peter Hyams, the flashy movie simply uses a biblical quote to unleash an ultraviolent — and utterly nonsensical — tale about the battle between good and evil played out in gritty New York City on New Year's Eve.

It's Schwarzenegger the terminator dropped into a story with a religious backdrop but no genuine spiritual concerns. In fact, the press notes present the baby girl born 20 years ago as the Antichrist while the movie focuses on Satan impregnating an innocent young woman who has no idea why she is being stalked. This contradiction only underlines how the movie is really about a continual stream of explosions, shootouts, brutal beatings and murders that are the mark of exploitative action movies.

A wholly gratuitous scene shows Satan simultaneously bedding the wife and daughter of one of his followers, ensnaring them in incestuous embrace that has nothing whatever to do with the story.

Action fans may enjoy seeing Schwarzenegger uncharacteristically brought low by a vicious mob that pummels and crucifies him, not to mention the further indignity he suffers at the end. But the movie's fiery special-effects mayhem becomes repetitive and burns itself out long before the end of "End of Days."

Because of excessive violence, frequent mindless mayhem, a perverted sexual encounter with nudity, some profanity and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM DISNEY/PIXAR

"Toy Story 2"

Buzz Lightyear, left, is forced to remind his pal Woody that he is a toy after Woody discovers that he is a highly valued collectible in "Toy Story 2." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general-audiences.

Recovery of lost NASA spacecraft is subject of Discovery Channel special

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The recovery of the only spacecraft ever lost by NASA is the subject of "In Search of Liberty Bell 7," premiering Sunday, Dec. 12, 9-11 p.m. EST on cable's Discovery Channel.

Liberty Bell 7 was the name of the capsule in which astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom made a 16-minute suborbital flight in 1961.

When the capsule splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean, its hatch opened prematurely and water poured into the cabin and Grissom's spacesuit.

Within five minutes, a Marine helicopter rescued Grissom but the waterlogged space capsule snapped its cable and sank to the ocean bottom.

Some 38 years later, an expedition was mounted to find and recover this lost piece of space history and the results are part of this documentary.

The snags and snafus encountered during the voyage, however, have less interest than the program's nostalgic account of the early years in America's space program.

With an abundance of film footage and interviews with past and present NASA personnel, the first triumphs in the Mercury program are recalled with enthusiasm.

The dark side to all this is the fact that Grissom and two other astronauts died in 1967 during an Apollo launch simulation when the pressurized cabin burst into flame.

The irony here is that the Apollo's escape hatch couldn't be opened in time to save the men, whereas that of Liberty Bell 7 seemingly popped open of its own accord.

One of the reasons for NASA's interest in recovering the capsule was to review the film taken by the cabin's camera.

This could have solved the mystery of what caused the hatch to pop open but unfortunately the waterlogged film proved unsalvageable.

Produced and directed by Peter Schnall, the program succeeds best as a homage to Grissom as a space pioneer and a review of how his death resulted in design improvements enabling the Apollo moon program to succeed. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Christians should prepare for Advent with humility

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should prepare for this year's "Advent of the Great Jubilee" with a spirit of humility and penitence, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking at a blessing Nov. 28, the first Sunday of Advent, the pope said the upcoming Holy Year called for an Advent focused on faith, free from any apocalyptic exaggerations.

"To prepare for Christmas this year means getting ready to go through the Holy Door, the symbol of passage to a new and eternal life, which was opened for us by Jesus Christ," he said.

This year's Advent should teach Christians to be more humble, to give more space to prayer and personal reflection, and to give of their time and energy to the most needy, he said.

Earlier, addressing the director and actors in the TV miniseries "Jesus" Nov. 25, the pope said he was pleased that the film would be transmitted in many countries during the Advent period. In the United States, CBS is scheduled to show the four-hour miniseries in May 2000.

The pope, who previewed the film privately, thanked those involved in the production and said he hoped more TV films could be made on religious and biblical themes.

"My strongest hope is that such films can contribute to help people of our age become more aware of the revealed message, offering satisfying answers to the questions and doubts which they are carrying in their hearts," he said.

"Jesus" was filmed in Morocco and Malta last summer and stars Jeremy Sisto as Jesus and Jacqueline Bisset as Mary.

A CBS statement earlier this year described the series as showing how Christ, "during his relatively short life, grew from a simple carpenter to a man whose spiritual teachings and loving ways continue to inspire billions of followers — nearly 2,000 years after his crucifixion."

Pope to patriarch: Catholic Church committed to Christian unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church is committed to promoting Christian unity, Pope John Paul II told the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians. "The Catholic Church is prepared to do everything possible to remove the obstacles, to support the dialogue and to collaborate in every initiative aimed at making progress toward full communion in faith and in witness," the pope wrote to Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. The papal message, released Nov. 30 at the Vatican, was delivered to the ecumenical Orthodox patriarch at his headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey.

Advent Reflection

SISTER PEGGY VERSTEGE, RSM
Guest Columnist

Appreciating the "deep down joy" of Advent

I mentioned to a friend that I had been asked to write a reflection about the third Sunday of Advent. He looked at me and slowly said, "The joy for Gaudete Sunday is about a deep down joy." I thought about his words. Advent joy is not the "hoopla" some people associate with joy; it is about waiting with hope and acting with justice.

Isaiah prophesizes that "the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring the good news to the oppressed, to heal the broken-hearted and proclaim liberty to captives." Isaiah proclaims the year of Jubilee and the people respond with rejoicing: "The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations." And St. Paul presses us onward, saying, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances."

Somehow, I could not forget the phrase "deep down joy." Can a person have a deep down joy and not express it? Would not such a joy be revealed as a light for others? Certainly such joy is not centered on personal happiness and success. A deep down joy is hope-filled and actively extended to others.

Different people who express such joy come to mind. One man is Eddie. He is so full of joy that he cannot contain it. Ed reaches out to people who have been maimed by life's difficulties. Even though Ed has had many setbacks with his own health in the last three years, he does not complain. Ed continues to reach out to others: the physically and mentally challenged, the elderly, and anyone in need. His smile and laughter brightens every room and group of people. When I wished a belated "happy 60th birthday" a few weeks ago, he simply said, "Pray I have more birthdays with zeroes in them."

Ed is fighting cancer right now. At the same time, he's planning to be part of the renovation project for the Jesuit House of Prayer and to go skiing with his four granddaughters next summer. This man is not in denial and he is not running from reality. Ed is full of joy and running over with hope.

Two other people are Jimmy and Kathy, who have a small business. Men and women come and go. When people leave the Hairplace, they depart with a new cut, another one of Jimmy's stories, and a better attitude about life. The couple share gospel hope without preaching it. Jimmy and Kathy work hard to tend the shop, their four children, a music ministry, and a small farm — but their deep down joy and love are gifts everyone receives.

In the apparition at Tepeyac, on Dec. 12, 1531, the Virgin Mary offered new life to indigenous people who experienced darkness and death after the Spanish conquest. By assuming the color and stature of the Aztec woman and addressing Juan Diego as a son and a friend, the Virgin restored dignity not to one person, but to a nation of people. The apparition on the cloak and the gift of roses in December were signs of God's active presence in the world. The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe was and is good news to the oppressed and the broken-hearted. The event heralded the creation of a new people — the mestizo.

Many have gone before us proclaiming hope and sharing the cause of our joy. As a Jubilee people, if we are to draw others to the story of salvation and to the restoration of justice in the land, are we not called to do the same?

Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege is the director of the Jesuit House of Prayer in Hot Springs.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

The kid glove for hurt feelings

You're talking with two other people. Your friend interrupts you again and again, taking the conversational ball away from you. Later that day you're alone together during a break. What would you do?

A kid in your group constantly teases you. He'll make fun of little things. Sometimes what he says really stings, but right afterward he'll say, "Just kidding!" and act like it shouldn't bother you. What would you say?

Your best friend has a boyfriend, and suddenly there's no shopping together, no calls, nothing. You're out in the cold. Would you say anything?

Hurt feelings come up in any friendship. Your emotions are involved, and how you express them determines how the relationship develops — or ends. People basically use one of three styles of communication.

— The passive response is not expressing yourself. Back down or say nothing.

Because we fear displeasing friends and not being liked, this can seem like a good solution. However, while you may avoid some unpleasantness, you jeopardize the relationship in the long run if you feel stepped on repeatedly.

— Aggressive responses involve blaming the other person. You attack or disrespect while expressing your feelings.

Aggressive behavior is punishing, hostile, blaming and demanding. It can involve threats, name calling and even violence. It's easily disguised as sarcasm, catty comments, gossip and "slips of the tongue."

The passive/aggressive choice is becoming silent and showing your angry, resentful feelings without saying the words directly.

You dish out hate stares. You pout. You shrug your shoulders and turn away. The only thing you do not ever do is tell the other person what upset you.

This pattern is the worst. You still feel the resentment, so you act in indirectly punishing ways. Your friend may feel upset and confused, because it's obvious that you're upset — but there's no clue about why. Solving any problems without more direct communication is just about impossible.

—The healthiest choice is assertive behavior. You express your feelings, thoughts or opinions directly, even though doing so may make you feel a little uncomfortable. You can respect the other's needs, but stick up for your own too.

When you're assertive, you do three things. You say what upset you, what the effect was on you and how it made you feel. A friend who cares about the relationship will try to make things right.

Let's go back to the friend who cuts you out of the conversation. An assertive response would be, "When you interrupt me in front of the others, I don't get to finish what I was saying, and it makes me feel like everybody else is more important than me."

To the teaser, an assertive statement might sound like, "When you pick on me and then say, 'Just kidding,' the other kids still laugh at me. I still get embarrassed and feel put down."

The friend who has left you out during a new relationship might hear: "When you don't call me, it means I don't know what's happening with you. It makes me feel like I'm not part of your life anymore."

None of those statements is an attack. Each lets the other know what the problem is, and each opens the door for a solution. That's the goal of assertive communication — preserving the relationship, not letting it get lost. It is a valuable tool for keeping your important friendships.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The thrill of Christmas

Last year at this time, a greatly gifted and respected friend, Gladys Hasty Carroll gave me her book "Christmas Through the Years," a truly wise and evocative procession of stories based on personal and family reminiscences of Christmases past — from 1898 through 1968.

What makes Gladys's stories so captivating is her belief that Christmas, for each of us, is cumulative. She explains that however Christmas may change from one year to the next, each holiday retains and adds to the thrill of all the Christmases one has experienced through his or her lifetime.

Like those cherished but fragile tree ornaments and chipped nativity figurines that reappear each year, one's collective memory of previous Christmases is a sacred treasury overflowing with the delight of giving, the comfort of receiving, and the renewal of hope and faith — and with time it grows richer.

"The twelve-year old boy approaches the holiday season clothed — however unconsciously — in that first Christmas which stamped itself upon his mind and wove itself into his life — the year he was two or three — and of the Christmas a long-eared puppy blinked at him from the top of a big stocking, another Christmas when he gave his mother the red box he made himself and which now holds her recipes on the kitchen counter.

"The girl of twenty comes to Christmas sensing not only the delight of holding her first big doll in her arms, finding a Persian kitten on the foot of her bed, knitting a pair of socks for her father, but also of carrying Christmas dinner and a basket of books and toys to children whose mother was in the hospital, of going with young friends to a midnight service, or receiving a bracelet marked with her name and the initials of a boy she may not have seen now for a long time.

"Middle-aged parents build each Christmas on the foundation of their own childhood Christmases, all their children's Christmases, and even their parents' childhood Christmases given to them long ago in stories perhaps forgotten in the rush of years, but coming back now in this quieter time of life."

In each instance, the thrill of Christmas is not in the objects, nor even in the senses it arouses. Rather, Christmas is within the human heart, if it is open; in the eyes, if they are lifted up; in the ears, if they are intensely alert.

This is so, as Gladys Hasty Carroll puts it, because "Christmas is drawn from the Source and the Cause of all wonder which too often seems so far away as to be all but inaccessible, but which at Christmas flows so close to us that if we will but receive it, whoever we are, wherever we are, we are flooded" with its thrill as if for the first time.

So, as we approach Christmas 1999, let's not be afraid to think back on each Christmas of our lives, the happy memories and the disappointing or sad or painful ones as well. They have all helped bring us to this moment. And so, of course, has the very first Christmas. One of my favorite carols is a beautiful reminder of that: "O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. . . . A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

A thrill of hope. That is the gift God shares each Christmas, indeed, each day, if only we realize it.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Unabomber's brother speaks to victims of violence

A memoir by Theodore J. Kaczynski, the man who pleaded guilty to the Unabomber killings, is expected out this year. According to advance publicity the book, "Truth Versus Lies," is largely devoted to viciously tearing down his brother, David. That's because David alerted federal authorities that his only sibling might be the Unabomber. When David, along with his wife Linda and his mother Wanda, became almost certain Ted was responsible for the bombings that left three people dead and at least 22 wounded, David felt he had no choice. He had to make that heartbreaking decision.

From what I've read, Theodore Kaczynski refers in his book to his brother as homely, lazy and a Judas Iscariot, who "doesn't even have enough courage to hang himself." That is certainly far, far from the David Kaczynski I've gotten to know. I've spent time with him and found him one of the most compassionate individuals I ever met.

This came about last April when David was the keynote speaker for the annual anti-violence conference that Survivors of Homicide puts on in Connecticut. As a member of that group — all of whom have lost a loved one to murder — I help with the conference planning. Our president, Dr. Sam Rieger, thought of inviting David. We hoped that we could begin building a bridge of understanding between families on both sides who have been victimized by violence.

From what Rieger had heard about David, who works with a youth shelter in New York state, he felt our group could relate to him.

David spoke of how "the circle of pain from a violent act affects us all. The family of the wrongdoer is also devastated." He told of the intensity of the pain and loss he and his family have felt. He spoke of the love he has for his brother and how he is "puzzled and disquieted" by this "shadow of a brother I knew."

I was deeply touched when he said, "I believe one thing: The brother I grew up with, the person capable of trust and generosity, his forfeited hope, the essential human spark — all live inside him somewhere, however deeply buried they may be. It's precisely because my brother can no longer believe in them, that I must."

It took tremendous courage for David to make the choice for life — no more Unabomber victims, even if it meant turning in his brother. Last year, he and his wife received a $1 million reward from the U.S. Justice Department for their role in this investigation. They pledged the reward, after attorney's fees, to Kaczynski's victims and their families. I've also met Gary Wright, the 11th victim, another deeply spiritual man, who has become a close friend of David's. He speaks of forgiveness, saying firmly, "If I hated, that would only hurt more people."

Being with David, I felt not only his sadness, but, more important, what he has learned from pain. In his words, "There is a noble and generous quality in the human spirit, which tells us that violence and cruelty don't have to win out in the end, and we don't have to be reduced to their ugly terms and conditions because we have within us the capacity to rise above them." If only Theodore Kaczynski had understood this!

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Distinguishing Eastern-Rite from Orthodox churches

Q. Your recent column about Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches was interesting. We have some of each in our part of the country and have a problem about receiving Communion.

You explained that, according to our church's regulations, we normally receive the Eucharist in Eastern Catholic churches, not Orthodox churches. But how can one tell if a particular church is in full communion with the Holy Father, with the Latin or Roman Catholic Church? The church buildings and liturgies are usually indistinguishable.

A. All the Eastern-rite Catholic Churches in the United States are listed annually in The Official Catholic Directory, published by P. J. Kenedy and Sons. Most rectories have a copy, but of course the list may not be fully up to date.

Apart from that, there are a few general rules of thumb to distinguish between them. Most Eastern-rite churches will have either "Catholic" or "Orthodox" on the sign identifying the building, Byzantine Catholic or Greek Orthodox, for example. Usually one can tell that way.

Melkite Catholics, I believe, still follow the ancient practice of commemorating their bishop or the patriarch during the celebration of the Eucharist. Other Catholic churches commemorate the pope. Orthodox churches, of course, do not.

Many in the congregation going to Communion is another good sign. Some Orthodox leaders have recently urged more frequent Communion by their members, but if only a few receive the Eucharist, it's probably an Orthodox liturgy.

If you discover too late that you are not in a Catholic Eastern church, don't worry about it. We believe that the Orthodox churches have a valid priesthood and valid sacraments, including the Eucharist.

Annulment vs. "Pauline privilege"

Q. My son is marrying a Protestant young lady who was briefly married before. She left after two weeks of a terribly abusive marriage. She was never baptized.

After reading the brochure you sent me, I thought the "Pauline privilege" or "the privilege of the faith" would apply. But after they consulted the priest, they were told that an annulment would do.

I've been teaching CCD since I was 12 years old, am now 63 and am finishing another class, so I thought I knew at least a little. Now I'm thoroughly confused. I don't want to end up losing my son to the Catholic faith.

A. Sometimes an annulment process can be much simpler, and shorter, than going through a "privilege of the faith" or "Pauline privilege" procedure.

Much depends on the nature of the case. Circumstances in some marriage breakups are such that the longer judicial process for annulment is not necessary. From your brief description, I suspect this may be the reason for the information the priest gave your son.

I hope he is following through with the priest he talked with. Please encourage him to do that and to move as expeditiously as possible on whatever he and his prospective bride are asked to do.

Questions for this column should he sent to Father Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Celebration of Years

Diocese of Raleigh honors history, Catholic Social Ministries, Bishop Gossman

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

FAYETTEVILLE — It was a busy day: In one special Mass Nov. 21, the Diocese of Raleigh celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding, the 25th year with Bishop Joseph Gossman as its bishop, the 100th anniversary of Catholic social ministries in the diocese, and the coming of the "Great Jubilee" of the year 2000.

Until 1972, their was but one diocese in North Carolina. Over a quarter century has passed since the state was divided into two: The Diocese of Raleigh and the Diocese of Charlotte.

With trumpets blasting Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," parishioners representing nearly every Catholic community in the Diocese of Raleigh carried their communities' banners into the Crown Coliseum. Altar servers from every parish and mission then led the priests of the diocese, visiting bishops, Baltimore's Cardinal William Keeler and Bishop Gossman to the altar set up on a stage.

In his homily, Cardinal Keeler depicted the diocese as a community thriving on God's love and healing in the sacraments.

"In the history you celebrate," he said, "God's healing comes in various ways: in your 70 parishes and in the two dozen more missions and pastoral centers, God's word is proclaimed and taught."

The theme of Bishop Gossman's comments at the end of the Mass was gratitude. "As I stand here, remembering the past, rejoicing in the present, reflecting on the future, I am moved by feelings of profound joy and gratitude...."I want to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to my brother priests who so intimately share my ministry, to the consecrated religious who have labored so generously in our diocese for so long and to the people of our diocese, many of whom welcomed me 25 years ago and all of whom continue to this day to challenge, comfort, support and sustain me and who, against all odds, work to make me look good."

Photo by John Strange, NC Catholic

Celebrating the Diocese of Raleigh's Mass are Bishop William G. Curlin, Archbishop William Borders, retired archbishop of Baltimore, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, bishop of Raleigh.

Bishop Gossman said that in his "younger years," he never imagined he would leave Baltimore, where he was ordained a priests, and a bishop. But when he was named the new bishop of Raleigh 25 years ago, he discovered a diocese that covered 31,000 square miles, and boasted 38,000-plus Catholics (men, women and children), 72 priests, 137 religious sisters, "and fortunately included the Outer Banks."

"That seemed just about the right size for me — less than two Catholics per square mile, the same number of priests as Jesus had disciples and the Atlantic Seacoast besides.

"Much has changed in 25 years, but there remains one constant: God knew me well — for once here, I have never wanted to be anywhere else," Bishop Gossman said.The bishop also had words of gratitude and praise for Catholic Social Ministries, which has its roots in the day 100 years ago that Father Thomas Frederick Price, the first native priest of North Carolina and co-founder of Maryknoll, established the Nazareth Orphanage.

Several bishops from other dioceses attended the celebration. or example, retired Archbishop William Borders of Baltimore, Bishop Gossman's old boss, was present, as were Archbishop John Donoghue of Atlanta, Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala.; and Abbot Robert Barnes of Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Va.

Other bishops attending were Bishops William Curlin of Charlotte; Robert Baker of Charleston, S.C.; Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga.; Joseph Imesch, Joliet, Mich.; William Newman, an auxiliary bishop in Baltimore; Francis Roque, an auxiliary with the U.S. Military Archdiocese; and David Thompson, retired bishop of Charleston. ▼

John Strange is editor of the NC Catholic, newspaper for the Diocese of Raleigh.

Coalition, from page 13

Parliament Nov. 30 and the queen was to enact it Dec. 1. Then the Irish government will enact a bill ending the territorial claim on Northern Ireland contained in the Republic of Ireland's constitution.

Veteran justice and peace campaigner Msgr. Denis Faul said in a Nov. 30 interview, "Building trust and confidence is the biggest problem in Northern Ireland. Politicians talk about 'decommissioning,' but what the people want is security. They want to feel secure when they are going about their daily business and when they sit down with their neighbors."

Under the agreement, paramilitary groups are due to nominate representatives, whose identities will not be made public, to the Independent Commission on Decommissioning headed by Canadian Gen. John de Chastelaine.

Msgr. Faul said that the peace deal may not be all good news for Catholics. Under the power-sharing agreement, ministerial seats were allocated to the political parties on the basis of the number of seats they held in the Northern Ireland Assembly. As a result, Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, secured the education and health ministries.

"These are two areas that impinge on the church and church teaching," said Msgr. Faul. "Sinn Fein is pro-abortion and their education minister, Martin McGuinness, has spoken frequently in favor of integrated education. The question now is, is Sinn Fein against Catholic education and the right of parents to educate their children according to Catholic conscience?"

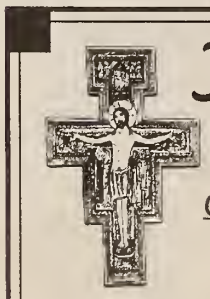
Msgr. Faul also identified two areas where the peace process has yet to be fully implemented: the return of the bodies of the "disappeared" — the bodies of 10 IRA murder victims have still to be located — and the return of those exiled from Northern Ireland by paramilitary vigilantes.

Jesuit Father Brian Lennon, involved in community peace and reconciliation projects in Belfast, said in a separate interview that two other major hurdles were reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force which is unacceptable to many Catholics, and the issue of parades by Protestant organizations through Catholic neighborhoods.

Father Lennon said: "It's not as if the Northern Ireland executive is going to solve all our problems, but having it in place is a huge transformation.

"Furthermore, this is the first time that republicans (nationalist politicians linked to the IRA) will take responsibility for power with unionists. That is a massive change that cannot be underestimated. We are now about to make the future," he said.

Since the Northern Ireland "Troubles" began in 1968, more than 3,200 people have died in the conflict. ▼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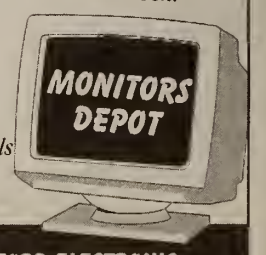

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Protests, events mark 10th anniversary of Jesuit murders

Diocesan parishioners among Fort Benning protesters

CNS PHOTO BY LIZ QUIRIN, THE MESSENGER

Thousands gather at the gates of U.S. Army's School of the Americas to urge its closing in Fort Benning, Ga., Nov. 21. The demonstration was organized by SOA Watch, a non-profit group that charges that graduates from the school have been implicated and indicted for torture, murder and massacres in Latin American countries.

COLUMBUS, Ga. (CNS) — An annual mass protest at the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Columbus, Ga., headed a long list of events marking the 10th anniversary of the assassination of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter in El Salvador.

The turnout for the Nov. 21 protest at Fort Benning, where the School of the Americas has its headquarters, was nearly double that of 1998, according to Lisa Chen, spokeswoman for SOA Watch, which sponsored the protest.

Several hundred residents of western North Carolina are said to have participated in the annual event.

Of the 12,000 people gathered at the gates of Fort Benning Nov. 21, 4,500 risked arrest by crossing the line onto the base because they believe it's time to close the Army's School of the Americas that is housed at the Georgia military base.

In all, 65 people were given "ban-and-bar" orders forbidding them from such trespass in the future, and another 23 were arrested for having violated a previous ban-and-bar order, according to Chen.

The protest takes place each year near the Nov. 16 anniversary date of the Jesuit murders.

Most of the Salvadoran military figures linked to the killings were trained at the School of the Americas. But a postwar amnesty law has kept the accused from being brought to trial. In 1991, a group of lower-ranking officers and one colonel were found guilty of carrying out the killings and were briefly imprisoned before being released under the same amnesty law.

Ann Trigg of Whittier was among those who crossed the line at the protest this year. And while she was not arrested, she said the risk of being detained did not shake her belief that the school must close.

"It's been very well established that in fact there are numerous graduates from that school who actually are responsible" for atrocities in Latin America, said Trigg, pointing to the work of the United Nations Truth Commission, which reported documentation of human rights abuses in El Salvador.

Trigg, a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee, said the event is "a very powerful, spiritual experience" attended by people committed to social justice. "You realize you are marching in the light of God. This is what we should be doing, and I just feel that so powerfully there at the vigil."

This year marked the 10th time this act of nonviolent civil disobedience was sponsored by SOA Watch, a nonprofit organization working to close the school. The school's opponents say it should be closed because some of its graduates have been linked to some of Latin America's worst atrocities of the last 30 years.

"It's a great honor to represent the people of Latin America," said Steve Jacobs, a member of the Catholic Worker House in Columbia, Mo., who has crossed the line three other times. "It's like they're calling out from their graves."

Jacobs, who led the procession wearing a blood-red chasuble, said that as he walked across the line he would be thinking about the late Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, who was murdered while celebrating Mass in March 1980.

Respect for life is a key reason for Betty Leone's attendance this year. A parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, Leone said the protest reiterates that "our interests should be respect for the lives of all of our brothers and sisters throughout the globe."

"I thank God that I am able to go down there and protest — because many people could not," she added, alluding to those who lost their lives at the hands of those accused of the Latin American horrors.

Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of SOA Watch, has been jailed five times in the last 15 years and spent four years in jail because of his nonviolent activities.

"It's important for some to cross the line and some to stay on this side," Father Bourgeois said. He didn't cross the line this year.

Father Bourgeois said the importance of the protest has its roots in spirituality, in standing in solidarity with the poor.

"People of faith feel, and believe, they are called to heal the poor — this is the essence of our faith," he said. "We are called to relieve the suffering of the poor, and people see the SOA as responsible for the death and oppression of the people in Latin America.

"That's solidarity at its finest when we connect our lives to the lives of the poor and oppressed." ▼

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.

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Quake-damaged upper Basilica of St. Francis reopens in Assisi

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Two years after an earthquake sent portions of its roof crashing to the ground, a restored and strengthened upper Basilica of St. Francis reopened in the central Italian pilgrimage town of Assisi.

A Mass to commemorate the event was tinged with sadness, as family members and others remembered the two Franciscan friars and two art technicians who died inside the church when they were buried by the falling debris in September 1997.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, celebrated the liturgy Nov. 28 and blessed a new altar for the basilica. It replaced the one destroyed when a section of the church's vault came crashing down during the second of two deadly earthquakes.

Most of the upper basilica's frescoes by Italian masters Giotto and Cimabue were undamaged by the tremors. The two sections of ruined fresco have been filled in with plain plaster, the only visible remaining signs of the quake.

Two frescoed figures — St. Rufino, the patron of Assisi, and St. Vittorino — have been 80 percent restored, with thousands of tiny fragments pieced together by hand. They were displayed inside the church for the reopening Mass; restoration of the remaining figures is expected to take several years, and even then the frescoes will not be returned to their original state, according to experts.

The $30 million repair job accomplished on the basilica's structure was carried out by more than 600 workers. They strengthened the frame with steel rods, rebuilt walls, stone by stone, injected new mortar with syringes and painstakingly restored frescoes, mosaics and stained glass.

They also cleared out more than 1,500 tons of rubble from the vault of the huge basilica, reducing potential damage from future earthquakes. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Worshippers stand under the partially restored ceiling of the Basilica of St. Francis during Mass celebrating the reopening of the Assisi church Nov. 28. The church was reopened to the public with an official ceremony two years after earthquakes brought down part of the ceiling.

Germans to celebrate Christmas with flame from Bethlehem

FRANKFURT, Germany (CNS) — German Christians will celebrate Christmas this year with a special "light of peace" to mark the start of the Holy Year.

The light arrived in Germany Nov. 21 from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and was to be distributed throughout the country. The project is a joint effort by the Protestant and Catholic churches in Germany, in cooperation with Christian scout movements.

The evening of Nov. 20, some 200 German pilgrims watched the flame being taken from the Eternal Light in Bethlehem, from where it was carried in a specially prepared miner's lamp to Tel Aviv airport.

The flame was placed in its own seat in business class, accompanied by a delegation from the German bishops' conference and representatives of the Protestant and Catholic scout movements.

At Frankfurt airport, the plane was greeted by some 800 Scouts as well as Protestant and Catholic bishops. After a ceremony in which two children carried the flame down the gangway, it was used to light many lamps, which were to be taken by the scouts to churches throughout Germany and neighboring countries.

On Christmas Eve in many churches, the light will burn by the manger in the Nativity scene.

The transportation of a flame in an airplane proved to be a headache for the Lufthansa security officials responsible for the flight. The flight had to be specially approved by the German Air Safety Board, with special precautions including the securing of the miner's lamp in a steel container strapped to the seat and a limit to the amount of kerosene carried in the lamp.

Bishop Hermann Josef Spital of Trier, who traveled to Bethlehem for the start of the journey, said the project will be a sign "that Christ brightens our lives and forms our age." ▼

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
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Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

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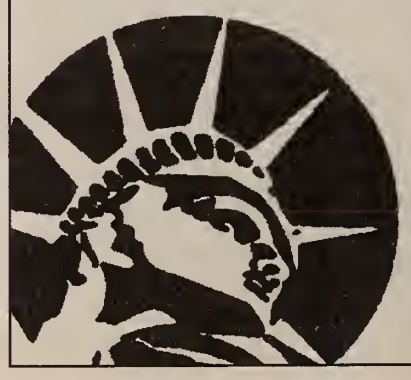

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Children receive treats in St. Nicholas pageant

In honor of the Dec. 6 feast day, St. Nicholas and his helpers made a visit to Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington to hand out treats to the young parishioners during the 11 a.m. Mass on Dec. 5. Brian Scarpone, dressed as St. Nicholas, gives out oranges to Amy Hysell, 10, Katherine Barrows, 6, and Carly Wooten, 5, as others wait in line. The oranges reportedly symbolize the bags of gold that St. Nicholas tossed down the chimney of a poor family. "This involves the kids and is a way of evangelization for the parishioners," said Oblate of St.Francis de Sales Father Albert Gondek. "It teaches the parishioners about St. Nick and serves as catechesis."

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Diocesan youth descend upon St. Louis to hear messages of faith and spirituality

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

ST. LOUIS - What can draw a crowd of 23,000, mostly teenagers, to St. Louis, Missouri, for an entire weekend — a state fair, a concert or a contest? The 25th National Catholic Youth Conference took place from Nov. 18-21 and attracted thousands of young adults and their chaperones from dioceses around the country, including a group of 77 from the Diocese of Charlotte.

Over the course of four days, the group experienced a mix of Christian music, keynote speakers of all ages, workshops built around moral and social issues and fellowship with other young Catholics from across the country.

"One of the goals for dioceses like ours, where Catholics are such a small minority, is to be able to gather with other youth in a large setting," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, who also coordinated the trip. "It is such an incredible expression and affirmation of Catholic pride and identity when 23,000 people can come together to celebrate Catholicity as the young Church."

Seventeen-year-old Kate Malone from St. Stephen Church in Elkin was selected through the Diocesan Youth Council to be the female representative at the conference.

"I decided that this was an opportunity for me to share my faith with others and to learn about the faith of others," said Malone.

The overall theme, "gateway@St.Louis.ncyc99," was significant because St. Louis is called "the gateway to the West," and the conference served as "the gateway to the millennium for the participants," said Kotlowski.

Gateway Park in downtown St. Louis was divided into eight sections, each representing the eight components of comprehensive youth ministry: advocacy, justice and service, prayer and worship, pastoral care, catechesis, leadership development, community building and evangelization. Each section featured interactive workshops and games to help the participants learn more about each component.

In the catechesis section, priests were on hand to supply the answers to questions from teens. In the justice and service section, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development sponsored an obstacle course where the teens pretended to be African refugees as they ran through the course.

The keynote speakers included Father J-Glenn Murray, director of the Office of Pastoral Liturgy and a teacher of homiletics for the Diocese of Cleveland, and Suzie McConnell Serio, a two-time Olympian, starting point guard for the WNBA's Cleveland Rockers and a motivational speaker.

Father Murray intertwined African-American spirituals throughout his keynote and urged the audience to join in the songs of praise. Serio talked about how her Catholic faith has helped her with being a mother of four and playing professional basketball.

Stephanie Ubowski, a 17-year-old student who witnessed the Columbine High School tragedy firsthand, and Chris Kielburger, the 16-year-old founder of Free the Children, an international children's organization that helps free children from poverty and exploitation, also spoke to the crowd of teens.

During Father Murray's morning address, Ubowski spoke about her ordeal of being held hostage during the April shooting rampage: "I had to lay my life into God's hands, and I had to trust God...Whatever the devil had in mind to do to our school that day had backfired in his face because people have...opened their hearts to Christ."

Kielburger was 12 when he decided to start his organization and has traveled to 35 countries and appeared on television as a representative for children all over the world.

"We as youth can open our eyes; we can open our hearts to people who

SEE ST. LOUIS YOUTH, PAGE 4

U.S. budget pays part of nation's debt relief commitment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The $390 billion omnibus spending bill President Clinton signed into law Nov. 29 contains $123 million for debt relief for poor countries. That figure is far more than the Republican-controlled Congress originally planned to provide, even though it is less than a third of the $370 million Clinton had asked in order to meet the U.S. debt relief commitment he announced in September. Perhaps as significantly, in a last-minute compromise, congressional opponents of the International Monetary Fund backed off their resistance to an IMF plan to make its contribution to debt relief. The new budget appropriations law includes authorization for a slightly modified version of the IMF plan.

Study suggests GenX Catholics more vocationally inclined

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The first collection of research in a five-year project studying Generation X Catholics suggests that they are open to the possibility of ministerial service to the church, and that students involved in campus ministry are more likely to consider a vocation than others. And it suggests men are more inclined than women to pursue a religious vocation. The research also showed that college-age Catholics have relatively well-established patterns of worship retained from their high school days. The research information, which was released in November, is part of the St. Louis-based Aquinas Institute of Theology's project "Generation X: Good Ground for a New Call to Ministry."

Court plunges into questions of tax money for religious schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With a case over Louisiana's use of federally funded educational materials in parochial schools, the Supreme Court Dec. 1 once again waded into the murky question of just where tax money and religious schools can intersect. In oral arguments, the justices prodded attorneys for both sides in Mitchell vs. Helms to say where the constitutional line should be drawn separating acceptable tax-supported benefits in parochial schools from those that are unconstitutional. At issue is the way Louisiana spends its share of federal Chapter 2 funds, which provide instructional materials and equipment for use by children in public, private or religious schools.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Nativities in Krakow

Men carry an elaborate Nativity scene into the old town square of Krakow in Poland. Polish residents build Nativity sets of paper, material, foil and boxes and display their work in the square each Christmas season.

Head of Pontifical Mission says flexibility is key to success

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — The Pontifical Mission for Palestine has succeeded for 50 years because of its ability to adapt, said the organization's president. Msgr. Robert L. Stern, Pontifical Mission president, spoke at a Nov. 26 celebration in Bethlehem commemorating the mission's 50th anniversary. Over the years, the mission's flexibility has guaranteed that it meets the needs of the refugee population it serves in the Middle East, he said. "Program emphasis has shifted, and it is good to have this flexibility and constant change in our focus and priorities," he said.

Vatican delegation accompanies aid deliveries to North Korea

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two Vatican diplomats visited North Korea in late November, the fourth in a series of humanitarian missions to the reclusive communist country since 1995, the Vatican said. Msgrs. Celestino Migliore, undersecretary for relations with states, and Paul Gallagher, a Southeast Asian specialist at the Secretariat of State, also met with government officials during their five-day visit, the Vatican press office said Dec. 1. The Vatican delegation accompanied a delivery of medical supplies to two hospitals in the Kujang district in central North Korea, then traveled to the eastern province of Wonsan to deliver a large shipment of food aid to centers for disabled and orphaned children.

Vatican blames exclusion of civil society for anti-WTO violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The violent demonstrations that disrupted the opening of a World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle show that the world body is doing too little to involve civil society in its decisions, a Vatican official said. "It is very clear that all over the world there is immense anxiety at globalization," Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told Catholic News Service Dec. 1. "While condemning the violence, which is counterproductive, it is necessary to ask why there is this widespread anxiety," he said. "The WTO cannot proceed without the support of civil society, issuing decisions from on high. Civil society must be involved — citizens are the protagonists in development policy."

Book urges people to take stock, not stockpile, for new year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Instead of stockpiling food and cash for the turn of the millennium, Americans would be wiser to take stock of their spirituality, say contributors to a new book, "The New Millennium Spiritual Journey." In the book released this fall by Skylight Paths Publishing in Woodstock, Vt., 25 leaders of various faiths share what they feel should really be people's priorities for the new millennium. "We don't want to convince you that this new millennium is somehow different from the one we are leaving behind. It's not," say the editors in the introduction. "What we do want to do for you ... is to offer tools you can use to take your spiritual temperature, and look as if through a wide-view lens at your life, in order to take charge of where you are heading and where you want to be going in your spiritual and religious life."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor. Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 12 — 10 am
Confirmation
Christ the King, High Point

3 pm
World Aids Day and the Ecumenical Bishops Service of Prayer and Healing
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 The Plaza, Charlotte

December 13
Advent Day of prayer with Ecumenical bishops
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

December

14 GREENSBORO — In continuation of the "Ten Tuesdays" series at Our Lady of Grace Church, 205 West Market St., Dominican Sister Mary Ellen Plummer is presenting "Advent: The God Who Comes to Us." This is a New Testament look at God's gift to His people and everyday life experiences. The session lasts from 7:30-9 p.m. tonight in the activity center. Call the church parish for further information at (336) 274-6520.

15 LINCOLNTON — Eight priests are available to hear confessions for an Advent reconciliation service tonight at St. Dorothy Church, 148 St. Dorothy's Lane, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 735-5890 for details.

16 WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Advent reconciliation services begin tonight and continue through Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. at the following churches: Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Corner of Cherry and Third Streets in Winston-Salem, on Dec. 16; Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 South Main St. in Winston-Salem, on Dec. 20; St. Leo the Great Church, 355 Springdale Ave. in Winston-Salem, on Dec. 21; and Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. in Clemmons, on Dec. 22.

17 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E.) invites all families to meet tonight at 6 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., for a Christmas potluck dinner and caroling. For more information about the organization, location and food contributions, call Sheryl Oiling at (828) 298-0336.

18 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is having a Christmas covered dish dinner tonight at 6:30 p.m. The turkey is provided, and for details about the donation, beverages and directions, call Marilyn Schmidt

Belmont parishioner says service is use of God-given talents

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BELMONT — When you meet Lorene Craig, you're likely to be called "good looking" or "beautiful person." Those are her favorite greetings for people she encounters — and she has encountered quite a number of folks during a life filled with service.

On Dec. 4, Craig was honored for her care in the community at the 14th annual Black Achievement Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Gaston County Organization for Community Concerns. One of more than a dozen citizens from throughout the county so honored at the banquet, Craig says her outreach to others is a calling.

The award included a plaque, gifts from well-wishers and a message from Belmont Mayor Billy Joye Jr. Craig says that she appreciates the recognition, but accolades are not why she likes to reach out.

"I was truly honored to receive that award, and I humbly accepted it," says Craig, a retired nurse and a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church in Belmont. "Anytime you get recognized for service to others, it makes you feel good. But we've all been placed here, and we need to use our God-given talents.

"Being a nurse, I've always felt I was placed on this earth to be of service. I'm just really thrilled to receive this award for doing something God has given me a talent to do."

She says she is especially thankful for the people who have supported her in her service, and was particularly interested in hearing the stories of others who received awards this year.

"I was honored to be along with such distinguished people," she says of the group, which included a 17-year-old high school student, a great-grandmother, an artist and a clergyman. "It's really fascinating to listen to the history of the people."

Craig worked for 22 years at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She is still a member of the Piedmont Nurses Association, and is called upon when people in and around Belmont need their blood pressure checked or their oxygen machine tubes changed.

Walter Davis of Belmont, who with wife Lovie nominated Craig for the award, says the honor is well deserved. "She always says everything is beautiful ... and she is a beautiful person," he adds. "She's always willing to give a helping hand, and people like her a lot because of the way she carries herself."

> **"The Gaston County Organization for Community Concerns Inc. presents this award to Lorene R. Craig in recognition and grateful appreciation for your many years of service to your community. — Dec. 4, 1999"**
>
> *— Text of award plaque presented to Lorene Craig*

Craig is active in church and civic life, too, and offers her nursing services when she can at health fairs and other gatherings. She is a member and officer in several civic, senior citizens and other organizations. And as a member of Belmont's Reid High School Class of 1955 — a group still passionately devoted to community service — she has been involved in a wealth of outreach and volunteer programs aimed at bettering the lives of others.

"I'm really blessed when people call me and ask me my advice," she says. "Sometimes people just feel sick, and you sit there and you talk to them."

Craig has learned what it means to accept help from others as well. She suffered a heart attack earlier this year, and while that has slowed her down a bit, it's made her appreciate even more the work and the gifts of all people.

"I told the man when he called me and said I had won the award that I know other people in Belmont who are in active service in this community, too," she says. "Now, I'm sickly and am trying to take care of myself.

"He said, 'Well, you might be right, Mrs. Craig, but this year is your year.'"

She says that in her profession as a nurse — and now that she is faced with her own health issues — she has learned to find meaning in all situations life has to offer.

"I would just look out the window of the hospital and thank God for His creation," she says. "It's good sometimes to be made to lay down; if you meditate on it, you can even benefit from being sick.

"When good things happen to us, it makes us feel good. But when bad things happen, you could also thank God because it lets you know that you are totally dependent upon Him for everything."

She adds that the love and support of others are blessings in themselves.

Craig is a convert to Catholicism, a faith she was introduced to by her late husband, James Anthony Craig. "I have learned a lot from being Catholic," she says, noting that she's even more focused to "greet everybody you see as if you're greeting Jesus."

Like so many other things and people that have brought her joy in her life, she speaks excitedly and lovingly of her husband. The two were high school sweethearts, married when Lorene finished nursing school, and went on to have two children, Toni and Nelson.

"He was a prayerful Catholic," she says of her husband. "Anytime the doors were open, he was in church."

Family life and close contact with friends have been gifts Craig still treasures. "My family and friends really supported me," she says of the preparation for the awards dinner. "And my classmates from high school came — can you believe this? I was just so thrilled."

Ervin N. Fewell, one of those Class of '55 graduates, drove up from Columbia, S.C., to attend the banquet. "She is a person who can organize and work closely with the community," he says of his friend. "She has done so many good things — for her classmates and her community. The name of our class was all over Gaston County and Mecklenburg County, too — and she is still a dedicated part of it."

Nelson Craig credits his mother as a hero of faith and kindness. "She's one in a million," he says. "Every day she struggled to show us the right way, and she still leads by example by doing good in her community and in surrounding areas. The people we are today, it comes from the parents that we've had. My mother's a really good person — really, truly, a very special person." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

at (336) 379-7300.

19 ASHEVILLE — St. Eugene's Senior High Youth Group invites all youth from grades 9-12 to their Christmas Dance held in the Asheville Catholic High School Gym, 12 Culvern St., from 7-10 p.m. tonight. Please bring an ornament for the tree to be donated to a needy family and bring your favorite CD's for the DJ. The dress is casual to semi-formal with decorations and heavy hors d'oeuvres provided. Call the church office for Ruth Morrissey at (828) 254-5193 to R.S.V.P. or for details.

20 GREENSBORO — To prepare for Christmas so that Christ is kept in the center of the holiday, Marian Father David Lord is conducting an Advent Mission with the theme "Behold the Star: The Great Jubilee" at 7 p.m. beginning tonight and continuing Dec. 21 and 22 at Our Lady of Grace Church, 205 West Market St. Mass is being held tonight and on Dec. 22 with a penance service held on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

22 CHARLOTTE — A Mass for deceased members of families is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283, so that the name(s) of the deceased can be recorded and recited at Mass.

28 CHARLOTTE — In remembrance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life Committee invites everyone to join in a reflection on the over 39 million abortions that have been performed. Monsignor William Pharr is celebrating Mass today at 12:10 p.m., followed by a rosary for life, at 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

29 WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Father Joe Barry Angolini is presenting "RU Saved? The Millennium is Coming!" at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church parish.

30 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., is holding a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available after Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for more details.

31 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a family New Year's Eve celebration with food and dancing for the entire family. There is limited space, so for advanced ticket sales and further details, call Debbie Smith at (704) 545-2191 or Don Nicholas at (704) 536-4515.

CHARLOTTE — The parish of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., invites everyone to spend the millennium night with God and neighbor in the church sanctuary from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tonight's service includes a candlelight vigil with Christmas carols, vespers, teaching, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej at (704) 543-7677, ext. 39, or Carol Vincent at (704) 845-4534.

GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is having a New Year's Eve party tonight at 9 p.m. Please bring snacks and beverages. For details about the donation, directions and location, call Lois at (336) 855-8471.

Upcoming

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be Feb. 4-6 at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. This is an enrichment program for married couples to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. For further information or to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Mercy Sister Mary Veronica Schumacher, former CEO of St. Joseph's, dies at age 74

CHARLOTTE — Sister Mary Veronica Schumacher, RSM, 74, died Friday, Dec. 3 at Mercy Hospital. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on August 15, 1950 and was in her 49th year.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Dec. 6 at the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel, Sacred Heart Chapel, Belmont, with burial at the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Veronica Schumacher, RSM

Sister Mary Veronica was born April 27, 1925 in Seymour, Conn. Her birth name was Lois Veronica Schumacher; she took the name Sister Mary Veronica upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 2, 1949.

She was a graduate of Sacred Heart Junior College and the Mercy Hospital School of Medical Technology. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Belmont Abbey College and went on to receive her Master's Degree in Biology from Catholic University, Washington, D.C., in 1962. Additionally, she received her certificate in Hospital Executive Development from St. Louis University.

Her first ministry assignment in 1949 was at St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, where she served on the laboratory staff as a medical technologist, and from 1951-1963, she served as Assistant Laboratory Supervisor. She served as an administrative assistant at both Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, and at St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville. In 1963 she was asked to serve as Supervisor and Education Coordinator of the Laboratory at Mercy Hospital, Charlotte. She returned to the Asheville area to serve as President and Administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, later serving as President and CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's Health Services. She had also served on the Board of Directors for Mercy Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville, Tenn.

She was instrumental in the 1996 agreement between Mission Memorial Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital to establish a hospital partnership, the first of its kind in the United States. The hospital then became known as Mission + St. Joseph's Health System. It was on Oct. 26, 1998, when the Sisters of Mercy sold St. Joseph's Hospital to Memorial Mission Medical Center; Sister Mary Veronica was named Chairperson and CEO of Sisters of Mercy Services Corp., Asheville. In that capacity she continued to oversee the sponsored ministries that began in 1990 when the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Asheville to include: Mountain Health Services Inc., the Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Inc., Mountain Health Contracting Services Inc., and McAuley Foundation Inc.

Additionally, Sister Mary Veronica honored her religious community by serving as local superior from 1967-1970 and more recently, from 1988-1992, as a Councilor on the Leadership Team of the Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. She was also a member of numerous professional medical organizations.

She is best remembered by her siblings as their guiding light. "We looked up to her and admired her dedication. We'll miss her tremendously." And although she was a voracious reader, she will also be remembered for her love of fishing, woodworking, playing the harmonica and bird watching.

Sister Mary Veronica was the daughter of the late Frank J. Schumacher and Florence Lucy Mayo Schumacher. The eldest of nine brothers and sisters, she is survived by her sisters, Florence Mastrogiannis of Ansonia, Conn.; Theo Hammack of Naugatuck, Conn.; Margaret Lesiw of Ansonia, Conn.; her five brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Barbara Schumacher of Shelton, Conn.; Frank J. and Doris Schumacher of Evansville, Ind.; George and Elsa Schumacher of Arlington, Va.; Dr. Robert and Cathy Schumacher of Ridgecredt, Calif.; and Vincent and Sandy Schumacher of Ansonia, Conn., as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Services, Urgent Care Center, 345 Biltmore Ave., Asheville, NC 28801-4502. ▼

St. Louis youth, from page 1

CNS PHOTO BY MARK KEMPF, ST. LOUIS REVIEW

Young people raise their arms in prayer during the 1999 National Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis. About 23,000 gathered for the conference Nov. 18-21.

are suffering around us...I believe that we youth are not only the leaders of the future, not only the church of the future, but we are the leaders of today," said Kielburger.

Lucy Dillard, 15, from Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, was impressed by Keilburger and affected by his words: "It was empowering to think that someone so young could do so much. It is hard to imagine how many kids are out there who have so little, while we have more than what we need. I think that I could stand up for what was right if I saw an injustice or wrong being committed."

Many of the teens from the diocese were amazed at how many Catholic youth are active participants in their faith and were impressed over the large number in attendance.

"Living down South, you feel isolated as a Catholic," admitted Patrick Fleming, an eighteen-year-old parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. "This reaffirmed that we have a strong presence, even though it isn't visible. Having over 20,000 people there helped to rejuvenate my faith, which needed a spark."

Malone said, "I come from a small town with very few Catholics, so it seems there aren't many people who can relate to me. I felt so comfortable because I met so many people who have experienced the same things as myself."

Kotlowski said that the quality of prayer and worship that the kids experienced was unlike any they have experienced before. Thirty bishops and over 100 priests concelebrated the closing liturgy with included projection screens with banners and flags and a gospel with a sung response.

"This was a chance for us to celebrate, learn and pray together. The participants were evangelized, set on fire and came home excited and privileged to be Catholic," continued Kotlowski.

"This helped us to form strong bonds and become closer to people," said Michelle Shroads, 17, from St. Luke Church in Charlotte. "The youth are the future, and we need to be prepared for what lies ahead."

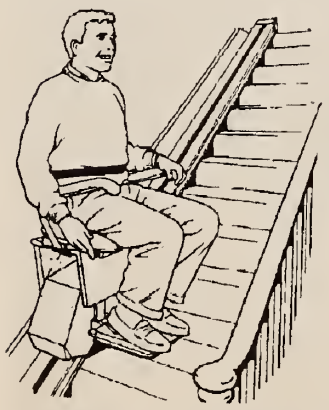
Eighteen-year-old Greg St. Martin from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, who is the leader of his parish youth group, said, "It renewed my faith, and I was able to meet people from all over the country. In society, you don't see positive images in the media; movies, books and TV shows tell you to do whatever you want. It was nice seeing kids who are my age who also feel that it is cool not having pre-marital sex or not doing drugs."

"The conference taught me to be proud of my religion, to be courageous and to be a witness," he continued.

This year's conference was hosted by the Archdiocese of St. Louis and sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Inc. The federation is made up of all dioceses in the country and is dedicated to the promotion of quality youth ministry and youth ministers by generating. The group also sponsors a conference for youth ministry professionals, explained Kotlowski. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic News Service contributed to this article.



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Asheville parishioners assist in Haiti missionary effort

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

When Joe Miller, an Asheville building contractor, went to Jamaica in 1997 as part of a week long work team from St. Eugene Church in Asheville, little did he know that two years later, he and his wife, Diane, would be in Haiti "assessing the needs" and planning how they could help in the work being done by the missionaries of the Poor in the Haitian port city, Cap Haitien.

"If you could imagine the worst show you have ever seen on television about poverty and the needs of people in a poverty stricken country, what I saw was worse," said Diane. She described small shacks made of intertwined grapevines covered with plastic bags, spanning large sections of Cap Haitien's hillside ghettos, and naked, malnourished children.

This past August Joe and Diane spent time with the "Brothers," as they call the Missionaries of the Poor, walking in the ghettos of the city, talking about the Brothers' plans for a church/school building, visiting with people in the Asile," a 200 bed shelter for the physically or mentally incapacitated with no where else to go.

The Jamaican-based Missionaries of the Poor are a religious order of brothers and priests, recently including nuns. They take not only a vow of poverty, but a vow to serve the poor the rest of their lives, said Diane. The order was begun in 1981 by Father Richard Ho Lung, who has been called the "male Mother Teresa." Today, the more than 100 members of the order are serving in Jamaica, Haiti, the Philippines and India. "They go into areas and create homeless shelters for the ill and abandoned," she said. The Brothers also, with the help of U.S. work teams, build simple homes and are active in helping children attend school and feeding hungry people.

Currently, the eight MOP in Haiti care for about 150 people in the Asile, feed about 300 who come to their gates for food, tutor and feed 50 children whom they have assisted in enrolling in the public school,provide water for the neighboring communities and minister the Gospel to the people in the ghettos.

"I see building a place of worship where they can come to know Christ as a number one priority," said Joe. One of the main needs that the MOP have expressed is the building of a 72 by 54 foot cement block building to be used as a church and a school. The church would serve the Brothers, the residents of the Asile and the neighboring areas, while the school area would offer educational opportunity to the children of the Asile and the local community. Joe estimates it will cost about $150,000 but emphasizes that the Haitians, who are able to make cement blocks, will gain employment as well.

"We are hoping to go down there in January to lay out the area for the foundation," he said. The Millers are also hoping to raise $30,000 in the near future from churches and individuals to fund that foundation.

In addition, they want to recruit ten churches who would send volunteers down to Haiti to act as "family" one or two times a year to build 10 by 12 foot shelters like the ones in Jamaica and work with the Brothers in the Asile, caring for the residents.

"At first, we worried about going to Haiti," said Diane. "We thought voodoo was everywhere. But when we arrived, we noticed all of the people were smiling. They were all walking with a purpose." She was surprised that with the living conditions being what the are, the people seemed happy. "They are a loving, caring people," she said.

Living conditions in Haiti are extremely substandard. Indeed, Haiti has been called the "Calcutta of the Western Hemisphere" said Diane. It is one of the most densely populated countries on earth, with only 35 percent adult literacy, 70 percent unemployment, a per capita income of $340 and inflation above 16 percent according to a 1997 U.S. Department of State bulletin. The cost of living is very high because most items must be imported. Most people have no electricity, no telephones and no drinkable water.

The typical poor Haitian's day is remarkably different from that of an American, said Joe. The entire purpose of the day is spent finding one's basic needs: a log to make charcoal for cooking fuel; bananas for a meal. "They were really ecstatic just to see us," he said. "When we took pictures and the flash went off, they would burst into clapping and cheering."

These experiences in Haiti and Jamaica have greatly affected the Millers' view of life, causing them to question the meaning of their lives and their priorities. "Our focus in the US is to obtain financial security and material possessions, and when you see what others are dealing with who don't have the necessities of life, like drinkable water, it's hard to go back to everyday life and feel like you're doing something important. You feel like helping people in need is what is really important," said Joe.

"I have come to know that through service, one grows closer to Christ," said Diane. "It's like you're blind and deaf, and then able to see and hear the truth." ▼

Living conditions in Haiti are extremely substandard. Indeed, Haiti has been called the "Calcutta of the Western Hemisphere" said Diane. It is one of the most densely populated countries on earth, with only 35 percent adult literacy, 70 percent unemployment, a per capita income of $340 and inflation above 16 percent according to a 1997 U.S. Department of State bulletin.

Courtesy photo

Diane Miller, center, shares a moment with a group of Haitian villagers during a recent mission trip. Diane and her husband, Joe, are currently assisting the efforts of the religious order, Missionaries of The Poor.

"I have come to know that through service, one grows closer to Christ. It's like you're blind and deaf, and then able to see and hear the truth."
— Diane Miller

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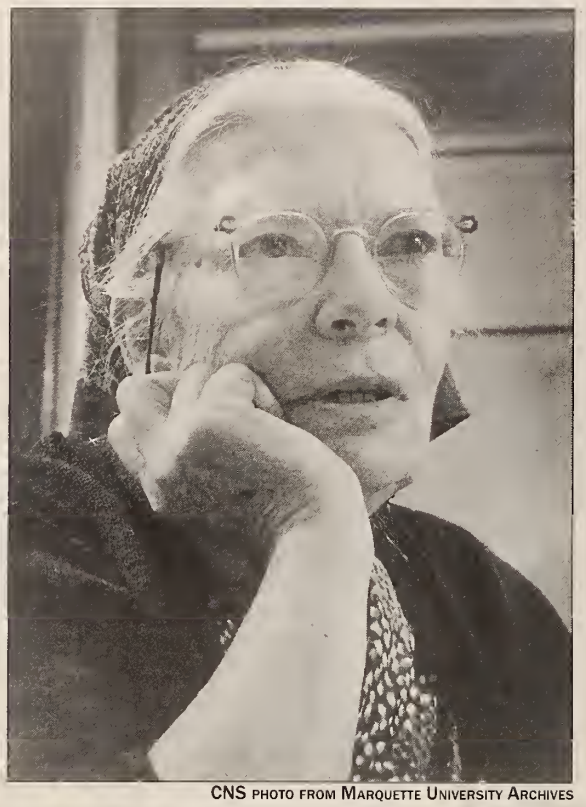

CNS PHOTO FROM MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Day chosen as top lay person of 20th century

A group of church historians and theologians chose Dorothy Day as the 20th century's most outstanding lay Catholic. Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, spent her adult life as an advocate for the poor and the rights of workers.

Maryknollers win Catholic Volunteer Service Award

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — The Maryknoll mission family, which includes priests, brothers, sisters and lay people, has received the 1999 Father George Mader Award for fostering the role of missioners in the Catholic church and society.

Named as a co-winner was the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities.

The annual award, presented in November in Washington, is given by the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service to individuals or organizations that have been "exemplary in fostering the role of lay missioners in the catholic Church and society."

Created in 1987, it is named for a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., who in 1963 founded the network, a nonprofit membership organization of about 180 U.S. and international volunteer and lay mission programs.

The organization's board of directors chose Maryknoll as one of the winners for its long-standing commitment to mission and the role of laity, according to a Maryknoll announcement on the award.

Executive director James Lindsay praised Maryknoll for not only providing mission opportunities for singles, married couples and families to work with clergy and religious "to further the church's mission," but also for sharing "experience and wisdom" through mission education and cross-cultural training.

Accepting the award was Vicki Armour-Hileman, a member of the leadership team for the Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, the congregation's arm for lay, clergy and religious associates. She noted that about one-third of lay people serving overseas in missions are Maryknollers. ▼

Many refugees unaware East Timor is safe, says CRS spokesman

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — Many East Timorese are hesitant to return home because they do not know it is safe, said a Catholic Relief Services spokesman visiting Timor. Conditions in heavily damaged East Timor are better than in the government-run refugee camps of western Timor, but relief workers face a problem "getting the word out to refugees in western Timor that it is safe in East Timor — they can come back, there is food here, they can go back and restart their lives," said Tom Price, director of media relations for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

Pro-life leaders decry draft guidelines on stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Draft guidelines for human stem-cell research from the National Institutes of Health erode respect for human life and suggest "a utilitarian ethic," said pro-life leaders. Richard Doerflinger, associate director of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said Dec. 1 that the proposed guidelines "authorize use of taxpayer funds for research on stem cells obtained by destroying live human embryos." The American Life League said in a Dec. 2 statement that the guidelines smack of "a utilitarian ethic that places the alleged greater good of society above the intrinsic value of the tiniest person, the human being at fertilization."

Despite battle with Air Force, Catholic officer makes captain

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite his public stand against serving with women on two-person missile alert crews, Air Force Lt. Ryan C. Berry has been promoted to captain. The Catholic officer, whose cause was widely publicized last summer, said he believed mixed-sex duty would create "an occasion of sin." He feared that his battle with the Air Force over the issues of religious accommodation and a negative service record would prevent his promotion to captain. Without advancement, Berry would have been forced to leave the Air Force when his enlistment ended in 2002. According to a statement from the Washington-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the public interest law firm representing Berry, the officer was notified of his promotion Nov. 18.

Testimonial project by Spielberg foundation readied for schools

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Filmmaker Steven Spielberg wants Catholic schools nationwide to embrace the lessons from the 50,441 Holocaust testimonies collected by his Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. "I'm hoping that with something like this, with youngsters better educated, Columbine won't happen again," Spielberg said in an interview at a foundation fund-raising dinner at Universal Pictures. "We want to revise social sciences," he said. "You cannot just teach the Holocaust without teaching about black slavery, civil rights or the liquidation of the Native American population, and every other intolerance that you can imagine." Those issues have to be "taught comprehensively" and "taught together," he added.

In Mexico, U.N. official receives church report on Chiapas

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — During a five-day tour of Mexico, the U.N. human rights commissioner received a church report on rights abuses in the troubled southern state of Chiapas and urged renewed peace talks in the state. Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, met Nov. 27 in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, with Bishops Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas and Felipe Aguirre Franco of Tuxtla Gutierrez. Bishop Ruiz, president of the diocesan human rights office, the Fray Bartolome de las Casas Human Rights Center, presented Robinson with a 20-page report that said abuses were being aggravated by a "low-intensity war" by the government against the mostly indigenous Zapatista National Liberation Army.

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Feast of St. Nicholas a reminder of season's true spirit

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

"A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

The year was 1897 when Virginia O'Hanlon, 8 years old, wrote a letter to the editor of The New York Sun asking about Santa Claus. The editor, Francis P. Church, didn't go into the chronicle of good St. Nicholas, one of Santa's historical predecessors, in his response to the little girl. But his message to her — replete with mentions of love and generosity and childlike faith — includes descriptions often applied to the fourth-century saint so warmly associated with the Christmas season.

What is known about St. Nicholas for sure is that he earned great esteem as a pious priest, served faithfully as a zealous bishop and his feast on the Roman liturgical calendar is observed Dec. 6. Much beyond that, his story is a blend of history, legend and celebrated spirit.

The beloved saint first rose to fame not at the helm of a flying sleigh taking off from the North Pole, but from the bishop's cathedra in Myra, the see city of a dilapidated diocese located in an area that is now Turkey. He is believed in some circles to have come from a family of privilege and, having been ordained to the priesthood by an uncle, gave away all he owned when he entered the monastery as a monk.

He gained a reputation as a man of immense holiness, and soon became a bishop known for his great love of the faith. At the church's Council of Nicaea in 325, he reportedly condemned Arianism, which holds that Jesus is not of the same substance as God, and signed a document attesting to Christ's divinity.

Nicholas was allegedly imprisoned for his religious beliefs and, by the mid-fourth century, had surely earned an authentic legacy as a true believer and advocate of Christ.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

It is that latter distinction and his legendary benevolence that make him a reminder of the real reason for the Advent and Christmas seasons, says Father Thomas Stott, who has great admiration for St. Nicholas.

"The feast of St. Nicholas is a time to stop, look and listen," says Father Stott, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, where a relic of St. Nicholas is displayed. "It is a time to remind us of the genuine, eternal God becoming incarnate and being manifested on this coming Christmas Day. That's what the feast day is all about."

Adding to what is known as fact about him, the legends of Nicholas' good works became as widespread as his popularity through the centuries. Biographies vary on the lengths to which Nicholas reached out to the poor, although his charity seems to be generally agreed upon.

Popular — and not-so-known — stories of Nicholas' kindness involve him giving dowries for three daughters of a destitute father, rescuing three innocent men condemned to death by a governor, resuscitating three children killed by an innkeeper, and, by appearing to a group storm-ravaged sailors, guiding them safely to port after they invoked his aid.

Traditions like these not only gave way to increasing devotion by the faithful, but also led Nicholas to become the patron of sailors, prisoners and children, among others, as well as several European countries and Russia. It is from his patronage of children that led to gift-giving in his name at Christmas time, a practice whose origins are especially traced to Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Relics of St. Nicholas were relocated from Myra in 1087 to Bari, Italy, where a shrine dedicated in his honor became a popular pilgrimage center and further increased veneration of the saint. By this time, miracles throughout Europe and Asia were being attributed to St. Nicholas' intercession. It's estimated that there are more than 2,000 churches in Europe named in his honor, and St. Nicholas is one of the most frequently represented saints in Christian art.

Father Stott says St. Nicholas is but one example of how the saints are great teachers of God's grace.

"The plurality and diversity of the saints demonstrate the unfathomable depth of God," he says. "What God has allowed is that they be remembered; much of the stories are legends, but the person is remembered." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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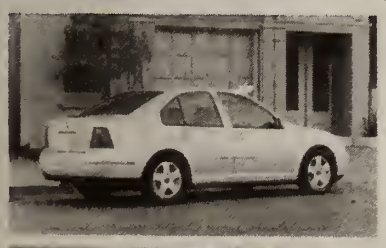

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Inquiry begins into Mother Teresa's intercession in alleged cure

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — A church inquiry has began in the Archdiocese of Calcutta into an alleged miraculous cure through Mother Teresa's intercession.

The inquiry formally began Nov. 25 when an eight-member tribunal took an oath of office and secrecy at a 30-minute opening session in Calcutta, eastern India, to study the case.

A nun of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, was questioned as part of the inquiry Nov. 26, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, postulator of the canonization cause of Mother Teresa, said the alleged miracle involved a 30-year-old woman in Raiganj, some 250 miles north of Calcutta, who had a stomach tumor.

When doctors found her too weak to be operated on, three Missionaries of Charity nuns placed on the woman's stomach a medal that had earlier touched Mother Teresa's body, and they prayed over the woman.

The woman immediately felt lighter and all pain disappeared, witnesses said. The next morning, the stomach returned to its normal size, said the priest citing the same witnesses.

"Proof of a miracle is not easy," Father Kolodiejchuk told UCA News, "and medical experts are called to testify whether such a cure could be explained by medical science."

The postulator declined to release the names of either the cured woman or the nun interviewed at a closed session in the Calcutta archbishop's house.

At the session, the postulator presented Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta, head of the investigation, his mandate of appointment and a petition to initiate an inquiry into the alleged cure.

The chancellor of the Calcutta Archdiocese, Father Hansel D'Souza, read the dispensation in which Pope John Paul II lifted the standard five-year waiting period for investigating the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa.

The oath takers included a medical expert to study the case and two others, who will examine the cure independently. No names were revealed, reportedly to avoid harassment, church sources said.

Father Kolodiejchuk presented Archbishop D'Souza with a list of witnesses and a questionnaire for their examination, and asked for the right to produce more names, if necessary.

The postulator said that while the first tribunal continues to question witnesses and to collect information on Mother Teresa's life and virtues, the latest tribunal would collect information only on the reported Raiganj miracle.

Although there have been reports of several miracles in eastern India, only the Raiganj case was chosen for investigation initially, as it seemed to fit the required criteria best, the postulator said.

If the cure is not proven to be "a real miracle," the tribunal will examine another case, he added.

Archbishop D'Souza described the oath-taking session as the first step to gather information on a possible miraculous cure.

In the second step, the tribunal will send a report to the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes for examination. In the third and final phase, the report is sent to the pope for judgment. In general, two miracles need to be accepted by the church as having occurred through the intercession of a prospective saint.

Missionaries of Charity superior Sister Nirmala Joshi told UCA News that they were "very happy and still praying for Mother's canonization."

She said that many people have sent letters claiming cures and favors from Mother Teresa, but they "were not completely or medically documented."

Missionaries of Charity founder and Nobel Peace laureate Mother Teresa based her life and work in Calcutta, where she died of cardiac arrest Sept. 5, 1997, at the age of 87. ▼

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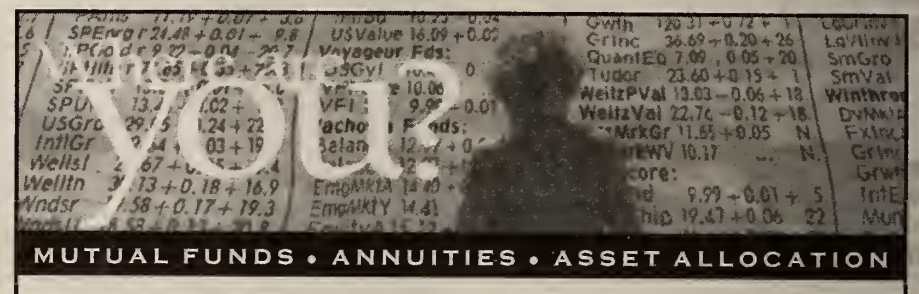

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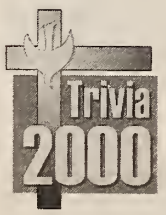
New videos feature pope's activities, jubilee themes

By LYNNE WEIL
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has issued 10 videocassettes featuring Pope John Paul II and jubilee year themes.



The countless miles of moving images from the pontiff's pastoral visits and Vatican activities were narrowed down to five half-hour installments.

Each had a theme: Human rights, interreligious dialogue, youth, families and Marian devotion.

Five other cassettes were dedicated to jubilee-specific subjects: pilgrims, the Roman catacombs, nativity scenes, the four major basilicas of Rome and religious ties between Rome and the Holy Land.

The series was to be issued worldwide in six languages, including English. Pope John Paul received a copy in Italian.

Italian film entrepreneur Alberto Michelini, the series' coordinator, said selecting "a few minutes" from the thousands of hours of material available was hard because "this pontificate has produced many beautiful moments."

Information on ordering the cassettes, individually or as a series, was available through the Vatican-linked agency Terzo Millennio at Via della Conciliazione 44, 00193 Rome, Italy. ▼

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We want to thank all of you who so lovingly gave some of your time to be with us during our time of sorrow. Thank you for your flowers, your cards, donations, words of consolation and your company. We could not have made it through today if it wasn't for you, giving us moral and spiritual support.

The Anaya family thanks you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you have done for us until today. Our daughter is rejoicing in the Eternal Paradise and has joined a choir of angels, where we will meet her some day.

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Past, present and future key elements of upcoming conference

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration scheduled

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — The past, present and future of blacks in society and the church, is more than the theme of the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. It is the reason for the year 2000 observance.

For those who lived through the tumultuous 60s, the civil rights movement is part of that past, while the accompanying struggles and strife are far from forgotten. Today, the life and work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. serves as a milestone. Preserving that memory for today's youth and future generations is part of the challenge that will bring the past and future together for present day solutions on Jan. 8.

"We must especially remind the younger folk who didn't live through it of what did happen, and what can, and likely will happen if they don't advocate much of what Dr. King taught," says Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd.

The 15th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration is scheduled for Our Lady of Consolation parish in Charlotte. The daylong observance will culminate with the celebration of the Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin.

"It is a day to celebrate the importance of Dr. King and what he did for this country, society in general, and the world," says Rev. Mr. Todd, noting that Dr. King's work was formulated from a Christian perspective.

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, sees the celebration as another way to "share the love of God with all our our sisters and brothers in a substantial way, without regard to the differences that would separate us."

For the past decade and a half, the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry has used innovative elements to strike a chord towards unity.

One successful element introduced last year was 'Word Events,' where Scripture springs to life via conference attendee participation. "By taking a passage from scripture and relating it to what is going on now," says Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, "the Word Events involve everybody; young, old, and middle-aged. Everybody was in on the discussion and developing and sharing their own Word Events."

Word Events will return this January with a new twist. Participants will be asked to infuse the message of keynote speaker, Dr. Morris F.X. Jeff, Jr. into group discussion. Rev. Mr. Todd, a permanent deacon of Our Lady of Consolation parish and vicar of African American Affairs Ministry calls this direction an excellent way to tie in Dr. Jeff's message with scripture, thus bringing a myriad of biblical messages to life in the Word Events.

Dr. Jeff, a noted speaker from New Orleans, is an "African-centered social worker, therapist, advocate, trainer, activist and consultant," with expertise in urban problems and solutions from an African perspective. In Louisiana, he is Director of the New Orleans Department of Human Services and adjunct professor at Tulane University.

For more information on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, call the African American Affairs Ministry office, (704) 370-3339. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

CCHS nominates student for principal's leadership award

CHARLOTTE — Joseph Falencki, a Charlotte Catholic High School senior, has been nominated to compete in the National Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship Program (PLA), sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Herff Jones Inc. funds the Principal's Leadership Award Program.

One hundred fifty national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive $1,000 in college scholarships. Principals in high schools throughout the country could nominate one of their student leaders. Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences and academic record. They were also required to write an essay.

NASSP is the nation's largest school leadership organization with a membership reaching toward 43,000 middle-level and high school principals and assistant principals. It administers the National Honor Society, the National Junior High Society, the National Association of Student Councils and the National Association of Student Activity Advisors, collectively serving an additional 55,000 advisors and more than one million students. NASSP is also the sponsor of National Student Leadership Week and is the administrator of The National Alliance of High Schools. ▼

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Book Review

Vatican praises guidebook's insight into Rome's churches

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Vatican officials praised a new travel guide to Rome as offering a unique insight into the spiritual motivation behind centuries of church construction and art in the Eternal City.

"Pilgrimage: A Chronicle of Christianity Through the Churches of Rome"
Weidenfeld and Nicolson
(London, 1999), $40

During a presentation Nov. 29 of "Pilgrimage: A Chronicle of Christianity Through the Churches of Rome," Archbishop Francesco Marchisano, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church and of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology, said the book was a "work not only of artistic excellence, but also of religious excellence."

While most guidebooks limited themselves to artistic, geographical and historical explanations, "Pilgrimage" captured the religious intent behind Rome's most important churches, he said.

Written by June Hager, managing editor of the Rome-based monthly "Inside the Vatican," the book takes readers on a 2,000-year tour of Rome in chronological order, from the early catacombs through more than 40 churches, ending with the still unfinished glass and white concrete "Church of the Year 2000," designed by U.S. architect Richard Meier.

Hager's text is accompanied by 200 color photographs by Grzegorz Galazka, a noted Vatican photographer.

Interested tourists should plan on spending time with "Pilgrimage" long before taking to Rome's cobble-stoned streets; at nearly 10 inches by 12 inches, it is not easily slipped into a sightseer's back pocket. ▼

December Bestsellers

Children and Young People

1. **"What Is God's Name?"** Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (SkyLight Paths Publishing)
2. **"Picture Book of Saints."** Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)
3. **"Praying to God"** board book. D. Brumi (Regina Press)
4. **"New Catholic Picture Bible."** (Catholic Book Publishing)
5. **"Precious Moments Catholic Bible."** Girl's edition (Regina Press)
6. **"Children's Book of Saints."** Louis Savary (Regina Press)
7. **"My First Missal."** Maria Luisa Benigni (Pauline)
8. **"The Rosary."** Victor Hoagland (Regina Press)
9. **"My Rosary."** Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)
10. **"Catholic Children's Bible."** Mary Theola (Regina Press)

Spanish-language

1. **"Manual Para Proclamadores 2000."** Marina A. Herrera (Liturgy Training)
2. **"Palabra de Dios 2000."** Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
3. **"Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica."** (Doubleday)
4. **"Setenta Veces Siete."** Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough)
5. **"Los Ministros de la Comunion a los Enfermos."** Office of Divine Worship/Chicago (Liturgy Training)
6. **"Palabras y Cantos de Jesus"** Activity Book. Walker & Freeburg (Oregon Catholic Press)
7. **"Catecismo Basico."** Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)
8. **"Consagrados Para Ser Testigos."** O. Gutierrez (Pauline)
9. **"Catecismo Illustrado."** A. Lodders (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. **"Liturgia de las Horas."** Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)

Word to Life

December 12, Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B Readings:

1) Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
2) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
3) Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

Part of a contest running in the daily paper asks contestants to fill in a blank with their most significant memory of this last century of the second thousand years since the advent of Christ's kingdom.

I first thought of my memory of the day JFK was shot. I had heard him speak outside the old Texas Hotel in downtown Fort Worth the morning of Nov. 22, 1963. Pretty significant, huh?

But when I gave it more thought, I had to be honest and say that the most significant moment of this century for me and my family came when my wife and I received our daughter into our arms on the fifth day of her life. The day of her adoption outshines any other event in our lives like the sun outshines the moon.

Today's Scriptures are full of promise for a day for Israel — and all of us adopted sons and daughters of Israel — as significant by comparison to the rest of our joint history as my daughter's adoption day was to my family.

Nothing else comes even close.

Mary, in her canticle from Luke, gives us reason to anticipate Jesus' coming with joy when she says, "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my savior, for he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed. God who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age on those who fear him."

And the Gospel reading from John describing the person and mission of John the Baptizer serves as a reminder to us that these are, after all, Advent readings, readings of anticipation of this great, life-changing event. "There was a man named John sent by God who came as a witness to testify to the light, so that through him all men might believe — but only to testify to the light, for he himself was not the light."

For more than a decade my wife and I made decisions based on our hope that a baby would come into our lives, changing us forever. In time, God honored our hope, faithful to us in love. All of us like Israel of old also wait in joyful hope for the one who changes our lives and all of human history by his coming, knowing, as words from Mary's canticle put it, that God will be faithful to his promises of redemption of the poor and lowly, "even as he promised our fathers, promised Abraham and his descendants forever."

Question:

As Christmas approaches, have you set aside time to contemplate what Jesus coming into your life means for you and how the babe of Bethlehem will change you?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 12 - 18, 1999

Sunday, Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28; **Monday**, Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17, Matthew 21:23-27; **Tuesday**, Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13, Matthew 21:28-32; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25, Luke 7:18-23; **Thursday**, Isaiah 54:1-10, Luke 7:24-30; **Friday**, Genesis 49:2, 8-10, Matthew 1:1-17; **Saturday**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24

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'Toy Story 2' star leads charge for Chicago Catholic Charities

By MICHAEL D. WAMBLE
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Sequels have become a recurring theme for Joan Cusack.

This holiday season, the comedic actress is starring as Jessie the Cowgirl, alongside the character voiced by Tom Hanks in "Toy Story 2," the follow-up to the 1995 computer-animated blockbuster.

But it's her return as spokeswoman for Catholic Charities of Chicago's annual Toy Shower that she hopes will make a lasting impact on the city's needy.

A native of Evanston, the actress best known for her Oscar-nominated supporting roles in the films "Working Girl" and "In and Out" was "cast" in this latest role by a persuasive party at the Catholic agency: her mother-in-law.

"I asked if she'd do it and she said yes," said Maryjeanne Burke, who chairs Catholic Charities' Toy Shower committee. "Now it's really a family affair, with the ladies in the family volunteering their time toward this worthy cause." Burke's daughter, Mary, is a member of the organization's advisory board.

The importance of giving back to others, Cusack said, always has been a family value. "The seeds to help others were planted in me by my family," she said, referring to the volunteer work of her actor-father, Dick, and the association of her mother, Nancy, with the Catholic Worker movement in New York and Boston.

"That (Catholic Worker) sensibility was very much part of my parents' lives. It serves as a challenge not just to meditate," Cusack told the Catholic New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper.

Burke isn't the only one appreciative of her support. Father Michael Boland, Charities' administrator, is also ecstatic about the actress' involvement in the program.

"Joan is truly a member of the Catholic Charities family, and we are delighted to welcome her for the second year," he said.

In 1998, 15,000 individual new, unwrapped gifts were collected. Already Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa has donated 15,000 Beanie Babies to be given out to each child served by Catholic Charities.

This Christmas season, Burke said they've set a goal of 20,000 donations. Toys may be dropped off at various locations throughout the Chicago area.

Another program called Sponsor-a-Family for Christmas allows groups, clubs and businesses to come to the aid of two or up to 10 members of a needy family.

"When we started, 70 families received sponsorship; now that number has increased to 350," said Burke.

With Catholic Charities and in films, Cusack said, it's always important to remember that one's actions can impact and influence others.

During the sound studio production of "Toy Story 2," Cusack said she questioned the need for Jessie the Cowgirl to become a helpless damsel in distress.

"As a mom of a 1-year-old and an expectant mother-to-be, I've really begun to think about children and children's issues," she said.

"Through her voice, I tried to make her strong. Originally, Tom Hanks' character was to rescue her. So I asked, 'Can she rescue him a bit too?' And that was worked into the story. I was glad to add that for little girls out there," she said.

Script suggestions and especially, contributions to organizations such as Catholic Charities are ways of putting the spotlight on what's important in life, Cusack said.

"Being part of a community is an important part of life, and volunteering and giving of one's self to the community is rejuvenating and deeply rewarding," she said. ▼

CNS PHOTO BY DAVID V. KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Actress Joan Cusack (right) and Toy Shower director Maryjeanne Burke display some of toys collected by Catholic Charities in Chicago.

Out on video

"Inspector Gadget" (1999)

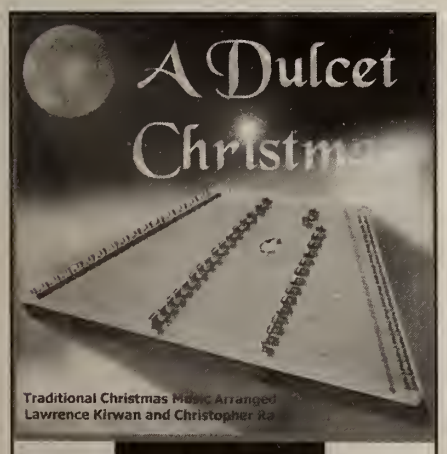
Dopey adventure comedy starring Matthew Broderick as a bumbling bionic policeman slowly learning how to use the various crime-fighting gadgets built into his body. Directed by David Kellogg and based on a TV cartoon series, this live-action Disney misfire offers a ludicrous assortment of special-effects gimmicks but does nothing with them except waste time. Comic violence and mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney, rental)

"Macbeth" (1948)

Murky but interesting version of Shakespeare's play in which the title nobleman (Orson Welles) is goaded by his ambitious wife (Jeanette Nolan) into killing the Scottish king (Edgar Barrier), then is undone by his conscience and the ambiguous prophecy of three witches. Also directed by Welles, the dark setting of bleak moors and cavelike interiors is visually very effective, but the sinister feudal proceedings lack dramatic consistency and the result is wildly uneven. Stylized violence and much menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Republic, $19.98)

"Othello" (1952)

Striking production of Shakespeare's tragedy in which the title Moor (Orson Welles) is sent to command the Venetian garrison on Cyprus where he is duped by his villainous aide, Iago (Michael MacLiammoir), into believing his innocent wife (Suzanne Cloutier) is unfaithful, with murderous results. Also directed by Welles, the result translates the stage play into an engrossing screen drama, brilliantly encapsulating the original through imaginative visuals and compelling performances, despite the low-budget production's technical inadequacies. Stylized violence, sexual innuendo and the harm of false pretenses. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Academy, rental)



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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says rediscovery of value of family and marriage needed

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By promoting authentic values of marriage and family in public opinion and civil legislation, society can cure its ills and the church can achieve greater unity, Pope John Paul II said.

Rediscovering the value of marriage and the family "is ever more urgent," since it is a point of discussion for a large part of modern culture and society, the pope said Dec. 1 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI Hall.

"It is the conception itself of the family, a community founded on marriage between a man and a woman, which has been targeted in the name of an ethical relativism that is making advances in large sectors of public opinion and civil legislation," the pope said.

The pope, coughing frequently as he spoke, told the 7,000 pilgrims gathered that the crisis of the family was leading to a crisis in society.

"Not a few pathological phenomena — from loneliness to violence, to drugs — are also explained by the loss of the nuclear family's identity and function," he said.

"Where the family gives way, society loses its connective fabric, with disastrous consequences to persons, especially the weakest: from children to adolescents, to the disabled, to the sick, to the elderly," the pope said.

The pope said that God's fatherhood, marked by a richness of communion, generation and life, was the source of all human fatherhood and motherhood.

Within the family, the pope said, each person is entrusted with a specific duty.

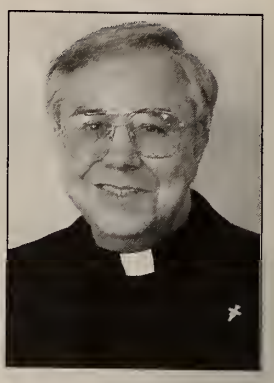
He highlighted the important role men and women take on in marriage "in their reciprocal spousal relationship and their common commitment as parents, in as much as they are called to fulfill their natural characteristics in a deep, enriching and respectful communion."

The pope said the Christian family, as a "domestic church," was called to live in a special way the ideal expressed in Christ's prayer for unity at the Last Supper.

"From the experience of renewed Christian families, the church itself will be able to learn to cultivate, among all the members of the community, a greater family dimension, adopting and promoting a more human and fraternal style of relationships," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, the pope blessed a huge jubilee bell dedicated to peace among peoples. Weighing nearly nine tons and standing eight feet high, the bell was commissioned by parishioners from Limatola, a southern Italian town near Naples.

Advent Reflection



FATHER IGNATIUS ZAMPINO, OFM CAP
Guest Columnist

" ... Let it be as you say"

How do we make our Christmas a fruitful one? The answer is found in our Gospel reading from Luke on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the weekend before Christmas. It is there that we discover the approach of the person whose first Christmas remains the most fruitful Christmas of all time — Mary, the mother of Jesus. After absorbing the full impact of the angel's message, Mary gives her response: "Fiat" — "Let what you said be done to me" (Lk 1:38). This unconditional acceptance of God's will released the full power of God's love.

For us to share in this power, we must enter with Jesus into the womb of Mary and come to birth together with Jesus. This entering of the womb is, for God, a kind of dying. He enters the dark womb of a woman as into a tomb, to lie in waiting and helplessness like each of us. He truly is a helpless baby. That for God is a real emptying. He embraces this emptying to become one with our human nature.

If we are to share in His divinity, we must share in that experience; we must live in darkness and helplessness and waiting, preparing for our new birth in Him. This is what it means to share the life of Jesus — to embrace our human condition and live it out for love of Him who did the same for us.

Each person, like Mary, is pregnant with the Lord, struggling to give birth to the God within. This attitude saves us from inflicting our own God on to others, and reverences each person as a womb of God. Our love should be life-giving in that it brings forth the God who dwells in every person.

Like Mary, each person receives the Lord by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and if we but open up to the Holy Spirit and surrender to His entry into our lives, we can declare like Mary: All generations will call us blessed, because He is almighty and has done great things for us.

Then, and only then, we can reach out to our brothers and sisters, shouting: I have come to you hastening to the hill country announcing the Good News of Jesus dwelling in your womb. And we do this simply, as Mary did in her visit to her cousin Elizabeth.

When the Lord comes into our lives, we often feel we have to move out of the seemingly narrow confines of our ordinary lifestyles and do something grand for the Lord. How different it was with Mary. When the Lord comes into her life, she immediately does something small, something domestic. She goes to the hillside to be with her aging cousin who is with child. Instead of concentrating piously on her own pregnancy, Mary turns her attention to the needs of those around her. How authentic that response is.

To trust the humble desire to serve in small, seemingly unimportant ways is what the true apostle does. Following Mary's example is what will make our Christmas fruitful.

Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino is pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

The language gap between priests and laity

My friend, Bud, gave me this list of gender jokes the other day that were totally sexist and clearly socially backward. In other words, I laughed until I had to blow my nose.

The jokes focused on different understandings of the same word by men and women. For example, "vulnerable": female — opening oneself emotionally to another; male — playing football without a helmet.

This, naturally, led to deep theological reflection on my part, which led in turn to the realization that a similar language gap exists between the priesthood and most of us lay folk.

For example, "bishop": priest — the person from whom all authority, financial requests and much paperwork flows; laity — a chess piece.

Understanding these things would no doubt clear up many unnecessary tensions in parish life. Take another example, "holding hands": laity — something couples do with they stroll on the beach, or parents do with children when they cross the street; priest — topic of the next liturgy committee meeting because so many people are complaining about touching palms during the Our Father.

Or, "collars": laity — the hardest part of the shirt to iron or a synonym for "making an arrest"; priest — a slang word for him and his colleagues.

Even when we think we mean the same thing, there can be nuances of perception. For example, "shared decision making": laity — trying to get your way at the parish council meeting; priest — trying to remember to tell the parish finance committee chairperson about the new lighting he ordered for the sanctuary.

Sometimes the problem is the part of speech. For example, "cook": laity — a verb; priest — a noun. Or "project": laity — noun, something you do, often on a Saturday, like clean the garage; priest — verb, how you talk when the sound system takes a hike.

Or the connotation of a word, like "dinner": laity — a meal; priest — a location. "Run": priest — to direct a meeting; laity — to move just faster than a jog. Or "operation": priest — a euphemism for "parish plant"; laity — something we can talk about for hours, especially if it has been done on us and we are still fighting with the insurance company and hospital about being charged $75 for paper socks.

Maybe the National Council of the Laity and the National Federation of Priest Councils could get together and talk about this. They could co-author a lexicon: "Laity Are From Earth, Priests Are From The Seminary."

Of course, they would have to agree on the meaning of "agenda" first.

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 441 Church St., San Francisco, Calif. 94114; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

We welcome your comments and letters.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Your home can change the world

"Oprah! I was just on her show, and you'll never guess what happened!" The excited voice on my answering machine was 16-year-old Craig Kielburger who heads the Free The Children movement which fights child labor abuses around the world. He began the organization when he was only twelve years old. Through my work at The Christophers, he and his family and I have become good friends.

"During our interview she pledged 200,000 dollars to our cause!" Craig roared. "The show will air soon! Be sure to watch! Talk to you soon!"

When I saw the program, I was in awe and moved to tears of joy. There was Craig in the company of several other teenagers who were sharing their stories of how they are making a profound difference in our world through personal initiative. Each spoke of having an inner conviction that unless they responded in some way to their personal mission, others might suffer unnecessarily.

Oprah Winfrey asked each teen what it was that motivated them to get involved and make a positive difference. Though each phrased it differently, in essence, what they all said was: "It's the way I was brought up at home — my parents and their values."

Think about it: homes have always been fertile fields for planting and nurturing faith and values for the bigger world. Clearly, the parents of these teens know this. But, too many moms and dads might be surprised to know how often their offspring are disappointed in the lack of inspiration given them.

A young teenager told me recently that when she told her family that she wanted to go to college to become a teacher, her mother and father advised her to prepare for a career where she could earn more money. This young woman's interests, talents and values are leading her to help youngsters. She wants to make a difference for good. And that is more important to her and her future than all the things that money could buy.

Her parents and many others think they are just being practical and that they only want "the best" for their children. After all, money matters. They are absolutely right. But it is not and never will be everything. "The best" always has more to do with being and doing than with having.

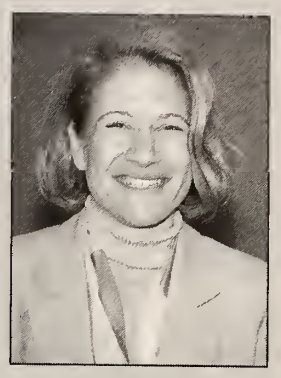
Young people should expect guidance from their parents, not only in small things, but also in the big things of life. Right from the sanctuary of their homes, parents influence the world by encouraging their kids to get into the thick of things, to lead lives of purpose. When I say sanctuary, I mean exactly that. No matter how chaotic everyday life may be, every family deserves and needs a spiritual center for faith, hope, love — and action.

Those teenagers on Oprah are shining examples of how youth bring into the public square the goodness parents pass on to them from God. Because their parents started early to develop their "love your neighbor" outlook, they may someday touch the lives of countless persons.

To any pessimists who are wringing their hands over the next generation, I say, "Stop worrying and get to work." Every adult should be encouraging every youngster through words, and especially, by example, to live the best, the most generous life possible.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Planned Giving



CINDY RICE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Making time for giving

Time is precious these days. Since the week before Thanksgiving, my thirteen-year-old daughter has reminded me — daily — of the exact number of days until Christmas. If I did not have Rachel counting down, a visit to the local post office where the millennium clock is prominently displayed would effectively remind me of the relentless march of time.

Too often, we are so busy in our day-to-day living that we find it difficult to slow down, take a break and spend time with those we love. Perhaps, that is one of the reasons the holidays are so special to us. Traditionally, during the Christmas season, we make a special effort to celebrate the birth of Christ with family and close friends. New Year's is a time to reflect on the past year and future resolutions and dreams.

Many people in the diocese also set aside time during the holidays to make special gifts to support their parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocese or the diocesan foundation. With the dramatic increases in investment markets over the past decade, those who decide to make gifts funded with appreciated securities may reap additional financial benefits this year.

If you own stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have increased in value over the years, using them to make gifts to the Church can bring you deductions on your tax return next spring. Keep in mind that gifts must be made before December 31, 1999, to be deductible on your 1999 tax return. Although mutual fund gifts can take from 6 to 8 weeks, it is not too late to make stock gifts before the end of the year.

Gifts of appreciated securities you have owned for at least one year provide you with a deduction for the full current value of the property. You are generally allowed to deduct the value of such gifts in amounts equal to as much as 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. In addition, you can avoid the capital gains tax on the stock's increase in value.

You may think that making a gift of securities will be too complicated. Actually, the diocese has a set of easy instructions to provide all the information needed to either make a gift through electronic transfer or to donate physical stock certificates for the benefit of your parish or a diocesan entity.

It is always a good idea to consult with your financial advisors about gift options best suited for your personal situation.

Gifts to your parish, Catholic school, agency or the diocese help to strengthen the community and provide the support needed for the ministry of the Church in western North Carolina. If you would like to make a meaningful gift this holiday season — one to sustain the Catholic faith — make your plans today.

For more information about making gifts of appreciated securities or other types of year-end gifts, please feel free to contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, (704) 370-3320.

Cindy Rice is Director of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Understanding "Haggadic Midrash"

Q. Your column has been a big help to me since I returned to the Catholic Church. My question is about the three magi.

One priest told us that the story of the wise men is only a fable, something he called "midrash." If this is so, why all the details about Herod, the killing of the innocents and so on? How can the ordinary person know what to believe?

A. First, let's be clear that we're not speaking here of anything which is part of required belief for Catholics or other Christians.

Particularly, it does not involve belief in "three kings" or wise men. The Gospel according to Matthew, the only one that tells the story (2:1-12), does not call them kings — they were probably astrologers — nor does it say how many there were.

Tradition in the Eastern Catholic churches, for example, speaks of 12 men coming "from the east," or from the rising sun, not three.

The answer to your question entails certain technicalities of Scripture interpretation dealing with the literary forms, or styles of writing, Matthew used in this Gospel.

As your priest hinted, we are fairly certain, from study of this Gospel and other writings of that period, that Matthew contains several examples of what is called "haggadic midrash."

These are stories, typical in Jewish tradition, employed to spin out and clarify the meaning of a particular event or teaching. Sometimes these narratives are quite long and complicated, depending on the skill and intentions of the teacher.

They were not meant by the author to be taken literally in our sense of that word, but to flesh out and illustrate the truth being considered.

Often I have referred readers, who wish to enlarge their knowledge of Scripture, to the New American Bible. Published under the auspices of the American bishops, the text and notes are a good starting place for gaining insights into subjects like this.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The NAB, recalling that this Gospel was written much later in the first century when Jesus had been rejected by Israel and had begun to be accepted by the gentiles, explains that the magi story projects this rejection and acceptance back in time to the infancy of Jesus.

There is no room here to go into detail, but several elements of the story hearken back to Moses, the exodus and prophecies that God would establish a new "star," or king, for his people. Thus, the magi narrative wraps together a major theme of Matthew's Gospel and locates it early in the life of Jesus.

Several levels of understanding are therefore open for us. One may accept the tale of the magi as happening exactly as it is narrated in the Gospel. Or one may believe it is partly fictional, but based on some actual journey of "wise men" to Jerusalem about the time of the birth of Jesus. Or one may see the story as wholly made up, intended to call attention to the fulfillment of ancient prophecies about the coming and the mission of the Messiah.

Any of these explanations is compatible with the Catholic understanding of the meaning and divine inspiration of the Bible.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Stories of Faith

Thank you to all who shared their "Stories of Faith" with The Catholic News & Herald.

Holy Week blessings

One evening in March, while away, my husband called me with an 'invitation' from the pastor of our church, asking me to be an apostle on Holy Thursday.

Holy Week came quickly. After the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday, the feelings that came over me were the closest to heaven that I believe I will ever feel while here on earth. I felt blessed, holy, thankful, unique and so very inspired.

The experience has made me want to serve God and my church in as many ways as I possibly can!

Carole Buckley
Charlotte, NC

A second chance at love

To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, and to do the will of God is the greatest achievement.

I came from the Philippines as a tourist in January 1990 after my husband died together with my retirement. I arrived in San Diego to my aunt. The following August, we were invited to a birthday party in Phelan where I met Albert E. Taylor Sr., a widower andan American Indian.

We became friends, fell in love and made arrangements to be married in the outpost wedding chapel in Hesperia on Aug. 23, 1990. Because I was born a Roman Catholic and felt uncomfortable about the ceremony, we decided to have a second ceremony on Nov. 18, 1990, with Fr. John in Phelan Catholic Church.

This year will be our 9th wedding anniversary.

Thanks to our Lord above that with my hard prayer, he has given me, Dina, 72, a loving and caring husband, Albert, 83. I now know, once the Lord's call comes, begin to go and never stop going!

Dina Taylor
Walnut Cove, NC

Trusting in God

Some years ago, a book haunted me. It was about doing what you love, and the money will come. For me, this was an impossible task because I didn't love what I was doing. As a counselor in mental health, I felt burned out. Recently, I made a difficult decision to embark on an incredible search for more purpose to my life.

Trusting that God would provide for me no matter what, I had to be patient and believe that a plan would eventually be revealed to me. Along the way, I met some incredible people that I believe were sent by the Holy Spirit to guide me and speak divine words of wisdom through human voices.

Although I don't have the answers yet, a humble and arduous journey has begun to unfold.

Wendy E. Murray
Asheville, NC

A touch of peace

I fell in the bathroom and was in such pain that I knew I had broken a bone. I settled back, relying upon rote prayers, but to no avail.

Being born a Methodist, I didn't understand the Rosary, but the scriptures in the Scriptural Rosary I could understand, and I meditated on them. It wasn't long before that pain disappeared, and I felt as though I was being hugged very tenderly. A peace overwhelmed me as the Lord came to me in my deepest need. That experience made Mary more real to me than ever before.

Robin Ach
Winston-Salem, NC

Learning from our children

My son wrote a term paper for a religion course that he took in college. When I read it, I was astounded by the answers it gave to the many questions I have had throughout my life.

When God created man, he gave him a free will. Man chooses to either love God and worship Him or to worship this world and reject Him. God created man to share his love. However, God is a jealous being; He will not tolerate other "gods."

When man began to reject God, God did not understand why. Just as a man can never understand what it's like to be a woman and vice versa, so God could not understand what it was like to be a man.

At first, God became angry (Old Testament) and tried to win man back by showing him his power. Then, he decided to try to understand man. He became one of us. He (God) lived a human life as Jesus Christ. This is the redemption of man. As God, Jesus taught us the way to live.

After Jesus' ascension, God came back to us as the Holy Spirit. Everybody is waiting for the "Second Coming," but God has already come back. He is in each and every one of us.

When we hear the word "repent," it means to turn our worship of this world to a worship of God. Read the gospels; Christ tells us what to do. If we really mean it when we say we follow Christ, then, let's start acting like it.

William G. Travers
Kernersville, NC

Prayers for mercy and peace

On Friday, Sept. 3, my sister called saying that our mother, 89, was not doing well. Since it was Labor Day weekend, she thought we might want to make the trip to see her one more time.

I said that I was going to noon Mass and that I would remember her in particular. During the prayer requests, I stated that mother had pneumonia, was doing poorly and asked for prayers so that God would be merciful and grant her peace.

Afterwards, outside the church, my husband came hurrying towards me. My sister had tried to call me again and when she couldn't reach me, she called my husband at work to tell him that mother had just passed away.

Evelyn Walz
Hickory, NC

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Bishop's prayer for postal workers makes rounds

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — As the U.S. Postal Service prepares for its busiest days of the year, people can remember postal workers with a prayer penned by Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The prayer was delivered for the first time on Sept. 8, 1986, when — as a monsignor serving in the Archdiocese of Washington — Bishop Boland gave the invocation at the National Postal Forum in Washington.

It immediately struck a chord with postal workers, and Bishop Boland subsequently received many requests for copies and permission to reprint it, including in needlepoint.

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Postal Service nationwide will deliver some 20 billion holiday letters, postcards and packages, according to information from the U.S. Postal Service in Washington.

Here is the text of the bishop's prayer:

God, Our Father,

May everything we do be first class. Imprint your own loving Zip Code upon our hearts so that we may never go astray.

Provide in your gracious providence special handling for those of us who are fragile and keep us in one piece. We have been signed, sealed, stamped and delivered in your image and likeness and we beg you to keep us in your care as we go about our appointed rounds.

And when our days draw to a close and we are marked return to sender, be there to greet us at heaven's door so that nobody may ever say unknown at this address. Amen. ▼

'Cycle of response'

Catholic social service agencies apply expertise to long-term commitment to disaster victims

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — If you spent time online with the state of North Carolina's web site, you would find page after page of information about hurricane response. There is information on everything from safe drinking water to how to deal with snakes in the aftermath of flooding.

The state also provides abundant information on preparing for the next big disaster, whatever that may be. Agencies are linked together in an electronic resource for the people of the state.

As the 1999 hurricane season came to a close in the Atlantic Ocean at the end of November, agencies were already studying how they responded to the series of storms this year and what they can do to be prepared for the next round. Catholic Social Ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh is one of those agencies assessing what has been done and planning on what it can do better.

With that in mind, one expert on preparedness and response spent time in the diocese listening and advising on emergency response. Gerald Collins may be one of the lucky people who is able to say they have found their dream job. He is director of Disaster Response for Catholic Charities USA.

Formerly an employee of the American Red Cross, Collins has joined the social outreach arm of the U.S. Catholic bishops and plans to use his background to develop programs that could change the perception of the Catholic Church in disaster response. He hopes to see a prototype of that change established within the Diocese of Raleigh.

Catholic Charities USA has given Catholic Social Ministries in Raleigh a $150,000 grant that will be used to work on disaster response and recovery programs, or as he describes it, the Church Disaster Mitigation Program. What Collins is trying to help church groups do is take the so-called cycle of disaster response and use it wisely.

According to Collins, the cycle has four main parts: response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness. He wants to see all the parts overlapping.

Collins said that while people are responding to a disaster and helping to put lives back together, they should be using that time as a teaching moment. What he wants taught is preparedness and mitigation; he is convinced the local churches, assisted by diocesan and national resources, are capable of shouldering the responsibilities.

It is Collins' contention that CSM is already in the disaster recovery business because of its long-term commitment to case work, that is hands-on involvement with the community.

In order to change how Catholic social service agencies perceive themselves and how they are perceived in the public, Collins said it must be understood from the start that when disasters strike, CSM is in it from the start. "Many people believe," said Collins, "that what Catholic Charities/CSM do is not a the heart of disaster response."

As far as Collins is concerned, that is simply not true. CSM takes referrals from the agencies normally associated with being the first people local level.

Most relief agencies fit into one of three layers of disaster relief that are known by their acronyms, NVOAD, VOAD AND VOLAG. To simplify the matter, these are shorthand names for voluntary agencies operating on the national, state and local level. Catholic Charities organizations, Collins said, are already a part of the network.

Now, Collins wants that same network brought home to local parishes. "Any church that has a room with a lightbulb," said Collins, "should be involved in teaching disaster preparedness.

"I have yet to see a church, no matter how large or how small, that does not have a stove, a male and a female bathroom, in most cases a shower and some kind of space ... for meeting." Collins said that means that church already has the framework for disaster preparedness and response.

Collins said North Carolina is in a position to implement his plan to integrate all facets of response and recovery because it is still working to undue the damage from Hurricane Floyd in September. He said that when he heard about the damage to eastern North Carolina he had enough knowledge of the area to realize that those in pain were overwhelmingly the poor, such as sharecroppers and migrants and too often, he said, "they are forgotten."

But, they would be well served by their neighbors, if they were prepared to respond. In order to illustrate the need for cooperation, Collins offered a little illustration.

If one person has a great talent for making peanut butter sandwiches, said Collins, then they should apply that ability. If another has a knife with which to cut those sandwiches into pieces for distribution, then that is what they have to offer.

He said they need to understand that one is responsible to make the sandwiches while the other must keep the knife sharpened to cut them. If the pieces work, recovery is easier.

However, what Collins is intent on avoiding is the possibility that one of the parties may decide to stop making sandwiches or the other to hide the knife. In those cases, one starves or the other is unable to help.

Collins said the community can work in concert and support one another in time of crisis. That is what he hopes to set in place in the Diocese of Raleigh. ▼

Matt Doyle is assistant editor of the NC Catholic in Raleigh.

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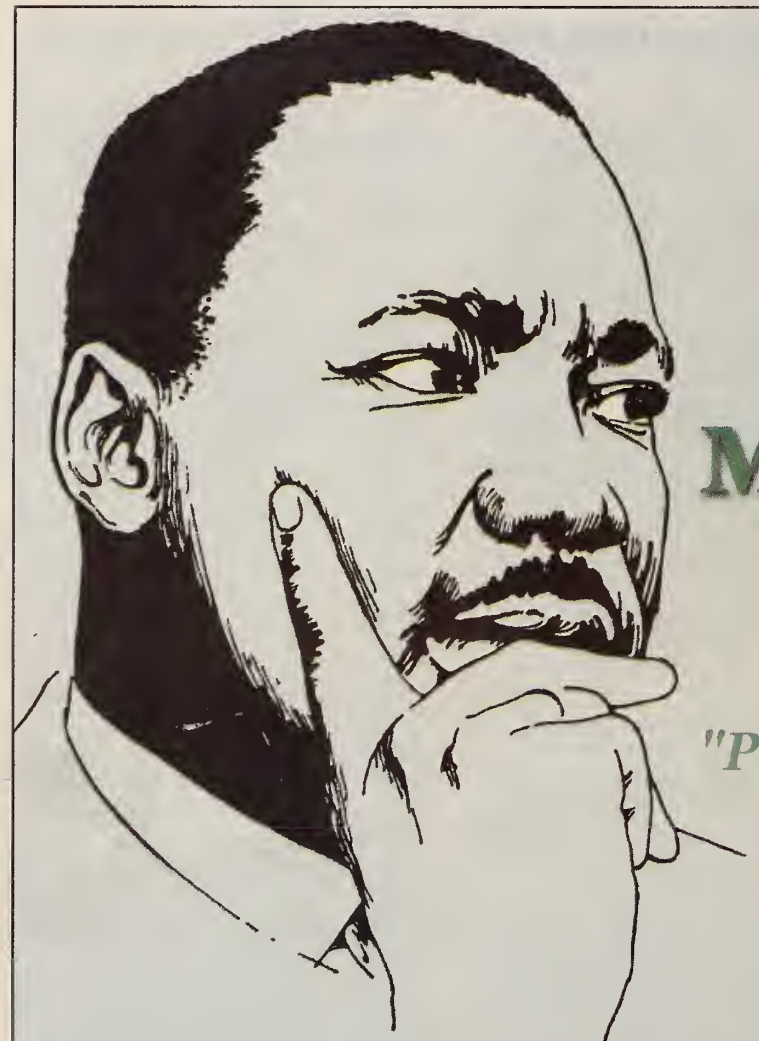

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 17, 1999
Volume 9 ▾ Number 16

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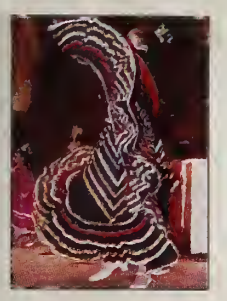

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"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
— Luke 2:14

The bishop's message for

Christmas

and the Jubilee 2000

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Christmas often brings memories of bygone celebrations of the Saviour's birth with loved ones and friends. I recall my first Christmas as a priest. The children in our parish school were busy during Advent decorating their classrooms. Each classroom had its Christmas manger, where straw was added daily to indicate the prayers and sacrifices the children offered during Advent. Their Christmas play was a great success, even when the baby playing the role of the Christ child decided to unexpectedly crawl off the stage.

Yet, the happiest memory I recall of that first Christmas as a young priest was my elderly pastor's joy. He was like a happy child as he watched the decoration of the church with trees and poinsettias. Each day during the Christmas season, he would spend hours sitting quietly in the church in front of the manger. I remember with special affection Christmas Eve. The pastor called each of his assistants to his room to give us a gift of fifty dollars, a month's salary at that time. Like Barry Fitzgerald in "Going My Way," he smiled as he advised us: "Don't spend it all in one place."

His most lasting gift was his example of Christ-like charity. He saw Jesus in everyone. He frequently reminded us that "whatever we keep, we lose; whatever we give, we keep forever." Those were the last words he spoke when he later lay dying. I recall his rich legacy of charity, especially at Christmas.

This year is a very special Christmas, the last in this century and the beginning of a new millennium. This is a good time to question what Christmas means to us. Do we acknowledge the birth of Jesus as the Father's great gift and proof of His love for us? Have we accepted God's invitation to enter into a special relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus? As Mary carried Jesus in her womb, do we carry Jesus in our hearts? Do we recognize Jesus in the Eucharist as our Bread of Life? Do we believe that He lives in us, and through us, continues to feed the hungry and clothe and house the homeless? Is our voice that of Jesus pleading for peace and justice in today's world? Is our response to the devastation of our brothers and sisters, who are the victims of Hurricane Floyd, Jesus' response to human suffering? Are our hearts equally moved by the needs of the poor in Western North Carolina? St. Paul reminds the church that as one body, whenever one suffers, we all suffer. Christmas is an excellent opportunity to address these questions. If we fail to do so, then the Divine Child remains quietly resting in the manger. The message of angels, who sang of "peace on earth and goodwill to all," was not to be heard only by shepherds, but echoed through the generations by our words and actions.

May this Christmas be for us a recommitment of our hearts and lives to Jesus. With His grace, let us carry His love throughout our world as heralds of His peace and joy. May the joy and love we celebrate this Christmas fill our days throughout the New Year. Praying God's blessing upon you and your loved ones, I remain

Devotedly in the Lord Jesus,

+ William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Canonization process for Juan Diego on track

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican bishops say the canonization process for Blessed Juan Diego is on track, despite a letter to the Vatican that questioned the indigenous peasant's historical existence. "We still have no date for the canonization of Juan Diego," said Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City Dec. 3. "If the studies end, it will be in May; if they are delayed, it won't be because of that letter but because they (Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes) have asked for another study." In late September the retired abbot of the Basilica of Guadalupe, Father Guillermo Schulenburg Prado, wrote to the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to express doubts about the historical existence of Juan Diego. The letter was also signed by the present temporary rector of the basilica, Father Carlos Warnholtz.

Moscow Catholic cathedral to reopen 70 years after closure

MOSCOW (CNS) — The formal reopening of a Catholic cathedral in Moscow nearly 70 years after its Soviet closure is a "victory of God over atheism," said a priest whose U.S. foundation helped fund the structure's restoration. "At a time when the people have lost faith in nearly every institution in Russia, this church represents a visible sign of hope," said Father Marcel Guarnizo, president of the Virginia-based Aid to the Church in Russia foundation, which committed $1.5 million to the reconstruction of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Father Guarnizo was ordained for the Apostolic Administration of European Russia. The Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, four other cardinals and 30 bishops were expected to have attended the dedication Mass Dec. 12.

CMMB donates funds to support Chechnyan child refugees

NEW YORK (CNS) — Responding to an urgent appeal from the Caritas Internationalis network, the Catholic Medical Mission Board has donated $15,000 for shelter and medical care for children made homeless by the fighting in Chechnya. The 56 children under age 12 were discovered hiding in an unheated cellar in Grozny, the Chechnyan capital. Their evacuation was engineered by Caritas Austria and Caritas Ukraine. The children are now living in a former sanatorium in Ukraine, where they will wait out the war.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Croatian president dies; pope pays tribute

A man holds a portrait of late Croatian President Franjo Tudjman as a crowd of mourners pass Zagreb's main square on their way to Tudjman's burial Dec. 13. He died Dec. 10 at age 77. Pope John Paul II paid tribute saying Tudjman put Croatia on the road to independence.

House witnesses view Chinese membership in WTO with alarm

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Witnesses at a congressional hearing Dec. 8 condemned China's human rights record and said Chinese admission to the World Trade Organization would neither force nor persuade Chinese authorities to treat their citizens any better. The human rights and labor advocates who testified on Capitol Hill cited a number of Chinese violations, including crackdowns on the Falun Gong religious movement, the Tibetan people and independent labor groups; coercive family planning and organ harvesting policies; and police and prison brutality. They said these could worsen with China ensconced in the WTO.

Bishops from Ethiopia, Eritrea say they are working for peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops from Ethiopia and Eritrea said they are working together to help end the war between their countries. "Our aim is to stop the war and to save the people," said Bishop Zekarias Yohannes of Asmara, Eritrea. Archbishop Berhanejesus Demerew Souraphiel of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, agreed. "It is a difficult war, because it is between brothers and sisters," said Archbishop Souraphiel. "The division is created artificially, elsewhere," he added. "The people are one."

Pope says peace requires change in world's perspective

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A "complete change of perspective" in international political and economic structures will be necessary to build lasting world peace, Pope John Paul II said. "There will be peace only to the extent that humanity as a whole rediscovers its fundamental calling to be one family," he said in a message for the World Day of Peace, Jan. 1, 2000. The 22-page message was released Dec. 13 at a Vatican press conference.

Iraq says conditions not right for papal visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After months of inconclusive talks, Iraq has told Pope John Paul II that conditions are not right for his hoped-for pilgrimage to the country, the Vatican announced. Iraq cited the continuing Western economic embargo and the U.S.- and British-imposed no-fly zone as two insurmountable obstacles to a papal visit, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a statement Dec. 10.

Bishops stress Christian meaning of new millennium

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The bishops of England and Wales urged people to remember the "distinctive significance" of the new millennium by working for "a society of justice, love, truth and peace." In a Dec. 7 statement the bishops said, "It is important for us as Christians to keep our minds firmly on the distinctive significance of this occasion. The millennium is being celebrated because it is, in fact, the great jubilee of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Were it not for that great event, we would not be celebrating this moment at all. For us, as Catholics, celebrations begin on Christmas Eve."

Team studying Vatican papers says it'll push for more

NEW YORK (CNS) — Historians commissioned to review Vatican documents relating to the Holocaust indicated Dec. 7 their primary thrust would be pushing for the opening of all Vatican archives that might contain pertinent documents. "The search for truth, wherever it may lead, can be best promoted in an environment in which there is full access to archival documentation and other historical evidence," said the team of Catholic and Jewish historians in a joint statement read at a press conference. The team held its first meeting in New York Dec. 6-7.

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December

19 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is having a Polish language Mass at 2 p.m. Father Bernard Backiel is hearing confessions before Mass. For more information, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE — Advent reconciliation services are being held at the following churches: St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., this afternoon at 4 p.m.; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., on Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.; and St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., and St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, on Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

21 GREENSBORO VICARIATE — Advent reconciliation services are being held at the following churches: Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., and St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St., tonight at 7 p.m.; and Holy Infant Church, 1042 Freeway Dr. in Reidsville, on Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.

MONROE — There is an Advent reconciliation service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., tonight at 7 p.m.

22 CHARLOTTE — A Mass for deceased members of families is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 so that the name(s) of the deceased can be recorded and recited at Mass.

24 LEXINGTON — In celebration of Christmas Eve, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is holding "Birthday Cake to Jesus" Masses at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both Masses are featuring the children of the parish in a nativity pageant during the liturgy; however, the 7 p.m. Mass is being said in Spanish. From 11-11:45 p.m., the congregation is

In new ritual, pope to push open Holy Door at St. Peter's

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will push open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, inaugurating the Holy Year for the new millennium with a new ritual.

The most noticeable difference from holy years past will be the absence of a hammer, said Bishop Piero Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies.

The wall sealing the Holy Door shut was to be dismantled after a brief Dec. 15 ceremony, taking away the symbolic value of having the pope strike the wall with the hammer three times, Bishop Marini said during a Dec. 14 press conference.

"Elements of the old ritual which have become obsolete will be replaced by others which better express the biblical and liturgical significance of the Holy Door," he said.

When Pope Alexander VI opened the Holy Door on Christmas 1499, "he used a mason's hammer, and the blows were not completely symbolic; the pope tried to break through part of the wall," the bishop said.

For centuries, the opening ceremony included a long pause to allow masons to finish taking the wall down before the pope crossed the threshold.

Pope John Paul will push on the huge, ornamental bronze doors with both hands, Bishop Marini said. Because the doors are extremely heavy, workmen inside the basilica will pull on them as the pope pushes.

Another change for the Holy Year 2000, the bishop said, is the end of having the basilica's confessors wipe the threshold and door posts with cloths soaked in holy water.

See HOLY DOOR, page 4

CSS Christmas program brings cheer to N.C. mountains

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Winter is coming, and with it, cold weather. But for 634 people in 152 families in North Carolina's mountain region, Christmas will bring warmth and joy in the form of new, gift-wrapped clothing, household items and toys.

All this is thanks to the many individuals and families who responded to Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office's 1999 Christmas program. "I was overwhelmed by the generosity," said Marie Bucher, Christmas program coordinator.

The program connects Asheville area churches with those in the more western part of the state. The urban area has many groups which supply toys and clothing to needy children, while the rural counties have very few, according to Bucher. Rural church pastors and outreach committee members were asked to identify families — Catholics and those of other faith traditions — who, due to recent unemployment, illness or other serious causes, would not be able to provide gifts for their children. Catholic Social Services' immigration and adoption programs also supplied names.

These families were anonymously linked with Asheville area parishes — St. Barnabas, Basilica of St. Lawrence, St. Eugene and St. Joan of Arc, all in Asheville, and St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa — and Asheville Catholic School.

"Our program is unique in that we have gifts for both parents and children," said Missionary Servant Sister Marie Frechette, director of the Western Regional Office. For each person, a gift of clothing is requested. In addition, children receive a toy, while adults request a household item such as a blanket, bath towel, flashlight or set of tools, she said. If there is enough extra money donated, food vouchers are included.

For children and adults in the donor parishes, the appearance of the "angel tree" bearing the first names and requests of the families breeds excitement. "It is so much fun," said Linda Bailey of St. Joan of Arc Church. "When people see the tree up after Thanksgiving, they rush to it, wanting to find a tag that brings a personal connection to their own family."

Photo by Jack Matthews

St. Barnabas Church in Arden is one of five Asheville area parishes who participated as host parishes in Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office's Christmas program. Pictured are, left to right, Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley, the parish's permanent deacon, Harry Thomas, Pat Wilkie, Michele Riddle, Mary Naber and Ted Naber; seated in front Erin Riddle.

Many people in the five parishes want to do more than what is requested. "They try to personalize, get extra packages," said Bailey. St. Joan of Arc parish always does an extra "goody box" for each family, filled with things like candies, crackers, extra toys and hot chocolate, she said.

Bucher said that her constant prayers for the program are that "the right person gets the right gifts."

Three surprises happened this year, added Bucher. First, the program was able to increase the number of people being reached by 50 percent. She attributed this to "believing we could do more — and accepting more names." Second, Asheville Catholic School students asked to keep their family lists so they could do something at Easter. Third, normally an item as costly as a bicycle cannot be provided. However, St. Joan of Arc had two used mountain bikes and helmets that went to two children this year.

Sister Frechette believes the program has a big impact on the recipient counties and reinforces belief in the goodness of Christian works. "I think they have a sense of being overwhelmed that there are people out there buying them presents," she said. "It supports the fact that there is a God, and this God loves them and their family."

There are also spiritual gifts for the people who buy, pack and haul, said Sister Frechette: They may gain a new sense of wisdom or understanding.

"We all (in the parish) have so much," said Dodi Klein of St. Margaret Mary Church. "It makes us feel good in our hearts to give." ▼

taking part in singing Christmas carols and a live adult nativity pageant before midnight Mass with a reception to follow Mass. Call the church office at (336) 248-2463 for details.

28 CHARLOTTE — In remembrance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life Committee invites everyone to join in a reflection on the over 39 million abortions that have been performed. Monsignor William Pharr is celebrating Mass today at 12:10 p.m., followed by a rosary for life, at 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

29 WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Father Joe Barry Angolini is presenting "RU Saved? The Millennium is Coming!" at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church parish.

30 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., is holding a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available after Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for more details.

31 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a New Year's Eve celebration with food and dancing for the entire family from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. There is limited space, so for advanced ticket sales and further details, call Debbie Smith at (704) 545-2191 or Don Nicholas at (704) 536-4515.

CHARLOTTE — The parish of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., invites everyone to spend the millennium night with God and neighbor in the church sanctuary from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tonight's service includes a candlelight vigil with Christmas carols, vespers, teaching, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 39, or Carol Vincent at (704) 845-4534.

GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is having a New Year's Eve party tonight at 9 p.m. Please bring snacks and beverages. For details about the donation, directions and location, call Lois at (336) 855-8471.

MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to ring in the New Year in silence and prayer with other Christians for a millennium mini-retreat at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. Supper begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight, followed by a conference, faith sharing, quiet prayer and midnight Mass. Brunch is included the next morning. For reservations and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

January

3 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is having a support group for bereaved children starting tonight from 7-8 p.m. and continuing Mondays in January and February. The group is for children and teens, ages 5-15, who have lost loved ones in their immediate families. Eight professional counselors and four counseling interns from UNCC are serving as facilitators for specific age groups. There is no fee, but advanced registration is required. For details, call Mercy Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 216.

5 ALBEMARLE — Father Lawrence Heiney begins Thursday evening sessions from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight in the conference room of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 North 2nd St. The themes include "What is the liturgy of Vatican II?" and "How do we celebrate Mass accordingly?" Father Heiney is going to be discussing these and other acts of faith for six weeks. Call the church office at (704) 982-2910 for more information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Editor's note: In response to a number of requests for an interpretation of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as reported by Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar in last year's Christmas edition, the following is a condensed version of that story.

The 12 Days of Christmas

Holiday tune is an underground catechism

Oh come, all ye faithful, and turn on your radios, cassette decks and CD players. It's Christmas — time again for a bounty of holiday songs for your listening pleasure. There's the sacred and the silly, the hallowed and the hilarious. And plenty of all-of-the-above.

One carol in particular, "The Twelve Days of Christmas," may seem to belong in the nonsensical category: someone giving all kinds of gifts, and lots of them.

While its origin remains obscure, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" developed with a more serious meaning than an inventory of the gifts one's true love sent. You see, the song's originator may have lived sometime between mid-16th and early-19th centuries, when practice of the Catholic faith was illegal in England.

Not only did the carol remind Catholics of the first 12 days of the Christmas season — Dec. 25 through the Epiphany, traditionally observed Jan. 6. During that time of religious suppression in England, the carol was also intended as a clandestine catechism of sorts, an allegorical lesson that taught the most basic doctrines of the faith.

So, using gifts from this world, whoever came up with the idea for the song disguised heavenly gifts given by God to his people.

Some explanations vary a bit depending on sources, but here is the basic rundown of the 12 gifts that God, "my true love" in the carol, gives.

A partridge in a pear tree
Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves
The Old and New testaments of the Bible

Three French hens
The virtues of faith, hope and charity

Four calling birds
The four Gospels, or the Gospels' four authors

Five gold rings
The first five books of the Old Testament, called the Pentateuch

Six geese a' laying
The six days of creation

Seven swans a' swimming
The seven sacraments

Eight maids a' milking
The Beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing
The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten lords a' leaping
The Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping
The eleven faithful apostles

Twelve drummers drumming
The twelve doctrinal points of the Apostle's Creed

Holy Door, from page 3

Instead, Bishop Marini said, Catholics from Asia and Oceania will mark the doorway with perfume and decorate it with flowers while traditional Japanese music plays.

The flowers and perfume are meant to honor Christ — the gate or doorway of salvation — and to be a sign of the joy which was part of the biblical jubilee years, the bishop said.

"The joy expressed by the flowers and fragrances adorning the door replaces the penitential sign of the purifying water formerly sprinkled on the door-jambs" by the confessors, he said.

Like the Catholics from Asia and Oceania, representatives from every continent will have a special role during the ceremony as a concrete sign that Christ's birth, death and resurrection are important for the whole world, Bishop Marini said.

Representing Africa, a group of Catholics from Onitsha, Nigeria, will play traditional horns in a call to all people to join the celebration, he said. Lay men and women from the Americas and Europe will form a procession to carry the Gospel to the basilica's main altar.

Bishop Marini said that as of Dec. 14, the Vatican had received requests for 55,000 tickets to watch the opening of the Holy Door and attend the Christmas Mass at midnight.

St. Peter's Basilica, he said, can hold a maximum of 7,000 people.

The bishop said it is up to officials at the Prefecture of the Papal Household to decide who gets tickets, but he is working closely with Vatican and Italian state television to ensure the event is prayerful and dignified for everyone watching, not just those inside the basilica. ▼

Pope calls for international solidarity in new millennium

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international solidarity shown by the Vatican's humanitarian mission to the Middle East must be a "hallmark" of the new millennium, said Pope John Paul II. Meeting members of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine at the end of celebrations of the organization's 50th anniversary, the pope said Dec. 9 that wealthy nations and individuals should take greater responsibility for the world's poor. "The Pontifical Mission is an eloquent expression of that new culture of international solidarity and cooperation which is so necessary in the modern world, and which must be a hallmark of the new millennium," the pope said.

Catholic Social Services
The Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

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Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3228
(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-3260
(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace: Joanne K. Frazer (704) 370-3225
(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries: Gerard A. Carter (704) 370-3228
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

We need a little Christmas, say citizens; CSS and parishioners respond

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — For many people, the holiday season is a time of joy and preparation for the coming of Christ, the exchange of presents and the merriment of decorating and entertaining. Unfortunately, for others who are not able to provide their families with the necessities and the Christmas extras, it is a time of concern. This is where the Piedmont-Triad Office of Catholic Social Services (CSS) lends a helping hand through the generosity of the people in area churches.

The Christmas Assistance Program is a project CSS sponsors with the help of the Holiday Services Task Force, a local organization consisting of churches and other agencies that exchange information about disadvantaged families. All of the agencies involved compare their client lists to help as many people as possible, said Becky DuBois, pregnancy support and brief services social worker for CSS, who coordinates the project.

CSS gives these names to St. Leo the Great Church and Holy Family Church in Clemmons for the parishioners to choose a family to adopt. This year, Holy Family Church is helping 55 client families, while St. Leo the Great Church is providing for 45 families. About half of the families are CSS clients, and the other half are families who call CSS for help.

Cindy Gross, St. Leo the Great Church director of volunteers, and Vicki Ceneviva are the coordinators of the collection efforts at the church. They receive most of the names from CSS and another organization, "Experiment in Self-Reliance," a program in Winston-Salem that helps people through the transition from welfare to working, said Gross.

"We have a very generous parish, and this shows a strong Catholic presence in the community and provides a great deal of satisfaction for the parishioners," continued Gross.

The families are given the gift suggestions, ages and clothing sizes of the individual members of the family and also buy food for the Christmas meals with additional food to last for the week or, in some cases, the rest of the month.

"These sponsor families are giving out of the spirit of Christmas and of love and generosity, [even though] many of them have to sacrifice and cut back," said DuBois. "This is an opportunity to give on a more personal basis by becoming involved with a specific family, rather than simply writing a check."

One family from St. Leo the Great Church has been involved for several years with helping families for the holidays through the Christmas project. This year, Donald, Louisa, Travis and Holly Leonard adopted a family of three.

"Christmas is a special time of year, and to be able to share with people who don't have what we have is a positive thing to do," said Mr. Leonard. "We plan in advance for this, and the money is used for a better cause."

Holly, 10, and Travis, 13, the Leonards' grandchildren, agree that "giving to people who don't have what they need makes them feel good because they are able to help."

Mrs. Leonard knows what it is like to be without the staples of life. Born in Germany, she and her family lived through World War II.

"There were hard times, and we were always hungry," she remembered. "I know first-hand how it feels to do without, and I feel we owe at least a little bit to those who are less fortunate."

The family not only helps with the Christmas Assistance Program but with other charities and organizations as well, such as, the Christian Appalachian Project and Covenant House.

Mrs. Leonard said, "The joy of giving is uplifting, and when I sit down to eat Christmas dinner, to know that another family is also eating because we have helped them in any way is satisfying to me."

"I hope that this project awakens in my grandchildren a sense of responsibility to their less-fortunate brothers and sisters — to give and not focus on themselves," continued Mrs. Leonard.

Andrew Egbert, part owner of Reynolda Cutting Tools Inc., a Winston-Salem-based company that manufactures form tools for automatic machinery, is also involved in the Christmas Assistance Program. Although he is a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, this St. Leo School alumnus heard about the project about three years ago and wanted his employees to become a part of the efforts.

So, Wanda Griffin, the company's president, Shannon Simpson, Kim Myers and William Edwards agreed that this would be something that they should do as an office.

Egbert's father started the business, and after he passed away, the company decided to sponsor a family in tribute to his love of the holiday season.

"We all used to give each other presents in the office, and we decided

See ST. LEO CHURCH, page 14

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Holly, Louisa, and Travis Leonard help Julianna Ghezzi with wrapping gifts for the Christmas Assistance Program at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem on Dec. 11.

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Jesuit finds HUD job a new place to serve poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Joe Hacala's Roman collar probably stands out a bit in the federal government office building where he works. And it may strike some people as odd when they call the Department of Housing and Urban Development about a project proposal and wind up working with a Catholic priest. But to hear HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo talk, HUD's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships, which Father Hacala was hired to open and run, creates exactly the right kind of interaction between government and faith groups. The center has made it possible for nonprofit groups, particularly religiously based organizations to "have an institutional seat at the table" in community development, Cuomo said Nov. 30.

Fiji Catholics prepare to be first to meet the new millennium

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The tiny island of Taveuni in the Fiji Islands will make history Jan. 1 when Holy Cross Parish there celebrates what is being dubbed the first Mass of the millennium. Taveuni has that honor by virtue of its geographic location: the international date line crosses the South Pacific island. But beyond geography, the honor seems befitting of a place where, according to a priest who is a native son, faith is a way of life and religious vocations are thriving. "Faith has become our way of life," Father Kusitino Cobona told The Catholic Key, newspaper of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. "We are very much a religious people. Being a priest or being a religious is a way of sharing this faith."

Trial delayed for CRS worker arrested in Georgia

MOSCOW (CNS) — An American Catholic Relief Services worker facing charges of vehicular manslaughter in Georgia will have to wait until at least the end of January for his day in court, his lawyer said. Ivan Khokhlov, the lawyer hired by CRS to represent aid worker Loren Wille, said in a telephone interview from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi that he was mystified by the delay. "This has been taking too long. The accident occurred almost five months ago, and similar cases in Georgia can be finished in a couple weeks," said Khokhlov, a U.S.-educated attorney. "Either you have the evidence or you don't. ... This just indicates that the authorities continue to consider this a political case."

CNS Photo from Reuters

Santas gather in downtown Toronto

A group of Santa Clauses are refelected in a puddle of water in the heart of Toronto's financial district December 13. The multiple Santas gathered to launch the annual Winter Harvest Food Drive prior to Christmas. Sponsored by Daily Bread Food Bank, the Santas will gather on various street corners to encourage shoppers to donate food for the needy.

Priests, nun rescued after water, sewage flood Mary's tomb

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Five priests and at least one nun were rescued when a combination of rain water and sewage rushed into the Tomb of the Virgin next to the Basilica of Gethesemane during the first big winter rain Dec. 13. Israeli police and soldiers were called to the scene, and special army scuba divers were sent in to search for anyone trapped under the 49 feet of water after the priests and nun were rescued.

Thousands gather to pay tribute to fallen firefighters

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The people of Worcester and Worcester County gathered by the thousands Dec. 9 to pay tribute to six firefighters who laid down their lives in a fire at an abandoned warehouse building Dec. 3. People, in respectful silence, lined the route of a procession of an estimated 20,000 firefighters from Worcester, from cities and towns in Worcester County, from fire departments from across Massachusetts and New England and from departments throughout the United States, Canada and as far away as Ireland and Australia. They were joined by President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Mass. Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry.

Tom Jones, Lionel Richie to perform at Vatican concert

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Internationally acclaimed singers Tom Jones and Lionel Richie will take the stage at the Vatican's annual Christmas concert Dec. 18, organizers said. Proceeds from the concert, the seventh of its kind, will go to construct 50 new churches in the periphery of the Diocese of Rome. Pope John Paul II is expected to meet with the musicians, but he is not scheduled to attend the concert.

Illustrator paints image of Mother Teresa for Franklin Mint

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Commercial illustrator Dick Bobnick has painted several images for collectible plates sold by the Franklin Mint — Sean Connery as James Bond, for example, and scenes from the TV show "Gunsmoke." He now adds to his list Mother Teresa holding a rosary. The image for the plate collection came from Bobnick's admiration for the nun whose beliefs he says are "steeped in traditional Catholic values." Bobnick hopes the Teresa plate, which was released this summer, will be popular enough to warrant a full six-plate series.

Survivor of 1958 school fire dedicates new CD to victims

CHICAGO (CNS) — Michael Mason named his benefit compact disc "Angels of Fire" in honor of the 92 children and three nuns who died in the fire that tore through Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago on Dec. 1, 1958. But the name also applies to him and those who helped put the memorial CD together. Mason, a jazz flutist, suburban firefighter and survivor of the fire, is donating all proceeds to the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance for its Burn Camp for Children and other programs. "I wanted this to be a positive project," said Mason, who was in first grade in 1958. Mason said he hardly considers himself a survivor, since his classroom was spared by the flames.

At religions parliament, DePaul faculty member draws protests

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A lecture at the World Parliament of Religions in Cape Town by a staff member of DePaul University, Chicago, drew angry protests from some Christian groups. Elizabeth-Anne Stewart, a faculty member in the religious studies department and campus minister at the Catholic institution, said the controversy over her lecture, "Holy Foolishness: A Christological Paradigm for the New Millennium," took her by surprise. The lecture was based on her book "Jesus the Holy Fool." At the Dec. 1 opening of the parliament, fundamentalist Muslim and Christian groups protested the meeting, some brandishing placards denouncing the parliament for calling Jesus a holy fool.

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Outside Bethlehem, few shepherds fill the fields

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

BAYT SAHUR, West Bank (CNS) — Sabaha al-Hussein hoists the small white goat and brings it closer to her tent, where she has lit a fire on the ground to make sweet tea in a blackened kettle.

Another family member has taken their 80 goats out to graze several hundred yards away on what little dry grasses and bushes they can find in the brown hills just outside Bethlehem, where al-Hussein has lived all her life.

A Bedouin Muslim, al-Hussein, 60, knows well the Christmas story and of the shepherds who were the first to be told of Jesus' birth by God.

"They say the shepherds were in this valley when Jesus was born, and the angels came to tell them," she said. "They may have even been my ancestors, because all my family have been shepherds in this valley forever."

Shepherd families like that of al-Hussein's used to dot these hills, but today hers is one of the few left, and all of her nine children have gone to live in the city.

Today the financial mainstay of local residents is in olive wood and mother-of-pearl handicrafts, but they maintain deep roots to their land.

Many residents of Bayt Sahur refuse to sell their land, and although there has been emigration, the proportion is much less than from other villages.

"Our families are still holding on to their land. People don't sell their properties," said 29-year-old Azzam Elias, a truck driver whose university studies were interrupted by the Intifada, or Palestinian uprising.

Elias said his grandfather still talks of his youth as a shepherd and farmer in the area, and through these stories Elias feels his own deep bond to the land and its history.

"My grandfather is 80 years old, and if we were to bring him sheep and cows, he would gladly go out into the fields again. We can't just ignore this tradition, although it is easy to do in today's world, with all the coming and going and computers and technology," Elias said.

Looking toward the hill where al-Hussein tends her fire and her goat he added: "When her husband dies, she will leave this life. Her sons will come and take her to live in the city. But this is our past, our life."

As hopes grow for increasing tourism with the millennium, so does hope for the future, and Elias and his friends rarely talk of leaving the village.

Samer Badra, 27, who works as a Web master for the Latin Patriarchate Schools, spent three years in Rome but eventually returned home.

"You can't compare Rome to Bayt Sahur of course, but I wanted to come home. It didn't feel like Christmas in Rome. There were the prayers and the Mass and everything but ... here it is different, the joy and happiness is inside," said Badra.

Father Majdi al-Siryani, Bayt Sahur parish priest, passes al-Hussein's tent every day to and from his job at the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. Driving through Bethlehem would be quicker, but instead he cuts through this valley.

"Here it smells like Christmas every day, especially in the morning when I see the shepherds," he said. "When I see the shepherd flock and the grottos, I feel far from the city. It is very peaceful. I feel the presence of God in the silence."

Inside the town of Bayt Sahur, which borders Bethlehem to the southeast, several small fields are touted as "Shepherd's Field." Father al-Siryani said at one time all of Bayt Sahur was pasture land for Bethlehem's shepherds, so no one knows for certain where the shepherds were at the time of Jesus' birth.

"As a community, (Bayt Sahur) still clings to its traditions," said Father al-Siryani, a native of Jordan who has been in Bayt Sahur for two years. "They don't kid around with it. They take it very seriously."

For instance, Father al-Siryani said his first Christmas morning in Bayt Sahur, he was surprised to find his church almost empty. According to their tradition, his parishioners were all out visiting their married female relatives and families who had experienced deaths during the past year. Later in the afternoon they come to Mass, the priest discovered.

These traditions keep the residents connected to their past, he said. ▼

Inside the town of Bayt Sahur, which borders Bethlehem to the southeast, several small fields are touted as "Shepherd's Field." Father al-Siryani said at one time all of Bayt Sahur was pasture land for Bethlehem's shepherds, so no one knows for certain where the shepherds were at the time of Jesus' birth.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Sabaha al-Hussein holds on to a goat near her tent at Bayt Sahur in the West Bank. Although she is a Bedouin Muslim, she knows well the story of the shepherds who were the first to be told of Jesus' birth in a field near Bethlehem.

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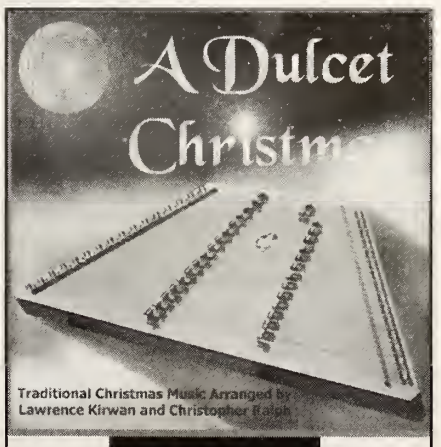

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Procession celebrates culture, honors patron of the Americas

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

MORGANTON — In 1531, a man named Juan Diego went to see the local bishop. He told the bishop that he had been walking by a hill when he saw a figure of a young Native American woman surrounded by bright light. He said that she told him she was the mother of God, and she wanted a shrine built there. The bishop did not believe him. Diego later returned, saying he had seen the vision again, and roses had suddenly appeared on the hillside. He said the woman had told him to take the roses and put them in his cloak. When Diego opened his cloak to show the bishop, the roses fell out, and on his cloak was a painting of the woman he had seen.

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

The bishop decided that Diego had seen the Virgin Mary, and he allowed a shrine to be built on the hill. This is the Hill of Tepeyac in Mexico City, and the cloak with the painting hangs in the shrine. Thousands of people gather there each year on Dec. 12 to pay their respects to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the Americas.

Parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church — and in parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte — also celebrate this day every year.

This year, over 200 people gathered at the Morganton church to form a candlelit procession to the Catholic Worker House of Hospitality, a little over a mile away. They carried with them an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe to present to the house, which has been in operation for over two months. The house provides shelter for local homeless people who need help getting a new start.

Before the procession began, several people took pictures of family members and friends standing with a portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe in front of the altar. It was then blessed with a prayer in Spanish, which translated was, "God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through your justice present in our hearts, may peace reign in the world. Through Christ our Lord."

During the procession, guitarists led the group in the singing of many Spanish hymns in praise of Mary. In between the hymns, several people cheered, "Maria, Maria, rah, rah, rah," or responded, "Viva!" to other praises of Mary shouted in Spanish. Showers predicted for the evening held off until the group was close to the end of its journey, and the rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd or extinguish any of the candles. When the group arrived at the house, they took turns going inside for refreshments.

Another celebration planned at the Morganton parish this month also has its origins in Mexico. "Las Posadas" is a nine-day novena in preparation for Christmas that takes place from Dec. 16 to 24. The word posadas means shelter or lodging in Spanish. During this celebration, participants re-enact the story of Joseph seeking shelter for Mary, who is soon to have the baby Jesus. For nine nights, participants go from house to house asking for shelter, only to be refused over and over again. Finally, on Christmas Eve, they are offered a stable in which to rest.

The celebration at St. Charles will take place inside the church each night and will be followed by Christmas Eve Mass on the last night of the ritual. ▼

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is placed in front of the altar before the procession.

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

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Hispanic community fills parish to venerate Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY LUIS WOLF
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Nearly 2,800 members of the Hispanic community filled St. Matthew parish on Dec. 11 to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of Mexico and the Americas.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin and concelebrated by Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, director of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, Vincentian Father Jose Elzi and Rev. Mr. Rafael Torres. St. Matthew was full of music and color as 20 members of the community, dressed to reflect the many Hispanic regions, led the procession into the church carrying the flag of their particular country.

In addition to the regular readings for Mass, the story of dialogue between the Virgin and now-Blessed Juan Diego was read.

As is custom in Mexico, during the offertory, children deposited flowers at the altar in front of image of the Virgin.

During his homily, Father Finnerty emphasized the impact of the apparition of Our Lady to Juan Diego. Because of the apparition, hundreds of thousands were converted to the Catholic faith. Juan Diego, too, was a convert to the faith. Father Finnerty said people need three things to continue daily conversion: To love others as the Virgin loves us, to be as humble as Juan Diego, and to have the type of faith that Juan Diego had.

In closing comments, Bishop Curlin applauded those from Latino nations for their deep faith and love of Mary.

"Do not lose the richness of your traditions or your culture," said the bishop. "You have a strong faith and devotion that we need here in America."

In 1531, Mary appeared four times to Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill outside of Mexico City, instructing Diego of her desire to have a church built at that location. It would take the authentication of the apparition - through a life-sized depiction of the Virgin on the cloak of Juan Diego to convince the Church of the apparition. The church was erected about two years after Juan Diego approached the bishop of that region. The preserved mantle worn by Juan Diego is enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadeloupe.

The feast day for Juan Diego is Dec. 9, and the marked day for Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12. ▼

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

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PHOTO JOANN KEANE

Book Review

Astronomer says Christmas star was 'eclipse' of Jupiter

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a new book, astronomer Michael Molnar says the Christmas star — the Star of Bethlehem in Matthew's Gospel — was a lunar occultation or "eclipse" of Jupiter, rising early on April 17, 6 B.C., in the constellation Aries.

Molnar said his findings are consistent with the biblical account and help explain why King Herod and the people of Jerusalem did not see the star, for the Magi saw it, not in the heavens, but on their astrological diagrams.

The author, former manager of the Physics Instructional Labs at Rutgers University in New Jersey, spoke by phone with Catholic News Service Dec. 8. His book, "The Star of Bethlehem — The Legacy of the Magi," was published by Rutgers University Press.

"The Star of Bethlehem indeed was Jupiter and what happened to Jupiter that made it special on that day," Molnar said. "It was 'in the East,' just like the biblical account says, and 'in the East' is a special condition that is a certain distance from the sun. That happened on April 17, 6 B.C., in Aries the ram."

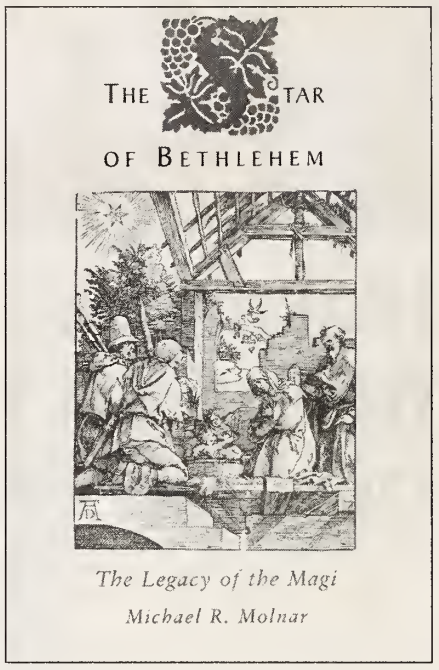
"The Star of Bethlehem: The Legacy of the Magi"
By Michael Molnar
(Rutgers University Press)

The lunar occultation was a second important thing, he said, and these conditions "happened approximately every 60 years, but not perfectly."

He called the 6 B.C. event "very unique," one that "defies statistical quantification."

Molnar said the Magi, who were scientists from the East, probably did not see much in the heavens that April 17. "The sky was too bright because it was early in the morning," he explained.

Days or weeks later, he said, they were able to see a bright Jupiter emerge higher and higher in the morning sky. Later still, he said, it "went before them" and "stood over where the young child was," in the words of the King James Bible.



The Legacy of the Magi
Michael R. Molnar

Molnar said this describes retrograde motion, "one of those important historical developments as to why the planets swung backwards in the sky. It's an optical illusion because the earth is moving around the sun."

According to his calculations, the Magi probably were in Herod's court inquiring about "the King of the Jews" in October or November of 6 B.C.

The Magi, who studied their sky charts for omens and portents, would have been watching for signs of the Jewish Messiah, said Molnar, because "there were rumors" and "a prophecy of Balaam about the Messiah coming in Judea." The Old Testament prophecy appears in Numbers 24:17.

"There are lots of Roman sources quoting this," he said, referring to the ancient historical and astrological texts he poured over.

Molnar said it's important to remember what the situation was like 2,000 years ago. "Astrology was extremely important to the pagan people," he said. "The Jews did not practice it, but all the pagans did."

Since Christ's birth, astronomers have theorized that the Star of Bethlehem was a comet, a nova or supernova, or a planetary conjunction Molnar noted. And many mistakenly looked for evidence of the star in the constellation Pisces, perhaps because it later became a Christian symbol.

So, it was a bit of serendipity — an ancient Roman coin — that pointed Molnar instead to Aries, where all the conditions came together.

In 1990, the astronomer said, he

See STAR OF BETHLEHEM, page 14

Word to Life

December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B Readings:

1) 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
2) Romans 16:25-27
3) Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

The scene is sharply focused. In a well-proportioned room with white plaster walls and graceful windows, looking out on vineyards and rolling pastures, Mary kneels before an open book. Her finger rests elegantly on the page she was reading at the moment of the visitation. Her face is serene as she looks up at the angel.

He is tall, dressed in white, multicolored wings discretely folded. One hand is raised in a gesture of command and invitation. His face reflects the solemnity of the occasion.

This mental picture is an amalgam composed from a lifetime of paintings in museums and on holy cards. The same scene, slightly altered — a cityscape in the windows, a dawn setting, an older angel, a younger Mary — graces the interior picture gallery of millions, most of whom would easily identify it as the Annunciation.

In fact, though, when we hear this story on the fourth Sunday of Advent, Luke describes nothing of the scene. No room is pictured, no commentary given about Mary's appearance or posture. The angel could have appeared to her simply as a stranger handing on a message. The Scripture doesn't even say she saw an angel, only that one spoke to her. Far from serene, Luke's portrait of Mary is of a frightened and troubled girl, full of questions and confusion as well as deep faith.

At this season of sometimes false gaiety and sugar-coated nostalgia, we would do well to remember the reality of Mary's fear and the enormity of her trust; to recognize the good news of Christ's coming into our lives as less of a happy-greeting-card sentiment and more of a revolutionary life challenge; to embrace, like Mary, the awesome assertion that God's transforming love and presence is ours for the taking.

Questions:
When in your life has the invitation to do God's will been especially real to you? What is one concrete way you can foster a deeper sense of God's presence this Christmas?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 19 - 25, 1999

Sunday, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38; **Monday**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Wednesday**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Thursday**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66; **Friday**, 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, Luke 1:67-79; **Saturday (The Birth of the Lord)** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18

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"Stuart Little"

Stuart Little, voiced by Michael J. Fox, takes a moment to recover after being rescued from an accidental dip in a washing machine. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule movie reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"The Green Mile" (Warner Bros.)

Prison drama set in 1935 Louisiana where a death-row head guard (Tom Hanks) comes to believe in the innocence of a huge, gentle black man (Michael Clarke Duncan) whose miraculous healing powers affect those around him in startling ways. As adapted by director Frank Darabont from the serialized 1996 Stephen King novel, the movie is slow-moving but presents affecting character studies of good and evil men with spiritual undertones and a sobering depiction of capital punishment. Some violence including a horrific electrocution, occasional profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Stuart Little" (Columbia)

Fetching live-action fantasy in which a talking white mouse (voice of Michael J. Fox) is happily adopted as the son of a human family (led by matriarch Geena Davis) only to be targeted as a meal by mean neighborhood alley cats. As loosely adapted from E.B. White's 1945 classic by director Rob Minkoff, the cheery tale has ample visual appeal although purists may find the neatly happy ending a cop-out to the author's more probing tale of self-discovery. Scenes of menace and a few cuss words. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Cherry" (Cypress Films)

Inept romantic comedy in which a 29-year-old virgin (Shalom Harlow) spurns marriage yet wants to have a baby, then can find no likely candidate until suddenly pursued by a professional clown (Donovan Leitch) and her gynecologist (Jake Weber). Co-directed by Jon Glascoe and Joseph Pierson, the attempt to make the bogus situation and phony characters seem whimsical is painfully unamusing. Considerable sexual innuendo and occasional rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"A Christmas Wish" tells uplifting story of old-fashioned values

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS)— A mystery in his late grandfather's past changes a young man's future in " A Christmas Wish," to be rerun Wednesday, Dec. 22, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS.

Briefly putting his lucrative Wall Street career on hold, Will Martin (Neil Patrick Harris) returns to his hometown to comfort Gram (Debbie Reynolds) on her husband's death and to try to modernize Granddad's underperforming real estate business.

His own parents having perished in a car crash when he was very small, Will was tenderly raised by his loving grandparents, who were devoted to each other as well.

And so it comes as a shock when Gram tells Will of having found many mentions in Grandpa's diary of his visiting a "Lilian" every Christmas Eve while she took Will out Christmas shopping. She pleads with Will to find out who the mystery woman is and to tell her the truth, even if it is unpleasant. He reluctantly agrees, hoping the man the whole town admired as a generous businessman won't be revealed as having carried on an affair over the last two decades.

Meanwhile, Will's ambitious girlfriend, Julia (Alexandra Wilson), starts pressuring him about a commitment and his newly hired business manager (Gary Bayer) pushes Will to drastically raise the rents on their properties to current market value.

"A Christmas Wish"
Dec. 22, 9-11 p.m. EST
on CBS

Will, however, becomes sidetracked in investigating his granddad's history, in the process meeting a former secretary, Renee (Naomi Watts), a sweet single mom whose 6-year-old son Justin (Ian Meltzer) takes an immediate shine to Will and vice versa.

However, no one who was close to his grandfather ever heard of the elusive Lilian. If not a colleague or a girlfriend, could she be an illegitimate child, he wonders dismally, while trying to persuade Gram she may be best not knowing the truth — to no avail.

Realizing his bossy girlfriend is not right for him, and that his new manager cares nothing about the townspeople suddenly facing much higher rents, Will resists leaving the company in his ruthless hands and breaks off with Julia.

The wealth of Wall Street seems less alluring when Gram is still hurting, the Lilian mystery persists and his own soul-searching has just begun.

Viewers are in for a treat with this lovely story, directed with delicacy by Ian Barry from Beth Polson's script, based on Richard Siddoway's book.

The director gets very natural and credible performances from the cast, clearly advising them that less is more, and it proves true.

Old-fashioned values, where people are put before excess profits, come to be forefront as Harvard-educated Will discovers why his grandfather was so beloved. And Granddad's relationship with Lilian turns out to have other positive things to say about the man, as well as to enable Gram to reach out lovingly to a stranger.

Just as the story is discreet, the pacing is gentle as Will gradually discovers as much about himself as he does about the family secret. Nor does the movie fall into the trap of being overly sentimental; its only shortcoming is that Granddad sounds as if he was almost too good to be true instead of the wise, thoughtful man he was, who knew sometimes a secret is best kept from a spouse until she is ready to deal with it.

Overall, it is a beautiful film with uplifting themes that the family can enjoy together. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

John XXIII expected to be declared venerable, beatified

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is expected to declare Pope John XXIII venerable in late December and beatify him next September.

Famiglia Cristiana, Italy's top-selling weekly magazine, devoted the cover of its Dec. 12 issue to Pope John and said his beatification would take place Sept. 3.

Pope John Paul's calendar for the Holy Year 2000 includes a beatification ceremony Sept. 3 in St. Peter's Square, although the person or people to be beatified were not named.

Pope John headed the Catholic Church from 1958 to 1963 and convoked the Second Vatican Council.

Officials involved in sainthood and beatification processes told Catholic News Service the September beatification of Pope John was likely.

And, they said, it was almost certain Pope John Paul would formally recognize Pope John's heroic virtues during a Dec. 20 meeting with the Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

In an unusual move, the congregation's panel of physicians already has said the miracle submitted in Pope John's cause had no natural explanation. Review by a panel of theologians and official papal recognition of the miracle are still needed, but are considered almost certainties.

Pope appeals for end to capital punishment during jubilee year

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Holy Year 2000 represents a great opportunity for the world to abolish the death penalty, Pope John Paul II said.

"The great jubilee is a privileged occasion to promote throughout the world increasingly mature forms of respect for life and for the dignity of every person," said the pope during his Dec. 12 Angelus address.

Citing church teaching on capital punishment, the pope renewed his appeal for an international consensus on outlawing the practice.

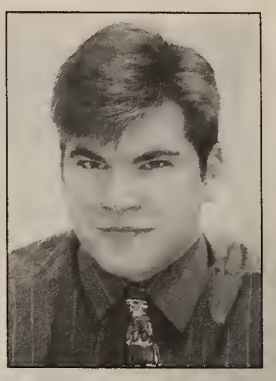
His message was then re-broadcast at Rome's Colosseum, where an anti-death penalty initiative started later in the day. Once the site of sacrifices of Christians to lions, the ancient amphitheater has been transformed into a symbol of life and mercy.

During the year 2000, the Colosseum's lights will turn from white to gold for 48 hours every time a death sentence is commuted or a country abolishes capital punishment.

Sponsors of the 2000 project include the City of Rome, the Italian Ministry of Culture, Amnesty International and the Catholic lay group San Egidio.

The pope has repeatedly called for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, saying that instances where it is necessary to protect society are "very rare, if not practically nonexistent."

Christmas Memories



JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Away in a manger lies the real meaning of Christmas

It's an early December day in an eastern North Carolina house, and boxes of Christmas decorations are strewn through the rooms. A young boy, perhaps 6 or 7, peers with wonder-filled eyes through the maze of cartons. He loves Christmas like no other time of the year, and he is looking for one box in particular. It is the one whose contents he alone is proudly responsible for assembling.

The box holds the family crèche, and I am the little boy.

More than 20 years later, setting up the manger scene is still the highlight of Christmas decorating in my home. Now, as it was then, placing the Holy Family and the Magi, the ox and the donkey, into their respective places in and around the crèche is a prayerful meditation on the season's awe and beauty. And as my parents had graciously done years earlier, my wife, Lynda, has relinquished family crèche decorating to me.

Like so many other holiday traditions, the recreation of the Nativity can be traced back centuries, through which it has become increasingly more popular. One of the earliest known depictions could be seen by the fifth century, where in the Church of St. Mary Major in Rome a chapel was created representing the Nativity. It is also where boards popularly believed to be the crib of Bethlehem are housed.

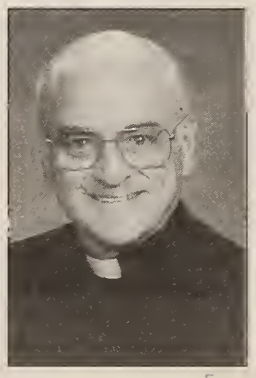
St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscans of the 13th century, though, are who really popularized the crèche — the actual, three-dimensional representation of the Nativity. At Christmas in 1223, Francis created what is widely thought to be the first one, in the Italian town of Greccio. It was there that Francis built what he called "a memorial to that Child who was born in Bethlehem" — a rugged manger that the saintly man hoped would illustrate the hardships the Holy Family endured that sacred night.

Peasants who gathered in Greccio for Mass that Christmas Eve in 1223, while listening to Francis preach, reportedly saw the Christ child appear and smile from the crib Francis had fashioned.

The crèche became more popular at parishes in the decades following, and by the 16th century, the Nativity scene was widely seen at churches throughout Italy and in many parts of Europe. The practice of having crèches in private homes became more common, too, and it remains a favorite depiction of devotion.

I've heard it said about the Nativity scene that nothing other than the Mass on Christmas is a truer illustration of how heaven came to earth two millennia ago, and I agree. The crèche also powerfully recalls holiday memories most vivid in my own life: my father handcrafting me my own crèche, spending Christmases with my wife and family, and, this year, giving thanks for the birth of our daughter, Hannah.

Christmas is truly the brightest and most joyous of seasons, a time of the year when we give pause in gratitude and look ahead in anticipation for even brighter, more glorious tomorrows. And in our own homes, we can look to the crèche and remember that it was the Christ child, lying in a manger, who brought us new hope as our savior and Lord.



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

A message for your Christmas

Some Catholics are losing their faith in the meaning of Christmas. They hear that the story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace depicted in the Book of Genesis was just a myth. They also wonder about the implications of the theory of evolution on the doctrine of original sin. As a result they begin to ask why we need a Savior at all.

The story of Adam and Eve need not be taken literally; nevertheless, we do in fact need a Redeemer.

Evil abounds in the world. Read any newspaper on any given day of the year, and you will see how much malice and madness pervades this planet. Something is seriously wrong.

There are skeptics and unbelievers who scoff at the Christmas story. They boast that they do not need a Savior. But, millions of Christians view the Nativity scene with eyes of faith. For them Christmas is truly a celebration of the coming of our Savior.

For me, Christmas is especially meaningful, not only because I am deeply aware of my own need for a personal Savior, but also because I see that our world is in such a deplorable condition.

More than 100 years ago, Cardinal John Henry Newman commented on the same idea, namely that the fallen human condition is in itself a proof of the doctrine of original sin — "the defeat of good, the success of evil, physical pain, mental anguish, the prevalence and intensity of sin, the pervading idolatries and corruptions, the sad condition of the whole human race."

These realities help us to realize that we need a power greater than our own to restore us to health, sanity and salvation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church has this to say about the doctrine of original sin. "(This doctrine is) the reverse side of the good news that Jesus is the Savior of all men (and women).... Salvation is offered to all through Christ. We cannot tamper with the revelation of original sin without undermining the mystery of Christ.... The account of the fall in Genesis 3 uses figurative language, but affirms a primeval event, a deed that took place at the beginning of the history of man" (Nos. 389 & 390).

A good friend of mine, Jose de Vinck Sr., wrote the following piece on the subject:

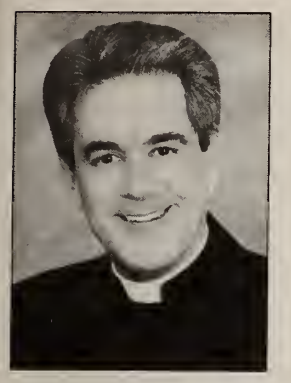
"Adam and Eve are an eloquent and mythical representation of the fact that human nature, endowed with the privilege of freedom, is also threatened by every possible form of temptation, from greed to lust, from selfishness to pride and every other possible form of sin. If we believe that human destiny is to be fulfilled in eternity by the beatific vision, by personal and conscious union with God, we are very much in need of a Redeemer who will protect us on our way."

This Christmas, please try to hold onto your faith, and keep it as simple as possible. Bow humbly before the Lord. Be grateful that God loved you enough to send His only begotten Son that you might enjoy eternal bliss.

You are not a poor and helpless creature abandoned to an incomprehensible fate.

Jesus was born in a stable 2,000 years ago to bring you the wonderful news that God's saving love has touched your life.

Be still and know that He is God.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The creation and life of man

Fables abound in every culture. From the ancient Aesop to the modern Thurber, fabulists satisfy our need to take life's lessons in medicinal doses as Mary Poppins recommends — with a spoonful of sugar. So, the best fables instruct us about life but always with great imagination and, often, with humor.

In the southern part of Venezuela, the Eñeka, Kariña, Akawayo and Pemón native people have lifted fables to an art form. Explanations for the harshness of the human condition and the contrariness of human nature are woven into creation fables. One of them goes like this.

When God created the donkey, He said, "As a donkey, you will work every day, carry whatever is given to you, and live for thirty years." But the donkey answered, "God, I'll do everything you ask of me, but thirty years is much too long. Why not just ten years of life?" And God agreed.

When God created the dog, He said, "As a dog, you must guard the household and live for twenty-five years." But the dog answered, "God I'll do everything you want, but twenty-five years is too long. Could you make it just ten? And God agreed.

When God created the monkey, He said. "You shall be a monkey, and jump from tree to tree, and entertain everyone for fifteen years." But the monkey answered, "God, "I promise to do all you demand, but fifteen years? Please make it ten!" And God agreed.

Finally, God created people, saying, "You will be the most intelligent creatures on earth, and you'll dominate the world, and live for thirty years." But the answer came: "God, I will be everything that you ask, but thirty years is not enough time. Why don't you give me the twenty years that the donkey didn't want, the fifteen years from the dog, and the five from the monkey?" And God agreed.

That is why people live thirty years, marry and work like a donkey carrying their families on their backs for twenty years. When they retire, they stay close to home like a dog for fifteen years. Their last years are spent like a monkey, hopping from one child's house to another and entertaining the grandchildren.

I like this little gem of wisdom because of the kernel of truth concealed in its humor. It tells us more about our view of ourselves than about our actual genesis.

From the very beginning, the Creator's plan for us has been modified by humankind's belief that we know better than God what is good for us. It seems that ever since Adam and Eve bit into that forbidden fruit so they could know as much as God and become like Him, people have resisted letting God be God.

The title "Creator" is meaningful only to the extent that it truly reflects our self-understanding. Creator is just another name until it becomes an acknowledgement of our dependence upon God for life itself, an attitude of trust in His promise that we do not live and die in vain.

When we become grateful to be children of God, a human family of brothers and sisters, we will better understand that our love for one another is a reflection of the encompassing and eternal love of God for all creatures and all creation.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Can a Godparent be changed years later?

Q. Is there a way we can change the godmother of our child? The person we chose several years ago has left the Catholic faith and is carrying on a lifestyle destructive for her and for the people around her.

She has had nothing to do with our son ever since and is certainly not the example we feel a godmother should be for him, now or later on.

Another relative has shown much love and care for our children and would be an excellent baptism sponsor. She is willing to be named as godmother. We've heard that's possible. Would you explain what we need to do?

A. Unfortunately, your circumstance is not unique. Some situations are more painful than others, but when a child's godparent has died or has proven unwilling or unable to serve appropriately in that role, it's understandable that good Christian parents want someone else in that capacity for their child.

Having a caring godparent is always important. It is particularly so should the parents die or become incapacitated, which of course is one reason sponsors should be chosen carefully.

The process of changing is not simple, however. The Congregation for the Sacraments, acknowledging such circumstances as yours, states that the bishop of a diocese may officially designate a substitute sponsor, whose name would be inscribed in the official parish baptism register. (Reply of Nov. 13, 1984, to bishops of the United States and Canada; in 1985 issue of Roman Replies of the Canon Law Society of America)

Baptism records can be quite important for civil and religious purposes in later years, which is why a parish priest or secretary, for example, cannot simply make such changes on his or her own initiative.

There may on occasion be a good reason for this kind of official change of godparents. However, a loving, concerned friend or relative, such as the one you mention, can usually do just as much for the child, now and in the future, without going through all this formality.

You might even make it "official" for your family by asking the adult you speak of to act as godparent for your child. When your son is old enough to understand, explain what you have done.

Among other advantages, it could help him be aware of the importance of baptism and how you are concerned that this sacrament be lived out properly in his life.

Finally, is it possible that a note from you to your son's present godmother would be an act of goodness toward her? And maybe move her to reflect a little on where she has turned?

After all, only a few years ago you did see her as having those qualities you want in a sponsor. If she has changed so drastically, maybe she would be helped spiritually to hear what you are telling me about your disappointed hopes in her, the hurt she has been to you and your son, and what you plan to do.

If you can bring yourself to do this, even though you follow up on your present plan, who knows what God's grace might do for her?

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651 or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
CNS COLUMNIST

Christmas and families

Christmastime is special for families. It is a time when it matters most that members come together. The collective story of family is punctuated by yuletide gatherings. Our identities are forged ever more deeply, and we continue to define for ourselves what it means to be "us" — a family.

For many families it is the rhythm of the yearly holiday cycle that feeds their family togetherness. The annual beat of special holiday family time shapes our identities and proclaims to us who we are and whose we are. Regardless of how frequent or infrequent our connections are through the year, these are special connections that cast in our memories the essence of being family.

The old Stephen Stills song says, "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with." Family holiday experiences defy the notion that it doesn't matter who you're with. It says that if you can't be with those you love, find a way to make it happen.

Family members make extraordinary effort to be with one another, even when traveling long distances is necessary. Never mind that there are perennial issues of conflict between members. What we would not bear throughout the year, we put up with for the sake of family at Christmastime. This is the season when it really matters who we are with.

What draws us together is not just who we are, but also who we want to be. Members scattered far away from each other become pilgrims to a place they call "home." There seems to be a built-in homing sense that calls us home for the holidays. We long to feel whole, be connected and in touch with a vision of family, whether or not that vision is our reality.

Cynics may protest that the merrymaking and good-doing of Christmastime are superficial and just our way of assuaging our consciences for year-long selfish ways. However, we suggest that the holiday season is a time of year when we feel more intensely our natural thirst for God.

The pull toward home is our built-in nature that longs for truth and goodness. Though our nature to err impedes our lifelong search, we nonetheless cry out from the depths of our being to love and be loved.

Perhaps, we too readily, after the yuletide season passes, step out of the gravitational pull of family togetherness. But, if there are chances to heal old wounds, make new starts, mend broken bonds, and renew family ties, the holiday season creates such opportunities.

So, give in to the holiday penchant for almsgiving, caroling and cheerful greetings. Especially, release yourself to the natural longing to be with loved-ones. It's the Spirit working in us, calling us home.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

COURTESY PHOTO

William P. Clark II and J. Chapin Engler were recently installed to the Ministry of Acolyte.

St. Vincent seminarians from Charlotte diocese installed to Ministry of Acolyte

LATROBE, Pa. — Eighteen seminarians from eight dioceses and one abbey were installed to the Ministry of Acolyte on Nov. 8. The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnston, Pa., presided over the installation, held at the St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica, Latrobe. The installation was held Monday, Nov. 9.

Installed were William P. Clark II and J. Chapin Engler of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Clark is the son of Jacqueline Shiffer Wiggins of Lancaster, Pa., Ethel Clark of Lancaster and the late William P Clark. He is a 1980 graduate of Manheim Township High School, Lancaster. He earned a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry in 1985 and a master of science degree in biochemistry in 1990 from the University of Maryland.

Engler is the son of Peggy and John Engler of Charlotte. He is a 1980 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 1985 from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

The acolyte is appointed to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest. It is his duty to attend to the service of the altar and to assist the deacon and priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass. He is also permitted to distribute communion as an extraordinary minister. ▼

St. Leo Church, from page 5

to discontinue that to help a family for Christmas," said Egbert. "All of the workers have a person that they shop for individually, and the company also contributes a larger gift."

This is the third year that the company has sponsored a family with a single mother and children. One year, the company bought bicycles for the children, and this year, the company is giving the family a grocery store gift certificate for a month's worth of groceries.

"Everybody here feels fortunate to be able to help," said Egbert. "We are lucky to have what we have, and this is a way to have some fun shopping for others and to give back to the community." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Star of Bethlehem, from page 10

bought a Roman coin depicting Aries the ram looking over its shoulder at a star. The coin was issued at Antioch, capital of the Roman province of Syria, from about 6 A.D. to about 13 or 14 A.D., he said.

In trying to figure out why the Romans issued such a coin, he discovered that "Aries the ram was the sign of the Jews during those times."

This realization, coupled with research and scientific computations, led him to conclude that the star had appeared in Aries, "the sign of King Herod's kingdom."

He said the Romans, who were "notorious for propaganda," may have appropriated the portent — so significant to the Jews — as a way of cementing their control over Judea-Samaria, which they annexed for the first time in 6 A.D.

Until the coin, Molnar wasn't interested in trying to explain the Star of Bethlehem. "I figured it was one of those great mysteries of the Bible that would never be solved," he said.

He "tried to remain religiously neutral" in his writing to give the book a historical basis. But he said he's gotten great satisfaction from people telling him the book "reconfirms their faith."

"I'm also very happy that I've uncovered that there is a truth to all this, that we can understand better what happened 2,000 years ago," he said.

The astronomer, who is now working as a Web developer, couldn't resist pointing out that Jupiter is the brightest star in the evening sky this Christmas season.

"Just face a little toward the south and look up, and there it is," he said. "That's our Christmas star." ▼

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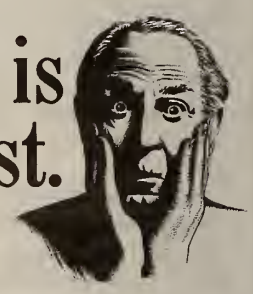

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Archivist: Archdiocese of Atlanta. Full-time position for individual meeting the following requirements: master's degree in library science; archival management or related field; 3 to 5 years' experience in archival work; extensive knowledge of Catholic church; computer literacy (MARC AMC format and programs related to library/archival cataloging); exceptional written and spoken communication skills. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail: zjohnson@archatl.com.

Church Pianist: Part-time position to play at worship services starting in January. Duties include one rehearsal, one to three services per week, and weddings and funerals. Sight-reading and improvisational skills helpful. Submit resume to Music Director, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Road, Greensboro, NC 27410-9403 or fax to (336) 294-6149.

Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship 111 hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Postion available March 1, 2000.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

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Holiday tradition continues at St. Patrick School

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For about 20 years, Jerry Jones has spent his Christmas Days in the cafeteria of St. Patrick School and on the streets of Charlotte, serving and delivering food to people who otherwise would have no holiday dinner. For him, it's a Christmas tradition that sums up the true essence of the season.

Jones is a co-chairperson of the efforts behind the St. Patrick Christmas Dinner, hosted each Dec. 25 for hundreds of folks both at the school and through the Charlotte area. The dinner, says Jones, has become a holiday institution in Charlotte, serving a diverse population that comes together as an extended family on Christmas.

"We have folks coming here from the local shelters, elderly men and women in senior housing who have no family members around, families who are traveling — anybody who might be spending Christmas Day alone or in need," says Jones.

Coordinators work with more than two dozen service and housing agencies in town, compiling lists of clients and residents who might be interested in having Christmas dinner at the school. Busses from the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system transport people to the dinner, and Jones says many meals are delivered as well — to people in scant apartments, under highway overpasses, on city streets.

The tradition got its start by St. Patrick Cathedral parishioners who adopted families in need during the holidays. The outreach grew by leaps and bounds each year, and eventually became such a large project that it was moved to the parish school.

The spirit of volunteerism drives the tradition, says Jones. The food, cooking and gifts are all donated, and an army of volunteers helps each year with serving and delivering dinners. Remaining money is used to purchase small presents, and leftover food is donated to a local shelter.

"This is Christmas for me," says Jones. "The number of people involved in this thing is really extensive, and we just try to bring a little bit of happiness during the holidays to those who could really use it."

For more information about the St. Patrick Christmas Dinner or how you can help (financial contributions, clothing, coats, toiletries and toys are especially needed), contact the St. Patrick Cathedral parish office at (704) 334-2283. St. Patrick School is located on 1125 Buchanan St. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar at (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Pope lauds restored Sistine Chapel frescoes as 'visual hymn'

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Blessing a restoration job financed largely by American benefactors, Pope John Paul II viewed resplendent frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and said they constituted a "visual hymn" to God.

On Dec. 11 Vatican officials unveiled the final phase of a 20-year cleaning project in the chapel, which began with Michelangelo's famed ceiling paintings and ended with a series of 15th-century frescoes on the side walls.

The 12 side wall frescoes, by artists including Sandro Botticelli, Pietro Perugino and Domenico Ghirlandaio, feature scenes from the lives of Moses and Christ, including Moses' crossing of the Red Sea and Christ's handing the keys of the kingdom to St. Peter.

Covering some 5,000 square feet, the works were restored to their original brilliant colors in a five-year project costing about $3 million.

"Most of it was paid for by American patrons, and the results are excellent," said U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, who administers Vatican City and its museums. He introduced some of the individual benefactors to the pope at the end of a ceremony in the chapel.

U.S. Dominican Father Allen Duston, who raises funds for the Vatican Museums' restoration projects, said the patrons' generosity had allowed the museums to offer a unique, visual "witness of spiritual values."

The pope, who gave approval for the multiphase restoration of the Sistine Chapel shortly after his election in 1978, said he was pleased with the final results.

"We have reason to be happy if such an important expression of 15th-century art is shining again in its original colors, which were regained through a diligent and modern restoration effort," he said.

He said the frescoes continue to communicate important truths about the mystery of God, in a "language that does not grow old."

In 1980, when the Vatican's restoration team began daubing away centuries of grit and grime from Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes with a new solvent, some art historians criticized the technique and said it risked ruining the art works.

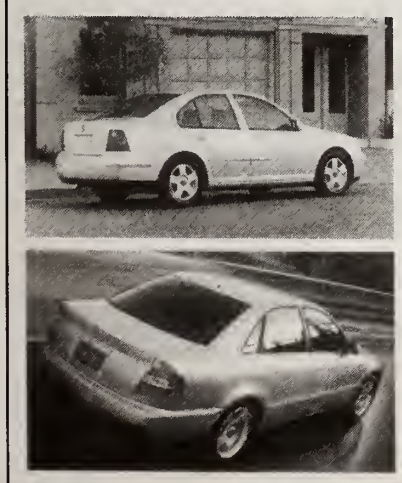
But with the passage of time, most of the criticism has evaporated, said Gianluigi Colalucci, who headed the restoration team.

"We've seen the excellent results from the cleaning of the Michelangelo frescoes, and what people were afraid would happen, hasn't," he said. "Now we've finished the job."

Some 3 million people visit the Vatican Museums every year, and most of them make their way to the Sistine Chapel. With the number of visitors expected to double during the jubilee year 2000, museum officials said they planned to extend visiting hours in order to thin out the crowds. ▼

CNS PHOTO COURTESY VATICAN MUSEUMS

A Sistine Chapel fresco by Domenico Ghirlandaio depicts Christ calling forth his first apostles. Pope John Paul II blessed the brightened frescoes during a ceremony Dec. 11 marking the completion of the chapel's 20-year restoration project.



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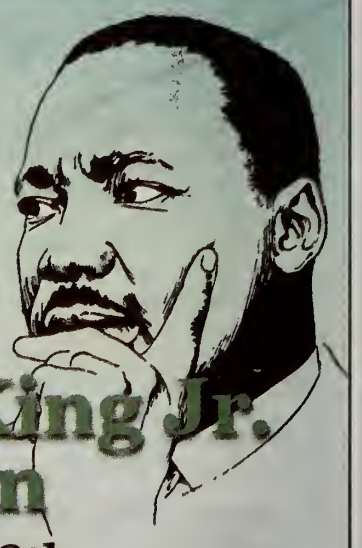

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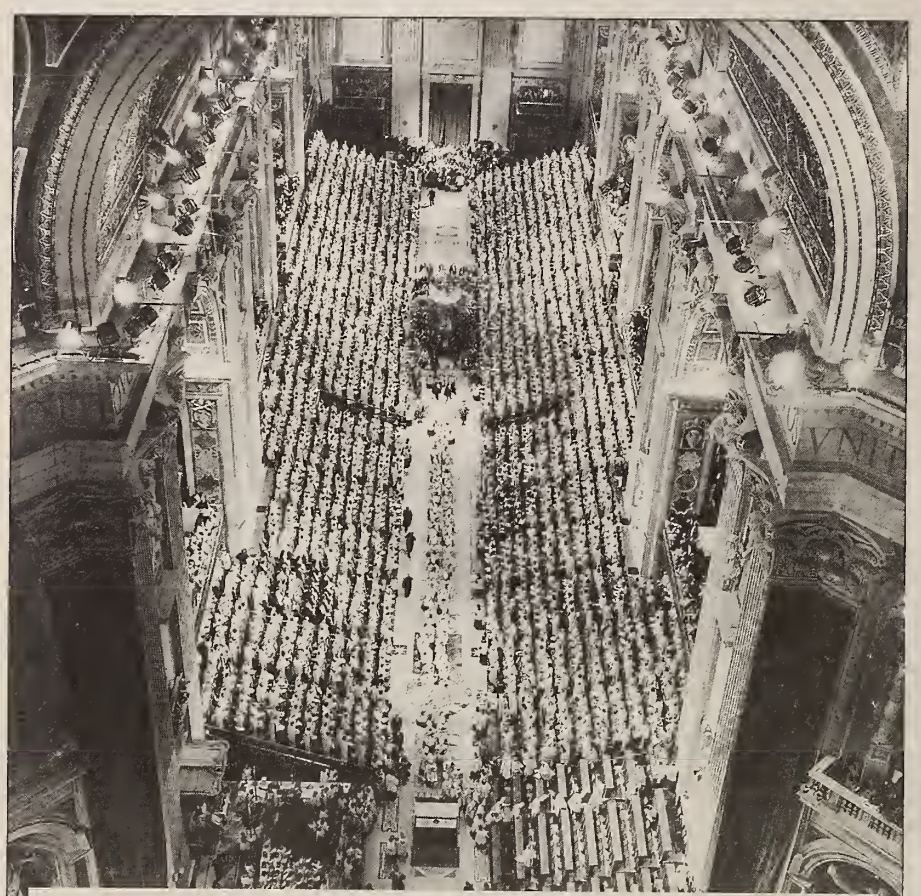
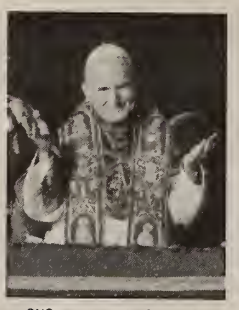


Second Vatican Council
Bishops line the nave of St. Peter's Basilica for the opening of the Second Vatican Council Oct. 11, 1962. The council sought to re-engage the church in the contemporary world and to renew liturgy, Scripture study and virtually every other aspect of Catholic life.

CNS FILE PHOTO



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II
Pope John Paul II makes his first appearance as pope following his election on Oct. 16, 1978. The pope has declared 2000 a Holy Year.

CNS PHOTO BY THOMAS LORSUNG

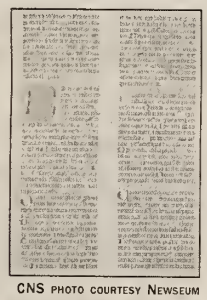
The Holy Door
The first event of the Vatican's celebration of the year 2000 will be the opening of the Holy Door by Pope John Paul II on Christmas Eve 1999.

CNS PHOTO BY CARLA BANKS-WILLIAMS

St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Therese is a co-patron of missions of the world. This year, her relics toured the United States to an overwhelming reception of devotees and followers. This portrait was painted by Teresa Satola.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Martin Luther
Martin Luther was chosen this year as the top non-Catholic Christian by Catholic scholars. In 1999, the Lutheran-Catholic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" was issued.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY NEWSEUM

The Gutenberg Bible
Shown is page from a Latin Bible produced sometime before 1456. The Bible is considered to be the first book printed with movable type by Johann Gutenberg.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Mother Teresa
In life, people called Mother Teresa a living saint. In death, talk of sainthood buzzed immediately. Bishop William G. Curlin was a longtime friend of hers.

CNS PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Thomas Aquinas wrote "Summa Theologiae" and articulated a theological synthesis that would influence Western Christian thought for centuries.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Pope John XXIII
The pontificate of Pope John XXIII ran 1958-1963 and included the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Pope John Paul II formally cleared the way for his 2000 beatification.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNING CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 31 — Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

January 2 — 11 am Mass
Solemnity of the Epiphany
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

January 6
Celebration for Clergy serving the Diocese of Charlotte
Bishops residence

January 8 — 3:15 pm Mass
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Our Lady of Consolation Church
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

December

28 CHARLOTTE — In remembrance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents, the St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life Committee invites everyone to join in a reflection on the over 39 million abortions that have been performed. Monsignor William Pharr is celebrating Mass today at 12:10 p.m., followed by a rosary for life, at 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.
29 WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Father Joe Barry Angolini is presenting "RU Saved? The Millennium is Coming!" at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church parish.
30 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., is holding a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available after Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for more details.
31 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a New Year's Eve celebration with food and dancing for the entire family from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. There is limited space, so for advanced ticket sales and further details, call Debbie Smith at (704) 545-2191 or Don Nicholas at (704) 536-4515.
CHARLOTTE — The parish of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., invites everyone to spend the millennium night with God and neighbor in the church sanctuary from 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Tonight's service includes a candlelight vigil with Christmas carols, vespers, teaching, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 39, or Carol Vincent at (704) 845-4534.
GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is having a New Year's Eve

A month-by-month look at 1999

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here is a month-by-month look at some of the religious news highlights of the past year.

January

Church criticizes U.S. policy on Salvadoran, Guatemalan immigrants. Church team in India accuses Hindu extremists of terrorizing Christians. More than 500 reported massacred in Democratic Republic of Congo. Champion of religious rights William Bentley Ball dies. Christian-Muslim tensions in Nazareth generate violence. Rebels kidnap archbishop, missionaries in Sierra Leone. Pope prays for peace, awakening of consciences in Kosovo. March for Life marks 26th anniversary of legal abortion in U.S. Pope, on flight to Mexico, says he will continue world travels. Papal visits to Mexico, St. Louis center on call for new evangelization of America. Quake flattens 20 towns and villages in western Colombia. At St. Louis Mass, pope appeals for end to death penalty. Papal intervention credited with death sentence commutation.

February

Flu leads pope to cancel appointments for several days. Papal representative attends funeral of Jordan's King Hussein. Philippines executes child rapist despite church protest. In India, murders, rapes spread panic among Christians. University of Notre Dame decision not to join Big 10 highlights school's Catholic identity. Georgetown students hold four-day sit-in over sweatshop labor issue. Vatican says world's Catholic population surpasses 1 billion for first time. Inter-American bishops' meeting highlights collaboration.

March

Pope lifts five-year investigation period for Mother Teresa's canonization process. Catholic press figures Marion Zientek, Father Norman Perry die. Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun dies. Pope beatifies 10, including Spanish civil war martyrs. General Mills phases out Planned Parenthood grant after Catholic schools drop boxtops promotion. U.S. bishops urge quicker debt relief, focus on needs of poor. Irish bishops urge continued work for peace after Catholic lawyer Rosemary Nelson dies in a car bombing in Northern Ireland. Former Vatican ambassador Ray Flynn takes post with Catholic Alliance. George Reedy, Marquette dean and President Johnson spokesman, dies. Bishops in Massachusetts, Michigan fight reinstatement of death penalty. Church leaders split on NATO strikes against Yugoslavia over Kosovo.

April

Bishops welcome Clinton initiative on debt relief. East Timorese bishop escapes injury in attack on convoy. Suicide doctor Jack Kevorkian gets jail term in murder of patient shown on television. Church leaders welcome decision to permit extradition of former Chilean dictator Pinochet. Rwandan Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro arrested on charges of genocide. School shootings in Littleton, Colo., draw people to churches, prompt calls for better ministry to youths. German court orders crucifixes removed from Bavarian classrooms. Rally challenges Princeton to remove controversial ethicist Peter Singer. Florida lawmakers pass first statewide voucher program.

May

Pope beatifies Padre Pio in one of biggest religious ceremonies in Rome's history. Catholic Health Association challenges presidential candidates to make health care a priority. Pope visits predominantly Orthodox Romania. U.S. Catholics welcome first wave of Kosovar refugees. Tornadoes strike Oklahoma, Kansas. Scripture scholar Father John Castelot dies.

June

Pope expresses regret over one-year postponement of international Catholic-Orthodox dialogue meeting. In longest trip ever to homeland, pope urges Poles to match spiritual, material progress. Assisted suicide bill stopped in California; ban signed in Maryland. Papal visit to Armenia canceled when Orthodox patriarch's health fails. Catholics, Lutherans announce plans to sign justification agreement in October. Kosovo cease-fire welcomed by church leaders. Supreme Court takes case over tax funds for parochial school computers. British Cardinal George Basil Hume dies of cancer. Pain Relief Promotion Act introduced in Congress to improve palliative care of terminally ill. Priests from around world celebrate Mass on Sea of Galilee.

July

Bishops in Oregon say they'll back gay marriage ban if it makes ballot. Vatican ends controversial U.S. gay-lesbian ministry by Sister Jeannine Gramick, Father Robert Nugent. Jubilee justice meeting held in Los Angeles; Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Belo briefly blocked from leaving East Timor to attend gathering. Pope sends condolences after John F. Kennedy Jr., wife and sister-in-law die in plane crash. Bishop G. Patrick Ziemann of Santa Rosa, Calif., resigns after admitting sexual relationship with priest. African-American Catholic national gathering packs Philadelphia church.

August

Chaplains work to bring solace after killing spree at Atlanta day-trading center. Pope among world-wide watchers of last solar eclipse of millennium. U.S. bishops' liturgy office rules out possibility of electronic sacraments. Pope outlines views on heaven, purgatory, hell in audience talks. Deadly quake hits Turkey. Greek Orthodox Archbishop Spyridon of America resigns. Judge stops Ohio voucher program on first day of school. Court-ordered late-term abortion for Arizona 14-year-old prompts outrage. Archbishop Helder Camara, defender of Brazil's poor, dies.

September

Violence erupts after East Timorese vote for independence from Indonesia; Bishop Belo evacuated to Australia after militias burn home. Pope meets with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, praises latest Mideast peace accord. Cardinal John O'Connor of New York undergoes brain surgery. Msgr. Andrew Landi, Catholic Relief Services pioneer, dies. Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of Chiapas welcomes Mexican government peace proposal. Pope visits Slovenia, says patriotism must replace extreme nationalism. Fort Worth, Texas, community mourns victims of Baptist church shooting. Rebels free kidnapped Colombia bishop held more than a month. North Carolina churches struggle to help victims of Hurricane Floyd. Audit shows Diocese of Santa Rosa faces $15 million deficit. Pope, pop star Bono join forces on debt relief issue. Nun in India stripped, forced to drink urine of assailants. Brooklyn art exhibit charged with anti-Catholicism because of dung-covered picture of Mary. Supreme Court agrees to hear case involving abortion protest "buffer zone."

October

Synod of Bishops for Europe explores ways to revive faith on continent. House passes legislation to make it illegal to harm an unborn child. Retired Bishop Norbert Gaughan of Gary, Ind., dies. Supreme Court lets stand Arizona private school tax credit program. Controversy erupts over proposed mosque in Nazareth. House attempt to cut off

See 1999, page 5

party tonight at 9 p.m. Please bring snacks and beverages. For details about the donation, directions and location, call Lois at (336) 855-8471.

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., is celebrating a New Year's Eve Vigil Mass at 9 p.m., with a family party to follow in the parish center.

MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to ring in the New Year in silence and prayer with other Christians for a millennium mini-retreat at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. Supper begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight, followed by a conference, faith sharing, quiet prayer and midnight Mass. Brunch is included the next morning. For reservations and other information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

January

1 NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., is holding its New Year's Day Mass this morning at 10 a.m. The Mass schedule for New Year's weekend is as follows: Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and the Spanish Mass at 12:45 p.m.

3 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is having a support group for bereaved children starting tonight from 7-8 p.m. and continuing Mondays in January and February. The group is for children and teens, ages 5-15, who have lost loved ones in their immediate families. Eight professional counselors and four counseling interns from UNCC are serving as facilitators for specific age groups. There is no fee, but advanced registration is required. For details, call Mercy Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

5 ALBEMARLE — Father Lawrence Heiney begins Thursday evening sessions from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight in the conference room of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church, 416 North 2nd St. The themes include "What is the liturgy of Vatican II?" and "How do we celebrate Mass accordingly?" Father Heiney is going to be discussing these and other acts of faith for six weeks. Call the church office at (704) 982-2910 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — There is a monthly support group for those living with cancer and their loved ones, beginning tonight at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The meetings will be held every first Wednesday of the month after the Wednesday night dinner. For more information, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047.

7 CHARLOTTE — Due to the holidays, the memorial Mass for those who have died during the month of December is being held at 7 p.m. tonight in the daily chapel of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.

8 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is holding a special Mass to "Open the Doors to Christ for the 21st Century." The entire family is invited to the 6 p.m. celebration in the activity center with family dancing, food, prizes and surprises. Call Society of St. Joseph Sister Judy Monahan at (704) 521-9589 for more information.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Newly Married Couples Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a session "How an Interdenominational Married Couple Shares Faith, Love and Children" with the Rev. Mr. Louis and Josie Pais. Bring snacks and beverages to the 7 p.m. session in Room D of the ministry center. Please R.S.V.P. to MaryBeth Conrad at (704) 362-5047, ext. 241.

Upcoming

HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter weekend will be Feb. 4-6 at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. This is an enrichment program for married couples to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. For further information or to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

U.S. nun, adviser say church vital for rebuilding East Timor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The leadership of the Catholic Church will be vital in building up newly independent East Timor, said two Americans who have worked in Timor. Maryknoll Sister Susan Gubbins, who works in a rural parish in East Timor, and Arnold Kohen, a consultant for the Office of International Justice and Peace at the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, said lay people and clergy will be needed to help rebuild. Sister Gubbins said the church must work with international aid agencies so that local people are involved in planning and reconstruction in the violence-torn region.

New study finds mixed pattern in religious giving

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (CNS) — Americans gave their churches more money in 1997 than in 1996, but in many cases gave a lower proportion of their income than before, says a new study. The report, by church consultants John and Sylvia Ronsvalle, challenged what they called an increasing emphasis on attracting endowment and building funds as vehicles for increasing people's giving. That policy "has not reversed negative giving trends during a multidecade economic expansion," they said. They suggested people will respond better to appeals directed at meeting pressing current needs of mission and charitable outreach. The Ronsvalles' latest findings appeared in "The State of Church Giving Through 1997," published by Empty Tomb, their nonprofit Christian research and service organization in Champaign.

Sri Lanka, rebels agree to civilian safety zone at shrine

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — The Sri Lankan army and Tamil rebels reportedly have agreed to set up a new civilian safety zone encompassing the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, recently hit by a mortar shell that left 38 dead. The English-language daily The Island quoted the International Committee of the Red Cross as saying that the agreement was reached to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to the embattled jungle area. The early December report said more than 300,000 people living in the area now held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have not received food, medicine and other essential supplies since the rebels regained control of strategic areas of the Vanni jungle region in northern Sri Lanka in November.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Fleeing Chechnya

Refugees fleeing Russian bombardments in Chechnya arrive at a checkpoint on the border with the Republic of Ingushetiya Dec. 14. Thousands have fled shelling in the city of Grozny, while others were afraid to leave.

Vatican officials downplay report of Sino-Vatican relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials have again downplayed a recurrent report from Asia that the Holy See and China are about to establish diplomatic relations. The officials said Dec. 15 that while there has been a somewhat positive tone to recent contacts with the Chinese, it was unclear where the difficult dialogue would lead. "Perhaps in a month we can say more," said one source. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Dec. 15 that there had been no new developments regarding China over the previous two months, except for recent papal messages to Catholics in China and in Macau, which returns to Chinese rule Dec. 20.

Canadian churches to ring in new year with 'sweep of sound'

OTTAWA (CNS) — From coast to coast, Canada's churches will be ringing in the year 2000 at noon local time Jan. 1 to honor Jesus Christ and mark the symbolic beginning of the third millennium of Christianity. The bell ringing is to start on the far eastern edge of Newfoundland and work its way westward through the various time zones to the western shores of British Columbia. The "sweep of sound," which will also include the playing of church organs, singing and native drumming, was initiated by Together 2000: Christians in Canada Honoring Jesus, a project cosponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

Archbishop says despite numbers, Vatican not a saint factory

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has not become a "saint factory," the chief guardian of the process said, even if Pope John Paul II has turned out sainthood decrees at a historically unprecedented rate. Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, said factories, "each with their own specialty, produce a series of things which are always the same." With saint-making at the Vatican, the "production method is totally different" and the outcome is not things but people who are examples of holiness, he said. Archbishop Saraiva Martins presided over a Dec. 17 Vatican press conference to mark the publication of an updated "Index of the Status of Causes."

CHA names new vice president for sponsorship, mission services

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Mercy Sister Beverly McGuire has been named to the new position of vice president for sponsorship and mission services at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Sister McGuire, who joined the CHA staff in September as special adviser on sponsorship, will be responsible for the mission, ethical integrity, leadership development and sponsorship directions of the St. Louis-based association. The new position was created following the recent departure of Sister of St. Joseph Jean deBlois as vice president for mission services.

Six Indian nuns killed after collapse of building

CHENNAI, India (CNS) — Six Catholic nuns were buried in a southern Indian village after they were crushed to death when a century-old building collapsed. The six Cluny sisters were killed when St. Joseph Convent collapsed after torrential rains early Dec. 13. The convent was in Cheyyur Parish, about 50 miles southwest of Madras, the Tamil Nadu state capital, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Lay and political leaders and hundreds of children — including Hindus and Muslims — attended the funeral services in Cheyyur Parish, where the nuns managed a school. The victims include the principals of the primary and high school sections of the Little Flower School in the parish.

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
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1999, from page 3

funding for School of the Americas fails. Unexpected crowds gather to see relics of St. Therese of Lisieux as they begin U.S. tour. U.S. Senate fails to ratify Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, disappointing bishops. U.S. bishops call for "new kind of politics" in next millennium. Senate's 63-34 vote on partial-birth abortion not veto-proof. Cuban cardinal raps government, says church needs more freedom. Vatican, Lutheran World Federation representatives sign agreement on justification in Augsburg, Germany.

November

Maine voters reject ban on partial-birth abortions. Pope visits India to conclude Synod of Bishops for Asia. Holy Land Christians announce one-day closure of holy sites to protest planned Nazareth mosque. In Georgia visit, pope urges "new bridges" among Catholics, Orthodox. U.S. Catholics, Anglicans issue agreed report on church issues. Bishops approve U.S. norms for Catholic colleges and universities; fall meeting also includes approval of documents on seniors, charity, jubilee. Pope postpones 2000 Synod of Bishops until after jubilee year. National Catholic Youth Conference draws 23,000 young people to St. Louis. Catholics among victims in collapse of Texas A&M bonfire materials. Thousands "cross line," risk arrest at School of the Americas protest in Georgia. Quake-damaged upper Basilica of St. Francis reopens in Assisi.

December

Partial-birth abortion bans blocked in Illinois, Wisconsin; eventual Supreme Court review expected. World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle erupts in violence; Vatican blames organization's failure to involve civil society in decision-making. Religious leaders welcome Northern Ireland's coalition government. Puerto Rican bishops OK civil disobedience in Vieques dispute. Pope says Panama must use canal income to benefit poor. Pro-life leaders decry draft guidelines on stem-cell research. City of Worcester grieves over firefighters lost in conflagration. Moscow Catholic cathedral reopens 70 years after closure.

Catholic Social Services' Charlotte office hosts North Pole-like holiday venture

Editor's note: Last week, The Catholic News & Herald highlighted Christmas outreach programs sponsored by the Asheville and Piedmont-Triad regional offices of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte. This week, we bring you a story from the Charlotte regional office, where work to make the season bright continued into the week before Christmas.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — It is just days before Christmas, and phones jingle nonstop. Lists are checked, then checked twice. All is not quite calm, but faces are bright with holiday cheer. The Christmas spirit has come to town — and more specifically, to the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services.

The diocesan office is especially busy this time of year, what with coordinating a massive outreach to a client list that includes hundreds of individuals and families. The lobby and CSS offices in the diocesan pastoral center are filled with food and gift items, which are given by the basketloads to people in need. Gifts in the form of clothes, household items and toys are being wrapped and delivered in hopes of making the season bright for area residents whose needs are especially felt during Christmas.

Each year, Catholic Social Services' Charlotte Regional Office presents its Christmas outreach project, an effort that unites the dedication of the CSS staff with the spirit of volunteerism from people of good will in the metro area.

"We've been very blessed," says Jeannie Beall, Catholic Social Services' supervisor of adoption/pregnancy services and brief services, who also oversees the Charlotte Christmas outreach program. "People come to us wanting to help, and if it was not for the church community at large, we could not even begin to touch base with all of the families that are being served."

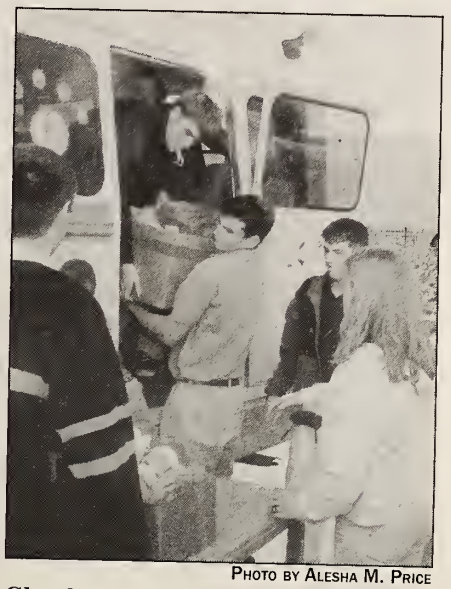


Photo by Alesha M. Price

Charlotte Catholic High School students assist with this year's Christmas outreach program.

The Christmas outreach project is coordinated each year by CSS staff members who compile lists of clients and sponsor families. Those who receive gifts are most likely already known to CSS' vast network of outreach programs and other ministries, including Programa Esperanza, Refugee Resettlement, counseling, crisis assistance, Elder Ministry and others.

Other referrals may come from community outreach agencies.

Parishes and other diocesan entities, diocesan ministries and offices, neighborhood groups, corporate sponsors, and private donors are among the program's many sponsors. Beall adds that those who give both gifts and time are key in the program's success.

Out of respect for clients' privacy, the CSS staff is the conduit between those who give the gifts and those who receive them.

"What's really unique about all of the giving is that people are willing to give so much to someone they do not know," Beall says. "They just trust that the agency is going to make sure that the people who are in need get the gifts. That is the true act of love and charity. That's what's so wonderful."

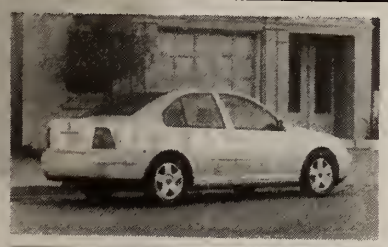
The scenes and memories of donors' generosity are numerous, Beall says: of high school students unloading gifts by the busload for needy children; of parishes giving hundreds of food and gift baskets for Charlotte families; of donors designating financial gifts for specific needs, like medicine for an elderly person or rent for a family running a bit short on money.

"What's happened over the years is that we have more and more people coming to us wanting to be sponsors," says Beall. "Sponsors over the years have continued to come back because it's something that they feel very good about. We've had families that have wanted to sponsor another family, to instill in their own homes the spirit of giving and that there are others who are in need."

Special attention is paid so that people of all ages are reached, says Beall. "Most everyone feels good that a child is going to wake up to a Christmas morning," she adds, "but there are those other individuals who, because of displacement or poverty or mental illness, are all alone and in need. Something can be done for them as well."

She says the program is part of CSS' yearlong mission of outreach, and that CSS staff members work with clients and donors all year through to see that human needs are being met. "The Christmas outreach is exceptional, but throughout the rest of the year we're doing this as well," she says. "We see needs on a daily basis — food needs, material needs, human service needs, getting rent and utilities paid." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org



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MARYFIELD
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New Office of Economic Opportunity gets first director

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MURPHY — As director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Melissa Block has the interesting job of working in a quiet, yet challenging environment in the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development in Murphy. Although Block is the only person who reports to work in the morning, she has already been busy with proposals and plans for the development of the office.

"I have never been a one-person office before, but there is so much to do and follow up on that I am always in contact with people," said Block. "I am not totally isolated because St. William Church is right next door."

The Bishop Begley Center, owned by St. William Church, was converted from a house into an office building by the parishioners. Also in the Begley Center are two other non-profit groups dedicated to economic development, The Mountain Micro-Enterprise Fund and the Self-Help Credit Union, which are satellite offices out of Asheville.

Currently, the Office of Economic Opportunity is developing programs that will assist people in this high-unemployment area in getting and keeping jobs — and also assisting with childcare, small business development, affordable housing and transportation.

Block, a New Jersey import, majored in anthropology at Montclair State University, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees. She said that many people ask her how she became involved in social science with her chosen major.

"Anthropology is a valuable asset, no matter the career, because it allows you to understand where people are coming from, and I can see different points of view," explained Block.

She worked as an assistant to the program director for a social science research foundation in Manhattan and with program development for a cultural arts agency in New Jersey before she and her husband, Daniel, decided to move to South Carolina. She began working for the Affordable Housing Group, a Charlotte-based, statewide non-profit housing intermediary that receives federal and private funding to develop affordable housing and provide technical support to small non-profit agencies.

When she heard about the position as director for the new diocesan office, she decided to take a step in a different, but familiar direction.

"I had been working as a project coordinator for housing development, and I had learned so much about developing affordable housing and had gained some great experience," said Block. "But, I wanted to broaden my knowledge base and experience. I wanted to be at the grassroots level and working within the community. I thought that this would be a great opportunity."

She and her family — her son Gabriel, 1, and a baby on the way - moved to Murphy after she was offered the position. She enjoys life in a small town and likes working within her community.

"This community has great people, and I have been impressed with everyone's willingness to help," said Block, who has received support from five or six different agencies for a funding proposal I have submitted to the state.

The aim of the proposal, entitled "Roads to Self-Sufficiency," is to provide transportation and build self-sufficiency for people trying to move off of assistance programs. Refurbished cars and job assistance are the two areas of concentration for the program, said Block.

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and the interim chairperson of the Office of Economic Opportunity advisory board, said, "She [Block] is very bright and creative and has a good sense of initiative, which is what is needed for a program like this. She is making networking contacts and trying to see some of the vision recognized."

"I think my place here is to identify what is realistic and possible. We have to make sure what we do is in line with Catholic economic teachings. We are formulating what our program will be, working toward setting specific goals, and trying to stimulate economic development with existing agencies through the help of various non-profit organizations, other faith communities and community outreach."

— Melissa Block, new diocesan director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a program of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services

"I think my place here is to identify what is realistic and possible," said Block. "We have to make sure what we do is in line with Catholic economic justice teachings. We are formulating what our program will be, working toward setting specific goals, and trying to stimulate economic development with existing agencies through the help of various non-profit organizations, other faith communities and community outreach."

"We feel extremely fortunate to have a person with Melissa's intelligence, skills and commitment as our first director of the Office of Economic Opportunity," said Joanne K. Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace.

"The Office of Economic Opportunity was begun largely through the efforts of Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte," said Frazer. "Two years ago, the two bishops of North Carolina wrote a pastoral, "Of One Heart and One Mind," stressing Catholic teaching on economic justice, especially as it applies to work and wages. With the high poverty levels in the western part of our diocese, Father Mo determined that there should be a Catholic presence there."

Subsequently, this new endeavor, which began in October, became a program of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services in Charlotte, said Frazer.

"Our goal is to work in partnership with other denominations and organizations to change societal conditions and public policy to be more responsive to economic and community issues as they affect people who are poor," said Frazer.

Between 12 and 18 percent of Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain Counties live in poverty, and the office will try to help persons with job skills and placement, childcare, transportation and other areas.

"What I would like to see is for the quality of life to improve for people in the four counties by getting better jobs," said Father Kloster. "This is a vehicle for providing more opportunity and support for people who are disadvantaged by helping them to rebuild their own lives." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Relief Services is taking donations for flood relief in Venezuela.

See story, page 19.

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'The Lord has been very good,' says diocese's founding bishop

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

HIGH POINT — Tremendous growth, the people's zeal for the faith and a dedication to Christian service are just a few indications of how God has blessed the Diocese of Charlotte and the church in North Carolina during the 20th century, says retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, bishop emeritus of the Charlotte Diocese.

The bishop, who now lives at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, is a self-proclaimed "gentleman of leisure" since his retirement from active ministry as first bishop of the Charlotte Diocese. His tenure as bishop from 1972-84 — and the period leading up to the present — coincided with the Catholic Church in the Tar Heel State blossoming by leaps and bounds.

And as the church looks ahead to the Holy Year and the Great Jubilee, Bishop Begley took some time to share memories of his early years as a priest — an era that nurtured his own faith and fostered the skills he would use as shepherd of a newly formed diocese.

File Photo

The early years

"There has been such tremendous growth," says Bishop Begley. "When I came here from Massachusetts in 1934, there were about 9,000 Catholics in the state of North Carolina. We've grown so much from that point. It's fascinating to me what it is that North Carolina offers."

For a newly ordained Father Begley back in '34, North Carolina offered an opportunity to serve in a missionary diocese. At the time, the Diocese of Raleigh spanned the entire state, as it would not be partitioned until the early '70s.

It was during a 1927 visit to the Northeast by Bishop William Hafey of Raleigh when young Michael, a native of Mattineague, Mass., was moved by the idea to serve as a missionary priest. He was ordained to the priesthood in May 1934, and he began his first assignment in North Carolina that June.

"We were a missionary diocese, struggling to get along," says Bishop Begley. "We welcomed assistance from everywhere; we had people helping from all over, people who did some good work for us."

Service quickly became the emphasis of his priestly ministry, and not only in pastorates throughout the eastern part of the state. He soon became known for his commitment to social justice issues, and during parts of the 1940s and '50s served as superintendent of the Catholic orphanage in Raleigh.

He earned a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1949, a time when Catholicism was still something of an enigma in North Carolina.

"I enjoyed that greatly," Bishop Begley says of the orphanage days. "I got to know many people, and we went along there very well for a number of years."

He fondly recalls his outreach to the children of the orphanage, whom he served as priest, counselor and friend. One woman who lived there as a child met up with Bishop Begley years later, and she reminded him of the impact he made.

"She said to me, 'You know, Bishop, I must say you certainly had an interest in us when we were kids at the orphanage,'" he recalls. "She said, 'We used to skip away once in a while, and you went out looking for us yourself. I've got to tell you straight: Most of us looked at you as a second father.'"

The story still brings him a smile. "I felt that if the kids had that much confidence in what we were doing, then we were getting something done," he says. "We were bringing people closer to the Lord."

He also served as director of what was then called Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Raleigh, which furthered his devotion to social justice and social work issues. His numerous positions in parishes throughout North Carolina also refined his role as a pastor. He helped establish new parishes and learned how they could survive in a missionary territory — work that would serve him greatly in years to come.

A new diocese is formed

On Jan. 12, 1972, then-Msgr. Begley was installed as the first bishop of the new Diocese of Charlotte. Just months before, he was serving as pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. It was a time of great transition, Bishop Begley says, and a time that called for great faith.

"In 1971, the bishop (Bishop Vincent S. Waters) of Raleigh called me and said, 'Rome has decided that we must have another diocese,'" Bishop Begley recalls. "Charlotte will be the new diocese, and you've been selected as the new bishop. Do you accept?'"

Bishop Begley pauses to chuckle at the thought. "I said, 'Wait a minute. I'd like to think about that,'"

See BISHOP BEGLEY, page 19

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Begin
The New Year
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Dedicated church member gives of heart and home

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Jac Bereen has left his mark in the world, and many citizens may still have some of his handiwork in their closets or attics. As a clothing manufacturer, many people have worn the clothes made in his Clover, S.C., factory, Klearknit, established in 1952.

Not only did he contribute to the clothing styles of the time, but also later in his life, he wanted to give a gift to the church to which he was so dedicated. He decided to leave his home to St. Michael Church in Gastonia after his death.

Beeren passed away in October of this year, at the age of 94, but through a life estate gift, under the umbrella of estate planning and planned giving, his presence will be felt for years to come.

Frank Beeren recounted his father's life and talked about a man whom he described as "family-oriented, creative and hard-working."

Making clothes was a family endeavor begun when he was a young man in Helmond, Holland. Jac Beeren was born around the turn of the century into a large family. His father taught himself how to use a machine that made socks and taught two of his sons the procedure.

From that small act grew the largest knitting operation and textile manufacturing factory in Europe before World War II. He and his brother created Bereen Knitwear, employed over 2,500 workers and had operations in Holland, Belgium and South Africa. Little did they know that their success would come to a sudden halt.

During World War II, the Dutch underground blew up a Nazi troop train in the area, and they responded with executing ten of the most influential citizens in town and those suspected of being part of the rebellion. Beeren escaped that fate but was sent to Buchenwald, a concentration camp in Weimar, Germany, for four-and-a-half years.

After the war, the brothers returned to their company, now ruined by the Nazis, and had to begin anew. By that time, Beeren already had ideas of traveling to another country with his family to start all over.

He sold his interest in the family business and immigrated to the United States in 1950 to the small town of Elton, La., with the help of his sponsor, Father Fransen, a Dutch priest and friend who had also come to America. He decided to start another textile business but went bankrupt.

At the suggestion of a friend, Cary Boshamer, he moved to South Carolina and started up Bereen Knitwear with Boshamer in 1952, which later became Klearknit, a cutting and sewing operation. In 1960, Beeren moved again to Gastonia and built the home that he later left to St. Michael Church.

The lifelong Catholic became a member of the Gastonia parish, and Father George Kloster, while pastor of the church, came to know Beeren as a "friendly and intelligent man."

"He brought his European background as a very successful industrialist with him," said Father Kloster. "He was known as a kind and thoughtful person by the people in the parish he visited during their times of illness, even well up into his nineties."

Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development, Cindy Rice, diocesan director of planned giving and Don Hodgens, a local attorney, held a planned giving seminar at St. Michael Church, and after hearing the details of providing for the church after death, Beeren decided to leave his home to the church. Father Kloster put him in contact with Jim Kelley, who suggested that a life estate gift would be more beneficial to him.

Jac Bereen

With a life estate gift, he would deed the house to the church but would be able to live in it for as long as he pleased. From this type of donation, he received a charitable tax deduction and would be able to lower the estate tax upon his death, said Kelley.

"We want to encourage more people to give back to the diocese in gratitude for the blessings that God has given in their lives," said Kelley. "The fact that someone in his nineties wanted to do this for the Church says much about the type of person he was. Mr. Beeren left a legacy at his death that will benefit St. Michael's for years to come.

Frank Beeren said, "Donating his home was a novel idea. We broke ground when we did that because that type of donation had never really been done before that. It enabled him to stay in his home, even though, technically, it didn't belong to him."

The focus is on stewardship — time, talent and treasure. More people are deciding to give a portion of their assets to the Church after their deaths, after taking care of their loved ones. A life estate gift is only one way of giving back to the Church, so people should research the various options to find what is most beneficial to them: bequests, annuities, trusts, retirement plans, property or life insurance, said Kelley.

"His gift is incredibly personal. Most of us, in making charitable donations, give cash, which is generous and good," said Rice. "Mr. Beeren, however, gave his parish a gift of his home. I do not think you can make a more personal gift than that."

Father Kloster agreed that "donating his house to St. Michael's was a final act in a life of generosity, despite the many obstacles he had to face."

Frank Beeren recalled his father's good-natured attitude and his love for his family, friends and the Church: "He was a good man who never looked back. He didn't dwell on the past and wanted to give back some of the things that life had given him." ▼

For information about a life estate gift or to learn more about the many areas of planned giving, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or Cindy Rice at (704) 370-3320.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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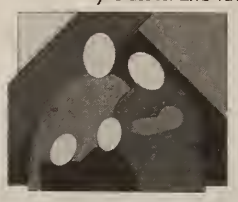

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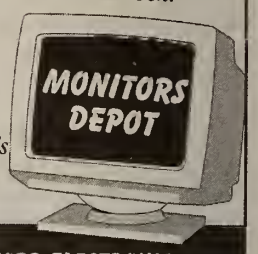

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THE GREAT

Jubilee 2000

Vatican ready to raise curtain on Great Jubilee of the Year 2000

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After years of spiritual and logistical preparation, the Vatican is about to raise the curtain on the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and its packed, 380-day calendar of religious events.

Pope John Paul II, the main architect of the Holy Year activities, will open the bronze Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, signaling the start of celebrations for Jesus' 2,000th birthday.

When the clock reaches midnight on New Year's Eve, the pope plans to deliver a special blessing to the world to mark the entrance into the third millennium of Christianity.

But as the millennium parties around the globe are dying down, the Holy Year will just be getting started.

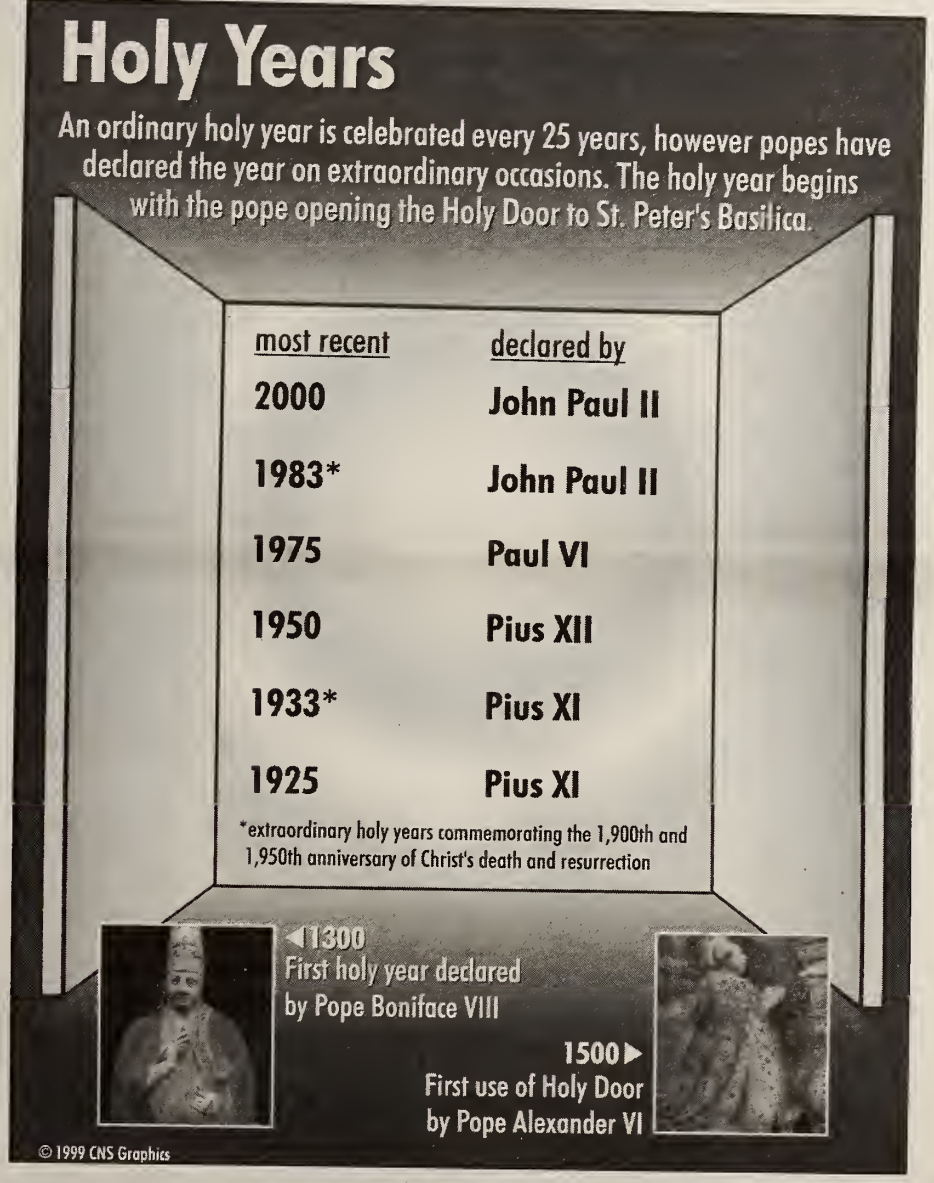
The Vatican will host more than 100 separate gatherings of professional and pastoral groups throughout the year 2000, turning the jubilee spotlight on groups like politicians, migrants, journalists, artists, farmers, children, elderly and others. The pope will formally close the jubilee Jan. 6, 2001, the feast of the Epiphany.

The Holy Year is expected to bring more than 25 million visitors to Rome, crowding the city's streets and sidewalks and contributing to a local economic boom. Most of the public works designed to make life easier for pilgrims have been completed, with one notable exception: A ramp leading to a five-story Vatican parking lot for tour buses has been held up indefinitely by archeological discoveries.

While the media has focused on new construction and crowd projections, the Vatican has been quietly leading a spiritual warm-up program for the jubilee, emphasizing penitence, charity and a return to the sacraments. As the pope said when he outlined Holy Year plans five years ago, one of the jubilee's main goals is to strengthen people's faith in a time of spiritual uncertainty.

The pope has encouraged individual acts of charity as well as global steps toward economic justice, including foreign debt relief. Likewise, he has touted the jubilee year as the perfect moment for individual examinations of conscience and a church-wide reflection on Christians' shortcomings through the centuries.

Picking up on a trend, the Vatican has promoted renewed interest in pilgrimages for the jubilee year. It has also expanded the practice of special Holy Year indulgences, saying that remission of temporal punishment for sins can be gained by going to confession and Communion, and then performing such simple acts as visiting the sick or abstaining a day from smoking.



In Rome, the traditional pilgrimages to the major basilicas of St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul's Outside the Walls will be made by millions, including the pope, who plans to personally open the holy doors in each of the churches.

The ceremonial highlights of the Holy Year illustrate the main jubilee themes:

— On Jan. 18, the pope inaugurates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in an ecumenical service at St. Paul's Outside the Walls, where he is expected to amplify his appeal for a new push toward unity during the Holy Year.

Ecumenical and interfaith cooperation are the focus of later events, too. On Aug. 5 the pope leads a prayer vigil with Orthodox representatives, and Oct. 3 is a special day for Christian-Jewish dialogue.

— A study conference on the Second Vatican Council Feb. 25-27 will draw dozens of experts to discuss church renewal over the last 35 years. The pope has said the best way to mark the new millennium is to apply the teachings of Vatican II, individually and church-wide.

— On March 12, the first Sunday of Lent, the pope presides over a "Day of Forgiveness," when Christians are called upon to confess personal and historical faults. Because of its implications for the institutional church, this event has been the most controversial on the jubilee calendar.

Vatican officials have said the pope will issue a "mea culpa" statement with particular reference to Christian treatment of Jews and to the Crusades, which were the topics of two pre-jubilee study conferences at the Vatican.

— On May 7, the pope leads another ecumenical celebration at Rome's Colosseum commemorating the "witnesses to the faith" in the 20th century, particularly those Christians martyred in wars or under political repression.

— The June 18-25 International Eucharistic Congress in Rome will give the pope a chance to develop his message on the importance of the Eucharist and to urge nonpracticing Catholics to return to the sacraments.

Like other Holy Year events, it will also feature a special Vatican charity initiative: a collection to fund a health clinic near Rome's train station for immigrants, Gypsies and the poor.

— On July 9, in one of the more unusual Holy Year celebrations, the pope is expected to visit a Rome prison and celebrate Mass to mark the "Jubilee for Inmates."

— World Youth Day celebrations Aug. 15-20 could bring a million young people to a Rome park area for a papal Mass, a prayer vigil and other activities.

— Several canonizations and beatifications are foreseen during the jubilee year, including a possible Sept. 3 beatification of two popes: John XXIII and Pius IX.

— The "Jubilee for Families" Oct. 14-15 will bring representative families from all over the world to the Vatican. To underline his concern for the state of marriage in the world, the pope will preside over the sacrament of matrimony for several young couples.

While the jubilee activities will keep the pope at home most of the year, he has tentatively planned two trips: to the Holy Land in late March, where if current plans hold he would visit Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem, and to Portugal in mid-May, where he will beatify two of the shepherd children who had Marian visions at Fatima.

The rest of the year, he will be busy presiding over some 70 liturgical ceremonies in Rome and, as far as time and health permit, greeting a near-constant flow of pilgrims. Many will be coming to see the aging "pope of the millennium" and obtain his blessing. ▼

St. Thomas Aquinas

By JERR
Catholic N

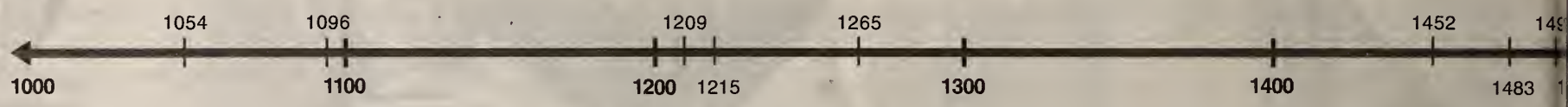
Here, chronologically, are some of the leadi history over the past 1,000 years. Catholic New church historians, developed the list and narrowe was Lou Panarale in Washington and John Th

The last 1,000 years

1054 Great Schism. Mutual excommunications harden centuries of growing rift between East and West, dividing mainline Christianity into the Orthodox churches of the East and the Latin Church of the West.

1209-15 Mendicant orders. Itinerant preachers St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic found the Franciscan and Dominican orders, which have deep impact on spiritual and intellectual life of the church and continue to thrive today.

1452-55 Gutenberg Bible. First book printed with movable type marks beginning of mass media, a cultural revolution profoundly affecting religion, education, commerce, politics and culture.



1096 Crusades begin. Campaign by Pope Urban II to retake Holy Land from Islam starts almost two centuries of intermittent religious wars there, ending in 1291 with Muslim recapture of Acre. With the Crusades came the birth of military and hospitaller religious orders, rising importance of pilgrimages in religious life and increased East-West trade.

1215 Fourth Lateran Council. Key medieval council formulates doctrine of transubstantiation and makes church reforms, including obligation of annual confession and Communion at Easter time.

1265-73 "Summa Theologiae." The most notable work of St. Thomas Aquinas, who articulated a theological synthesis that would influence Western Christian thought for centuries.

1483-98 Spanish Inquisition. At height of its campaign against heretics under Torquemada, some 2,000 are executed, giving historical basis for later claims of Catholic cruelty and intolerance.

1492 Colonization of America. Columbus' voyage introduces Christianity in New World, starts global missionary expansion to Americas, Africa, Asia, Oceania; it also starts more than four centuries of European political and cultural colonialism.

Scholars say Gregory the Great, John XXIII top popes in history

By JAMES BREIG
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — A panel of scholars has ranked Gregory the Great and John XXIII as the two most outstanding popes in the first 2,000 years of the Catholic Church.

The Evangelist, Albany diocesan newspaper, asked experts in church history and scholars from other disciplines to answer this question: "What pope of the past two millennia made the greatest contribution to the church?"

It is the second of 12 questions that the panel will answer during 1999 as part of The Evangelist's preparation for the coming third millennium. The panel is made up of scholars from Catholic colleges throughout the United States.

"In my judgment," said Father William McConville, professor of religious studies at Siena College in Loudonville, "the greatest pope was Gregory I (also known as the Great). He exemplified the essence of the Petrine ministry: 1) care for the people of Rome, 2) defense of the freedom of the church, 3) evangelizing zeal, 4) a sense of his collegial relationship with his brother bishops, and 5) holiness of life."

Gregory the Great, who reigned from 590-604, was also the choice of Joseph F. Kelly, professor of religious studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland, who called him "the first pope to recognize that the Roman world had passed and the newly arrived barbarians represented the future of the church. He kept up good relations with the Byzantine empire and less good relations with the Byzantine church, but he really turned the papacy's eyes to the West."

Lawrence S. Cunningham of the theology department at the University of Notre Dame, noted that Gregory "was the only pope to be named a doctor of the church."

He was "a brilliant writer whose 'Moralia in Job' was highly influential and still read in the Liturgy of the Hours," Cunningham added. "He had a great sense of pastoral care (writing a book on the subject). He also was an aggressive missionary, sending missions to England."

Pope John XXIII could be beatified as early as next year, said the promoter of his cause for sainthood in late April.

While four scholars opted for Gregory, five selected a 20th-century pontiff as the pope who made the greatest contribution to the church during its first 20 centuries: John XXIII, who reigned from 1958-63 and who convened the Second Vatican Council.

"In his short pontificate," said John Dwyer, who teaches at St. Bernard's Institute in Albany, "John XXIII gave the modern world an entirely new definition of the word 'pope' — a definition which was not authoritarian but pastoral.

"He emphasized that he himself was a bishop, and he did all that he could to associate his brother bishops with himself in the governance of the worldwide church," Dwyer said. "He decentralized church administration and insisted that bishops be treated as successors of the apostles and not merely as local agents of the curial bureaucracy."

William R. Barnett, associate professor of religious studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, said that "more than any other pope, John XXIII had the vision and courage to open the Roman Catholic Church to the modern world: in theology, in the governance of the church, and in improved relations with other Christian and non-Christian religious groups."

Doris Donnelly, professor of theology at John Carroll University, chose John XXIII for two reasons:

"The first has to do with his age. As a senior citizen, a man who was expected to be a transitional pope, John XXIII showed that age matters very little when one has energy of the spirit of God propelling him. Convening the Second Vatican Council was perceived by many members of the Curia as an act of someone in his failing years and as something that would not matter very much. But history says otherwise.

"The second reason I very much appreciate Pope John XXIII is his sense of humor, which buoyed him and those around him," Donnelly added. "My favorite story from his long repertoire of amusing anecdotes is one he told about three sure-fire ways to lose money — gambling, carousing and farming. Regrettably, he says, his father chose the most boring of the three."

Pope John XXIII's "convoking the Second Vatican Council is the religious event of the century," said Father Charles D. Skok, professor emeritus of religious studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. "The council was the first time since the apostles that all the bishops of the world could gather together to make it truly ecumenical."

Jesuit Father Robert Scully, assistant professor of history at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, described Pope John XXIII as "the man who was supposed to be a 'caretaker,' but ended up influencing modern Catholicism probably more than any other individual. As a truly open-minded and loving person, he gave both the papacy and the church a new image and a new opening to the world."

While Gregory the Great and John XXIII dominated the nominations for the pope who has made the greatest contribution to the church during its 2,000-year history, they were not the only ones nominated.

Other scholars named as the top pope in history St. Peter; Gregory VII (1073-1085); Innocent III (1198-1216); Leo XIII (1878-1903); and John Paul II (1978-). ▼

EAU
ERVICE
ts or individuals that have shaped Catholic ice editors and writers, in consultation with a selection of 25. Contributing to this report indy Wooden and John Norton in Rome.

# of Catholic history

500s Renaissance art. Prodigious istic and architectural output of figes like Michelangelo, Raphael, onardo da Vinci and many others der church patronage exemplifies the urch's embrace of art and architecre as means of religious expression.

1517-21 Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses in 1517, challenging errors in the preaching of indulgences, is excommunicated four years later. His reform agenda, later systematically institutionalized by Calvin, marks the start of the second major division in Christianity.

1534 Act of Supremacy. Henry VIII establishes Church of England, invoking fullness of power over it by divine right.

1539-40 St. Ignatius of Loyola. Rule is approved for his Society of Jesus, an order with wide influence in church life, especially in education.

1545-63 Council of Trent. The Catholic response to the Reformation brings church reform legislation and spells out Catholic teaching on doctrines under challenge from the Reformation. Postconciliar reforms included establishment of seminaries, liturgy reform and a universal catechism.

1596 Union of Brest. Agreement uniting Ruthenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches of Poland becomes chief Roman model of restoration of church unity with the Orthodox for nearly 400 years.

1633 Galileo condemned. Vatican declaration that the heliocentric teaching of Copernican astronomy contradicts Scripture sets a framework of tension and antagonism between church and modern science lasting into 20th century.

1789-1801 French Revolution, Concordat of 1801. Monarchy is overthrown, church disestablished and secular government formed in formerly Catholic state; concordat guaranteeing freedom of worship and letting church name bishops ends wars between anti-Christian and Catholic forces, but papacy continues to condemn principles of the revolution for more than a century.

1848-70 Loss of Papal States. Nationalist movements in Italy diminish Papal States, culminating in 1870 with capture of Rome as Italian capital and restriction of papacy to the tiny enclave in Rome known as the Vatican.

1850s-1960s Marian dogmas and devotion. Papal definitions of Mary's Immaculate Conception (1854) and Assumption (1950) and new Marian apparitions (Lourdes 1858, Knock 1879, Fatima 1917) fuel intense Catholic devotion to Mary. Marian devotions spread, new religious orders are named for her, lay sodalities and Legion of Mary are popular, Marian congresses are held. Other Christians consider new dogmas and Catholic Marian piety ecumenical obstacles.

1869-70 First Vatican Council. The first ecumenical council since Trent, it affirms and formally defines the full, ordinary, immediate jurisdiction of the pope over the whole church and the infallibility of the pope when he solemnly defines Catholic teaching on faith or morals.

1878-1903 Pope Leo XIII. He launches Catholic intellectual revival in 1879 by ordering teaching of the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas in all seminaries; his 1891 encyclical, "Rerum Novarum" (on the condition of labor), marks start of modern Catholic social teaching.

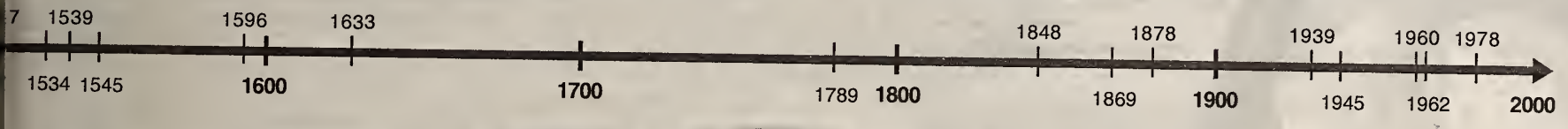
1939-45 Holocaust. Hitler's World War II extermination of 6 million Jews provokes profound rethinking, in postwar decades, of Catholic and Christian attitudes towards Jews and Judaism.

1945-90 Rise and fall of communism. Religious persecution that started with Russian Revolution in 1917 reaches its zenith following World War II as communist hegemony spreads across Eastern Europe and into China, North Korea and North Vietnam, creating a new age of martyrs. Communism's collapse in Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union restores religious freedom to millions of believers.

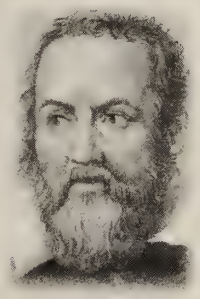
1960-?? Catholic ecumenism. Catholic Church's entry into 20th-century ecumenical movement transforms Catholicism and the whole Christian unity movement. Collaboration, shared prayer, dialogue and joint declarations of common faith replace separatism, apologetics and emphasis on what divides.

1962-65 Second Vatican Council. Reform council seeks to re-engage church in contemporary world and to renew liturgy, Scripture study and virtually every other aspect of Catholic life, including better appreciation of other Christians and other religions; reformulates traditional teachings on religious freedom and the state's role in religious matters.

1978-?? Pope John Paul II. First non-Italian pope since 1523 sets implementation of Vatican II and new evangelization for third millennium as agenda of his pontificate, oversees new codes of church law, new universal catechism, Catholic-Lutheran declaration of agreement on justification. He travels over 700,000 miles, more than all previous popes combined.



Luther


Galileo

Pope Paul XI

Pope Pius XII

Fourth, first centuries deemed pivotal to Christian history

By JAMES BREIG
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Over the course of 2,000 years of Christian history, does one period of time stand out as more pivotal than the rest?

That's the third question The Evangelist, Albany diocesan newspaper, posed to a nationwide panel of church historians and scholars as part of its ongoing series leading to the next millennium.

The newspaper has already asked the experts to name the top non-Catholic Christian of the past 2,000 years (Martin Luther) and the greatest pope in history (John XXIII).

This time, the participants were asked "Other than the life of Jesus, what time span has proven to be the most pivotal in the history of Catholicism?" Five scholars chose the fourth century, and three named the first.

Another two historians selected the 16th century — the time of the Council of Trent — as the most pivotal era in church history. Other scholars named the sixth, 11th, 13th or 19th centuries.

John Dwyer, who teaches at St. Bernard's Institute in Albany, said he chose the fourth century because at the Council of Nicaea in 325, "the church fashioned a formula of faith which has been indispensable for Christian life up to the present day."

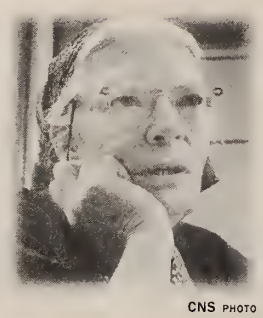
"Other events of the period were no less important, but far less fortunate," he added. "In 395, the Emperor Theodosius decreed that Christianity was to be the official religion of the Empire. At that moment, the church entered into an alliance with secular power, which was fateful for the future and which would, in time, link the church in Asia and Africa with European colonial powers almost up to the dawn of the third millennium."

Father Charles D. Skok, professor emeritus of religious studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., narrowed the era down to "the time of Pope Damasus and the Emperor Theodosius, roughly the year 380. It was at the time of Pope Damasus that the language of the liturgy was changed from Greek to Latin in the West. St. Jerome also translated the Bible into Latin to produce the Vulgate, the standard version used for centuries as the official Bible of the Catholic Church."

The same era was chosen by Lawrence S. Cunningham from the theology department at the University of Notre Dame. "In the space of less than 100 years," he said, "Christianity went from being a countercultural, persecuted church to one which first had official toleration (Constantine) and then became the official Church of the empire (Theodosius).

"This had both good and terrible

See GREAT ERAS, next page



CNS PHOTO

Dorothy Day leads historians' list of century's top lay people

By JAMES BREIG
Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — An American woman who advocated for the poor, stood up for the rights of workers, and protested against abortion and the Vietnam War has been chosen the most outstanding lay Catholic in the world during the 20th century.

Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, was chosen by a panel of church historians and theologians asked to select laity who made the church better or lived their faith in exemplary ways during the past 100 years. Her name appeared on all but one of the nine ballots.

"Her outspoken and consistent pacifism, even in the time of World War II, kept that time-honored Christian ideal and alternative before the consciences of informed Catholics and non-Catholics alike," said Jesuit Father Ben Fiore, a professor at Canisius College in Buffalo, in a response echoed by many of his colleagues.

"She also came to know abortion as a hideous reality and rejected that as a choice," Father Fiore added. "Her social consciousness inspired countless others to follow her example."

Other lay Catholics receiving more than one vote were Catholic book publishers Maisie Ward and Frank Sheed; British author Gilbert Keith Chesterton; and French writer Jacques Maritain and his wife, Raissa.

The Maritains "were great voices in the world of philosophy, art, culture and religion," said Father Charles D. Skok, professor emeritus of religious studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. "Their accomplishments kept the church from becoming peripheral in the 'modern' conversation."

The scholars' other choices ranged from the late Cesar Chavez, who organized farmworkers, to anonymous lay ministers, and even a rock singer popularly known as "The Boss."

The list was compiled by The Evangelist, newspaper of the Albany Diocese, as part of a yearlong series examining the first 2,000 years of church history.

Maureen A. Tilley, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio, named Day along with Patrick and Patricia Crowley, who founded the Christian Family Movement in 1949.

She also cited Dolores Huerta and Chavez, who helped found the National Farm Workers Association, now the United Farm Workers of America.

"Their struggle for legislation to protect farmworkers showed how Catholic teachings on social justice could be appropriated by the workers themselves to bring dignity and justice to their lives," Tilley said.

In addition to Day, Father Fiore cited Catherine de Hueck Doherty, "whose Madonna House in Combermere, Ontario, remains an effective center for the training of lay apostles who carry her vision forward," and Tony Walsh, whose Benedict Labre House in Montreal "was an early prototype of the type of outreach center that has flourished across North America."

Father Skok praised Day for "her absolute and total dedication to the poor and downtrodden; her complete loyalty to the church, in spite of churchmen who viewed her with suspicion and disdain; her unconditional pacifism; and her undivided heart at home both in contemplative prayer and in energetic activism."

He also nominated Baron Friedrich von Hugel, "a voice of sanity in the Modernist controversy," and Ward and Sheed, calling them "Catholic missionary voices through preaching, writing and publishing."

Franciscan Father William McConville, professor of religious studies at Siena College in Loudonville, named Day as "an unsettling yet comforting presence within the communion of saints" and Jacques Maritain for his "critical retrieval of the scholastic tradition in dialogue with the modern world."

William R. Barnett, associate professor of religious studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, selected Day as well as Penny Lernoux, longtime Latin American affairs correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, and Catholic author Flannery O'Connor.

Lernoux, who died in 1989, "is significant because she brought to life the plight of the marginalized in Latin America that enabled many around the world to understand the intention of liberation theology in light of its successes and its limitations," Barnett said.

John Dwyer, who teaches at St. Bernard's Institute in Albany, chose French poet, philosopher and diplomat Paul Claudel; Day; Norwegian Nobel Prize laureate Sigrid Undset; and lay ministers.

Catholic lay ministers "are barely tolerated by the Vatican, which is ready to discard them as soon as that mythical day arrives when there are enough vocations to the celibate priesthood," Dwyer said. "But they are absolutely indispensable for passing on the faith to new generations, and every parish that shows signs of life is enriched by their dedicated service."

Jeffrey Marlett, assistant professor of religious studies at the College of St. Rose in Albany, said Chesterton, a British convert who died in 1936, "gave the English-speaking Catholic world a humorous, easily accessible, and faithful intellectual voice to counteract the opposition the church often faced then."

Marlett also selected Day and musician Bruce "The Boss" Springsteen as outstanding lay Catholics of the century.

Springsteen, "while probably not the most exemplary Catholic, has penned some of the most authentic, honest and yet still hope-filled popular songs in 20th-century popular music," he said.

"Often, his stories end in less-than-happy circumstances, but such honesty is precisely what elevates Springsteen above other musicians as well as others interested in the daily lives of 'real' Catholics," Marlett added.

Benedictine Father James Wiseman of the theology department at The Catholic University of America in Washington, named Day, Austria farmer and Nazi opponent Franz Jaegerstaetter, and the Maritains.

"Together the Maritains exemplify both the sanctity of marriage and the significant contribution that intellectual activity can make to the life of the Church," he said.

The choices of Jude P. Dougherty, dean of the School of Philosophy at Catholic University, were Chesterton; Sheed and Ward; German leader Konrad Adenauer; French-born author Hilaire Belloc; and Ralph McInerny "for his impressive scholarship, his delightful fiction and his role as an intellectual catalyst on the American scene." ▼

Great eras of the Catholic Church, from page 11

effects," he added. "As Karl Rahner noted, it was only after Vatican II that we see a move to become a true 'world church' as opposed to one married to the suppositions of Western culture."

William R. Barnett, associate professor of religious studies at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, said that "the fourth century was pivotal in the development of the theology of the church and of its institutional history in relation to its cultural setting."

Mary Meany, associate professor of religious studies at Siena College in Loudonville, said that "there is no doubt that the pivotal years in the history not only of Catholicism but of Christianity was the period 312-381.

"This was the period when the fundamental patterns of Christianity's relationship to the political, economic and social order was established, and it was the period when fundamental patterns of Christian culture developed," she said.

Among those declaring the first century as the most pivotal in Christian history was Father Conrad Harkins, associate professor of theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio.

"During this century, the followers of Jesus evolved from a Jewish sect to a worldwide religion embracing peoples of all nations," he said.

Benedictine Father James Wiseman, from the theology department at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said the choice of the period from the conversion of St. Paul until his death was "so obvious that I wonder how anyone could answer differently."

Paul's "boldness in opening the church to the Gentiles without requiring them to observe basic points of the Mosaic Law allowed the 'Jesus movement' to expand from being a Jewish sect to what it eventually became: a world church," he added.

The first century was also selected by Maureen A. Tilley, associate professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton in Ohio. From 60-160, she said, "the church, aided by the Holy Spirit, underwent a profound transformation. As the apostles died, the church lost all of the members who had known (Jesus) personally. It came to understand the implications of the fact that Jesus would not return soon."

Francesco C. Cesareo, associate professor of history and director of the Institute of Catholic Studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland, chose the period of the Council of Trent (1545-1563) as most crucial to the church.

"Certainly the theological clarifications decreed by Trent were significant and shaped Catholic teaching well into the present day," he said. "However, what makes this council so significant is that it renewed the life of the church. Realizing that reform would occur only if the clergy set the example, this council restored the pastoral responsibilities of the bishop, which had been by and large lost."

The same time span was named by Jesuit Father Robert Scully, assistant professor of history at Le Moyne College, "due to the combined influences of the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Age of Discovery."

"The Reformation, although it caused a tragic split in Western Christianity, also brought about a renewal and intensification in spirituality and theological studies," he said. "Within Catholicism, it also spurred a range of new (e.g., the Jesuits) or reformed (e.g., the Carmelites) religious orders, as well as the influential decrees of the Council of Trent on doctrinal and moral issues." ▼

Students perform Christmas pageant with millennium theme

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

KERNERSVILLE — Plays and pageants abound this, and every, Christmas season. The Christ child is the focus of the Christmas story that people learn at an early age.

The students in faith formation classes from Holy Cross Church are no different. They participated in the parish's first Christmas pageant in several years, complete with the Holy Family, angels and shepherds — except, this play had a slight twist.

"Wee Three Kings," is a pageant about a modern-day brother/sister duo who travel back in time, courtesy of their parents' time machine, to the historical period of King Herod and Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. They meet two servants in Herod's court, and using virtual reality glasses, they show the servants the details of Jesus' birth.

"We got the play from Christian Carolina Supplies, which had all of the ideas, but we just expanded on whatever we needed," said Connie Cupello, the parish's youth minister. "We modified the number of cast members and a little of what was written."

Marie Kinney, the church's director of faith formation, said, "the preparation was hectic, but everything went well. We were expecting about 10, maybe 20 children, but were pleasantly overwhelmed that over 30 children wanted to participate. So, we had to expand the play to accommodate everyone."

A cast of 42 and a choir of 19, with an additional 24 stage helpers and set designers, performed their Christmas pageant for parents and families on Dec. 16.

"I liked being in the play because it is about Jesus," said five-and-a-half-year-old Michael Cuppello, who played Sheep 1. "The story of Jesus is special, and I liked being a sheep because it is a good part."

This version of Jesus' birth included the normal cast of characters: Joseph, Mary, the shepherds and their sheep and angels, and also King Herod, his servants, soldiers, and other members of the court. The children played several scenes, while the choir sang traditional religious songs during the different scenes. The lights were turned off, while the backgrounds, drawn on large poster paper, were carried on and held by stage hands.

One of the "wee" three kings, Patrick DiGiantomaso, 12, who played Balthazar, said, "It is important to know about the past and what happened before us. I learned a lot about what happened during that time, and I liked playing the part because I got to give Jesus the gold."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Students, playing the roles of Mary and Joseph, the three wise men and visitors witnessing the birth of Christ, re-create the Christmas story in the Holy Cross Church Christmas Pageant in Kernersville on Dec. 16.

"I liked being in the play because it is about Jesus," said five-and-a-half-year-old Michael Cuppello, who played Sheep 1. "The story of Jesus is special, and I liked being a sheep because it is a good part."

Cameron Kinney, 5-and-a-half, who specified that he was Sheep 2, agreed that "the play is special because it is about Jesus being born."

"I liked being in the play and I like Christmas because they are both about the birth of Jesus — and because we get presents," said Briana Madenjian, 8, who played Scribe 2.

Cupello said that the children seemed to enjoy being in the play and that "they realize what the importance of Christmas is because they are participating in the story, instead of simply being told. They seem to remember more when they are actually involved."

"This play tells about Jesus and the importance of his life," said ten-year-old Neal Goodman, who played the Old Scribe. "Christmas is a fun time of the year because everybody is happy."

Lindsay Haslebacher, 11, who played Rebecca, the overseer of Herod's palace, agreed, "I enjoyed the play because it was a chance to explain what Christmas is all about. Christmas is a time when people can get together to celebrate. It is special because you get to be with the people you love." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

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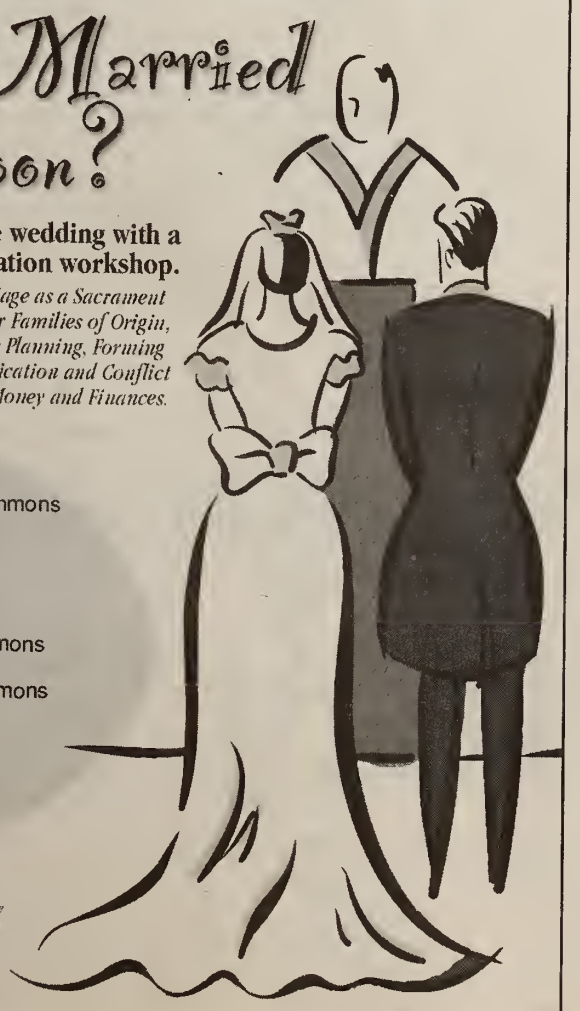

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Book Review

Merton's journals express miracle of God's presence

REVIEWED BY FRANK ALLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The well-known life of Thomas Merton (1915-1968), spiritual poet and monk, agent of change and recluse, continues to inspire people across the world.

Representing some of the best of Merton's prolific work, this "intimate" Merton, a concise selection of seven published journals, reveals the meditative inner core of a wide-ranging pathfinder thinker.

"The Intimate Merton: His Life from His Journals"
Edited by Patrick Hart and Jonathan Montaldo.
HarperCollins (New York, 1999)
374 pp., $28.00.

The journals cover almost 30 years (1939-1968), and this introspective man probably kept a diary his entire adult life. At times joyful, at times stressed, always concerned about integrity, Merton's lifelong search, exactly documented in these journals, was to explore territory between the physical and spiritual, between secular lucidity and divine mystery.

Merton's work includes magazines articles, essays, a novel, poetry, a play, the world-famous autobiography, "The Seven Storey Mountain" (in print since 1948), five volumes of letters, and many religious studies. The range of his literary output testifies to his eclectic interest.

When the journals start, in 1939-40, Merton was writing novels and teaching. Born in Prades, France, of a New Zealand father and American mother, inquisitive and rootless, Merton found a sense of spiritual "dryness" in modern life.

Converting to Catholicism, and after hearing Jacques Maritain lecture to the Catholic Book Club, he accepted the vocation of monk. Discovering austere "holiness and peace" of the Trappist (Cistercian) monastery of the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky was the beginning of a commitment to "total simplicity and poverty" he honored the rest of his life.

This brainy, engaging convert to Catholicism possessed a monk's transcendent sense of agape, love of God's grace. Disliking popular culture, he relished good food and drink (particularly fresh coffee), friendships and loyalties ("people I have loved to be with and love to hear from"), current events, literature and music.

The man who sought obedience and privacy could not keep from taking innovative public positions (ecumenism, nonviolence, Tibetan mysticism) in the turbulent 1960s. While disturbed by "incompatibility" between solitude and involvement, he found in disparities of belief a red badge of faith. "This boiling is part of my life," he said.

As though a modern-day Columbus searching for the eternal Orient, not yet 53 years old, after three audiences with the Dalai Lami and visiting India and other Asian countries, Merton died at the East/West Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on Dec. 10, 1968, accidentally electrocuted in a mix-up of electrical wires.

The editors, Brother Patrick Hart, who edited two journals, and Jonathan Montaldo, director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky., who also edited two journals, perhaps could have provided a glossary of important people in Merton's life, some of whom are identified only by initials.

His legacy continues to expand through Merton societies and numerous Web sites (http://go.to/merton is comprehensive) which provide current information on conferences, electronic publications, groups with an interest in religious publications, hypertext links, retreats, and ever-increasing commentary on his life.

On one level, seeing nature through Merton's eyes (his prayer-like description has the precision of an Andrew Wyeth painting), enables one to rediscover freshness of American landscape.

On a deeper level, the genre of a journal, which he mastered, perfectly suits a monk's need for rigorous self-examination. With the hardihood of an explorer, Merton blazed trails into spiritual frontiers that we still follow today.

At the center of his "deepest self," one touches the authentic hidden life of a man who struggled to express the miracle of God's presence. ▼

Allen, a longtime English professor and college administrator, is now a free-lancer.

Word to Life

December 26, Feast of the Holy Family, Cycle B Readings:

1) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
   Psalm 128:1-5
2) Colossians 3:12-17
3) Gospel: Luke 2:22, 39-40

BY BOZENA CLOUTIER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During the early, dark days of World War II, my parents found out that they were expecting their fifth child. At that time we were refugees — homeless, poor and on the run from the seemingly invincible Nazi offensive. The ensuing months were very difficult.

We were evacuated from one country to another, and my mother became ill. Then, as her due date drew close, our situation improved, and we found ourselves in the relative security of the Middle East, in what was then the British Protectorate of Palestine. We had a place to live and access to medical care so that mother was able to go to a hospital when labor began.

She had a boy, Christopher, and I remember how happy we all were that all had gone well. The baptism was to be in Bethlehem.

My memories are fragmentary, but I know we went first to Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem. I have a vivid recollection of my little brother lying quiet and wide-eyed on the spot where tradition says Jesus was born.

Now, decades later, I wonder what my parents were thinking as they stood there. I was too young to ask the question then, and now they are no longer here to tell me. I had the same question when I read Luke's Gospel passage about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to Jerusalem: What was in the minds and hearts?

Again, they are not here to answer, but I think in both cases that answer might be similar: "We want the best for our baby. The very best."

Isn't that the hope all of us have in our hearts as we bring our little ones to the Lord? Whether we are parents or godparents, aunts, uncles or cousins, we want good rather than harm for these children. This Sunday we honor the Holy Family. We write the name of this feast with capital letters and rightly so, but that should not blind us to the fact that this family, like yours or mine, was also really and truly human.

Yes, even the divine child.

Question:
What helps you connect to the ordinary and everyday hopes and struggles of Mary, Joseph and the young Jesus?

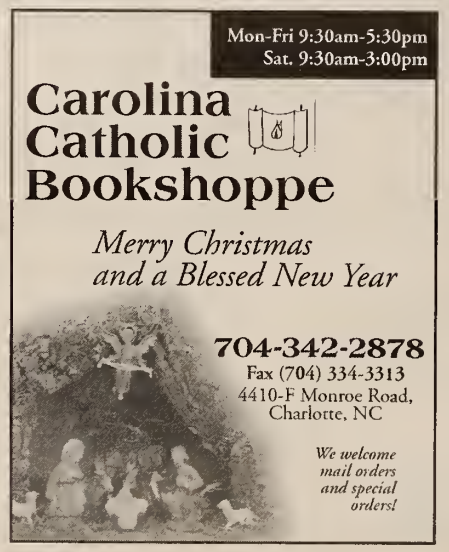
Weekly Scripture

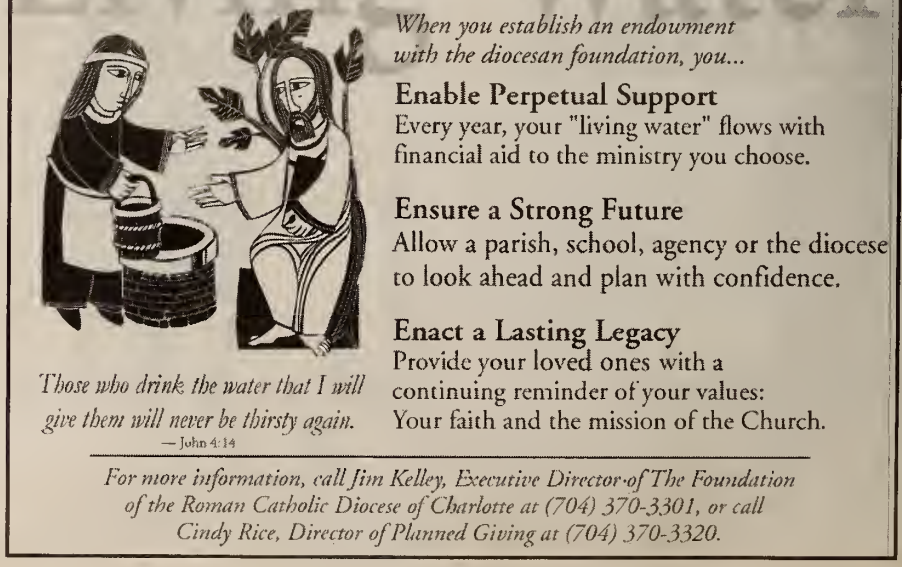
Readings for the week of Dec. 26, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000

Sunday, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40; **Monday**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Tuesday**, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Wednesday**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Thursday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40; **Friday**, 1 John 2:18-21, John 1:1-18; **Saturday**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Readings for the week of Jan. 2 - 8, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday**, 1 John 3:22-4:6, Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; **Tuesday**, 1 John 4:7-10, Mark 6:34-44; **Wednesday**, 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





CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Jodie Foster stars as Anna Leonowens, an Englishwoman hired to teach the 58 children of Siamese King Mongkut in "Anna and the King."

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule movie reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Anna and the King" (20th Century Fox)

Lavish historical drama set in 1862 Siam where the absolute monarch (Chow Yun-Fat) and the widowed English schoolteacher (Jodie Foster) he hired to teach his 58 children about the West learn much from each other even as a duplicitous general plots to kill the king and all his heirs. After a sluggish start, director Andy Tennant goes beyond sumptuous visuals in exploring contrasting East-West cultures and beliefs while maintaining suspense about the assassination plot. Sporadic violence and references to polygamy and concubines. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Bicentennial Man" (Touchstone)

Futuristic fantasy spanning two centuries in which a family's robot (Robin Williams), found to have emotions and creativity, actively seeks to become fully human and marry the great-granddaughter (Embeth Davidtz) of the original family that encouraged his odyssey. Adapted in part from an Issac Asimov story, director Chris Columbus' bland tale gently examines what it is to be human. Mild sexual innuendo and references, and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Angela's Ashes" (Paramount)

Faithful though emotionally bleak dramatization of Frank McCourt's Pulitzer Prize-winning account of growing up in 1930s and '40s Limerick where he lives in desperate poverty with his long-suffering mother (Emily Watson), alcoholic father (Robert Carlyle) and younger siblings until stealing his fare to America at age 19. British writer-director Alan Parker presents a realistic depiction of an impoverished youth, growing alienation from his family and Catholic upbringing, but the result lacks both the poetic flair and humorous punctuation of the book. Intense depiction of domestic crises, numerous sexual situations and references, alcoholic excess, recurring rough language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

PBS special presents documentary time capsule of America this century

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Surveying the state of the union a century ago is the documentary time capsule, "America 1900," to be rerun Monday, Jan. 3, 8-11 p.m. EST on PBS.

Narrated by historian David McCullough, the program begins with New Year's Eve celebrations prematurely welcoming the year 1900 as the start of the 20th century, rather than waiting a year for its official beginning.

New Year's sermons and speeches took note of the nation's progress over the past century, its present prosperity and confidence in the future.

There was a sense that American was entering a new age prompted by the introduction of such inventions as the electric light, phonographs, telephones, automobiles, motion pictures and indoor plumbing.

And Americans seemed to relish their new status as a world power after the 1898 Spanish-American War and the conquest of the Philippines.

After establishing the country's mood of optimism as 1900 began, the program examines the year's events in terms of the issues and problems of the times.

Politically, it was an election year pitting incumbent President William McKinley against Democratic nominee William Jennings Bryan.

McKinley was attacked as an imperialist for using American troops to crush Filipino independence and sending an expedition to China to rescue Americans during the Boxer Rebellion.

Bryan, however, got more of a response by attacking McKinley as an ally of big business trusts and cartels.

In September, a coal miner's strike against the operators' monopoly controlled by J. Pierpoint Morgan drove the price of coal beyond the means of most Americans.

Fearful this would bring Bryan victory at the polls, Morgan gave in to the strike — except for union recognition — and McKinley was reelected.

The program also looks at how the American economy was changing with the growth of new industries, the influx of foreign immigrants and rural Americans leaving the land for jobs in the city.

Giving a sense of what life was like for city newcomers is Jesuit Father John Staudenmaier, one of the historians whose commentary fleshes out the period photographs and newsreels providing the program's visuals.

"America 1900"
Jan. 3, 8-11 p.m. EST on PBS

One of the strongest segments of the program deals with race relations, especially the inequities and injustices facing the African-American community.

There are also a number of profiles of era personalities such as environmentalist John Muir, photojournalist Frances Benjamin Johnston and North Carolina's George White, the only black U.S. congressman.

Produced by David Rubin, the result is a lively kaleidoscopic look at one year in the life of the nation.

Some viewers will be struck by the familiarity of the issues of the day, such as America's role as a world power, racial tensions, labor disputes, environmental movements and even a controversy over the definition of pornography.

What's different, however, and what comes across most clearly in the documentary is how new and exciting the world of 1900 seemed to people and their confidence the future would be even better.

Though things turned out somewhat differently than they expected, it is refreshing to recall the spirit of optimism which ushered in the century we are seeing closed. ▼

Herx is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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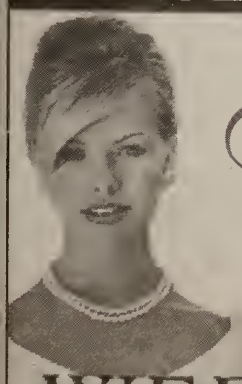

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pontiff moves Popes Pius IX, John XXIII closer to beatification

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II formally cleared the way for a year 2000 beatification of Pope Pius IX and moved Pope John XXIII a step closer as well.

Decrees advancing the papal causes were among 18 promulgated Dec. 20 at the Vatican.

In the case of Pope Pius IX, who led the church from 1846 to 1878, the Vatican recognized the miracle needed for his beatification.

Although a date for the ceremony was not announced, Pope Pius is expected to be one of the people beatified Sept. 3 at the Vatican. In the case of Pope John XXIII, pontiff from 1958 to 1963, Pope John Paul formally recognized that he practiced Christian virtues to a heroic degree.

Recognition of a miracle is still needed in Pope John's case; the decree of such a miracle is expected to be issued in the spring, which would make it possible for Pope John to be beatified along with Pope Pius. The medical consultants to the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes already have said there was no natural explanation for the healing submitted in Pope John's cause.

Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the congregation, told Pope John Paul, "With the recognition of the heroic virtues of Pope John XXIII, our memories turn back to the exultant days of the convocation of the Second Vatican Council," its sessions in the 1960s and its implementation. Pope John promoted ecumenism, the archbishop said. He showed special concern for improving relations with the Orthodox, whom he came to know serving as a Vatican diplomat in Bulgaria and Turkey.

"He worked in every way to lay the foundations for a new attitude in the Catholic Church toward the Jewish world," Archbishop Saraiva Martins said.

Pope Pius lived at a time of "great political and social upheaval, but did not allow himself to be defeated by the difficult events that marked his time," the archbishop said.

When Pope Pius was elected, the papacy still included temporal power over Rome and the papal states; the temporal power ended in 1870 when Italian troops occupied Rome.

The period of Pope Pius' pontificate also was one of great philosophical and theological debate. He issued the Syllabus of Errors, a list of 80 modern propositions which he believed were undermining religion, the church and moral values through the glorification of freedom and of reason without the balancing effect of responsibility and natural law. Pope Pius also solemnly declared the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception, and he convoked the First Vatican Council, which formally defined papal primacy and infallibility.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Bishops call 2000 a spiritual milestone

Here we are at the beginning of a new millennium, fortunate to be a part of an exciting adventure. That's how I prefer to label our entry into the year 2000.

We have been inundated with gloomy predictions about the new millennium. Some people even escalated the Y2K problems into an imagined doomsday. Fortunately, darkness and dismay are not the way of Christians. We are people of light.

The U.S. Catholic bishops wisely called on us to bring our light into the new year, shining stronger than ever before. In their fine document "Faithful Citizenship, Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," they remind us that this is a rejoicing time, as well as a time for reflection on how well we are bringing Christ's life into this world. They ask us, as Catholics, to see this new year as a great "spiritual milestone."

Our bishops have put out a great challenge, charging us, in a sense, to celebrate our heritage as descendants of Christ by strong action. In their document, they did not mince words:

"The next millennium requires a new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interest."

With gut honesty our bishops remind us, "Our culture does not lift us up." And they prove this by underlining ethnic cleansing, the inability to confront hunger, the poverty of so many children, 1.4 million abortions each year, the frequent eruption of hate and intolerance, dangerous schools that have become war zones and the gap between the rich and poor.

Our bishops want us to see, really see, that because we have been given the gift of our Catholic faith, we have much work to do. They spell it out: "As Catholics, we can celebrate the jubilee by recommitting ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and church teaching into the public square."

I think it has become so easy for us to separate our Christian values from politics. Yet, as our bishops are reminding us, you can't separate faith from citizenship: "Building peace, combating poverty and despair, and protecting freedom and human rights are not only moral imperatives, they are wise national priorities." We must truly believe in the truth of their words.

Our bishops have wisely used the hoopla generated by the new millennium as a way of getting our attention. I think they had to remind us that this is a jubilee — a great birthday event for followers of Jesus. And then they chose to go a step further, challenging us to make the new century take shape according to God's blueprint by participating actively in politics and engaging in "civil dialogue on fundamental issues."

I leave you with their optimistic words to reflect on: "This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States as we look with hope to the beginning of the new millennium."

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
Guest Columnist

Father Finnerty brings to our attention concerns affecting our Hispanic brothers and sisters throughout the United States. We are blessed in having Father Finnerty direct our own diocesan Hispanic Ministry. Under his leadership, our Hispanic Ministry continues to successfully address the issues of which he writes in this column.

Rising visibility of Hispanics in the Church

Last month, I shared with you some statistics that appear in a study commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in January 1998. Today I wish to share with you some of the major findings of that study:

1) Hispanic Ministry has increased its visibility as an institutional force within the Catholic Church. However, it has not impacted the life of the Church as profoundly as it could or should, given the magnitude of the Hispanic "presence," and the goals and priorities established by the Bishops in recent years.

Staffing and budgets for Hispanic Ministry have increased, and Hispanic Ministry directors have greater access to the Bishops and their chanceries. However, major programmatic and policy goals for Hispanic Ministry established in the mid-1980s have not been met due to cultural and institutional resistance from non-Hispanics and increased demands on diocesan resources. In addition, the unexpectedly large increase in Hispanic immigration since 1980 has compelled the Church to devote a disproportionate share of its resources to basic pastoral and social services for Hispanic newcomers. This appears to have occurred at the expense of ongoing formation and leadership programs for longer-term Hispanic residents who increasingly seek vocations outside the Church.

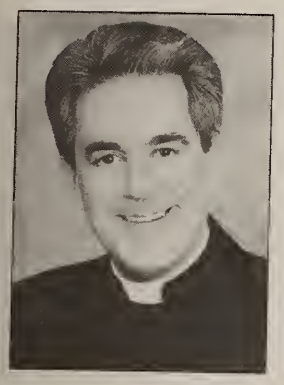
2) Most dioceses have not made a diocesan-wide commitment to Hispanic Ministry, and thus, do not have programs in place to bring Hispanics and non-Hispanics together into the full life of the Church.

A large number of dioceses formally adopted the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry in the late 1980s. However, only a minority conduct pastoral planning for Hispanics on a regular basis: moreover, such planning is rarely integrated within general diocesan planning and programming. As a result, the level of ongoing diocesan collaboration in Hispanic program development is extremely low. Except for Catholic Charities and the Department of Religious Education, most diocesan departments do not work closely with the Office of Hispanic Ministry and do not jointly implement programs at the parish level. Within the parishes, most Hispanics worship separately from non-Hispanics and do not share equally in the administration of parish life.

Hope this has been helpful. Next month we will talk about proselytism among Hispanics and Hispanic leadership within the Church.

Father Vincent H. Finnerty is diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry.

We welcome your letters & comments.
Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Your Year 2000 is secure

As the calendar measures it, we have reached another milestone in our life's journey — the year 2000 A.D. This is a good time to pause in order to map out our journey into the future.

It helps to realize, of course, that the designated route you choose is always subject to change. You will encounter roadblocks and detours and wrong turns that are beyond your capacity to predict. Relying on your own resources, the uncertainty of life is your only certainty.

Although you chart your course in fear and trembling because of the uncertainties that lay ahead, nevertheless you rejoice in the sure conviction that at every point along the way you can say, "My future is secure in God's hands!"

Several years ago, at year's end, a small Church group decided to test the power of expectation. Each person wrote down his or her New Year's expectations, put them in an envelope and sealed it. On the following New Year's Day, they met, opened the envelopes and read what they had written.

One man had stated, "In the next year all I can expect is more of the same old miserable life." Sadly, he admitted that his expectation had come true. He still felt miserable. A woman read ten worthy goals she had hoped to achieve. Happily, she said that nine of them had come to pass. She also admitted that because she expected to achieve her goals, she had really worked at them.

Another man had based his expectations on his zodiac sign, Capricorn, which predicted, "For you it will be a year of difficulty and frustration." He got what he expected!

Another woman, also a Capricorn, who knew nothing of the astrological prediction, had enjoyed a "beautiful" year. One person in the group had died during the year. His envelope was opened revealing his expectation: "As none of the men in my family have survived beyond age sixty, I expect to die during the coming year." He had died one month before his sixtieth birthday.

It would be too simplistic to imagine that the combination of positive thinking and a little hard work will fulfill our every expectation in the year 2000. Disappointment, grief, failure and frustration are built into the human condition. And whether we are going to turn thirty or sixty or ninety this year, any one of us may die before it's over.

Yet, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are an expectant people, a people of hope. We have a vision before us of the Promised Land. We have put our trust in Jesus' promise to be with us always — and that means in every moment, especially those of disappointment, grief, failure or frustration. We have put our trust in the Power of God to transform sorrow into joy, defeat into victory, death into new life.

Let us resolve that by our love for one another this New Year of 2000 A.D. will unfold, in truth, as the "Year of the Lord." Let us resolve that, a year from today, we will look back on 2000 as a time when we lived as though the good of countless others, known and unknown, depended on us.

Let us greet one another, saying:

"Happy New Year! Our time is secure in God's hands — and each other's — for when we do His will, our hands are the hands of God."

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Fair Trade

In April 1997, Canada imposed a ban on the gasoline additive MMT whose primary ingredient is manganese, a known human neutrotoxin. The producer of MMT, U.S.-based Ethyl Corporation, sued Canada for $250 million claiming the public health law violated its investor protections under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Ethyl argued the ban unfairly expropriated its assets by eliminating profits that Ethyl expected to earn in the Canadian market. Canada finally settled the suit with Ethyl for $13 million plus legal costs. In addition Canada changed its law to declare the additive MMT "safe."

Free markets, efficiency and profitability promise a world where everyone stands to gain. Indeed, the gross domestic products of countries involved in free trade continue to expand. The world bathes in a pool of prosperity. Moreover, free trade offers all people around the globe access to the fullest gifts of creation, while it sews the world together in a patch quilt of interdependence.

Yet beyond the euphoria about the positive side of free trade, the dark side reveals workers in sweatshops oppressed for the sake of production and abandoned communities devastated for the maximization of profit. The Canadian case over MMT demonstrates that unfettered free trade can affect important environmental, health and consumer laws of participating countries.

Because the global economy sees most environmental laws as a hindrance to the cheap production and free flow of goods, the land, the forests and other natural resources get sacrificed for production with little accountability for the environment. Creation becomes another input to production, not the common heritage of all.

Also, global production favors mass production. Local clothing, regional crafts and cultural ways of producing goods stand in defiance of the global economy. The same music, the same style shirt and the same hamburger sold the world over lend themselves to mass production where even unskilled workers can learn a few key steps for manufacturing. Style and taste become standardized, because mass production brings massive profits.

The world economy currently possesses an overcapacity for production, and thoughtless consumption stimulated by cheap prices produces throw-aways, garbage and pollution that denigrate the quality of life for everyone. Overcapacity motivated by the need for continual growth makes frivolous items that get discarded after a brief use. This approach demands ever larger landfills.

For people of faith unfettered free trade trips a moral switch. Cheaper goods, profits and abundance sound appealing, but they must weigh themselves against certain moral trade-offs.

Economics justifies the global economy by stressing cheaper prices for consumers. But, the economy must also serve the worker with just wages, and not just the consumer with cheap prices.

Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches, and organizes in Appalachia.

New Century Resolutions

So you thought New Years' resolutions were hard to keep? Let's see what you do with New Century resolutions. Or maybe we'll watch you try on a vow for the new millennium.

Feeling the pressure yet?

Yes, yes, we know that since there was no year "0," the 21st century and the second millennium really don't start until the year 2001. But who really cares? That's a huge calendar change — going from the old familiar "19" that we all know and love to the "2000" that sounds so futuristic, strange and mysterious. So please, just for the moment, you calendar purists keep silent and let the rest of us reflect.

Because we're creatures who live in the midst of time, we respond to changes and transitions marked by time. We may go to sleep depressed and anxious, but a new day brings the peace of being able to start over.

Anniversaries, birthdays and holidays usually give us opportunities to think over the meaning of those events and see how our lives match up to the possibilities we thought they promised. So that's why we make New Year's resolutions.

But as I said, though the whole thing is arbitrary (Why, after all, get all excited about 100-year spans and not 98? Why is 2,000 years or so since Jesus' birth a bigger deal than 1,999?) and not even accurate, the dawn of the new millennium and our church's celebration of the jubilee is making a lot of us think.

Are we living up to the promise and hope of human life on earth? Are you living up the promise of your specific, amazing life on earth?

It's something to think about and to consider in specific ways. As a Christian, you might try this: God created you in his image. What are some ways you can, in the next year, make that image more visible and vivid in the life you've been given?

God gave you the capacity to love, something no other creature but humans can do, since animal affection and loyalty isn't the same as love.

What can you do to be more loving? Can you look at other people through God's eyes, as brothers and sisters? Can you, little by little, build up the habit of thinking of others before yourself?

God also gave you an intelligent, rational mind. Are you using it? Is there any time left in the day for you to develop this mind? With television, computer and video games, are you just too darn busy? What would happen if you resolved to read just one book a week from now on?

Animals make things, but God gave you something greater, something you share with him: Creativity.

What can you do to nurture that gift, even in little ways? Could you put more imagination, rather than mere rote copying, into your schoolwork, tell stories rather than just watch them unfold on television or make music instead of just listening to it?

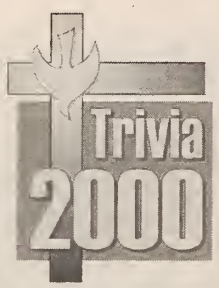
Finally, God gave you something else. It's called free will. Animals don't have that. What would happen if, each day you took two minutes to consider how freely you really acted that day? What would happen to your clothing choices, the language you use and your opinions? Would you still be so slavishly attached to the amorphous cruel dictatorship of "cool" or would something else finally have a chance to take over?

So what do you think about this resolution idea — allowing your own, loving, intelligent, creative and free divinely created self to emerge?

Wouldn't that be something to celebrate!

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist



Hundreds to start millennium with blessing, run

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hundreds of people plan to start the new millennium with a papal blessing and a run.

"The Millennium Marathon," a Jan. 1 event sponsored by the city of Rome and the International Amateur Athletics Federation, will begin at the Vatican and end at the Colosseum.

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to greet participants in the five-kilometer run during his midday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square.

Rumors are that a team of Swiss Guards will participate in the run; 15 members of the corps made their marathon debut in the 21-kilometer "Roma Urbs Mundi" event in October.

Pope to receive interreligious tapestry of crucifixion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will receive an unusual interreligious gift during Holy Year 2000: a 60-square-foot Persian tapestry depicting the crucifixion.

Commissioned by a Jew and woven by a Muslim, the work features the stations of the cross surrounding a central panel of Christ crucified. An Iranian master working in the city of Qum took five years to hand-sew the tapestry, using more than 80,000 yards of silk thread.

The tapestry was described as a unique marriage of Christian themes and Iranian traditional technique. One earlier such work, a rendering of the Last Supper, was stolen from its Iranian studio in 1995.

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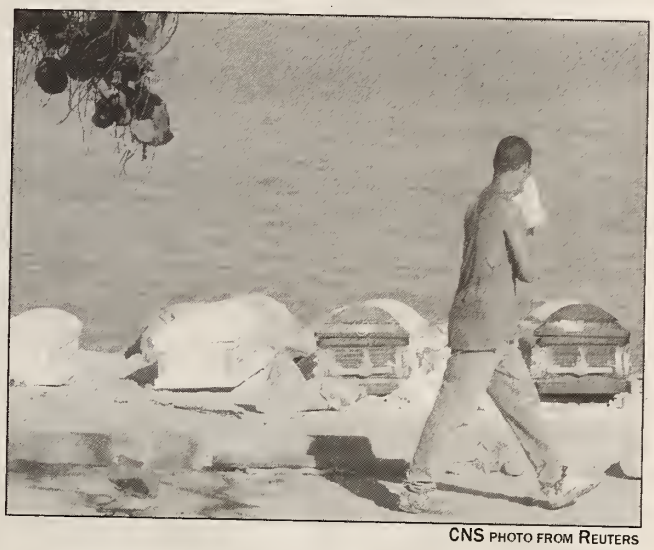
CRS invites assistance for Venezuela flood victims

CHARLOTTE — Venezuela has suffered its worst natural disaster of the century — a disaster striking in the height of the Christmas season. Due to recent flooding, more than 10,000 people are feared dead and 6,000 are reported missing. At least 150,000 people are homeless.

Heavy rains attributed to La Niña soaked the coast of Venezuela for over a week, causing countless avalanches of mud, rocks and boulders. Houses and entire villages have been swept away, and towns once thriving have completely disappeared under the mud and rubble.

Because of the expense of sending donated goods and the logistics of transporting items within the country, CRS says that financial assistance is the highest priority.

If your parish chooses to take up a special offering, please contribute in that way. Alternately, individual donations may be sent by check payable to the "Diocese of Charlotte — Venezuela Relief" and mailed to the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203. All money collected will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services, which is the U.S. Catholic community's official overseas relief effort. ▼



Coffins line a beach in Macuto, Venezuela, Dec. 20 after mudslides and a flood killed at least 10,000 people in coastal communities.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Bishop Begley, from page 7

he continues. "He said to me, 'You don't have to think about it. Just do it. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.' And that's what we did."

After that, Bishop Begley continued as a champion of social justice. He was instrumental in the writing of "This Land is Home to Me," a pastoral letter by 24 Catholic bishops that earned national recognition for its sensitivity and honesty on the needs of Appalachia. He later made headlines by supporting a consumer boycott of J.P. Stevens products, sponsored by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

An enthusiasm for the Cursillo and charismatic movements — which he supported zealously as a bishop — is still a passion of Bishop Begley's, too. "These movements focus people on returning to realize that they are responsible to the Lord, and how this can be attained," the bishop says. "It's beautiful to see the fidelity of the people, believing with faith in God that amazing things can happen."

Above all, Bishop Begley says his main objective has been to be a good pastor. "I think the thing I know best is an attempt to save souls, to bring people to the Lord," he says.

A gentleman of leisure

This particular afternoon, Bishop Begley sits in a sunlit hallway near the chapel at Maryfield, where he has resided since 1997. He warmly reaches out to passers-by on their way to the worship space, telling them to pray and asking how they're feeling. And while he may now be a gentleman of leisure, he still has an eager devotion to the priesthood and to the church he has served for 65 years.

"The Lord has been very good," says Bishop Begley in a thoughtful tone. "I thank Him for all that has happened. We have much to be grateful for here, there's no question."

And what of the new millennium, during which the church in North Carolina is expected to continue in its growth and outreach? "The more the merrier," Bishop Begley says. "I hope we can continue to move along nicely."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Archivist: Archdiocese of Atlanta. Full-time position for individual meeting the following requirements: master's degree in library science; archival management or related ficld; 3 to 5 years' experience in archival work; extensive knowledge of Catholic church; computer literacy (MARC AMC format and programs related to library/archival cataloging); exceptional written and spoken communication skills. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail: zjohnson@archatl.com.

Computer Teacher (K-5): All Saints Catholic School in Charlotte has part-time position with benefits open beginning February 7th. Applicant should be familiar with NC Technology Curriculum and be NC Certifiable in clementary education. Send resume to: Principal, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, hell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship III hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Postion available March 1, 2000.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Music Minister: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia, a growing and diverse community (1,700 families) seeks a full-time Minister of Music. Responsibilities include: planning and preparation for all Sunday and Sacramental Liturgies for the parish and school community and coordination of our parish adult, children, teen, and handbell choirs. The successful candidate will be a highly motivated and organized individual with skill and experience in keyboard, choral, and vocal. Experience in Catholic Liturgy helpful. Computer skills desirable. Salary commensurate with education/experience. Send resume and cover letter to: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Attention:Music Minister Search Committee, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229 or FAX (804)740-2197.

Principal: Sacred Heart School, Danvillc, Virginia. Parish-operated school, 360 students pre-school thru 9th. Position begins July 1, 2000. Qualifications: practicing Catholic; teaching experience required, desired administrative experiences, master's degree, and certifiable in VA. Growing and dynamic school community that rccently completed new gymnasium and middle school wings. Application packet available from. Search Committee, Sacred Heart School, 540 Central Blvd., Danville, VA 24541. Application Deadline: January 28, 2000.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Scarch Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

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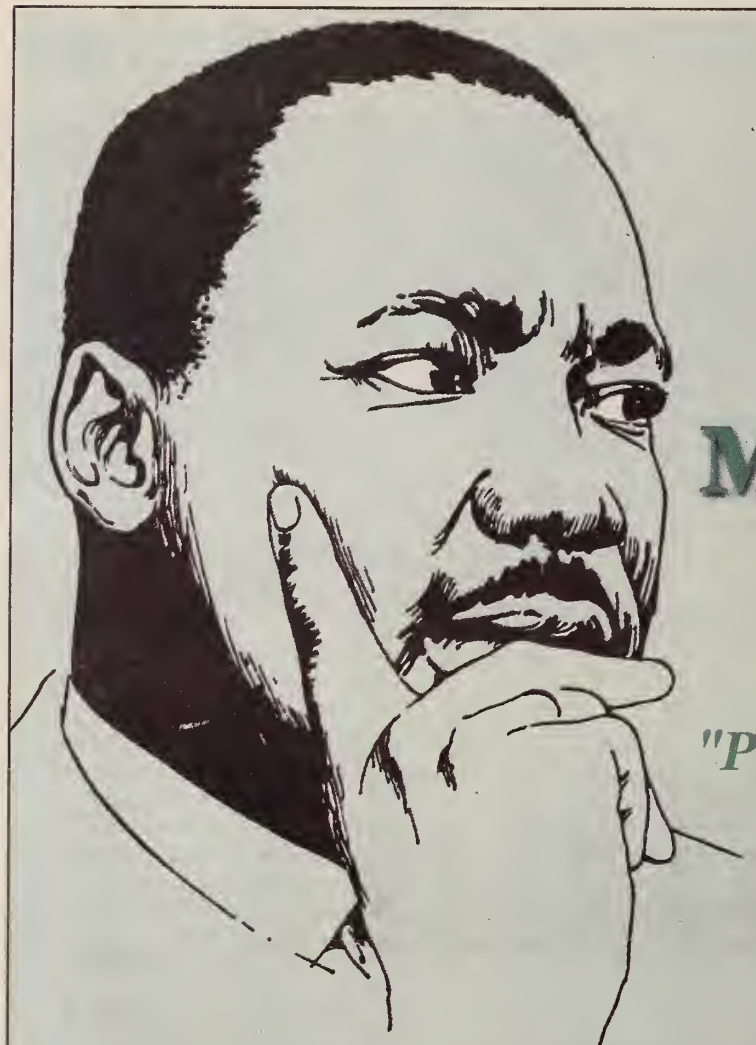

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Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
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Deadline to Pre-register: Friday, Dec. 31

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_____

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City:

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State/zip:

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Phone:

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No. of people attending:

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Amount enclosed:

$ _____

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Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Schedule of Events:

9-10am	Continental Breakfast
10-12pm	Dr. Jeff's address
12-1 pm	Lunch (included)
1-3 pm	Table discussions and Word Events based on Scripture
3:15 pm	Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin, with the OLC Gospel Choir & Kabaka dancers & drummers

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Vocations Awareness

Vocations both a personal and community effort, says bishop

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin still recalls the day he told his mother he wanted to be a priest.

"She just smiled and told me that she'd wondered how long it would take for me to figure that out," he says. "She told me she sensed a long time ago that this was where God was calling me."

That family support is important in promoting vocations, Bishop Curlin says. But, he adds, one's calling begins with a very personal discernment of the gifts he or she can offer.

"The call to priesthood, diaconate or religious life is truly a mystery," the bishop says. "You cannot explain it in human terms because each man and woman, in his and her individual way, experiences some moment when they feel a desire to place their life in service to God and His people. It's a very profound experience of faith."

As the Catholic Church observes Vocations Awareness Week Jan. 9-15, Bishop Curlin emphasizes that prayer is essential in supporting vocations in parishes, families and communities. "Prayer will always be the foundation of vocations," he adds, "because it's through prayer that each of us is able to hear and discern God's will."

Encouragement of vocations can best be conveyed in the zeal of clergy and religious who are joyful in their commitment to the Lord, Bishop Curlin says. He adds, "The best promoter for vocations is a priest or religious or deacon who is happy in their calling, and totally committed to their ministry. They have reached a maturity of faith in their life where you see the love of God shining in them."

Bishop Curlin, currently serving as the director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte and who also held that position in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., says experience has taught him that there is no set timeframe in the journey toward the consecrated life.

"You bring your own experiences, your struggles and, sometimes, your failures with your faith in God," he says. "You bring a willingness to continue your growth so that over the years in formation and training, you're able to gain much knowledge about yourself, the world and your faith."

That journey of formation, Bishop Curlin adds, is perpetual. "It's a growth experience that continues all your life," he says. "Each day in ministry is a new beginning, and there are countless experiences which call for new growth in Christ."

While Vocations Awareness Week is a time set aside to focus on the priesthood, religious life and the diaconate, Bishop Curlin is grateful for the manifest ways all the faithful embrace their vocation here in western North Carolina.

"The good pastor and person truly happy in their vocation encourages our congregations in their various ministries," he says.

The Second Vatican Council, he says, brought great emphasis on active service in ministerial ways, thus allowing people with all vocations to more fully participate in the life of the church.

"While there is the consecrated ministry of the priesthood, religious life and diaconate, our priests, religious and deacons were encouraged to form, educate and challenge God's holy people to bring their gifts of service to the church," he says. "To me, that is one of the greatest effects of the Council."

SEE VOCATIONS, PAGE 4

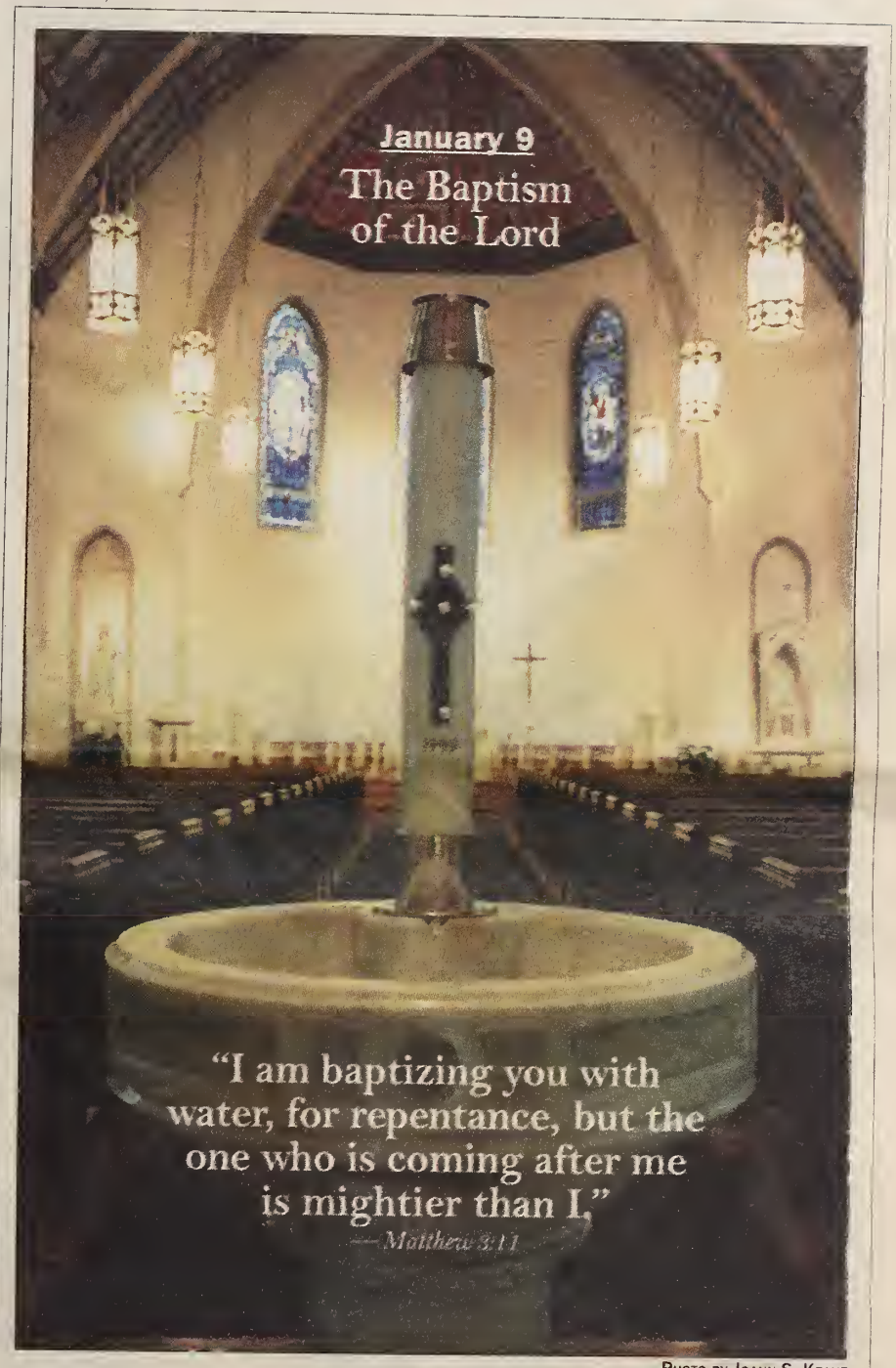

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Vatican asks for overhaul of commission for English translations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has called for a complete overhaul of the commission which translates liturgical texts into English. Questioning the quality of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy's work as well as the way it functions, the Vatican ordered the revision of the commission's statutes. Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said the new statutes must give his office a greater say in the work of the commission, known as ICEL, including Vatican clearance of ICEL personnel. Representatives of the 11 bishops' conferences which sponsor ICEL will meet Jan. 21 in London to discuss Cardinal Medina's letter.

Church in Eastern Europe finds its place in new democracies

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (CNS) — A decade after communist rule collapsed, church leaders in Eastern Europe say they still need time for public attitudes to evolve and for Catholicism to find its natural place in the region's new democracies. "Freedom is a thousand times better than slavery — this has been our most important experience since communism fell," said Cardinal Jan Korec of Nitra, Slovakia. "Yet while we have many reasons for satisfaction, there are disappointments, too. Freedom has opened the way to demoralizing tendencies — in the media, culture, and economic and social life. We weren't prepared for such a flood of bad influences," he said.

Black Catholic university awarded $1.9 million grant

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Xavier University of Louisiana has been awarded a $1.9 million grant to enhance the fund-raising capability of historically black colleges and universities. The grant was awarded jointly to Xavier by the Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., and the Southern Education Foundation of Atlanta. Xavier, the nation's only historically black Catholic college, was one of five black institutions named to receive grants totaling $18 million. Xavier intends to use its $1.9 million to build a more effective major gifts and alumni program as part of a five-year capital campaign to raise $75 million, the university announced.

Pope kneels before Holy Door
A Swiss guard stands near a kneeling Pope John Paul II after the pontiff opened the Holy Door to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome Jan. 1. The pope in his New Year's Day homily appealed to humanity to make the next 1,000 years a time of peace.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

New graduate program integrates Catholicism, psychology

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — A new graduate studies program that seeks to integrate the Catholic faith with psychological sciences has opened its doors in Arlington. Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington blessed the new campus of the Institute for Psychological Studies Dec. 12, urging those involved with the endeavor to "keep the true faith and live up to it in their lives." Housed in what used to be a bank, the institute has classrooms, a library, offices and a chapel, where Mass and confession will be available once a week. Its initial enrollment is 17 students.

Polish church welcomes move to restrict pornography

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Polish church leaders have welcomed a parliamentary vote to restrict the sale of pornographic material in the mainly Catholic country. "Curbing the distribution of pornography is a step toward civilization," said Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw. "Pornography is imagery which humiliates a person, exposing what should be protected through feelings of dignity and self-respect," he said. The cardinal was reacting to the mid-December vote by Poland's lower house of parliament to tighten the criminal code by imposing 10-year jail sentences for the sale of material depicting "sexual organs in contact."

Long lines at Holy Door leave little time for prayer on threshold

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the start of Holy Year 2000, long lines at St. Peter's Basilica's Holy Door left little time for prayer on the threshold. "The queue is too fast," said Carlos Roberto, a 24-year-old Brazilian Catholic on vacation in Rome. At noon Dec. 27, pilgrims passed through the Holy Door at a rate of about 90 per minute, granting them less than a second to pause before being swept in by the crowd. Only a few people managed to kneel in the doorway for a reflective moment amid the midday rush. "You have to come early in the morning if you want to stop," said one security official inside the basilica.

Supporting marriage is no excuse to bash gays, cardinal says

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles urged California Catholics to back an upcoming referendum defining marriage as a contract between a man and a woman, but he said they should oppose anyone who "will use this measure to promote hatred against homosexual persons." In a statement on the issue Dec. 20 the cardinal reaffirmed the archdiocese's "well-established ministerial commitment to homosexual persons and their families." Californians are to vote on Proposition 22, a referendum on the legal definition of marriage, on March 7. The initiative says that only a union between a woman and a man is valid or recognized in California law.

During the Jubilee 2000, The Catholic News & Herald will publish the Jubilee Days as outlined by the Vatican in the first issue of every month.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 10-14
Retreat of Catholic Bishops of Region 4

January 15 — 10:00 am
Celebrant at Blessing of the 8th Abbot of Belmont, Right Rev. Placid Solari at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Belmont, NC

January 19 — 4pm
Dedication of the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development Center, Murphy, NC

January 20 — 7:30 pm
Pro-Life Concelebrated Mass for the Triad Region
Holy Cross, Kernersville

Diocesan planner

January

9 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is holding a charismatic Mass this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for more information.

13 CHARLOTTE — Mary Jo Holtman of the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services is presenting a two-part series on "Making Love Last Forever" for married couples or those planning to get married. The sessions, based on Gary Smalley's book of the same name, are tonight and Jan. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. For advanced copies of the book or reservations, call (704) 535-4197.

15 CHARLOTTE — Join the millennium celebration with Sudden Impact, a Christian rock group, in concert at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. in the parish center. For more information, call Alex Barraza, youth minister, at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 275.

CHARLOTTE — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., is chartering a bus going to Raleigh for the March for Life Rally today. The bus is picking up people from Queen of the Apostles Church this morning at 7:30 a.m., S. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., at 8:30 a.m., and Hickory Grove Baptist Church on Hickory Grove Rd. at 9 a.m.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., is having a Belated New Year's Dance tonight from 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. with music by Scott Adair. For details, call the church office at (336) 294-4696.

WINSTON-SALEM — Faithful Companion of Jesus Sister Joanna

Abbot Walter Coggin, third abbot-ordinary of Belmont Abbey, dies at 83

BELMONT — Right Reverend Walter A. Coggin, OSB, Ph.D., third abbot-ordinary of Belmont Abbey Nullius, died Dec. 28, 1999. He was 83.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in the Belmont Abbey Basilica Dec. 31, 1999. Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte was the principal celebrant. Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey was the homilist.

A memorial Mass will also be celebrated Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. in the Belmont Abbey Basilica. Members of the public, Belmont Abbey College students, alumni, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

According to Abbot Placid, "It was in his role of teacher and mentor that Abbot Walter built his most enduring legacy, touching the lives of generations of Abbey students. Countless students have credited Abbot Walter's classes in philosophy and ethics with giving them the foundations for clear reasoning and proper values which have made them successful in life. Until the end, he remained a gentle and loving man, with a giant heart and a love for life."

Abbot Walter retired from teaching at Belmont Abbey College at the end of fall semester, after 60 years in the classroom. In October, the college's Board of Trustees voted to name the campus Student Commons building for him.

Dr. Robert A. Preston, president of the Benedictine liberal arts college, said Abbot Walter was a special favorite of students, faculty and staff alike. "As a former student of Abbot Walter's myself, I am particularly saddened by his passing," he added. "We enjoyed his presence on campus every single day. Likewise, his teaching skills and affection for his students endeared him to all."

Abbot Walter headed the monastic community from 1956-1970. He was the only abbot-nullius in the United States when the Abbey was a nullius diocese — a diocese unto itself — meaning its church was the only abbey church to hold cathedral status. As such, Abbot Walter possessed the right to attend and vote, like bishops, in the General Ecumenical Council of Vatican II as a Council Father. During this time he oversaw the complete renovation of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians to adapt the church for the celebration of the liturgy in keeping with the reforms of Vatican II.

Abbot Walter also served as the fifth president of Belmont Abbey College, in the mid-'60s. During his tenure, he undertook an unprecedented renovation of campus educational and residential facilities. He resigned his office as abbot in early 1970 and accepted a position as professor of philosophy at the college.

Abbot Walter is held in the highest regard by generations of Belmont Abbey alumni, colleagues and current students, who have enjoyed his enthusiastic and wise explanations of philosophy and ethics.

Abbot Walter was born in Richmond, Va., in 1916, the son of the late Walter A. Coggin and Mary Veronica Moshay. He graduated from Sacred Heart Grammar School in Richmond and attended Benedictine High School there, later graduating from Loyola High School in Los Angeles.

He graduated from Belmont Abbey Junior College in 1936, also entering monastic life that year, making his novitiate at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa. In 1937, he professed his vows as a monk of Belmont Abbey. He completed his undergraduate work at St. Benedict College in Atchinson, Kan., in 1939 and his seminary studies at Belmont in 1943. His master's degree and doctorate in philosophy are from the Catholic University of America. Abbot Walter was ordained a priest in 1943 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond.

He celebrated his golden jubilee of priestly ordination in 1993 and his diamond jubilee of monastic profession in 1997. ▼

Abbot Walter A. Coggin, OSB, Ph.D.

Bishop Untener calls on Catholics to bring divorced home

By DAN DIGMANN
Catholic News Service

SAGINAW, Mich. (CNS) — Bishop Kenneth E. Untener of Saginaw is calling on Catholics in the pews to serve as church ambassadors of reconciliation to divorced and separated Catholics.

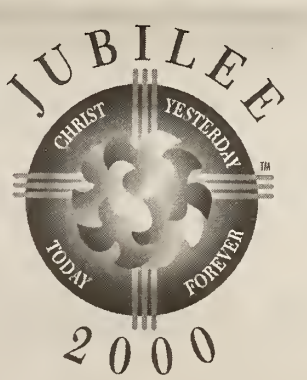
In a taped message that was played at the end of each Mass in all 109 parishes of the diocese during a December weekend, the bishop referred to brochures available in every parish that describe steps the diocese has taken to simplify the painstaking procedure to obtain a decree of nullity and explain how the people can initiate the process.

"I want you to put these in the hands of people who need to hear these words of welcome," Bishop Untener said in the taped message. "This is a golden opportunity to do a world of mercy, and the year 2000 is a fine time to do it."

The church teaches that a valid marriage lasts a lifetime and doesn't recognize the validity of a civil divorce. This can cause confusion for divorced Catholics about where they stand with the church. Are they excluded from the sacraments? Is it even worth going through the long and complicated annulment process to make it right with the church?

When the diocese began planning events for the coming of the jubilee, one of the issues that came to the forefront was reconciliation with divorced Catholics, said Father Richard Filary, judicial vicar of the dioc-

See RECONCILIATION, page 4



January Jubilee Days

January 16
Jubilee of Peace & Justice (USA)

January 18-25
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 24
March for Life, Washington, D.C.

January 31-February 4
Catholic Schools Week (USA)

Walsh from Duke University is hosting a session "Praying with Christian Women Mystics" at Joseph's House, 1903 S. Main St., from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. For registration and other information, call (336) 722-0028. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Newly Married Couples Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a session "How an Interdenominational Married Couple Shares Faith, Love and Children" with the Rev. Mr. Louis and Josie Pais. Bring snacks and beverages to the 7 p.m. session in Room D of the ministry center. Please R.S.V.P. to MaryBeth Conrad at (704) 362-5047, ext. 241.

WINSTON-SALEM — Joseph's House, 1903 S. Main St., is having a men's retreat "Men's Advance - Millennium 2000" from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The host is Dominican Father Michael Burke from Raleigh. Call (336) 722-0028 for more information. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

18 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For more information, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

20 HIGH POINT — There is a healing Mass tonight in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

KERNERSVILLE — For a night of prayer, this year's Respect Life Mass is being celebrated tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. Call the church office at (704) 996-5109.

24 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transitions is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crises. The group meets every other Monday night, including tonight and Feb. 7 and 21 from 7-9 p.m. in the conference room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Included in this ministry are Saturday sessions on "Interview Skills to Get the Job" on Jan. 15 and 22. There are a limited number of openings, so for further information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

27 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to attend a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for details.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is having a "Day of Retreat and Prayer" today, starting with 8 a.m. Mass and ending at 3:30 p.m. The spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montford is being featured in the morning, and the revelations to Sister Faustina of the Divine Mercy are being featured in the afternoon. For reservations, call the church office at (828) 254-6042.

February

4 HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is this weekend at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. This is an enrichment program for married couples to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. For further information or to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

5 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is having an attic sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call the church office at (704) 527-8671 for more details.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

'Good Samaritan' provides theme of 27th March for Life

Students from Charlotte area to lead march; hundreds from N.C. expected to attend

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Each year, the March for Life in the nation's capital draws tens of thousands of people from around the country to protest the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion in the United States. This Jan. 24, students representing Charlotte Catholic High School and Belmont Abbey College will lead the march, whose theme this year is "My neighbor is each human being in existence at fertilization."

"This is a really great honor for the young people of this diocese, who continue to be tremendously devoted to the pro-life cause," said Jack Sweeney, who for several years has coordinated Charlotte-area youth participation in the march. "The number of young people coming to the march from this area has grown dramatically, even in the past few years."

The participation of young Catholics in the Charlotte Diocese is just one element of western North Carolina involvement in the march. Parishioners of all ages from across the diocese will travel by the busloads to Washington later this month to join thousands in their opposition to abortion.

Busses in a number of areas in the diocese have been chartered by parishes and other institutions, and a bus sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life Office has also been scheduled to depart from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center.

Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass for Charlotte Diocese marchers Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. At 8 that evening, he will concelebrate a Mass to open the National Prayer Vigil for Life in the shrine's Great Upper Church. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops' pro-life committee, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

"We're playing off of the Good Samaritan story about 'who is my neighbor,'" said Nellie Gray, march founder and president of the March for Life Fund. She was referring to the well-known parable in the Gospel of Luke as it relates to the theme of this year's march.

This year's March for Life in Washington D.C. will be held on January 24, 2000. For details, call the Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229.

"The importance of this is 'at fertilization,'" she told Catholic News Service by phone. The fact that people can visualize the horror of partial-birth abortion and the abortion of "big babies," she said, "draws attention away from the one-cell baby who is also being killed with drugs and devices and so forth."

The annual march draws people from around the country to protest the Jan. 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court decisions — Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton — that legalized abortion in the United States. The march proceeds from the Ellipse, just south of the White House, east on Constitution Avenue to the Capitol and Supreme Court.

"Any time that the 22nd falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, our policy now is just to bump it to the next Monday," said Gray.

During the prayer vigil in the evening of Jan. 23, there will be a rosary for life and night prayer in the Byzantine tradition in the Crypt Church on the shrine's lower level. Also in the Crypt Church, priests will hear confessions until 1 a.m. and Seminarians for Life International will lead holy hours throughout the night.

The prayer vigil concludes Jan. 24, with morning prayer at 6 a.m. in the Crypt Church, and a Mass at 7:30 a.m. in the Great Upper Church, with Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia as main celebrant.

Shrine spokesman Peter Sonski said the shrine again would host 400 students overnight Jan. 23. The young pilgrims sleep on the floor in the memorial hall and side chapels on the lower level.

Though the shrine has limited facilities, he said, the sleep-over has become a tradition and helps many who are traveling on a shoestring budget. "We're glad to continue the practice," he said.

There also will be a Mass for seminarians — sponsored by the Respect Life Committee of St. Joseph Seminary in New York — at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Church in downtown Washington.

For details on the Diocese of Charlotte's participation in the March for Life, call the Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229. ▼

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.

Vocations, from page 1

In a society that stresses success in the secular world, Bishop Curlin says, the promotion of vocations stresses respect for God's will. "It's a highly materialistic age in which we're living, and yet in this very age, we're finding people crying out with a hunger for God like never before," he says. "There truly is a sincere search for God today."

For men and women whose search leads them to the priesthood, religious life and diaconate, the bishop says, encouragement and prayer from the community can be wonderful gifts — blessings that can help guide them in their decision to serve.

"Vocations should be a primary concern of every Catholic," Bishop Curlin says. "It goes beyond a diocesan office of vocations. This is *everybody's* job and, thanks be to God, there are families and parishes who consider the call to consecrated life a great blessing. All of God's people have to promote vocations through prayer and example. I pray each day that we will seek out and support people who may be discerning that unique call to service in the Lord."

For further information on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, call (704) 370-3353. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Reconciliation efforts, from page 3

esan tribunal.

"One thing with a lot of feedback was reaching out to those separated and divorced Catholics who feel they're no longer part of the church," said Father Filary, who is pastor of St. Hedwig Church in Bay City.

After speaking with pastors at parishes throughout the diocese, Father Filary said the tribunal identified two major stumbling blocks that keep people from seeking an annulment: fees and stacks of paperwork.

Effective last July 1, the tribunal eliminated the $300 requested fee for people seeking to clarify their status in the church. Now, rather than completing a lengthy questionnaire, the diocese has a team of nearly 40 lay people who were recommended by their pastors to personally interview and walk through the process with those seeking a decree of nullity.

Father Filary said it is hoped this will make it easier for people to come home to the church and decrease the time it takes to go through the procedure.

Bishop Untener said in an interview with The Catholic Weekly, Saginaw diocesan newspaper, that in making the process less difficult, the church is looking to help divorced Catholics.

"We're trying to make it more of a healing process," he said. ▼

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Death penalty commutation celebrated by interfaith group

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — About 20 members of the recently formed Western North Carolina chapter of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty gathered with bright candles and singing on the cold, windy evening of Dec. 16 to celebrate death row inmate Wendell Flowers' commutation of sentence by North Carolina Governor James Hunt the day before. This was the first commutation of the death penalty in Hunt's 15 years in office.

"It is cause for great celebration," said Noel Nickle of Asheville, one of the group's planners, at the celebration under the towering Vance Monument in downtown Asheville. "We should flood Gov. Hunt with letters of thanks."

Flowers had originally been sentenced to life in prison for murdering Wilkes County resident Thomas Greer. He was later sentenced to death for the controversial 1989 murder of inmate Rufus Watson.

The decision marked the first time in 13 cases that the governor granted clemency. In a statement, Hunt noted that while it was clear Flowers did not kill Watson alone, "there is no question that Wendell Flowers is a very dangerous criminal" and he "should, and will, spend the rest of his natural life in prison with absolutely no possibility of parole."

In Asheville and at other points in the state, death penalty opponents changed their mid-December plans from prayer vigils to celebrations.

"I feel the death penalty is wrong logically, morally and economically," said Warren Wilson College student Melanie Jordan, a Catholic. "I don't feel I or anyone has a right to take life." This sentiment was repeated by all of those attending who were interviewed.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is a part of the North Carolina Council of Churches, of which the Diocese of Charlotte is a member.

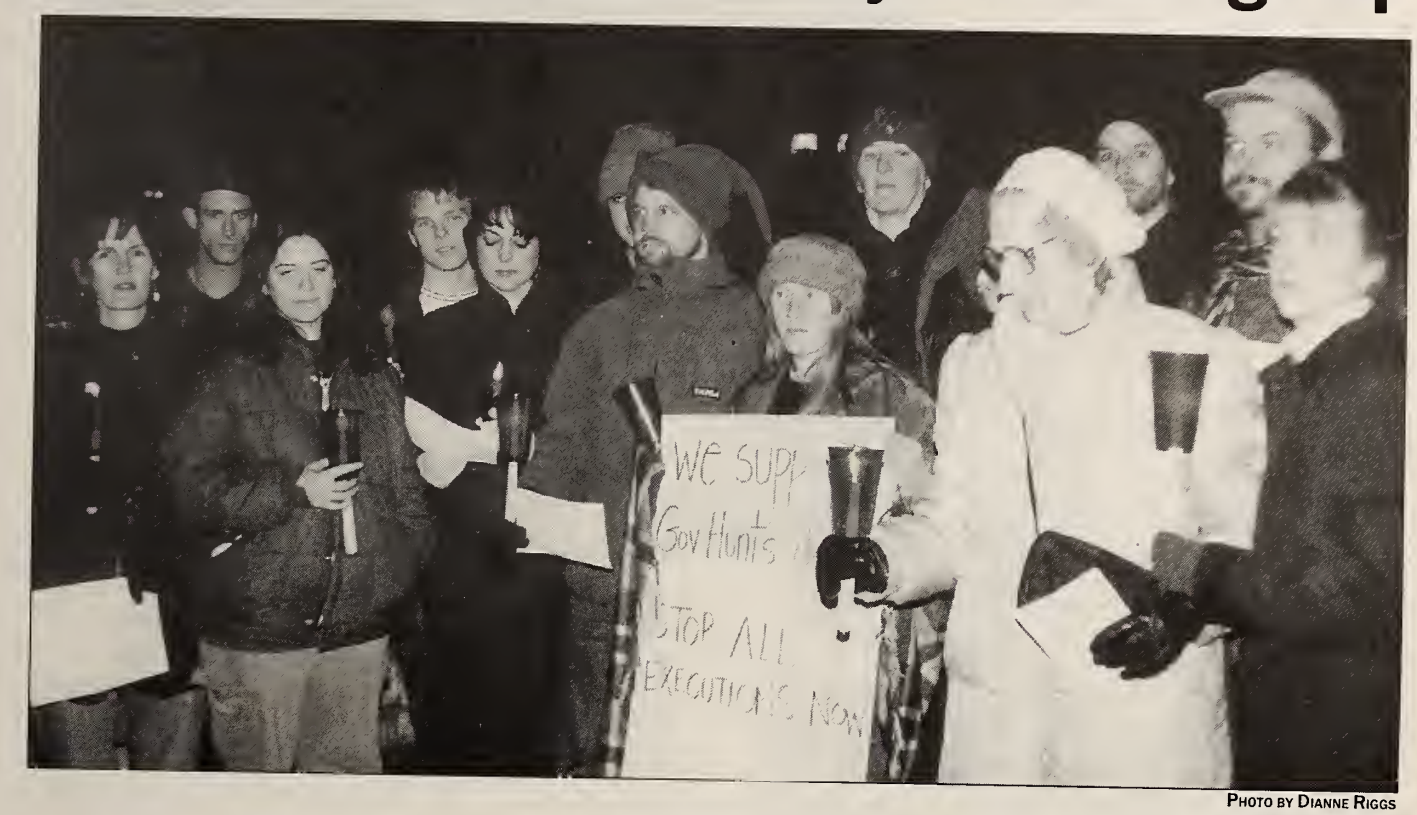


Photo by Dianne Riggs

The WNC chapter of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty gather for a celebration in Asheville.

"I hope Wendell Flowers finds his way to redemption and some people to help him," said Dan Lobdell, a Quaker from Asheville.

The gathering held tones of both celebration and solemnity. While participants excitedly commented on the commutation of sentence, there was also a remembrance of those who had died and those still facing death. Gathered in a circle, holding candles, they sang a monastic chant and prayed for current death row inmates, their victims and the victims' families. Several members recited the names of "the 599 lives who have not been spared" since the death penalty was reinstated in the United States in 1976, and the names of victims.

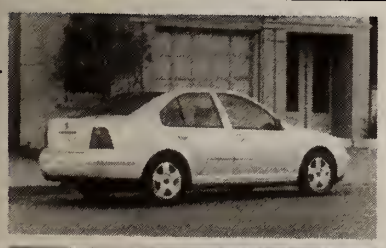
PFADP is a statewide, interfaith membership organization, said a flyer, which was issued to those attending the gathering. The mission of PFADP is to educate and mobilize faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in North Carolina. It is founded on a vision of restorative justice, seeking abolition of the death penalty through support for the needs of victims' survivors, the community and offenders.

Ursula Scott of Asheville said she feels the death penalty is wrong because innocent people are executed and there is great disparity in the levels and quality of defense of the accused. "It is racist," she said. "There are a disproportionate number of people of color (on death row). It is a major disgrace that the U.S.A. is the only industrialized nation with the death penalty." She added that she did not find convincing evidence for the death penalty being a deterrent to crime.

"From the time I became an adult, I have been opposed to capital punishment," said the Rev. Tony Sayer, a United Methodist minister and member of the group. "I am not a pacifist, but we are killing people who are already fully in our control. It is very cold, very heartless and very bureaucratized, and done in my name as a taxpayer. Even if I were in favor of the death penalty in the abstract, I would be opposed to the way we do it."

The WNC chapter of the PFADP is new, although its members were active for over two years, planning for the Nov. 11 and 12 visit of abolitionist activist Sister Helen Prejean, said Stephen Dear, executive director of the NC PFADP in Chapel Hill. "The WNC chapter is composed of veteran organizers and very committed people. There is a real mix in terms of ages and faith traditions," he said. They have a lot of energy and ideas and are a wonderful sign of hope for abolishing the death penalty and a restored justice system, he said. ▼

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.



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Youths can ensure peace in third millennium, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young people, by their faith and example, can ensure that acceptance and peace mark the third millennium, Pope John Paul II said. "Jesus himself asks you to light a fire on earth, the fire of his love," the pope wrote to a youth gathering sponsored by the ecumenical Taize Community. The community's Dec. 28-Jan. 1 pilgrimage meeting was expected to bring some 100,000 young people to Warsaw, Poland, to usher in the new year together. In a letter addressed to Brother Roger, the prior of Taize, the pope said he hoped the gathering would be "a privileged time of mutual acceptance and of brotherhood, prayer and contemplation which will lead to an ever greater openness to God and to others."

Denver couple wins right to home prayer meetings

DENVER (CNS) — The city of Denver has agreed to pay a Denver couple $30,000 for interfering with their right to hold prayer meetings in their home. "We are delighted that the city of Denver has finally recognized the First Amendment rights of our clients," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, which filed a federal lawsuit against Denver on behalf of the couple, who had been ordered by the city to limit the number of prayer meetings they held in their private residence to one per month. In the midst of the lawsuit against the city and county of Denver, the city agreed to pay Diane and David Reiter $30,000, primarily for their legal expenses.

Cardinal OKs initiation of sainthood cause for Archbishop Sheen

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York has given provisional approval to initiate the sainthood cause of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. Archbishop Sheen, who died in 1979, rose to radio and television fame in the 1930s, '40s and '50s and was a popular speaker at retreats and conferences. His famous television series of talks, called "Life Is Worth Living," was broadcast Tuesday evenings in prime time on ABC-TV from 1951 to 1957. Archbishop Sheen was also director of Propagation of the Faith, wrote newspaper columns and conducted a successful convert ministry. His sainthood cause is being promoted by the Archbishop Sheen Foundation, based in the archbishop's home town of El Paso, Ill.

CNS PHOTO BY VALERIE O'SULLIVAN

New Year's Eve in Killarney

Altar servers holding lit candles join a jubilee celebration on New Year's Eve at St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney, Ireland. Behind them, a Tree of Light sparkles with bulbs representing those who died in the Northern Ireland strife over the last 30 years.

New babies will light up Rome's Via della Conciliazione

ROME (CNS) — The lights along the main street leading to St. Peter's Square will shine a little brighter during the Holy Year 2000 — at least sometimes. Whenever a baby is born at Rome's Gemelli Hospital during 2000, new lights on the Via della Conciliazione will burn brighter for 20 seconds before returning to their normal intensity. The Rome city office for the jubilee, Rome's Gemelli Hospital and ACEA, an Italian electric company, presented their joint project at a Dec. 23 press conference. The presentation was followed by a trial run of the lighting, described as a gift of art to Pope John Paul II for Christmas.

Vatican agency says 31 missionaries killed in 1999

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thirty-one church workers were killed in mission territories in 1999, Vatican missionary news service Fides said. Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, counted 15 martyrs in Africa, 10 in Asia and six in South or Central America. Rather than being a cause for mourning, Fides director Father Bernardo Cervellera said, martyrdom belongs to the joy of Holy Year 2000. "The jubilee year is a year of grace, conversion, (and) pilgrimage," Father Cervellera said in a Dec. 28 editorial preceding Fides' annual list of martyrs.

Congressman calls for disclosure on House chaplain selection

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., ranking Democrat on the House Commerce Committee, called for a full release of all records, transcripts and other materials relating to the selection of the new House chaplain. In a Dec. 20 letter to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Dingell noted that "questions have been raised both publicly and privately" about the decision by House leaders not to nominate a Catholic priest to the chaplaincy position despite the high recommendation the priest received from the bipartisan search committee. Dingell, who is Catholic, proposed that before House members vote on the new chaplain Jan. 27, they be presented with all committee records, transcripts, staff memorandums, correspondence and other materials relating to the chaplain search.

Czech bishop says fellow ex-dissidents must not seek rewards

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (CNS) — A Czech bishop who as a priest helped lead communism's overthrow in Czechoslovakia's 1989 "Velvet Revolution" urged fellow ex-dissidents to stop "expecting rewards" for their activities. "We undertook our struggle because of our consciences, not to gain admiration and respect. However disappointing the present may be, we can't keep living in the past," said Prague Auxiliary Bishop Vaclav Maly. "Society wasn't, isn't and never will be thankful — one can't expect this," said the 49-year-old bishop. He added that the Catholic Church should accept "minority status" while working patiently to "rebuild its position" in the Czech Republic.

Father Finn named new editor of St. Louis Review

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis has named Father Robert Finn editor of the St. Louis Review, replacing Msgr. Dennis Delaney, who has been appointed president of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. Father Finn, 46, said it was "a great honor" to be asked to direct St. Louis' archdiocesan newspaper, calling it a tool for instruction in the faith and life of the church and also a means for evangelization.

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Round-the-world bike trip to raise funds for scholarships

By TERRY MCGUIRE
Catholic News Service

SEATTLE (CNS) — After finishing a bike trip from Seattle to Atlantic City, N.J., in 1987 for the American Lung Association, some riders wanted nothing more to do with bicycles — and one cyclist even burned his tent.

But Len Beil was still reveling in the cross-country experience. "I thought, 'You know, I could just keep going.' I really loved it."

A dozen years and several fund-raising rides later, Beil is embarking on another major bike trip as he and 249 fellow cyclists pedal around 45 countries for a year. His enthusiasm for bicycling hasn't waned.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the wonderful parts of the world that I've not seen," he says, "and revisiting those that I have."

Beil, executive assistant to the president of Seattle University, is part of Odyssey 2000, an around-the-world bicycle trek sponsored by Tim Kneeland and Associates Inc., a Seattle-based, special events management company that focuses on bicycle tours.

The riders left Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day, departing amid fanfare as the lead unit of the Tournament of Roses Parade. When they return on Dec. 31, 2000, they'll again be in the parade the next day, having ridden 20,000 miles over six continents.

In addition to the adventure, Beil is personally riding to raise funds to establish scholarships for minority students and single parents attending Seattle University.

At the Jesuit-run university, and in his previous work as an affirmative action and equal employment opportunity director for USWest, Beil has seen the need to improve access to education.

"There are a number of people who don't have the advantages of education," he says, "and it's important for them to have that foundation to get ahead in life. So I thought I would do what I could, in some small way."

So far, he has raised $131,000 in pledges for the scholarship endowment, a figure well on the way to his short-term goal of $150,000. The first scholarships will be awarded for the 2001-2002 school year.

"I plan to be making donations yearly myself and to provide the opportunity for other people to do so as well," Beil says. "My long-term goal — and that's by the time I die — is to get (to) $1 million."

In making the trip, Beil, a member of St. Cecilia Parish on Bainbridge Island, will quit his job at Seattle University, where he has worked for eight years. He notes that the global ride will afford him plenty of time to "think, pray and evaluate" his future. When he returns, he'll decide, with the help of his wife, Stella Ley, what he wants to do next.

A year away from his wife and family — including his 15-year-old stepson, Kris, and his adult children, daughter, Cindy, and stepson, Nick — will be the most difficult part of the trip.

But Ley, who spent her honeymoon bicycling with Beil through New Zealand, will join him at some of the stops in Greece, Italy and France. Meanwhile, family and friends will be able to follow his ride on the Internet at www.lenbiel.com.

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE PENNEY, CATHOLIC NORTHWEST PROGRESS

Len Beil (left) and fellow cyclist Joe Reichlin pose for a picture prior to the start of their round- the-world bicycle tour. Beil is using the tour, which costs each participant $36,000, to raise funds for scholarships at the Jesuit-run Seattle University.

Followed by a full support staff, the riders will average 77 miles per day and have two days off per week. An estimated 18 plane trips, 11 boat rides and one train transport are scheduled to get them across oceans and countries.

Kneeland and Associates says the 20,000-mile trip is designed to hit the highlights while avoiding the uninteresting landscapes and the difficult terrain.

Followed by a full support staff, the riders will average 77 miles per day and have two days off per week. An estimated 18 plane trips, 11 boat rides and one train transport are scheduled to get them across oceans and countries. The cyclists will camp about 60 percent of the time.

The riders, whose average age is 49, range in age from 17 to 81. Beil will be rolling into the South African country of Swaziland on his 55th birthday next Feb. 22.

From Pasadena, the group rolls south into Mexico and Central and South America before crossing the Atlantic to South Africa. After flying to Greece, they'll pedal through parts of Europe, arriving in Vatican City on April 3.

After returning to the United States and Canada, they'll head back to Europe before flying on to Australia and then Asia next fall.

Beil will be packing a tent, bedding, rain gear, casual clothing, three sets of riding gear, a camera, and friendship pins, which he'll distribute along the way.

"I'm taking a book of Jesuit prayers with me," he adds. "I plan to visit as many chapels and churches and sights, if I can, along the way and make this a prayerful, spiritual journey." ▼

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Jubilee Days:
The Many Faces of Holiness

By H. RICHARD MCCORD JR.
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Scientists, health care workers, senior citizens, children, agricultural workers, teachers, artists, single people and families have two things in common this jubilee year:

— First, for each of these groups — and many others besides — there is a special "jubilee day" on the church's calendar.

— Second, all in these groups are called to grow in holiness, especially during this "year of favor from the Lord" (Lk 4:19).

Civic life honors mothers, fathers and grandparents with their own "day" every year. However, in designating jubilee days, the church wants to do more than honor people and thank them for their service — important as that is! The jubilee year is a time to strengthen faith and open the door to holiness.

If the jubilee year is not focused ultimately on our growth in holiness as individuals and communities, then — to paraphrase T.S. Eliot — we will have had the experience but missed the meaning.

We attain holiness not by removing ourselves from the world and its responsibilities, but by finding God in the depths of ordinary life. Twenty years ago the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote:

"It is characteristic that lay men and women hear the call to holiness in the very web of their existence, in and through the events of the world, the pluralism of modern living, the complex decisions and conflicting values they must struggle with, the richness and fragility of sexual relationships, the delicate balance between activity and stillness, presence and privacy, love and loss" ("Called and Gifted: The American Catholic Laity").

Each jubilee day takes this teaching about holiness and anchors it in the lives of a particular group of people. By singling out just a few of the many possible groups, the church is teaching a broad and basic truth:

Every person is called to holiness in the concrete circumstances of work and relationships.

Each jubilee day anchors the theme of holiness "in the lives of a particular group of people. By singling out just a few of the many possible groups, the church is teaching ... [that] every person is called to holiness in the concrete circumstances of work and relationships," writes H. Richard McCord Jr.

What all the jubilee days have in common is the opportunity they provide for every person:

—To make a connection between faith and daily life.

—To discover the sacred embedded in the ordinary.

—To be the light, the salt and the leaven in the world that Jesus asks of his followers.

For Catholics in all periods of history, the saints make holiness real. We venerate them for showing us what it means to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:14).

During the jubilee year, numerous women and men will be canonized as saints. Everyone knows, though, that the Christian community is blessed with more saints than those on the official roster.

This, it seems to me, is where the value of the jubilee days lies. On these days we can be reminded that sainthood is a possibility even for us and that, among those celebrated on a given jubilee day, there are many unknown saints whose lives inspire the rest of us.

The jubilee days will be a way to pause to give thanks for the holiness we see in others' lives and to reflect on the holiness we might achieve in our own life, particularly in our work and our relationships.

I don't know yet what jubilee days my parish will observe. There are more than 30 such days, and no parish could handle such a schedule!

With or without a public celebration, however, on the Jubilee Day of the Sick and Health Care Workers (Feb. 11) I will focus on one nurse I've come to know through a parish faith-sharing group. She shows me what it means to be striving for holiness in a particular calling. To her work she brings generosity, compassion and an ability to see Christ in those she cares for.

I know there are countless others like her, but she will help to focus my gratitude for saintly people and my reflection on becoming holy. She will serve to remind me of the many gifts present in a community and how much we need one another.

Recently I walked across the street from my office in Washington, D.C., and visited the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A few weeks earlier a special sculpture had been installed and dedicated in this beautiful church. The sculpture covers an entire wall and is titled "The Universal Call to Holiness."

This marble carving depicts many people being drawn by the Holy Spirit toward a central point — people of all ages, races, walks of life. The artwork's most interesting feature is that no one is alone. People are walking together, supporting each other, even leaning on one another. Mary stands at the sculpture's center, beckoning the group onward.

God's call to holiness, though it comes to us individually, never is meant to be a solitary experience. We need each other on the journey or we'll never make it home!

I hope the jubilee days serve as a practical reminder that the many paths we walk in life are indeed part of the one Christian journey.

On the jubilee days we will pause to celebrate these distinct paths and to marvel at the fact that holiness has so many faces. ▼

McCord is director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.

In a Nutshell

One commentator said there is a jubilee day this year for almost all Catholics — those in consecrated life (Feb. 2), mothers (May 14), fathers (June 18), bishops (Oct. 8), clergy (May 18), senior citizens (Sept. 24).

Here are just a few others: women, March 25; single people, April 27; scientists, May 25; the military, May 29; teachers, Sept. 10; agricultural workers, Nov. 12; police, Nov. 19; people with disabilities, Dec. 3; entertainers, Dec. 17.

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks:
Tell of a prayer you rely upon — and why.

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

CNS photos clockwise from top by: Elizabeth DeBeliso, Les Fetchko, Margaret Nelson, Karen Callaway, Lisa Kessler, and Cleo Photography.

Jubilee Days, Parish Style

By JOHN B. REYNOLDS
Catholic News Service

Parishes nationwide are gearing up for their own jubilee day celebrations. While enthusiasm is high, some aren't so sure which way to go.

Paul Henderson, director of the U.S. bishops' Office for the Jubilee Year, isn't surprised. "Several parishes are just now beginning to put their jubilee day plans together," he said, stressing that plans need not be elaborate or expensive to be in keeping with the program's twofold purpose:

— Raise up and honor the people in a particular profession or state of life.

— Challenge those individuals to ask, "How do I take my faith and weave it into the marketplace?"

Henderson's office has some ideas to help parishes launch their activities. A basic suggestion — especially when the jubilee day falls on a Sunday — is to recognize the individual group (or groups) of people at Sunday Mass, possibly with a social gathering afterward.

Evenings of reflection and discussion might be appropriate, as well as special prayer services. Some parish priests may want to honor their jubilee day individuals with a blessing, perhaps something from "The Book of Blessings" or a similar source.

For parishes considering giving a gift to jubilee day honorees, Henderson suggests a copy of the pope's prayer for the Jubilee Year, a certificate or a pin. He also encourages parishes to pursue their own creative ideas, which may have more significance in their parish community.

For example, St. Peter's Catholic Community in Fallbrook, Calif., just north of San Diego, placed a small ad in a national art magazine in 1998 to invite artists to take part in a Christian art show. St. Peter's is a member of the local Fallbrook Ministerial Association which sponsored the event. It was so successful that the parish made plans to begin its year-2000 jubilee celebrations Jan. 7 with a second Christian art show.

This year, after reviewing about 300 slides submitted by artists, coordinators planned to exhibit more than 80 pieces of work from artists around the United States. St. Peter's likewise had plans for a much smaller parish art show to celebrate the Jubilee Day for Artists in mid-February. Terry Hawthorne, the parish's Jubilee Year 2000 coordinator, said the "smaller show will celebrate the work of the people right here in our own community."

The U.S. bishops' Office for the Jubilee Year has resources for parishes still formulating jubilee-year plans. Henderson encourages people to log onto his office's Web site at www.nccbuscc.org/jubilee for the information.

The national jubilee day schedule is listed there, along with a list of resource publications and a further explanation of the jubilee days themselves. The site also offers news and updates, a national activities calendar, and eight ways to celebrate the jubilee year.

In addition, people can mail their requests to: Jubilee Office; NCCB/USCC; 3211 Fourth St. NE; Washington, D.C. 20017, or fax them to 202/541-3242. Send e-mail requests to JUBILEE@nccbuscc.org.

Schedules of the jubilee days themselves, their Scripture readings and referenced blessing options are also available for a nominal fee.

Henderson thinks that these efforts aren't just some pie-in-the-sky ideas from the hierarchy that have nothing to do with the people in the pew. "It has everything to do with them," he said. "Rarely do we affirm people in their marketplace work. Jubilee days are a way for the church to recognize that part of being a Christian — regardless of profession or occupation — is to bring one's faith to one's work." ▼

Reynolds is a free-lance writer in Chicago, Ill., and compiles the marketplace responses for Faith Alive!

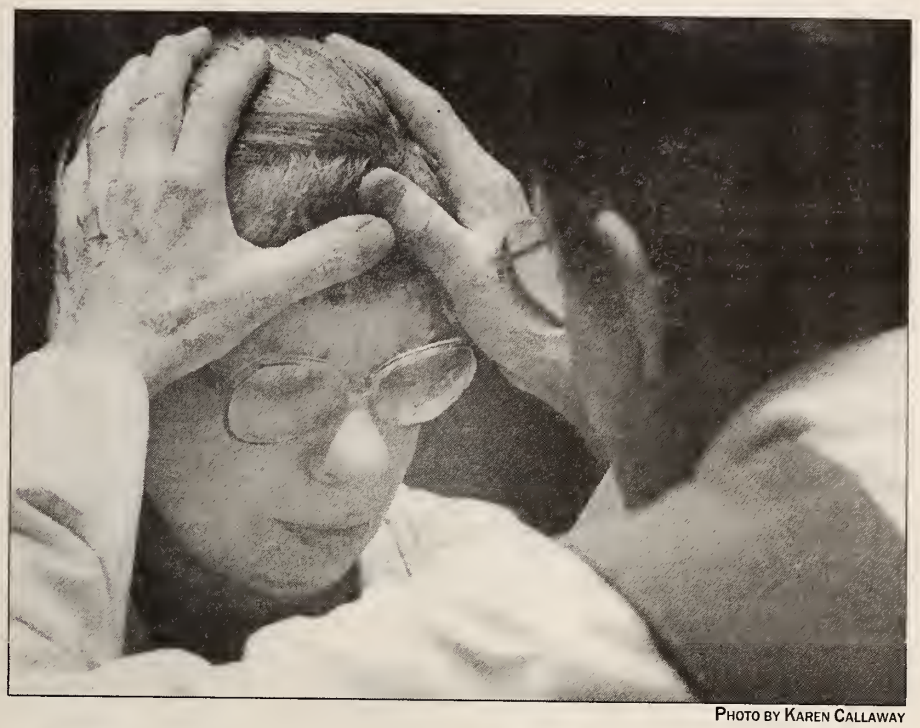

Photo by Karen Callaway

What a blessing really is

By FATHER LAWRENCE E. MICK
Catholic News Service

"A Parish Guide to the Jubilee Year" says that the purpose of the special jubilee days is twofold: — "To honor and to remember a particular group of people for what they have contributed to the life of the church and to society, and

—"To offer deeper reflection on the challenges to be faced in living the Gospel in society."

The guide suggests that those who are the focus of a Jubilee Day might participate in the Offertory procession, be included in the general intercessions and be given a special blessing at Mass.

Many Catholics will find such practices familiar. If a parish composes its own intercessions rather than reading from a published source, parishioners are accustomed to praying for particular groups of people — people in special need and others present as a group at the liturgy.

Many parishes also are accustomed to people bringing up the gifts on occasions that are special to them. This happens with a family bringing their child to be baptized at Mass, with Boy Scouts on Boy Scout Sunday, with a couple celebrating a 25th or 50th wedding anniversary, and with a family gathered to bury a loved one.

What may be less familiar to many Catholics, however, is the use of special blessings at Mass. The official "Book of Blessings" contains blessing rituals for a great variety of occasions and groups.

The year 2000, with its jubilee days, may prove a good opportunity to make more regular use of the "Book of Blessings." Most of its blessings are a combination of petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful and a special blessing prayer for the occasion. This is a reminder that a blessing is not a magical formula spoken in haste but a form of common prayer invoking God's help and protection.

Thus, the pattern suggested for the jubilee days is a pattern parishes often use periodically in any year. Expectant mothers might be invited to share in a blessing before childbirth. The parish might celebrate a blessing for the sick or for all suffering from addictions. Some parishes make regular use of the blessings for welcoming new parishioners and saying farewell to departing parishioners.

Blessings have been a strong part of the Catholic tradition in the past. They serve the same purposes as the jubilee days: to thank and praise God for the gift that various groups represent and for their contributions to the church, and to ask God's continued help in carrying out the ministry we share.

We bless one another and ask God to bless us so that we can go forth as blessings for the world in which we live. ▼

Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a free-lance writer.

Blessings "serve the same purposes as the jubilee days: to thank and praise God for the gift that various groups represent and for their contributions to the church, and to ask God's continued help in carrying out the ministry we share," says Father Lawrence Mick.

Food for Thought

On the jubilee day in prisons July 9, the pope is expected to visit a prison. He already has asked the rest of the world's bishops to do the same.

"Prisoners cannot come out for the jubilee, so we must go in," said Msgr. Giorgio Caniato, chief of chaplains in the Italian justice ministry's department of corrections. Interviewed in April, Msgr. Caniato, the Vatican-appointed coordinator of this unique jubilee day, said its purpose won't be solely to convince prisoners to take responsibility for their actions and change their lives.

More is envisioned. Msgr. Caniato said that judges are called on the jubilee day in prisons to promote justice; prison guards are called to respect prisoners' dignity; chaplains are called to bring comfort and healing; and all Catholic citizens are called to examine their conscience regarding their attitudes toward prisoners and imprisonment, and their role in creating societies that spawn crime.

Msgr. Caniato said he hopes Catholic lay people will join their bishops in visiting prisons on this jubilee day as a sign "that we recognize Christian prisoners are Christians, they are part of the church."

David Gibson
Editor
Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

Book Review

Source book answers questions about Catholicism clearly, easily

REVIEWED BY ANNE LEVEQUE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Catholic Source Book" could be subtitled, "Everything you always wanted to know about Catholicism, but had no idea where to look."

As a non-Catholic working for a Catholic organization, I occasionally have those "what are they talking about?" moments. I have studied church history and Catholic theology, but no amount of academic learning can replace exposure to Catholic culture and practice.

"The Catholic Source Book"
By Father Peter Klein
Brown-ROA (Orlando, Fla., 2000).
540 pp., $18.95.

This book has everything — everything about Catholic practice, that is. There are sections on prayers, tradition, Scripture, church history, liturgy, devotion to and veneration of saints, symbols and word origins. "The Catholic Source Book" is cross-referenced with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It also has biblical references.

There are great lists of things, with definitions and illustrations. It is well-indexed for quick access to information. The explanations and definitions are clear and easily understandable.

Interspersed with the arrangement of facts and lists are many anecdotes taken from the lives of the saints or the history of the church. These sidebars help make this an enjoyable read.

The illustrations are clear and precise. You can look up the various forms of the cross or see illustrations of different periods of church architecture. There is a brief section on patron saints. The scope of information presented is incredibly comprehensive.

It is an amazing collection of information, and that is its main weakness as well — it is a bit short on depth. Another problem is that aside from the references to the catechism and the Bible, we are not told where the information comes from. A bibliography would have been helpful, or at least a list of suggested resources for further study.

For scholarly depth and erudition, stick with the Catholic Encyclopedia, but for quick answers turn to "The Catholic Source Book." ▼

LeVeque is information services manager for Catholic News Service.

Catholic Bestsellers

Here is the Catholic Bestsellers List for January 2000, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. "She Said Yes." Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
2. "Recovering Life." Darryl & Charisse Strawberry. (Plough Publishing)
3. "Witness to Hope." George Weigel (HarperCollins)
4. "Lamb's Supper." Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
5. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
6. "Here and Now." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
7. "Eyes of the Heart." Frederick Buechner (HarperCollins)
8. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
9. "Imitation of Christ." Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. "Spiritual Manifestos." Niles Goldstein (Slights Paths Publishing)

Word to Life

January 9, The Baptism of the Lord, Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10
2) Acts 10:34-38
3) Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I hear the verse from Isaiah describing the Suffering Servant — the Messiah — as "not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, a smoldering wick he shall not quench," I always think of a particular priest friend of mine.

I find him a near-perfect embodiment of these qualities. His parish, like many in our diocese, is very diverse, with noticeable contingents from many different countries and continents. Incomes range from the very rich to the poor. Education ranges are similarly broad.

When I attend Mass in his parish, I frequently observe him spending time with an individual or family who appear to have an urgent need to unburden themselves to him. His look at these times is consistently compassionate, his whole attention given over to listening and responding to the need before him.

I can also visualize this priest responding like Peter in today's reading from Acts to the news that God has opened up his covenantal relationship of love to all people, not just the Jews.

As I read it — with Peter's vision of the cloth coming down from heaven three times, and God instructing Peter to take and eat, and Peter refusing, saying these are unclean animals, then finally accepting the message of the vision — I can then see this priest responding in the manner we see Peter responding to all of this.

As Peter says, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality. Rather, the man of any nation who fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." I can see this priest, as though he were Peter, sort of shrug his shoulders, acknowledging that God is God and can extend himself to whomever he chooses, and then, still in the role of Peter, launching into the further proclamation of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

Then when the Holy Spirit descends on the household of the righteous gentile Cornelius, it would all surprise him, but that same "docile before the Lord and before the inherent dignity of his fellow human beings" quality mentioned in the Isaiah Scripture would carry him through in obedient, if perhaps bemused, joy to do the will of the Lord.

Would that we might all have more of those same qualities evident in our lives. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 9 - 15, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Mark 1:7-11; **Monday**, 1 Samuel 1:1-8, Mark 1:14-20; **Tuesday**, 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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Movie Review

Disney's "Fantasia 2000" on IMAX is visual, aural treat

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Disney's animated 1940 concert film, "Fantasia," has spawned a sequel of nearly all-new compositions set to colorful images playing on the huge IMAX screens in "Fantasia 2000."

Retaining only the segment starring Mickey Mouse in the title role of Leopold Stokowski's "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," the big-screen format plays host to seven new classic compositions which are set to animation as James Levine conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Such state-of-the-art sound and imagery can be a little overwhelming on super-size IMAX screens. It's a lot to take in but it's a lot of fun too and it should hold the attention of all but the smallest children, not to mention their parents.

This follow-up film has a less formal feel with several former stand-up comedians, such as Steve Martin and Bette Midler, serving as upbeat hosts for individual segments.

The Disney animators were apparently given free rein in dreaming up images for the compositions being played.

First on tap are beguiling images of an underwater — and airborne — herd of whales, set to Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome," which makes for an auspicious, dreamy start.

Possibly the best of the lot is George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," amusingly played out to Al Hirshfeld-inspired caricatures of working and wealthy New Yorkers during the course of a 1930's day turned into evening. It's a real valentine to a cosmopolitan city with the music capturing its unique sophistication.

Donald and Daisy Duck get into the act in a sweetly comical segment leading animal duos onto Noah's Ark to the marching melodies of Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance."

Most dramatic is Igor Stravinsky's 1919 version of "Firebird" suite, with sumptuous imagery depicting a forest's life, death and renewal overseen by a beauteous magical spirit.

Other selections are less successful with the images looking contrived to fit the accompanying music or segments that are too brief to be especially memorable.

Purists may not be endeared by hearing only truncated versions of compositions, but as a means of introducing classical music to a wider audience the movie has merit. It is also a visual and aural treat magnified by a screen that is seven stories high. The quality of the animation is also quite high, often attaining a three-dimensional quality, although this is not an IMAX 3-D presentation.

All in all, this is a welcome sequel, a most impressive wedding of glorious notes to elegant animation for a movie that stands apart from today's typical film fare.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL

"The Hurricane"

Denzel Washington stars as wrongly accused boxer Rubin Carter in the film "The Hurricane." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

TV programs of note — week of Jan. 9

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Jan. 9:

Sunday, Jan. 9, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) "The 26th Annual People's Choice Awards." Yearly celebrity-studded program honoring movie, music and TV performers chosen by ordinary viewers.

Sunday, Jan. 9, 9-11 p.m. EST (NBC) "The David Cassidy Story." Dramatization of the childhood and teen idol days of pop and TV star Cassidy (Andrew Kavovit) with Malcolm McDowell as his troubled father, Jack Cassidy, and Dey Young as his "Partridge Family" TV mom, Shirley Jones.

Monday, Jan. 10, 4-4:30 p.m. EST (HBO) "The Animated Odyssey." Debut of a four-part retelling of Homer's epic poem geared to young viewers. First week's episode, "The Trojan Horse," deals with how the Greeks defeat Troy, are driven off course by the angry sea god Poseidon and continue home to Ithaca after escaping the intoxicating Island of the Lotus Eaters.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 8-9 p.m. EST (PBS) "Inside the Animal Mind." A "Nature" miniseries exploring animal intelligence; this episode questions whether animals have emotions in the same way that humans do.

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 8:05-9:05 p.m. EST (TBS) "Ripley's Believe It or Not." Premiere of the weekly reality-based series featuring unusual people and their strange claims to fame.

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 9-11 p.m. EST (CBS) "A Father's Choice." Fact-based drama about a rodeo cowboy (Peter Strauss) who is forced to be a full-time dad when his ex-wife is murdered and his two daughters come to live with him.

Thursday, Jan. 13, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "Restoring Alaska: Ten Years in the Wake of Exxon Valdez." Special follows Alaska's recovery from the worst oil spill in history and efforts to ensure this kind of disaster is not repeated. ▼

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Israel says pope to celebrate Mass with youths in Holy Land

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Some 45,000 young people will accompany Pope John Paul II at a Mass on the Mount of Beatitudes during his March pilgrimage to the Holy Land, said an Israeli Ministry of Tourism official.

Though dates and times have been more or less set for the pope's visit, they cannot be released due to security considerations, Zvi Liran, director of the special segments marketing division of the Ministry of Tourism, said Dec. 29.

The Vatican has not confirmed dates for the pope's pilgrimage, but church sources said Pope John Paul plans an overnight March 20-21 visit to Jordan as the first leg of a trip that would also take him to Jerusalem and holy places in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

During the pope's stay in Israel he will overnight in Jerusalem and will fly to and from Nazareth and the Galilee, said Liran.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak will most likely meet with the pope at the Mount of Beatitudes. In addition to Barak, the only other Israeli officials the pontiff was scheduled to meet were Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Chief Rabbi Meir Lau.

In Bethlehem, Mayor Hana Nasser, who is a member of the Palestinian committee organizing the pope's visit to the city, said the pope will be visiting one of the three refugee camps surrounding the city. He added that Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat would attend an open-air Mass the pope will celebrate in Manger Square.

Logistics of the visit were already being worked out, Nasser said, downplaying the threats against the pope issued recently by Muslim extremists in Nazareth.

"I think the Holy See has been one of the rare leaders in the world which has showed real feeling for Palestinians and especially the problems of the refugees and their right to self-determination," said Nasser, who called the pope "a freedom fighter."

"I don't think there is any room for any individual, whether they be Muslim or Christian extremists, to do something. But of course we will always be on the alert and take all precautions to keep the visit of the pope running smoothly," he said.

Some 700 buses will be used to transport the pilgrims. Officials said coordination is still needed for the arrangement of entry permits for pilgrims from countries who do not have diplomatic relations with Israel and for the landing of large numbers of chartered airplane flights.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Prayer resolve

Perhaps you made New Year's resolutions. Perhaps you've already broken them.

There are a lot of resolutions worth making. Why? Because none of us, no matter how old, is perfect, and we all have room to grow and change. At the heart of all resolutions is a single concern: to be a better person. Right?

Recently I wrote about what that means for believers. We want to mold ourselves more closely into God's image. So if you've decided to take on the challenge and to focus on becoming more authentically free, loving, intelligent and creative (for those are the main ways in which we're like God), what do you do? What's at the root of it? Try prayer.

I know you're busy. You get up early in the morning and barely have time to shove a piece of toast in your mouth. School is a nightmare: bunches of different classes, a hundred different soap operas going on among your friends, not to speak of tests, quizzes, reading assignments, papers, essays and math problems to keep track of.

After school you're off to athletic practice, or drama rehearsal, or music lessons, or work. After that you have to deal with all this homework your teachers have so thoughtfully piled on you. And did we mention the list of chores your mom tacked onto the refrigerator? Seriously, now, who has time to pray in the middle of all that? How about this:

With so many pressures and questions bombarding you every minute of your day, who can afford not to pray "in the middle of all that"? How can you get through any of it and, even harder, make sense of it without taking time — some time, somehow — to sit silently and lay it all out before the one who's in charge anyway?

When I talk about prayer here, I'm not talking about a whispered "Please help me" right before a test. There's nothing wrong with that. You're acknowledging God, you're admitting that you need the help only he can give.

That kind of prayer can open the way to something deeper. It's like the time you asked someone for help on a geometry proof, and the two of you ended up having a great conversation about other things as well. Your asking for help was an opening.

Asking God for help in little and big things can be that kind of opening as well — an opening that just might lead to praise as well as petitions.

But how about resolving this year to find other ways to start conversations with God?

— Like watching 20 minutes less television or spending 20 minutes less time on the Internet every other night, and spending that time reading a little bit of the Bible and letting God speak to you through that Word.

— Or maybe, once a week, taking half an hour to pray the rosary.

— Or (here's an amazing thought) going to Mass and actually praying there.

— Or setting aside your criticisms of how everyone looks or your thoughts of what you've got to do later and just praying.

You might find that if you put that first, every other good thing you want for yourself — and even some surprising things you never expected — will fall exactly, precisely, into place in the brand new, promise-filled year that has just begun.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
CNS Columnist

Become an ambassador to marriage

We begin our marriage retreats and PreCana programs by asking the couples to introduce their partners and tell one endearing quality he or she possesses. A great icebreaker, it also sets the tone for the program. Without exception, it is always very powerful. Everyone present feels a more supportive atmosphere. Because by proclaiming their love (even only one quality), they have created a climate that suggests that what they attempt to do as married persons is doable.

We encourage the couples to make such outward displays of love a regular part of their relationship. Married couples need to frequently proclaim their love. It feeds their relationship but also serves the community.

It is good practice to compliment one another. It shows appreciation for the other and wards off tendencies to take one another for granted.

However, even when some compliments seem trite, saying them before others adds a new dimension. A wife may know that her husband appreciates the unselfish care she gives to others; he's told her that many times. However, saying it before others bears witness to their love, and serves the community by making evident even one small aspect of their marital love.

What couples do when they publicly witness their love is contribute, in small but significant ways, to a culture that supports committed love between spouses. In fact, given the today's hostile environment for marriages, this is counter-cultural.

Here is an example of our societal low expectations of marriage. Entertainer Cher, speaking about her personal struggle to accept her daughter's homosexuality, said, "I had dreams that she would someday fall in love with a wonderful man, get married, have children, divorce and live happily ever after."

Of course Cher was going for a laugh. However, in a cynical way, her statement reflects our society's disbelief in the ideals of Christian marriage.

Married persons, by virtue of the sacramentality of their marriages, are spokespersons for marriage. What we say and do reflect not just our marriage, but the institution of marriage.

Our confidence in marriage is helped by what we know and experience. However, it's not always a bed of roses. We also must rely on faith, acting on the unknown, persevering through the unforeseen. Our membership in the "People of God" is part of that faith experience. As married persons we give and receive the gift of witnessed marital love within the faith community.

May we suggest that during the Jubilee Year 2000 married couples be ever conscious of their public role as ambassadors to marriage. Proclaim the good news of Christ that is in your marriage. Shout from the mountaintop the love you share. As we enter a new era of Christianity, let us show our love to others. Let us change our cynical culture of divorce into a supportive belief system that says Christian marriage is realistic and very doable.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministy for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Having the time of your life

You are probably already aware of the terrific work of the Make-A-Wish Foundation: well-known celebrities and sports personalities are among the volunteers who make sure incurably ill children get to realize at least one of their dreams. Most often this takes the form of a travel excursion or the chance to meet someone they look up to.

What you may not know is that contact with these kids and their families not only continues well after their wish is fulfilled, but invariably the kids themselves touch the "wish-givers" in unexpected ways.

Marty Lyons and Ken Schroy, former football greats with the New York Jets, recently told me about their own experiences with the Wish kids since becoming involved with the foundation back in 1983. "In each case," Marty confessed, "the children inspired us by rising above their individual suffering and teaching us what it really means to be an authentic hero."

One such hero was Seth Zimolzak, a 17-year-old cancer patient. A promising golfer who spotted his opponents a whopping four-handicap, Seth got his wish: a meeting with pro golfer Greg Norman and a round with baseball Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt. Shortly afterward, Seth began to speak candidly to individuals and groups about what he had learned from his then three-year struggle with cancer.

He would start by asking a question: "What you would do if you went to a bank where $86,400 had been credited to you each day, but would not carry over any balance at day's end? Whatever was left in the account would be gone; and the next day another $86,400 would be available for use."

"Each of us has such a bank," he proclaimed. "Its name is time. Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow.

"You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get the utmost health, happiness and success. The clock is running. Make the most of today."

Seth added, "To realize the value of one year, ask a student who failed a grade. To realize the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby. To realize the value of one week, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper. To realize the value of one minute, ask a person who missed a plane. To realize the value of one second, ask a person who just avoided an accident. To realize the value of one millisecond, ask the person who won a silver medal at the Olympics."

Eloquence from a boy who relished every moment he had. Seth died Sept. 6 last year.

Regret for time wasted can be a power for good only if it motivates us to stop regretting and start doing the things that matter. Most of us have unfulfilled wishes, which we also regret. It seems to me that if we use our time well, we greatly increase our chances of making our dreams come true. Next time you wish for something, try asking yourself what you can do today to make it a reality.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

In-vitro fertilization

Q. Some months ago you discussed the moral problems concerning IVF (in-vitro fertilization), where a sperm and ovum are joined in a laboratory and then inserted into a woman's uterus.

I feel I have something to say about the subject. First of all, the procedure does not "wrongly place new human beings in high risk of death." It is a long shot for some women just desperate for children.

When I was 24 I was diagnosed with an incurable disorder that left me childless and sterile, wondering where would my children come from. Plain dumb luck and IVF made me a believer.

There are four main problems with IVF. It usually doesn't work, is extremely expensive, has some risk for ovarian cancer because of the powerful drugs necessary, and there are incidents of multiple pregnancies.

Yet for some women it's the only chance you have to get your desperately wanted baby, and it's the only alternative. I respect the Catholic Church's opinion, but seeing is believing. Enclosed is a picture of my two children.

A. Thank you for your moving letter. I know you are proud of your children, and I am happy things worked out well for you.

A number of things might be said in response, but a couple of considerations are particularly worth thinking about.

First, such activities actually do put new human beings wrongfully at risk. If fertilized ova are truly incipient human life, deliberately exposing them to destruction, which easily happens when several or many zygotes result from IVF procedures, is clearly wrong.

Further, the fact that something "works out" in certain circumstances does not necessarily make it morally right or good for the human race. If you follow what is happening on this subject, you must be aware of the increasing confusion in relationships (What does "parenthood" mean? Who is the father? Mother? and so on) and other chaotic factors that are multiplying as these reproductive technologies become more common.

Doesn't that tell us something about where our values and concerns should focus in this matter?

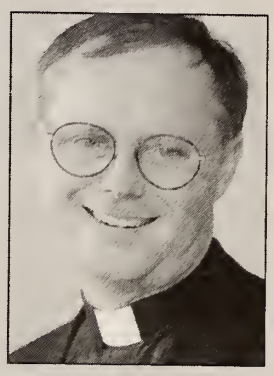
Does anyone, married or not, have an unquestionable "right" to have children? Life is a gift from God, pure and simple. We all know how precarious and contingent every life is — whether it will come into being in the first place and whether it will continue on its course once begun, through the various stages of growth and development to old age.

Even when we have a "right" to something, does it justify any means to achieve it, regardless of the implications for oneself and others? Unless we see ourselves as isolated individuals in the midst of the human race, with no accountability to others present and future, concerns about the consequences of our actions are urgent before we act.

The care for and nurturing of life, spiritual, physical, emotional and social, is perhaps the most serious responsibility laid on the human family by our Creator. The church's teachings concerning the use of these technologies attempts to respect that responsibility.

As I said, I'm happy for you. But if we take seriously our obligations to God, these questions should give us pause. They deserve some humble and honest attention, don't you think, when we're trying to discern what is right and wrong?

Parish Diary



FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Praying in Stereo

When Seinfeld was on the air, the comedy writers coined the term "close-talkers" to describe the way some people invade your personal space when they have a conversation with you. You know the types. They grab your arm and move in, putting their nose right up against yours.

Whew! After a little while they have you backed into a corner praying for a "Tic Tac."

In parish life we come in contact with a fair number of close-talkers. Our maintenance man, Charlie, says he knows how to cure close-talkers. When they start moving in on you, don't move away, get closer. Then they back off.

But another variety of talkers is more noticeable in parish life than close-talkers. I call them "late-talkers" or "repeat-talkers."

Don't get me wrong. I don't mind. These little quirks are what make parish life interesting. Like being part of a large family. As Seinfeld would have said, "Not that there is anything wrong with late-talkers."

Nearly every parish has one. You know what I mean. You've heard them out there. They are always a beat behind. In the communal prayers, like the Creed or the Gloria, they always lag a word or two. When the whole congregation says "Amen," you can count on an echo "Amen" a second later.

It makes the Creed go something like this.

"I believe in God." "God."

"The Father almighty." "Almighty."

"Creator of heaven and earth." "Earth."

Maybe late-talkers are just being polite. (After you.... No, after you.) Or maybe they are just a little bit unsure of themselves, so they let everybody else go first just to be sure they are saying the right thing. Then they chime right in a beat late when they are sure.

One thing is sure. They like to be last.

This is generally not a problem unless there are two late-talkers in the same congregation. Then you have dueling late-talkers. They fight for the privilege of being last. ("After you." "No, after you." "No, after you!")

This actually can be entertaining. Once in our parish we had two expert late-talkers at the same Mass. It made all the prayers go in waltz time, 1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3. Every phrase had three endings.

The creed was something like this.

All: "I believe in God." Pause.

Late-talker No. 1: "God." Pause.

Late-talker No. 2: "God."

After a while you could see smiles breaking out in the congregation. The pauses got longer and quieter. People looked around just to see who would be last. It was hard to keep your mind on the mysteries of our faith. I found myself counting the beats. Cheering for one, then the other.

Trappist Father Thomas Merton used to report that often he found himself paying more attention to how his brother monks were praying the office than what was being prayed. Every now and then he wanted to leap across the choir and strangle the monk who never seemed to be on the right page. But he learned to smile.

Actually, ya gotta laugh. Besides, God probably likes it. That's why he made late-talkers. Then he gets to hear our prayers in stereo.

Poll finds many Americans spiritual but not religious

PRINCETON, N.J. (CNS) — Most Americans think of themselves as religious, but in a recent Gallup Poll 30 percent called themselves "spiritual but not religious."

The survey, conducted in early December and released Dec. 24, found that Catholics were more likely than Protestants to describe themselves as religious.

But it also found that Catholics were more freethinking than Protestants about following religious teachings in their own lives and about the validity of other religions as true paths to God.

The Gallup Poll, conducted for USA Today and CNN, was described as possibly the first to ask whether Americans think of themselves as spiritual but not religious. Generally surveys have asked about religious attitudes without making a distinction between religion and spirituality.

Poll-takers asked the question, "Which of the following statements comes closest to describing your beliefs: you are religious, you are spiritual but not religious, or you are neither?"

Fifty-four percent of the respondents said they were religious, 30 percent spiritual, and 9 percent neither. Six percent volunteered that they were both religious and spiritual, and 1 percent had no answer.

Among the respondents, 54 percent said they were Protestant, 27 percent Catholic and 2 percent Jewish. Eight percent gave other religious preferences and 9 percent said they had none.

Only one-third of the Protestants said they rely on their own views and the views of others, more than on God and religious teachings, when they decide how to conduct their lives. Among Catholics, 55 percent said they rely more on their own views or the views of others.

Catholics were also more likely than Protestants to say other religions besides their own offered a true path to God. Eighty percent of Catholics and 74 percent of Protestants held that view.

Only 42 percent of the Protestants surveyed said non-Christian religions can offer a true path to God, but 61 percent of Catholics held that view.

The survey found that four-fifths of Americans believe that one day God will judge them and send them to heaven or hell. But 44 percent said good people can go to heaven even if they don't believe in God.

It found that 86 percent of Americans believe in God and an additional 8 percent believe in some other kind of "universal spirit or higher power."

For the survey, 1,037 adults were interviewed by telephone Dec. 9-12. The standard margin of sampling error for the results of such a poll is plus or minus 3 percentage points. ▼

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NFL quarterback donates money to group aiding teens

TEMPE, Ariz. (CNS) — The Arizona Cardinals and the football team's quarterback, Jake Plummer, announced they will donate a total of $500,000 to aid in the construction of a camp for disadvantaged youth.

The camp will be operated by Life Teen, a group that offers teen-agers friendship and guidance "in an environment where they feel loved and accepted," according to a statement released by the Cardinals.

Plummer's $250,000 and the Cardinals' matching donation will help Life Teen construct a state-of-the-art youth camp on 160 acres in Yarnell, Ariz.

Life Teen describes its mission as providing teens the opportunity to gain new experiences through physical and spiritual challenges.

The Arizona camp will offer a variety of sports and outdoor adventure activities. ▼

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Rome's tourists crowd souvenir shops for jubilee year mementos

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the start of the jubilee year, the ring of cash registers at souvenir shops threatened to drown out the sound of church bells.

Holy Year guidebooks and histories, ceramic ashtrays depicting a youthful Pope John Paul II, official jubilee 2000 perfume bottles and velveteen wall hangings of Rome's four major basilicas were just some of the wares tempting shoppers.

"We're packed from morning till night," Massimiliano Conforto, manager of the Galleria Savelli souvenir store near St. Peter's Basilica, said Jan. 4.

The crowds in Rome over the Christmas-New Year's period translated into a 30 percent increase in business for Galleria Savelli compared to the same period in 1998. Other stores in the area reported similar jumps in sales because of pilgrims on the hunt for Holy Year mementos.

Trinkets with the official jubilee 2000 logo, like candles, plates, liqueur glasses and T-shirts, were the store's best-sellers, Conforto said.

Galleria Savelli also designed a jubilee logo of its own, applying it to, among other things, golf balls.

Trinkets with the official jubilee 2000 logo, like candles, plates, liqueur glasses and T-shirts, were the store's best-sellers.

Not all pilgrims were buying, however. While Italians filled souvenir shops, those from other countries, and English-speakers in particular, seemed to have little time for shopping.

"I'm not planning to spend anything (on souvenirs)," said Copenhagen native Eeskil Thylstrup. "I don't like any of them."

Crowded stores and overwhelming arrays of knickknacks were enough to frustrate even the savviest shopper.

"We walked straight past the shops," said David Watkins of Sydney, Australia, whose only purchase was a calendar from the Vatican Museums depicting frescoes from the Sistine Chapel.

"The stores are pretty tacky," he said.

One Canadian tourist also used the word "tacky" to describe the myriad religious souvenirs for sale. "But then you understand the history behind the objects, so you know what it really means, and you accept them for what they are," she said.

The more than a dozen stores around St. Peter's caused some to reflect on whether the jubilee had become too commercialized.

Despite being pleased over Galleria Savelli's increased intake, Conforto emphasized the need for perspective.

"It is too commercial. You risk forgetting the religious aspect" of the jubilee, he said.

"There's plenty to choose from, but it's a little excessive," said Tab Manning, a U.S. Catholic from Houston. "They're making a lot of money off the church."

His mother, Lucia, spent $2,500 on jubilee bells, medallions, plates, coins and rosaries.

Michael and Catherine Kelly of Adelaide, Australia, ignored the stores and street vendors altogether, focusing instead on taking photos.

"We'd much rather spend money on something worthwhile than on something to stick on the shelf. Our camera makes the memories," he said.

"And our travel journal," said his wife. ▼

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Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship III hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available March 1, 2000.

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Pope blesses world, expresses wish for 'year rich in peace'

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With fireworks exploding overhead and champagne corks popping below him, Pope John Paul II blessed the world in the first seconds of 2000.

The pope led the Catholic Church into the new millennium, as he believed he was destined to do, with a glance at the past and prayers for peace in the future.

"I wish you a year rich in peace," he told an estimated 100,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for a New Year's Eve concert and his midnight blessing.

"I wish you a year of serenity and happiness," he said in a message broadcast live by an international group of television networks that had set up stages in the square.

The pope prayed that Christ would bless the first moments of 2000, "so that it may be the promising beginning of a new millennium rich in joy and peace."

While the concert was planned by the youth office of the Italian bishops' conference, the crowd that jammed the square to usher in the New Year with Pope John Paul included people of every age from all over the world.

A group of students from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minn., studying in Rome came for the same reason most people did: "It's the chance of a lifetime," said Brad Kluesner.

"Of all the places in the world to celebrate the millennium, this is the holiest," said his friend, Theresa Slattery.

While the night included prayer, the mood in St. Peter's Square was that of a party. Italian pop star Claudio Baglioni and the Harlem Gospel Singers entertained the crowd; people brought their own sparklers and bottles of spumante or champagne.

The mood was more solemn earlier in the evening as Pope John Paul presided over vespers and a thanksgiving service in St. Peter's Basilica.

"While we raise our thanks to God, we feel the need at the same time to ask his mercy for the millennium that is ending," he said in his homily.

CNS PHOTO FROM VATICAN

Pope John Paul II stands at the window of his balcony as fireworks explode in Rome at the start of the third millennium Jan. 1. The pontiff welcomed the new year with a wish that 2000 be filled with joy and peace.

"We ask forgiveness because, unfortunately, sometimes the conquests of technology and science, so important for authentic human progress, have been used against man," the pope said.

With just a few hours left in 1999, Pope John Paul said it was natural to look back at the most important events of 1999, of the 20th century and of the second millennium.

The one event the pope chose to highlight in his review of the millennium was Europeans' discovery of America which, he said, "marked the beginning of a new era in the history of humanity."

In reviewing the 20th century, he said the most defining element was the rise and fall of "two oppressive ideologies" — communism and Nazism — which left in their wake millions of victims.

"What suffering, what drama" the 20th century brought, he said, "but also how many exulting conquests."

Pope John Paul said the greatest risk that humanity carries with it into the new millennium is that fewer and fewer people know how to bring moral and ethical values to bear on scientific and technological advances.

As he opened the Holy Door Jan. 1 at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major and celebrated the World Day of Peace, the pope again prayed, "May the year that is beginning be the dawn of a millennium of peace.

"May the Lord give you peace! This is the church's wish for all humanity on the first day of the new year," the pope said in his homily.

The 20th century, he said, was full of events that prove how fragile peace can be and how essential it is for people to commit themselves to dialogue and solidarity.

It was only 14 years ago, he said, that leaders of dozens of religions gathered in Assisi, Italy, at the pope's invitation to pray for peace.

"We were still in the period of the so-called Cold War," the pope said, and "the serious threat of a conflict seemed to hang over humanity."

God heard the prayers of his children, the pope said.

"While we have seen the explosion of dangerous local and regional conflicts, nevertheless we have been saved from the global conflict which seemed to be on the horizon," he said.

Returning to the Vatican Jan. 1 for his midday Angelus address and to bless participants in the Rome Millennium Marathon — which started from St. Peter's Square — the pope said everyone must be a peacemaker.

Pope John Paul offered special prayers for people living in countries marked by violence and war. According to a report cited by Vatican Radio, 65 countries — a third of the nations in the world — were at war or struggling with violent internal conflicts as the year ended.

"From every part of the globe there rises a heartfelt plea for peace," the pope said. "We pray that this plea is heard." ▼

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Sri Lankan bishops denounce bombing, increased violence

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Sri Lanka's bishops expressed shock and sadness at continued violence, including a suspected Tamil militant's suicide bombing that left 13 people dead. "Once again blood has been shed and lives lost in the unending spiral of violent attacks on political leaders, security officers on duty, and civilians. We note with sadness the intensification of such attacks in the past few weeks," the bishops said in a statement Jan. 5, the day of the killings. Their remarks were reported by UCA News, and Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Bronx parish exchanges millennial greetings with Rome, Havana

NEW YORK (CNS) — The hopes and prayers of the people of St. Brendan's parish in the Bronx were heard in churches in Rome and Havana in a New Year's Eve telephone hookup and satellite broadcast over Vatican Radio. St. Brendan's was the only site in the United States chosen for the exchange of greetings, which was heard around the world. The conference call was part of a project called "24 Hours Waiting for the Year 2000 With the Holy Father." Organized by the bishops' conference of Italy, the Diocese of Rome and a Vatican jubilee office, it included the exchange of greetings between Rome and 26 countries.

Dallas Diocese adopts stricter guidelines on Medjugorje events

DALLAS (CNS) — The Diocese of Dallas has adopted guidelines on Medjugorje-related activities that clearly define as "private" any devotion to the reported Marian apparitions in the former Yugoslavian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bishop Charles V. Grahmann issued the guidelines Dec. 22 for pastors "to clarify the situation on the church's position." The guidelines were drawn up following efforts to organize a large gathering for Medjugorje visionary Ivan Dragicevic, who lives in the United States. He frequently tours U.S. cities and claims to have Marian visions wherever he is.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Jordan River location opened to public

Thousands of Christians process to a site near the Jordan River marking the opening of the location to tourists. The area had to be cleared of land mines before it could be opened to the public for the jubilee year. Christ is believed to have been baptized by John in the Jordan River.

On Epiphany, pope ordains 12 bishops from seven countries

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II ordained 12 bishops from seven different countries — including the United States — and said their diversity reinforced the universality of the church. "You come from different nations and represent the universality of the church that adores the Word made flesh for our salvation," the pope told them during a Jan. 6 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. "Around you are gathered the faithful from various parts of the world, to whom you are sent as successors of the apostles," he said.

Philippine priest-turned-rebel killed by brother's faction

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A priest who became a rebel during the rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos was killed in his family home by communist guerrillas led by his younger brother. Police reports said Conrado Balweg, a former Divine Word priest, was having coffee in Malibcong, 170 miles north of Manila, when he was shot at 4 a.m. Dec. 31. UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported the town is in Abra, one of the five provinces in the mountainous and predominantly tribal Cordillera region in northern Luzon. Balweg's brother, Juvencio, told a Jan. 3 press conference near Abra that the communist New People's Army command he leads was behind the execution, but he denied firing the bullets, which hit Balweg's right arm and jaw.

Ecumenical opportunities arise in rural climate, professor says

DES MOINES, Iowa (CNS) — Ecumenical opportunities abound in rural America as church and human resources grow more strained there, according to professor Gary Burkart of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan. "Cooperation would appear to be the better path to survival, development and relevancy," Burkart said in an article in Catholic Rural Life magazine, published in Des Moines. Because of "continuing decline" in traditionally rural areas coupled with "mushrooming growth" from creeping suburbanization, joint ministries are just one of the ecumenical opportunities to be had, Burkart said.

Up to 20 more U.S. bishops could retire this year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even after two retirements Jan. 4, as many as 20 more U.S. bishops — including three cardinals — could also retire in 2000 because they are at or beyond the retirement age of 75. Six currently active bishops are celebrating their 75th birthdays this year. And sixteen active bishops were already 75 when the new year started. With the two Jan. 4 retirements, 14 are still active. Church law says at age 75 a bishop "is requested to present his resignation" to the pope.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 19 — 4pm
Dedication of the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development Center, Murphy, NC

January 20 — 7:30 pm
Pro-Life Concelebrated Mass for the Triad Region
Holy Cross, Kernersville, NC

January 22 — 2 pm
Mass and Installation of Lector for the candidates for Permanent Diaconate
St. Aloysius, Hickory, NC

January 23-24
The National Right to Life March, Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

January

16 CHARLOTTE — The Annual Mass for the Unborn is being celebrated today at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Cris Seidel at (704) 752-0936.

18 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For more information, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

20 HIGH POINT — There is a healing Mass tonight in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., at 7:30 p.m. For details, call the Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

KERNERSVILLE — For a night of prayer, this year's Respect Life Mass is being celebrated tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St. Call the church office at (704) 996-5109 for more information.

21 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E.), Western North Carolina's Homeschool Support Group, is having a talent show potluck tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. For more information, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is having their "Oldies' Nite" at the Greensboro Ballroom. For directions, admission and other information, call Marilyn Schmidt at (336) 379-7300.

24 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transitions is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crises. The group meets every other Monday night, including tonight and Feb. 7 and 21 from 7-9 p.m. in the

Participants focus on Dr. King's goal of racial harmony

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — January fifteenth, a day associated with positive change, historical firsts and tragedy, is the birth date of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a proponent of nonviolent protest, whose life ironically ended by assassination in 1968.

People reflected on the teachings and traditions of Dr. King and how they are and are not being applied in today's society at the Fifteenth Annual Diocesan Memorial Celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 8.

Our Lady of Consolation Church was the site for the gathering, which attracted over 80 attendants from all areas of the diocese. This event, sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry, was held a week earlier than the national holiday celebrated this year on Jan. 17 because of the schedule of the keynote speaker, Dr. Morris F.X. Jeff Jr.

Also, parishioners from the Asheville area have stated that there have been conflicts with their own weekend observance of the holiday when the diocesan celebration has been previously held on the Saturday preceeding Dr. King's birthday, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the diocese and the vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry.

Dr. Jeff, a New Orleans, La., native, has been the director of the City of New Orleans Department of Human Services since 1974. He is the coowner of the Counseling and Diagnostic Family Institute of New Orleans, a black family service agency, and the founder of the Milne Boys' Home and Manhood Development Program, a long-term rite of passage for urban males. He has appeared on several television news programs and talk shows.

"The message of Dr. King is virtually unknown among young people and ignored or forgotten by those who lived during that time," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "We wanted Dr. Jeff to speak at the celebration because he is an expert in the works, talks and goals of Dr. King and in African-American history and has a solid recommendation for the future."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the diocese and vicar of the African American Affairs Ministry, and Fred Dewalt from the African American Affairs Ministry Board of Directors present the 2000 Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award to James Bingley from St. James Church in Concord. His daughters and great-granddaughter accepted the award on Bingley's behalf because of his illness.

Dr. Jeff's address concerned Dr. King's fusion of religion and politics and the struggle between social norms and radical change during the time of the volatile civil rights movement in America. He opened with a series of quotes from poems and writings from Dr. King and various other African-American authors.

Dressed in Afro-centric garments and speaking in a resonant voice, Dr. Jeff commented about Dr. King's statement, "nonviolence is power": "Dr. King had a strategy for his dream and a methodology for his strategy; he came ready for action — nonviolent action."

He gave statistical information about the socio-economic, medical, and political gap between the races that Dr. King fought to close during his time. He made reference to the links among medical statistics about infant mortality, living conditions and financial struggles for African-Americans.

"As we assess where we are 135 years after the signing and passing of the thirteenth amendment and 31 years after the passing of Martin Luther King Jr., we still see the residue of slavery and apartheid in America," said Dr. Jeff.

He made reference to the "new church — black," one that encompasses all people and is rooted in spirituality and love of neighbor and God.

"The black church is one that is truly in the spirit of what blackness represents, defining more than just color," explained Dr. Jeff. "It is a healing circle, one that transforms and transcends the evils of life. Blackness is the essence of every living thing, and we must live in that essence and go beyond the simplicity of black and white."

"Dr. Jeff speaks not from a denominational religious perspective, but the basis is spiritual in nature," commented Rev. Mr. Todd. "He talks about the horizontal relationship with Jesus and God and the vertical relationship among brothers and sisters. His message is in the context of blackness, not as a color, but the universality of blackness."

Larry Kirwan from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro said, "we need to form a universal church and accept each other as one community. We have to be available for one another and give of ourselves to those who have less."

After the first question and answer session, the audience, who had been actively participating, decided that they wanted to engage in further discussion with the speaker instead of the scheduled word events.

During both question and answer sessions, the plight of today's youth and how older people could help to guide them in the right direction was repeatedly mentioned.

"We must use our own past experiences and tell children about them. We need to get back to the practice of sitting in a circle and telling stories to the kids. We can use our life histories as a frame of reference to encourage our children to have the courage to face the future," said Joann Munden, a parishioner from St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem.

Dr. Jeff talked about the importance of teaching children not only the history of Dr. King but also other aspects of African-American history. Every year, he takes a group of junior and senior high school students on

See KING CELEBRATION, page 14

conference room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Included in this ministry are Saturday sessions on "Interview Skills to Get the Job" on Jan. 15 and 22. There are a limited number of openings, so for further information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

27 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to attend a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for details.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is having a "Day of Retreat and Prayer" today, starting with 8 a.m. Mass and ending at 3:30 p.m. The spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montford is being featured in the morning, and the revelations to Sister Faustina of the Divine Mercy are being featured in the afternoon. For reservations, call the church office at (828) 254-6042.

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., is celebrating the Feast of St. Francis de Sales this afternoon at the 5 p.m. Mass with a covered dish supper to follow in the parish center. The Salesian Award, given to a parishioner who best exemplifies the virtues of St. Francis de Sales, is being presented at Mass. For more information, call the church office at (336) 248-2463.

30 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E.), Western North Carolina's homeschool support group, is hosting a "Moms' Evening Out" tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

February

4 HICKORY — The next Marriage Encounter is this weekend at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. This is an enrichment program for married couples to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. For further information or to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

5 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is having an attic sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call the church office at (704) 527-8671 for more details.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Placement Test is administered each year to all eighth graders who wish to apply to the high school. The placement test is being given this morning from 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the school, located at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road. Students should bring a light snack for the break and two sharpened number two pencils. For registration and other information, call the school at (704) 543-1217.

6 GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church, 1414 Gorrell St., is holding their annual Black History Month Celebration Mass, sponsored by the Black History Month Committee, this afternoon at 12:15 p.m. with Father Martin Carter from Our Lady of Victory Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., being assisted by Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice-chancellor of the diocese. A covered dish luncheon follows the Mass. For details, call the church office at (336) 272-8650.

7 CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte Newcomers' Week begins this evening with a welcome dinner and coffee socials during the week on Feb. 8 and 12. Call Ken at (704) 733-6499 about the dinner and other activities and call Laurel at (704) 554-0188 and Kristy at (704) 525-3424 about the coffee socials.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Breaking the cycle of homelessness

Sisters of Mercy ministry utilizes education as key to empowerment

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — Picture Annie. Her face is swollen from the abusive blow from the hand of one she thought she loved. She's lost her job. Drugs consume her daily existence. The 19-year-old mother wonders where the next meal will come for her and her 2-year-old child. With seemingly nowhere to turn, she's one step away from life on the street. Fortunately, Annie is a one-dimensional amalgamation, whose life only exists on this newsprint.

"When people come here, it is more than homelessness that is an issue," says Director Nancy Isbanioly. "Everyone comes with a multitude of issues. Our goal is to prevent homelessness from ever happening again."

Unfortunately, the situations are all too real. On any given day, dozens of women will come face to face with the angst and anger that consumes seemingly dismal lives. They are caught a vicious cycle, wishing nothing more than a second chance to change their lives.

If that wish is serious, a helping hand may be closer than they think. Catherine's House in Belmont is a phone call away. Women willing to adhere to a highly structured three-phase program find the doors of Catherine's House open wide. Inside, a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment stands ready to help break the cycle.

Make no mistake: Catherine's House is not an emergency shelter; it is transitional housing for women and women with children who are homeless.

Recycling facilities on the grounds of the former Sacred Heart College, Catherine's House is an outreach by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, a lifeline to vulnerable women in need.

The program of Catherine's House is underscored by a foundation of faith and hope as a visible witness of God's merciful love, all in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. "There is an honest and real commitment," says President and CEO Laura Flaccus. And Flaccus feels this encouragement is palpable. "I believe the residents respond to that," she says.

It's not a Band-Aid approach. The staff of Catherine's House strive to reprogram clients, educate them and teach self-sufficiency skills needed for survival. It is a serious 90-day commitment on the part of incoming women.

"When people come here, it is more than homelessness that is an issue," says Director Nancy Isbanioly. "Everyone comes with a multitude of issues. Our goal is to prevent homelessness from ever happening again."

Following screening and intake to the program, the new client and staff members develop a plan to meet individual goals. "We have a strong emphasis on education," says Isbanioly. "Anyone who comes through our doors without a high school or GED education will be required to attain that diploma," she adds.

While in residence, the clients' case manager maintains close contact through each phase of progress. Should specific services be unavailable in house, staff members tap into community resources. Catherine's House works closely with a Gaston County agencies, including the Department of Social Services.

Phase I consists of securing basic needs such as benefits and healthcare, while meeting daycare or school needs for children. Phase II is considered successful when clients begin a job search, and are enrolled in appropriate classes. Clients open a savings account. Completion of each phase is a celebration, marked with certificates of achievement. Self-esteem soars. Phase III is graduation and clients re-enter the community, ready to take life as it comes — this time stronger, self-sufficient, and one day at a time. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Belmont Abbey College announces prestigious Grace Award Dinner

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has begun planning for the 2000 Grace Award Dinner, an event traditionally attended by business and civic leaders to recognize a deserving colleague. This year the recipient of the Grace Award - named for Charles L. Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc. - is Tom D. Efird, president of Standard Distributors, Inc. based in Gastonia.

The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 in the Student Commons on the Belmont Abbey campus. Corporate tables seating eight are available for $550; individual tickets are $75 each.

Proceeds from the evening benefit scholarships for employees of companies belonging to the Belmont Abbey College Associates (BACA), which co-sponsors the event with the Belmont Abbey College Board of Advisors.

The Grace Award recognizes an outstanding businessperson and citizen whose contributions and commitments have significantly improved the quality of life in the region. Efird is the fifth recipient of the honor, following Herman Blumenthal (1993); Bynum and Rebecca Carter (1994); Humpy Wheeler (1997); and Felix Sabates (1998).

Efird is a former chairman of the Abbey's Board of Trustees and is continually supportive of the college's initiatives. He has also given generously of his time and talents to Gaston College, the Schiele Museum, Hospice of Gaston County, the Community Foundation of Gaston County, the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce, and other community organizations.

"We are pleased to co-sponsor the Grace Award Dinner because it serves two important purposes," said Bynum Carter, current chairman of BACA. "It recognizes a deserving member of the community and it raises much-needed money for scholarships."

For more information or to purchase tickets to the dinner, call (704) 825-6735. ▼

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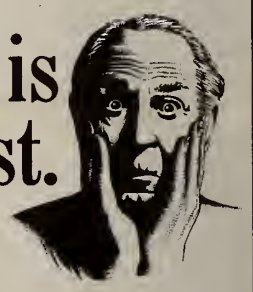

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MARYFIELD
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Girl Scouting is more than just cookies

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — The women in the Perrino family are a part of a long-standing tradition. Susan Perrino is the leader of Senior Girl Scout Troop 1023 — the troop to which her two older daughters, Patty, 17, and Jennifer, 15, belong. Her youngest daughter, Laura, 12, is a Cadette Girl Scout, the division before becoming a Senior Girl Scout.

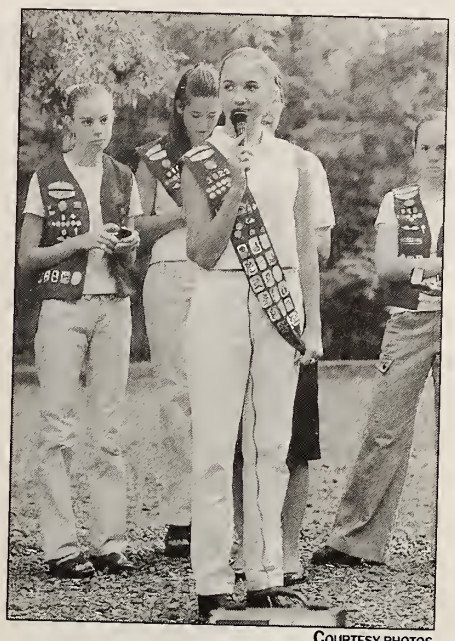
The Perrino girls' grandmother was their mother's troop leader, and their great-grandmother was their grandmother's troop leader.

"It has been fun being involved in my daughters' activities, watching them grow up and experience new opportunities," said Susan. "I have been a part of the planning stages, so I don't just send them out the door; I can be a part of that aspect of their lives. I just continued the tradition started in my family."

Susan began as a Daisy Girl Scout troop leader with her middle daughter Jennifer and moved to the Brownie Girl Scout division and up the ranks with her oldest daughter Patty.

All of the young women are dedicated to Girl Scouts, like their mother and their matriarchs, but Patty has gone the extra mile and was rewarded for her work.

Patty, who has been involved with Girl Scouts since she was in first grade, decided that she wanted to do a multi-leveled project which would put her in contention for the Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouts. The project itself is only part of the requirements needed to be eligible to participate in the Gold Award program.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Senior Girl Scout Troop 1023 Leader Susan Perrino presents her daughter Patty with the Gold Award pin, the highest honor in Girl Scouts, at a ceremony in Winston-Salem last year. Patty, who attends St. Leo the Great Church, worked with a teacher to help Hispanic children learn English for her project.

She had to earn four badges over the course of two years, which involve community leadership, self-exploration and relationship development. Each of the four badges has a minimum of eight requirements, explained Susan.

Each teen has to perform 30 hours of leadership service in which she plans, organizes and evaluates an activity for the group. She has to work 30 hours by either obtaining a part-time job, including writing a resume and interviewing for the position, mentoring with someone on his or her job, or organizing a job fair. In addition to those tasks, the Senior Challenge has several components all related to self and community improvement.

Patty earned an additional 15 hours as part of her senior challenge by assisting her mother, who teaches faith formation at their church, St. Leo the Great in Winston-Salem. She worked two months with senior citizens to understand her own grandparents better. She also volunteered in other aspects in and around her community.

"As I started doing the work, I could see how my being a Girl Scout could help out the community," said Patty. "I saw how I effected change in my community."

She then wrote a report on how she earned her badges and submitted it and her project proposal to the Gold committee. They approved her idea of helping Susan Moretz, the English as a Second Language teacher at the elementary school where her mother teaches first grade. She would be helping the teacher to take some of her ideas and create more efficient ways for the children to learn English.

Patty explained, "This is something that I wanted to do because I had met the kids from working with my mother in faith formation, and I thought that combining the two things would be a great way to represent my mom's school."

Her project, which lasted from June 1998 to April 1999, had three facets, all focusing on helping the students learn English at a faster rate.

She cut out shapes and figures of various colors in vinyl to serve as flash cards and parts of matching games to help the children learn shapes, colors and sizes. She built a grocery store from plywood and collected cereal boxes, plastic fruit, an old cash register and other items to simulate a shopping experience and to teach them the names of food items and currency.

She also made a dollhouse, cut out pictures of furniture and parts of the house, laminated the pictures and applied Velcro to the backs of the pictures so that the children could learn the names of the rooms, furniture and appliances.

Because of her achievements, she earned her Gold Award pin and received congratulatory letters from businesses and prominent citizens and also received a flag flown over the United States Capitol building from Congressman Richard Burr.

"There were times when she would get discouraged, but she stuck with it, and I am proud of her," said Susan.

"Boy Scouts get a lot of recognition, and the community doesn't focus as much on the Girl Scouts," said Patty. "As more girls get involved, the community can see that girls can

See GIRL SCOUTS, page 14

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Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Area Director:	Geri King	(704) 370-3232	(704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Area Director:	Sr. Marie Frechette	(828) 255-0146	(828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Area Director:	David Harold	(336) 727-0705	(336) 727-9333 fax

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Heads of 14 Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas in Holy Land

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The heads of 14 Orthodox churches celebrated Orthodox Christmas in the Holy Land in an unprecedented gathering.

It was the first time all the heads of Orthodox churches met together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

"This is a rare, historic event," Greek Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens and All Greece told the Israeli Ha'aretz newspaper.

In addition to the Greek Orthodox patriarch, the gathering included the patriarchs of Moscow, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Cyprus, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, and Albania.

Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople is given special honor by all Orthodox churches, recognized as "first among equals," although he does not have authority to intervene in the affairs of local churches outside his own patriarchate.

Orthodox Christmas is celebrated Jan. 7. Orthodox churches use the Julian calendar, which differs by 13 days from the Gregorian calendar used by the Catholic and Protestant churches.

The Armenian Orthodox Church, which also uses its own separate calendar, will celebrate its Christmas Eve Jan. 18.

Under rainy skies, the patriarchs participated in a pre-Christmas procession through the narrow streets of the Old City of Jerusalem Jan. 4, culminating in a joint prayer at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where throngs of Orthodox pilgrims joined their patriarchs in worship.

On Christmas Eve Jan. 6, the patriarchs were joined by some political leaders of their countries in a celebration at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat also attended the service. Among the political leaders accompanying the patriarchs was outgoing Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who announced his resignation Dec. 31.

The patriarchs also attended a dinner in their honor at the residence of Israeli President Ezer Weizman. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Christian Orthodox leaders meet in Jerusalem on the occasion of the Orthodox Christmas, which is celebrated Jan. 7. From left is Alexei II of Russia, Ilia II of Georgia and Teoctist of Romania.

Bolivian bishops seek release of some prisoners for jubilee

LA PAZ, Bolivia (CNS) — The Bolivian bishops' conference announced the establishment of a commission to negotiate for the release of prisoners from Bolivian jails during the jubilee year. Juan Carlos Nunez, bishops' conference spokesman, said the commission was established to "ensure that all technical aspects are covered to make the release of some prisoners possible." Nunez said that in late 1999 the bishops' conference requested the release of prisoners for Christmas as part of the jubilee initiatives. But the government released only 27 inmates from Bolivian prisons, arguing that a greater number would had been inconsistent with its new policy on crime.

Court orders debt protesters not to break law again

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Superior Court Judge Stephen G. Milliken Jan. 4 released four Catholic protesters seeking debt relief for poor countries, on condition they not break the law over the next seven months. The four, members of the Religious Working Group on the World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund), were arrested Sept. 23 in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda when they staged a peaceful demonstration urging Congress to "do its share" in funding debt relief for the world's poorest countries.

Indonesian bishop seeks change in government to end conflict

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — An Indonesian bishop urged his country's president to change government and security officials to end the prolonged sectarian conflict in riot-torn Moluccas province. Bishop Petrus Mandagi of Ambon recommended the change to President Abdurrahman Wahid during a meeting at the state palace Jan. 5. He was accompanied by Archbishop Renzo Fratini, apostolic nuncio to Indonesia, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Ordination by pope 'overwhelming,' says new Wyoming coadjutor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Being ordained one of the first bishops of the millennium by Pope John Paul II was "overwhelming," said Coadjutor Bishop David L. Ricken of Cheyenne, Wyo. Bishop Ricken, who spent the last three years working in the Vatican's clergy office, was the only American among 12 bishops ordained Jan. 6 in St. Peter's Basilica. "To be ordained by the Holy Father right at the tomb of St. Peter, with 11 other priests — it was so reminiscent of the Twelve Apostles," he told Catholic News Service. "The only way I can describe it is I was overwhelmed."

Illinois Dominican nuns forgive debts for jubilee

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (CNS) — To mark the jubilee year 2000, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield have canceled 19 debts owed to them. Most of the debts were loans to community-organizing groups that help poor people become self-sustaining. Sister Mary Jean Traeger, prioress general of the 312-member congregation, announced the action during community prayer Jan. 1. "Our world needs signs of hope from people of faith," she said. "It needs our energetic commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel. It longs for some assurance that peace with genuine justice is possible. In this spirit of jubilee we decided to cancel several long-term debts owed to our congregation."

Orthodox patriarch sees little hope for Christian unity soon

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The leader of the world's 200 million Orthodox Christians said hopes that Christians will achieve unity soon are "groundless." He added that Pope John Paul II had taken "larger steps" toward Christian unity than previous popes, but warned that his exercise of papal primacy was still unacceptable to Orthodox churches. "For me, fundamentally, the papacy expresses a spirit far removed from the spirit of the Orthodox Church," said Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians.

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Chinese church ordains bishops without Vatican approval

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a move that appeared to aggravate China-Vatican divisions, the government-approved Chinese church ordained five new bishops without papal approval.

The ordinations were performed Jan. 6 during a Mass in a Beijing cathedral, just hours before Pope John Paul II ordained 12 new bishops in St. Peter's Basilica. Church officials in Rome said the timing was a deliberate provocation, and the Vatican expressed its "astonishment and disappointment" at the act.

The Vatican has viewed the ordinations of bishops of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association as valid because they have been performed by validly ordained bishops, but illicit because they are done without a papal mandate, Father Politi said.

"This decision comes at a time when voices have been raised in many parts which lead one to hope for a normalization of relations between the Holy See and Beijing," spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

"But this gesture poses obstacles that certainly will hamper that process," he said.

China's long-standing refusal to recognize the pope's right to appoint bishops has been one of the biggest obstacles in Chinese-Vatican relations and a major factor in the division between the Chinese underground church loyal to Rome and the government-sanctioned Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association.

Some 300 people, a relatively sparse crowd, attended the ordinations at Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Among the congregation were representatives of the Communist Party's religious affairs office.

Bishop Liu Yuanren of Nanjing, president of the Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China, was the ordaining bishop, with Bishop Michael Fu Tieshan of Beijing, chairman of the patriotic association, as co-ordainer, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Five additional bishops and 30 priests concelebrated the ordination Mass. All the bishops laid their hands on and embraced the newly ordained bishops.

Bishop Fu told the congregation that the ordinations reflected China's prosperity and said the development of the church in China had to keep pace with the development of the country.

The newly ordained were Bishops Peter Fang Jianping of Tangshan, 39; Jin Daoyuan of Changzhi, 71; Lu Xinping of Nanjing, 36; Su Changshan of Baoding, 74; and Zhan Silu of Mindong, 39.

Bishop Zhan later told UCA News that the new bishops had pledged obedience to the pope during the ceremony — a point the others did not confirm. He said the timing of the ordinations was not confrontational.

"We were ordained today because it is the Epiphany Day, a big feast day in the church. If it happens on the same day as the Vatican's ordinations, isn't it even better?" he said.

The vice chairman of the patriotic association, Liu Bainian, told the Italian news agency ANSA that the ordinations were a sign of the church's vitality.

"The Chinese church has bishops who are helping it prosper as in few places in the world. So I think the pope should be pleased," he said. He added that there would be more ordinations in the future because the average age of Chinese bishops was too high.

The pope made no mention of the new Chinese bishops during his annual ordination Mass at the Vatican.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Newly ordained bishops leave the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Beijing Jan. 6. Chinese Bishop Liu Yuanren ordained five new state-approved bishops in defiance of Pope John Paul II, who alone has the authority for naming bishops in the church.

But veteran China-watchers said the Vatican saw the Chinese ceremony as an act of defiance at a sensitive moment in church-state relations.

Coadjutor Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kiun of Hong Kong said the ordinations were an "act of confrontation" that shows that China has "no real intention of reconciling with the Vatican," UCA News reported.

He said the ordinations conform with an internal Communist Party memorandum that surfaced in 1999, which called for more ordinations of bishops chosen by secular officials and further division of the underground and the state-sanctioned church.

In Rome, the missionary news service MISNA said the "Chinese

See CHINESE BISHOPS, page 8

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In Brief ...

Catechist workshop offers certification, workshops

CHARLOTTE — A catechist recognition workshop is scheduled for Jan. 22 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The courses offered meet the requirement for catechist certification. For details, call Marilyn Kravatz, Office of Faith Formation Southern Region coordinator, at (704) 370-3247.

Sisters of Mercy Foundation announces grants to 13 area organizations

CHARLOTTE — Sisters of Mercy North Carolina Foundation last month announced $542,245 in grants to 13 nonprofit organizations in Buncombe, Cabarrus, Gaston, Guilford, Henderson and Mecklenburg organizations. The foundation was established in 1995 and operates in part to support nonprofit healthcare, education and social organizations. Receiving grants are: Academic Learning Center in Concord; Cannon Memorial YMCA in Kannapolis; Children first of Buncombe County, Inc., of Asheville; Communities in Schools of High Point, Inc., in High Point; Crisis Pregnancy Center in Gastonia; Eliada Homes, Inc., in Asheville; Energy Committed to Offenders in Charlotte; Jacob's Ladder in Charlotte; Manna Food Bank in Asheville; Ministry Seven Rescue Mission in Hendersonville; Second Harvest Food Bank in Charlotte; WNC Child Advocacy and Prevention Services in Asheville; and With Friends, Inc., in Belmont. For information on the Sisters of Mercy foundation, call (704) 366-0087. The next grant-making cycle will be April 1, with decisions made in June.

High School students invited to enter 10th annual poster contest

NEW YORK — The Christophers' 10th annual poster contest for high school students is underway, with prizes totaling $2,000. To enter, each artist must illustrate his or her interpretation of the statement "You Can Make a Difference," a theme that allows students to express themselves on a variety of topics. All students in grades 9 through 12 are invited 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 the theme, originality and artistic merit. Eight prizes will be awarded, with a first prize of $1,000. Entries must be received by Jan. 28, and winner will be announced April 21. All posters become the property of The Christophers, an nonprofit organization that used print and broadcast media to encourage all people to recognize their unique abilities and use them to raise the standards of public life. Complete rules for the poster contest are available by writing to High School Poster Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017, by calling (212) 759-4050, or on the Web at http:// www.christophers.org/poster.html.

Chinese bishops, from page 7

government, which once again forces upon Catholics its desire for absolute control, is surely behind the decision of ordination."

The Vatican missionary news agency Fides reported that the ordinations were a failure for the government and the patriotic association. It said nine of 12 original candidates refused to participate in the ceremony because it was "in clear competition with the Holy See." In addition, Fides said, more than 130 seminarians at the national seminary in Beijing decided to boycott the ordination Mass after participating in a rehearsal the day before.

Fides said only one of the ordaining bishops had relations with the Vatican, and all of those ordained had "suffered extreme pressure" from Chinese authorities.

Italian Father Giancarlo Politi, who follows Chinese affairs as editor of the magazine Mondo e Missione (World and Mission), said the ordinations highlight a worrisome trend toward greater government involvement in the bishop selection process and raise questions about the eventual reconciliation of the bishops with the Vatican, especially because three of the new bishops were so young.

While China maintains that the election of bishops is a legitimate function of the local church, in practice it is the government and the Communist Party that control the selection of episcopal candidates, Father Politi said. It is "certainly not a good sign" that this type of government involvement appears to be increasing, he added.

The Vatican has viewed the ordinations of bishops of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association as valid because they have been performed by validly ordained bishops, but illicit because they are done without a papal mandate, Father Politi said.

That leaves individual bishops in a difficult position with the Holy See. But the Vatican has always avoided using the term "schism" to describe the situation in China, recognizing the political pressures involved, he said.

Some Chinese bishops who belong to the government-sanctioned church are said to have secretly reconciled with Rome, and others would probably not have too much problem reaching a similar understanding at some point in the future — especially older bishops who have suffered strong political pressure, Father Politi said.

"What is alarming is that these (new) bishops are very young and have made a choice that is at least somewhat free. There hasn't been for them the kind of pressure or fear that existed in the days of Mao (Tse-tung)," he said. ▼

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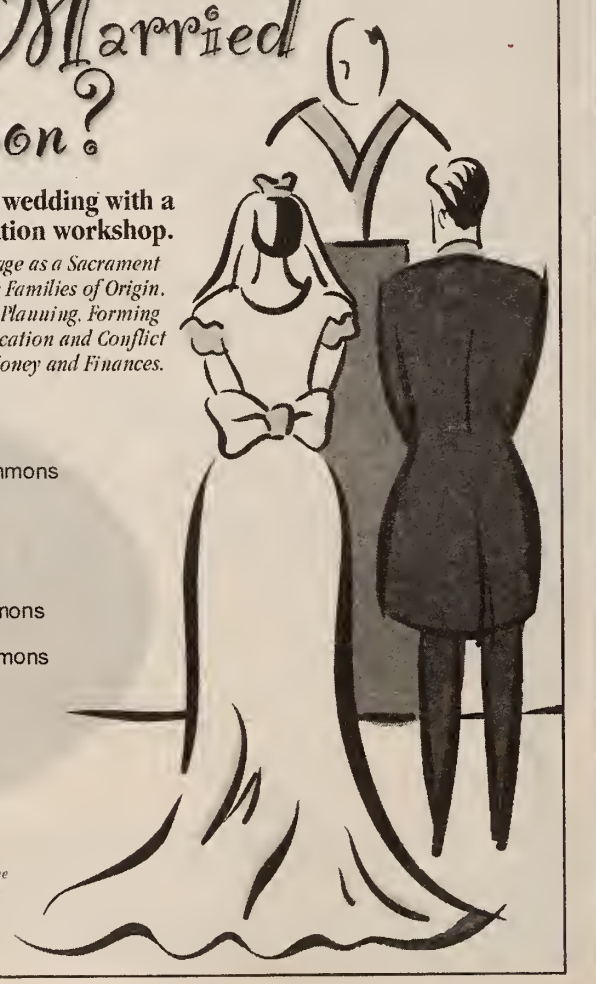

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Pro-life officials heartened by declining U.S. abortion rate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A spokeswoman for the U.S. Catholic bishops lauded the newly released figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which showed U.S. abortions in 1997 were at their lowest level in two decades.

Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, credited the decline in part to the four-year campaign against partial-birth abortions, which she said "exposed people to the reality of abortion."

Figures released by the CDC in Atlanta showed that U.S. abortion rates had climbed during the 1970s, remained stable during the 1980s and began a gradual decline in 1991.

The statistics indicate that there were a total of 1,184,758 abortions performed in 1997, which is 3 percent less than the 1,221,585 abortions performed in 1996, and is the lowest number performed since 1978. The number of abortions for every live 1,000 births also dropped from 314 in 1996 to 305 in 1997, which CDC officials claim is the lowest level since 1975.

The national abortion rate, defined as the number of legal abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, has remained steady at 20 from 1995-97.

Although Alvare was heartened by the CDC figures, she said they are about 10 percent lower than the figures reported by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research organization for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, because some states do not have centralized reporting of abortions.

Authors of the report, published in the Jan. 7 issue of the CDC publication Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, attribute several factors to the decline in abortions including a reduced number of unintended pregnancies, "attitude changes" about having an abortion and reduced access to abortion services.

The CDC statistics from all 50 states and the District of Columbia showed that in 1997, white women received 58.5 of all abortions, black women received 35.8 percent and women of other races received 5.7 percent. In a category called ethnicity, about 15 percent of the women receiving abortions were Hispanic, while 85 percent were non-Hispanic.

Only 19 percent of the women receiving abortions were married. Approximately 20 percent of the women who obtained a legal abortion in 1997 were 19 or younger while 32 percent were between the ages of 20 and 24.

According to the report, 88 percent of all legal abortions were performed within the first 12 weeks of gestation.

Laura Echevarria, director of media relations for the National Right to Life Committee, said she was pleased with the "continuing trend toward fewer abortions" and said her organization would "continue working to educate Americans about the tragedy of abortion."

"The more the American people learn about the humanity of the unborn child and the violence of abortion, the more they reject abortion," she said.

The Family Research Council's spokeswoman, Janet Parshall, said the decline in the number of abortions "mirrors the change in attitudes about abortion documented in recent years." ▼

Bishop Curlin to participate in March for Life Masses

Editor's note: A story on the national March for Life in Washington in last week's issue of The Catholic News & Herald included an error regarding the date of a Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Curlin for diocesan pilgrims. The following includes the correct information.

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass for people from the Diocese of Charlotte who will gather in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life on Jan. 24. During the evening before, Bishop Curlin will also concelebrate a Mass that opens the National Prayer Vigil for Life.

The bishop will celebrate the Mass for diocesan pilgrims Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. At 8 p.m. the evening before, he will concelebrate a Mass that will open the National Prayer Vigil for Life in the shrine's Great Upper Church. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the bishop's pro-life committee, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

A number of busses have been chartered by the Diocese of Charlotte's Respect Life Office, parishes and other institutions throughout the diocese to travel to the march. The annual gathering draws tens of thousands of people from across the country to protest the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decisions that legalized abortion in the United States. Students representing Charlotte Catholic High School and Belmont Abbey College will lead this year's march.

For further information on the Diocese of Charlotte's participation in the national March for Life, contact the Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229. ▼

Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

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Samaritan's Purse would like to thank the thousands of volunteers who packed shoe boxes and worked at our Charlotte Processing Center so that needy boys and girls around the world might know the joy of Christmas. Through your hard work, our Charlotte center prepared more than one-fifth of the 3 million gift-filled shoe boxes Samaritan's Purse shipped around the world. We delivered some of these to children in Honduras and Kosovo recently, and with grins from ear to ear, they had one message for you—Thank you! We appreciate your hard work and sacrifices. They enabled us to share the joyful news of God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you and your family throughout this new year.

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Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham.

Books

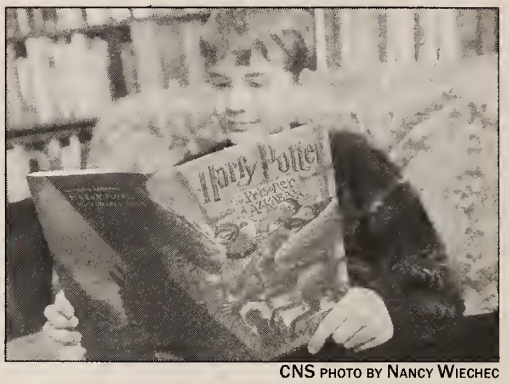
Harry Potter author: 'I believe in God, not magic'

By ANNE LEVEQUE
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "I believe in God, not magic," said J.K. Rowling, author of the popular Harry Potter series of children's books.

During a U.S. book tour stop in Washington, Rowling discussed the nature of evil, censorship, and faith, among other things.

The three Harry Potter books, about a young wizard's adventures, have caused a sensation in the publishing world because they have held top spots on The New York Times' best seller list as well as on Amazon.com, the online bookseller.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The best-selling "Harry Potter" books focus on a young wizard's adventures. The author, J.K. Rowling, told Catholic News Service that she believes her books to be "moral."

Some parents have wondered whether the setting of the books and their dealing with witchcraft makes for wholesome reading.

In the stories, Harry is an orphan — reared by unloving relatives — who discovers at age 11 that he is a wizard. He has a mysterious lightning-bolt scar on his forehead, evidence of an attack by the evil Lord Voldemort. He goes to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where he meets many more children — and adults — like himself.

"I personally think they are moral books," said Rowling. "I absolutely agree that you have the right to determine what your child reads, but I don't think that anyone has the right to determine what other people's children read."

In discussing the evil Voldemort, Rowling said, "(other than those) who are mentally ill and not responsible for their actions, evil will be the result of very poor choices and possibly insufficient bravery to take the right path. And that's what I'm attempting to show with my villain. Here is someone who had choices — he had a great deal of natural talent which he's abusing, he's totally self-serving, but he could have gone a different way.

"That is supposed to be contrasted quite strongly with Harry, who has come from an equally difficult start in life, but who consistently tries to make the right choices. Sometimes he fails."

Rowling has drawn criticism for characterizing Harry with human failings, but, she says, he is a human child. "I want to show that (he's human); I want him to sometimes make mistakes. ... But he is generally acting with the best of intentions."

So far, none of her bad characters has decided to reform, but Rowling hints that in future books there will be themes of redemption. "You will see redemption and you will see the other side as well, people struggling to do the right thing who do not."

Some of the main characters are based on real people. Harry's friend Hermione Granger is modeled after the author herself, while Ron Weasley, Harry's best friend, is based on Rowling's good friend and her daughter's godfather, Sean Harris, described by Rowling as a "committed Catholic."

Rowling is planning to write a total of seven books in this series, one for each year that Harry is at wizards' school. She is committed to having the entire series remain appropriate for age 9 and up.

"Harry will grow older, and I hope grow older plausibly. I do have a problem with treating a 16 year old character as though he were a prepubescent."

Describing future books in the series, Rowling said, "the books will become darker, in the sense that you feel

See HARRY POTTER, page 15

Word to Life

January 16, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

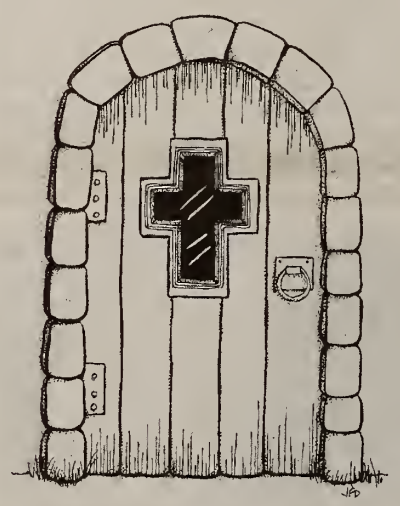
1) 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
   Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
3) Gospel: John 1:35-42

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

We know people for years, at work or as neighbors, waving from across the street and chatting over lunch. We swap stories, recipes and strategic plans. We join the same clubs, sweat the same projects, pray the same prayers.

But until we have visited in people's homes, until we have met their families, and seen them in their element, and watched them handle the responsibilities and opportunities of hospitality, our knowledge is incomplete. In public, it's easier to maintain a false front, even for ourselves.

We can play a role, use props and characters to help sustain our illusions about ourselves. But at home, where people know us, where social conventions and public images fade, it's harder to pretend. Even if we manage to fool ourselves, our behavior and patterns of relationship reveal us in spite of ourselves.



That's why I'm so fond of the story in Sunday's Gospel. Directed by John the Baptizer to the presence of God in Jesus, the would-be disciples follow him. Accepting his invitation to "come and see" where he lives — to see how he relates to family, friends and neighbors, to put themselves in his hands and discover from personal experience what kind of host he is — they come to believe that he is God's "Messiah," anointed to bring salvation to the world. In a life of discipleship, there is no substitute for a personal relationship with Jesus.

May this jubilee year be for us a graced time of accepting more earnestly his invitation to "come and see" how he lives in the sacramental life and biblical tradition of the church, in the struggles and triumphs of daily life, in the silent mystery of prayer and especially in the woundedness and poverty of our brothers and sisters all around us.

What does a visit to your home reveal to attentive guests about your deepest self?

Question:
Who in your life has given hospitality which helped give you life?

"Come and see."
— John 1-39a

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 16 - 22, 2000

Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19, 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20, John 1:35-42; **Monday (St. Anthony)**, 1 Samuel 15:16-23, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday**, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday**, 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian)**, 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday (St. Agnes)**, 1 Samuel 24:3-21, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday**, 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27, Mark 3:20-21

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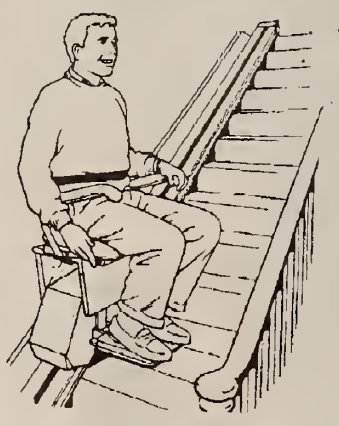

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Out on video

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"Dudley Do-Right" (1999)

Thin live-action comedy based on the TV cartoon series created by Jay Ward in which the hopelessly square Canadian Mountie of the title (Brendan Fraser) gets some help from his faithful horse in saving his dim sweetheart Nell (Sarah Jessica Parker) from the villainous Snidely Whiplash (Alfred Molina) who's using a fake gold rush to fleece novice prospectors. Director Hugh Wilson settles for some easy laughs featuring Fraser's deadpan hijinks, corny dialogue, weak sight gags and overly busy slapstick action. Comic violence, much menace and assorted vulgarities. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of American rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Lake Placid" (1999)

Lame horror-comedy in which a big-city paleontologist (Bridget Fonda), a wealthy eccentric (Oliver Platt) and an earnest game warden (Bill Pullman) insist on helping a skeptical rural sheriff (Brendan Gleeson) catch a huge crocodile that has devoured a few locals. Directed by Steve Miner from David E. Kelley's contrived script, the movie offers sparse spurts of comic mileage with suspense equally absent. Some predatory violence with decapitations, sex references, occasional profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Mickey Blue Eyes" (1999)

Frail mob comedy in which an expatriate British auctioneer (Hugh Grant) becomes engaged to a schoolteacher (Jeanne Tripplehorn) whose gangster family immediately ensnares him in mob business that could get him killed. Directed by Kelly Makin, the fish-out-of-water premise is stretched pretty thinly through the course of some mildly amusing situations. Brief violence, irreverent depictions of religious art, some profanity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Mystery Men" (1999)

Dopey spoof in which seven would-be superheroes (including Ben Stiller, Hank Azaria, Janeane Garofalo and William H. Macy) combine their kooky talents to outwit a nasty megalomaniac (Geoffrey Rush) intent on leveling their metropolis. Director Kinka Usher fails to rein in the ensemble cast and a chaotic script further dilutes the comedy-fantasy. Intermittent comic violence and some toilet humor. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Thomas Crown Affair"(1999)

Cat-and-mouse drama in which a billionaire art thief (Pierce Brosnan) and the investigator (Renee Russo) who will net $5 million for nailing him become romantically involved, complicating whether she will do her job or take off with him as he suggests. Director John McTiernan updates the 1968 crime caper with sleek performances but more explicit bedroom scenes for a slick escapist fantasy of riches and romance without consequences. Sexual encounters with nudity, occasional profanity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS PHOTO FROM FINE LINE FEATURES

"Tumbleweeds"
Modest, insightful drama in which a flighty, much married Southerner (Janet McTeer), having fled her latest husband with her 12-year-old daughter (Kimberly J. Brown) for San Diego, is about to repeat the pattern with a new boyfriend (Gavin O'Connor) when her daughter demands she stop running from her problems. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

TV programs of note — week of Jan. 16

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Jan. 16:

Sunday, Jan. 16, 8-9 p.m. EST (CBS) "City of Angels." Premiere of a Steven Bochco-produced drama series about the professional and personal lives of those at a struggling inner-city hospital in Los Angeles. Second episode airs Wednesday, Jan. 19, in its regular Wednesday 8-9 p.m. time period.

Sunday, Jan. 16, 8-10 p.m. EST (A&E) "Oprah Winfrey: Preacher Woman." From the "Biography" series, a profile of the rags-to-riches media powerhouse who overcame poverty and an abused childhood to star in her own TV show as well as movies.

Monday, Jan. 17, 8-11 p.m. EST (ABC) "American Music Awards." Live broadcast of the 27th annual awards show hosted by actor-comedian Norm Macdonald, with honors in such categories as pop, rock, soul, r&b, country, Latin and alternative music.

Monday, Jan. 17, 10-11 p.m. EST (A&E) "Emergency Services Unit." An "Investigative Reports" program focusing on New York City's elite team of 450 men and women on call as a combined rescue and SWAT team, dealing with such diverse situations as subway collisions and armed raids on violent drug-dealers.

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9-10 p.m. EST (PBS) "Lost on Everest." A "Nova" rebroadcast about the 1999 discovery of British climber George Leigh Mallory's body after he and his companion vanished near the summit of Mount Everest on June 8, 1924. Some speculate he may have reached the mountaintop 29 years before Hillary and Tensing, who are credited with the feat.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 7:30-8:55 p.m. EST (Disney) "Up, Up and Away." Light-hearted family film in which a 13-year-old boy (Michael Pagan) from a family of superheroes must rescue his kidnapped parents from an evil megalomaniac bent on world domination through mind control.

Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at first audience of 2000, stresses motherhood of Mary

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, at his first general audience of 2000, urged the faithful to reflect on Mary, the mother of Jesus, who is also mother of all Christians.

"All through his childhood, Jesus called Mary his mother. When he later addressed her as 'woman,' he was emphasizing that she is not just his biological mother but also the mother of the people of the new covenant," the pope told a crowd of 7,000 people gathered in the Paul VI Audience Hall Jan. 5.

Following three years of jubilee preparation, the last of which, 1999, focused on the Father, the pope urged those present to reflect on Mary at the beginning of 2000.

The angel Gabriel's words at the Annunciation, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you," "reveal God's intention to communicate to humanity the true and definitive joy which comes from having the Son present among us," said the pope.

As mother of Christ, Mary also played a crucial role in the education of her son, he said.

"The mother not only gives birth but also takes part in the education and development of her children. Mary's behavior certainly influenced Jesus' conduct," said the pope.

The pope said Christ's gesture of washing his disciples' feet, for example, might have reflected Mary's own behavior in the home, which could have included bathing guests' feet as a symbol of humility.

The pope also emphasized the reciprocal nature of the mother-son relationship between Mary and Jesus.

Jesus "thus received from Mary a true education that molded his humanity. On the other hand, Mary was influenced and educated by her son," said the pope.

Pope tells diplomats he views new millennium with hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said that as he pushed open the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Christmas Eve, he was thinking with optimism about world progress in the new millennium. The pope, in an annual speech Jan. 10 to Vatican-accredited diplomats, said he felt called by God from the beginning of his two-decade pontificate to encourage the world to think of itself as one family. "Twenty-one years ago, when I became successor of the apostle Peter, I felt myself charged with a universal fatherhood which embraces all the men and women of our time without exception," the pope said. "Today, in addressing you who represent practically all the peoples of the earth, I would like to share with each one something personal: At the opening of the doors of a new millennium, the pope began to think that people might finally learn to draw lessons from the past," he said.

Vocations statistics and the fear of failure

At the recent Synod of Bishops for Europe, held in Rome in October 1999, Cardinal Carlo Martini of Milan called for a gathering of all bishops worldwide to examine such issues as the shortage of priests, the role of women, ecumenism and the discipline of marriage.

What a great idea!

One question we all need to explore is why there are fewer vocations to the priesthood today than in the past. It is a complicated question, and there are many factors involved.

Cardinal Godfried Danneels, the primate of Belgium, presented his thoughts on this topic in the September 1998 issue of Origins, a publication of Catholic News Service. He said that becoming a priest today is no longer a step up on the social ladder, it is a step down.

Seminarians today show a lot of courage when they offer their lives to the church. Many older priests are suspicious of the neoconservatism of the younger clergy. Young men tend to be cautious about accepting every theological opinion that comes along, and who can blame them? New-Age thinking is at odds with the deposit of faith.

Those who are called to the priesthood are swimming against the tide. The postmodern era is no longer Christian. They know they will have to proclaim Jesus as Lord in a world where his divinity is being denied more and more. For too many, Jesus is simply a great prophet, like Buddha or Mohammed. In this climate it is not surprising that vocations are down.

The staying power of today's seminarians and young priests is also an issue. One cardinal expressed astonishment when one of his priests left the active ministry after only two years. It was not because of celibacy or because he had a crisis of faith. He left because he was unable to bear failure of any kind.

Cardinal Danneels commented on this, saying that some priests never have learned to integrate the cross into their lives. They preach the Gospel but are unable to see any meaning in suffering. As a result they are unable to manage failure or even the appearance of failure.

The younger generation does not want to hear about sacrifice. They are repelled by the idea. But hasn't it always been so?

I remember resisting my own vocation for more than five years. I was scared to death that I might fail. I thought: Why should I put myself in danger's way? It was a reasonable fear because I knew I was weak.

Somehow the grace of God helped me to trust in divine providence and forget about my own powerlessness. So with a leap of faith, I asked the Lord to make me strong, and I never regretted that decision. I'm still weak, but I'm getting there day by day.

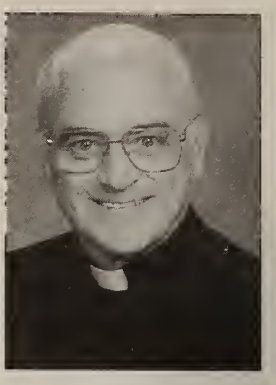
We all have fears of failure from time to time, but when we learn to trust in God's strength it doesn't matter if we are weak or strong. The Lord becomes our strength and our joy.

I am not worried about the future. The church has survived for 2,000 years in far worse circumstances. I think the Holy Spirit has many surprises in store for us in the years to come.

That is why I applaud Cardinal Martini's call for a wider collaboration among the bishops in dealing with these problems.

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist



Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
Guest Columnist

Proselytism among Hispanics

This month we will continue with two more major findings of a recent study commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in January 1998. They deal with proselytism and leadership in the Hispanic community.

1) Proselytism among Hispanics is increasing, and more and more segments of the Hispanic population appear to be affected.

Most of the "new" Hispanic immigrants originate in countries where Protestant groups are increasingly active and popular. In addition, U.S.-based Protestant groups have increasingly attracted adherents among both the older Hispanic poor and the middle class.

National surveys indicate that the share of the Hispanic population which identifies as Catholic is shrinking annually. Protestant success is based on aggressive outreach and welcoming campaigns aimed at Hispanics. Protestant groups also offer Hispanics opportunities for community participation and social mobility (through ethnic church building) that are discouraged in the Catholic Church. In addition, Protestants provide their congregants with an emotive small faith experience that has few Catholic equivalents.

2) The central obstacle to Hispanic participation in today's Church is leadership. Without effectively trained and promoted leaders, Hispanics cannot gain sufficient recognition in diocesan departments and parishes to build a dynamic partnership between Hispanics and the larger Church.

An earlier generation of Hispanic leaders that built the current structure of Hispanic Ministry is passing from the scene. The new era demands more sophisticated and flexible leadership, which is not always available. The number of Hispanic vocations remains extremely low, and while lay leadership programs for Hispanics are increasing nationwide, support for them from the Bishops is uneven.

In addition, there is no agreed upon mechanism for ensuring that Hispanic leaders are recognized and promoted within diocesan departments and are effectively utilized within local parishes.

Hispanics, even when possessing comparable skills and experience, are more likely than non-Hispanics to be hired on a volunteer or part-time basis, and then assigned to work with Hispanics only.

We welcome your questions and comments.

Please send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Rights and wrongs, civil and otherwise

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created as a tribute to a fallen hero of the civil rights movement. It remains that, but, as with many other national holidays, it is in danger of turning into one more long weekend. I like long weekends. I don't know anybody who can't use an extra day off. That's not the point.

Patriotic holidays remind us about matters of great historic and social substance. Remembrance and celebration by themselves are not enough, though. The value of setting aside special days is that we take the time to stop — to look back at where we came from, to look around at where we are and to look ahead to where we want to be.

Daily headlines confirm that prejudice and hatred still live, but the good news is that tolerance and justice are at work, too, transforming a nation where "separate but equal" was a way of life and a principle of law. This earth-shaking change was — and is — the result of the conviction, persistence and utter bravery of untold people of conscience.

Last July, two men died who have had a vast impact on the civil rights of every American citizen. The first of these was James Farmer. The founder and director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and a proponent of Gandhi's tactics of non-violent civil disobedience, he was born in Texas, the grandson of a slave. He assured those who feared his methods would be construed as weakness that "we are fighting back, we're only using new weapons." He was jailed for forty days for his protests and once avoided lynching by escaping town in a hearse.

CORE's volunteers focused on integration through peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins that were met with violence. In the 1960's, James Farmer organized the famous Freedom Rides to protest segregated interstate transportation. The courage of these men and women in the face of arrest, assault and even death won the respect of blacks and whites alike and inspired many to become active in the civil rights movement.

The second was Frank M. Johnson, Jr. who spent nearly a quarter of a century on the U.S. District Court bench in Alabama where he handed down rulings that broke legal barriers to desegregation. Beginning with a decision vindicating the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955, he ruled on a number of cases that outlawed segregation in schools, parks, restaurants and other public accommodations. From voter registration to the integration of the University of Alabama, his decisions had a profound influence. Other rulings on civil rights issues improved conditions for prisoners and for mental patients.

Judge Johnson endured decades of ostracism by fellow white people, a cross-burning on his lawn, the firebombing of his mother's house, and countless death threats.

These two contemporaries were as heroic in their actions and their achievements as Martin Luther King Jr. So were the countless men and women of every race and ethnic background who put their lives on the line to demand human rights, freedom and equality.

Indeed, one person can change this world for the better. James Farmer did it. Frank Johnson did it. Does anyone believe that the job is finished? Take your time to think about it. You have a long weekend.

Justice and Peace

JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
Guest Columnist

Catholic Commitment for the New Millennium

At the start of the third Christian millennium, our church has embarked on a great jubilee year journey.

All over the United States, in their parishes, small faith communities, and families, Catholics are recommitting themselves to serving those who are poor and to working for justice and peace in the new millennium. They are taking the Jubilee Pledge for Charity, Justice, and Peace, which is being promoted by a variety of U.S. Catholic Conference offices and other organizations. This practical response to the Jubilee Year flows from the themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

However, taking the pledge is only a first step; finding ways to act on it is the challenge. Below are the points of the pledge followed by suggestions for parish actions:

As disciples of Jesus in the new millennium, I/we pledge to:

Pray *regularly for greater justice and peace.*

• Hold a parish jubilee retreat. Use Pope John Paul II's World Day of Peace message for reflections on your parish's involvement for Jubilee.

Learn *more about Catholic social teaching and its call to protect human life, stand with the poor, and care for creation.*

• Revisit the NC Bishops' 1997 pastoral Of One Heart and One Mind on moral and ethical dimensions of economic conditions in North Carolina. How has your parish responded?

Reach *across boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, gender and disabling conditions.*

• Build bridges. Take action on issues of international justice and peace, or work with local immigrant or migrant issues. Apply for an Operation Rice Bowl mini-grant to help with costs.

Live *justly in family life, school, work, the marketplace and the political arena.*

• Incorporate into prayer groups or hold a parish mission on the discipleship themes and roles for laity presented in the U.S. Bishops' Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice, a short (10 pages) and highly readable document.

Serve *those who are poor and vulnerable, sharing more time and talent.*

• Analyze the underlying causes of poverty in your own community, e.g., lack of affordable housing, childhood hunger, underemployment, lack of affordable child care, etc. Resolve to attack the reasons for poverty in one of these areas.

Give *more generously to those in need at home and abroad.*

• Support the Catholic Church's international relief and development efforts this Lent with Operation Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services program of prayer, almsgiving, fasting and learning. Support the church's domestic anti-poverty program, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Advocate *for public policies that protect hu-*

See CATHOLIC COMMITMENT, page 14

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Nonbiblical traditions about Jesus' life

Q. Some time ago, you responded to a question about the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the Gospels. You said one possibility is that these siblings were children of Joseph from a previous marriage.

This explanation "goes back to some very early nonbiblical traditions about Jesus and his life," you said.

Such a theory was never mentioned in my past. That doesn't mean it is not a good explanation, but what is the source of your information?

A. Roughly two dozen Gospels concerning Jesus were written in the early centuries of Christianity. Some of them focused especially on the youthful life of Jesus and on the supposed time between the death and resurrection of our Lord, two subjects about which the canonical Gospels give almost no information.

Two of them are particularly significant, the Infancy Gospel of Thomas and the so-called Book (or Protoevangelium, "First Gospel") of James. Along with other early writings, usually attributed to the apostles or their followers, these are traditional sources for much of what we assume to know about Jesus and his family.

Both originated somewhere around the year 140 or 150, in other words perhaps 50 years after the canonical Gospel according to John.

According to tradition, "James, the brother of the Lord," had special information, apparently from Mary, concerning the young life of Jesus. It is the Book of James which relates that the siblings of Jesus described in the Gospels were his step-brothers and step-sisters, Joseph's children from another marriage.

This notion was opposed later by St. Jerome, who firmly believed in Joseph's virginity. According to Jerome, the "brothers and sisters" were actually cousins.

The same book identifies the names of Mary's parents as Joachim and Anna, speaks of her miraculous birth to the aging couple, and describes how she was subjected during her pregnancy to tests and questioning by officials suspicious of her virginity.

Perhaps such works were intended in part to assuage the curiosity of many early Christians, who felt the need, as many of us still do, to know all possible trifling details about Jesus. The four canonical Gospels, of course, were not at all interested in satisfying this type of curiosity. Overall, much in these writings is rather weird, to say the least. They describe wonderful things happening through contact with Jesus, his clothing, even his bath water.

The apocryphal infancy narratives typically portray the young Jesus displaying strange powers, sometimes quite out of character with the Jesus of the four Gospels we know.

Once, for example, while playing with other children, Jesus molded several clay birds. When the authorities protested to Joseph about this violation of the Sabbath, Jesus waved his hands, brought the birds to life, and they flew away. Another time, someone in a crowd accidentally bumped into Jesus, who turned and said, "You will never arrive at where you are going." A moment later, the man dropped dead.

Many if not most of these writings derive from gnostic sources. While they narrate extravagant stories, particularly about Jesus and Mary, and are not part of the canon of sacred Scripture, they still tell us much about the life, interests and traditions of the early Christian churches.

King Celebration, from page 3

their own version of the "Freedom Ride" during the weekend of Dr. King's birthday to Selma and Birmingham, Ala. and Atlanta to retrace Dr. King's steps and relive his history.

"The trip affects them profoundly because it brings a consciousness to them about how everything happened during that time," said Dr. Jeff. "The Civil Rights Movement was a youth movement. Martin Luther King was only 26 when he was called upon to lead the movement made up of young people who changed this world. We have to turn the focus back on our children."

Thirteen-year-old Brittani Williams from Our Lady of Consolation Church said she came to the event because she wanted to "spread the word about what she knew and to try to understand the greater meaning behind Dr. King's message." She added, "adults should talk to us more so that we can understand because we don't have the resources, and the teachers aren't teaching us these things."

After the sessions, the second annual Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award was presented to James Bingley from St. James Church in Concord. His family accepted the wooden sculpture on his behalf because of his illness. Bingley serves as the vice-chair of the board of advisors for the African American Affairs Ministry and has been active in his parish and throughout the diocese.

The award is named for Rollins-Gaither, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church and a founding member of the African American Affairs Ministry, who passed away in March 1995.

The closing Mass included a performance by the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers and the Our Lady of Consolation Choir dressed in their individual representations of African-inspired garb.

In his homily, Bishop William G. Curlin said, "we must see each other with our souls and not just with our eyes. The Church is alive when people see Jesus living in each of us, regardless of race or color."

Chrys Chambers, a parishioner of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville, left the event with positive feelings and thoughts: "I find Dr. King to be a person who embodies the idea that everyone has their rights, the right to be free to express themselves, to hold jobs, to live where they want. To bridge the gap of cultural diversity is important, so it is necessary to be a part of something like this to be a part of the cure."

"As we assess where we are 135 years after the signing and passing of the thirteenth amendment and 31 years after the passing of Martin Luther King Jr., we still see the residue of slavery and apartheid in America," said Dr. Jeff.

Rev. Mr. Todd hopes that in the future more people will attend the celebration: "It is a shame that there was only a fraction of the over 120,000 Catholics in the diocese present at the event. It shows that there is too much apathy among black people and too much unconcern among non-blacks. Dr. King's legacy has been buried, and his words are just as applicable to today's time as they were 35 years ago." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

CRS Operation Rice Bowl program results announced

BALTIMORE — The Diocese of Charlotte raised $50,366 in last year's Operation Rice Bowl, a Lenten program of the national Catholic Relief Services office. The program was initiated in 1976 to encourage an active approach to the Lenten season with prayer, fasting, learning and giving. The program has promoted more than 1,200 long-term development projects in more than 60 countries. While 75 percent of funds collected in the program will be sent to development programs overseas, 25 percent will stay within the diocese for local charity initiatives.

Girl Scouts, from page 5

do just as much as the guys can."

"Being in Girl Scouts is a great way to help with self-esteem, and it can open up job opportunities. You learn to work with each other and in the community, so you are not as afraid to step out into the world," continued Patty.

Both mother and daughter agree that their Catholic faith and being involved with Girl Scouts complement one another.

"Girl Scouts and being Catholic go hand-in-hand," said Patty. "If I weren't a strong Catholic, I wouldn't have made it all the way through [with my project]. Girl Scouts just kind of fit into my life."

While the time for Patty to become her daughter's troop leader is down the line, she plans to follow in her mother's, grandmother's and great-grandmother's path later on in life. For now, after graduation, Patty will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she will major in biochemistry or biology to become a research scientist. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Commitment, from page 13

man life, promote human dignity, preserve God's creation and build peace.

• Read and act on the U.S. Bishop's election year statement, Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium. During the week of March 12th, attend trainings by a national speaker at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro or St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

***Encourage** others to work for greater charity, justice, and peace.*

• Promote the pledge during liturgies and through faith formation. In prayers for the faithful, through homilies, with confirmation projects, during adult education sessions, take the pledge and affirm and encourage parishioners to see our world through the Jubilee Justice lens.

The pledge and most of the materials mentioned above can be ordered from U.S. Catholic Conference Publishing Services at 800-235-8722. Some documents can be downloaded from www.nccbuscc.org. Call the Office of Justice and Peace for information at 704-370-3225.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Office of Justice and Peace for Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship III hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available March 1, 2000.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Music Minister: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia, a growing and diverse community (1,700 families) seeks a full-time Minister of Music. Responsibilities include: planning and preparation for all Sunday and Sacramental Liturgies for the parish and school community and coordination of our parish adult, children, teen, and handbell choirs. The successful candidate will be a highly motivated and organized individual with skill and experience in keyboard, choral, and vocal. Experience in Catholic Liturgy helpful. Computer skills desirable. Salary commensurate with education/experience. Send resume and cover letter to: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Attention:Music Minister Search Committee, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229 or FAX (804)740-2197.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Qualifications: Master's degree in youth ministry or related field; at least five years of relevant experience; status as practicing Catholic in good standing; demonstrated organizational skills. Also requires significant travel and strength in oral and written communication. For job description and application form contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax(912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com.

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Beliefnet.com offers Internet site for all faiths

NEW YORK (CNS) — A new Web site is aiming to provide a place for information, inspiration and advice on all religious faiths.

Beliefnet.com, officially launched Jan. 4, includes a combination of columnists, message boards, discussion groups, seminars and a spot for posting memorials.

The site was founded by Steven Waldman, former national editor at U.S. News and World Report, and Robert Nylen, founding CEO of New England Monthly.

In an introductory column, Waldman said the decision to create the site grew out of questions he and his wife faced in trying to incorporate religious faith into their family.

Waldman was raised a "cultural" Jew and his wife was Presbyterian. They found they needed to first learn more about religious teachings before they could pass anything along to their children.

"There's already an abundance of material on the Internet on spirituality and religion, yet it's hard to find what you want," said Waldman in a statement. "These Web sites are often disorganized or driven by particular agendas. We think there's a crying need for a Web site that lets people navigate this intimidating, confusing medium."

Regular columnists will cover a broad spectrum of beliefs, from Wiccan priestess Margot Adler to Tom Bethel of American Spectator magazine.

Current contributors also include Father Andrew Greeley, Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong, Harvard theologian Harvey Cox, Southern Baptist leader Richard Land, Buddhist Lama Surya Das and Oregon State University professor Marcus Borg, who serves as Bible columnist.

Among features on the site in the first week of January were a teen-age girl's diary discussion about whether she should go through with confirmation and columns by Father Greeley about millennium hype and by Arthur Magida, a correspondent for the PBS show, "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly," about whether Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan is turning toward a more traditional practice of Islam.

There was an interview with Trappist Father Thomas Keating on centering prayer and a review of the movie "The End of the Affair," as well as links to the religious texts of various faiths, and discussion boards on topics ranging from humor to grief, from tarot cards and homeopathy to Marian apparitions and fasting.

The for-profit site can be found at www.beliefnet.com. According to a release, the company plans to offer kits aimed at building religious and spiritual community Web sites in February and to add a sales section in the spring. Access is free. ▼

Harry Potter, from page 10

more palpable menace from Lord Voldemort." But, she said, "I'm not about to write something that is doom and gloom from beginning to end; that would depress me."

In describing her personal beliefs, Rowling said "I believe in God, not magic. I don't think children will be seriously disappointed to hear that I don't believe in magic. I do have doubts, that just goes along with being me. Sometimes faith is trusting that faith will return."

According to The Washington Post, Rowling attends the Church of Scotland, which in the United States is known as Presbyterian.

"My daughter goes to Sunday school, I go to church — not as frequently as I should sometimes, but I do. I count myself a member of the church." ▼

Jubilee Justice, from page 1

churches of North Carolina, especially those in our jurisdictions: to see the face of Christ in the faces of those who suffer deprivation; to seek to embrace with compassion those who struggle for dignity and economic survival; and to study the structures of oppression and the possibilities for changing them."

The religious leaders make six affirmations in the letter. Their statements focus on living the gospel message of good news to the poor, effecting systemic change by altering structures of injustice, providing ministries of outreach and charity, reducing injustice through moral and political will, empowering the poor in political and economic arenas, and promoting cooperation in society.

A Catholic response to poverty

The letter's principal themes — among them equality, liberty, living wages and eradication of the root causes of poverty — fall directly in line with the Catholic Church's teachings on social justice, says one diocesan official.

"Catholic social teaching proclaims very clearly that the economy exists for the person, not the person for the economy," says Joanne Frazer, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace. "Economic choices and institutions must be judged by how they protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person, support the family and serve the common good.

"As Catholics, this has been in our mind, in our teaching and in our action, and we see the need to continue to look at the problems that exist and act on them."

The council's letter is the second pastoral on economic justice that Bishops Curlin and Gossman have signed within recent years.

In November 1997, the two bishops issued "Of One Heart and One Mind," which emphasized the ethical and human dimensions of economic life in the state. In that letter, the bishops provide a moral framework based on principles of Catholic social teaching, especially as it applies to human dignity, productive work and wage standards.

The bishops' endorsement of the new letter is an example of the Catholic Church's ongoing commitment to challenge people to help the fight against poverty, says Frazer.

Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, a number of diocesan and parish projects and programs are operated by people who seek to end poverty by addressing both short-term crisis situations as well as long-term justice issues, Frazer notes.

In Catholic tradition, the Holy Year — as the jubilee is also called — is a time of forgiveness of sin and debt, of reconciliation and of conversion. The Catholic Church's preparation — and, indeed, the world's — for the Jubilee 2000 has been a key point of Pope John Paul II's ministry, especially in the '90s. The pope has frequently referred to the forgiveness of debt, both spiritual and material, in his texts and speeches on the jubilee.

The North Carolina Council of Churches' letter cites Pope John Paul II's significance in promoting the jubilee movement. It notes that the pontiff "reminds us that the 2000 years that have passed since the birth of Christ represent an extraordinary time not only for Christians but for the whole of humanity and should be celebrated as the 'Great Jubilee.'" ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

THE ORATORY
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20th Annual
Cardinal Newman Lecture
"Essentials for the Spiritual Journey"

Dr. Dolores Leckey
10:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 19

Dr. Leckey, member of Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, outstanding lay theologian, writer and speaker, will discuss seven essentials for the spiritual journey in her two talks. The Newman lecture is open to all without charge or pre-registration. The schedule includes noontime Eucharist.

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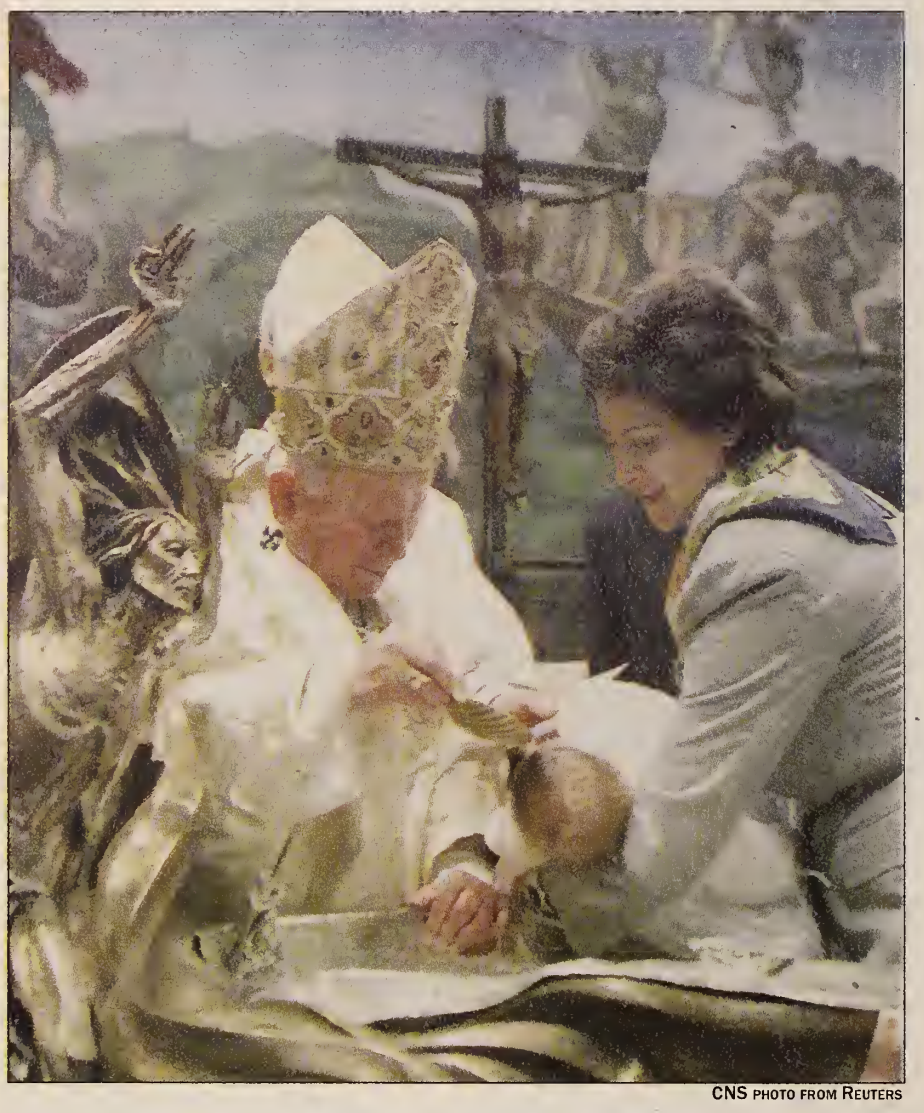

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II baptizes Alberto Coles Vollmer of the United States Jan. 9 in the Sistine Chapel. The pope baptized 18 babies during a service marking the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Pope baptizes 18 babies in Sistine Chapel liturgy

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a ceremony enlivened by a chorus of crying infants and the smiles of their older brothers and sisters, Pope John Paul II baptized 18 babies, including one from the United States, in the Sistine Chapel.

"I hope these little ones will grow in the faith they receive today, in a way that allows them to participate actively in the life of the church," a visibly pleased pope said during the liturgy Jan. 9.

After anointing the 18 babies — 10 boys and eight girls — with holy oil, he deftly poured water over the heads of each and welcomed them into the faith. Some cried, some slept and some chewed on their pacifiers, while their parents beamed.

The heartiest cries came from young Jacopo Guglielmo. The quietest was Maria Chiara Mirabella, whose sister stood on tiptoes afterward, waiting until she could give the pope a kiss on the cheek.

Six brothers and sisters of the baptized took the offertory gifts to the altar, and a few of them, ignoring official prods to move on, paused in conversation with the 79-year-old pontiff, who seemed delighted.

Among the newly baptized were 14 from Italy and one each from Brazil, Spain, Switzerland and the United States. The U.S. baby, Alberto Coles Vollmer, was born in Miami in late November to two Venezuelan parents. He is the grandson of Venezuela's ambassador to the Holy See.

Early in his pontificate, the pope began the tradition of baptizing infants in the Sistine Chapel on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This year's Mass was celebrated a few weeks after completion of a 20-year restoration project of chapel frescoes by Michelangelo and other Renaissance artists.

If the babies did not notice the art, the pope did, saying the setting offered a fitting reminder of the history of salvation, the origins of the human being and the universal judgment to come.

The pope told parents and godparents of the baptized that they had a responsibility to guide the children along the path of faith in Christ and the Gospel.

"Be for them examples of solid faith, deep prayer and active involvement in church life," he said.

Speaking afterward at a midday blessing from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square, the pope said all Christians should meditate on their own baptism and view it as a "call to return to the roots of the Christian vocation." ▼

In U.S. Gallup poll, Mother Teresa tops list of century's most admired

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta came out as the most admired person of the 20th century in a yearend Gallup Poll of more than 500 Americans.

Of those surveyed, 49 percent called her one of the people they admire most in the century.

Other Catholics in the top 10 were President John F. Kennedy, who was third, and Pope John Paul II, who ranked eighth.

Most admired after Mother Teresa was the slain U.S. civil rights leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll of 511 adults was conducted by telephone Dec. 20-21 and has a statistical margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent.

Those surveyed were given 18 names and were asked, "For each one, please tell me if you consider that person to be one of the people you admire most from this century; a person you admire, but not the most; a person you somewhat admire; or someone you do not admire at all."

They were allowed to name more than one person among those they most admired.

For Mother Teresa, 49 percent said she was one of the people they admired most, and 32 percent said she was someone they admired, but not the most. Only 3 percent said they did not admire her at all.

Thirty-four percent said Rev. King was one of their most admired figures and an additional 33 percent put him in the next category.

The rest of the top 10, followed by the percentages that said "admire most" and "admire" respectively, were:

— Kennedy, 32 and 34.
— Albert Einstein, 31 and 39.
— Helen Keller, 30 and 33.
— President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 26 and 34.
— The Rev. Billy Graham, 26 and 26.
— Pope John Paul, 25 and 34.
— Eleanor Roosevelt, 22 and 34.
— Winston Churchill, 20 and 36.

The other eight people listed in the poll, in the order of how they were rated, were: Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Ronald Reagan, Henry Ford, Bill Clinton and Margaret Thatcher.

Ironically, while the pope came out slightly below Rev. Graham on the "most admired" poll, the world-famed evangelist picked the pope as the man of the century.

Pope John Paul "has brought the greatest impact of any pope in the last 200 years," Rev. Graham said in a December interview with The Associated Press.

In a separate Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll, taken earlier in December, President Clinton came out on top. Rev. Graham second, and Pope John Paul third, when more than 1,000 Americans were asked to select the man they most admire among living persons they have heard or read about. There was a separate question for most-admired woman.

The question in that poll was open-ended. The president got 10 percent of the first or second mentions by respondents, the preacher 7 percent and the pope 6 percent. ▼

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The Catholic
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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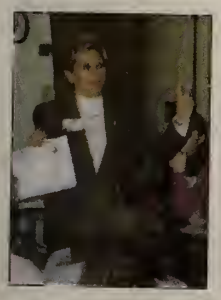

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A solemn blessing

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, receives abbatial blessing

BY JIMMY ROSTAR AND JOANN KEANE

BELMONT — The Right Reverend Placid D. Solari, OSB, was blessed as eighth abbot of Belmont Abbey on Jan. 15, two months after his brother monks elected and monastic officials confirmed him as the spiritual and administrative leader of the Benedictine institution.

The abbatial blessing of Abbot Placid is part of a new chapter in the Benedictine story in North Carolina, a story well over a century old. Abbot Placid was elected and confirmed as the new abbot last November, thus succeeding Abbot Oscar Burnett as the new superior of the abbey. Abbot Emeritus Burnett had served as abbot since 1991.

As eighth abbot of Belmont Abbey, Abbot Placid will tend to the spiritual and administrative leadership duties of the abbey and serve as chancellor of Belmont Abbey College.

The Mass in which the blessing took place was filled with themes celebrating the religious zeal and leadership the Benedictines have fostered in North Carolina for more than a century.

Presided by Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and concelebrated by dozens of Benedictine, diocesan and other religious priests serving in North Carolina's two dioceses and beyond, the Mass was celebrated in Belmont Abbey Basilica.

The blessing took place on the memorial of Sts. Maur and Placid, disciples of the founder of western monasticism, St. Benedict. Hymns honored the servitude and joy of the Christian life, and called to mind the patroness of Belmont Abbey — known under the title of Maryhelp of Christians. Scripture readings chosen by the new abbot spoke of the graces needed to fulfill heavenly tasks and to live in the spirit of true faith.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, and Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte, share a moment in front of the Belmont Abbey Basilica.

The Rite of Blessing, customarily celebrated by the bishop of the place where the monastery is located, solemnly focused on the charge of the abbot and the living symbols of his role.

To a series of questions posed by Bishop Curlin, Abbot Placid affirmed his promise to lead as a determined teacher, a spiritual father, a prudent administrator and a religious loyal to the church and the pope.

Abbot Placid then knelt as the Litany of Saints was sung, as the abbot and all the congregation prayed for God's grace as he embraces his new ministry.

The Prayer of Blessing asked for God's grace in guiding the abbot to fully realize his responsibilities as a leader and a brother: "Give him the gifts of your Spirit. Set him on fire with love for your glory and for the service of your Church, and may he in turn inflame with zeal the hearts of his brothers. In his life and in his teachings may he set

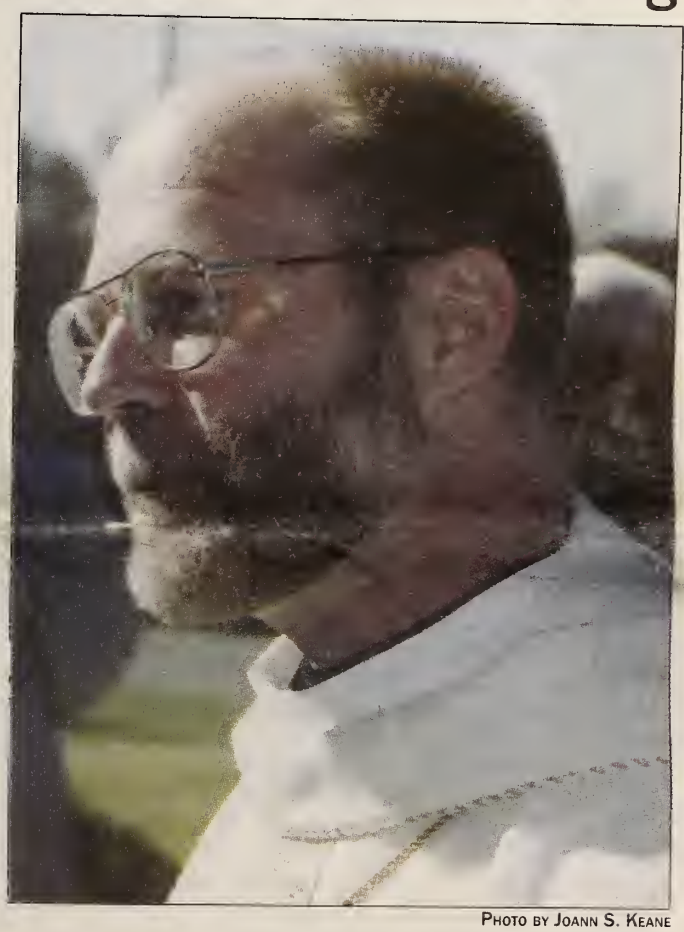

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, was elected as eighth abbot of Belmont Abbey last November. He received the abbatial blessing Jan. 15, the memorial of Sts. Maur and Placid, who were followers of St. Benedict.

Christ above all things, and when the day of judgment dawns, receive him in the company of his brothers, into your kingdom."

A copy of the "Rule of Benedict," a synopsis of spiritual life that has guided the Benedictine tradition for 15 centuries, was given to Abbot Placid, as were a ring signifying the abbot's office and the abbot's pastoral staff.

In addition to the blessing of the abbot, the Mass provided for an exchange of thanksgiving between the monks of Belmont Abbey and the church community in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Flanked by his brother monks surrounding the altar, Abbot Placid offered his gratitude to the faithful who continue their support of the abbey, its monks and their works. The congregation broke into applause and offered a rousing standing ovation for the Benedictines.

"The election of an abbot is always the action of the entire monastic community," Abbot Placid said during closing comments. "We, the monks of Belmont Abbey who stand before you today, pledge to you ... our continued support to enrich this church in North Carolina with our lives and our hearts."

In his homily, and with Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of

SEE ABBATIAL BLESSING, PAGE 15

Justices hear arguments in Colorado case on 'bubble zone'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With attorneys arguing about whether a "floating bubble zone" is more or less of a restriction on First Amendment rights than the court previously has allowed, the Supreme Court Jan. 19 took up consideration of a Colorado law limiting protests outside medical buildings. For the third time since 1994, the court will rule on whether restrictions meant to address "sidewalk counseling" at abortion clinics are constitutional. The Colorado law adopted in 1993 prohibits anyone outside any "health care facility" from approaching within eight feet of another person to hand out a leaflet, show a sign, or engage in discussion with anyone within 100 feet of any entrances without permission.

Pope meets planners, says he looks forward to World Youth Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting with the international planners of World Youth Day, Pope John Paul II said he was looking forward to the celebration in mid-August, when more than 1 million young people are expected to converge on Rome. He told organizers from 70 countries Jan. 15 that he wanted the young participants to leave the event as evangelizers and "builders of a civilization of love." The main events of the Aug. 14-20 celebration in Rome will be a vigil Aug. 19 and Mass Aug. 20, both presided over by the pope in a field on the outskirts of Rome.

Portillo's promises create cautious optimism among church leaders

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The wide-ranging changes promised by newly elected Guatemalan President Alfonso Portillo have generated cautious optimism among Catholic leaders in the Central American nation. Auxiliary Bishop Mario Rios Montt of Guatemala City said Jan. 17 that Portillo's "willingness to make changes are a great advance." If Portillo "manages to do what he proposes, this will be a new Guatemala ... but it doesn't just depend on the good will of the president," the bishop said.

More strife in Indonesia
A man walk past a destroyed Catholic church on the Indonesian island of Lombok Jan. 18. Thousands of angry Indonesian Muslims went on an anti-Christian rampage destroying at least 10 churches and burning shops. Violence between Muslims and Christians on the so-called Spice Islands has raged for more than a year.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

In his first public address after being sworn in as Guatemala's fifth democratic president Jan. 14, Portillo, 48, of the rightist Guatemalan Republican Front, announced a new internal investigation into the death of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City, a veteran human rights campaigner slain allegedly by members of the security forces.

Corporate responsibility groups target genetic tweaking of food

NEW YORK (CNS) — Genetic engineering of agricultural products has emerged as a principal new emphasis of church groups involved in the corporate responsibility movement. The annual compilation of stockholder resolutions published by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in New York identified 19 resolutions that had been filed by church groups and their allies challenging corporations on the use and sale of genetically engineered products. "This technology involves significant social, economic and environmental risks," says a supporting statement for a resolution filed with American Home Products, Archer Daniels Midland, Dow, DuPont and Monsanto.

Israeli human rights report criticizes land policies

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Massive land confiscation from Palestinians for Jewish use and overcrowding in Palestinian neighborhoods are part of an "explicitly stated and intentional" Israeli government policy based on political expediency, said an Israeli human rights group. "Israel invests enormous resources to build large Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. At the same time the Israeli authorities choke development for the Palestinian population, which is perceived as a 'demographic threat' to Israeli control of the city," B'Tselem said in its report on the status of Jerusalem, titled "Injustice in the Holy City." B'Tselem is the leading Israeli human rights group advocating for human rights in the Palestinian territories and was founded in 1989.

Militant Muslims attacking Kosovo's Christians, says Fides

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Kosovo's Christians are facing increasing violence from militant Muslims in the war-scarred southern Yugoslavian province, said Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency. Jesuit Father Mato Jakovic, coordinator of Jesuit Refugee Services in Macedonia and Kosovo, said in a Jan. 12 Fides report that Catholic cemeteries in the cities of Prizren and Pec had been destroyed. The graves of a bishop and priest were profaned. The Fides report said the relatives of priests are "ever more frequently maltreated," adding that the homes of relatives of two Franciscans were torched in early December.

Vatican TV newscast now has Internet home

NEW YORK (CNS) — Vatican TV's weekly newscast is now being made available on the Internet by ForeignTV.com. The official Vatican TV network, Centro Televisivo Vaticano, or CTV, compiles a weekly broadcast of 20-30 minutes. It is made available to ForeignTV.com each Wednesday, according to spokesman Lewis Goldberg. People wishing to see the broadcast should go to www.foreigntv.com and then click on its WorldNewsTV.com icon.

Pontifical university offers rabbi-led Holocaust seminar

ROME (CNS) — A Rome university instituted by the Vatican offered a seminar on the Nazi Holocaust — and invited a rabbi to teach it. From Jan. 10-18, Rabbi Leon Klenicki, interfaith affairs director at the Anti-Defamation League in New York and professor of Jewish theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, N.Y., led a six-class seminar on Jewish theological responses to the Holocaust. The class was at the University of the Holy Cross, instituted by the Vatican in 1985 and run by the personal prelature of Opus Dei.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 23-24
The National Right to Life March, Washington, DC

Jan. 23 — 8pm
Concelebrated Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

January 24 — 10am
Mass for pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte
Blessed Sacrament Chapel within the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

January 28
"Journey to Justice" retreat
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

January

23 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is hosting an Ecumenical Jubilee Christian Unity Service this afternoon at 3 p.m. with a reception to follow in the crypt. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-6042.

24 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transitions is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crises. The group meets every other Monday night, including tonight and Feb. 7 and 21, from 7-9 p.m. in the conference room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Included in this ministry are Saturday sessions on "Interview Skills to Get the Job" on Jan. 15 and 22. There are a limited number of openings, so for further information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

27 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to attend a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for details.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is having a "Day of Retreat and Prayer" today, starting with 8 a.m. Mass and ending at 3:30 p.m. The spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montford is being featured in the morning, and the revelations to Sister Faustina of the Divine Mercy are being featured in the afternoon. For reservations, call the church office at (828) 254-6042.

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 S. Main St., is celebrating the Feast of St. Francis de Sales this afternoon at the 5 p.m. Mass with a covered dish supper to follow in the parish center. The Salesian Award, given to a parishioner who best exemplifies the virtues of St. Francis de Sales, is being presented at Mass. For more information, call the church office

Eighth abbot continues Benedictine tradition

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — If asked nicely, he might do his Donald Duck impression or retell the plot of the latest scary movie he has seen. This fun-loving and spirited side of newly installed Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, has been seen by many of his students, former parishioners and friends. However, he is best known as "pious, spiritual and dedicated" by many of those with whom he has worked over the years.

Abbot Placid explains his multi-faceted nature: "I have always enjoyed life and have had fun. I enjoy teasing and keeping people laughing. I have to keep a sense of humor as I sit back and watch things happen in and around my life over which I have no control."

To many, it may seem that Abbot Placid has always been in control of his life, from his childhood days in Richmond, Va., to his present days at Belmont Abbey and College.

He was born the youngest in a family of six and attended the same school, Benedictine High School, that his brothers attended.

During his high school years, he became friends with Trappist Father Aelred Hagan, the vocations and novice director at Mepkin Abbey in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

"In high school and in the novitiate, he [Abbot Placid] was a very focused and upright person, one who cares a lot about people," said Father Hagan. "He is a no-nonsense person who gets down to business ... but he has a good sense of humor."

The mini-pilgrimages he made to Belmont Abbey with Father Hagan and other students allowed Abbot Placid bonding time with his oldest brother, a monk in Belmont Abbey at the time. He and that brother, Father Jim Solari, now the pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, are 22 years apart.

Even though there are many years between the brothers, their lives curiously converge in several instances.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in history from Bellermine College in Louisville, Ky., Abbot Placid entered the novitiate in Belmont Abbey and then attended the Pontificium Athenaeum Anselmianum in Rome until 1978 — the same school his brother attended.

Archive photo

Bishop Michael J. Begley, founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, ordains then-Rev. Mr. Placid Solari to the priesthood in this June 1980 photo.

Both brothers maintain that Father Solari had no direct influence on his youngest brother. However, Father Solari said, "I always thought it might be a possibility [for him to become a priest] because he was always pious, responsible, hard-working and attracted to his faith. But, I never tried to influence him."

When Abbot Placid was teaching theology at Belmont Abbey College from 1978-1982, he also worked at St. Michael Church in Gastonia as a transitional deacon and, later, as associate pastor to his brother, who was the pastor at the time.

"He taught me a lot, and I enjoyed working with him and the wonderful parish community," said Abbot Placid.

Father Solari agreed. "We enjoyed being together at the parish," he said. "We had always had a good family life, and there was never a time when we didn't get along."

Abbot Placid was ordained in June 1980 — almost exactly 25 years to the day that his brother was ordained in June 1955.

A parishioner from St. Michael Church remembers Abbot Placid in very positive terms: "I found him very understanding and compassionate," said Edith Baug Darwin, who has been a parishioner since 1934. "I felt very drawn to him, even though he was a younger priest, and he typified what I thought a monk was like."

After receiving his doctorate in theology and patristics, the study of early Christian writers, from a school in Rome, in 1996, Abbot Placid became academic dean of Belmont Abbey College — the position that his brother held from 1970 to 1978.

While working at these positions, Abbot Placid continued to teach, which is his first love.

"I love teaching so much — probably because I've seen, in my own life, the creative influence of teachers," he said. "The students have always been a challenge to one's self, and you can see as people's minds open to new visions and vistas."

He now begins the next phase in his life as eighth abbot of Belmont Abbey and the chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, a position which came as a "surprise to him" at the time of the elections last Thanksgiving.

His goals include "leading the community in discussions of monastic life to make the values of monasticism real and present, attracting vocations, and overseeing the identity of the college to make sure it continues in the traditions of monastic life and maintains identity as Catholic and Bendictine institution."

Father Hagan applauded the monks' selection of the new abbot. "The choice of him by the monastic community sends a good message to the college and the community, which is important in regards to the growth of monastic life in North Carolina."

Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein, archivist and historian emeritus of Belmont Abbey, who was in the novitiate with Abbot Placid, said, "his pleasant nature and sense of discernment was impressive from the beginning."

"I am thrilled. None of the elections has gone more quickly because the community saw an obvious choice for the position. He has an impressive humility and a distinguished scholastic record and looks for what is good in all of those around him," he continued.

Father Solari realizes the level of responsibility ahead for his brother: "I am very proud of him and happy for the community. This is an honor for him but also a serious challenge. This is somewhat of a major responsibility that will not be an easy one, but his deep spirituality, based on the "Rule of St. Benedict," is a blessing for the college. His leadership qualities mean a bright day for Belmont Abbey." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

at (336) 248-2463.

30 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E.), Western North Carolina's homeschool support group, is hosting a "Moms' Evening Out" tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

February

4 HAMLET — St. James Church Annual Pit-Cooked Barbecue is being held today from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1018 West Hamlet Ave., off of Hwy. 74. People can choose pork or chicken, cooked on site, with Cole slaw, baked beans and rolls and may eat in or take out. The proceeds will benefit the church's building fund. Call the church office at (910) 582-0207 for further information.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is an enrichment program for married couple to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. This weekend, the retreat is being held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

5 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is having an attic sale today from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call the church office at (704) 527-8671 for more details.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Placement Test is administered each year to all eighth graders who wish to apply to the high school. The placement test is being given this morning from 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the school, located at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road. Students should bring a light snack for the break and two sharpened number two pencils. For registration and other information, call the school at (704) 543-1217.

6 CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for the Respect for Life Rosary being said in front of Our Lady's Grotto at 3 p.m. this afternoon. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church, 1414 Gorrell St., is holding their annual Black History Month Celebration Mass, sponsored by the Black History Month Committee, this afternoon at 12:15 p.m. with Father Martin Carter from Our Lady of Victory Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., being assisted by Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the diocese. A covered dish luncheon follows the Mass. For details, call the church office at (336) 272-8650.

7 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

12 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a Valentine's Day party tonight at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and a beverage. For details about directions, donation and other information, call Patti at (336) 665-8108.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The Separated/Divorced Group meets every Tuesday in the Family Life Center of St. Eugene Church, 1 Culvern St., at 7 p.m. James Young's book "Divorcing, Believing, Belonging" is the group's current focus for discussion. For details, call Nancy at (828) 254-5193.

CHARLOTTE — There is a Chi-Rho Mass held on the campus of UNCC Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 208 of the Cone Student Center, followed by a brown bag lunch and discussion. Call the Office of Religious Affairs at (704) 547-4069 for more information.

CHARLOTTE — "Forever Young" is an exercise group for people 55 and older at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. They meet every Monday and Friday and are seeking new members. Call Peg Hill at (704) 843-0909 for details.

Please submit notices of events for Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Honoring Abbot Placid D. Solari on the occasion of his blessing as 8th Abbot of Belmont Abbey

"Listen readily

to holy reading and

devote yourself often

to prayer."

— Rule of Benedict 4, 55

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

— The Most Reverend William G. Curlin
and the Catholic Community of Western North Carolina

All are called to be disciples, parish leaders told

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — By comparing Jesus to the rabbis of his time, the Diocese of Charlotte's vicar for education explained how all Christians are called to be disciples in a keynote speech at the diocesan parish catechetical leader (PCL) meeting at the Catholic Conference Center.

Rabbis of Jesus' time only accepted the best candidates from those who came to them asking to be trained, said Father James Hawker during the Jan. 13 meeting. Jesus, on the other hand, "chose his disciples with all kinds of warts and calluses. He chose people who could be a real pain in the neck, people who needed to be fine-tuned, people who needed to be refined."

Another difference, said Father Hawker, was that the candidates who learned from the rabbis would eventually strike out on their own and find their own group to lead, leaving the rabbi behind. "Jesus asked his disciples to have a permanent relationship with him," he said. "Discipleship was a call to intimacy with him. He expected that the disciple would identify with him first, and then with his message."

Although all Christians are called to be disciples, said Father Hawker, all Christians are not meant to do the same type of ministry. "We respond according to the role and responsibilities of our lives," he said. "Our mission is directly related to our state and circumstances of life."

One thing that all disciples must do, said Father Hawker, is to use their authority properly. "Any authority you have is delegated," he said. "Our authority, as we live it out, must be a moral authority. Authority and integrity are two words that are integrally bound together."

"We also learn (in the Bible)," he said, "that any disciple is a person of faith." To illustrate this point, Father Hawker talked about several encounters between Jesus and his disciple Peter, and also pointed out writings of Paul on that subject in his letters to the Colossians and Philippians in the Bible.

Father Hawker then turned to the role of the catechetical leader in his or her parish. "The diocese has to have programs to assist in development and maturation (in the faith)," he said. "You play an important role" in the achievement of that goal on the parish level.

He defined a catechetical leader as "a person of vision, purpose and direction, who inspires and motivates, guides and directs." He also quoted Pope John Paul II as saying that "'the purpose of catechesis is to assist people to become intimate with Jesus.'"

"This assumes we are intimate (with Jesus) ourselves," said Father Hawker. "(Leadership is) an investment of self as a witness to Jesus."

Father Hawker also said that catechetical leaders should develop a mission statement to help them to implement their visions for faith formation in their individual parishes.

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional Coordinator for the Office of Faith Formation, leads a roundtable discussion entitled, "Parents, Our Partners in Faith Formation."

After Father Hawker's opening address, those attending the meeting had a choice of two roundtable discussions to attend in the morning, and two after lunch.

The morning sessions were "Parents, Our Partners in Faith Formation," led by Marylin Kravatz, faith formation coordinator for the Southern Region, and "Working with Faith Formation Boards," led by Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools. The afternoon sessions were "Spirituality and Retreats," led by Sister Bernadette Svatos, faith formation coordinator for the Northern Region, and "Hispanic Ministry for the Millennium," led by Sister Johanna Orlett, a Franciscan nun who teaches at Catawba College in Salisbury.

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of programs for the diocesan Office of Faith Formation, said that programs for PCLs are held five times a year. "The basic idea is to equip our PCLs," he said. "This is diocesan-wide. When they go back to their regions, they get more custom-tailored service from their regional coordinators. This is more universal." ▼

CRESCAT

Congratulations and best wishes to Abbot Placid

and the monks of Belmont Abbey

From the parishioners of
St. Mary's in Shelby and Christ the King
Mission in Kings Mountain.

Prayerful best wishes to Abbot Placid Solari and the monks of Belmont Abbey.

The Catholic Conference Center

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Saint's "Rule" guides Benedictine, spiritual life

"This message of mine is for you, then, if you are ready to give up your own will, once and for all, and armed with the strong and noble weapons of obedience to do battle for the true King, Christ the Lord." — from the Prologue of the "Rule of Benedict"

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

The work is credited with advancing the monastic life across western Europe and into New World. It continues to offer spiritual and administrative guidance especially for those who lead and live in the Benedictine tradition, and it has done much to shape the spiritual lives of countless men and women — clergy, religious and laity — who seek God through prayer, study, solitude and Christian service.

Written in the sixth century, the "Rule of Benedict" has long been considered by the church as a treasury of spiritual advice for monastic life. Including a prologue and 73 chapters, it prescribes a way of living through humble, contemplative and obedient faith and service.

Benedict's "Rule" focuses on the spiritual and the practical, the doctrinal and the worldly. It directs its followers on everything from eating habits to virtuous zeal, from personal possessions to the use of prayer. It has survived, in several translated variations, for 15 centuries both as a body of law and a blueprint for spiritual fervor.

Based on Scripture and the Christian experience of community life, the "Rule" borrows — heavily, in places — from traditions found in earlier forms of monasticism in the East as early as the fourth century. Still, Benedict's "Rule" proved to have tremendous influence on monastic life from the sixth century on, and it refined ways of spiritual and practical living that are still experienced.

The "Rule" is very much applicable in monasteries today, and it is often adapted by individual monasteries based on monks' gifts and capabilities. While its content might not always be followed verbatim, monks across the world nevertheless continue to see the "Rule's" inspiration and wisdom as a means of living a true Christian life.

Benedictine Father Luke Edelen, who ministers and teaches in Newark, N.J., said the "Rule" has found new ways to manifest itself through the ages as it inspires a particular way of life.

"Monastic life is a form of Christian community living that involves attention to the Word of God, obedience to the Word of God, the recognition that Christ is present in all kinds of ways in that community, and that Christ is to be loved, served and obeyed in all those ways he is present," said Father Edelen.

Given that, he said, the "Rule" offers suggestions that can bring peace and simplicity of heart.

"The 'Rule' has been the prime vehicle for helping Benedictines through the centuries, because of what it does to encapsulate the best of the monastic tradition," he said.

Father Edelen, who entered monastic life as a Benedictine in 1972, said there has been an explosion of Benedictine spirituality among the laity as well. "It's very noticeable that there is great interest in general among lay people in recognizing that they are not second-class citizens, but rather are first-class Christians," he said. "Not surprisingly, many have found inspiration in the Benedictine way as a path of living out their baptismal vocations."

The "Rule" is more than a legal document, Father Edelen said. It is a spiritual document as well. And while the practical side of the monastery is necessarily guided by constitutions and directories, he added, "what is absolutely indispensable is a spiritual vision that the 'Rule' articulates."

As the world continues to experience constant transition, he said, "Benedictine tradition encapsulated in the 'Rule' is a witness to the fact that while changes have come and gone, there is something that is perennial — something of lasting value." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or email jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Congratulations
Abbot Placid Solari

Wishing blessings & many good things for the coming years.

Our Lady of Mercy Church
Winston-Salem, NC

Congratulations

and special blessings to

Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B.

and the Monks of Belmont Abbey

✝ From the Parishioners of
St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
Winston-Salem, NC

The staff of

The Catholic

News & Herald

extends prayers

and best wishes to

The Right Reverend

Placid Solari, O.S.B.,

Eighth Abbot of

Belmont Abbey.

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Role of abbot: to serve as head of spiritual family

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

From the earliest days of Benedictine tradition, the role of the abbot has revolved around compassionate service as the head of a spiritual family. St. Benedict, according to various histories, conceived the notion of the monastic community as a family, and the community's superior has always been expected to lead with paternal care.

An article in the online edition of "The Catholic Encyclopedia" gives the following summary of the abbot's office: "In a word, uniting in his person the threefold office of father, teacher, and ruler, it is the duty of the Abbot to see that all things are administered wisely in the house of God."

A form of the Hebrew word "ab" — meaning father — led to the term abbot. St. Benedict, credited with founding western monasticism in the sixth century, directed in his "Rule" that the term be applied to monastery superiors and wrote "the abbot must always remember what his title signifies and act as a superior should."

According to Benedict, the abbot is to represent the person of Christ to his monastic community. Certainly not to be considered a replacement for Jesus, the abbot is by Benedict's estimation considered to be the primary person in a monastic community who takes on Christ's shepherding ministry — one that encompasses compassion, fairness and Christian outreach.

In his book "Cherish Christ Above All: The Bible in the Rule of Benedict," Benedictine Father Demetrius Dumm looks at the role of abbot through the text of the "Rule" and gives commentary on how the abbot is "the principal agent of compassion" in the monastery.

"The primary duty of the abbot is, therefore, to assure that the goodness of God, as loving Father, is made present in the monastery in a truly effective manner," writes Father Dumm, professor of New Testament at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

Borrowing from phrases in the "Rule" itself, Father Dumm writes, "When the abbot is aware of 'what he is,' he realizes that he is the primary exponent of God's love in the monastery; and when he remembers 'what he is called,' he hears an echo of those words of Benedict describing himself as 'a father who loves you.'"

Moreover, the Benedictine "Rule" makes perfectly clear the role of the abbot as envisioned by Benedict, adds Father Dumm. In addition to his being a father figure, the abbot is to ensure that monastic life according to the "Rule" — adapted to individual capabilities — is lived by the monks in his charge. And, his duties also extend to the more earthly endeavors of administration of the community's possessions, hospitality to visitors, and serving as an educator who shares his knowledge and wisdom with a personal honesty.

In essence, the abbot is to lead by example. "Let him seek to preside over his brothers rather than to preside over them," reads the liturgical Prayer of Blessing for the abbot. "Give him a heart full of compassion, wisdom, and zeal, so that he may not lose even one of the flock entrusted to his charge."

That spirit of Christian love, adds Father Dumm, keeps the abbot focused on his primary obligations to his brother monks and all the faithful they encounter.

"A genuine love and compassion for community members will also guide the monastic superior toward a recognition of the priority of their spiritual welfare over all other considerations," he writes. "The good works of the monastery are, after all, merely the by-product of its primary function as a place where men and women can be supported on their journey to their final homeland." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or email jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Congratulations
and God's blessing to
Abbot Placid Solari

From the People of
Our Lady of Grace Church
Greensboro, NC

Canadian Celtic fiddler John Morris Rankin dies

HALIFAX, Canada (CNS) — Popular Celtic fiddler John Morris Rankin of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, died when his sports utility vehicle slid off a road in Cape Breton and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean. The funeral Mass for the 40-year-old Catholic musician was to be held Jan. 20 at St. Mary's Church in Mabou, and he was to be buried in the church cemetery. John Rankin formed a Celtic music group with siblings Jimmy, Cookie, Raylene and Heather. The group first known as The Rankin Family and later simply as the Rankins played together for 10 years and sold more than 2 million albums.

Catholic proposal among views at health coverage meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Health Association Jan. 13 urged a steppingstone strategy to reach the goal of universal health coverage in the United States. Father Michael D. Place, CHA president and chief executive officer, proposed for starters cutting the current 44 million Americans without health care coverage by at least one-third over the next three years. The CHA was one of eight major national organizations involved in health care issues whose top leaders convened at the National Press Club for a daylong meeting, "Health Coverage 2000: Meeting the Challenge of the Uninsured."

Discussion continues over selection process for House chaplain

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Last spring, when House chaplain Rev. James Ford announced his plans to retire, he set in motion a six-month search to find his replacement — and then a firestorm of protest over the final candidate selected by House leaders. And the dust may not settle until the House makes its final vote in early February. Much of the uproar has been over an alleged anti-Catholic bias shown by House leaders when they bypassed a Catholic priest, Father Timothy O'Brien, in favor of a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Charles Wright, for the chaplaincy job, a position that has been around since 1789 and has always been filled by a Protestant.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Fire at Seton Hall University

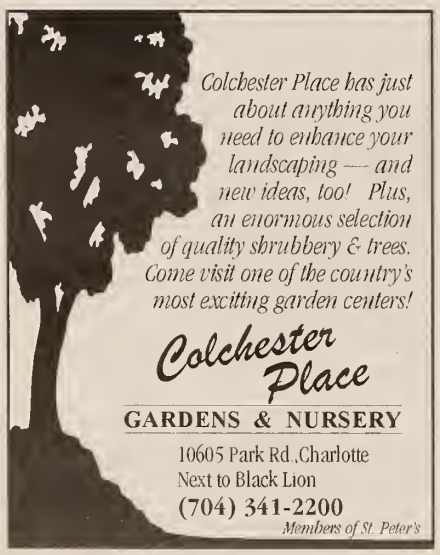
Theresa Wilk, a Seton Hall University student who escaped an early morning fire in her dormitory, clutches a stuffed bear outside the university's student center in South Orange, N.J., Jan. 19. Three people died and 58 others were injured in the fire at Boland Hall.

Polish Auschwitz protester gets suspended jail term

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish nationalist who led the stationing of crosses at the former Auschwitz concentration camp has received a six-month suspended sentence for charges that include inciting racial hatred and insulting members of parliament. In a mid-January ruling, the regional court in Oswiecim said it was giving Kazimierz Switon a two-month suspended sentence for calling the Polish parliament "a Sejm of national traitors," and a further four-month suspended sentence for slandering Germans and Jews on national and religious grounds.

Baseball team from Catholic university headed to Cuba

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — The baseball team from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul is heading to Havana. The team, which ranked No. 2 last year in the NCAA's Division III, apparently will be the first college or university team to play in Cuba since Johns Hopkins University in 1986. The Jan 22-29 trip is scheduled to include cultural and educational outings, such as visits to museums, and perhaps time spent with Cuban college students and their families. Ball games are planned for Jan. 26 or 27.



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St. Leo Church parishioners embroider jubilee quilt

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — The brainstorming began in January of 1999. The St. Leo the Great Church Jubilee Committee was given the task of finding a unique way to celebrate the millennium. They wanted to draw fellowship, unity and participation from parishioners of all ages in the process. They decided that the creation of a jubilee quilt would be the answer.

"The squares went like hot cakes," says Joyce Anderson, who has been the coordinator of the project. She added, "We (the committee) were all pleased that the participation went far beyond any of our expectations."

Dedicated Jan. 12, 2000, by Father James Solari, pastor, the work of art now hangs majestically in the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church. It will remain in this location throughout 2000 to serve as a reminder of the jubilee year celebration. Many people will encounter the quilt, as the parish center is used for one of the Sunday Masses and numerous activities for youth, adults and seniors during the week.

The organizers — along with the 43 quilters, eight assemblers and numerous planners — remain in amazement at the overwhelming response and enthusiasm from parishioners.

The quilt consists of 40 squares, half embroidered in scriptural themes and half in liturgical ones. All the squares were pre-patterned. Many of the patterns were shared by committee member LaDonna Jensen, who was a central figure in proposing this project.

The squares with scriptural designs are generally quite detailed, while the liturgical ones are more simple. The two different designs are interspersed. Having so many different patterns and people involved, it was decided that all the squares would be embroidered with the same color to afford continuity. A gray thread was chosen, giving the quilt a sophisticated look. It also coordinates with the bright purple and teal colors of the borders, which the Vatican has chosen as the official colors for the Jubilee Year.

The official Jubilee Logo has been placed in the center of the quilt. Mimi Eisenmenger, a key participant in this project, explained, "We obtained permission from Rome to use the logo." Parishioner Marianne Donadio was responsible for construction of this centerpiece.

An explanation of the logo, according to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, is that of a cross imposed upon a circular blue field symbolizing the universe. The cross sustains humanity gathered in the continents represented by five doves. It represents the Incarnation, whereby God enters into human history and redeems it. The light that comes from the center of the design signifies Christ, who is the light of the world. The colors of the logo express the joy and peace which are integral to the Jubilee celebration.

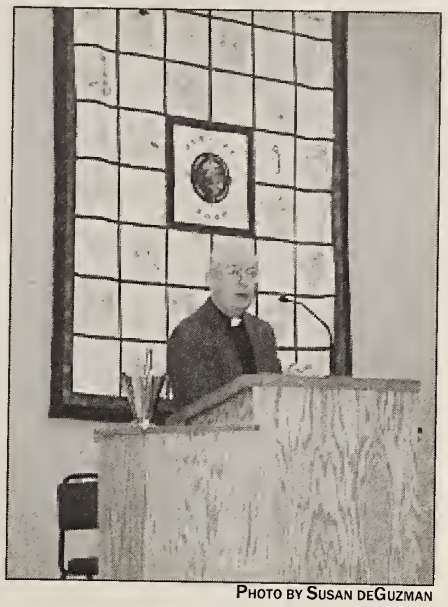


Photo by Susan deGuzman

Father James Solari dedicates the jubilee quilt at the Bishop Begley Parish Center at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem. The quilt will hang throughout 2000 to serve as a reminder of the jubilee year celebration.

The project was first announced one Sunday in April at each Mass.

"The squares went like hot cakes," says Joyce Anderson, who has been the coordinator of the project. She added, "We (the committee) were all pleased that the participation went far beyond any of our expectations."

Once the announcement of the availability of the squares was issued, parishioners called asking for squares for weeks following.

Those with squares were encouraged to share the project with family members. Some of the squares were shared among different families. Working during the latter part of the spring and into the summer, all quilters finished by August.

A group of eight women met regularly during the fall for the final stages. It was no small task to piece together a quilt measuring roughly seven by ten feet. In five sewing sessions, the group brought the project to completion. The quilt was finished in mid-November.

"Everyone was so wonderful with the deadline," Mimi Eisenmenger expressed. "It was great to see such enthusiasm." ▼

...this is what Yahweh asks of you: only this.
to act justly, to love tenderly
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Regional Community of North Carolina
extend their heartfelt and prayerful
support to the recently appointed
Abbot of Belmont Abbey,

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB

King's dream lives through his legacy, says Catholic priest

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — The civil rights movement in the United States has made tempered progress since the death of Martin Luther King Jr., said an African-American Catholic priest nationally recognized for his commitment to social justice. But, he added, the struggle for racial equality is far from completion, as racism today has become more subtle yet no less damaging to society.

Father George Clements was the keynote speaker at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration Jan. 17. The hour-long service included prayer, music and readings from Scripture. A video presentation of King's "I Have a Dream" speech — filled with images of the often violent race relations effort — preceded the event. Tears were shed, hands were raised, amens were shouted.

And, in an animated address to his audience, Father Clements further stirred the emotions of those in attendance with words of passion and hope.

Father Clements, who for decades has gained attention as a humanitarian and proponent of social and economic justice, noted that many in the audience were not alive when King was at the forefront of the race relations issue in the United States. "But I assure you this," he said. "You are standing on his shoulders right now, whites and blacks."

He recalled being swept up in uncontrollable grief on April 4, 1968, the day King was killed in Memphis, Tenn. Father Clements was living in his hometown of Chicago, and was asked to celebrate a memorial Mass honoring King the next day on the campus of Loyola University.

Grief turned to anger when, driving to the campus, Father Clements encountered a young white motorist who scoffed at the priest's driving with his headlights on to honor the fallen civil rights leader. The white motorist laughed at the tribute, uttered a racial slur and sped off, Father Clements said.

The incident was a powerful lesson for the priest on how far things had yet to come in society where race relations were concerned — and, in another way, also reminded him of the legacy King left behind.

"Dr. King would have blessed this man; I cursed him," said Father Clements. "Dr. King would have forgiven him and would have genuinely embraced him with love."

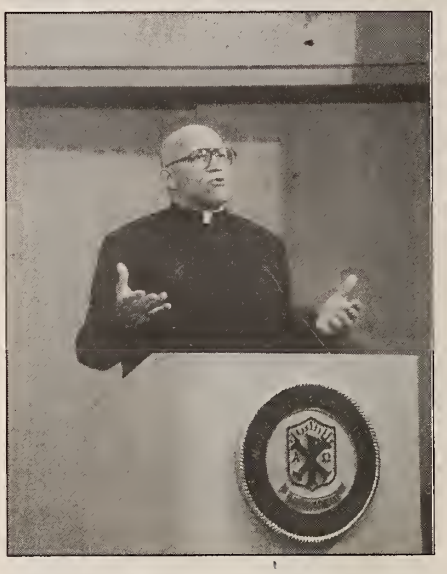
That legacy of forgiveness and love is essential in promoting race relations today, said Father Clements, whose own ministry has kept him closely in touch with the oppressed and the marginalized.

The first Catholic priest to adopt a child and the founder of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, Father Clements has long blended active service with the ideals of civil rights leaders such as King.

In Chicago, the priest established the adoption program One Church - One Child, which expanded nationwide and has helped place more than 100,000 African-American and biracial children with adoptive families. His concern for the community led him to Washington, D.C., where he founded One Church - One Addict, an interfaith network of church teams who assist people recovering from drug addiction. More recently, he started One Church - One Inmate in the nation's capital, a support program that links churches with men and women recently released from prison.

Father Clements said one devastating aspect of today's race relations effort is that racism, while it still exists, is in many instances hidden. "Today, everything is so much more subtle, antiseptic, sophisticated, suave, urbane" than in King's day when it comes to people's fostering

See CLEMENTS, page 20



Photos by Jimmy Rostar

Father George Clements gives a passionate keynote address on race relations at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration. Pictured at right, Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber, of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, embraces Father Clements after she gave the closing blessing.

Prayerful good wishes

to

Abbot Placid Solari

and the Monks of Belmont Abbey

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman,
the Laity, Religious and Priests of the
Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina

King's name on Catholic list of martyrs sparks interest

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Americans prepared to observe the anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, popular interest was piqued by media reports that the Vatican might declare him as a modern Christian martyr later this year.

The speculation is not entirely accurate. It appears that very few and possibly even no names will actually be announced at the event in question — an ecumenical jubilee year service May 7 at Rome's Colosseum honoring thousands of 20th-century Catholic and non-Catholic Christians around the world who shed their blood for Christ.

Nor is the event to be anything like the church's ceremonies formally pronouncing someone blessed or a saint — as is usually implied in discussions of the church declaring someone a martyr.

Even without added hype, though, the bare facts behind the speculation are noteworthy:

— When the Vatican asked church officials around the world to submit names of 20th-century martyrs who could be honored for having given up their lives in witness to their faith, it specifically asked them to include non-Catholics. Many scholars have described this as an unprecedented ecumenical gesture.

— On the short list of about two dozen names submitted by the U.S. bishops was Rev. King, a Baptist minister.

The slain civil rights leader, whose Jan. 15 birthday is commemorated as a national holiday, exemplified nonviolent resistance to racial injustice.

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., said the wide public interest in the appearance of Rev. King on the bishops' list of U.S. Christian martyrs "is indicative of the broad general respect that Dr. King enjoys in the United States."

Bishop Gregory, vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and head of its Subcommittee on the Third Millennium, spoke with Catholic News Service by telephone shortly before he appeared Jan. 13 on the "CBS Evening News" to comment on the matter.

Rev. King "deeply touched and impacted the life of this nation," Bishop Gregory told CNS. "He is one of our national heroes."

"The uniqueness of his approach to social change," he added, "was bringing together the Christian tradition of nonviolence and love of neighbor, with a deep Christian history as a Baptist preacher and a man of the Word of God, and combining that with his understanding and appreciation of the nonviolent movement so effectively exercised by Mohandas Gandhi.

"It was a wonderful interfaith combination of principles of justice and serving justice in a democratic nation."

Bishop Gregory declined to release other names the U.S. bishops sent to Rome, saying it would be up to the Holy See to decide how to release the more than 10,000 names submitted from around the world. A Vatican official later told CNS in Rome that there is no intention to publish the names at the May 7 ceremony.

Bishop Gregory noted that people knew of Rev. King's presence on the U.S. list only because of a CNS story in May 1998 when Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, secretary for the Vatican jubilee committee, mentioned that Rev. King would be among those listed.

Bishop Gregory said Rev. King "was not the only non-Catholic" on the U.S. bishops' list.

Paul Henderson, director of the bishops' national third millennium office, said he received phone calls from media across the country Jan. 13 after wire services picked up a Boston Globe Page One feature story about the Catholic list naming Rev. King as a martyr.

"It sparked a good amount of interest in both the church's celebration of new martyrs and Dr. King's connection to that," he said. "I think it raises up the fact that at this time we need people to look up to who lived a noble Christian life, who became witnesses, pointers to living out the Gospel, to the point of the supreme sacrifice of their lives."

Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., who like Bishop Gregory is African-American, said he was not involved in putting Rev. King's name on the list, but he regarded it as a good choice.

"I think it would be based on our experience in the United States of the struggle of African-Americans and all minorities against the oppression of racism. Dr. King personified that struggle," he said. ▼

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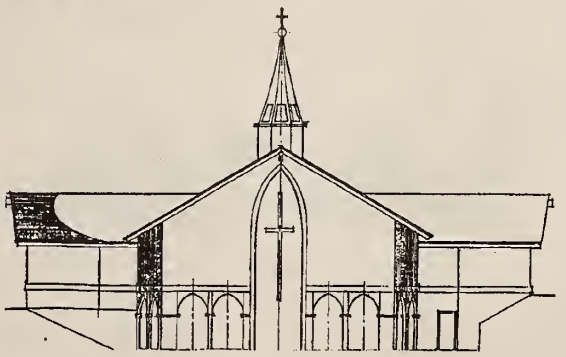

Blessings to Belmont Abbey
and Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B.
The People of St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir, NC

Benedictines hold important place in history of N.C. Catholicism

By FATHER PASCHAL BAUMSTEIN, OSB
Belmont Abbey

The Church was slow in gaining a foothold in North Carolina. So serious was this delay that by the 1880s it was urgent that aggressive measures be taken to rectify the situation. The western part of the state in particular suffered from lack of ready access to Catholic priests and the sacraments.

That led Rome to take the unusual step of entrusting the Church in North Carolina to the pastorate of an order of monks. In 1887 the man who had been the state's first vicar apostolic, Cardinal James Gibbons, proposed that the Benedictine abbot at Belmont oversee the church in North Carolina. Gibbons reasoned that the abbot had already established permanent residence in the state; his religious order could support him financially, and his monk-priests might assist the other clergy in the state.

Thus Abbot Leo Haid was named vicar apostolic of North Carolina, and, in a significant gesture, Gibbons enthroned the new bishop at both the vicariate's cathedral in Wilmington (St. Mary) and at the monastery in Belmont.

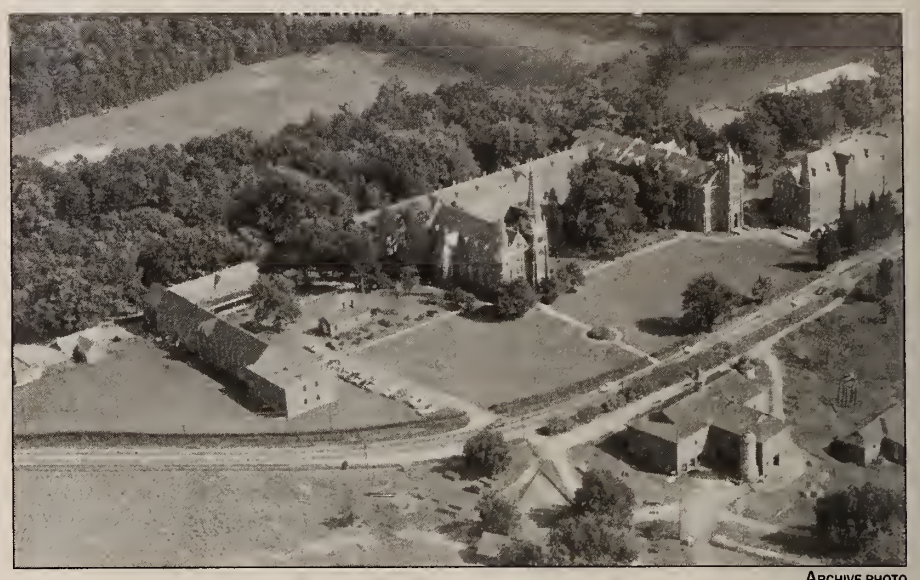
The Benedictine monastery in Gaston County hosted a college and farm as well, all situated on a campus of 506 acres. Later popularly called Belmont Abbey, the monastery reflected the Benedictines' permanent commitment to the state. Like all members of their monastic order, these Benedictines even vowed their stability, promising as part of their vocation an on-going allegiance to place as well as purpose. They seemed appropriate coadjutors for North Carolina's priests.

From the time of their arrival April 21, 1876, pastoral activities were part of the Benedictines' work. Gaston County had a church already, but no resident pastor. So local Catholics began attending Mass at the monastery. Monk-priests also traveled to other churches on Sundays, starting with St. James at Concord in Catawba County. The closest non-Benedictine priest was in Charlotte, across the Catawba River from Gaston County.

But there was a problem in staffing the Church in North Carolina with Benedictines. It pertained to vocation. The Church defined the monks' calling in terms of life in a monastery. Primarily, Benedictine priests were ordained for service in what St. Benedict called "the environment of the cloister and stability of the monastic community."

So the North Carolina Benedictines, from the beginning, understood their pastoral work as an interim rather than as an enduring contribution to the state. A Benedictine's principle service, they knew, is *opus dei*, a phrase that means "the work of God," namely prayer.

The first expansion of the Benedictines' parochial commitment came in 1891, when Rome gave Belmont's monks a territory of nine counties in western North Carolina.



Archive photo

This overhead photo of Belmont Abbey was taken in the 1940s. Several of the buildings shown have since been razed.

Within that territory they were assigned to nurture and solidify the Catholic presence for a period of 50 years.

Then, in 1910, the monastery was named a territorial-abbey. That made the Benedictines' church a cathedral, and gave the monks on-going pastoral jurisdiction within six additional counties, plus three from the previous number. Beyond that, their priestly work was limited mostly to the needs of their students, disparate periods of parish assistance and chaplaincies, and occasions of special need. Thus they covered a wide ministry, but in most of the state they acted primarily as an adjunct to the work of the state's dedicated body of priests.

Yet the monks always considered their principal priestly service as the readying of North Carolina for full diocesan status. In this effort, Abbot-

Continued, next page

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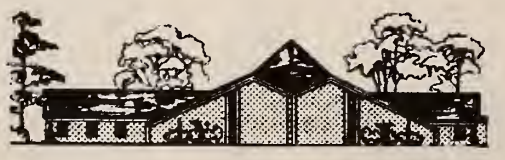

The Community of Saint Barnabas Catholic Church in Arden congratulates Abbot Placid Solari on his election and prays for his continued success in service to Belmont Abbey and Belmont Abbey College

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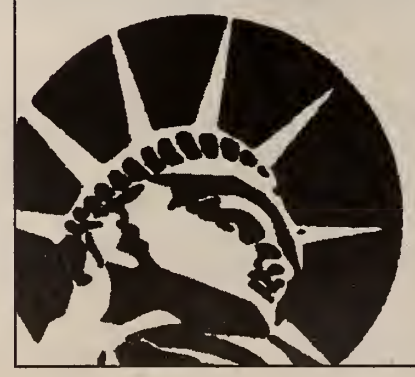

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The Abbots of Belmont Abbey

The following abbots have led the monastic community at Belmont Abbey since its establishment in the 19th century:

Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid, OSB
1885-1924

Abbot-Nullius Vincent Taylor, OSB
1924-1959

Abbot-Nullius Walter Coggin, OSB
1960-1970

Abbot-Nullius Edmund McCaffrey, OSB
1970-1975

Abbot-Nullius Jude Cleary, OSB
1975-1978

Abbot Peter Stragand, OSB
1978-1988

Abbot Oscar Burnett, OSB
1991-1999

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB
2000-

Abbot-Bishop Leo Haid
In 1887 the man who had been the state's first vicar apostolic, Cardinal James Gibbons, proposed that the Benedictine abbot at Belmont oversee the church in North Carolina. Thus Abbot Leo Haid was named vicar apostolic of North Carolina.

Bishop Haid traveled thousands of miles within the state, aiding Catholics, expanding parochial jurisdictions, and administering the sacraments. He went to Europe four times, always returning with promises of the prayers of Benedictines internationally for the work in North Carolina, and with prospects for financial aid and vocations. Then, too, he toured the United States, preaching wherever pastors would allow a second collection to be taken for the benefit of the church and monastery in North Carolina.

Throughout Bishop Haid's 36 years as bishop, North Carolina claimed to have the most heavily non-Catholic population in the Union. Indeed, it would be the last area east of the Mississippi to receive full diocesan rank.

Yet Bishop Haid's administration won marked growth: By the time he died in July of 1924, the state's Catholic population had grown from 2,500 to 8,000; the number of parish churches had increased three-fold; there were three more Catholic hospitals, two orphanages, 15 schools, and 40 additional priests.

Thus on Dec. 12, 1924, after five months of deliberations, Rome finally decided that North Carolina was ready for diocesan status. The creation of the Diocese of Raleigh was possible because of the solid foundation afforded by a dedicated clergy, aided by the Benedictines, Sisters of Mercy, members of other religious orders, but especially the fidelity of the Catholic laity.

With the appointment of a non-Benedictine as a state's bishop, the Benedictines were able to re-focus on monastic life and the order's schools. Thus there began a progressive transfer of parochial jurisdictions to diocesan clergy. The principal Benedictine withdrawals occurred in 1941, 1944, 1960, 1969, 1977, and 1989.

Rome gave hearty endorsement to this transition. An Apostolic Letter of 1944 reminded the monks that "the missionary phase of the priests' life has to be foregone," and the college at Belmont had to be accepted as their chief apostolic work.

A Papal Exhortation of 1960 was even more explicit, calling for the monk-priests to be "freed from external duty" in order to "devote their entire efforts to the education and formation of youth."

Then in 1976, Rome issued an Apostolic Instruction defining Belmont Abbey's true work as the creation of a "living example ... according to the spirit and memory of St. Benedict." This, it argued, is "the most excellent of all the treasures which the Belmont community will hand on to the new generations of North Carolina."

In 1975, Belmont's fifth abbot characterized the Benedictines' cessation of most external parochial work as "a tribute to the zeal of the earlier monks [and] the surest proof of their having successfully nurtured a fledgling church to full maturity."

And that, he said, can "only lead to clarity about the peculiar genius of monastic life and allow us in the years ahead to make an even more significant contribution to the life of the Church in our area than that uncommonly worthwhile one of the last century." ▼

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Prayerful best wishes to Abbot Placid Solari
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Good Will Publishers, Incorporated, wishes to express its deepest affection to the monks of Belmont Abbey, who were so instrumental in bringing Catholicism to this region and who continue to be a witness to the truth and beauty of the Roman Catholic Faith. We congratulate them on their election of a new abbot.

We thank the retired Abbot Oscar Burnette for his tireless efforts, unselfish service and great contribution to both Belmont Abbey Monastery and College.

We especially send our prayers and warmest wishes to Abbot Placid Solari as he takes on the mantle of leadership within the monastic community as Abbot and within the College community as Chancellor. He is ever in our prayers and fondest thoughts as he so unselfishly and ably leads his brother monks and Belmont Abbey into the new millennium.

GOOD WILL

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Abbatial Blessing, from page 1

Raleigh seated nearby, Bishop Curlin promised loving support for the ongoing ministry of the Benedictine institution and noted its rich history in the state. "For over 125 years, Belmont Abbey has held a special place in the hearts of our two dioceses," Bishop Curlin said. "During the formative years of our diocesan history, Belmont Abbey, under the leadership of Abbot Leo Haid, nourished the infant Catholic community in North Carolina."

Bishop Curlin also called to mind the blessings of religious life and the responsibilities of abbot as head of the monastic community.

"It is the abbot's duty to demonstrate and encourage patience among the members of his religious family," said Bishop Curlin. "Having himself shared so deeply in Christ's love, (the abbot) must make it available to each monk in his dealings with him."

Bishop Curlin, who noted the wealth of spiritual wisdom found in the "Rule of Benedict," said the sixth-century saint urged all monks to strive each day for greater holiness.

"St. Benedict recognized that sanctity is not a once-in-a-lifetime commitment; it is a day-by-day recommitment of one's life to Jesus Christ," he said. "It is the responsibility of the abbot to help each monk respond to this challenge generously and wholeheartedly, for without this daily conversion, nothing of lasting value exists in the monastery or within the church." ▼

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrates the Rite of Blessing of Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, during a Mass Jan. 15. Assisting the bishop are Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan and Father Anthony Marcaccio.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Nationally recognized education speakers to address diocesan teachers

CHARLOTTE — A pair of nationally recognized Catholic educators will visit Charlotte Feb. 11 to present topics at a Diocese of Charlotte Catholic School religion in-service day, for teachers in Catholic schools across the diocese and others involved in diocesan or parish catechetical and educational ministry.

The in-service day is organized by the director of religious formation for the Catholic Schools Office, Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan. The featured speakers are Father Richard Fragomeni and Dr. Elinor Ford, who will each present a workshop. The event will be at St. Gabriel School, 3028 Providence Rd., from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Father Fragomeni, who serves on the faculty of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, will present "The Language of God's Gifts" as his workshop theme. Father Fragomeni is a lecturer and author, who most recently published "Gifts for a Lifetime. A Sacramental Preparation Series," a guide for teachers of sacramental preparation.

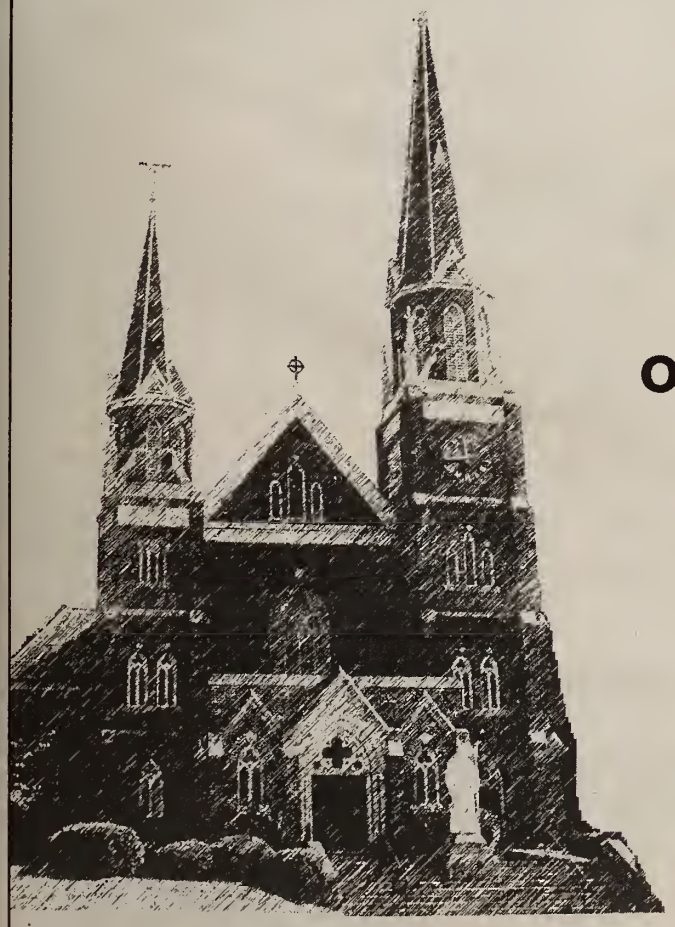
Dr. Elinor Ford will present the topic "The Next Step: A Quantum and Synergistic Creation." A popular speaker on national and international catechetical, educational, parish, stewardship, clergy and health care groups, Ford currently resides in Fairview, N.C.

Father Fragomeni will celebrate Mass during the gathering, with music directed by David Anderson from the liturgical publisher GIA.

Also featured will be music from the Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School band, directed by Alan Kaufman, who will begin the in-service day with a performance of the band's "Our Sisters of Mercy Overture."

For more information and advance registration, call Sister Maureen Meehan at (704) 370-3268.

In addition to teachers in the diocese's Catholic schools, pastors, catechists, youth and campus ministers, and others involved in educational and catechetical ministry are invited. Advance registration is required. ▼



Congratulations to Right Reverend Placid Solari on the blessing of his election as Abbot of Belmont Abbey

From your friends, neighbors, parishioners, pastoral staff and council at Queen of the Apostles Parish

Reverend Richard P. Hokanson, Pastor

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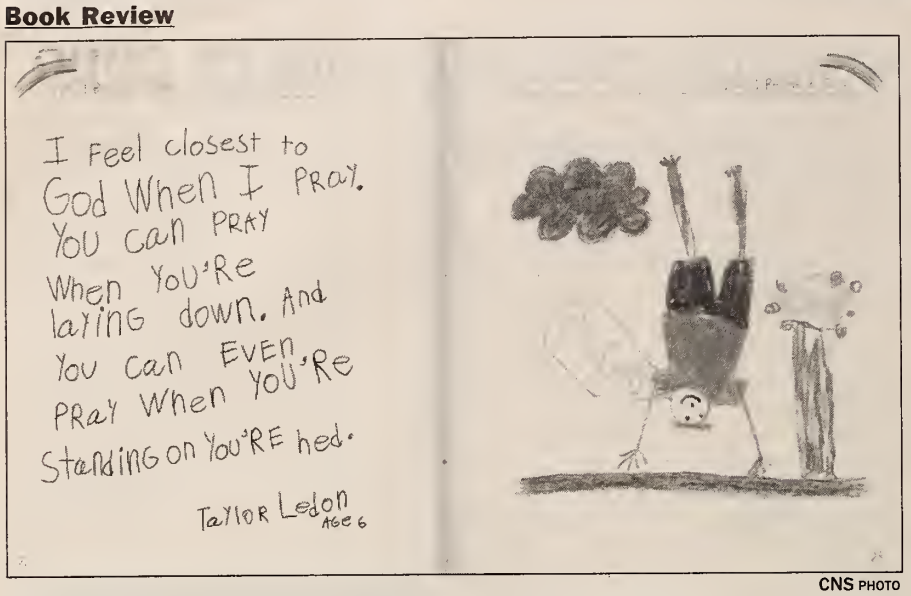
Book Review



CNS PHOTO

A child offers a reflection on prayer and God in a new book compiled by author Dandi Daley MacKall. "Why I Believe in God -- And Other Reflections by Children" contains comments from children ages 5-11.

Author discovers children have precious views of God

By LOU PANARALE
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "I think God is there," says Sierra Wood, age 9, "even when I don't want him there."

Samantha Jann, also 9, says, "God's love feels like hot cocoa when you come inside from getting pushed in the snow."

Sierra's and Samantha's visions of God, along with those from scores of other children, are contained in a book called "Why I Believe in God — And Other Reflections by Children" (Prima Publishing, $10.95).

Author Dandi Daley Mackall, who compiled the book, says most children speak honestly when expressing how they see God — a quality rarely found in adults, she added.

Daley Mackall, who describes herself as a nondenominational Christian, has written numerous books and articles for children in the past 20 years.

She compiled material for her book from essays she gathered during a year spent talking to grade school students across the United States, she told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Ohio.

Each response is reproduced in the child's handwriting, sometimes in a barely legible scrawl, replete with spelling and grammatical errors.

She said her cardinal rule when meeting with children was never to laugh at what they told her about how they envisioned God.

Daley Mackall recalled the time she met with Elizabeth, 6, who said: "When I grow up, I think God wants me to be a missionary. But what I want is to be somebody who works at the cash register. So maybe I'll try to be, like a missionary with a cash register."

Daley Mackall laughed but couldn't get another word out of Elizabeth because the child felt she wasn't being taken seriously.

The author said she has learned that most children think deeply about God, regardless of how their responses are viewed by adults.

She recalled the description of God she got from Annie Seis, 6, who wrote: "God's love feels like he is hugging you with his fur coat on."

See "WHY I BELIEVE...", page 20

Word to Life

January 23, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 25:4-9
2) 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
3) Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

It was Christmas Day, and the world was bright. The Mass was comfortably full, most having already celebrated our commemoration of Christ's birth the night before.

Despite Christmas carols, bright decorations, a good homily, and a profound sense of gratitude that my wife and my daughter and I could celebrate this great feast as a family, the Mass proved to be a challenge to our ability to focus.

It's not necessary to go into the details, but the twin distractions involved extremes of primping, even during the consecration, and a person who had imbibed a bit too much of something other than the spirit of the season.

I have to admit to feelings of irritation and self-righteousness, but in time God, in his infinite patience and generosity, reminded me of my own sinfulness, that we all came into his presence on an equal footing. And so, my focus switched to asking how we could reach out to others with devotion to the cults of beauty and drink so that they might be reached with the Gospel at deeper levels.

Today's readings from Jonah and Mark carry a particularly appropriate message. Jonah is sent to bring back an entire city, a massive city, not unlike many of our own, from the brink of destruction for their sins. To Jonah's chagrin, God is successful in using him to do that.

In Mark, Jesus says: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives, and believe in the Gospel." Then he proceeds to call Simon, who would become Peter, Andrew, his brother, and then the brothers James and John, asking them to leave their nets and follow him to fish for men.

Not much has changed. God still has work to do. He calls us to help him, sinners though we are. And he awaits our response. Will we help him bring others to freedom in his love in this year of jubilee? No one can answer that question for us.

Question:
Are there nominal Christians around you who need to hear the Gospel at a deeper level? Can you be one book of the Gospel that they "read" through your contact with them?

"Jesus said to them,
'Come after me; I will make you fishers of men.'"
— Mark 1:17.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 23 - 29, 2000

Sunday (Third Sunday of Ordinary Time), Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20; **Monday (St. Francis de Sales)**, 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday (The Conversion of Paul)**, Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Wednesday (Sts. Timothy and Titus)**, 2 Timothy 1:1-8, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (St. Angela Merici)**, 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29, Mark 4:21-25; **Friday (St. Thomas Aquinas)**, 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday**, 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17, Mark 4:35-41

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Italian TV host says Mediaset to produce movie on life of pope

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Italian broadcaster Mediaset announced plans to film a television movie on the life of Pope John Paul II, with Ben Kingsley as the pontiff.

Mediaset talk show host and producer Maurizio Costanzo made the surprise announcement Jan. 14 at a company conference in Orvieto, Italy.

Company officials were reportedly trying to reunite "Gandhi" star Kingsley and director Sir Richard Attenborough for the project.

Costanzo said Ettore Bernabei, the president of the Italian production company Lux Vide and former head of Italian state television RAI, would produce the film.

But Costanzo seemed to jump the gun in making the announcement, as the project has yet to receive the Vatican's stamp of approval.

While Costanzo said the Vatican had already given its go-ahead, Matilde Bernabei, Lux's chief executive officer, said in the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, "We have neither asked for nor obtained authorization from the Vatican."

The Vatican has not issued any comment on the film.

"Up until now, we have received no request (for authorization," Msgr. Enrique Planas Coma of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications told La Repubblica.

Bernabei remained optimistic, telling Reuters she was confident an agreement would be reached with the Vatican. Discussions with Kingsley and Attenborough were already under way, she said.

The choice of Kingsley for the role of such an important religious figure should come as no surprise to Italian television viewers. The British actor played Moses in a 1996 Mediaset television production.

But Kingsley is best known for his 1982 Oscar-winning portrayal of the Indian nonviolent revolutionary Mahatma Gandhi, whom the current pope greatly admires.

If he accepts Mediaset's offer, Kingsley can draw on personal experience as well: He met the pope in September 1998 at an audience.

The proposed film on the Polish pope would be part of a Mediaset series on important figures of the 20th century.

Mediaset said it was also planning television movies on Pope John XXIII, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Microsoft founder Bill Gates as part of the series. ▼

"Runaway Virus" threatens a flu pandemic like 1918

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A deadly flu virus threatens to repeat the worldwide devastation of 1918 in the bland medical thriller, "Runaway Virus," airing Saturday, Jan. 29, 9-11 p.m. EST on ABC.

Scientists monitoring flu outbreaks around the globe from Atlanta's Centers for Disease Control begin to worry when pigs in a Guatemalan village keel over, and a local boy also dies after exhibiting flu symptoms similar to those in the 1918 pandemic.

"Runaway Virus"
Jan. 29, 9-11 p.m. EST
on ABC

Epidemiologist Dr. Dan Rothman (Jason Beghe) is sent to investigate, confirms the dreaded disease killed the boy and quarantines the villagers since no vaccine exists.

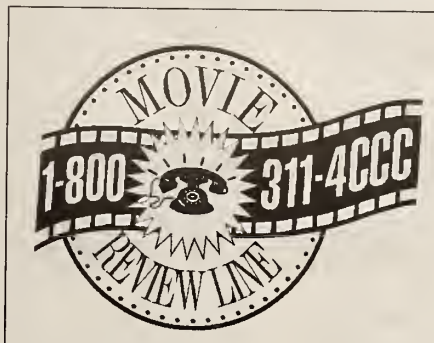
However, he is alarmed to discover the victim's engaged sister, Rita (Jacqueline Aries), who held the dying child in her arms, had already left, hoping to bus or hitchhike through Mexico then illegally smuggle herself across the U.S. border to join her fiance in Los Angeles.

When those whose paths she crosses quickly sicken and die it becomes imperative to find her — and produce a vaccine lest the flu spread with deadly speed across the continent.

This is where Centers for Disease Control Dr. Jenny Blanchard (Paige Turco) comes into the picture with her long-shot idea to unearth five Siberian miners who perished from the pandemic in 1918 and whose frozen, preserved bodies may still contain the flu strain necessary to manufacture the vaccine. As she heads for the Siberian burial site, the manhunt intensifies to locate Rita before she reaches the heavily populated City of Angels.

Directed by Jeff Bleckner, the movie follows a thoroughly predictable track as the scientists race against time to capture and isolate Rita while mass producing an effective vaccine. As such, suspense is minimal. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Ouline. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

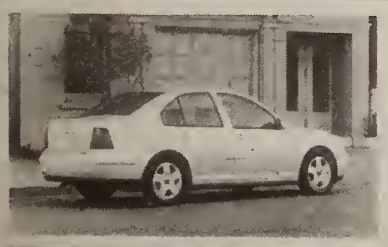
Out on video

"Bowfinger" (1999)

Goofy comedy in which a desperate Hollywood director (Steve Martin) secretly shoots footage of a top action star (Eddie Murphy) to use in his sci-fi-alien movie, but the star's paranoid fear of alien invaders complicates the plan. Directed by Frank Oz from Martin's script, the movie affectionately lampoons Tinseltown pretensions with Murphy and Martin in top form. Comic depiction of a promiscuous starlet, a few crude expressions and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

"An Ideal Husband" (1999)

Oscar Wilde's 1895 drawing-room comedy of manners finds a rising London politician (Jeremy Northam) in danger of losing his career and adored wife (Cate Blanchett) unless a spoiled bachelor ally (Rupert Everett) distracted by a new love interest (Minnie Driver) can outwit a blackmailing femme fatale (Julianne Moore). Writer-director Oliver Parker's pokily paced adaptation is visually and verbally elegant with an able ensemble cast skewering the era's social pretensions. Fleeting nudity and sexual innuendo, references to fraud and deceitful behavior. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Buena Vista Home Entertainment)



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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says in new millennium, Christians must pray for unity

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must look forward to the third millennium with sorrow for their divisions and with prayers for greater unity, Pope John Paul II said.

Ecumenical activities, joint projects and common prayers for Christian unity are a fundamental part of the Holy Year, the pope said Jan. 16.

The pope used his midday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square to call visitors' attention to the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Pope John Paul and representatives from more than 20 Orthodox, Anglican and Protestant churches and organizations were scheduled to begin the week together with a prayer service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

"We will ask God's pardon and each other's for the sins committed against the unity of the church and, at the same time, we will give thanks for the journey of reconciliation already completed, especially in the last century," the pope said during his Angelus address.

Pope John Paul asked all Christians to join him and the church representatives in praying "so that the beginning of the third millennium may see a promising development in ecumenical relations."

The pope said, "Only with God's help is it possible to advance on the road of unity, overcoming the divisions created in the Christian world over the course of the second millennium."

Meeting Jan. 17 with an ecumenical delegation from Christian churches in Finland, the pope said the opening of the Holy Door at St. Paul's Basilica as part of Christian unity week was meant to emphasize the fact that Christ "is the doorway into life."

"As we pass through the Holy Door, may we take another step closer to the unity in Christ which Peter and Paul proclaimed, and which the Lord himself so clearly wills," the pope told the Finnish delegation.

Pope, Christian leaders ask forgiveness for Christian division

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II opened the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity kneeling in the doorway of a Rome basilica, flanked by the head of the worldwide Anglican Communion and by an Orthodox prelate. "We ask Christ's forgiveness for all which in the history of the church compromised his plan of unity," the pope said during the Jan. 18 service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. The service began with the opening of the basilica's Holy Door, the oldest in Rome. Anglican Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury, England, and Orthodox Metropolitan Athanasios of Helioupolis and Theira, a representative of the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate, joined Pope John Paul in pushing open the door.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Ordeal of a simple man

It's sad how often people who are "different" become victims of misunderstanding and downright prejudice. The uncomfortable reality of this hit home last year for Mike Fitzpatrick, a man in his late 40s impaired since birth with autism, a condition manifested by introverted behavior, repetitive gestures, retreating into a fantasy world and sometimes irrational actions.

Fitzpatrick, with the consistent, loving help of his parents, Anne and Bill, has grown into a functioning, responsible, working adult. Yet he was charged last year with robbing a bank in Ontario County, near DeWitt, N.Y., where they live. In spite of flimsy evidence, police insisted they "had their man," and Fitzpatrick faced years in prison. It was a tormenting, fearful time for him and his parents.

Fortunately, the man who actually robbed the bank — to support his drug and gambling habits — confessed, and eventually the police, albeit reluctantly, had to free Fitzpatrick.

His story was told on TV's "20-20" show in December 1999, with sensitivity and truth, titled movingly "A Simple Man."

I was glued to the set as I watched. I had a very personal interest in this story, for I knew Fitzpatrick as a baby and a little tyke. His father, a teacher, and mother, a writer, have been my friends for nearly 50 years. I can't think of people I respect and admire more. Two words come to mind when I think of, or talk to, them: "love" and "faith." These qualities have characterized their lives.

I first met Anne Fitzpatrick in 1952 when we both belonged to a fledgling writer's group. We were young Catholics, newly married, with a determination to become published writers. I was already a mother, with an infant, Paul, and a teen-age adopted son, Sterling. She was pregnant, and the couple were overjoyed when their son was born. But as he grew, it soon became evident that his behavior was baffling. Before long, he was diagnosed with autism.

All parents undergo great pain when a child is not "perfect." But the Fitzpatricks, putting their trust in the Lord, learned all they could about this malady so that they could help their son and other children like him.

The couple's faithful labor bore fruit. Today they have a son who has worked 29 years as a custodian in their school district, who is a friend to everybody, and is surprisingly independent. On the "20-20" show, Mike Fitzpatrick's supervisor had nothing but praise for this "simple man," saying he always had done his work, and expressing surprise that the police could not see how impossible it would have been for him to rob a bank.

"We knew he was innocent. We thought all we'd have to do was call and tell the police Mike is 'impaired,' but that didn't stop them," his mother told me. "My word didn't mean anything. The whole experience was horrible."

Yet, now the Fitzpatricks believe some good can come from this travesty of justice. "Perhaps as a result there can be more awareness of people like Mike and more advocacy for people who are different. A lot of prayer got us through," his mother said, adding that she believes that even in her lowest moment "the Lord touched me on the shoulder."

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Wedding day mishaps

Now and then, we hear stories about how someone proposed marriage, a mishap on the wedding day, or how "divine intervention" prevented a simple mistake from being a disaster. There are two stories we'd like to share that fit into this category.

Rosie and Rusty were married last August in New Orleans. Rusty, on the day he proposed, in his excitement with getting the engagement ring for Rosie, received it from the jeweler without a case and put it in his pocket. Entering his car he casually removed his keys from the same pocket, unlocked the car, entered it, started it, and drove off.

Arriving at home to get ready for the big date, Rusty discovered, to his chagrin, that Rosie's ring wasn't in his pocket. Retracing his tracks with trepidation, he eventually returned to where he had parked his car earlier. A truck was parked in the same spot.

Rusty suddenly saw a glimmer of light beneath the truck. He thought, "Perhaps it is the ring!" Oblivious to any onlookers, Rusty immediately leaped out of his car and dove under the truck, grasping at the tiny, scintillating object. To his surprise and relief, the glimmering object was the ring, intact with only a small scratch.

They decided not to repair the ring. The scratch was a lasting reminder of a story about which they have shared many laughs.

Arnold and Marvia were married in Atlanta in January of 1994. Arnold and his best man, Barry, on the morning of the wedding, were out tending to last minute details. While eating a quick breakfast at McDonald's, they carefully went over a checklist of items. Arnold handed the marriage license to Barry for safe-keeping as he checked it on his list.

Later that morning as they returned to the checklist, Arnold and Barry, in a call and response manner, ran through their litany:

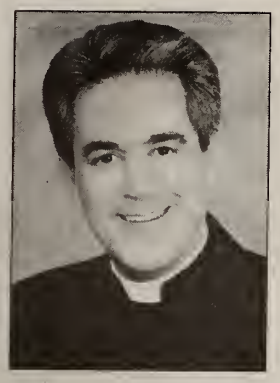
"Ring"
"Check"
"Tux"
"Check"
"License"
"Uh . . ."

Somehow, they had misplaced the marriage license. The very last place they remembered seeing it was at McDonald's on Barry's serving tray. They rushed back to the restaurant to find that the trash containers had been emptied in the dumpster.

Reminiscent of a scene from "I Love Lucy," Arnold and Barry, inside the garbage dumpster, searched through bag after bag of trash. Just as all hope of finding the marriage license was all but gone, Arnold found it unsoiled as he opened the last bag.

These stories report extraordinary human effort. But they also tell about that something else that makes the unlikely happen. Call it luck; call it serendipity; call it grace. What these stories report to us, in humorous contexts, are faith adventures. When we are willing to do the extraordinary, even against great odds, good things happen. How true this is of marriage, huh?

Send Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Prayer: The "Simplest Thing"

One year — I forget just when — the Lenten sermons at St. Patrick's in New York were given by a famous Jesuit who took prayer for his theme. His efforts were much admired, but the compliment that stuck in his memory was that of an old priest who praised the Jesuit for the great length and number of his sermons. Then, nudging him in the ribs, he whispered conspiratorially "Actually, Father, for all we make of it, prayer is the simplest thing."

I suspect the illustrious preacher did know, though the simplicity of prayer, its sheer, startling uncomplicatedness, seems to be the last thing that strikes most of us.

It is not difficult to intellectualize about prayer. Like love, beauty and motherhood, it triggers a flow of eloquent and pious expressions. It is not difficult, but it is often futile.

I just finished culling about 20 different articles on prayer — some scholarly, some popular — in the hopes of finding some fuel for this column. And I have concluded that you really can have too much of a good thing.

Writing about prayer, reading about prayer, talking about prayer, thinking about prayer, longing for prayer and wrapping yourself more and more in sublime abstractions can — if carried too far — set up a barrier. They can create a smoke screen that allows you to put God on hold while you analyze the subject to death.

What about actually praying?!

"Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus never seems to contemplate giving a theological answer, going into the question of what prayer is and what our dispositions should be. If you ask Jesus a question, you get an immediate working reply. Not "to get ready to pray," but "When you pray, say: 'Father.'" (Luke 11:1-2)

Jesus teaches that prayer is above all your response to God as His child. You stand alone before God, and what happens? You understand that you belong to God, your Father — and He belongs to you. And that this is the purpose of life.

To belong to God means using your free will to choose God's will. In experiencing God's presence in prayer, you no longer need personal ambition or achievements for comfort. You do not have to fear being an "unprofitable servant" rather than a "faithful servant." Through grace, you will be God's loving child, just as you are His deeply loved one, already.

Prayer is prayer if you want it to be. Ask yourself: "What do I really want when I pray?" Do you want to belong to God? Do you even want to want it? If you desire this communion, this belonging to one another, then you are praying. That is all prayer is. There are no secrets, no shortcuts. Prayer is the utterly ruthless test of your sincerity. It is the one place in all the world where there is nowhere to hide.

Prayer is the last thing you should feel discouraged about. It concerns nobody except God — always longing to give Himself to you in love — and your own decision. God always whispers, "I love you. I want you — but do you want Me?"

That wanting is ever the crux of the matter.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Combating abortion

Abortion isn't a subject anyone likes to discuss. But this time of year it tends to come up. Perhaps your radar has taken in some of the signs: a pro-life march in Washington, protests or programs in your local area, extra prayers at Mass or maybe even a homily or lesson plan devoted to this difficult, tragic topic.

If you're wondering why, and why now, it's simple: Jan. 22 was the date, in 1973, that the Supreme Court declared that individual states couldn't make laws prohibiting or even strictly limiting abortion anymore. Up to that time, abortion had been legal only in a few states for limited times during pregnancy and for serious, documented reasons.

But in "Roe vs. Wade," our Supreme Court threw all of those laws out and declared that states couldn't limit abortion unless a woman's life or health was in danger. And then it said that "health" included things like emotional distress.

In the United States, abortion is legal for any reason through all nine months of pregnancy. Period. We have the most permissive abortion laws in the West. Tragically, this is what you've grown up with. You were born into a society in which killing unborn babies is protected as a right and profited from as a business.

The Centers for Disease Control recently reported a slight decline in abortion rates, but the numbers are still pretty staggering: well over 1 million a year. The thought of it can be overwhelming. In the face of such a massive problem, we can sometimes feel helpless.

Even if you're 20. Even if you're 15 or even 12, you can do something to spread the message of life. Here are five simple suggestions:

1) Educate yourself. Find out about the stages of human development before birth and why scientists agree that at conception a unique human life begins. Find out what abortion does to that life and how it affects women as well.

2) Don't be afraid to voice your opinion, and don't allow yourself to be put on the defensive. When you're talking about this with acquaintances who support abortion, don't let them back down from the question of when life begins or why in the world they think it's OK for defenseless human beings to be attacked in the womb. Those who protect life don't need to feel defensive; those who seek to take it do.

3) Be a loving witness to the sacredness of all life. Treat everyone you meet with respect. Don't reject those who have struggled with this. Don't gossip about girls who get pregnant unexpectedly. Love.

4) Go to the local pro-life office, and ask what you can do to help. Believe me, they have something for you to do!

5) Pray. Pray for the girls your age — the girls in your town, in your school and in your class — who right now, this very moment, are confronting this quite terrible dilemma in the most personal way. And pray for their babies and their boyfriends as well.

So think about it. You're probably a pretty idealistic person, and are always looking for ways that you can help make life on earth ever more beautiful, harmonious and caring.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

When they both don't want children

Q. I am 31 years of age and want to marry a man who is 34. I am a teacher, he is a social worker. Both of us are practicing Catholics.

We believe we can do more good in our careers than in raising a family, but the priest we saw said that our marriage must be open to children.

We want to marry for mutual support. Do we really have to try to have a family in order to marry in the church?

A. According to Catholic teaching, and age-old Christian tradition, being willing to accept children, is an essential component of marriage.

It is true, of course, that the mutual support and caring love between the husband and wife are also essential for a true marriage, but our belief is that these two elements are inseparable.

The communion of life and love that exists between the couple nourishes them, and by natural inclination moves them toward the procreation and nourishment of the children who might come into their lives. The intention and willingness to fulfill both of these elements is essential for a valid marriage.

Perhaps it helps to see this in the perspective of sexual intercourse in marriage. The right to sexual relations, when reasonably and appropriately requested, is of course one of the consequences of the marriage covenant.

This right is, in effect, refused in marriage consent if one party (or both) intends to restrict intercourse in such a way that conception of children will never take place.

For the sake of clarity, we must distinguish this intention permanently to eliminate children from the marriage from that of many couples today who plan to delay having children for awhile.

Apart from the wisdom and perhaps moral implications of this sort of planning, such an intention, since it does not exclude children for the rest of their lives, does not invalidate a marriage.

Patron saints of dementia

Q. So many elderly people today are developing Alzheimer's disease. Have there ever been saints who suffered a mental illness, or would that prevent their being canonized? Is there a particular patron saint for those who have dementia or other mental problems?

A. Many people now honored as saints suffered from clinical depression and other varieties of severe mental or emotional illness, sometimes for nearly their entire lives.

This would create no obstacle to their being venerated as saints. Just as with a physical illness or handicap, all depends on the faith, hope, patience and charity they showed in their lives in spite of the limitations they experienced.

The saint whose prayers are most commonly invoked for mental diseases is St. Dympna, a Belgian lady who lived in the seventh century. When her body was rediscovered in the 13th century, it is alleged that many people with emotional and mental handicaps were healed through her intercession.

Her remains are preserved in a church in Antwerp, where an excellent sanitarium exists for the care of mental patients. Her feast is May 15.

Questions may be sent toFather John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, Ill. 61651, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Clements, from page 10

racial injustice, he said. "Today, no one wants to be called a racist."

He noted that while "the struggle goes on," there is "a far higher percentage of whites on our side today than we ever had on our side" in the past. "And let's face it," he added. "The struggle will not be won without our white brothers and sisters joining in."

To the white members of the audience, Father Clements said that by their very presence in that auditorium, "we know you are on the side of social justice." He said that whites who have stood in defiance of racism "have struggled for us, and it's time for us to let them know how we feel about them. We call them God-lovers, because they truly recognize that we are brothers and sisters."

Father Clements led a standing ovation for the progress towards unity between the races. Then, everyone in the auditorium stood side by side and, at the priest's direction, turned to one another to exchange hugs and a message of oneness: "God loves you, and so do I."

In a closing prayer, Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber reiterated Father Clements' — and Dr. King's — longing for racial and social peace. "Our brother, Dr. Martin Luther King, by his example was a healing presence in all situations," said Sister Dennis, at St. Leo the Great church in Winston-Salem. "Dr. King saw visions of larger truths, and dared to declare them." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar at (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

"Why I Believe..." from page 16

Get past the innocent humor, said Daley Mackall, and you find gems of wisdom in children's words, some of which she has found useful in her own hectic life.

During her visit to an elementary school, Zachary, 8, told her, "Everybody should spend more time with God. Don't just talk to him on business."

"At that time," Daley Mackall told CNS, "I was near exhaustion, hopping from city to city, gathering material for my book. Zachary's words were just what I needed to hear."

She said the innocent visions children once had about God are often lost on their journey to adulthood but they are alive and well in the children of today. ▼

Abbot Placid Solari

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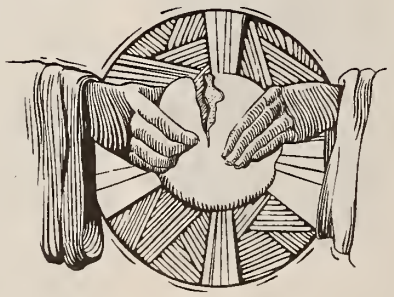

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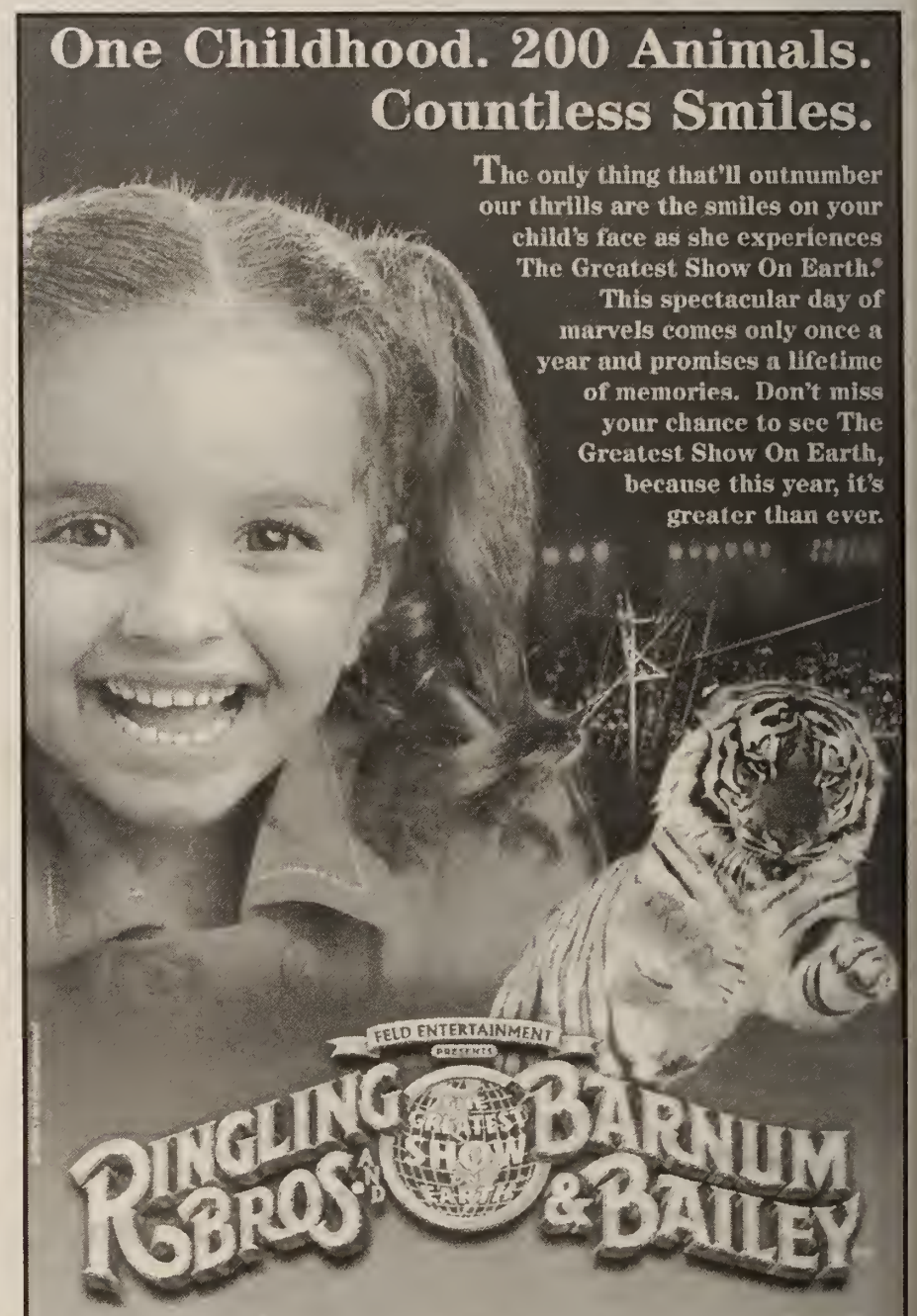

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St. Michael's Parish in Gastonia offers loving and prayerful congratulations to The Right Reverend Placid Solari, O.S.B., Eighth Abbot of Belmont

HISTORY

Founded in 1903 as a mission of Belmont Abbey, St. Michael's Parish is privileged to enjoy a special relationship with Abbot Placid and the monks of Belmont.

Abbot Placid was assigned to St. Michael's as a deacon and as a newly ordained priest.

The parishioners of St. Michael's offer him their heartfelt gratitude and assure him of their continued prayers in his service as Abbot of Belmont.

Mary, Help of Christians, intercede for him.

Faith is powerful weapon for undercover agent

By KRIS RADISH
Catholic News Service

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (CNS) — Eric Szatkowski lives in a world of crime, corruption and callousness that would more than shake the faith of most people, but he has learned to use his belief in God as the most powerful weapon he carries.

Szatkowski, 38, is a special agent for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. His days and nights are filled with the crimes that often lead off the nightly news. He investigates murders, arrests sexual predators and has developed the unique specialty of posing as an undercover hit man.

When a disgruntled woman wants to kill her husband or a husband puts out the word that he is looking for someone to kill his wife, Szatkowski is the man who slicks back his hair, drives through the night, and poses as a hired killer.

"My Catholic faith is a very important part of my life and what I do for a living," said Szatkowski, who with his family is an active member of a parish within the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

"I really don't think that I could do what I do day in and day out if I did not have a strong faith," he told the Catholic Herald in an interview conducted in Oconomowoc.

Holding to that faith has not always been easy for Szatkowski. He spent years being angry at God.

"Today I truly believe that God cares about me and my family," he said. "I really do feel as if God has a plan for me, and it's a plan that I follow very eagerly."

As a young boy growing up in the Milwaukee area, Szatkowski attended weekly Mass with his parents, was an altar boy and attended the parish school.

He said his Polish Catholic upbringing was important to him, but in 1985, his faith was shaken. He watched his father, Waclaw — a Polish immigrant who survived the Nazi regime — die a slow and painful death from stomach cancer.

At the time, Szatkowski was working as a broadcast journalist in Madison. He was married and until his father's illness he felt as if everything was just as it should be.

His father died, and less than a year later his mother, Lucy, was hospitalized when her diabetes spun out of control. She seemed to improve, but died of a heart attack.

Szatkowski had to face his anger, his grief, and the loss of the guiding hand of his mother.

He and his wife had a baby, a daughter, and he left journalism to become an FBI agent, but that didn't work out. Szatkowski said he kept going to church but it was only a gesture to make his wife happy.

Eventually he found his way back into law enforcement with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, where he found a profession that he loved.

He and his wife had another child, a son, and then his faith journey got back on track, while he was preparing for a difficult murder-for-hire trial and his daughter was preparing for her first Communion.

"I thought there was something missing in my heart about my daughter's first Communion," Szatkowski recalled. "I had not been to weekday Mass in about 10 years, but on that morning, I thought I would give the church another chance and when the priest began Mass by announcing the feast of St. Stanislaus, the patron saint of Poland, I knew that God was sending me a message. I was overcome with emotion and received Communion that day with a renewed sense of faith."

Since then, Szatkowski has relied on his faith in both his personal and professional life.

The Szatkowski family traveled to St. Louis to see the pope in early 1999 and Szatkowski also has visited with the pontiff in Rome.

"Both were incredible, faith-instilling experiences," he said. ▼

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'Rally for Unity' draws 50,000 marchers to S. Carolina capital

By JORDAN MCMORROUGH
Catholic News Service

COLUMBIA, S.C. (CNS) — Nearly 50,000 people converged on South Carolina's state capital Jan. 17 in an effort to have the Confederate battle flag relocated from atop the Statehouse dome in Columbia.

It was a mosaic of all races and faiths, young and elderly, grandparents walking beside young adults pushing babies in strollers, but it was still a mainly African-American crowd gathered for a march and rally against what some see as a symbol of racism and others see as a symbol of states' rights.

The flag was raised in 1962 to commemorate the Civil War centennial, and South Carolina is the only state to still fly the Confederate battle flag over its Statehouse.

Another issue of concern for many of the demonstrators is that South Carolina is also the last state to not officially celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"King Day at the Dome: A Rally for Unity" exceeded even the most optimistic predictions of event organizers, who over the weekend were hoping for a turnout of about 20,000.

Among the sponsors for the gathering was the South Carolina Christian Action Council, or SCCAC, of which the Diocese of Charleston is one of 16 member bodies, representing 2 million people statewide.

The SCCAC has been on record to oppose the flying of the Confederate flag over the Statehouse dome since 1986.

"We are at a very important point in South Carolina history," said Julia Sibley-Juras, director of ministries of justice and reconciliation for the council.

"I think that is evident by the diversity of groups that have come together to work on this one effort," she continued. "This coalition represents the voice of the people. I think as Christians, we are called upon to witness our faith ... to impact the common good."

Among other sponsoring organizations for the rally were the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention, the United Methodist Church, the SC Progressive Network, United 2000, the National Urban League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The NAACP has launched an economic boycott against the tourism industry in the Palmetto State to try and force political leaders to stop flying the Confederate battle flag over the capitol.

In observance of the NAACP's boycott, many out-of-state participants in the event stayed at Columbia-area churches to avoid giving business to local hotels.

Marchers began converging at Zion Baptist Church in the early morning hours prior to the noon rally at the Statehouse, and the crowd just kept growing.

Step-off for the six block march began at 11 a.m., with many holding banners or placards and others singing in small groups, but by noon only a little more than half the marchers had made their way to the end of the route.

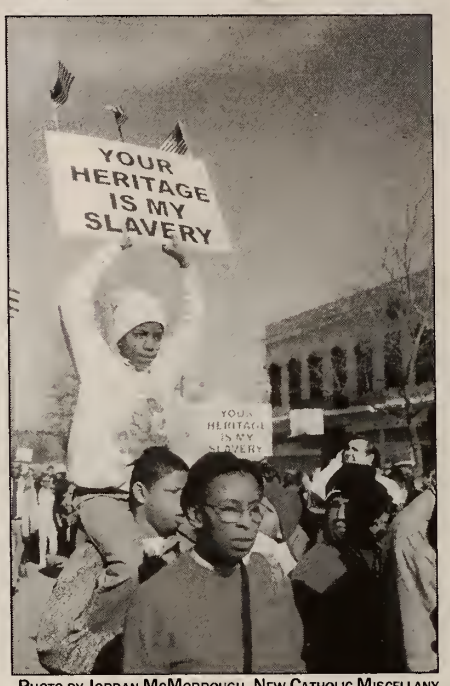

PHOTO BY JORDAN MCMORROUGH, NEW CATHOLIC MISCELLANY

A girl holds a sign high above the tens of thousands of marchers at the Rally for Unity Jan. 17 in Columbia, S.C. The rally was held to focus attention on an effort to remove the Confederate battle flag from atop the Statehouse.

Primary speakers at the almost three-hour rally were Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the NAACP, and Hugh B. Price, president and CEO of the National Urban League.

However, among the roster of presenters on the steps of the Statehouse were many religious leaders.

Catholic Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston was in Rome and was unable to attend the gathering. However, in a Jan. 10 letter sent to all pastors and pastoral administrators of the diocese, the bishop urged all to take part "or otherwise promote the success of this important event."

The bishop also referred to his Nov. 22 letter sent to all of the faithful of the diocese.

In it he stated: "We Catholics understand the power of symbols. Our religious heritage, our worship, even our buildings are all a rich treasury of symbols. We know that symbols used well can inspire faith and good works, but used inappropriately they can divide and destroy.

"Whatever symbols we use to represent us should reflect the identities, aspirations, and hopes of all the people of the great state of South Carolina."

He added that whatever symbolic meaning the Confederate battle flag has for people, "it is clear that the placement of the flag above the chambers of our state government will not unite us for common good but will continue to foster division and cripple our future." ▼

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Archivist: Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Qualifications: Master's degree in related field, or equivalent, extensive knowledge of the Catholic Church; minimum three years' relevant archival background including computer expertise, suitable organizational skills; demonstrated ability to work collegially; excellent communications skills, ability to travel. For job description and application contact Archivist Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax (912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com.

Director of Development for Campus Ministry: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a part-time director of development for Campus Ministry. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by February 18, 2000 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Faith Formation: Growing 450-family parish in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for directing pre-K through high school faith formation process and oversight of RCIA process and adult formation. Includes oversight of volunteer coordinators of formation processes for baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, RCIA, and adult Bible Study. Also includes collaboration with parish Faith Formation Council. Strong people and communication skills a must, especially with middle and high school level youth. M.A. in religious education or theology, or equivalent education and experience required. Salary mid-30s, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Also diocesan benefits packages. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614.

Director of Liturgy: Opportunity to serve full-time in welcoming, prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life. Vatican II community, 1900 families in central North Carolina. Reports to the Pastor. Works closely with clergy, director of music ministries, staff. Requires Master's degree or equivalent, knowledge of church rites and rituals; empowering, collaborative, pastoral; music skills a welcome plus. Immediate opening, latest start July 1, 2000, salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOL Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Phone (336)294-4696; Fax (336)294-6149.

Director of Music Ministry: Opportunity to serve full-time in welcoming, prayerful community as the primary coordinator of music for all parish liturgies. Reports to the Pastor. Vatican II community, 1900 families I central North Carolina. Coordinates with director of liturgy in planning liturgical music; works closely with clergy and staff. Requires master's degree or equivalent, must have music performance skills (e.g., piano, voice), choral directing, cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than July 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27419. Phone (336)294-4696; Fax (336)284-6149.

Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship III hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available March 1, 2000.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Music Minister: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia, a growing and diverse community (1,700 families) seeks a full-time Minister of Music. Responsibilities include: planning and preparation for all Sunday and Sacramental Liturgies for the parish and school community and coordination of our parish adult, children, teen, and handbell choirs. The successful candidate will be a highly motivated and organized individual with skill and experience in keyboard, choral, and vocal. Experience in Catholic Liturgy helpful. Computer skills desirable. Salary commensurate with education/experience. Send resume and cover letter to: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Attention:Music Minister Search Committee, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229 or FAX (804)740-2197.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att. Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Qualifications: Master's degree in youth ministry or related field; at least five years of relevant experience; status as practicing Catholic in good standing; demonstrated organizational skills. Also requires significant travel and strength in oral and written communication. For job description and application form contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax(912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com.

Belmont Abbey College is home away from home for its students

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — Addy Jean Mullis, a former student of Sacred Heart College in Belmont, attended classes at Belmont Abbey College from 1976 to 1980. Not only did she receive her degree; she also met her husband and returned to the college to work.

Born in Puerto Rico, Mullis came to the United States to enroll in Sacred Heart College, but took classes at Belmont Abbey College to pursue her major in biology. While attending, she met her late husband, Joseph Mullis, who also attended Belmont Abbey College, and she worked in the admissions office from 1989 to 1992 as a recruiter.

"I think there is a secret charm that the school has because it is like an extended family," she said. "Those that are lucky enough to find that warmth want to stay and work on campus. When I was recruiting, I would tell students about the advantages of a liberal arts education and that I had been a student myself."

Belmont Abbey and Belmont Abbey College were established in 1876 by Benedictine monks after the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah O'Connell gave them the land. The monks came from St. Vincent's Abbey in Latrobe, Pa., to staff the college, and arrived in North Carolina to an area of farmland spotted with a few buildings. The school began with a fall enrollment of four students.

Today, nearly 1,000 students attend what they call "the Abbey," which now has over 20 buildings, including Belmont Abbey Basilica and the monastery, and continues the traditions set into place by the Benedictines, who are involved in the day-to-day activities of the college.

"All of the monks have some sort of relationship with the college, whether through teaching, praying for the students, individual counseling or other roles," said Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein, archivist and historian emeritus of Belmont Abbey.

The close relationships she had with the monks is what Julie Pack, a 1989 psychology graduate, said touched her the most.

"I was looking for a small college so that I could get that personal attention from professors," she said. "The presence of the monks was what made me feel welcome, and I felt they cared about me." She said she was closest to Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, and the late Abbot Emeritus Walter Coggin, OSB, who she both described as "loving, caring and understanding."

Dr. Robert Preston, president of the college for the last five years, is also a product of the school; he graduated in 1953 with a philosophy and Latin degree. This semester, he is teaching an upper-level metaphysics class of 11 students.

"Every professor has the experience of teaching a group that isn't too large; it is small enough so that everyone become well-acquainted with everyone else," said Dr. Preston.

When Dr. Preston returned to the college as president almost 50 years later, some of the same monks and other faculty members were still there, he remembered.

"I think the Benedictine connection fosters both an atmosphere of community and hospitality," he continued.

Larry Simcox, who graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, said the "size of the school, availability of the teachers and the closeness of friends" are reasons why he decided to attend the college.

The college is a liberal arts institution requiring 60 hours of a common core curriculum with philosophy, theology, and other areas of study, along with the 60-plus hours needed for graduation.

At the only Catholic college in the Atlanta Province, the focus for the future is growth, both in population and academia. Dr. Preston would like to see the enrollment increase to about 1,200 students. The college also is moving into era of technology with the establishment of distance learning via a new computer classroom and a new computer services director and staff.

Dr. Preston said, "What the liberal arts education does is it teaches students how to learn; it is important to learn the content, but learning the process is important."

"What amazes me is the tight-knit sense of community that students and alumni have; the alumni are extremely loyal," said Abbot Placid, abbot of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College. "There is something about the experience here that is beneficial to the students." ▼

Photo by Joann S. Keane

"I think there is a secret charm that the school has because it is like an extended family," said Addy Jean Mullis, shown here with Abbot Placid Solari, OSB.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

God's blessing on our Benedictine Brothers and on Abbot Placid Solari. May the spirit of St. Benedict continue to guide you.

From the St. Gabriel Parish Family

Hundreds attend right to life rally and march in Raleigh

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — Several hundred people gathered at the Children's Garden in downtown Raleigh Jan. 15 for the Rally and March for Life 2000. North Carolina Right to Life, Inc sponsored the event.

The rally, one week before the national march in Washington, D. C., was held in the shadow of the Legislative Office Building, a fact that was not lost on one Raleigh man. Jim McElwee of Our Lady of Lourdes said he was at the rally to offer "encouragement to our legislators to change the law (allowing abortion)."

It is no longer possible, according to Carol Long Tobias, National Right to Life PAC Director, for a woman to have an abortion without knowing that "that someone thinks it is wrong." Long said it is now more acceptable to be pro-life publicly than ever before.

Long said people are more open about being pro-life at work, in school, and in the home. She said that is having an impact on the number of abortions in the United States, a figure she said stood at about 3,500 per day.

Long warned, however, that "we do not condemn women who have had an abortion." Rather, she said, it is important to work with women who are living with the aftermath of the procedure.

Among those standing in the cold wind that swept among the government buildings were people who had traveled from Shalotte and Charlotte. St. Brendan the Navigator in Brunswick County sent a delegation to the capital city.

Jack and Shirley Pierce, Pat and Ed Taylor, Jackie Henry and Audrey Weager traveled from the coast to Raleigh. Ed Taylor said public demonstration was an effective way of letting politicians know where the Catholic community stands.

Irene Manning, chair of Charlotte Area Right to Life and a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, called abortion "the greatest injustice we have in the country." Manning said right to life activities are attended by people with nothing to gain and no self-interest; "we are already born."

Manning said the demonstrators were committed to their cause. She said they spend their own money and give their own time to be pro-life.

While offering the opening prayer, the pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Cary, Father Richard Rohrer, noted his parish's long involvement with Project Rachel, a post abortion healing ministry. He said the greatest victims of abortion are the mothers.

For the children, said Father Rohrer, the ordeal is over. However, he said the mothers must continue to live "the hell" of having "the most intimate of relationships in their lives destroyed."

Tom and Rosanne Pagles of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte felt their presence at the rally and march was particularly important this year. They are about to become grandparents for the first time and said it was important for them to support life.

Knights of Columbus from around the state took part in the rally and led the subsequent march around the government district in Raleigh. Banners waved in the breeze bearing council names from Winston-Salem, Garner, Belmont and Raleigh, among others.

When the rally ended and the marchers fell into line, the Knights took up the lead. As most of the people at the rally fell in behind the Knights, the two "right to life" horses brought up the rear.

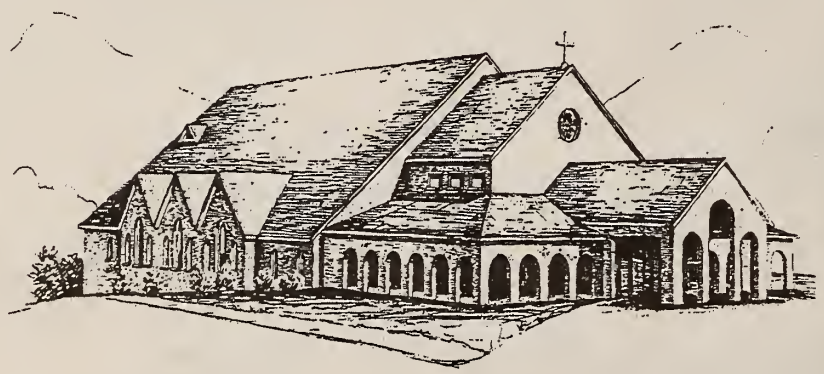
Bill Hampton and his daughter Emily brought they large creatures into place behind the marchers. "Star of Gettysburgh" and "Moneypenny" done some babysitting during the rally, holding the attention of many children while their parents listened to the speakers. ▼

This story is reprinted with permission from the NC Catholic.

Photo by Matt Doyle, NC Catholic

The Knights of Columbus led the March for Life in Raleigh on Jan. 15.

Congratulations to Abbot Placid Solari



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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Jan. 30-Feb. 5
Catholic Schools Week
to a New Century
Lighting the Way

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dedication of center officially marks establishment of new diocesan office

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MURPHY — Amid the picture book mountains in the westernmost part of the state, dilapidated trailers and shacks dot the landscape. Substandard housing and poor living conditions are a way of life for many residents in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate of the Diocese of Charlotte, which includes Clay, Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties.

One of the main problems is that many do not have the resources to bring themselves out of the cycle of low-paying jobs or unemployment due to a lack of child care, transportation or skills, which might mean better-paying jobs and a chance for a better lifestyle.

In keeping with the Nov. 1997 pastoral letter to North Carolina Catholics entitled "Of One Heart and One Mind," in which Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh wrote, "We must continue to address the effects of poverty by serving the poor in homeless shelters, in food pantries ... but we must also include action aimed at resolving the root causes of poverty ...," more than 100 people were present for the open house and dedication ceremony of the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development on Jan. 19.

The dedication served as a celebration of months of planning and development to establish the Office of Economic Opportunity, which operates out of the center. The office, was opened in Oct. 1999 to focus on the cause and effect of poverty on people, particularly in those four counties.

The idea is to research and implement viable solutions for the serious problems of poverty affecting many people in the diocese.

The office is under the umbrella of the Office of Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

John Scell, from St. William Church, accepts a plaque from Bishop William G. Curlin at the dedication of the new Bishop Begley Center in Murphy, NC.

Elizabeth Thurbee, director of Catholic Social Services (CSS), said, "This is very important step for CSS to be taking in this part of the state. This is part of what CSS stands for, reaching out to the community and putting social justice teachings into action."

See BEGLEY CENTER, page 8

Diocesan schools foster same vision through varied structures

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

"One size does not fit all" might be an apt slogan of the Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Schools Office. Perhaps unknown to some Catholics in the region, elementary and secondary Catholic schools in the diocese function under four different structural models, according to diocesan school superintendent Dr. Michael Skube. These models were created for effectiveness and efficiency, he said.

The first model, which is the most prevalent, is the parish school. This is an elementary school which is directly connected with a parish. The school is led by the principal in partnership with the pastor, and the school has the advantage of being integrated with the life of the parish, added Skube. He added that the parish school is generally a smaller school.

St. Michael School in Gastonia, St. Pius X and Our Lady of Grace schools in Greensboro, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Leo schools in Winston-Salem, Immaculata School in Hendersonville, Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, and Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point are parish schools in the diocese.

Asheville Catholic School, by virtue of its history, is a regional school, sponsored by several parishes. The parishes jointly decide upon a school administrator who is a pastor, and the pastor and principal work in a partnership. Day-to-day affairs are the domain of the principal, while overall directions such as budget involve the school administrator as well.

The third model is that of Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem. This is a "regionalized" school, said Skube, and like Asheville Catholic is supported by area parishes. The school is led by the principal, with the diocese being involved in overall planning and budgeting.

The fourth model is that of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, which is called "regionalization" according to Skube. This is a group of schools within a defined area that form a region. The schools have individual principals, but the diocese oversees the administration. Pastors are involved in the overview and work toward the spiritual development of students. Advantages of the regionalized school system, said Skube, involve shared ownership of improving curriculum, planning and

See SCHOOL VISION, page 9

Religious say church needs them, but in different ways

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Reflecting on their diminishing numbers at the dawn of a new Christian millennium, religious men and women are confident they will continue to be needed by the church, but in ways adapted to global social changes. "Before anything else, the emphasis will be on quality rather than quantity," said Discalced Carmelite Father Camilo Maccise, president of the Union of Superiors General, representing more than 250 men's orders. Though conserving their trademark — radical living of the Gospel — religious must turn their energies to the challenges posed by today's often secularized, globalized society, he said Jan. 21 as religious communities prepared for their special jubilee day in Rome Feb. 2.

Venezuelan president praises Catholic reconstruction project

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez visited a Catholic reconstruction project, praising the effort as a model for Venezuelans struggling to recover from devastating floods and mudslides in December. "Count on us, Father," Chavez said as he embraced Jesuit Father Jose Virtuoso, who runs Faith & Joy, a neighborhood organization in Catuche, a hillside slum in Caracas. "We're going to work with you on this project, with the help of God and this united people," he said. Hundreds of neighborhood residents cheered as the pair embraced.

Pope urges proclaiming message in secular, religious media

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church must search for ways to proclaim its message in secular as well as religious media, Pope John Paul II said. While the church needs to develop its own means of communication, it "must also use the opportunities that are to be found in the secular media," the pope said in his annual message for World Communications Day. The theme for this year's celebrations, to be marked June 4, is "Proclaiming Christ in the Media at the Dawn of the New Millennium."

CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEOERS

Child soldiers

"T.S." 12, became a child soldier in Sierra Leone after rebels killed his parents and abducted him. He attempted to leave twice before succeeding and going to a program for ex-soldier children run by Catholic priests. Two hundred former child soldiers being turned over to the care of Father Teophilous Momoh, manager of Children Associated with War, were kidnapped en route to Freetown Jan. 21.

Court leaves law intact closing public schools on Good Friday

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an appeal of Maryland's law requiring schools to close on Good Friday. Without comment Jan. 18, the court rejected an appeal by a retired Maryland teacher who argued that the law violates the separation of church and state. Maryland, Illinois and North Dakota are the only states that require all public schools to close on Good Friday, although the Illinois law was struck down by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A handful of other states designate Good Friday as a legal holiday but do not require schools to close.

Britain announces changes to Northern Ireland police force

LONDON (CNS) — The British government announced wide-ranging changes to the police force in Northern Ireland in a bid to attract more Catholic recruits. The proposed changes include a new name for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which has a reputation among many members of Northern Ireland's Catholic community as being dominated by Protestant members. In fall 2001, the name of the Royal Ulster Constabulary will be changed to Police Service of Northern Ireland. Only 8 percent of the current police force is Catholic — compared to more than 40 percent of the population at large. The government's decisions were announced in London's House of Commons Jan. 19 by Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Peter Mandelson.

Notre Dame anti-sweatshop task force issues recommendations

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — A special anti-sweatshop task force at the University of Notre Dame has called for the school to prohibit the manufacture of its licensed products in countries that do not recognize workers' legal right to organize. The task force also urged the university to create a model factory monitoring program to be overseen by professional auditors, church members and labor and human rights organizations. A third recommendation, that the school request full public disclosure of manufacturing sites by all its licensees, has been in effect since last November. Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, president of Notre Dame, has accepted the recommendations.

Pope moved to tears while watching film by Polish director

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II reportedly wept as he watched the latest film by one of Poland's most successful directors. In a private screening at the Vatican Jan. 23, the Polish pontiff saw Andrzej Wajda's "Pan Tadeusz," Vatican Radio said. Wajda and members of the movie's cast were also at the screening. Vatican sources said the pope was moved to tears during the film, a historical saga set during the Napoleonic era, when Poland was divided between Germany, Russia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "Tears were running down (the pope's) face during the final scene of reconciliation" between two of the main characters, Wajda said after the screening.

CHA welcomes Clinton proposal to expand health care coverage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Health Association Jan. 20 praised President Clinton's proposal to expand health care coverage for millions of low-income Americans. Father Michael D. Place, CHA president and chief executive officer, urged Congress "to act this year on the president's proposal and other efforts to expand health coverage." Noting that the nation is in a period of low unemployment, a strong economy and federal budget surpluses, he asked, "If not now, when?" The new Clinton plan would commit $110 billion over the next 10 years to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, provide tax credits for small businesses to buy health insurance, expand access to Medicare and give tax credits for long-term care.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop Curlin will take part in the following Catholic Schools Week events:

January 31 — 9:00 a.m.
Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte, NC

February 1 — 10:00 a.m.
Mass at Holy Trinity Middle School
Charlotte, NC

February 2 — 9:30 a.m.
Mass at CCHS
Charlotte, NC

February 3 — 10:00 a.m.
Mass at Our Lady of Grace
Greensboro, NC

February 4 — 10:30 a.m.
Mass at St. Eugene's for ACS
Asheville, NC

Diocesan planner

February

1 ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School is celebrating Catholic Schools Week with an open house this morning from 9-11 a.m. at 12 Culvern St. The public and parents of prospective students for the 2000-2001 school year are invited. Tours of the school and registration for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade are available for interested participants. For more information, contact Dr. Veronica Berreen at (828) 252-7896.

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church's support group for those living with cancer and their family members takes place tonight at 7 p.m. in the church's ministry center at 3016 Providence Rd. For further information, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

4 HAMLET — St. James Church Annual Pit-Cooked Barbecue is being held today from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1018 West Hamlet Ave., off of Hwy. 74. People can choose pork or chicken, cooked on site, with cole slaw, baked beans and rolls and may eat in or take out. The proceeds will benefit the church's building fund. Call the church office at (910) 582-0207 for further information.

HICKORY — Marriage Encounter is an enrichment program for married couples to concentrate on each other and to grow spiritually and emotionally. This weekend, the retreat is being held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Tom and Susan Rozycki at (704) 483-2329.

5 BELMONT — This month's first Saturday devotion at Belmont Abbey Monastery is taking place this morning with Mass at 9:30 a.m. and the rosary and confessions at 10:15 a.m. Call Terri and Phil DeLuca at (704) 888-6050 for more information.

Pro-lifers urged to look to fall elections for change on abortion

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The upcoming elections show promise for the pro-life movement, said several speakers at the kick-off rally for the annual March for Life Jan. 24 on the Ellipse in Washington.

"This year's presidential and congressional elections must be the turning point," Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., told tens of thousands of pro-life activists preparing for the 27th annual march to the U.S. Supreme Court to protest the court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

Smith, one of about a dozen politicians and religious leaders who addressed the crowd under gray skies and in a cold wind, said there was "a tremendous urgency to return a pro-life president to the White House."

And pointing to the White House in the distance behind the podium, Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, said that he hoped next year a different family "in this house" will support pro-life legislation.

Referring to the partial-birth abortion ban that was passed twice by Congress and vetoed twice by President Clinton, Chabot, a Catholic, said: "We'll pass it again."

But he also emphasized it was just as critical to stop all other types of abortion.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, likewise said the partial-birth abortion ban will once again be passed by Congress and President Clinton will be urged to sign it into law. He said Congress this year will also pass the Unborn Victims of Violence Act and the Child Custody Protection Act "out of our love for the innocent unborn."

Looking to this year's elections, Rabbi Yehuda Levin of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada said "presidential wannabes have to stop beating around the bush."

"Any disunity or apathy going into the fall elections will be self-defeating luxuries that will only perpetuate the horrific slaughter of 4,000 babies each day."

— Rep. Chris Smith, R-NJ, chair of the Pro-Life Caucus

CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Enthusiastic young people carrying a March for Life banner lead a crowd of thousands down Washington's Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court building Jan. 24 during the annual march commemorating the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

"You've got to stop abortion, we demand it," he added.

Smith, a Catholic who chairs the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said he wholeheartedly supports Texas Gov. George W. Bush for president "because he will do all that is possible to end the violence of abortion."

But he added that no matter who pro-life activists support, they should commit to "rallying around whoever the pro-life nominee turns out to be."

"Any disunity or apathy going into the fall elections will be self-defeating luxuries that will only perpetuate the horrific slaughter of 4,000 babies each day," he said.

Over the course of the 60-minute rally, representatives were introduced from a cross section of pro-life activist groups including Doctors for Life, Dentists for Life, National Council of Catholic Women, and Operation Rescue. This year's rally was two days after the Jan. 22 U.S. Supreme Court decision in order to take place on a weekday.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore introduced Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, James A. Hickey of Washington and Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia and 26 bishops, pointing out that Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York was unable to attend because of his health.

"I send special greetings to you from Cardinal O'Connor, who is with you in spirit and prayer. He says, and I echo, 'Don't give up.'"

Cardinal Keeler told the crowd that the nation's bishops "stand with you to pray, march and lift our voices" until the day when "life is protected at every stage."

Nellie Gray, the organizer of the event, told participants, many of whom were standing on melting snow, that pro-life activists will continue to gather each year in Washington "until Roe vs. Wade is overturned."

Referring to the theme of the day's gathering, "My Neighbor is Each Human Being in Existence at Fertilization," she said: "Each unborn child is our neighbor too. We must constantly talk about life beginning at fertilization."

Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" from the Roe vs. Wade decision who became a Catholic two years ago, asked the crowd how many of them want to see the Supreme Court decision overturned.

The crowd, wearing parkas and holding up placards with pro-life slogans, responded with cheers. She told them there were hundreds of ways to work at overturning the decision, including getting involved in sidewalk counseling.

But many in the crowd have long been involved in pro-life activism on a daily basis, which explained their presence on the Ellipse in the first place.

Jason Negri, director of alumni relations at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, told Catholic News Service that participating in the march "definitely gives a shot in the arm to people who work in the day-to-day aspect of the pro-life movement."

If nothing else, being in Washington with thousands of others committed to the pro-life cause shows him that it's "more than just a handful of people" who are pro-life. ▼

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Placement Test is administered each year to all eighth graders who wish to apply to the high school. The placement test is being given this morning from 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the school, located at 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road. Students should bring a light snack for the break and two sharpened number two pencils. For registration and other information, call the school at (704) 543-1217.

GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church, 1414 Gorrell St., is holding their annual Black History Month Celebration Mass, sponsored by the Black History Month Committee, this afternoon at 12:15 p.m. with Father Martin Carter from Our Lady of Victory Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., being assisted by Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the diocese. A covered dish luncheon follows the Mass. For details, call the church office at (336) 272-8650.

7 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

11 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Catholic Schools Office presents a religion in-service day for teachers across the diocese today from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel School. Featured speakers are Father Richard Fragomeni, an author and lecturer from Chicago, and Dr. Elinor Ford, a speaker and expert on a variety of educational topics. Mass will be celebrated, with special guest David Anderson directing the music. Music from the Holy Trinity Middle School band, directed by Alan Kaufman, will begin the day. All those involved in educational and catechetical ministry are also invited. Advanced registration is required by calling Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation, at (704) 370-3268.

12 GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a Valentine's Day party tonight at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and a beverage. For details about directions, donation and other information, call Patti at (336) 665-8108.

13 CHARLOTTE — There is a charismatic Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Ave. East, today at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck to follow the Mass. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 with any questions.

17 HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is being celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For details, call the Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

19 CHARLOTTE — Kathy and David and their Christian contemporary backup band "Redeemed" are performing tonight for the "Rock-N-Java" concert series at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, located on Park Rd. "Rock-N-Java" is a Christian contemporary coffeehouse concert series that rotates to various area churches. Kathy Piontek, music director at St. Matthew Church, and David Shoff, music director at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, have released "The Journey," a CD of praise songs. For additional information about booking availability, the concert series or CD purchases, call Terry at (704) 321-5744 or Kathy at (704) 614-9100.

BLACK MOUNTAIN — Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat allowing couples preparing for marriage to concentrate exclusively on each other free of tensions and pressures. This weekend's retreat is being held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, 20 minutes east of Asheville, today and tomorrow. For registration, directions and other information, call Dorothy Menze at (888) 310-8040 or (704) 364-6726.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Building a foundation of faith

Triad high school plans forge forward

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — One of the sure signs of the growth of Catholicism in the Diocese of Charlotte is witnessed by the remarkable increase in the Catholic population of the Triad area, says Bishop William G. Curlin. "Growth," he says, "is a key reason we look forward to the building of a new Bishop McGuinness High School, to adequately meet an ever-expanding growth among our Catholic youth."

"The education of youth has an important place in the mosaic of the Catholic Church in Western North Carolina," says Bishop Curlin.

Plans for a relocated Bishop McGuinness High School have been rolling forward since the 1999 announcement by Bishop Curlin. A couple of intensive years of surveys, consultation and preliminary groundwork preceded the bishop's decision for the diocese to build a centrally located high school to serve the secondary educational needs of the Triad region.

With the new century came an outlined 'foundation for faith.' Initial drawings and facility plans for an 800-student facility have been reviewed and revised. Last week, Vicar General and Chancellor Father Mauricio West along with the school building committee met to review cost estimates and design development drawings. The building committee includes Bishop McGuinness High School Principal George Repass and members of the Triad community.

"The architect, proposed contractor and the diocese are working in concert to insure the success of this project," says Father West.

On the table are plans for a two-story 118,000 square-foot school building. Integral elements include a 225-seat chapel, 4,400 square-foot media center, and central courtyard.

State-of-the-art is the oft-quoted description of the planned high school. Computer labs along with computer learning supports in all teaching areas are nothing less than basic necessities. High tech is needed to meet the rapidly advancing needs of a computer-literate generation.

To help offset overall building costs, a campaign for Bishop McGuinness High School expects to raise several million dollars. "Is there any more important an undertaking than addressing the need to accommodate our children, grandchildren and others with the opportunity to receive their education at a new and even better facility?" ask members of the campaign committee. It is from that philosophy that Laying New Foundations for Faith and Learning evolved as the catchphrase for the fund-raising campaign, punctuated by acknowledging the need to "Help students develop strong moral values and a deep commitment to God and Church."

"Every Catholic household will be given the opportunity to make commitment to the future of Catholic education in the Triad," adds Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development. "We hope that when contacted, they respond generously."

Aside from the brick and mortar costs, Father West is very focused on the affordability of a Catholic high school education in the Triad. "This is a priority," he says. This spring, the diocese will begin a series of meetings to bring family costs to the forefront. "Pastor input and parish support are essential," says Father West.

As the Triad expands, so does the diocesan commitment to meet this growth head on. "People recognize the churches' obligation to meet needs," says Bishop Curlin. "Just as we work for the aged, the sick, the migrants, we work for the children."

"I thank God for the parents and for the people who generously acknowledge this need and generously respond to make this a reality."

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school is scheduled Feb. 6 at the site of the future school. For directions and more information, contact Bishop McGuinness High School 336-725-4247. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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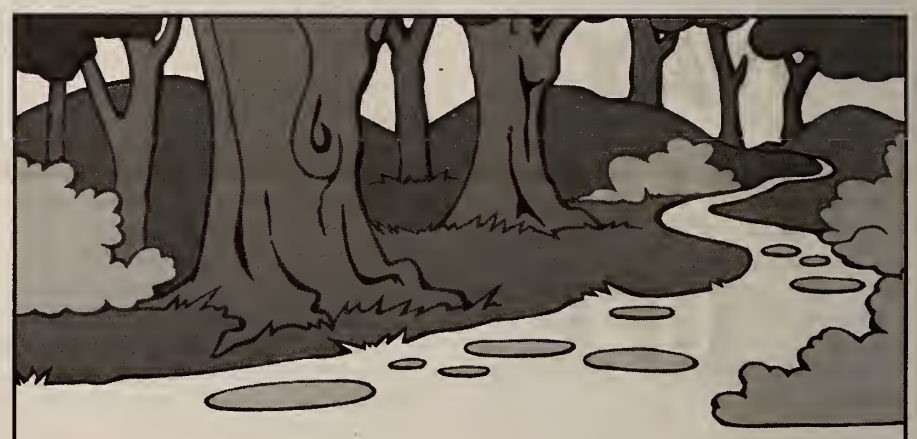

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Teacher honored for years of Catholic teaching

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — By sheer coincidence, Lorraine Malphurs ended up teaching at a school with the same name as the one she attended as a young girl.

Malphurs has held a myriad of teaching positions at St. Pius X in Greensboro: from first through fifth grade reading and math classes to instructing students on the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist, the second grade home room educator who attended St. Piux X in Plainview, N.Y., has dedicated 27 years to education in the Triad.

Malphurs

Years later, her teaching skills have earned her the 1999-2000 National Catholic Educators' Association (NCEA) Distinguished Teacher Award, in honor of Sister Miriam Joseph Farrell. She is one of 11 teachers from the South Atlantic States region to be honored with this award. One of the first steps was to fit the award criteria, which included teaching in a Catholic school for at least 10 years and having a philosophy of Catholic education. She then had to answer 11 questions about her life and career.

"This is a great honor and is one of the biggest things that has happened in my life," said Malphurs.

Her life as a teacher got an early start when she tutored neighborhood first graders for 10 cents an hour as a ten-year-old. Her inspiration stemmed from one of her own teachers.

"My eighth grade teacher, Sister Mary Uriel, always said 'better late than never,' when it came to accepting late assignments. She understood how different people came from different places, and I try to do the same with my students," said Malphurs.

After earning her education degree with a math concentration from Oneonta State College in N.Y., she and her husband Bryon moved to Greensboro to join a sister who lived there at the time. Malphurs had heard from her sister that St. Pius X School was interviewing for teaching positions at the time.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Charlotte said, "Lorraine is an excellent representative of all of our teachers because she expects the children in her care to do well, assists them in many ways to do so, and has a central focus of providing an environment of Catholic values and traditions for them."

Principal Celeste Usischon said she nominated Malphurs because "her talents are limitless, and she has used them with tremendous dedication."

Malphurs has worked with Usischon as the assistant to the principal and as advisor and facilitator for those teachers pursuing their licenses.

Usischon cited Malphurs' qualities as a teacher as reasons why she was chosen for the award: "She demands the best of her students and from their parents, and her interaction with the school community is edifying and professional. She nourishes the potential in each child in her care and is a person who is centered in Christ and concerned about the moral training of her students."

"Teaching in Catholic school makes me live my faith daily and weekly. Your heart gets touched when their hearts get touched."

As part of the application, a teacher and a parent wrote recommendation letters on Malphurs' behalf. Patty Delaney, a third grade assistant and president of the Home School Association (HSA) for St. Pius X School, said, "I thought she would be a great candidate because of her great knowledge in religion and teaching, which comes through in what she does. She is very energetic with the children and very religious, which gets them ready for their sacraments."

See MALPHURS, page 8

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

The grandmother's of Elian

Mariela Quintana Gonzalez and Raquel Rodriguez, the grandmothers of Elian Gonzalez, listen to reporters at a press conference at Kennedy Airport in New York Jan. 21. The women also met with Attorney General Janet Reno during a visit to try to have their 6-year-old grandson returned to his father in Cuba.

Manhattan attorney named president of U.S. Knights of Malta

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — John Paul Reiner, an attorney in a Manhattan law firm, White & Case, has become the new president of the American Association of the Knights of Malta.

He was elected by the organization's board of councilors Dec. 6, and took office Jan. 1 for a three-year term.

A graduate of Fordham University and the Columbia University Law School, he has been a Knight since 1978 and a member of the order's board of councilors since 1994.

His wife, Mary Elisabeth Wells Reiner is a Dame of Malta. And at a Mass of Investiture Jan. 14 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, his daughter, Mary E. Reiner Barnes, was inducted into the order.

The 41 men and 19 women inducted included Bishop James T. McHugh of Rockville Centre, Bishop George J. Lucas of Springfield, Ill., and Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Sheridan, vicar general of the Archdiocese of New York.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, chaplain of the association, presided at the Mass, and Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, celebrated the Eucharist.

It was the 80th annual Mass of Investiture, and was dedicated to Cardinal O'Connor, who turned 80 the following day.

Reiner is also a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Sylvester the Pope and a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and secretary of the Path to Peace Foundation, an agency established by Archbishop Martino to support projects related to the work of the Vatican's U.N. mission.

As president of the Knights of Malta, Reiner succeeded William J. Flynn, who had become president in 1996 following the death of his predecessor, J. Peter Grace, the previous year.

Flynn, who was chairman of Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, led in a reorganization of the American Association of Knights that put two-term limits on the service of presidents and councilors. Implementation of the changes brought a period of controversy, but Reiner said he hoped that now was over.

In another change this year, Jack Shine, a former public school administrator in Connecticut, has become director of administration at the order's offices. He replaced Henry J. Humphreys, who had the title of executive director.

Best wishes to all the students!
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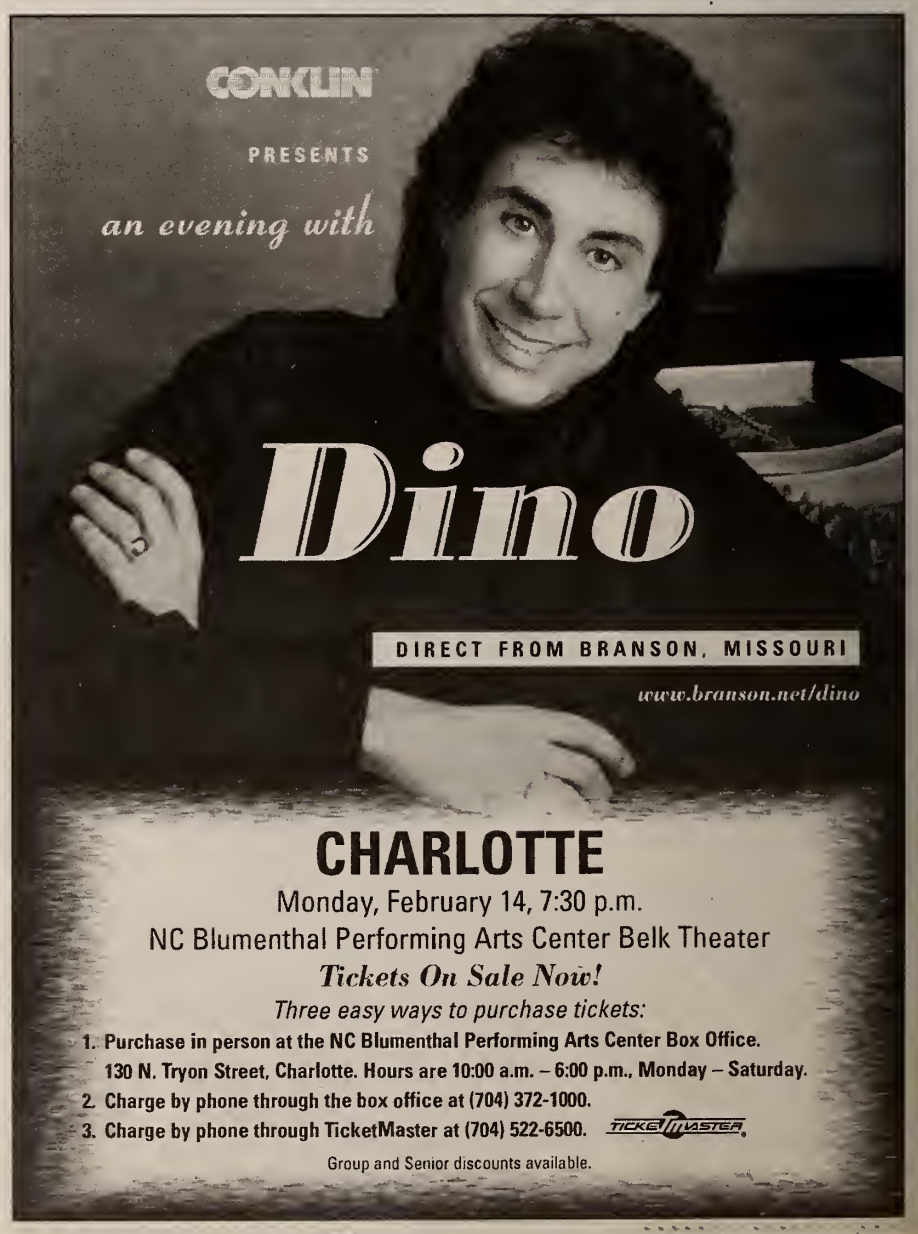

Program an "ace" in deck of educational opportunities

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — From high school, Matthew Johnson knew he wanted to be a teacher. In pursuit of that dream, he drew an ace from a deck of opportunities: entry into a master's level educational program that promotes Catholic identity, service and commitment.

Today, Johnson is one of seven student teachers in Charlotte this school year as part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), an intensive two-year service commitment that yields a master's degree in education from the University of Notre Dame.

Johnson is in his second year of the program, teaching fifth-graders at Our Lady of the Assumption School. He says the program has taught him much about building educational experience around the example of the ultimate teacher, Jesus.

"When I think of Christ the teacher, I think of a lot of compassion," says Johnson, a Notre Dame graduate. "I truly believe that Christ has so much compassion for all those he has taught, and I really try to take that into the classroom — a lot of compassion and patience."

That sense of identity with Christ as teacher is a primary goal of the ACE program, organizers say. The program recruits, places and supports student teachers, about two-thirds of whom stay in Catholic education as a profession. In a Christian sense of service, participants spend a total of 16 weeks over two summers in intensive training at Notre Dame and in local schools. They teach for two full school years in Catholic schools across the southern and southeastern United States, where numbers of teachers in Catholic schools had been declining in recent years. Participants are paired with mentors in the schools, and stay in touch with ACE officials through e-mail, classroom observations and other visits.

COURTESY PHOTO

This group of teachers in the Alliance for Catholic Education program currently teach in Catholic schools in Charlotte. ACE is a master's level program grounded in Catholic identity, service, and commitment.

What began in 1994 with a group of 40 teachers in nine communities is now an educational program with 138 teachers serving 22 dioceses in 11 states. Founded at the University of Portland, the program has since been enhanced by its affiliations with Notre Dame, as well as its involvement with the U.S. Catholic Conference's National Catholic Education Association and a growing number of diocesan school systems.

"It's an incredible program that has brought seven of its participants to the Diocese of Charlotte to work in several of our Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools," says Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools. "These people have remarkable backgrounds and bring a true sense of enthusiasm to the classroom."

Joining Johnson in Charlotte are Brendan Sullivan, Sarah Van Ermen, Marcia Devlin, and Joseph Pietrangelo, who teach at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School; and Katherine Pytlak and Scott Reis, who teach at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The University of Notre Dame developed the master's in education program in 1997, and launched the enhanced ACE program the next year.

In all they learn and teach, participants are invited to deepen their faith while serving as Christian leaders — in the classroom and beyond.

"This program reminds me that — whether I'm actually in the classroom, attending a school function or in church — I am constantly a teacher by my display of actions and what I have to say," says Sarah Van Ermen, a second-year participant who teaches religion and social studies at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School.

Van Ermen, a Notre Dame graduate, says her classroom experi-

See ACE PROGRAM, page 9

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Begley Center dedication, from page 1

The event featured Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, who read a passage from the bishops' letter and said, "The Diocese of Charlotte takes this opportunity to reconnect itself to partnering with this community and addressing the effects of poverty .... It is out of this vision, based on sacred Scripture and Catholic social teaching, that the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development was created. Our efforts in the areas of childcare, affordable housing, job mentoring and business development have been very strongly supported by so many."

"It is an exciting opportunity to develop a new approach to economic development, guided by the noble assertions of Catholic economic justice teachings and guided by the needs and aspirations of a rich and resourceful community."

— Melissa Block, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity

Melissa Block, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity since the Oct. 1999 opening, has been actively working with other organizations and individuals to put workable plans into place.

"I feel fortunate to have been chosen for this office to work within the communities of Swain, Clay, Cherokee and Graham counties to address the root causes of economic injustice. It is an exciting opportunity to develop a new approach to economic development, guided by the noble assertions of Catholic economic justice teachings and guided by the needs and aspirations of a rich and resourceful community."

During the ceremony, Bishop Curlin thanked those involved for their help with bringing the goals of the office to fruition. He stated, "There has been an outreach of charity and love in this area. This ministry represents a Christ-like action because we have come together to enact positive change and offer support to those in need."

The bishop presented a plaque to the parishioners of St. William Church, which was accepted by John Scell, whom the parishioners affectionately call "the Czar," because of his tireless efforts with leading the refurbishing of the center.

The attendants then huddled around the center for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a blessing by the bishop. They were then treated to a tour of the facilities.

Included in the center are the Mountain MicroEnterprise Fund (MMF) and the Self-Help Credit Union, both satellite offices out of Asheville.

The MMF helps people start or expand small businesses through loans, training and technical assistance and peer support in 11 counties, according to Greg Walker-Wilson, MMF director.

"We support what the diocese is doing, and we work together as partners with slightly different, but important roles," said Walker-Wilson.

The Self-Help Credit Union is an economic development bank, which serves low-end, low-income, minority and rural families and individuals to acquire access to capital, which most banks do not allow in most "high-risk" cases, said Joyce Harrison, Western N.C. regional director.

Harrison said, "We complement each other in what we do; we share resources to make more of an ecomonic impact."

"We are looking forward to the partnership we have developed with MMF and Self-Help," said Joanne Frazer, director of the Office of Justice and Peace.

The Office of Economic Opportunity has been busy at work with several projects. The Economic Development Fund, supported by the sale of a business once owned by the diocese, will be used for small business loans and individual development accounts (IDAs) for people to save money to buy a home or start a business, said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church and the acting chair of the office advisory board.

A market study being done by the Mountain Resource Center, located on the campus of Western Carolina University, was commissioned by the office to research and compile reasons for a lack of adequate housing and the steps needed for purchasing. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Malphurs, from page 5

Delaney has worked with Malphurs, who is on the executive board of HSA, and Delaney's son Ryan, a fourth grader who had Malphurs as his teacher in second grade said, "she is one of the best teachers he has ever had and learned so much from her."

Pat Abondolo, who has been a technical specialist for 15 years at the school, said, "she is a wonderful teacher who has dedicated her life to Catholic education and lives her faith."

Malphurs' philosophy is simple: "I took a little child's hand in mine, and we were to walk together to the Father." "I am taking them on a journey [with sacramental preparation], and this is their first big encounter with the Lord," she explained.

"Teaching in Catholic school makes me live my faith daily and weekly. Your heart gets touched when their hearts get touched," said Malphurs.

She cites the Daughters of Charity, who used to staff St. Pius X School, as an inspiration. She said "her attitude about teaching is different because she worked with them; they were women who strived at everything they did."

Malphurs will receive her award, along with the other regional teachers, during a ceremony at the NCEA Convention in Baltimore in April. ▼

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ACE Teachers, from page 7

ence through the ACE program has been a valuable lesson on the influence that a teacher can have with students. Just as Jesus promoted his message through daily actions and words, she says, a teacher can similarly convey ideals of Christian life while serving people hungry for knowledge. Together, she says, both teachers and students can grow in learning and faith.

"They (students) want to know that there is an answer out there, and sometimes that's a big challenge," she adds. "The more they question, the more I have to find a concrete answer."

In addition to sharing a vision of Catholic identity in their classrooms, participants in local communities share in a spirit of mutual support through conversation and group prayer. They discuss their joys and frustrations, their hopes and concerns. Through their shared experience, says one participant, the teachers learn ways to grow in faith as well.

"People approach spirituality in different ways, and it's good to be exposed to that," says Scott Reis, who teaches math to freshmen and sophomores at Charlotte Catholic High School. Of the sharing of experience, he also says "it's great just having that support; other people are going through some of the same things you are."

Reis, who graduated from the University of Portland, says the program encourages "an outpouring of service to others."

"I enjoy teaching and I'm going to stick with it," says Reis, who also serves as a coach on the school's cross-country running team — an experience that has given the opportunity to work with students outside the classroom and which further strengthened his resolve to teach.

Faith development is vital to the program — both personal development as well as shared. "I definitely see that my personal faith has grown, especially though the classroom," says Matthew Johnson. "The fifth-graders tell you exactly how they feel; there's a kind of elementary faith they seem to have. That has definitely helped my own spirituality to grow."

Experiences like that have convinced Johnson that he will stay in education. "For some reason, I don't consider teaching a job," he says. "It's something that I love to do — to have the opportunity to touch lives and really be a minister of Christ by teaching these children, who will be our future." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocece.org.

Thirty-six Catholic schools opened in 1998-99

SNAP SOURCES: THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NCEA), 1999

Catholic Schools vision, from page 1

coordination, as well as unified tuition and salaries, comprehensive financial planning and fund-raising programs, coordinated programs of before- and after-school care, pre-schools, and summer programs, and efficiency in the use of school facilities within the system. The schools in this system are All Saints, Charlotte Catholic high, Holy Trinity Middle, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ann, St. Gabriel, and St. Patrick schools.

What do all these models have in common? "They are all ministry off of the local parish, going in the same direction," said Skube. That direction is a Catholic identity and a desire to meet whatever needs participating Catholics and other parents see for their children.

Several years ago, parents, staff and pastors in the diocese were surveyed as to these perceived needs. In response, the diocesan Catholic Schools Office set up a program of ongoing religious professional in-service training for the staff. Directed by the school office's director of religious formation for schools, Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, the in-service training takes place several times each school year.

The diocese is also putting together consistent preparation programs for religion teachers at all levels. ▼

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"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from whence comes my help."
— Psalms 121:1

Book Review

Humanity should be "mutually enhancing" presence on Earth, says Father Berry

REVIEWED BY ANNE LEVEQUE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Passionist Father Thomas Berry is best known as an environmentalist and cultural historian. His 1988 book, "The Dream of the Earth," was a seminal work providing a philosophical groundwork for environmentalism, not just as an isolated social issue, but as a broad cultural paradigm.

"The Great Work: Our Way into The Future"
By Father Thomas Berry
CP. Bell Tower (New York, 1999)
242 pp., $23.00.

"The Dream of the Earth" set forth the idea that the Earth has, in humanity, evolved a self-reflective consciousness. If we can see ourselves as fully a part of the Earth, we can understand ourselves as the Earth's consciousness.

Father Berry's most recent offering, "The Great Work: Our Way Into the Future" continues this theme while exploring ways in which humanity can become what Father Berry calls a "mutually enhancing" presence on Earth.

Father Berry's view is that we must change our underlying attitudes toward creation. This includes our relationship with our fellow humans as well as our relationship with every part of creation, both living and nonliving. Presently there is an enormous discontinuity between humans and anything not human. Our task, if we are to survive, is not only to bridge that gap but eliminate it completely.

While this may sound radical at first, be assured that Father Berry is no neo-Luddite. He recognizes the value that modern technology has brought to the lives of many. He also points out the great cost of technology: the devastation of the Earth.

Father Berry outlines the great work of previous generations and cultures, then goes on to say that the great work of our time is, "to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner."

What this means and how we are to accomplish this is the subject of this book. Father Berry examines the current condition of the Earth and the historical background of human interaction with the Earth that has brought about the present situation of environmental catastrophe. The current order is based on human perception that creation exists for the use of humanity, in an exploitive relationship. The future order is one of coexistence and mutuality — an "Ecozoic Era."

Father Berry's perspective is ultimately a hopeful one. He has great faith in the ability of institutions and people to change in fundamental ways. Reading "The Great Work" is an exercise in optimism. Father Berry says that "the catastrophic moments are also creative moments."

"The Great Work" is an intellectually challenging book. It is also quite readable. Father Berry avoids the pitfalls of academese without sacrificing depth. He writes for a wide audience and expresses his ideas in ways that are inclusive and (small "c") catholic.

He includes modes of spirituality from many different traditions, both Eastern and Western. The effect of this is that readers from diverse traditions can find valuable guidance here. ▾

LeVeque is information services manager for Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

January 30, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Deuteronomy 18:15-20
   Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
3) Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My friend's two sons were locked in a power struggle yet again. The older boy had scheduled an activity that directly conflicted with his younger brother's holiday plans. The latter was upset and disappointed, and their parents thought the older brother seemed a bit too triumphant for this to be a simple oversight. At their request he reluctantly rearranged his schedule — which was easily done — to accommodate his brother's needs.

It seemed that these boys in their upper teens should have outgrown their sibling rivalry by now, but over the years they had inflicted emotional wounds on each other that hadn't quite healed.

The younger brother was assertive and usually managed to get his way; the older brother had a number of serious personal struggles, a poor self-image and felt continually victimized.

Knowing this, their mother attempted to smooth her older son's ruffled feathers. "You know, for something like this it's OK to be the one to give in. It was a good thing to do," she told him.

"But, Mom, one of the things they told me in counseling is that I have to take care of myself and not always worry about other people or what they think," he countered.

She knew this was so, but she didn't know what to say. Then she heard herself telling him: "That's true, but you can sacrifice for other people for love. That's what the whole Christian life is about."

"Don't get me wrong, Mom, I love him; I'd die for him."

"But what about the incremental sacrifice?" she asked him. "Yes, Jesus died for his people, but he also sacrificed incrementally throughout his life. He was ridiculed, ignored, scoffed at and ostracized over and over."

Her son stopped arguing and just looked at her. The next day his attitude toward his brother was visibly changed. He smiled and silently shook his head as his younger sibling claimed superior knowledge of some trivial subject.

In this weekend's readings God places his prophetic words in the mouths of the people among us so we can understand. And his word makes sense and takes hold because of the authority it bears in action.

My friend says she doesn't "make a constant big deal" of reminding her kids of their Christian calling, but in this case it seemed appropriate. It made a difference because it was God's word. ▾

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2000

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28; **Monday (St. John Bosco)**, 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday**, 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30-19:3, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (Presentation of the Lord)**, Malachai 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Thursday (Sts. Blasé and Ansgar)**, 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday**, Sirach 47:2-11, Mark 6:14-29; **Saturday (St. Agatha)**, 1 Kings 3:4-13, Mark 6:30-34

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Engrossing documentary on Sidney Poitier to air on PBS

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — An actor who pioneered leading roles for African-Americans reflects on his life in "Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light," airing Wednesday, Feb. 2, 8-9 p.m. EST on PBS.

The engrossing documentary, from the "American Masters" series, is directed by Oscar-winning actress Lee Grant, who co-starred with Poitier in 1967's memorable "In the Heat of the Night."

"Sidney Poitier: One Bright Light"
Feb. 2, 8-9 p.m. on PBS

Now in his early 70s, Poitier recalls an impoverished but not unhappy upbringing on a tiny tomato farm on Cat Island in the Bahamas. At 15, Poitier was sent to relatives in Miami but bristled at racial discrimination in the South and headed for New York.

Ridiculed when he auditioned for entry to the American Negro Theatre, he resolved to learn the craft and so he bartered janitorial duties to gain admittance. For his stage debut he said his lines all out of sequence, which endeared him to the audience and gave him the confidence to go on and truly merit any positive critical response.

His racially charged 1950 debut film, "No Way Out" made him a hero in the Bahamas, but it was deemed too explosive to exhibit there. The resulting citizen protest group eventually led to the formation of a political party that would overturn British colonial rule of the Bahamas.

"Blackboard Jungle" in 1955 was Poitier's first real hit and his performance in 1958's "The Defiant Ones" with Tony Curtis brought him the first Academy Award nomination given for a black man in a leading role. But it was his 1963 stint in "Lilies in the Field" that garnered him the coveted Oscar.

However, a colleague relates that Poitier often felt very alone on studio lots as there were almost no other African-Americans employed in front of or behind the camera, and he became involved with the civil rights movement in the turbulent 1960s.

In 1967, Poitier starred in the top three releases of the year: "To Sir, With Love," "In the Heat of the Night," and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," but following the 1968 King assassination Poitier was sharply criticized by black militants for being too passive.

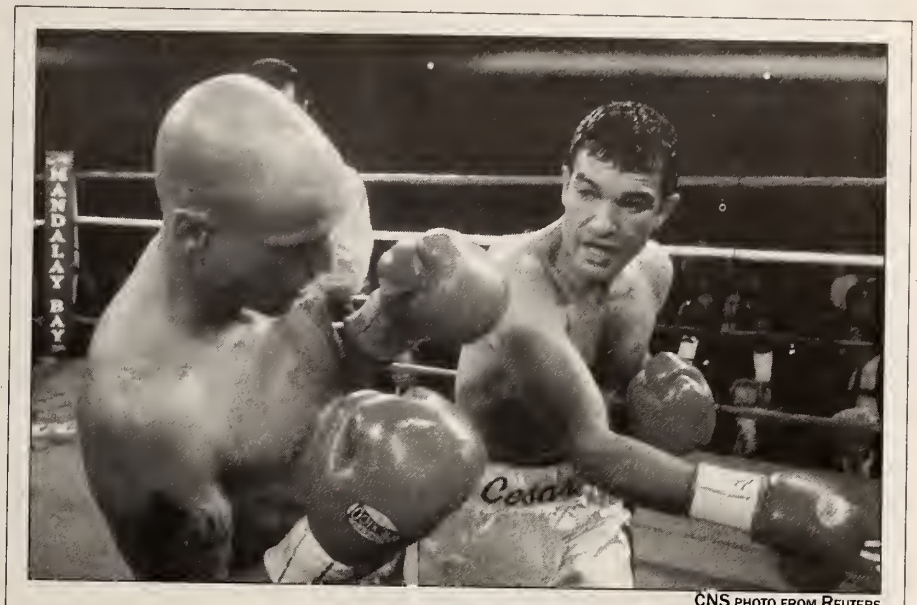
Retreating to the Bahamas to reconsider his priorities, he turned to directing with 1972's "Buck and the Preacher" and several other comedies, "Stir Crazy" being the most successful.

Returning in 1997 to South Africa, where he had filmed 1951's "Cry, the Beloved Country," Poitier starred in a TV movie as Nelson Mandela and attributes the man's endurance to his spiritual inner strength.

Grant directs with somewhat less of an emphasis on flowery praise by colleagues than is customary in star bios, although there are remarks by, among others, Poitier's wife, directors Stanley Kramer and Norman Jewison, and Denzel Washington.

Poitier is mostly seen in facial close-ups and conveys a sense of integrity, pride and seriousness of purpose about becoming a skilled actor. His choice of roles also showed a deliberate commitment to improving the image of blacks to the mass audience with movies that dealt with racial issues previously ignored by the Hollywood studio system. And his often electric performances made the positive messages from these movies have resonance. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

"Play It to the Bone"

Tawdry drama in which best friends who are professional boxing rivals (Woody Harrelson and Antonio Banderas) battle it out in Las Vegas for big prize money and a chance at the middleweight championship title. Writer-director Ron Shelton substitutes brutal boxers, artificially voluptuous women and crude dialogue for plot and character development. Recurring, gory boxing violence, fairly graphic sexual encounters, brief nudity and sexual references, negative references to religion, and constant rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Other TV of note

Monday, Feb. 7, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "Duke Ellington's Washington." A look at the revival of an African-American community in Washington that in the early 20th century was the center of black culture in America and a jazz mecca for Duke Ellington, Pearl Bailey, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway and Ella Fitzgerald.

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 8-10:30 p.m. EST (PBS) "The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization." An "Empires" special recounting the rise, glory, demise and legacy of the empire that marked the dawn of Western civilization as told through the eyes of ancient Greek heroes.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Contemplation of Trinity one of jubilee objectives, says pope

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Holy Year 2000 must include reflection on the Trinity, Pope John Paul II said.

At his general audience, he reminded the 4,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall that the glorification of the Trinity is one objective of the jubilee.

Following catechesis cycles dedicated to each person of the Trinity, the pope urged all people to contemplate the Trinity, comparing such reflection to "the journey of a pilgrim along the river of God."

Expanding on the metaphor, he called the Trinity the river's source and estuary, "the beginning and end of the history of salvation."

While the Trinity is "beyond the possibilities of our intellect and can be known only through revelation," the pope emphasized the Trinity's primary place in all people's lives.

"This mystery which infinitely overcomes us is also the reality closest to us, because it is at the source of our being," said the pope.

"The mystery of the Trinity, far from being an arid truth confined to the intellect, is life which lives in us and sustains us," he said.

Pope John Paul, who opened the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls Jan. 18 to begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, concluded his catechesis with words from the Greek martyr St. Dionysios the Areopagite, who is revered by Catholics and Orthodox.

Affirming the need for contemplation, the pope quoted from one of the first-century theologian's books: "It is in silence, in fact, that we learn the secrets of this darkness ... that shines with the most blinding of lights."

St. Dionysios, whom St. Paul converted to Christianity, is the patron saint of Athens.

No pope can dissolve valid marriages, pope tells church tribunal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The bond of the sacrament of marriage is so strong and sacred that not even the pope has the power to dissolve it, Pope John Paul II said. The pope, addressing members of the Roman Rota, a church tribunal that handles appeals of marriage annulment cases, said Jan. 21 that he wanted to put an end to speculation that a pontiff had the power to dissolve valid marriages as part of his role as "vicar of Christ." "Faced with the doubts and confusion that could emerge, it is necessary to reaffirm that matrimony validly concluded and consummated can never be dissolved, not even by the power of the Roman pontiff," he said. "The opposite argument would imply that no marriage is absolutely indissoluble, which would be contrary to what the church has taught and still teaches about the indissolubility of the marriage bond."

Lighting the way to a new century

Recently I experienced the happy privilege of celebrating a Mass at which about twenty pre-kindergarten children from St. Ann's school participated. As you can imagine, throughout the celebration they manifested an enviable spirit of wonder and awe. Their attention was exemplary and their excitement was infectious.

During the homily I enjoyed a memorable dialogue with these pint-sized theologians. When I asked a question the little ones waved their arms enthusiastically hoping to be called upon to share their wisdom. At one point I queried, "How do we show our love for Jesus?" Each of the miniature sages seemed to have a ready response. As I pointed to one of the diminutive experts he shouted out, "Do good stuff and share." In listening to his succinct sentiment I thought, "I couldn't say it better myself!" Nonetheless I was well aware that achieving that goal is easier said than done. The maturing believer must be assisted to know what is true or false, right or wrong, good or bad. An integral component of the process of formation is education.

Is it any surprise, then, that Jesus, on the occasion of His Ascension, commanded that the Church take seriously and implement faithfully the responsibility of teaching in His Name? Throughout her history the Church has employed various means and methods to respond consistently to that directive. One of the most viable and valuable vehicles has been the Catholic school.

How might this unique agency of the Church's pastoral, educational mission be described? We must begin by acknowledging gratefully that it is a graced environment. It is founded upon the person and message of Jesus. He is present within this evangelizing and energizing community of faith day after day. Jesus, the Light of the World, shares the warmth of His love and the brilliance of His truth with each of its participants.

What a blessing Catholic Schools have been and are in assisting children and youth to come to know Jesus as Redeemer, Teacher and Guide; in enabling them to become intimate with the Lord as they journey toward the Promised Land.

Catholic Education

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

The Catholic school in fulfilling its mandate is commissioned to participate in the four-fold mission of Jesus and the Church. First, it reveals the caring, compassionate presence of God while teaching that every person is special and valuable in His eyes. Second, it affirms that each of those whom it serves has a promise and potential hidden within, that he or she can be a responsible friend, disciple and witness of Jesus. Third, it teaches the maturing believer how to live and love, how to pray and play, how to relate and respond to God and to others.

Fourth, it addresses respectfully and creatively those manifestations of fear, confusion and bewilderment that are no strangers to the process of human and Christian growth and development.

It follows, then, that those who minister in the Catholic School are involved personally in the ineffable task of informing and forming. They assist the children and youth to cultivate their minds and hearts; to develop their talents and skills; to appropriate, assimilate and share the vision, values and virtues exemplified by the words and works of Jesus; to understand and appreciate that learning is for living.

In truth the Catholic School fulfills a truly valuable role in lighting the way to a new century. In assisting its participants to "do good stuff and share" it contributes to the up-building of the Kingdom of God in their hearts and in the world.

Father James Hawker in the Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Editor's Notebook

JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Come rain, or sleet or dark of night ....

This newspaper — specifically this edition — is nothing short of a marvel of modern technology.

While Mother Nature dealt us an unexpected blow earlier this week, leaving Charlotte with an uncharacteristic measure of the frozen white precipitation, The Catholic News faced a dilemna: How to publish on schedule without the advantage of having a full staff in the office.

For the first time since we've been publishing *The Catholic News & Herald* — almost a dozen years — a snow contingency plan hasn't been put to the test. Thanks to very mild winters, snow has become even less frequent than in decades past.

With the salvation of home computers, email and the Internet, this paper is the first to be completed *sans* personal [face-to-face] interaction. We've been in contact, mostly via email, following an orchestrated plan of writing, editing, and design.

Where we did fall short is also attributed to Mother Nature. This edition is in celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Several stories fell through due to inclement weather. A planned trip to Bishop McGuinness High School was put on the skids, thanks to icy roads and closed facilities. Pictures to accompany other stories were quickly replaced with graphic elements.

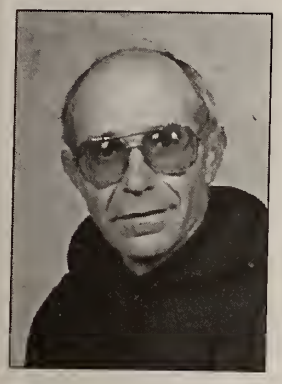
And so, I take this opportunity to extend thanks a dedicated staff: Secretary Jane Glodowski, Advertising Representative Cindi Feerick, Staff Writer Alesha Price, Production Associate Julie Radcliffe, and Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar. These are the folks who may have caught a glance of winter wonderland outside their kitchen windows, as they hunkered down to keyboards.

Speaking of the paper

We are hearing more and more of delayed delivery of *The Catholic News & Herald.* It certainly benefits no one to read of an event scheduled to take place ... *yesterday.* We were in contact with postal officials as we try to improve delivery. To gauge your delivery, parishioners within a 50-mile radius of Charlotte should receive the newspaper on Saturday. Outside that circle, Tuesday is the late end of our anticipated date for delivery.

You can help us to help you. If your Catholic News is continually arriving late, contact your local carrier; that would be the postal center assigned to your zip code. Let them know your paper is late. If the paper continues to arrive late [give it a couple weeks], call, write or email our offices, and well take the tracing to the next level.

Send your Letter to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Catholic Education

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM Cap., PH.D.
Guest Columnist

Speed, power, and change are flame-extinguishers

The theme of the Catholic Schools "Lighting the way to a new millennium" will unfold and will be implemented through the ups and downs of the third millennium. To make sure that this flame will always be shining, we must avoid the dangers which will extinguish the flame.

Hurry, worry, and fear will definitely play a very important role in the development of real and lasting education. One of my favorite writers in the pedagogical field is Henry Adams, the great-grandson of our second President. He wrote: "Nothing is worthless in education as the accumulation of knowledge in the form of inert facts and the sterile compilation of things known."

Catholic Education does not leave us inert or indifferent. It cannot leave us apathetic and atrophied. In our century we experience speed, power, and change, which translate into hurry, worry, and fear. These three major issues can and do block our educational path.

First, hurry. The person who is always in a hurry is indeed a foolish person, because even the world, as big as it is, it is not big enough for that person, getting and spending are not fast enough to keep up with the market. In our fast lane, we don't realize that we have been created by God in both his space and his time. We cannot turn back the hands of the clock. Neither we can turn those hands ahead. If we try to do so, we make fools of ourselves. St. Paul, many centuries ago, could well tell the people of Corinth that the present, the NOW, is the acceptable time for our salvation. Strangely enough, the older we get, the more likely we will say, "I don't have the time." We are rushing frantically about, looking for time. Did it ever occur to you that when you do that, you actually waste time, rather than finding time?

The second major issue is worry. So much talk today is about the threat of pollution — air pollution, food pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution. The real threat, however, is psychological pollution in the form of worry. The worrier of today reminds one of the perpetually complaining hypochondriac who had carved on his tombstone the inscription, "See, I told you I was sick!"

Another intriguing story tells of an atheist who one day decided to climb a high mountain. He got up to the top all right, but slipped while climbing back down. As he plummeted downward, he desperately grabbed a thin branch protruding from the side. He hung thousands of feet up the mountain. He looked down and could see no one. He looked up and saw the same. Looking down again, he loudly cried out, "Is there anyone down there who can help me?" No answer. So our friend looked up and asked the same question, "Is there anyone up there who can help me?" At that a voice came from heaven, "I can help you." Overwhelmed, our atheist friend queried, "Who are you?" "I am God," came the response. "Will you help me?" "Yes," said the Lord, "but first I want to know if you will do whatever I ask you." "I will," came the reply. "Good," said the Lord. "First, do you believe in me?" "I do," said the atheist. "Second, let go of the branch." At this my friend looked all the way down. Then he looked up again and cried out, "Who else up there can help me?"

In today's world of superficial commitments, shifting values, and low standards, we all can become perpetual pallbearers sizing up our newest client. It is like the person I once met who read so much about the evils of drinking, that he gave up reading. Worry kills more people than does hard work, because more people look for worry than for work.

The third and final issue is fear, which makes us live in the past, afraid of facing the challenge of the future. The philosopher of history, George Santyana, once said, "those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it." The past is important not because we live in the past, nor because we live for the past, but because we live out the challenge of the present.

A recent episode in Peanuts illustrates this in a striking way. One day Lucy decides to become a psychiatrist. She turns over an orange crate and chalks up a sign, "Psychiatric Help-Five Cents." Who stumbles along but Charlie Brown. "Lucy," he pleads, "what do you do if you don't fit in? What do you do if you don't seem to know what's going on? What do you do if you don't know what to do?" Lucy takes Charlie by the hand to the crest of a high hill, which overlooks a beautiful horizon. "Do you see that world out there, Charlie Brown?" she asks. "Yes," he replies. "Is that the only world you are going to live in for the next ten or twenty years?" "Yes." "Are you sure this is the world in which you are going to live for the rest of your life?" "Yes." "There is no other — you are sure?" "Yes." "Well, in that case, won't you please live in this world, stop complaining, and give me a nickel!"

We Catholics have a heritage. It is much more than two hundred years old. It goes back much further than the Declaration of Independence. Our Christian heritage comes out of our past, into our present, and walks with us into our future.

Father John C. Aurilia is Pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Hendersonville, NC.

What is Catholic Schools Week?
Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the year-long National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools.

What does Catholic Schools Week celebrate?
Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life. It is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S.

What is the purpose of the Catholic Schools Week celebration?
The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country. During this week, many dioceses and schools encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of local Catholic schools by enrolling their children in those schools. CSW is also an occasion for schools to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to the local Catholic schools.

Who sponsors Catholic Schools Week?
Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). Individual dioceses and local Catholic elementary and secondary schools develop and promote their own CSW activities each year.

Catholic Schools

DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
Guest Columnist

Lighting the way to a new century

Welcome to a week-long celebration of reflecting on traditions and of new beginnings. Pope John Paul II wishes that the time of the Jubilee Year will be a "new springtime of Christian life" to strengthen our faith and our Christian witness. This is a week we take stock of where we have been and how far we have come. We are expectant and hopeful for the innovations, discoveries and events that will shape our schools and the children they serve.

Catholic Schools Week 2000 has a special focus for each day of the week.

Sunday, January 30, 2000:

IN OUR PARISH. Our diocese, parishes and schools not only appreciate each other but also are linked in spreading the light of faith to a wider world.

Monday, January 31, 2000:

IN OUR COMMUNITY. Centered in the community, our schools serve and benefit from its neighbors. This is the day to celebrate those links and forge new bonds for the future.

Tuesday, February 31, 2000:

THROUGH OUR STUDENTS. As of this year, we have 2,000 years of Catholic education to celebrate. And that means 2,000 years of students — from the shepherds and wise men that learned the miracle of Christmas from the Holy Infant, to students currently in the midst of their first year of Catholic school. With such a rich heritage, it's appropriate that we focus on students themselves who are being trained as the leaders of tomorrow.

Wednesday, February 2:

IN OUR NATION. By providing comprehensive, quality education to 7,193 students this year, our 17 Catholic schools significantly reduce the educational and financial burden otherwise borne by the state of North Carolina and the local public school districts in which our schools are located.

In fact, current statistics show that our Catholic schools are a $36,000,000 (yes, 36 million!) gift to the taxpayers of North Carolina. And that is on an annual basis. This figure is the minimum it would cost annually to educate our students in the local public schools. This does not include the costs of building schools, which amounts to millions of additional dollars.

Moreover, the students educated today in Catholic schools go on to become leaders of our private and public sectors, statewide and nationwide.

Thursday, February 3:

THROUGH OUR VOLUNTEERS. Where would our schools be without its volunteers? Clearly, they have had an incredible positive impact on our programs, which our students have benefited. Today is their day, a time to take a moment to celebrate all their hard work, contribution, selfless example, and everything they accomplish in ensuring that Catholic education can light the way to a new century.

See DR. SKUBE, page 15

Catholic Schools Week arrives January 30-February 5

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Catholic Schools: Lighting the Way to a New Century" is the theme for the 26th annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 30-Feb. 5, 2000.

The event is part of The National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools, a joint program of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). This year's logo features a bright starburst shooting over the earth. A cross is the nucleus of the design.

"Recent themes for the national campaign and Catholic Schools Week have focused on the Catholic foundation of our schools, from which all else flows — a curriculum infused with values, high academic standards and discipline," said Leonard DeFiore, NCEA president.

Sister Lourdes Sheehan, RSM, USCC, secretary for education, said that the "lighting the way to a new century" theme has a special message for parents. "Catholic schools do provide a 'guiding light' for parents who are increasingly concerned that character and values education play a key role in the curriculum."

The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build support and recognition for the over 8,200 Catholic schools nationwide. During this week, many dioceses encourage parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools. CSW also is an opportunity to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to local Catholic schools.

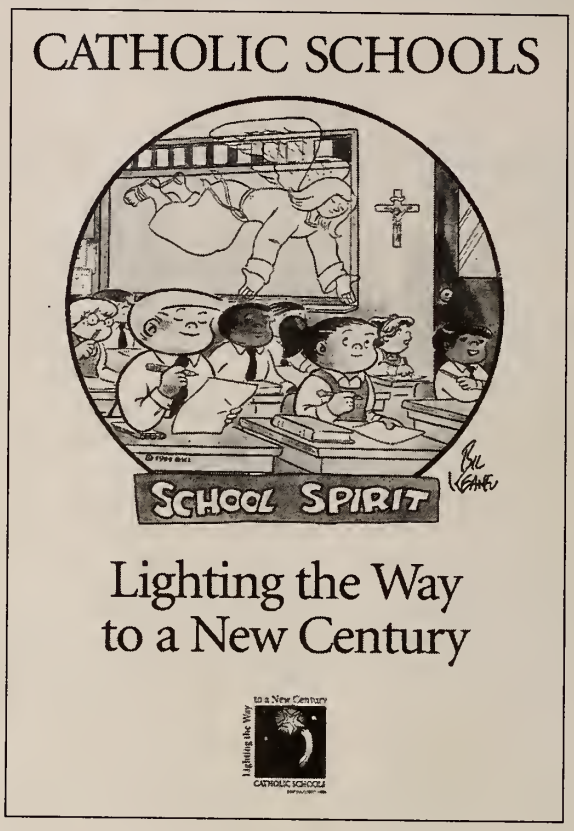
National Appreciation Day

National Appreciation Day falls on the Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week. This day was established to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to our country.

In Washington, a delegation of over 100 Catholic school students, teachers and parents will visit Capitol Hill on Wednesday, February 2 to meet with congressional leaders to promote Catholic schools. As part of their marathon day, they will hand-deliver letters from chief administrators of Catholic education to their representatives and provide a background package on Catholic schools to every congressional office.

Across the country, diocesan and school leaders also meet with civic officials on this day. Governors, big city mayors, and small town councils have joined in to proclaim "National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools" in their localities year after year. On this day in particular, advocates are urged to wear a "Faith for a Brighter Future" button to show their support.

The National Marketing Campaign for Catholic Schools was established by USCC and NCEA to promote Catholic schools year round. Thus the "lighting the way to a new century" theme and logo advancing Catholic education is used daily, not only during Catholic Schools Week.



Now in its tenth year, the marketing effort was launched to help create awareness of the value of a Catholic education and to increase enrollment.

"Family Circus" returns

The campaign also features an illustration from well-known "Family Circus" cartoonist Bill Keane. Fifth in a series, the design depicts Billy and Dolly in a classroom where an angel hovers above. It is titled "School Spirit."

Campaign materials provide schools with a "turn-key" package for marketing and include buttons, posters, banners and billboards. Products ranging from flags to T-shirts and sweatshirts may be personalized so that educators can customize their marketing efforts. Television commercials which promote the values of a Catholic secondary education also are available.

A popular campaign poster, which has been adapted for billboard and print advertisements, features a majestic sunrise. The headline reads: "Let There Be Light (And Faith. And Knowledge. And A Future Without Limits.)"

Members of the National Marketing Committee include Sister Lourdes Sheehan, RSM; Reverend William Davis, USCC Representative for Federal Assistance for Catholic Schools; Ms. Regina Haney, executive director, National Association of Catholic Boards of Education; Dr. Robert Kealey, executive director, Department of Elementary Schools and Daniel Curtin, executive director, Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE).

NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students at all levels of Catholic education. USCC is the national policy organization of the bishops in the United States. ▼

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Archivist: Archdiocese of Atlanta. Full-time position for individual meeting the following requirements: master's degree in library science; archival management or related field; 3 to 5 years' experience in archival work; extensive knowledge of Catholic church; computer literacy (MARC AMC format and programs related to library/archival cataloging); exceptional written and spoken communication skills. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail: zjohnson@archatl.com.

Archivist: Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Qualifications: Master's degree in related field, or equivalent; extensive knowledge of the Catholic Church; minimum three years' relevant archival background including computer expertise; suitable organizational skills; demonstrated ability to work collegially; excellent communications skills; ability to travel. For job description and application contact Archivist Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax (912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com.

Computer Systems Administrator: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a Computer Systems Administrator. The position is responsible for all computer and database management activities, including administration of an NT network, internet applications, software applications, and user training and support. Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years of recent professional experience administering computer systems. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history to Finance Officer, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203.

Director of Development for Campus Ministry: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a part-time director of development for Campus Ministry. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by February 18, 2000 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Faith Formation: Growing 450-family parish in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for directing pre-K through high school faith formation process and oversight of RCIA process and adult formation. Includes oversight of volunteer coordinators of formation processes for baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, RCIA, and adult Bible Study. Also includes collaboration with parish Faith Formation Council. Strong people and communication skills a must, especially with middle and high school level youth. M.A. in religious education or theology, or equivalent education and experience required. Salary mid-30s, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Also diocesan benefits packages. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Ralcigh, NC 27614.

Music Director/Organist: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, P. O. Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. (706)722-4944. www.themostholytrinity.org. Full-time position for experienced organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ preferred. Choral direction, vocal skills and knowledge of Catholic liturgical tradition important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals. Large traditional choir, small Gospel choir, bell choir, children's choir, and cantors. Worship III hymnal. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia, Romanesque style, with fully restored 1868 Jardine Tracker pipe organ, 2 Manuals/29 Ranks, Mechanical Action, on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1300-family downtown parish with cathedral-like liturgical qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary and benefits package offered. Send resume, references, salary history and demo tape to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available March 1, 2000.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Music Minister: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia, a growing and diverse community (1,700 families) seeks a full-time Minister of Music. Responsibilities include: planning and preparation for all Sunday and Sacramental Liturgies for the parish and school community and coordination of our parish adult, children, teen, and handbell choirs. The successful candidate will be a highly motivated and organized individual with skill and experience in keyboard, choral, and vocal. Experience in Catholic Liturgy helpful. Computer skills desirable. Salary commensurate with education/experience. Send resume and cover letter to: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Attention:Music Minister Search Committee, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23229 or FAX (804)740-2197.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: Diocese of Savannah, Georgia. Qualifications: Master's degree in youth ministry or related field; at least five years of relevant experience; status as practicing Catholic in good standing; demonstrated organizational skills. Also requires significant travel and strength in oral and written communication. For job description and application form contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax(912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: Friendship Glen — Beautiful new high quality homes/homesites. Northeast Guilford County. Large lots. Please pass the word along to those moving to (or in) the Greensboro, Reidsville, Burlington areas. Thank you. Call Philippe White - part-owner/broker (336)272-1011.

Catholic Schools experience "Bull Market" with new schools and waiting lists

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When Catholic schools opened their doors for the 1999-2000 school year, there were 36 new doors through which students entered. According to a study published by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 36 Catholic schools opened during the 1998-1999 school year.

Dr. Leonard DeFiore, NCEA president made the announcement based on data included in the new publication, "United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 1998-1999", NCEA's annual statistical report on schools, enrollment and staffing.

Dr. DeFiore added that 200 new Catholic schools have been opened within the past decade. Currently there are 8,217 Catholic schools nationwide.

The NCEA president also reported that Catholic school enrollment remained stable over the past year and that overall enrollment has increased by 81,000 students during the past six years. In addition, 41 percent of Catholic schools have a waiting list for admission.

Total enrollment nationwide now stands at 2,648,844. Waiting lists exist in most suburban schools, and, where diocesan and privately funded scholarship support is available in inner-city schools, long waiting lists for lottery-like selection processes have resulted.

"These statistics remind me of the soaring stock market. It's a great story reflecting unprecedented growth and confidence in the system," said Dr. DeFiore. "Like the flip side of the bull market, the good news isn't reaching out to everyone — in our case the thousands of families who are on waiting lists for admission and the thousands more for whom Catholic schools are unattainable due to economic limitations."

"Our greatest challenge in 2000 and beyond is working for a just educational system in this country," said Dr. DeFiore. "Our waiting lists and new schools are a sensational statement about parents' motivation to choose schools. But what about the millions of other parents who have the will but no way of financing their school choice?"

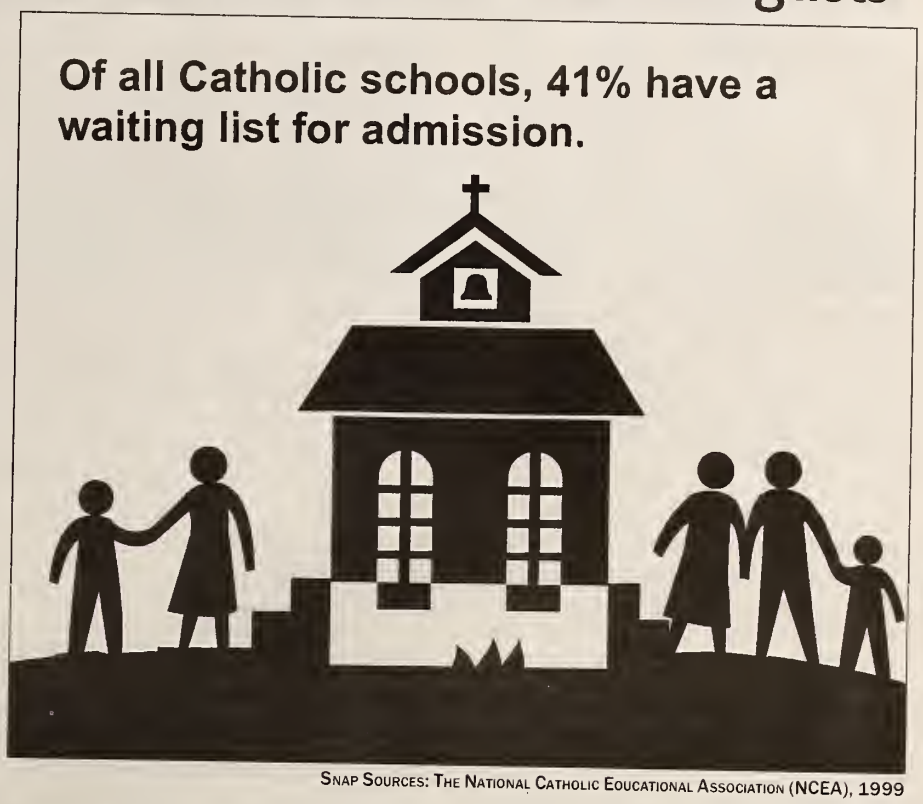
Elementary and Secondary numbers

Dr. Robert Kealey, executive director, NCEA Elementary School Department, said that the total number of Catholic elementary school students is 1,990,947; middle school enrollment numbers 22,155.

"Of special note is the continued increase.in preschool admission — up 5.7 per cent," said Dr. Kealey. "It's clear that parents recognize the value of early childhood education and are looking to Catholic schools for a values-based curriculum and academic excellence."

Michael Guerra, executive director, NCEA Secondary Schools Department, reported that 635,742 students are enrolled in Catholic high schools, up from 633,818 students last year.

"More parents are choosing Catholic secondary schools for their children, but there is a long list of those who cannot afford tuition, in spite of financial aid packages available at most of our schools," said Mr. Guerra. "Catholic school leaders are essential partners in the school choice movement because we are committed to justice for all children."



SNAP SOURCES: THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NCEA), 1999

Regina Haney, executive director, National Association of Catholic Boards of Education (NABE), said that strong board support has been a key factor in the success story of Catholic schools. "The foundations for many of our new schools are built on parent and corporate partnerships with a vision for the educational growth of their parish or diocese."

NCEA is the world's largest professional association for private education. Established in 1904, the association represents some 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students at all levels of Catholic education. ▼

Dr. Skube, from page 13

Friday, February 4:

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Women who've lived under legal abortion tell pro-life story

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At this year's March for Life, there weren't as many handmade signs attacking supporters of legal abortion.

But as the thousands of marchers gathered Jan. 24 at the Ellipse, with the White House in plain sight, in abundance were women who have lived their entire lives with abortion on demand as the law of the land.

Nancy Lee, who works in the admissions office of Christendom College in Front Royal, Va., is 26 years old — too young to run for the Senate, but able to get an abortion if she so chose.

Catherine Leonard, 16, who attends the eight-student St. John Bosco High School in Leesburg, Va., can't vote yet. But, if she wanted to, she could get an abortion.

Instead, she has chosen life.

"Growing up, my parents were always very pro-life, and we would always go to rallies," Lee said. Now, she volunteers at a crisis pregnancy center. "Teen-agers come in. It's a hard thing," she said. "But their parents aren't going to encourage them" to carry the pregnancy to term.

Sharon Pollitt, 21, and her sister, Kathleen, 23, of East Templeton, Mass., aren't old enough to run for a seat in the House of Representatives. But they're old enough to obtain abortions.

But they are also old enough to help support a family life center in nearby Fitchburg, Mass. — and to make their third trip to Washington for the March for Life.

"We just decided that this year this was something we wanted to do — to make a stance, to be a presence," Sharon said.

In a society where abortion is legal, what motivates them to be pro-life? "God creates life. He is the author of life," answered Kathleen.

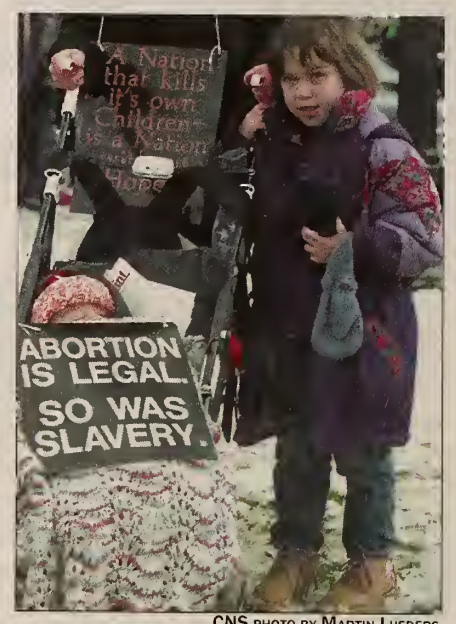
Parental support also plays a factor. Their mother brought them to Washington the first two times. "She taught us," Sharon said. But now both parents are physically unable to make the trip. "They're here in spirit," she added.

Mary Veronica Price, 20, of Linden, Calif., can't drink alcohol legally yet, but she can get an abortion. Instead, she and her 260 fellow students at Christendom College got the day off from classes and took part in the march.

"I'm the sixth of 14 kids," said Price, a sophomore. Being pro-life is "the way it's always been presented to me. And when I started looking into it on my own — I mean, it's the slaughter of little babies."

Catherine Leonard, 16, who attends the eight-student St. John Bosco High School in Leesburg, Va., can't vote yet. But, if she wanted to, she could get an abortion.

Not that unintended pregnancies are going to be a problem for her anytime soon. "Just not having sex at our age would go a long way toward solving the problem," Leonard said. "I'm not sexually active."



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Brendan Quinn, 1, and his sister, Moira, 6, were among the tens of thousands of people who rallied Jan. 24 in Washington to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. They came with their mother, Edel Quinn, from St. Genevieve's Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.

That's not the case with others, she added. "I heard three people this year talk about getting pregnant," Leonard said.

She expressed surprise at the small turnout a half-hour before the pre-march rally began. While marchers slowly but steadily made their way to the Ellipse during the rally, march organizers did not give their own crowd estimate from the platform as they have customarily done. The U.S. Park Police no longer makes crowd estimates.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," Leonard said. "If you can't even stand somewhere ..." she added in exasperation, her sentence left unfinished. "I just don't know why people wouldn't want to march."

Erika Doe, 14, came with 17-year-old sister Christina and several others from the youth group at St. Mary Parish in Lancaster, Pa. She got a ride for the three-hour trip — she's not old enough to drive, but she could get an abortion if she wanted one.

Erika remarked at how bizarre it seemed that society trusts her in one sphere but not in another. She added that she got her pro-life beliefs from the Bible. In trying to explain it, she declared, "You just know that it's killing."

The Supreme Court has said it will decide on the constitutionality of parental notification laws, but until then — and maybe after — Rebecca Adams, 12, a seventh grader at St. Theresa Grade School in Ashburn, Va., could get an abortion without telling her folks.

Rebecca sees another dichotomy between what society deems acceptable and what it doesn't. "Every day in the news media you see it all the time — murder, killing, war. But it's OK to have an abortion," she said.

"You have to look at them both — what is murder outside the womb, and what is murder inside the womb." ▼

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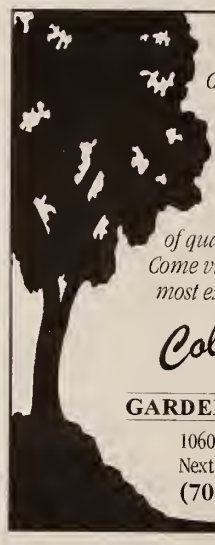

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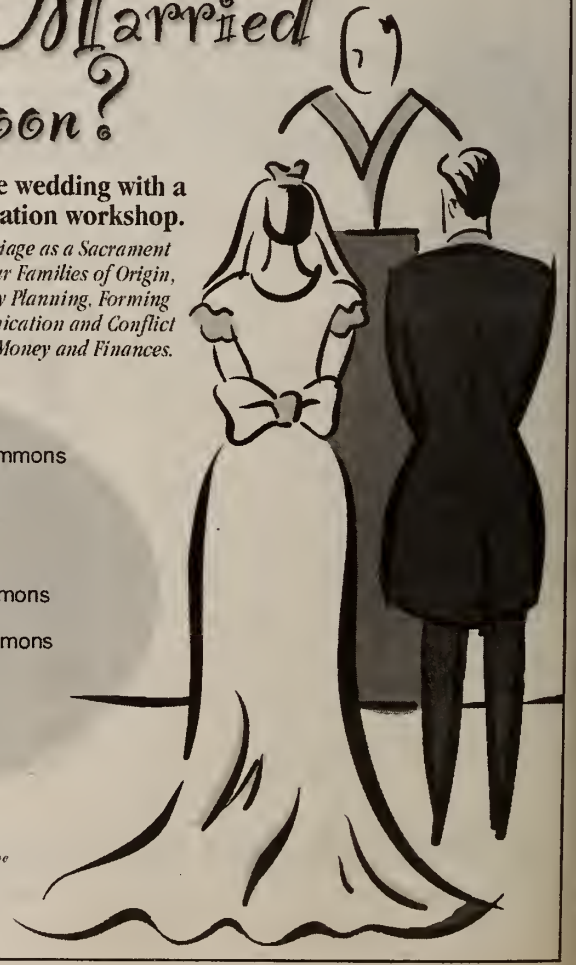

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Holy Cyberspace! Nuns on the Web!

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A research project dubbed "Holy Cyberspace" has found that more and more U.S. religious orders have their own World Wide Web sites. It found that the number of such sites roughly doubled in two years and will continue to grow rapidly in the near future. Men's orders were more likely than women's orders to have a Web site. The average site gets about 1,000 hits a month and the order uses it mainly to communicate to a wider public and to recruit vocations, the study found. The Commission on Religious Life and Ministry sponsored the study.

Seton Hall memorial service begins healing process after fire

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — The healing process has begun at Seton Hall University in South Orange following the Jan. 19 dormitory fire that killed three freshmen and injured more than 50 other students. In an emotional and somber campus memorial service Jan. 27, Walsh Gymnasium was filled with an estimated 5,000 clergy, family, friends, faculty and administrators. Classes resumed following the service. The fatal fire broke out in the third floor commons room of Boland Hall at about 4:30 a.m. Built in 1952, Boland Hall houses some 600 mostly freshmen students.

Patriarch decries disputes over Eastern Catholic churches

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, leader of the world's 200 million Orthodox Christians, warned that disputes over Eastern Catholic churches will overshadow the planned reopening of a major Catholic-Orthodox commission. But the head of Poland's Ukrainian Catholic Church criticized the patriarch's remarks, saying they would have "negative repercussions" for interchurch relations.

Snowmonk in D.C. A snowman decorated as a monk appears at the entrance to the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. The nation's capital experienced its first big snow of the season causing school and government closings Jan. 25-26.

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Priests in Kenya criticize security response after killings

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Priests working in a parish in Kenya's Rift Valley province criticized slow response of government security personnel after numerous killings in their district. Consolata Father Anthony Biaanchi, who has been working with the people of Rumuruti Parish in Laikipia since 1953, said in a late-January interview that security personnel in the area do not respond to distress calls until it is too late. More than 20 people have been killed since August in the Rumuruti area, and no one has been arrested to date, he added.

Vatican opens confession area near St. Peter's for jubilee

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To underscore the sacrament of reconciliation's particular importance in the Holy Year, Vatican officials equipped a special area off St. Peter's Square with confessionals for jubilee pilgrims. Inaugurated Jan. 28, the confession room in the Braccio di Carlo Magno, one of the two wings linking the square's colonnade with the basilica, was furnished with eight confessionals, serving various languages. Officials said the new confession area was independent of, and in addition to, the array of permanent confessionals inside St. Peter's Basilica. Anticipating a heavier flow of penitents during the jubilee year, the basilica more than doubled its staff to 27 full-time confessors.

USCC lauds FCC decision OK'ing low-power radio

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Conference Communications Committee voiced pleasure with the Federal Communications Commission's decision to license low-power radio stations in the United States. "The new local radio stations launched by the FCC offer the promise of greater diversity of voices heard on radio," the committee said in a Jan. 21 statement. "While this new radio service is helpful in opening the airwaves to more public interest programming, it does not eliminate the obligations of each existing full-power radio station to serve the needs and interests of their community," it added.

Pro-life comments to NIH urged on embryonic stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' pro-life office and a coalition of scientists and ethicists are leading a last-ditch effort to stop the National Institutes of Health from allowing federal funding of stem-cell research involving embryos. A flier distributed by the bishops' office before and during the Jan. 24 March for Life said the NIH had set a Jan. 31 deadline for public comment on its draft guidelines for federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research. "The guidelines tell researchers how to obtain and destroy live human embryos from fertility clinics, so the embryos' inner cells can be cultured for taxpayer-funded research," the flier said.

February Jubilee Days

February — Black History Month
February 6 — National Day of Prayer for African-Americans
February 6-7 — Jubilee Day for Consecrated Life
February 11 — Jubilee of the Sick & Health Care Workers
February 18 — Jubilee of Artists
February 20 — Jubilee of Permanent Deacons and their wives
February 22 — Jubilee of Roman Curia
February 25-27 — Parish Mission on Vatican II

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 8 — 11:30 am
Priest Personnel Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
February 12 — 5:30 pm
St. Mark Parish Center dedication
Huntersville
February 17
Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
February 19
Day of Reflection
Knights and Dames of Malta
February 20 — 4:00 pm
Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree 100th Anniversary celebration of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro

Diocesan planner

February

7 WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is hosting a mission entitled "Spirituality for the New Millennium," continuing today through Feb. 10. A reconciliation service is being held on the evening of Feb. 8, and anointing of the sick is being held on the evening of Feb. 10. Call the church office at (336) 724-0561 for more information.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

11 WINSTON-SALEM — All cursillistas are invited to an Ultreya at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St., tonight at 7:30 p.m. Babysitting is provided, and for more information, call Brian Lockhart at (704) 377-3595 or (704) 972-8912. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

12 CHARLOTTE — The Bereavement Ministry of St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St., is having a remembrance service today at 1 p.m. to celebrate the memory of departed loved ones. People may bring a small memento of their departed friends and family members. After the service, refreshments are being served. For further information, call the church office at (704) 372-6808 or (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The Athletic Association of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is sponsoring an Olympic Gospel Choir Concert tonight at 7 p.m. The proceeds from this fund-raiser will help the athletic department. For further information, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a Valentine's Day party tonight at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and a beverage. For details about directions, donation and other in-

Permanent deacons celebrate Rite of Lector

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — After six months of spiritual preparation and two-and-a-half years of study, the eight candidates in formation for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Charlotte received the Rite of Lector, a key step toward ordination.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the Jan. 22 Mass that included the rite at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. The bishop gave the candidates this advice during his homily: "Make sure prayer is the basis of your life. Talk to Jesus constantly, and you will have the heart, you will have the mind, you will think like Christ."

The eight men are scheduled to receive the Rite of Acolyte on Aug. 5 and the Rite of Admission to Candidacy on Oct 7. Their ordination is set for June 9, 2001.

"The program's really evolving to meet the needs of the diocese as time goes on," said Rev. Louis Pais, director of formation for the permanent diaconate program. He noted that new classes of candidates might be restructured in the future.

The U.S. bishops' Committee on the Diaconate has sent out a draft copy of new guidelines for the formation, ministry and life of permanent deacons in the United States, said Rev. Mr. Pais. This may result in changes in the order and the times in which the rites are given to the candidates. For example, the Rite of Candidacy may be given during the first year of training, the Rite of Lector during the second year and the Rite of Acolyte in the third year. Currently all three rites come in the third and fourth years of study.

The Rite of Lector gives the candidates the responsibility to proclaim the word of God, except the Gospel, during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. They may also be called upon to lead the people in the liturgy if other ministers are not present, and to instruct the faithful for their reception of the sacraments.

The Rite of Acolyte will enable the candidates to assist deacons and priests in the celebration of the liturgy, and to serve as eucharistic ministers during the liturgy and to the sick or shut-in. They will also be called to care for the body of Christ and the people of God, especially the weak and the needy.

In the Rite of Admission to Candidacy, the men will publicly offer themselves for ordained service to God and the church.

Although the role of deacon dates back to the early church shortly after the Resurrection, the move for its restoration began in the mid-1940s, and the Second Vatican Council called for the restoration "as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy" in its Constitution of the Church. The Diocese of Charlotte inaugurated its permanent diaconate program in 1980. Currently, 65 permanent deacons live and serve in the diocese.

A permanent deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church and part of the hierarchical structure of bishop, priest and deacon. Besides his liturgical role, he is called to give of himself to the poor, the hungry, the sick and the suffering. Most deacons are expected to support themselves with earnings from everyday occupations, and to perform diaconal duties on evenings and weekends. By working in secular jobs, deacons help to establish a visible link between the church and secular society.

For example, Scott D. Gilfillan, a candidate from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton, is a general manager for a steel service center. He and

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Pierre K'Briuh of St. Mary parish receives his lectionary from Bishop William G. Curlin during the Rite of Lector Mass.

wife Kimberly have three children, ages 16, 14 and 8. When he first considered the diaconate, four years seemed like a long time. "It's been one little step at a time," he said. "Each weekend I say to myself, 'Where does God want me to be this weekend?' That helps me put it into perspective."

Gilfillan said that the Rite of Lector was very meaningful for him. "When Deacon Louie (Pais) called my name, and I answered, 'Present,' it was the first time I felt like I was being called." Before that, he said, "It wasn't really a call, but just a sense that this was the right thing to do. It's a way of defining who you are."

The formation program consists of six months of spiritual preparation and four academic years. To be accepted, a man must live in the Diocese of Charlotte and must have completed the diocesan lay ministry program. He must be at least 32 years old when accepted into the program, and not older than 60 before completion. He must be healthy and be able to master the academic and ministerial disciplines of the program. He must accept the church's requirement that once he is ordained a permanent deacon he may not marry thereafter. If he is married, his wife needs to be supportive of her husband's participation in the program, and must agree to attend the classes with him.

Matthew Zboyovski, a candidate from St. Eugene Church in Asheville, spoke about the Rite of Lector. "It was a nice mile marker," he said. "It reinforces your commitment to the diaconate training. After two-and-a-half years of academics, this is finally a first step where it begins to come together."

The other men who received the Rite of Lector Saturday are Pierre K'Briuh of St. Mary parish in Greensboro, David King of Our Lady of Highways parish in Thomasville, Gerard LaPointe of St. Margaret par-

SEE PERMANENT DIACONATE, PAGE 5

formation, call Patti at (336) 665-8108.

13 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Ave., is celebrating the sacrament of the sick at the 11:30 a.m. Mass this morning. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

CHARLOTTE — The Rt. Rev. Francis Kline, abbot of Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner S.C., and a Julliard-trained organist, discusses the spiritual aspects of music and presents an organ recital today at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary of Myers Park United Methodist church, 1020 Providence Rd. For more information, call (704) 376-8584.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father John Gallen, professor of liturgy and former editor of "Modern Liturgy," is giving a retreat entitled "The Experience of the God of Mystery," focusing on the relationship of liturgy and life. The three-day retreat, beginning tonight at 7 p.m., is being held at Our Lady of Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr. For more information, call Mary Kay Crotty at (704) 536-5452.

CHARLOTTE — There is a charismatic Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Ave. East, today at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck to follow the Mass. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 with any questions.

NORTH WILKESBORO — For those interested in participating in a graduate-level education for ministers and educators, there is a Limex orientation meeting this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church, 275 C.C. Wright School Rd. Limex is an extension program of Loyola University of New Orleans, which prepares men and women in ministry with practical and theological skills. For details, call Joanna Case at (704) 362-0013 or Peg Ruble at (704) 391-0445.

15 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

17 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., is presenting "Benedictine Among Baptists: Breaking Down Barriers" this afternoon from 12:10-1 p.m. The presenter is Benedictine Father Samuel Webster, retreat master, spiritual director and faculty member at Wake Forest School of Divinity in early Christianity, worship and spiritual life. For pre-registration and other information, call (336) 273-2554.

HIGH POINT — A charismatic Mass is being celebrated in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For details, call the Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717 or (336) 882-9717.

19 CHARLOTTE — Kathy and David and their Christian contemporary backup band "Redeemed" are performing tonight for the "Rock-N-Java" concert series at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, located on Park Rd. "Rock-N-Java" is a Christian contemporary coffeehouse concert series that rotates to various area churches. Kathy Piontek, music director at St. Matthew Church, and David Shoff, music director at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, have released "The Journey," a CD of praise songs. For additional information about booking availability, the concert series or CD purchases, call Terry at (704) 321-5744 or Kathy at (704) 614-9100.

BLACK MOUNTAIN — Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat allowing couples preparing for marriage to concentrate exclusively on each other free of tensions and pressures. This weekend's retreat is being held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, 20 minutes east of Asheville, today and tomorrow. For registration, directions and other information, call Dorothy Menze at (888) 310-8040 or (704) 364-6726.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Lay program opens door to realizing gifts of ministry

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

ELKIN — Chuck Lucas feels an obligation to know and live his faith. At his home church community of St. Stephen in Elkin, he's had opportunity to serve as a catechist and, currently, as parish council president. As a new father, he speaks with enthusiasm of passing the faith on to younger generations.

Lucas says his own faith journey continues to lead him in new directions. And as a participant in the Diocese of Charlotte's lay ministry program, he says he is gaining information about the faith that will serve him — and those he reaches in ministry — for a lifetime.

"I think there's always a need for knowing more about your faith to pass that faith on, and the lay ministry program can give you a lot of that background," says Lucas. "If you see the group that's involved from our two churches, in our own instance it's a real sign that our faith is alive."

The two churches Lucas speaks of are St. John Baptist de La Salle Church in North Wilkesboro and its mission in Elkin, St. Stephen Church. He is one of seven parishioners from the two small churches in the foothills currently enrolled in the program.

Nearly 125 people from points throughout the diocese comprise the lay ministry class of 2000, which is expected to graduate in May. The two-year program is a blend of academics and spiritual growth, with emphasis on participants' realizing their gifts for ministry to their fullest potential. Groups of participants convene once a month at sites in Arden, Greensboro and Charlotte.

Founded in the diocese in 1990, the program was designed for men and women who seek to foster confidence and competence in their ministry in family, church, professional and community life. It is also necessary for entry into the diocesan permanent diaconate program, while catechists and religious education teachers can upgrade their certification by participating.

The program includes eight courses: Introductions to Ministry and Scripture; Christology, Church and Church History; Social Ministry; Vatican II Documents; Liturgy and Sacraments; and Christian Morality. Registration and tuition fees, plus the cost of books, are the primary expenses involved.

Whether for teachers, parish leaders or people in the pews, the lay ministry program has one constant. "The majority of people come for personal growth, which says to me that people are hungry for learning more about their faith," says Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, diocesan vicar for women religious and director of the lay ministry program.

"This program is not really a training program in that we don't train people for ministry," she says. "We really give them information concerning Vatican II teachings so that they are better able to minister in their own (church) ministries, in the marketplace or wherever they are asked to answer questions about church life and beliefs."

For Ellie Elledge, a stay-at-home mom and a parishioner at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church, the program has added on to a foundation of faith she has built through active parish life and a desire to learn more.

"I would always like to be involved in church life," says Elledge, who teaches second-grade catechesis and the parish's first Communion class. "It is important for my children to see me involved and to know that your faith (development) does not end after you've gone through Sunday school.

"You're always changing and you're always growing if you are serious about your faith."

Elledge says the program also links participants from throughout the diocese, who hail from points both sparsely and heavily populated by Catholics and who seek "starting points" of entry into various forms of ministry.

That the lay ministry program serves as a stepping stone is an idea with which Mary Sorel agrees.

File photo

The lay ministry program is one of the 35 ministries and programs receiving funds from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

"The program really does get people more interested in helping and becoming more aware of the needs the church is going to have in the future," says Sorel, St. John Church's faith formation director. She adds that, especially in areas as rural as Wilkes and Surry counties, the call of lay Catholics to greater church involvement is an important one.

For nearly 500 lay Catholics across the diocese in a decade, that call has been explored through the lay ministry program. Participants often move into or are reaffirmed in a variety of parish and diocesan-sponsored ministries, including the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and parish religious education.

Like Mary Sorel, Patricia McNeill has been involved with the lay ministry group from St. John and St. Stephen churches from the beginning. She notes the camaraderie that naturally exists in a program that brings together people with commonalties.

"This program provides a way of connecting to people with the same religion," says McNeill, director of religious education at St. Stephen Church. "Because we (Catholics) are in the minority here, we want that connectedness with other Catholics. We want to know the church's perspective on things, and we've realized as adults that your education is not finished with confirmation."

Common interests intrigue Chuck Lucas, though the uniqueness of a lifelong search — both personal and collective — is another element that keeps him interested in making the trip to Greensboro for lay ministry gatherings each month.

"Coming to be part of a larger group, you're able to share that faith with people whose journeys are really at different points," he says. "It's interesting to see how that changes your perspective sometimes. It's good to have someone along for that journey."

For information on the lay ministry program, call Sister Mary Timothy Warren at (704) 370-3213. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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And two shall live as one

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — Read this before renting the tux, or calling for a limousine. If a wedding is in your future, the Diocese of Charlotte is ready with programs to help a couple prepare, before ordering a multi-tiered cake.

It may well be the day of a lifetime. But it is just that: *A day in the life.* And the Diocese of Charlotte is intent on sending newlyweds on their merry way well prepared for their lifetime together.

To wit, diocesan policies proclaim its obligation to provide adequate preparation for couples prior to marriage. Participation in a marriage preparation program — approved by the diocese — is the cornerstone required as a preamble to wedded bliss.

Fulfillment of this prerequisite may take one of three routes. Some parishes operate their own pre-Cana programs. Others refer people to Engaged Encounter, a weekend program devoted to marriage prep. And, a third option is available: a one-day program provided and administered by the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services.

The CSS program was developed in response to requests for a one-day program. "Catholic Social Services wanted to offer a program to augment what Engaged Encounter already did," says Gerry Carter, CSS director of special ministries.

"This one-day program," says Carter, "is one piece of the larger pie. It's not that a couple just shows up at this program and then gets married." Concurrently, they are meeting with their pastor or deacon. This is formalized instruction, but does not negate the fact that there's a whole process within the parish. "We're adding to what is already going on in the parishes," he says.

How does the CSS program work? A pastor can suggest the couple attend the one-day program, if the parish does not conduct its own marriage prep. If opting for the one-day preparation, a couple can expect a program broken down into sessions. Following an introductory session, the day continues with instruction on Natural Family Planning. NFP is an element of instruction required by the diocese.

The CSS program begins with the administration of FOCCUS — a premarriage inventory of issues affecting the pending nuptials, an assessment of how an engaged couple looks at issues of money, family life and a myriad of issue.

"We want to raise issues," says Carter. "We want to get couples talking about critical issues, and being open to understanding what the sacrament of matrimony is all about."

"This is about your heart, your mind, and willingness to understand what the vow is all about," says Carter.

For more information on Marriage Preparation provided through Catholic Social Services, call Marlo Wallace, (704) 370-3228. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Social Services Special Ministries are among the 35 programs and ministries receiving DSA funds.

Permanent Diaconate, from page 3

ish in Maggie Valley, Alexander Lyerly of St. Elizabeth parish in Boone, James Mazur of Sacred Heart parish in Salisbury, and Mark Nash of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Charlotte.

Applications for the next group of candidates for the permanent diaconate will be accepted from September 2000 through January 2001, for the class beginning in January 2002. Interested applicants can write to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, for an application form. ▼

The permanent diaconate is one of 35 ministries and programs receiving funds from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Around the Diocese

Ancient Order of Hibernians divisions devote efforts, funds to various causes

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians of Charlotte recently devoted time, talent and treasure to several causes in the Charlotte metro area. Division 1 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians recently gathered at Room at the Inn, an independent Catholic home for unwed mothers, to beautify a prayer grotto dedicated to the Blessed Mother. The division members planted pansies, weeded the grotto, and also replenished the children's sandbox. In addition, the men's and ladies' Order of Ancient Hibernians gathered for a charity fund-raiser, complete with Irish dancing, music and a buffet dinner. A handmade statue of St. Patrick was raffled during the event.

Courtesy photo

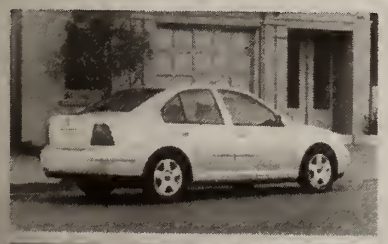
The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians recently beautified a prayer grotto at Room at the Inn.

Sacred Heart School raises funds for AHA

SALISBURY — More than 100 students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Sacred Heart School jump-roped for the American Heart Association Dec. 10, raising over $2,000 in the process. The fund-raiser helped to give moneys to potentially lifesaving research into heart and blood vessel diseases. The effort also supports the development of educational materials. Student Alex Freeze raised the most money, at $128. The funds were raised through sponsorships. The school's physical education teacher, Barbara Caldwell, coordinated the event.

Annual Catholic Camporee for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

ALBEMARLE — The theme for the annual Catholic Camporee XXV, being held this year April 7, 8 and 9, is "The Great Jubilee/ Holy Year." Many of this year's camp activities will focus on the Jubilee/Holy Year and the Catholic faith, as well as, Scout Craft. The Camporee will be held at Camp Barnhardt on the western shore of Badin Lake, near Albemarle, N.C. Awards for the winners of the Scout competition will be distributed after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday. All Catholic Scout troops, Cub packs, individual scouts or units led by Catholics are encouraged to attend this Camporee. It is a fun-filled and rewarding weekend for Cubs and Scouts. The Camporee staff will provide lunch on Saturday. All Scouts are encouraged to make plans now to attend. For more information, contact Joe Vari at (704) 846-5155.



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State of the Union seat gives cardinal glimpse behind the speech

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago heard the State of the Union address Jan. 27, he got to see firsthand how the members of Congress responded to President Clinton's legislative proposals. He was particularly interested in how Clinton's proposals for family health care, a minimum wage increase, education programs and foreign debt relief will play out, Cardinal George said. But he also was intrigued by the theatrics involved on all sides in the election-year speech by an outgoing president. As the guest of House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., Cardinal George sat with Hastert's wife and other guests in the House gallery as Clinton addressed the joint session of Congress.

Pope inaugurates controversial parking complex near Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After lengthy delays and much public debate, Pope John Paul II inaugurated one of the jubilee year's most controversial projects, a five-story underground parking lot on a historic hillside next to the Vatican. At a ceremony attended by Vatican and Rome officials, the pope blessed the ultramodern facility Jan. 31 and said it would make it easier for pilgrims to reach St. Peter's Basilica while easing traffic and parking pressure on area residents. Built on Vatican property, its cost of approximately $44 million was split by the Vatican and Italy. The project was designed as a symbol of Vatican-Italian cooperation for the jubilee year. But public reaction soured when archeological ruins — including frescoed walls from an early Roman villa — were found during construction of an access ramp on Rome's Janiculum Hill.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Pope plans to canonize Blessed Katharine Drexel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II plans to canonize Blessed Katharine Drexel, the U.S. heiress who dedicated her life to defending and educating African-Americans and Native Americans. During a Jan. 27 meeting with the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, the pope published a decree recognizing as a miracle the 1994 healing, following prayers to Blessed Katharine, of a U.S. toddler born deaf. The Vatican did not announce a date for the canonization ceremony, but people familiar with Pope John Paul's Holy Year calendar said Blessed Katharine probably would be declared a saint during an Oct. 1 Mass at the Vatican.

Maryknoller campaigns in Rome to close School of the Americas

ROME (CNS) — Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois brought his campaign to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas to Rome in late January. "The school is a Cold War dinosaur, a relic," which helps the military keep a firm grip on power throughout Central and South America, the priest said. The school, known as the SOA and based at Fort Benning, Ga., since 1984, was founded in Panama in 1946. It has trained some 60,000 military officers from Latin America and the Caribbean. During a weeklong visit to Rome, Father Bourgeois tried to enlist the help of the world's religious orders in closing the school, whose graduates have included officers accused of assassinations and human rights abuses.

Rabbi: Jerusalem visit shows approval of Israeli sovereignty

JERUSALEM (CNS) — One of Israel's two chief rabbis said a papal meeting with Jewish leaders at Jerusalem's Western Wall would indicate a recognition of Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem. But a Jerusalem bishop said Pope John Paul II's March visit to the Holy Land is a pastoral one and should not be seen as supporting one political position over another. Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau told Israeli radio he welcomed the idea of meeting the pope at the Western Wall, which stands in East Jerusalem. The Vatican does not recognize Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem, an area Israel captured from Jordan during the 1967 Middle East War.

Nun hosting Cuban boy's meeting worked with immigrants

MIAMI (CNS) — When the Justice Department called on Dominican Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin to host a meeting in Miami between 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez and his Cuban grandmothers, it picked a woman with a long history of handling delicate immigration problems. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Jan. 25 got U.S. relatives of the boy to agree to let him meet with his grandmothers from Cuba on a neutral site, the home of the 70-year-old Catholic nun. Sister O'Laughlin is in her 19th year as president of Barry University.

Pope clears way for Pope John XXIII's beatification

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, recognizing as miraculous a healing of an Italian nun, cleared the way for the beatification of Pope John XXIII.

Sister Caterina Capitani, a member of the Daughters of Charity, attended the Jan. 27 Vatican session at which the pope recognized her healing as a miracle attributed to the intervention of Pope John.

The decree clears the way for the beatification of Pope John, who served as pontiff from 1958 to 1963. Although the Vatican has not announced a date for the ceremony, officials have said Sept. 3 is the most likely date.

Another miracle occurring after the beatification would be needed before Pope John could be canonized.

Sister Capitani was dying from complications following stomach surgery in 1966 when she prayed to Pope John to help save her. She said she saw the pope smiling and heard him say, "Be calm, I am here."

The nun, who is now based in Naples, told Italian media that she was healed instantaneously.

Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, told Pope John Paul it was fitting to publish the decree in Pope John's case on the heels of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

It was Pope John who, in 1960, created the Vatican's office for promoting Christian unity, the archbishop said.

"During his missions in Bulgaria and Turkey" as a Vatican diplomat, the future pope's "personal contact with so many brothers and sisters not in full communion with the Catholic Church generated in him a categorical commitment to recovering the unity lost over the centuries," Archbishop Saraiva Martins said.

Born in Sotto il Monte in 1881, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was one of 13 children. He entered the minor seminary at the age of 11 and was sent to Rome to study at the age of 19.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1904 and after several years as secretary to the bishop of Bergamo, he was called to the Vatican. In 1925 he began serving as a Vatican diplomat, first being posted to Bulgaria, then to Greece and Turkey and, finally, to France. He was named a cardinal and patriarch of Venice in 1953. ▼

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Newspaper series on priests with AIDS stirs controversy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — A three-day series on Catholic priests with AIDS by The Kansas City Star has sparked wide controversy and criticism.

The series, begun Jan. 30, ended Feb. 1 with a long story revealing that AIDS was the cause of death last year of a prominent local Jesuit, Father Thom Savage, president of Rockhurst College in Kansas City.

The Catholic Key, Kansas City-St. Joseph diocesan newspaper, said that was "a fact known only to Father Savage's family until the Star report."

Priests contacted by The Catholic Key questioned several aspects of the series, which said that priests' deaths from AIDS are at least four times the rate of the general populace.

The series called into question "church doctrine" on homosexuality, AIDS and the celibate priesthood. In a sidebar commentary on the series, Star editor and vice president Mark Zieman described AIDS in the priesthood as "a question that strikes straight at the heart of church doctrine."

"He's just dead wrong about that," said Father Paul Turner, pastor of St. John Francis Regis Parish in Kansas City. "The central doctrines are that Jesus is the Son of God, that Jesus is present in the Eucharist and so on. These are the things we hold most dear in our church. I hope the media are aware of that."

Jesuit Father Thomas Reese, editor of America magazine in New York, said the reference to priests having AIDS at four times the rate of the general population — a figure widely picked up by wire services and other media — "is skewed" since priests are all adult males.

According to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the incidence of AIDS among adult males is roughly five times that among adult women. Father Reese said the series used the comparison with the general populace four times and only once compared priests' deaths from AIDS with those of other adult males.

On the whole, however, Father Reese said the treatment of statistics in the series seemed "pretty even-handed."

Father Patrick Rush, Kansas City-St. Joseph diocesan vicar general, deplored the "inferential reporting" in the series.

In a statement Jan. 29, he said, "Quite simply, HIV-AIDS affects us all and poses a health crisis nationally and internationally.

"With 47,000 Catholic priests in America, the number of HIV-AIDS deaths of ordained clergy pale in comparison to the tidal wave in our country and throughout the world," he added. "Selecting and publicizing a few facts about a few priests casts a shadow on the ministry of all Catholic priests."

Ned McGrath, Detroit archdiocesan communications director, seconded Father Rush's remarks and said news reports about the series appearing in Michigan could leave the mistaken impression "that the Catholic Church has been 'quiet' or 'behind the times' on the issue."

He cited numerous local and national church initiatives to address AIDS since the 1980s, including the U.S. bishops' 1987 statement on a Gospel response to the AIDS crisis.

In Kansas City, Father Norman Rotert, former vicar general and now pastor of Visitation Parish, described the series as "sensationalized."

"It appears that the Star is going for a journalistic award," he said. "If they are using the priesthood to win an award, then I resent it very much. There isn't any question that it calls the character of every priest into question and invites the general public to call the character of priests into question."

Father Joseph Cisetti, associate director of vocations, and Father Don Farnan, pastor of St. Louis Parish and vocations director from 1991 to 1997, took issue with the series' contention that seminarians receive inadequate training and counseling on sexuality.

Father Farnan, who was ordained in 1987, said the AIDS issue was new when he was a seminarian, but it was openly discussed.

"When I first heard about AIDS I was in the seminary," he said. "At that time, the whole thing was new. People were asking questions such as, 'Should we drink from the same cup?' — practical things like that. I don't think the church or anybody else knew how to deal with those questions at that time."

Father Cisetti said that prospective candidates for the seminary undergo an extensive application process that includes counseling on celibacy and sexuality. "The application process and the seminary formation process (on those issues) is much more sophisticated than it was in the past," he said.

Father Turner said the Star missed the mark when it attempted to explain celibacy as a doctrine of the church.

"Celibacy is certainly a spiritual discipline that we accept and embrace in our church. But it is not what I would call a central doctrine," he said. "The Catholic Church accepts celibacy for its priests because it has been a time-tested spiritual discipline that has proved useful for priests in their ministry as a way that they can hold society to a higher standard, to lift people up to think beyond what this world has to offer and to the promises of the next world.

"That element," he added, "is important to an understanding of celibacy and it is evaded in the article."

Benedictine Father Benedict Neenan, president/rector of Conception Seminary College in Conception, about 90 miles north of Kansas City, took issue with the series' repeated characterizations of seminaries as places that ignore sex education.

He said sexuality and celibacy are extensively explored as part of character formation.

"What seminarians learn about integrating sex into their character and identity is far more advanced than is available elsewhere on the college level, and certainly more advanced than in the general population," he said. "What society does is to expose people to sexual activity and give them permission to explore."

He said the comments on inadequate seminary sex education in the Star "focused on the '60s and came from people who are practicing homosexuals."

"We've come a long way from the 1960s," he said. "What was taught and not taught about sexuality then was no different in the seminaries than in regular colleges."

Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, secretary for communications of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, "The seminary I went to made sure priests knew the facts of life."

He said when he was in philosophy and theology studies in 1965-71, "the seminarians themselves wanted to discuss priesthood and sexuality. ... In that era so many priests were leaving to get married, you couldn't avoid" those issues.

Msgr. Maniscalco called the series "regrettable," saying its extensive coverage of "a concern with a small segment of priests" turned it into "a judgment on priests in general" and a questioning of priestly celibacy.

He suggested that there would have been no such series without the element of interest in whether priests sin — if AIDS were not transmitted primarily by sexual activity and priests did not promise to live celibate lives. "It's the 'Elmer Gantry' syndrome — when the preacher sins, it's a bigger story," he said.

"We are sinners, but that does not diminish the value of the commitment made — and lived — by many priests," he said. "It seems to me the vast majority of priests are trying to live out faithfully" their promise of celibacy.

He also questioned the use of comparisons of priests' deaths from AIDS with those in the general population, saying a comparison with other unmarried adult males would provide a more valid statistical basis. He also saw a "spin" factor in comparing deaths of priests from AIDS over a period of years with the current number of priests, rather than the much larger figure of the total number of priests that there were in that time period.

While the Star did give "some nuancing" to some of its comparisons, he said, other news agencies picked up "only the bare bones."

"Once it takes flight, the nuances get lost. That's what happens when a story goes national," he said. ▼

Contributing to this story were Loretta Shea Kline, Albert de Zutter and Kevin Kelly in Kansas City and Jerry Filteau in Washington.

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The leaven that is powerfully energetic

By LAWRENCE S. CUNNINGHAM
Catholic News Service

The seemingly magical power of a small amount of leaven to change a great mass of dough provided the New Testament writers with a ready image.

Leaven was a negative image both in Mark (8:15, casting out the leaven of Pharisees) and in Paul (1 Corinthians 5:6-8, casting out the old leaven for the new).

Leaven also was used both in the synoptic writers (Matthew 13:13) and Paul (Galatians 5:9) to indicate the Gospel's power to "leaven" a greater whole.

The church's preaching tradition adopted leaven as an image for the Gospel's transformative power.

Of course, there is a temptation to trivialize this powerful image, as if it were an abstract slogan for letting one's "little light shine," whereas leaven in the Old Testament was thought of as a living thing full of energy and transforming power.

The issue is how a Christian or a small Christian community becomes leaven for the larger culture.

We might answer by thinking of the Christian life in terms of an ever-widening circle. The circle is tightest in what we might call our intimate community of family, friends and local neighborhood. The leavening process begins there when individuals act to advance God's reign in small concrete ways: by reconciling enemies, caring for the needy, nourishing the life of prayer, nourishing ourselves on the Word of God.

We might adopt as our spiritual strategy the rallying cry of the ecological movement: "Act locally but think globally." The motto means simply this: If we fight pollution in our immediate neighborhood we are inevitably led to ask the larger questions about why pollution exists at all, who contributes to it and so on.

"Act locally but think globally" is, in religious terms, as good a description of true catholicity as one could imagine. Every local church is fully Catholic when the full creed is preached, the sacraments are administered fully and when the local bishop is in union with all other bishops and the bishop of Rome. To be Catholic is to be, at the same time, local and universal.

The conclusion drawn from this is that every small act of being more Christian, of loving God and neighbor or serving our own circle, but with a mind to the larger church, advances the kingdom, builds the church. That is what St. Paul had in mind when he compared believers to a body in which each part acts in harmony with the others (1 Corinthians 12) or a body whose head is Christ (Ephesians 1).

In the concrete, to be leaven in the mass is to take seriously our call to be disciples of Christ in the real circumstances in which we find ourselves. To be spouses, parents, family members and so on after the manner of Christ.

Some people, by God's call, take on universal tasks as they advance the reign of God; most of us find ourselves in more circumscribed circumstances. But it doesn't matter where; all disciples of Jesus must cling to the conviction that our response to Christ's call in the here and now is, in fact, a leavening of the world in which we find ourselves.

The great saints always have been passionately concerned with the task right at hand, with little or no notion of how their fidelity would nourish the larger church.

How could a Therese of Lisieux, an obscure French nun who died in a provincial 19th-century cloister after she barely reached her majority, become a worldwide figure after her death? What she did know was that the way of perfection for her was to do the ordinary in an extraordinary fashion.

In time, that lesson captured the Catholic world's attention to such an extent that Pope John Paul II would name her to the rarest of honors, a doctor of the church.

If a small application of leaven can transform the larger mass for the good of the Kingdom of God, the reverse is also true. It only takes a small infection of the evils of this world to take over a person's soul.

The leaven Jesus speaks of in Matthew must always be kept in tension with that leaven of which Jesus says sternly, "Beware!"

That admonition does not mean people must seal themselves off from the messiness of the world. It does mean that there is a way in which we should situate ourselves within the real world in which we live.

Every authentic conversion carries, simultaneously, an aversion — a turning to and a turning from; a resounding yes and an emphatic no. In "New Seeds of Contemplation," Trappist Father Thomas Merton may have said it most succinctly:

"Keep your eyes clean and your ears quiet and your mind serene. Breathe God's air. Work, if you can, under God's sky."

If we follow that brief injunction, we become the leaven that works upon the whole. Such an act of faith could have consequences far beyond what we can imagine. ▼

Cunningham is a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

CNS
PHOTO BY W.P. WITTMAN LIMITED

"The issue is how a ... Christian community becomes leaven for the larger culture," writes theology professor Lawrence S. Cunningham. "The leavening process begins ... when individuals act to advance God's reign in small concrete ways: by reconciling enemies, caring for the needy, nourishing the life of prayer, nourishing ourselves on the Word of God."

Faith in the Marketplace

How can someone like you contribute in specifically Christian ways to building up your world?

"I think the Scriptures and the church are clear in asking us to take care of the needy.... As long as we address the needs of those less fortunate, we are doing what we need to do." — *Moe Wosepka, Helena, Mont.*

"We need to give (youth and young adults) ways that let them express their faith. Anyone looking to help the church must look to helping these young people." — *Jeannie Weber, LaCrosse, Wis.*

"As a lay high school youth director, I can do this by being a role model for the high school young people I work with, ... living out the faith that I profess to them each week in our small group meetings." — *Dave Geist, Dodge City, Kan.*

"Assisting the poor to assist themselves. I think that by giving to them in education and work skills, I can help many people who in turn can then help others." — *Madeleine Blankenship, Charleston, W. Va.*

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Transforming the ordinary into something life-giving

By MARY JO PEDERSEN
Catholic News Service

A cake of fresh yeast is yucky tan in color and smells awful! When you mix it with warm water, it forms a distasteful looking paste. But oh, what that yeast does to a bowl of flour, salt and a little oil!

My grandmother lived next door, and she baked bread regularly when I was growing up. I remember standing on a chair at her kitchen table "helping" her mix the brown smelly yeast solution into a large bowl of flour.

This was a messy ordeal. I wouldn't touch the gooey mix until she had it mixed together and was kneading it.

After the first kneading, the bread "rested" atop the warm oven. I remember tucking it under a thick towel to keep it warm and undisturbed.

A hot oven would finish the process, with the awful smell of yeast giving way to the unforgettable fragrance of fresh baked bread!

I never hear the parable of the yeast in Matthew's Gospel without thinking of these miraculous transformations in Grandma's kitchen.

As families hear the jubilee-year invitation to become leaven for the world, they might take comfort in knowing that the messy but transforming work of leaven already is occurring in most homes every day.

The family is the first place we learn to be leaven for the world. You can see it in the patient efforts of parents teaching a 2-year-old to share his toys or an aging husband feeding an invalid wife.

Children learn how to be yeast for others by watching their parents work hard for their benefit and spend time with them when they have homework or are sick. Children learn to be yeast by acting responsibly and respectfully toward each other.

Something messy and unjust can be transformed into something beautiful and life-giving by these ordinary actions.

There are plenty of opportunities for becoming leaven in neighborhoods and parishes. Neighbors watch out for each other's mail when someone is traveling, take meals to each other when there is sickness or a crisis; our parish stocks pantry in the city that serves immigrant families and has an organized outreach to families in need.

In baking bread, yeast comprises only 2 percent of the dough's weight. It doesn't take much to do a lot!

For most folks, leavening happens in ordinary ways in messy situations. It occurs quietly, by the power of the Holy Spirit, when people respond to Christ's invitation to transform the ordinary into something life-giving. ▼

Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.

Images that penetrate the conscience

By FATHER EUGENE LAVERDIERE, SSS
Catholic News Service

Some images transform the world. I think of a photo depicting an execution in a Vietnamese village. As I remember it, a soldier was shooting a kneeling man point blank in the head.

The photo bridged the distance between America and Southeast Asia. It brought the war to every town and neighborhood.

Everyone could identify personally with the kneeling man as his head recoiled. Around the world, the photo galvanized people of good will against war itself. As a leaven, the photo image penetrated our conscience, proclaiming: "War is not human!"

Some images are like leaven, penetrating culture, as yeast permeates dough.

At the end of World War II, my dad took me to see a newsreel on the opening of the Nazi concentration camps. The camera followed the first Allied soldiers into the camps.

The images of the piles of discarded bodies and the emaciated, naked men and women are still with me. At the time I was only 8.

Like a leaven, these images penetrated every part of my being. I still ask, "How could human beings do this to a human being?"

Christian images and symbols can transform the world.

Christian images and symbols can also transform the world.

Think of crowded churches on Ash Wednesday. We live in a cosmetic, escapist culture. Usually, we do not face our mortality. But on Ash Wednesday, everyone wants to be signed on the forehead with ashes.

The ashes on our foreheads are a countercultural sign, proclaiming to everyone who can see that we are human and mortal, reminding everyone that we were formed from dust and will return to dust.

The New Testament images of Jesus nailed on the cross inspired artists and sculptors for 2,000 years. Their work is a symbol of forgiveness and salvation.

The crucifix evokes Jesus' dying words, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). The crucifix also evokes the words of the "good" criminal: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk 23:42). Everyone remembers Jesus' response, "I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk 23:43).

The image of the infant Jesus lying in a manger also inspired artists from the beginning. Usually, a manger is a place for cattle feed. But Mary placed the Son of God in a manger because there was no place for them in the city of David.

Lying in a manger, Jesus was a homeless child. And in his ministry Jesus was homeless. We read in the Gospel, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of God has nowhere to rest his head" (Lk 9:58).

Here are two points to reflect upon:

—From the beginning, the church has been a promoter — a builder — of human culture. Promoting artists and writers, the church has been a friend of culture. Think of the Gospels. Think of the earliest art in the Romans' catacombs.

—At the same time, the church called every culture to repent and believe in the Gospel, inspiring artists with the New Testament images of Jesus on the cross or lying in a manger. As such, we can describe the church as countercultural.

In each case, the church calls every one of us to be a genuine human being.

Proclaiming the Gospel with images, the church is calling every culture to be a genuine human culture. Some images can transform the world. The church knows that. ▼

Father LaVerdiere, a Blessed Sacrament priest, is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.

CNS PHOTO BY W.P. WITTMAN LIMITED

"When you mix (yeast) with warm water it forms a distasteful looking paste. But oh what that yeast does to a bowl of flour, salt and a little oil!" says Mary Jo Pedersen in her article on transforming the ordinary into something life-giving.

Food for Thought

The parable of the leaven in Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel is brief — so brief that it might be overlooked or underestimated. It goes like this:

"He spoke to them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

What is like yeast? The kingdom of heaven.

Parables are thought-provoking. This one makes people think about God's kingdom and how it expands through a great amount of flour ("three measures"). The kingdom grows.

The parable often is thought-provoking because it prompts Christians to reflect upon themselves as "yeast" meant to work within the world, furthering the kingdom's growth. But how?

Are we meant to make the world a better place? And what if it doesn't seem to get better, at least not in some important ways?

What is the "measure" of our success as "yeast"?

The parable, depicting God's kingdom as a powerful, expansive presence, can give people hope. And hope is not an idle virtue. We have the option to leaven hope (and faith, and love) into the world around us.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

Catholic Bestsellers for February

Here is the Catholic Bestsellers List for February, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. **"She Said Yes."** Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
2. **"Lamb's Supper."** Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
3. **"Witness to Hope."** George Weigel (HarperCollins)
4. **"Life of the Beloved."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
5. **"Imitation of Christ."** Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. **"My People's Prayer Book"** Vol. 3. Lawrence Hoffman (Jewish Lights)
7. **"Lives of the Saints"** Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
8. **"Shared Dreams."** Marc Schneier (Jewish Lights)
9. **"Here and Now."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
10. **"Eyes of the Heart."** Frederick Buechner (HarperCollins)

Paperback

1. **"Catechism of the Catholic Church."** (Doubleday)
2. **"Workbook for Lectors & Gospel Readers"** (RNAB translation — Year 2000). Susan E. Myers (Liturgy Training Publications)
3. **"At Home With the Word 2000."** Martin F. Connell (Liturgy Training)
4. **"In the Name of Jesus."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
5. **"Catholic Book of Prayers."** M. Fitzgerald (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. **"Return of the Prodigal Son."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
7. **"Mission 2000 Cycle B."** Mark Link (Thomas More)
8. **"Surprised by Truth."** Patrick Madrid (CCC of America)
9. **"Wounded Healer."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
10. **"Your Sorrow Is My Sorrow."** Joyce Rupp (Crossroad)

Children and Young People

1. **"Coloring Book of Saints."** Karen Cavanagh (Regina Press)
2. **"Precious Moments Remembrance of My Baptism."** Girl's edition (Regina Press)
3. **"My Mass Book."** Karen Cavanagh (Regina Press)
4. **"New Catholic Picture Bible."** (Catholic Book Publishing)
5. **"Picture Book of Saints."** Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. **"The Life of Jesus."** Victor Hoagland (Regina Press)
7. **"The Rosary."** Victor Hoagland (Regina Press)
8. **"Can You Find Jesus?"** Gallery & Harlow (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
9. **"What Is God's Name?"** Sandy Eisenberg Sasso (SkyLight Paths Publishing)
10. **"Catholic Children's Bible."** Mary Theola (Regina Press)

Spanish-language

1. **"Manual Para Proclamadores 2000."** Marina A. Herrera (Liturgy Training)
2. **"Palabra de Dios 2000."** Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
3. **"Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica."** (Doubleday)
4. **"La Oruga Que Fue a Misa."** Irene Hooker (Our Sunday Visitor)
5. **"Palabras y Cantos de Jesus."** Activity Book. Walker & Freeburg (Oregon Catholic Press)
6. **"Catecismo Illustrado."** A. Lodders (Catholic Book Publishing)
7. **"Palabras y Cantos de Jesus."** Walker & Freeburg (Oregon Catholic Press)
8. **"Don y Promesa."** (Oregon Catholic Press)
9. **"El Santo Rosario."** Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. **"Mi Primo Libro."** Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)

Word to Life

February 6, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:
1) Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm 147:1-6
2) 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
3) Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

I spoke today with my friend who suffers with chronic pain. I'm sure from the stories he has told me across the past several years that his pain and stress would allow him to identify strongly with Job and all of his trials.

"I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been told off for me," Job says in today's readings. I'm sure my friend has had occasion to pray with Job's words.

Today, though, not a word was said of his pain, though I am sure it is ever present with him. Instead, he spoke of one of his chief passions,

"Yet preaching the gospel is not the subject of a boast; I am under compulsion and have no choice. I am ruined if I do not preach it!"
— 1 Corinthians 9:16

making the Mass available for shut-ins. He has begun videotaping the Mass for people who don't receive the TV stations that carry it. He then makes these tapes available to them. It is one of many ways that my telephone friend seeks to bring the good news to others.

Like Jesus in the reading from Mark for this week, he has a sense of mission that keeps him moving in response to the needs of others. When Jesus arises early in the morning to spend time in prayer, the passage from Mark tells us, it is Simon and his companions who search around for him. When they find him, they tell Jesus, "Everybody is looking for you!"

And Jesus, ignoring what sounds like a concerned upbraiding, replies, "Let us move on to the neighboring villages so that I may proclaim the good news there also. That is what I have come to do."

And so it is with my friend. His mind is fixed on that next thing he can do to help put others in touch with the love of God; what is the next thing he can do to proclaim the good news that God loves us and has redeemed us.

I want to be more like him.

Questions:

Is your mind focused on your problems, or on what you can do to help others know the love of God? Is there one small thing you can do for others that could help you change your focus?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 6 - 12, 2000

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Job 7:1-4, 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23, Mark 1:29-39; **Monday,** 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Jerome Emiliani),** 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday,** 1 Kings 10:1-10, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday (St. Scholastica),** 1 Kings 11:4-13, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday (Our Lady of Lourdes),** 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday,** 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34, Mark 8:1-10

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Movie Review

"Grizzly Falls" is tame but wholesome adventure

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Enraged that her cubs have been taken, a grizzly bear kidnaps a boy from his campground in the tame adventure tale, "Grizzly Falls" (Providence).

The outdoorsy story is framed and narrated by crusty old Harry (Richard Harris) telling his grandchildren about being snatched by a fearsome grizzly many years earlier.

Young Harry (Daniel Clark) had just lost his mom to consumption while dad (Bryan Brown) was on one of his many expeditions.

Father and son then head for the Canadian Rockies where dad intends to be the first to capture a grizzly bear alive, thanks to a newfangled anesthetic dart. Hiring Indian tracker Joshua (Tom Jackson) and a few less reputable hunters, the group encounters a grizzly and her two cubs but the dart doesn't take down the massive beast, who escapes. The cubs are caged and taken back to camp, but before dawn mama bear returns. Unable to free her little ones, she drags off Harry who has fainted at sight of the giant roaring over him.

"Grizzly Falls"
Due to brief violence and mild profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A—II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

And so begins the bear-and-boy odyssey as Harry sharpens his survival skills after realizing his abductor means him no harm. Although hampered by a broken arm, his dad and Joshua attempt to follow their trail through the wilderness. This gives dad a chance to express to Joshua his regrets at not being around when his wife needed him and his resolve to make a fresh start with his neglected son if he can be rescued.

Harry, meanwhile has been carrying on one-way conversations as well with his substitute-mother figure who seems to have a precise destination in mind.

CNS PHOTO FROM PROVIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT

Ryan Brown (left) and Daniel Clark star in the adventure film "Grizzly Falls."

As directed by Stewart Raffill, the situations are quite contrived, and viewers are expected to accept that the bear takes the boy hostage in tit-for-tat reprisal. The impressive creature often seems the brightest of the bunch, and it's an easy guess where everything's headed. Plumping up the plot, one of the hunters (Oliver Tobias) so turns on father and son he may as well have been a leftover mustachioed villain from silent-film days.

Nor are possibilities for action-adventure in the wild taken full advantage of, such as scenes with a mountain lion and menacing wolves seem to end too abruptly.

Nonetheless, the scenery is glorious, the youngster appealing and the old-fashioned treatment with its uplifting sentiments do not grate. Overall it is a tame but wholesome adventure. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV Review

Compelling documentary tells story of civil rights movement through eyes of martyrs

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The history of the civil rights movement is told through the eyes of its martyrs in the compelling documentary "Civil Rights Martyrs: Free at Last," airing Thursday, Feb. 10, 9-11 p.m. EST on cable's Learning Channel.

In retelling the stories of their lives and the circumstances of their deaths, "Civil Rights Martyrs" illustrates how each martyr's death pushed the civil rights movement forward.

The documentary, written and produced by Martin Kent, brings out at times the innocence and always the courage these individuals had in standing up for equality, liberty and justice for all.

The viewer learns the stories of these unsung heroes through interviews with surviving relatives and friends, often explicit dramatizations, and historical footage and photographs. One example is Emmett Till, who was killed because of a supposed comment he made to a white woman. His mother's controversial decision to have an open casket showing the brutality her son endured received national attention.

It is chilling to hear Vernon Dahmer's widow discuss how the couple would take turns sleeping at night so they could protect themselves and their family against those who wanted them dead. More horrifying still are the deaths of four innocent young girls trapped in the basement of the 16th Street Baptist Church as Ku Klux Klan members bombed it.

"Civil Rights Martyrs: Free at Last"
Feb. 10, 9-11 p.m.
Learning Channel

But the victims were not limited to African-Americans. The documentary also highlights the murders of two Jewish men, a Christian preacher and a white woman who gave their lives in the fight for a better America.

A common thread throughout the documentary is that most of the killers were set free despite overwhelming evidence. Some of them were brought to trial not for murder, but for violating the Civil Rights Act. And for many of the survivors, justice would not be served for years to come.

It seems inconceivable that men could have such hatred in their hearts to actually perpetrate these acts of cruelty. As the Rev. Jesse Jackson says in the documentary, "It was a time of war."

Of particular note is the thoughtful commentary made by John Lewis, who lived through these historical times and continues to be a civil rights activist.

In light of the recent controversy over the Confederate flag, "Civil Rights Martyrs: Free at Last" presents a time in American history that left both scars and triumphs which still resonates today. This would be a good choice for parents and adolescents to view together and discuss. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges respect for nature, reassures Seton Hall visitors

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for respect for the environment, reminding Christians of the presence of the transcendent in God's creation.

"Nature becomes a gospel that speaks to us about God," he said at his Jan. 26 general audience.

After his catechesis, the pope told 14 pilgrims associated with Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., that he was praying for students caught in a dormitory fire at the school.

The Jan. 19 fire left three students dead and another 58 injured.

The Seton Hall pilgrims were among 7,000 attendees who packed the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall to listen to the pope's weekly teaching.

Continuing with the theme of the Blessed Trinity, which was also the focus of his Jan. 19 general audience, the pope said that while the act of creation is most associated with God the Father, all three persons of the Trinity are present in nature.

"The glory of the Trinity — we can say with the Christian tradition — is resplendent in creation," said the pope.

Quoting from the Old and New Testaments, the pope emphasized the roles of Son and Spirit in the act of creation and called on all people to marvel at the final result.

"Faced with the glory of the Trinity in the creation, mankind must contemplate, sing, rediscover awe," he said.

Contemplation also signifies listening, said the pope, and the faithful must heed the message that the creation bears.

"Our discovery of God's transcendent presence in the created world should lead us to take greater care of our natural environment and inspire us to work to establish the harmony which God intended from the beginning," he said.

The Jewish people understood this fundamental bond between humans and nature, said the pope, referring to their tradition of letting fields lie fallow during jubilee years.

"If nature is not violated or humiliated, it returns as the sister of mankind," he said.

Pope criticizes relativism, underscores unique role of Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Criticizing the spread of a "relativistic mentality" in some theological circles, Pope John Paul II underscored the unique role of Christ and the church in human salvation. "In recent years a mentality has emerged in theological and ecclesial circles which tends to relativize Christ's revelation and his unique and universal mediation in the order of salvation," the pope said Jan. 28 during an audience with participants in the plenary assembly of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The same mentality, the pope added, tends "to reformulate the necessity of Christ's church as a universal sacrament of salvation."

DSA 2000

BARBARA ROHRMAN
Guest Columnist

The stewardship of the DSA

I suppose that I should keep a hat rack in my office because my position as Associate Director of Development calls me to wear several different hats throughout the year. The seasonal hat that I am currently wearing is that of promoting the Diocesan Support Appeal. The hat that is most comfortable on my head is that of promoting "Stewardship as a Way of Life" throughout the diocese. There are several other hats, too, and I often find myself wearing all of them at once. It's my stewardship hat and my DSA hat that seem to fit comfortably on my head at the same time. I see the DSA as one way of responding to Jesus' call to discipleship — a call carried out through stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

While wearing my DSA hat, I often receive letters and phone calls from parishioners who want to know, "What's in this appeal for me and my parish?" I can often point directly to services provided by the Office of Faith Formation for catechists, youth ministers, RCIA teams, and lay ministers. I may mention that their Permanent Deacon receives ongoing formation through the programs offered by the Permanent Diaconate office. The Office of Justice and Peace has offered workshops in each region of the diocese as they work to carry out the challenge of the pastoral, "Of One Mind and Heart." I might mention the assistance their parish receives from the Hispanic Ministry as they seek to welcome and minister to their Hispanic brothers and sisters. The "50+" group in their parish is eligible for assistance through the Elder Ministry program. I even mention the fact that many people in their parish, unknown to others, might have received help from Catholic Social Services.

However, if I answer that same question wearing my stewardship hat, I might be more inclined to mention giving to the DSA out of gratitude for God's grace-of-giving because it is a way of giving back to God just a portion of what He has given. It is a way of being a good steward of God's gifts. Furthermore, contributing to the DSA is a means living the Corporal Works of Mercy. To borrow a phrase from my pastor, "it is a way of serving Jesus incognito." Jesus simply said, "I was hungry and you fed me. I was in prison and you visited me...mourning and you comforted me." Giving to the DSA involves reaching out beyond the boundaries of parish or mission and serving the needs of the greater diocesan community.

While wearing my DSA hat over the past five years, I've had the privilege of meeting hundreds of people who have been helped by DSA funded ministries. I have cried with those who were struggling and suffering, laughed and rejoiced with those who were celebrating. I every case I knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I was in the presence of Jesus. I knew that my gift to the DSA was going to help Jesus incognito, and I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to serve Him, ever-present in our midst.

Barbara Rohrman is Associate Director of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
Guest Columnist

Hispanics and Catholic Church

Let us continue with some more facts regarding Hispanic Ministry in the U.S. Catholic Church.

Hispanics, it is well known, comprise an ever-increasing share of the U.S. Catholic population. Estimates vary, but it is generally agreed that persons of Hispanic origin comprise between a quarter and a third of those who currently identify themselves as "Catholic."

In addition, because the size of the Hispanic population is increasing rapidly relative to non-Hispanic groups, it is entirely possible that during the first two decades of this century, Hispanics will surpass Blacks as the nation's leading minority group and may also surpass Whites as the dominant ethnic group within the Catholic Church.

Among Hispanic Catholics in particular, but increasingly among non-Hispanic Catholics as well, the idea that Hispanics are, in effect, "half the Church" is becoming both a widely accepted (if imprecise) statistical fact as well as a rallying cry for change.

A January 1998 study, commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, finds the following regarding Hispanic Ministry Offices in all the dioceses of the United States:

On the plus side...

a) 44 Hispanic Ministry offices have been created or upgraded in the past nine years. Most of the new offices have their own budgets and have access to the Bishop directly or indirectly through an Episcopal vicar or through another high official in the chancery.

b) Hispanic ministry budgets have increased in over 80% of the dioceses with a history of Hispanic Ministry.

c) Hispanic ministry staffs have nearly doubled since 1990.

d) Hispanic ministry directors are more educated and professional than ever before.

e) About 55% of the Hispanic ministry directors say their diocese is providing "a lot" of support for their work.

On the down side...

a) Ten or more Hispanic Ministry departments or offices have been dismantled or downgraded since 1990.

b) Most Hispanic Ministry offices remains subsumed under another diocesan department and are supervised by that department's director.

I hope this has been helpful.

We welcome your letters and comments

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

That special strength: Patience

Gloria Chisholm writes in "Parents of Teenagers" about a trip to the grocery store with her two teens who were battling nonstop. Her son had called his sister a dork, and her daughter had yelled at him to shut up "for the hundredth time." Gloria felt irritation turning to anger. She had to get away to calm down.

She ordered her son to go over by the carrots and her daughter to go over by the broccoli — "NOW!" The writer herself ran over to the eggplants, where she "took ten deep breaths and prayed like mad that God would help me stay in control enough not to bounce every eggplant off some teenager's head."

The silent prayer and minute's "time out" restored her self-control. Gloria didn't let herself scream, "You stupid, inconsiderate kids are driving me crazy!" Practicing patience enabled her to restrain herself, rather than say things she knew she would regret.

When we are angry, we may feel like we are ready to explode. We have to control that first impulse long enough to let our good sense and our concern for others and ourselves step in and say, "Hold it! You don't really want to do that."

The late great theologian Bernard Häring observed, "Patience with yourself and with others are twins that should never be separated. Each one has to be understood as a share of the unfathomable patience of God with us all, with me, and with you."

In his "Virtues of an Authentic Life," Häring recalls a psychotherapist who sent one of his patients to Häring in the hope of lifting her spirits. After conversing a while, the priest said, "May I ask you a question that I find embarrassing? Do you sometimes slap yourself in the face, perhaps in front of a mirror?"

Astounded, she asked, "Whatever made you come up with that question? I've never told anyone about it before. When I get really impatient with myself, I sometimes go through this ritual of self-punishment."

Häring's solution for the woman was to develop a grateful admiration for God's patience with us. "Imitate his patience and realize that despite all our weaknesses, He loves and treasures each one of us."

St. Francis de Sales put it similarly: "Be patient with everyone, but above all with yourself. I mean, do not be disturbed because of your imperfections, and always rise up bravely after a fall."

Sadly, lots of people confuse patience with weakness, with being a doormat. Hardly. Being patient does not mean putting up with everything without complaint. We often need to speak out. Patience is the strength that lets us speak with courtesy and kindness instead of sarcasm and abuse, even when we are angry.

Here are some techniques for calming down when you are angry: Pray for the strength not to lash out. Think about something else. Picture your favorite vacation spot. If possible, go out for a little while. Work off tension by taking a brisk walk. And, oh yes, count to 10 — or 100 — before you speak.

Lashing out does nothing to solve problems. It just causes ill will. And the stress can hurt you. Calming down first will help you speak in a more rational, constructive way with whomever made you angry, so you can explain why certain behavior or words upset you, and what you think needs to be done.

St. Teresa of Avila urged: "Let nothing disturb you; let nothing dismay you; all things pass; God never changes. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices."

From the Bishop

THE MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
Bishop of Charlotte

"Open Wide the Doors to Christ"

In this Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, I reflect on the beginning of Jesus Christ's ministry when, in the temple, He read from the Prophet Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim a year of the Lord's favor." (61:1-2)

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow in his footsteps. We are called to reach out to the poor, the brokenhearted, and the captives. We must "Open Wide the Doors to Christ" and serve all who seek him in their lives. The ministries funded by the DSA provide a tremendous opportunity to open those doors for others, and your contribution to the appeal makes you an instrument of God bringing people to Christ and serving the Christ in them.

As your bishop, I have been touched by the many joys, sorrows and challenges experienced by the faithful of our diocese. When I meet people who are trying to cope with a family crisis or the death of a loved one, I am grateful for the counselors at Catholic Social Services who are helping to bring hope back into their lives. I have seen the joy that a child brings into the home of an adoptive couple, and I bless God for the Adoption Program of CSS.

I am thankful for the work of our Hispanic, African American and Hmong Ministries in addressing the needs and challenges of the growing multicultural population of the diocese.

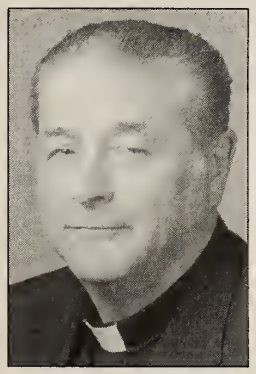
There are thousands of children, youth and college students in the diocese looking for answers to their faith questions. Our educational ministries funded by the DSA provide workshops for catechists and campus ministers who will return to their parishes and colleges to share the Good News with others.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta taught us to find Jesus in the poorest of the poor. He waits in the least of our brothers and sisters, waits there to be loved, waits for us to open the doors to our hearts.

As I travel to the parishes and missions of our diocese, I see countless men and women who have opened their lives to Christ. I see good and faithful people feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and prisoners, lifting up the fallen, and giving hope to those in despair.

Our DSA gives us a way to live out the challenge of our faith in this Jubilee Year. It is a way to be Jesus for others and to recognize and help the Jesus in our midst. Through the DSA we are able to make Christ present to the world in a real and tangible way. I am confident that the gift you share to the DSA will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people by helping turn a troubled time into a year of the Lord's favor for us all.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Does Lutheran-Catholic agreement apply to all Lutherans?

Q. Your column a few weeks ago concerning the agreement on justification between Lutherans and Catholics was enlightening. We do not understand, though, if this refers to all Lutheran churches. Our friends, Missouri Synod Lutherans, tell us the agreement does not pertain to them. Can you explain if this is true?

A. Yours is an excellent question. Many Catholics, especially in the United States, have received similar comments from their Lutheran friends.

The Joint Declaration on Justification, reached in 1998 and signed in October 1999, was between the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation. The federation is an association of Lutheran churches with authority to act on behalf of members in matters committed to it. It represents about 58 million of the 61.5 million Lutherans in the world.

Bishop Christian Krause and Rev. Ishmael Noko, president and general secretary respectively of the LWF, signed the declaration for the Lutherans. Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and Bishop Walter Kasper, secretary of the same council, signed for the Catholic Church.

The confusion you experience results from the fact that the LWF represents by far the majority, but not all, Lutheran churches. The largest Lutheran church in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has about 5.2 million members and is part of the LWF. It makes up roughly two-thirds of the Lutherans in the United States.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, however, with about 2.6 million members, is the largest Lutheran group in the world not affiliated with the LWF. The next largest Lutheran Church in the United States, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, has approximately 400,000 members, and also is not affiliated with the world federation.

For this reason, neither the Missouri nor Wisconsin synods were directly involved in the dialogue that preceded the document, nor are they participants in the agreement itself.

Miscarriage and funeral rites

Q. Three years ago, my first pregnancy ended tragically in a miscarriage at home. My husband and I were devastated and were left trying to decide how to humanely dispose of the body. Our parish priest told us that the Catholic Church makes no provision for miscarried babies. Why is there no service of any kind to memorialize our children who die before birth?

A. Perhaps your priest was not aware that Catholic funeral guidelines adapt in several ways to experiences like yours, which unfortunately are not uncommon.

First, full funeral rites may be celebrated for children whose parents intended them to be baptized but who died before baptism. Since there is no requirement that the body be present, a funeral or memorial Mass is totally appropriate after a miscarriage.

Other ceremonies, with prayers and Scripture readings chosen to meet the particular needs of the family and friends, are possible and entirely appropriate. These provisions are explained in the church's "Order of Christian Funerals" in the section on funeral rites for children.

DSA 2000 Parish Targets

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Charlotte
$39,783.00
St. John Neumann Parish, Charlotte
$76,920.00
Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Charlotte
$34,519.00
St. Ann Parish, Charlotte
$58,287.00
St. Gabriel Parish, Charlotte
$275,318.00
St. Patrick Cathedral Parish, Charlotte
$69,985.00
St. Peter Parish, Charlotte
$72,069.00
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Charlotte
$90,908.00
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charlotte
$107,774.00
St. Luke Parish, Charlotte
$43,497.00
St. Mark Parish, Huntersville
$66,368.00
St. Matthew Parish, Charlotte
$206,465.00
Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Albemarle
$17,024.00
St. James Parish, Concord
$44,928.00
St. James Parish, Hamlet
$9,111.00
St. Joseph Mission, Concord
$14,043.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Monroe
$29,081.00
Sacred Heart Parish, Salisbury
$51,474.00
Sacred Heart Mission, Hamlet
$2,105.00
Our Lady of the Americas Parish, Biscoe
$9,277.00
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Mars Hill
$6,400.00
St. Barnabas Parish, Arden
$44,387.00
St. Eugene Parish, Asheville
$65,771.00
St. Joan of Arc Parish, Asheville
$18,316.00
Basilica of St. Lawrence Parish, Asheville
$55,223.00
Sacred Heart Parish, Brevard
$37,056.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Hendersonville
$87,366.00
St. Jude Mission, Highlands
$10,644.00
St. Margaret Mary Parish, Swannanoa
$22,197.00
St. John the Baptist Parish, Tryon
$22,968.00
St. Elizabeth Parish, Boone
$38,995.00
Sacred Heart Mission, Mars Hill
$3,936.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Jefferson
$6,366.00
St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, North Wilkesboro
$9,713.00
St. Frances of Rome Mission, Sparta
$3,964.00
St. Lucien Parish, Spruce Pine
$7,882.00
Queen of the Apostles Parish, Belmont
$28,301.00
Immaculate Conception Parish, Forest City
$10,923.00
St. Michael Parish, Gastonia
$69,067.00
Christ the King Mission, Shelby
$4,572.00
St. Dorothy Parish, Lincolnton
$13,089.00
Our Lady of the Angels Mission, Morganton
$6,194.00
St. Mary Parish, Shelby
$16,788.00
St Helen Mission, Belmont
$3,395.00
St. Joseph Parish, Asheboro
$24,746.00

St. Joseph of the Hills Parish, Eden
$10,105.00
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensboro
$107,449.00
St. Benedict Parish, Greensboro
$17,094.00
St. Mary Parish, Greensboro
$23,031.00
St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Greensboro
$124,370.00
St. Pius Tenth Parish, Greensboro
$69,939.00
Christ the King Parish, High Point
$11,181.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, High Point
$69,161.00
Holy Infant Parish, Reidsville
$12,326.00
Our Lady of the Highways Parish, Thomasville
$12,374.00
St. Aloysius Parish, Hickory
$71,269.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Lenoir
$15,252.00
St. Therese Parish, Mooresville
$65,721.00
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Morganton
$25,284.00
St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Statesville
$37,738.00
St. Joseph Parish, Newton
$23,619.00
Holy Redeemer Parish, Andrews
$2,692.00
St. Joseph Parish, Bryson City
$5,709.00
Immaculate Conception Mission, Waynesville
$3,052.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Bryson City
$2,700.00
Prince of Peace Mission, Andrews
$2,339.00
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Franklin
$20,712.00
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, Murphy
$9,620.00
Our Lady of the Mountains Mission, Highlands
$9,348.00
St. Margaret Parish, Maggie Valley
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St. John the Evangelist Parish, Waynesville
$12,703.00
St. Mary Parish, Sylva
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St. William Parish, Murphy
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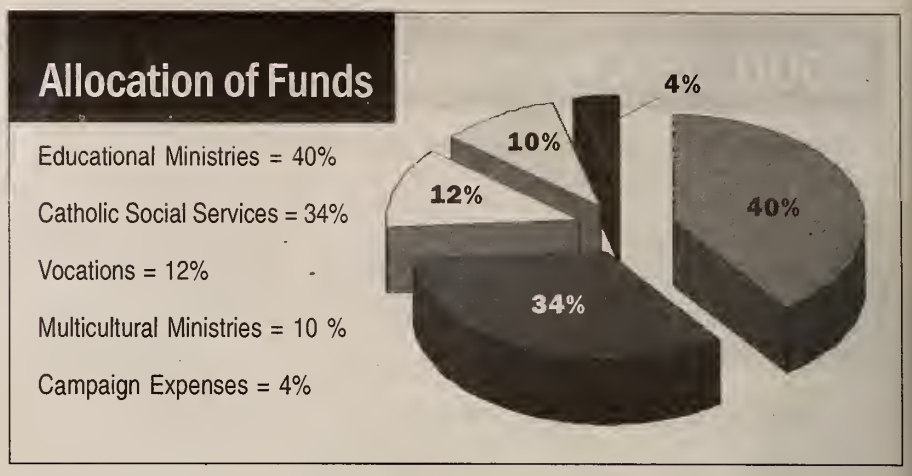
St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Winston-Salem
$10,692.00
St. Leo Parish, Winston-Salem
$113,259.00
Holy Family Parish, Clemmons
$83,014.00
St. Bernadette Mission, Spruce Pine
$12,457.00
Holy Spirit Parish, Denver
$19,184.00
Good Shepherd Mission, Winston-Salem
$8,643.00
Holy Trinity Parish, Taylorsville
$6,138.00
Our Lady of Fatima Mission, Winston-Salem
$17,074.00



Open your hearts and minds in support of the diocese

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Over the years, many people have selflessly given financial support to the diocese for its many programs and ministries. As people open their hearts and minds to the act of giving, they also open their spirits to Christ and can receive much more in return. The cycle of giving and receiving continues as the 2000 Diocesan Support Appeal rolls around.

As in past years, this year's DSA will provide funding for four main areas of ministry: Catholic Social Services (CSS), Multicultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and the Vocations program. Thirty-five agencies and ministries receive DSA funding

According to Bill Weldon, diocesan chief financial officer, this year's target amount is $3,140,000 — a 6.8 percent increase, or $200,000 more than last year. Three-fourths of the increase will go toward CSS and multicultural ministries.

"Most of the additional funding for CSS will benefit a new economic development initiative, which targets low-income persons in the western counties of our diocese," explained Weldon. "Additional funding for Hispanic evangelization is in direct response to the rapidly-growing Hispanic population in our diocese."

The DSA goal is calculated through account-by-account budgets for each of the agencies and ministries. Two components — program changes and cost increases — are carefully examined when establishing the DSA budget. Each budget item is evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis, said Weldon.

"We are all very conscious of the sacrifices people make. We have a responsibility to the people of this diocese to use their gifts as prudently as possible," said Weldon

Monthly financial reports ensure accurate accountability and provide a run-down of each agency's activities.

"Our diocese is a vibrant, growing Church. As the Church grows, so do its needs. This year's DSA will provide funding to support vital services of the Church throughout Western North Carolina," said Weldon. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of all those who support the DSA." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Senior Staff Accountant

Providence House, a nationwide distributor of Catholic books, audio/video and gift products, is seeking candidates for the position of Senior Staff Accountant at its Fort Mill, SC (10 miles south of Charlotte) headquarters location.

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Minimum qualifications include a B.A. in Accounting plus 3-5 years experience as a corporate accountant or CPA. Knowledge/experience of information system technology, e-commerce and CPA or CMA are preferred but not required.

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Bill Brown
Vice-President, Operations
Providence House
P.O. Box 1589
Fort Mill, SC 29716
Fax: (803) 802-4367
Bbrown@providenceventures.com

2000 DSA Ministries Budget

Catholic Social Services Diocesan Ministries		
Special Ministries *(see list at right)*	$	178,175
Office of Justice and Peace *Campaign for Human Development • Catholic Relief Services Parish Social Ministry • Voices for Justice • Legislative Network*	$	88,467
Catholic Social Service Administration	$	124,935
Refugee Resettlement Office	$	24,483
Regional Services		
Western Regional Office - Asheville *Hispanic Services • Adoption • Counseling Crisis Intervention • Foster Care • Pregnancy Support*	$	179,242
Charlotte Regional Office *Adoption • Counseling • Crisis Intervention Foster Care • Pregnancy Support • Programa Esperanza*	$	244,391
Piedmont Triad Office - Winston-Salem *Casa Guadalupe • Adoption • Counseling Crisis Intervention • Foster Care • Pregnancy Support*	$	227,817
Multicultural Ministries		
African American	$	6,200
Hispanic Ministry	$	280,283
Hmong Ministry	$	43,729
Educational Ministries		
Faith Formation	$	334,734
Catholic Schools	$	214,454
Campus Ministry	$	381,510
Evangelization	$	25,000
Lay Ministry Training	$	38,817
Media Resources	$	65,103
Vicar's Office	$	67,974
Youth Ministry	$	114,759
Vocations		
Permanent Diaconate	$	91,687
Seminarian Education	$	275,733
Campaign Expenses	$	132,507
TOTAL		**$3,140,000**

DSA Supported Agencies and Ministries

Social Services Ministries	**704-370-3262**
Diocesan Ministries	**704-370-3228**
Disability Ministry	704-370-3250
Disaster Relief	704-370-3228
Elder Ministries	704-370-3220
Family Life	704-370-3250
Marriage Preparation	704-370-3228
Natural Family Planning	704-370-3230
Prison Ministry	(beeper)704-581-7693
Respect Life	704-370-3229
Office of Justice and Peace	**704-370-3225**
Campaign for Human Development	704-370-3234
Catholic Relief Services	704-370-3231
Education - Issue Response	704-370-3225
Social Services — Western Office	**704-255-0146**
Hispanic Social Services • Adoption • Counseling	
Crisis Intervention • Foster Care • Pregnancy Support	
Social Services — Charlotte Office	**704-370-3232**
Adoption • Counseling • Crisis Intervention	
Foster Care • Pregnancy Support • Programa Esperanza	
Social Services — Piedmont-Triad Office	**336-727-0705**
Casa Guadalupe • Adoption • Counseling	
Crisis Intervention • Foster Care • Pregnancy Support	
Multicultural Ministries	704-370-6299
African American Ministry	704-370-3399
Hispanic Ministry	704-335-1281
Hmong Ministry	704-327-2341
Educational Ministries	**704-370-3210**
Campus Ministry	704-370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3271
Faith Formation	704-370-3246
Evangelization	704-370-3214
Liturgy and Worship	704-370-3316
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3213
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3246
Youth Ministry	704-370-3211
Vocations	**704-370-3353**
Permanent Diaconate	**704-370-3344**
Seminarian Education	**704-370-3353**

Classifieds

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Accounts Payable Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an accounts payable accountant. The position is responsible for all A/P functions including processing vendor invoices and employee expense reimbursements; generating checks; addressing vendor inquiries, etc. Applicants should have a minimum of one year recent related experience and a high school diploma. Please forward resume and salary history to Schools Controller, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Archivist: Archdiocese of Atlanta. Full-time position for individual meeting the following requirements: master's degree in library science; archival management or related field; 3 to 5 years' experience in archival work; extensive knowledge of Catholic church; computer literacy (MARC AMC format and programs related to library/archival cataloging); exceptional written and spoken communication skills. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Please submit resume and cover letter with salary requirements to: Zoe Johnson, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308. Fax (404) 885-7494. E-mail: zjohnson@archatl.com.

Director of Development for Campus Ministry: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a part-time director of development for Campus Ministry. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan and regional boards. Please submit resume by February 18, 2000 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Faith Formation: Growing 450-family parish in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for directing pre-K through high school faith formation process and oversight of RCIA process and adult formation. Includes oversight of volunteer coordinators of formation processes for baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, RCIA, and adult Bible Study. Also includes collaboration with parish Faith Formation Council. Strong people and communication skills a must, especially with middle and high school level youth. M.A. in religious education or theology, or equivalent education and experience required. Salary mid-30s, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Also diocesan benefits packages. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614.

Director of Liturgy: Opportunity to serve full-time in welcoming, prayerful Community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life. Vatican II community, 1900 families in central North Carolina. Reports to the Pastor. Works closely with clergy, director of music ministries, staff. Requires Master's degree or equivalent, knowledge of church rites and rituals; empowering, collaborative, pastoral; music skills a welcome plus. Immediate opening, latest start July 1, 2000; salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOL Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Phone (336)294-4696; Fax (336)294-6149.

Director of Music Ministry: Opportunity to serve full-time in welcoming, prayerful community as the primary coordinator of music for all parish liturgies. Reports to the Pastor. Vatican II community; 1900 families I central North Carolina. Coordinates with director of liturgy in planning liturgical music; works closely with clergy and staff. Requires master's degree or equivalent; must have music performance skills (e.g., piano, voice); choral directing, cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than July 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27419. Phone (336)294-4696; Fax (336)284-6149.

Infant Care Provider: South Charlotte. Excellent pay and flexible hours for warm and loving person who can help out busy mom with infant. Non-smoker and references required. Please call Judy at (704) 553-8136.

Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

REAL ESTATE

For Sale: Friendship Glen - Beautiful new high quality homes/homesites. Northeast Guilford County. Large lots. Please pass the word along to those moving to (or in) the Greensboro, Reidsville, Burlington areas. Thank you. Call Philippe White - part-owner/broker (336)272-1011.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. -S.C.

Ministry making strides with diocesan Hispanics

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The number of Hispanics that are moving to this country grows every year. According to figures from the Census Bureau published in "La Noticia," a Spanish language newspaper published in Charlotte, the Hispanic population has grown more than 110 percent in North Carolina since 1990, with an estimated 300,000 Hispanic people living in the state.

An estimated 60,000 people have come to Charlotte in search of jobs and a new life in this state. They bring with them their culture, long-standing traditions and their Catholic religion. Hispanic Ministry serves as a link between the Hispanic community and the diocese. It also functions as a link for those who would not otherwise have a voice.

"We cannot rely on priests, who are so few in number, to do all the work. We need more vocations and people to work with the Hispanic population, those who have learned Spanish and about the community."
— Father Joe Waters of Taylorsville/Dobson

"People have heard that the Charlotte-area economy is booming and offers progress for whomever is able to come and work," said Hilda Gurdian, publisher of "La Noticia." "Some of us have come directly from other states or other countries; we are continuing to grow."

Gurdian, a Venezuela native, attends one of the five weekend Masses at the Charlotte Catholic Hispanic Center. She cites Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry and the director of the center, as being an "advocate" for her people.

Father Finnerty not only works in Charlotte at the center but travels all over the diocese to minister to Hispanics in cities and towns. His ministry is based on the June 1998 Diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Plan, which stems from ideas from the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry from the Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs of the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

The four areas of concentration include: the promotion of small evangelization communities or neighborhood ministries, team ministry, the promotion of the missionary spirit, which involves targeting those who have strayed away from the Church, and the formation of laity. Hispanic Ministry further divides these areas into 12 concrete commitments.

"When we go into different communities, we look for the local leadership and perform retreats," explained Father Finnerty. "These retreats are instrumental in promoting the whole pastoral and conversion experience. From this, they form small communities and begin visiting in other neighborhoods."

This year, 19 retreats are planned — 10 adult and 9 youth — which will take place at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. The youth retreats will take place in Hendersonville, Monroe and Greensboro.

"It is inspiring to see so many young men and women who come here and are inspired and enriched by their experience," said Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Holy Family Church. "I consider it a privilege to put our buildings at the service of this wonderful work being done for the Hispanic community throughout our diocese."

One of the center's most community projects is the planned construction of a new multi-purpose building, which will serve as a larger meeting place for the Hispanic community.

Father Joe Waters, administrator of Holy Trinity Mission in Taylorsville and Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Mission in Dobson, works with Hispanics in his area and also in Boone, Newton and Mount Airy. He sharpened his Spanish and learned about Hispanic life from his work in Mexico and Peru.

He has visited farm workers during the summer to encourage them to go to church and has taken people to the doctor and served as a translator. He also conducts marriage preparation classes. He wants the people to do the work of ministering to others in the community through retreats and Bible groups.

"The ministry is important because it helps them to come to know their faith," said Father Waters. "However, we cannot rely on priests, who are so few in number, to do all the work. We need more vocations and people to work with the Hispanic population, those who have learned Spanish and about the community."

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, coordinator of the Hickory Vicariate Hispanic Ministry, is involved in a Spanish radio program currently in the works. On Saturdays starting in February from 12 to 1 p.m. on 1170 AM on Claremont, the vicariate is sponsoring programming in Spanish, featuring the community.

The topics include reflections on the Sunday reading, income tax preparation, parental information and other important topics of which many Hispanics may not be aware. The programming had previously been sponsored by the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Office.

"This is a channel to advertise what is being done in different parishes and to establish a Catholic presence," said Sister Andrea.

"The Hispanic presence is seen as a blessing, and we can learn much from their community. They bring another way of practicing out faith, which is very incarnational," she continued. "The parishes need to work on becoming environments where 'inculturation,' the opportunity for expression of worship with a mixture of cultures, can take place."

Sister Andrea said that there are many needs within the Hispanic community, which extend beyond their faith, including a lack of transportation, language problems, unemployment and other problems.

"We are a growing community, and because we are new, there are so many things that need to be done. There is a need for education, better health care, childcare, a need for religion and a new church," added Gurdian.

Many agree that a key way to strengthen Hispanic Ministry is through communication.

Luis Wolf, administrator of the Catholic Hispanic Center in Charlotte, said that the pastors of the various churches are learning more about Hispanic culture and how they can integrate without losing their identity.

"We need more bilingual and bicultural priests," said Father Finnerty. "In general, the pastors have been open to Hispanic Ministry," he added, and said there is a continued need to understand the culture as an expression of Hispanics' faith.

"There is a positive spirit in the Hispanic Catholic community," Father Finnerty said, noting that while each parish is different, there is a spirit of collaboration and living the faith among the people that creates "a social and spiritual environment." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Hispanic Ministry is one of 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

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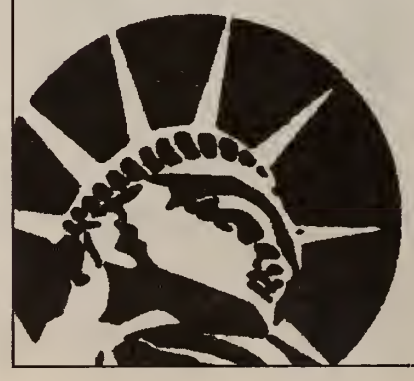
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World Catholic population up, number of priests rises

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of Catholics reached 1.045 billion, about 17.4 percent of the global population, the Vatican reported. The statistics, from 1998, were included in an updated pontifical yearbook presented to Pope John Paul II on Feb. 5. The number of Catholics represented a new high, up about 40 million from 1997, and the percentage of the global population marked a slight increase, too. The Americas, considered as a single continent by the Vatican, had the strongest concentration of Catholics in the general population, with 63.1 percent. It was followed by Europe with 41.4 percent, Oceania with 26.9 percent, Africa with 15.6 percent and Asia with 3.1 percent.

Mexican church leaders welcome police raid ending strike

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church leaders expressed approval of a federal police raid that ended a nine-month strike by students at Latin America's largest university. About 2,500 police wearing full riot gear but under orders not to use firearms entered the main campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico at dawn Feb. 6. Students who had occupied the university's main campus since April 20 did not resist arrest and were led to buses that carried them to various city jails. The strike affected almost 270,000 students in the university and in the UNAM's network of senior high schools in Mexico City. Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City expressed satisfaction that the UNAM installations were recovered in "a peaceful way."

Church leaders demand end to Canadian 'head tax' on immigrants

TORONTO (CNS) — Canadian church leaders demanded an end to a federal government "head tax," saying it imposes heavy financial burdens on refugees and immigrants entering the country. The "Right of Landing" fee, established by the government's citizenship and immigration department in 1995, levies a $975 charge on every refugee claimant and immigrant. "This tax establishes a 'welcome debt' for refugee and immigrant families coming to Canada," said Robert Filart, coordinator of the Toronto Archdiocese's refugee sponsorship program. Although the landing fee allows for government loans and repayment plans, Filart said this does little to ease a struggling family's integration into Canadian society.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Feast of the Presentation

Jose and Blanca Garcia prepare a Christ figurine to mark the Feast of the Presentation at their family store in central Mexico City Feb. 11. Mexicans celebrate the day by dressing the nativity figurine and taking it to Mass. The feast marks the ceremony in which Christ was brought to the temple and Mary was purified after his birth.

Cardinal, Vatican official differ on church response to problems

ROME (CNS) — In an unusual public exchange with a leading Vatican official, a French cardinal has suggested that the church show more openness as it confronts modern doctrinal and disciplinary problems. Cardinal Pierre Eyt of Bordeaux said that while today's lay Catholics have ideas to contribute on questions of theology, politics, bioethics and other issues, the hierarchy's dialogue with them seems to be going nowhere. He wondered whether the church might not expose its concepts more to modern ways of thinking. Writing in the French Catholic newspaper La Croix, Cardinal Eyt directed his comments to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, of which Cardinal Eyt is also a member. Responding in the same newspaper, Cardinal Ratzinger said he thought so-called "institutional" problems in the church were the reflection of a deeper crisis of faith.

Seton Hall fire believed to be deliberately set, newspaper says

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Two weeks after a dormitory fire that killed three students and injured 58 others at Seton Hall University, investigators believe the fire was deliberately set, The Star-Ledger newspaper of Newark reported Feb. 2. The report said investigators were seeking four suspects and were focusing on a dispute between students in the freshman dormitory and three non-students who were asked to leave the dorm less than an hour before the Jan. 19 fire broke out. "This was not an accidental fire. Someone started the fire," said an anonymous official quoted in the newspaper.

Maryland firm stops selling body parts from abortions

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A decision by a Maryland company to stop procuring and distributing body parts obtained from aborted fetuses is drawing praise from pro-life supporters who had protested the practice as abhorrent and inhumane. The Anatomic Gift Foundation, based in Laurel, announced in late December it would "no longer procure or provide human tissue derived from elective pregnancy terminations for research and education." State Sen. Martin G. Madden, a Republican representing the district where the company is located, said he was "very pleased" with the company's decision and hopes that it does not change that stand.

Death threats continue against Mexican church groups

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Death threats continued in January against members of two prominent church-run human rights groups noted for their defense of indigenous people in southern Mexico, the groups said. In Mexico City, the Jesuit-backed Miguel Augustin Pro human rights center said Feb. 1 its lawyers who defend peasant leaders in the state of Guerrero found two threatening letters inside a desk within their offices Jan. 31. The center said the threats appeared to be related to its investigation of the April murders of three indigenous men and the rapes of two women by soldiers in Llano Largo, Guerrero.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 24 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Holy Angels Catholic Church
Mount Airy

February 26 — 10:30 am
Meeting with Women Religious
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

February 27 — 11 am
Confirmation
St Mark Catholic Church, Huntersville

March 3 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Hispanic Center, Charlotte

March 4 — 11 am
Diaconal recommitment day
St Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

13 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is holding a charismatic Mass this afternoon at 4 p.m. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5049.

16 CHARLOTTE — "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" takes place tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. The discussion is being led by Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh. Call the church office at (704) 332-6808 or (704) 332-5342 for more information.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is assisting the Servant Center with a mailing for the council's community service project. Members or interested ladies should gather this morning at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., at 9:30 a.m. in the F and G Conference Rooms. For more information, call Carolyn Kingman at (336) 855-1920.

17 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., is presenting "Benedictine Among Baptists: Breaking Down Barriers" this afternoon from 12:10-1 p.m. The presenter is Benedictine Father Samuel Webster, retreat master, spiritual director and faculty member at Wake Forest School of Divinity in early Christianity, worship and spiritual life. For pre-registration and other information, call (336) 273-2554.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Catholic Home School Educators' group is taking part in a discussion, led by Father Ray Williams, about the explanation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The session is being held this morning at 10:30 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Reconciliation is available after the session. Call Mary Matheson at (336) 768-1276 for further information.

19 BLACK MOUNTAIN — Catholic

Mercy Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan remembered for service

BELMONT — Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan, RSM, 74, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2000 at Mercy Hospital. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1950, and was in her 49th year as a Sister of Mercy.

The wake service was held at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 7, 2000, in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont. Visitation followed the wake. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m., Tues., Feb. 8, 2000 at the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel with burial following at the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan, RSM
1925 - 1950 - 2000

Sister Mary Barbara was born Aug. 7, 1925 in Corinth, Mississippi. Her birth name was Mary Frances Sullivan; she took the name Sister Mary Barbara upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 2, 1949.

Sister Mary Barbara studied voice and piano at Salem College, Winston-Salem. She was a graduate of Belmont Abbey College and the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, receiving her degree as a registered nurse in 1947. A navy veteran, Sister Barbara served in the U.S. Naval Nurse Corps during 1948 and 1949. She went on to receive her Master's Degree in Education Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965.

Her first ministry assignments include supervisory posts in orthopedic and surgical nursing at St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, NC and Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, NC. She was later a teacher and principal at various North Carolina Catholic schools and, for many years, served as educational consultant to her religious community.

In 1970 she served as the acting Executive Secretary, Elementary Department, for the National Catholic Educational Association in Washington, D.C. In 1971-1972, she served as the first Director of Field Services for the NCEA, as well as the Director of Adult Education.

Later, Sister Barbara held several positions in the Diocese of Charlotte. She served as Coordinator of Federal Programs and Special Projects and, from 1984-1989, was Superintendent of Catholic schools. During her tenure as superintendent, all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte became certified by the North Carolina Department of Education.

In 1977, Sister Barbara became the first religious sister to hold a political office in North Carolina when she was elected to the Belmont City Council. In 1979 she was again elected to public office, serving a term as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Belmont. During her term in office, she spearheaded the building of 32 units of low rent housing for the elderly.

In 1992, Sister Barbara assumed the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of Catherine's House, a transitional shelter for women and children. At Catherine's House, she devoted her energies untiringly to the residents.

By the time she retired in 1998, Catherine's House, under Sister Barbara's leadership, had provided food, clothing, shelter and opportunities for spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth to over 360 women and children.

Until her death, Sister Barbara continued her housing ministry as a volunteer paralegal advocate at Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont, helping families about to be evicted in the Gaston County area.

Sister Barbara belonged to numerous national, state and local educational associations, serving in 1972-1973 as the southern states' representative to the National Catholic Education Association. She served on many Boards of Directors, including the Charlotte Diocesan Board of Education, Sacred Heart Campus School Board of Education, Sacred Heart College Board of Trustees, Southern Piedmont Health Systems Agency and South Point Lifesaving Crew.

PHOTO COURTESY SISTERS OF MERCY

Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan, RSM, died at age 74 after nearly 50 years of service to the Sisters of Mercy in North Carolina.

Sister Barbara was also a Board member for the Gaston County Council on Aging, the state and local division of the American Cancer Society, House of Mercy, Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont and the NC Low Income Housing Coalition. In addition, Sister Barbara chaired the Belmont Housing Authority Board of Directors and served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the magazine "Highlights for Children".

In spite of her humility, Sister Barbara's efforts in education and her unflagging vigilance and advocacy on behalf of women and children who are homeless were recognized by numerous nominations and awards. She was twice nominated for the Gaston County Outstanding Woman of the Year award and nominated for the Distinguished Women of North Carolina award and the TBS/Sprint Century of Women Special Achievement award. She was awarded the NCEA Presidential Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Education in 1975. In 1995 she received the prestigious Carpathian Award for Personal Advocacy, which is awarded by North Carolina Equity, Working for North Carolina Women and Families. In 1998, Sister Barbara was named Belmont's Citizen of the Year.

Sister Barbara's passing is a tremendous loss to her family, her religious community and the civic community she so tirelessly served. She will be remembered as an excellent piano player and singer. She was also an avid sports fan who had a particular fondness for UNC-Chapel Hill basketball games.

Sister Mary Barbara was the daughter of the late John Daniel Sullivan and Julia Barbara Flowers. She was the stepdaughter of the late J.W. Jamison. She is survived by her sister, Anne Hackney of Myrtle Beach, SC; her nieces, Jenny Taylor of Myrtle Beach, SC and Babs Smith of Durham, NC; her nephew, Sam Hackney, III of Monroe, NC; her grandnephews, Tommy Orr of Charlotte, NC, J.J. Taylor, II, Jason M. Taylor and Stephen C. Hackney; and her grandnieces, Jennifer Taylor Maher and Samantha Anne Hackney.

Memorials may be made to Catherine's House, P.O. Box 1633, Belmont, NC 28012 or Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont, 111-A Third Ave., Suite 200, Gastonia, NC 28052. ♥

Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat allowing couples preparing for marriage to concentrate exclusively on each other free of tensions and pressures. This weekend's retreat is being held at the Blue Ridge Assembly, 20 minutes east of Asheville, today and tomorrow. For registration, directions and other information, call Dorothy Menze at (888) 310-8040 or (704) 364-6726.

CHARLOTTE — "Living Jesus Where You Are: A Practical Path to Holiness" is the theme for St. Ann Church's Parish Mission, taking place today through Feb. 23 at 3635 Park Rd. There are six morning and evening sessions, after 9 a.m. Eucharist in the morning and beginning at 7 p.m. at night from Feb. 21-23. Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Michael S. Murray, executive director of the De Sales Spirituality Center in Washington D.C., is leading the event. For further information, call the church office at (704) 523-8671.

23 CHARLOTTE — All families are invited to St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, for a Mass for those who have suffered a loss. The Mass is being celebrated tonight at 7:30 p.m. In order to have the name(s) of the deceased remembered during the Mass and for further details, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

25 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting "Tales of Wonder," a musical production featuring all of the church's singing groups. Drama and dance are also part of the performance as they tell the Biblical stories through song and dance. There are two performances, one at 7:30 p.m. tonight and on Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 545-1224 for more details.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., is sponsoring a meeting for Catholic divorced, single moms tonight at 7:15 p.m. This serves as a time ad place to share joys and sorrows, successes and challenges and questions and suggestions. On-site childcare is provided, so to reserve a space or to share your story, call Betsy Strauss at (336) 885-5210.

26 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Adult Education Department presents "Journey into Lent 2000" today from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. This year's theme "Are there doors in my life that I have closed?" is being explored by Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The theme will cover "the doors to reconciliations, unresolved grief and new beginnings." Continental breakfast is being served, but please bring a bag lunch. For more information about registration, call Caryn Cusick, adult education coordinator, at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 276.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat allowing couples preparing for marriage to concentrate exclusively on each other free of tensions and pressures. This weekend's retreat is being held at Winthrop College, 30 minutes south of Charlotte, today and tomorrow. For registration, directions and other information, call Dorothy Menze at (888) 310-8040 or (704) 364-6726.

27 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the new office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome to sit in and participate. For more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group meets today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities are provided for the memory-impaired. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Catholic identity, from page 1

"It is *the* primary way to be in worship, and you have to be prepared."

Father DeAngelo's message was part of this year's diocesan retreat for college students in Catholic campus ministry. The gathering at Camp Thunderbird focused on the *who, what, when, where* and *how* of Catholic faith, particularly as experienced by college-aged students.

The retreat included group and individual prayer, the sacrament of reconciliation, the celebration of Mass, and a message from Bishop William G. Curlin.

Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus ministry, said the focus of this year's retreat results from an effort to combine Catholic theology with lived experience.

"A retreat like this needs to be internal and integrated for college students, so that they're able to express and understand it in their own spirituality," said McDermott, who met last fall with campus ministers and past retreatants to discuss new possibilities for the 2000 retreat.

"Out of that," she said, "came what's really essential: Who are we? What does the church teach about human dignity? Where are we going? When are we living out our faith? How do we live this out?"

McDermott said discussions like the one Father DeAngelo led give college students the information about faith they seek — and often lack. "So many of our students are very spiritual and have a strong desire to know about faith, yet they are often uncatechized," she said. "As I meet people, I see a recognition that there is a search for Catholic identity and what that means. There is that strong desire to be involved, and a strong need for community."

In a conversation with students that was part history, part catechism, Father DeAngelo explained how the elements of the Mass — prayer, music, candles, the altar, the liturgies of the Word and the Eucharist — blend to present an opportunity for sacred union with God.

Noting that the sacrament of Eucharist is central to the Mass — and to the Catholic faith — Father DeAngelo urged his audience to have the greatest respect and reverence for the liturgy. "The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, our savior," he said. "You want miracles, folks? It happens every day in Mass."

Father DeAngelo said the Mass is about relationship: relationship with God, with family and friends, with strangers, with ancestors in faith. At the Mass, he added, Catholics offer all of life's struggles and joys to God as they continue in their journey of faith.

"It's not just you and me — it's *us* and the Lord Jesus," Father DeAngelo said. "When you come to church, this is the best thing to do. This is where we're real; this is where we're really real, because it's all of us coming together.

"Every action that we do is a sign of unity with one another in Christ."

For Nadra Wagner, a sophomore at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, Father DeAngelo's presentation — and the entire retreat — was a learning experience.

"It educated me a little bit more about the meaning behind the Mass and really what it means to be Catholic — that coming together as a community and as a church," she said. "I've been Catholic all my life, and I've never really stopped to think about and understand what each part of the Mass truly means."

As a participant in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, J.R. Myrick appreciated the chance to examine the Mass step-by-step. "It was a very interesting perspective," said Myrick, a freshman at Belmont Abbey College who will enter the church at this year's Easter vigil. "*Knowing* is so much better than not really understanding. One of the worst things there is to experience is to be lost.

"To have Father Jude look over it, you understand where it all comes from, why you're there at church and why you're doing what you're doing."

One of four retreat coordinators and a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Janet Price said Father DeAngelo's message left her "with a better concept of the Mass in general — what it means to be together."

"It helps to meet other people who are Catholic — to relate to them, to talk with them, to share experiences," said Price, who has been involved in retreats in high school and college as both a participant and a team member. "I walked away from the retreat feeling Christ's presence in my life in a very profound way." ♥

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Campus ministry is one of the 35 programs and ministries that receives funds from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Coming next week:
Bishop William G. Curlin's dialogue with college students from across the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pope notes low birth rates, urges Italians to have more children

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, calling Italy's negative birth rate "worrying," urged Italians to have more children.

"The worrying demographic decline registered in recent years cannot but be for Italian society a motive for attentive reflection and stimulus for renewal, both in mentalities and in cultural, political and legislative decisions," he said Feb. 6 during the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square.

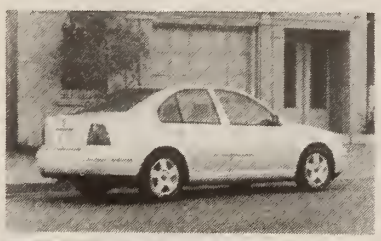
He said that the government needs "to remove the obstacles which hinder families," and that couples must "revive the culture of love and life, rediscovering (their) mission as parents, assumed by them at the moment of their marriage."

The pope's appeal came during the Italian church's annual Day of Life, established two decades ago after the country's legalization of abortion.

Italy's declining birthrate featured prominently in a recent report by the country's bishops, which pointed to government statistics for 1998 recording 533,000 births and 577,000 deaths.

The country's average of 1.2 children per couple, some projections suggest, will reduce the population from the current level of 57 million people to 41 million by 2050.

About 4 million abortions have been performed in Italy since the procedure was legalized 22 years ago, Olimpia Tarsia, national secretary of the Italian Movement for Life, told Vatican Radio. ♥



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Our Lady of Grace youth aid in N.C. flood relief

GREENSBORO — Seven teens and three adults from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro recently spent two days in Windsor, N.C., assisting the rebuilding efforts of the Interfaith Council of Bertie County. Students helped drywall, putty and sand the walls of the ruined homes belonging to two elderly women.

The 75-year-old aunt of one of the owners visited the students working at the site. The retired nurse and the primary caregiver of a 40-year-old mentally- handicapped son was impressed that the youth would take time from their Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend to work on the home of someone they didn't know.

The group spent the night at the local fire station before continuing work the next day.

The next morning, the area's fire chief showed the students a video of the flood, which covered most of the 232-year-old town, including both of the homes the students had worked on the day before. About 95 percent of the town was covered with six to 12 feet of floodwater, much of which was contaminated. The town also lost two residents who drowned during the flooding.

The fire chief, who told the youth he can't even think about drinking water after all they have been through, said that Windsor actually experienced two floods — the first with Hurricane Floyd when they received over twenty inches of rain and the second with Hurricane Irene, when the saturated town received another nine inches of rain. The effects were devastatingly the same in both instances.

Kathy Powers, head of the Interfaith Council's Relief Center, said that there are still several areas in Bertie County that have not been assisted.

Moreover, efforts to identify and help those people have been hampered because many former elderly residents, believing they don't qualify for assistance, have gone to live elsewhere.

"We have to continue to find ways to assist these people, as many had so little with which to begin."
— Meredith Lambert

In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was pulling out of the county during that week as demand for their services has lessened, even with still evident damages in many abandoned homes after the floods.

The Interfaith Council plans to continue to assist flood victims and will work to raise funds to help those who have fallen through the gap of federal and state assistance programs.

Because the Interfaith Council was sharing FEMA's rented office space, Our Lady of Grace Church youth helped move the council's office to a new site. This entailed transferring hundreds of boxes of donated supplies.

"I see now that people don't really need donations of old clothes, household goods, etc., but what's really needed is money to help rebuild," said Nicole Bergeron, one of the parish's youth.

PHOTO COURTESY RUTH FLEMING

Ten members of Our Lady of Grace parish recently helped rebuild a home in Windsor, NC. The water line on the window awning indicates the level to where flood waters rose this fall. Participants were, from left to right, chaperones Annie Short and Ann Lambert, Meredith Lambert, Lasanio Small, Tia Thomas, Cornelius Short, Sheena Bergeron, Christopher Callaghan and Nicole Bergeron. Not shown is Ruth Fleming, Youth Minister at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Most of the homes damaged by the floods have had to be completely gutted and rebuilt, including the heating and cooling systems.

Many of the flood victims received only $100 to $200 from federal relief programs because they were not in designated flood zones.

According to Powers, FEMA made a distinction between hurricane and flooding damages but declined aid to areas hit by wind-driven rain and tornadoes, which hit rural areas the hardest.

"The two days we worked were really worthwhile," said Cornelius Short. "I definitely want to go back because there is still so much work to be done."

Meredith Lambert agreed, "We have to continue to find ways to assist these people, as many had so little with which to begin."

As a result of the mini-service trip, the youth have made fundraising for the flood victims one of their priorities. They hope to be able to return to Bertie County to assist with the rebuilding again this school year and would welcome inquiries on how others can help assist in these efforts. Call 336-274-3766 or e-mail olgyouthmin@earthlink.net. ♥

At right, Cornelius Short and Christopher Callaghan quickly learned the art of sanding as they prepared the new drywall for a coat of primer.

PHOTO COURTESY RUTH FLEMING

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Pope opens door to new entrance of Vatican Museums

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After opening the Holy Doors of Rome's four major basilicas, Pope John Paul II opened his fifth door of the jubilee: the new entrance to the Vatican Museums. At a Feb. 7 ceremony, the pope pushed open the museums' new bronze door to inaugurate the revamped space. Praising the museums' role as a "temple of art and culture" for all people, the pope said "the museums are, on a cultural level, one of the most significant doors of the Holy See opened to the world."

Biblical scholar says Catholics need not fear the Bible

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For many years biblical scholar Steve Mueller has been concerned that Catholics often fear reading the Bible as if it meant journeying into uncharted territory. To allay those fears Mueller, a Catholic, has written "The Seeker's Guide to Reading the Bible: a Catholic View," published by Loyola Press. In it he treats Bible reading as a wondrous spiritual "journey." Mueller has been an instructor at the Denver Catholic Biblical School for the past 14 years, and also has written articles and lectured on biblical theology and spirituality.

Draft stem-cell guidelines should be scrapped, priest tells NIH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference has called on the National Institutes of Health to scrap the proposed guidelines that would permit federal funding of stem-cell research involving human embryos. The official, Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, said in an 11-page submission to the agency that withdrawal of the guidelines was "the NIH's only morally and legally responsible course." Msgr. Schnurr's Jan. 31 submission was in response to an NIH request for comment on its draft guidelines for federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research. The deadline for public comment, originally Jan. 31, was later extended to Feb. 22.

California bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide halted

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Legislation to legalize physician-assisted suicide in California was halted Jan. 31 when its sponsor declined to bring it to the floor of the state Assembly for a vote. The legislation — AB 1592 — was modeled on an Oregon law. It would have permitted physicians to provide lethal prescriptions to certain "terminally ill" patients, within guidelines. The measure was carried forward last June as a two-year bill and needed to be considered in the state Assembly by the end of January. The bill's author, Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, a Democrat from Berkeley, reportedly felt she did not have the votes necessary to pass it and quietly let the matter drop.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

"Spirit Songs for Church and Classroom"

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, diocesan director of formation for the Catholic Schools Office, recently presented patron saints medals to seven students of Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte for their participation in a diocesan gathering of Catholic school teachers. The students assisted in a workshop last October called "Spirit Songs for Church and Classroom," which explained how music can enhance the spiritual lives of young people. Pictured in front, left to right, are Tanner Anthony, Kate Leone, Peter Bui, Regis Nkrumah and Jennifer Gilewski; in back, Sister Maureen, Benae Beamon, Matt Moorman, and Pat Murphy, school principal. Sister Maureen presented the medals during Catholic Schools Week.

Catholics applaud Illinois governor's moratorium on death penalty

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Illinois praised Gov. George Ryan's decision to halt all executions in the state, the first such moratorium in the nation. The Republican governor, who supports the death penalty, made the announcement Jan. 31. He cited the state's "shameful record of convicting innocent people and putting them on death row" and said he couldn't risk the execution of an innocent person. Joliet Bishop Joseph L. Imesch, who provided testimony in favor of the moratorium at a public hearing in Chicago, was delighted with the governor's announcement. "Naturally, I'm pleased that the governor is taking this initiative," he said. "I think it expresses good leadership on his part. I hope a review committee will find that (the death penalty) is not a suitable punishment."

1993 assassination of Mexican cardinal called premeditated

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The 1993 assassination of a Mexican cardinal was a "premeditated crime," the governor of Jalisco told his state congress. However, while Jalisco Gov. Alberto Cardenas Jimenez said evidence points to a plot to assassinate Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo of Guadalajara, "there is still not sufficient evidence" for the case to be sent to the courts. In his annual report to the state congress Feb. 1, Cardenas discounted the federal government's assertion that Cardinal Posadas was caught in the cross fire of a shoot-out between rival drug gangs or because he was mistaken for a prominent drug lord.

Australian Catholic named chair of government council on family

ADELAIDE, Australia (CNS) — It's easier to get a marriage license than a driver's license, said a Catholic woman appointed to head a new Australian government council on marriage and the family. But Pauline Frick is not advocating a tightening of marriage laws. Rather, she wants people "tooled up" on conflict resolution and communication skills before they walk down the aisle. Frick, a mother of four, was selected by Prime Minister John Howard to chair the 10-member National Marriage and Family Council. It is an 18-month appointment.

Italian bishops cautious to approve Catholic-Muslim marriages

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While extolling the virtues of interreligious dialogue, Italian bishops urged caution in approving marriages between Catholics and Muslims. "A rigorous procedure must be followed, evaluating case by case to see if the conditions to grant a dispensation exist," the bishops said in a document concluding a meeting of the conference's permanent council. At a Feb. 1 press conference to present the document, Archbishop Ennio Antonelli, secretary of the Italian bishops' conference, emphasized the need to protect constitutional rights in the family sphere.

At jubilee for religious, pope stresses benefits of vows

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Religious men and women gain more than they lose when they take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Pope John Paul II said. "Far from being a renunciation which impoverishes, (the vows) constitute a choice which frees the person for a fuller realization of his potentialities," he said Feb. 2 during a Mass in St. Peter's Square celebrating the Jubilee for Consecrated Life. The vows also give an important message to the world, he said: "Those who vigilantly await the fulfillment of Christ's promises are able to communicate hope to their brothers and sisters, often distrustful and pessimistic regarding the future."

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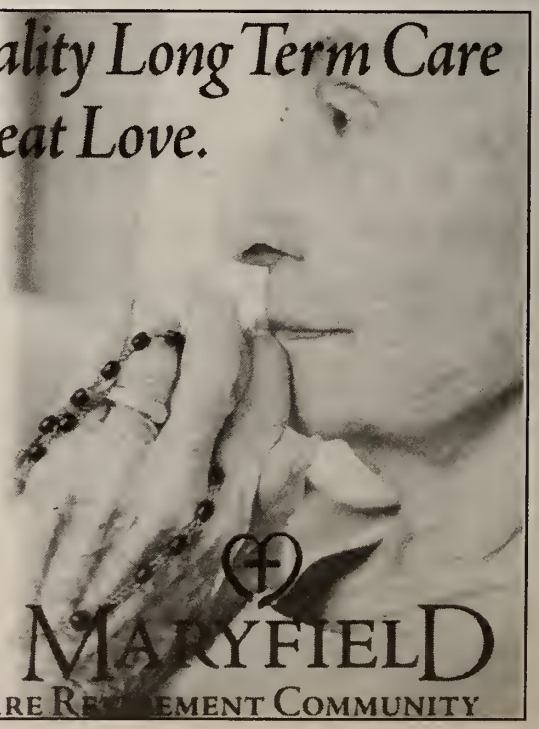
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Catholic school students greet Sammy Sosa on Denver visit

DENVER (CNS) — When Chicago Cub's home-run hitter Sammy Sosa got off the plane at Denver International Airport, 30 grade school students from area Catholic schools greeted him with a hearty "Bienvenido!"

Clutching baseballs and trading cards, the students were hoping to get autographs from Sosa, who was in Denver to address a Latino educational foundation.

Sosa and St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGuire thrilled baseball fans when both surpassed Roger Maris' 1961 record of 61 home runs — two years in a row. McGuire holds the single-season homer record with 70; Sosa holds the No. 2 spot with 66.

Sosa's generosity is as legendary as his baseball playing.

In 1998, he was named National League Most Valuable Player and received the Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award — given to the player who best balances outstanding skills on the baseball field with civic responsibility.

That year, Sosa created a foundation bearing his name to raise money for underprivileged children in Chicago and the Dominican Republic, his native country.

And he didn't disappoint the children gathered at the airport Jan. 29.

Flashing a smile and his signature home-run salute, Sosa took time to sign their mementos.

"He's a good role model and he's a very nice person to have around and he's a very good friend for everybody," said 8-year-old Christian Lujan of Guardian Angels Grade School.

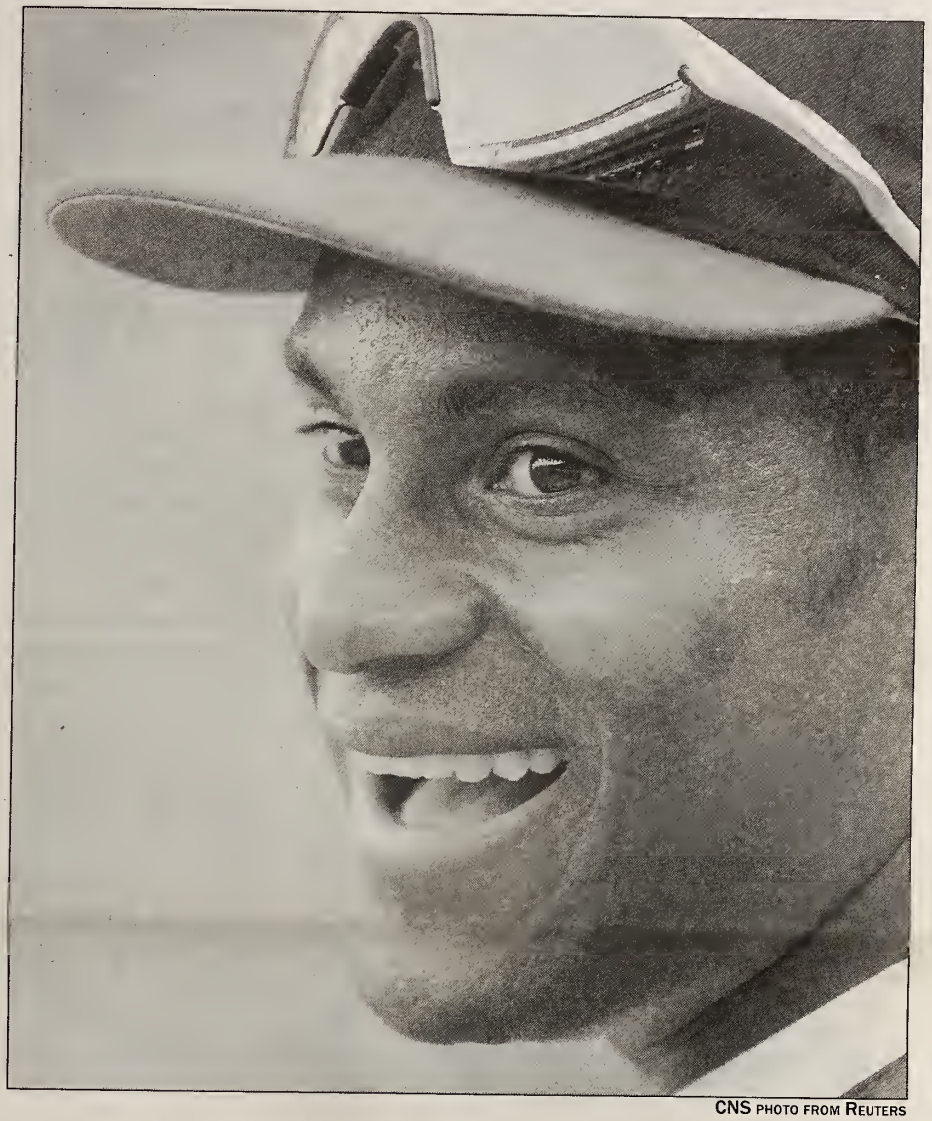
"He plays very good baseball and makes lots of home runs. I think he's very kind to everybody — not just one person, everybody," said 10-year-old Juan Munoz of Annunciation Grade School.

Sosa also was a hit with 1,700 adults and youth as guest speaker at the 51st annual Latin American Educational Foundation gala, which raised nearly $800,000 to fund college scholarships for Hispanic youths.

One of the foundation's goals is to increase the numbers of Hispanic youths who graduate from college. It has awarded about 3,600 scholarships since 1949.

"Believe in yourself and believe in God and all your dreams will come true."

— Sammy Sosa



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Chicago Cubs record-seeking batter Sammy Sosa smiles in the batting cage before a game last season.

Nationwide, 30 percent of Hispanic youths drop out of high school and about 8 percent of college graduates are Hispanic, according to a videotaped address by President Clinton.

During the event, Sol Trujillo, president and chief executive officer of US West, was given the organization's award for supporting Hispanic education.

In his remarks Trujillo stressed the importance of supporting Latino youths in pursuing their dreams.

He called Sosa a role model who illustrates "not just success, but a willingness, a desire, to always give back and that is of great value."

When it was his turn to speak, Sosa stressed the importance of never forgetting one's roots.

"We are born the same way, but we grow up in a different way — education comes from the house," Sosa said. Often when athletes get to superstar status and make big salaries, he added, "they forget who their friends are, they forget everybody. One reason I do this is to set an example, superstars can do that."

A Catholic, Sosa treasures his family and his faith in God, and he said he has never forgotten that others were willing to help him when he was growing up poor. When Sosa was 7 years old, his father died, leaving his mother widowed with six children.

"I didn't have the opportunity to go to college because I had to go to the street to help make money for my mother," Sosa said. "I would find somebody to help me — now I have an opportunity to help not one, but a lot of people."

Asked what advice he had for aspiring ball players, Sosa encouraged hard work and respect for fellow teammates.

To youths, he advised, "Believe in yourself and believe in God and all your dreams will come true."

Asked to explain the signature gesture he makes when he hits a home run — he touches his heart and then blows a kiss — Sosa said it means he is sending his love to his mother.

"He is so open with his respect for his mother and his faith in God, I hope that gives young people courage to do the same," Vicky Garfias-O'Brien told the Denver Catholic Register, archdiocesan newspaper.

Garfias-O'Brien, 53, is one of 133 individuals who received a scholarship last year. She wants to earn a degree in construction management, "to make a difference for people who need better housing."

"I would encourage older Hispanics, especially mothers, to challenge themselves and get the education they deserve," she added. "It's never too late."

Erica Soto, a 19-year-old freshman at the University of Colorado-Boulder, said the scholarship is giving her the opportunity to be "one of the first in my family to graduate from college." ♥

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Conventual Franciscan Friars leaders meet to plan for future

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Leaders of the Conventual Franciscan Friars from North America, England and Ireland gathered at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona from Jan. 23-28 to chart a collaborative plan for the future.

Forty-six friars from eight Provinces were joined by the Most Reverend Agostino Gardin, OFM Conv., the Minister General of the Conventual Friars, who traveled from Rome to attend the Conference.

According to the Most Reverend William Robinson, OFM Conv., the Assistant General for the English-speaking friars and conference participant, "Never before have the Provincial superiors and their councils met together like this. We hope it will further cooperative ventures and thus a more effective preaching of the Gospel message."

Those gathered represent more than 700 friars who minister in 25 States and 57 Dioceses in the United States, two Provinces and five Dioceses in Canada, Ireland and England. Many of the friars attending had never met before and acknowledged this meeting as an important step, before other ventures can take place.

Sister Margaret Carney, OSF, Director of the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, New York, addressed the friars, reflecting on the development and heritage of the Conventual Franciscans. She urged them to help the people of today to understand how St. Francis of Assisi met the person of Jesus Christ.

Father Gardin also helped those attending the conference to understand developments in the Order throughout the world. He urged these friars, from countries with a democratic tradition, to assist others in finding new ways of sharing responsibility.

The closing statement composed by the conference, addressed to all the friars of their Provinces admitted, "We may have gathered with doubts, but we depart with an overwhelming consensus that we should take the initial steps to further this dialogue." A number of concrete action steps were planned for the next five years.

Attending the conference was Friar Jude DeAngelo, Councilor for the Southern Region of the Immaculate Conception Province, Guardian of Our Lady of Mercy Friary in Winston-Salem and Campus Minister at Wake Forest College. ♥

COURTESY PHOTO

Sharing memories ...

Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion shares a favorite memory from 1999 with this photo from last year's confirmation class. Bishop William G. Curlin conferred the sacrament to the youth. Pictured, front row, from left to right: Father Anthony Marcaccio, diocesan director of liturgy; Karen Yutzy, Jeanette Harris, Bishop Curlin, Nicholas Tucci, Father John Tuller, church administrator; back row, left to right, Mandy Maynard, Jeremy Goniea, Nick MacKinnon.

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School groundbreaking signals new beginning

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

KERNERSVILLE — Next year, students in the Piedmont-Triad area will continue their education in a new environment, when the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School will open its doors for students in August 2001. In a symbolic beginning to the school's establishment, Bishop William G. Curlin dug the first hole during the groundbreaking ceremony at the site on Feb. 6.

Current and future Bishop McGuinness students, parents, educators and diocesan officials were present for the final day of celebration, which included words from the bishop, Father Mauricio W. West, chancellor and vicar general, George L. Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness and Bishop McGuinness student council president Laura Hoeing.

The windy day finally overcame the flaming torch as it stood in the ground. The torch, carried in by student representatives from Our Lady of Grace School and St. Pius X School in Greensboro, Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, and Our Lady of Mercy School and St. Leo School in Winston-Salem, represented a way to bring the middle schools in the Triad area together and served as a light for the future, said Eddie Mitchell, Bishop McGuinness director of development and public relations.

"I am excited about the school because it will be technologically better," said Greg Means, an eighth grader at St. Leo School, who carried the torch onto the site. "It is good, academically, because all of the new classes, and athletically, because of the new fields and sports programs."

Repass addressed the crowd, gathered in semi-circle fashion, and thanked all involved with the process on diocesan and community levels.

He mentioned the people who are "among those who recognized the need to provide for a growing Catholic presence in the Triad and those who have long-awaited and hoped for [the new facility] and who were involved with the planning process, which began so many years ago."

"What will be built upon this site will provide a more ample means for the school to achieve the vision embodied in its mission, and what begins today will ensure the excellence we seek for perhaps years to come," he continued.

Flanked by the Abbot Vincent G. Taylor Assembly of Greensboro Knights of Columbus, Bishop Curlin blessed the field, which will become a place of learning for many area students.

Parker Sloan, a ninth grader at Bishop McGuinness, said, "I will be happy when it is finally built because we will have more room and more options for clubs and sports programs, like football."

"We are here to consecrate this ground and lay the foundation for a Christian education; we are here to make Christ present in the lives of these young students."
— Bishop William G. Curlin

In his remarks, the bishop commented about the importance of Catholic education, which shaped his own life. "I would not be a priest today if I had not had the blessing of Catholic education; I believe the support I received from my parents and the inspiration I received from my teachers motivated me to give my life to the Lord."

"We are here to consecrate this ground and lay the foundation for a Christian education; we are here to make Christ present in the lives of these young students," he said.

In his benediction, Father West led the crowd in prayers of intercession: "You inspire us in the firm hope that the school we begin to build today with Your blessings will be brought to completion with Your protection."

Hoeing, a senior at Bishop McGuinness, talked about the various service groups at the school and how they have been beneficial to the surrounding community. She mentioned the camaraderie and family atmosphere found in the current building that will follow the students and faculty into the new facility.

"... With all of these improvements found in the new school, one thing at Bishop McGuinness is not going to change, and that is the sense of community and fellowship found in every hallway and classroom ..."

The response from parents, teachers and students is positive; many are in support of the new school and anxiously await its arrival.

"I am looking forward to having a larger facility and having a bigger classroom," said Bob Klepf, senior calculus and pre-calculus teacher at Bishop McGuinness. "With a larger student population, we'll be able to offer more courses and schedule more levels of honors classes."

Victor Archibong, an Our Lady of Grace Church parishioner, has children who have attended Bishop McGuinness, and his son Tony is currently a junior. He expressed his excitement over the new school. "It is a joy to see that it is finally coming together. Catholic education is worth the sacrifice because you can't beat the quality of education and the values you receive," he said.

Bishop McGuinness alumnus Tony Nitz agreed with his fellow Our Lady of Grace Church parishioner: "We have been waiting, and this couldn't be a more perfect time. The benefits of the school are less specific and more holistic because this will embrace the whole Triad community. Bishop McGuinness provided a wonderful environment and opportunity for me and my children, and the new school will bring better technology, more space and a better athletic and arts environment."

The groundbreaking ceremony was the culmination of three days of festivities, including a fine arts evening with poetry and music and soccer and basketball battles between the alumni and current students. ♥

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Bishop William G. Curlin invites young participants to assist him in breaking ground at the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School site during the ceremony on Feb. 6.

Charlotte Catholic High School hosts Gala 2000

CHARLOTTE — The CCHS Foundation will host its annual gala and auction on February 26, 2000, from 7 p.m. until midnight at the new Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel.

Gala 2000, formerly called the Grand Prix Party, will feature dinner, dancing and an auction, to support Charlotte Catholic High School. Musical entertainment will be provided by "From the Top," a seven-piece orchestra.

At Gala 2000, you will enjoy all the southern hospitality Charlotte has to offer. Gala 2000 promises to make this year a memorable one. Join us in the Grand Ballroom at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, located at 2800 Coliseum Drive.

At this year's auction, there will be a variety of items up for bid, such as, fine jewelry, gift certificates to Charlotte's hottest restaurants and clubs, autographed memorabilia, golf packages, sporting event tickets and many others. There will be a silent and a live portion of the auction. The Foundation needs items that can be used in the auction. If you would like to donate an auction item, please call the CCHS Development Office at (704) 543-9118.

The winner of this year's Grand Spree London-Paris Holiday will be announced at Gala 2000. The Grand Spree trip includes seven days and six nights in London and Paris, round-trip World Traveler transatlantic airfare to London, round-trip airfare between London and Paris on British Airways, round-trip transportation between the airport and your hotel in each city, three nights hotel accommodations in both London and Paris, (including breakfast, tax and service charges), a three-day London Central Zone "Visitor Travelcard," a London Open Top Bus Tour and a Paris Open Top Bus Tour. Date of travel restrictions may apply.

Raffle tickets for the London-Paris holiday are just $5 each or $25 for six tickets and can be purchased by calling 704-543-9118. The winner of the 2000 Grand Spree London-Paris holiday will be announced the night of the gala. You need not be present to win.

All proceeds from the event will directly benefit students at Charlotte Catholic High School. The CCHS Foundation has previously funded uniforms for the marching band, technology needs, the Spring musicals and Fall plays, the automation of the library and many other educational demands that cannot be met through tuition alone. Order now, as tickets are limited. ♥

Tickets for Gala 2000 are $75 and can be purchased by calling the Charlotte Catholic High School Development Office at (704) 543-9118.

Book Review

Graham Joyce's "Indigo" full of rich, suspensful writing

Reviewed by JULIE ASHER
Catholic News Service

Graham Joyce's writing is rich, his descriptions powerful, and his story original, but "Indigo" is a bizarre, uncomfortable tale.

It opens with Jack Chambers traveling to Rome to wrap up the estate of his recently deceased father. He's accompanied by his half-sister, Louise, whom he barely knows, and her toddler, Billy.

Jack, an Englishman who is down on his luck (he's a bobby turned process server), never really knew his father, Timothy Chambers. Jack visited him at his Chicago apartment a couple of times but Timothy remained an enigma.

"Indigo"
By Graham Joyce
Pocket Books (New York, 1999)
258 pp., $23.95.

Now he's dead, and Jack has to follow his last wishes, including finding a publisher for Daddy's obscure tome, "Invisibility: A Manuscript of Light." Jack has to publish it to receive any money. The bulk of Chambers' estate is left to a woman named Natalie Shearer, and Jack has to find her.

That search takes Jack and Louise from Chicago to Rome, where their father had a house, between the Colosseum and the Appian Way. It's a strange trip.

Jack discovers his father was a madman, a cultlike figure who became fixated on how to become invisible, or, as he says, "the art of making oneself unseen." He also is obsessed with wanting to see the color indigo more clearly. Indigo is one of the seven primary colors, but supposedly is the most difficult for the naked eye to distinguish in the spectrum.

Timothy Chambers' dual obsessions are inventive. Joyce intersperses "excerpts" from the Chambers manuscript. Each one describes another step toward invisibility and seeing indigo. It's inventive, for sure, but weird and hard to grasp.

Billed as a thriller, the book is suspenseful. It is engrossing in parts as Jack follows a twisted trail around Rome to discover things about his father and ends up in some danger as he learns his father drew young artists into drugs, sex and mind games in hopes they would understand his invisibility quest.

Jack becomes attracted to one of the women his father knew and gets trapped in her world of sex and drugs. She lets him believe she is the Natalie he is seeking. She also is fascinated with the pagan festival Lupercalia and images of being a shewolf, which is really too much to take on top of the book's peculiar invisibility/indigo theme.

Finally, Jack rejects her weird ways, and he and Louise track down the real Natalie — in an asylum. She thinks she's invisible. Then Natalie disappears from the asylum, and Jack thinks maybe his father isn't really dead and has taken her away. He and Louise return to Chicago, and the task of publishing the manuscript.

There's more to the weird story of their father, including evidence he and his followers practiced "trepanning," a surgical procedure in which a small disc is cut out of the skull, perhaps to alter the brain. And there is the matter of how the father becomes obsessed with seeing indigo — it is spurred by seizures experienced by his second wife (Louise's mother).

The book is fast paced and one has to appreciate Joyce's colorful literary and imaginative style, but the story's fantastic nature is too much to buy. And the characters, while somewhat likable, have no moral dimension. ♥

Asher is national editor at CNS.

Word to Life

February 13, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

1) Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
2) 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
3) Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Three boys peer nervously across the cafeteria where, at a table by himself, the class geek, all bad hair and thick glasses and dirty hand-me-downs, eats his sandwich, sloppily. Even the most oblivious passerby recognizes him as a social pariah.

As the scene unfolds, Homer, one of the boys, rises and walks forward. The outcast is a brain, and Homer needs his help to realize his dream of building a working rocket and winning a scholarship.

His friends warn that he's committing social suicide. If he sits down with this hopeless nerd, the shame of his differentness, his poverty, his sorrow, will settle on Homer like a poisonous mist. He too will become an outcast.

This scene from the movie "October Sky" mirrors the thinking at work in the treatment of lepers during biblical times (and for centuries before and after). They were feared and reviled because their calamity was thought contagious by touch. Lepers had to tear their clothes and dishevel their hair and cover their faces and call out "unclean," so that no one might touch them accidentally and suffer the same fate.

When a leper kneels before him in this week's Gospel, no one would blame Jesus for taking a discreet step backward. No one would wonder had Jesus politely pretended not to notice and kept walking.

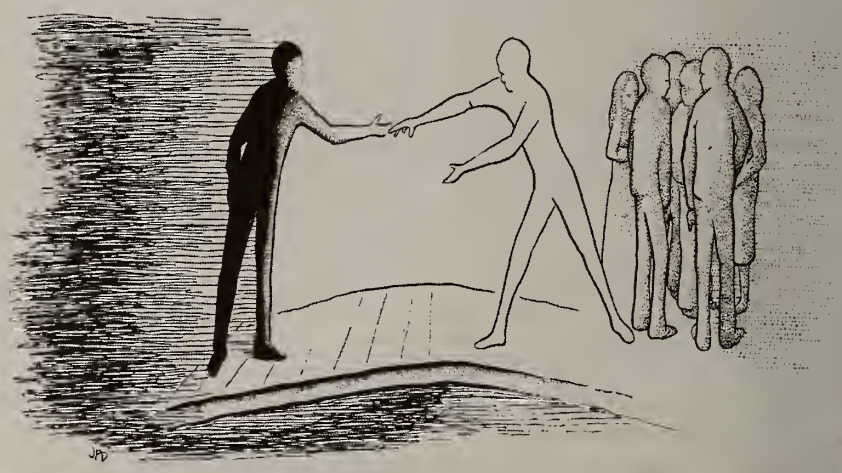
I dare say it's what most of us do today when "otherness" — as mental or physical illness or social class or skin color or any of a host of "deviations" from the social norm — confronts us with our own vulnerability, with the fragility of the acceptance and inclusion and approval we so need.

Fortunately for the leper — and challengingly for us — Jesus does not step away or pretend not to notice. He acknowledges and touches — his friends gasping in horror — the brother who yearns to belong.

Questions:

Who in your life has risked exclusion by touching you at a time of need? What is one concrete way you can include someone who suffers because of isolation?

"Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said: 'I do will it. Be cured"'
— Mark 1:41



Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 13 - 19, 2000

Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45; **Monday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius)**, James 1:1-11, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday**, James 1:12-18, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday**, James 1:19-27, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday (Seven Servite Founders)**, James 2:1-9, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday**, James 2:14-24, 26, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday**, James 3:1-10, Mark 9:2-13

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Epic drama "Titus" tells tale of Roman war hero and family

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A wronged mother avenges the death of her first-born son at the hands of a Roman war hero by bringing death and despair on the hero and his family in the epic drama "Titus" (Fox Searchlight Pictures).

"Titus"
The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Titus (Anthony Hopkins), Rome's finest general, returns victorious to his homeland with his Goth prisoners of war: Tamora (Jessica Lange), the queen of the Goths, and her three sons. He has lost all but four of his many sons in the war, and as reparation, he sacrifices Tamora's eldest son, right before her eyes. This begins the vicious cycle of bloody revenge.

In an unusual turn of events, Tamora finds herself the wife of the recently appointed emperor Saturninus (Alan Cumming). It is in this new position of power and with the help of her Moor servant and lover, Aaron (Harry Lennix), that she is able to make Titus pay dearly for the death of her son.

In a misguided rage, Titus kills one of his sons to protect the honor of Saturninus. Two of Titus' other sons are framed for the murder of his son-in-law (the emperor's brother) and beheaded. His only daughter is raped by Tamora's two sons, who cut out her tongue and shove twigs into the stumps where they have chopped off her hands. Lucius (Angus Macfadyen), the only son he has left, is exiled from Rome. And this is only part of the carnival of carnage in director Julie Taymor's "Titus."

Certainly not for the faint-hearted, Taymor's three-hour version of Shakespeare's first successful play is both visually scintillating and repulsive.

Watching the arms of Tamora's sons go slack after their throats are slit is jarring. A scene in which the emperor's court partakes in an orgy is also arresting. Revenge is painted so thickly that at times it can be nauseating.

But Shakespeare so eloquently expressed the effects of hatred sowed in the human heart that it is hard to escape how current his tale seems today, especially in light of the recent atrocities in Bosnia and Rwanda and the murderous high school rampages in the United States. And Taymor stays true to his words, reproducing a higher percentage of text than any other recent screen adaptation of his work.

Although this is a dark film, Taymor uses touches of humor mixed with modernism to lighten it. Tamora's sons, the punkish princes Demetrius (Matthew Rhys) and Chiron (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), live in a den that looks part MTV studio and part video arcade. Hanging on the wall of this dirty bachelor pad is a dart board with Titus' scarred picture in the center.

The stellar performances give the film's bloody audacity some balance. Lennix makes his Aaron seethe with contempt for the years of humiliation and prejudices his black skin has endured and presents a man in whom hate has only borne more hate.

It is a pity that Hopkins announced his plans to retire while still filming the picture because he gives one of his best performances as Titus. And Lange's passionate Tamora brings vengeance and loathing to an new height.

"Titus" is an unending descent of destruction culminating in a twisted banquet serving a "family" recipe. But even though the stunning visuals and key performances are engrossing, three intense hours of unavoidable gore may keep some viewers away.

Because of recurring graphic violence, several explicit sexual situations, and nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ♥

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Anthony Hopkins portrays Titus in the recent film adaptation of Shakespeare's early work.

Out on video

"Love Affair" (1994)

Sentimental remake of the 1939 "Love Affair" in which a couple (Warren Beatty and Annette Bening) have a shipboard romance though each is engaged to another, then plan to meet three months later to get married, until a tragic accident jeopardizes their future. Director Glenn Gordon Caron's sumptuous, postcard-pretty melodrama is sweetly old-fashioned in its execution though it ultimately disappoints as the lovers' characters are only superficially developed. Romantic complications and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Moonstruck" (1987)

Charming romantic comedy set in an Italian-American neighborhood in Brooklyn where a widow (Cher) accepts the proposal of a fastidious bachelor (Danny Aiello) but then falls in love with his darkly emotional younger brother (Nicolas Cage). Director Norman Jewison concentrates more on the comedy of character than on incident and the result is pleasantly amusing, emotionally operatic and humanly uplifting. Several sexually suggestive scenes but the movie's moral perspective is implicit throughout. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Muriel's Wedding" (1995)

Obsessed with fantasies of her wedding day, a young woman (Toni Collette) lacking self-esteem excitedly rushes into an arranged marriage, abandoning her wheelchair-bound roommate (Rachel Griffiths) in the process, only to come to her senses after a family tragedy. Despite the infectiously buoyant tone of the proceedings, Australian writer-director P.J. Hogan's giddy comedy-drama never digs deeply into the title character's development as a person until the undeserved feel-good ending. Discreet bedroom scenes, fleeting nudity and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Sabrina" (1995)

Gauzy romantic fantasy in which a workaholic billionaire (Harrison Ford) falls in love with his chauffeur's daughter (Julia Ormond) while trying to distract her from an infatuation with his engaged brother (Greg Kinnear). Director Sydney Pollack's long but lush remake of the 1954 Audrey Hepburn version is featherweight fluff laboriously plumped up with contrived romantic emotions. Fleeting violence and very mild sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope calls on U.S. leaders to use moral values to save democracy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an address delivered by his apostolic nuncio, Pope John Paul II told the National Prayer Breakfast Feb. 3 in Washington that people of faith with political authority bear a moral responsibility to save democracy from self-destruction.

"Democracy is our best opportunity to promote the values that will make the world a better place for everyone," said the pope. "But a society which exalts individual choice as the ultimate source of truth undermines the very foundations of democracy."

His address was delivered by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the apostolic nuncio to the United States.

The annual prayer breakfast draws thousands of people of all denominations from across the country. In addition to religious leaders, it typically is attended by the president and first lady, many members of Congress, the Cabinet, the judiciary, diplomats and state and local politicians.

The pope's remarks said that the vision of faith to which Christians are particularly called in this jubilee year has a public dimension, "for the deeper understanding of the truth about human nature and human fulfillment given to us by faith naturally inspires efforts to build a better and more humane world."

When economic and political systems fail to respect the spiritual nature of mankind, immense suffering results, as the last century shows, he said.

Those who believe in Christ have a moral responsibility to reflect his teachings in all areas of life, the pope's address said.

"The spread of a purely utilitarian approach to the great moral issues of public life points to the urgent need for a rigorous and reasoned public discourse about the moral norms that are the foundation of any just society," he said.

The pope noted that the United States was begun as an experiment in ordered freedom, "in which the exercise of individual freedom would contribute to the common good."

The American concept of separation of the institutions of church and state "was accompanied from the beginning of your republic by the conviction that strong religious faith, and the public expression of religiously informed judgments, contribute significantly to the moral health of the body politic."

In the Western democratic tradition, men and women in political life "are not mere brokers of power in a political process taking place in a vacuum, cut off from private and public morality," the pope's address said. "Your vocation as 'representatives' calls for vision, wisdom, a spirit of contemplation and a passion for justice and truth."

The pope said that in the United States, which has a heritage that has become synony-

See THE POPE SPEAKS, page 15

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

The living wage movement

The best of times for shareholders reveals still hard times for low wage workers. Great times for CEO pay scales show flat times for workers making minimum wage. A surplus for the federal budget masks the mounting indebtedness of low skilled workers. The mighty national economic engine has already roared out of the station pulling a train of unprecedented prosperity, while the working poor stand on the platform left behind.

The movement for a "living wage" addresses the widening income gap. Since 1994 ordinances passed in 42 cities and counties with proposals in 80 more mandate that private firms eligible for local government contracts pay their workers substantially more than the minimum wage. At $5.15 an hour set in 1997, the minimum wage means a gross annual wage of $10,712, well below the federal poverty guidelines of $16,000 for a family of four. Plainly put, businesses that benefit from public contracts should pay workers enough to keep them out of poverty.

The living-wage movement comes at a time when prosperity has highlighted social inequalities. Welfare reform in 1995 never intended to eliminate poverty, but simply to get people off welfare roles. Stories written about welfare-to-work show the working poor beaten by a system that continues to bloat CEO paychecks and by government contracts that reward corporations with pork. Of the welfare recipients who went from welfare in 1998 to work in 1999, only 28.8 percent earned above the federal poverty level of $14,500 for a family of three. Approximately 6 million single-parent families, mainly headed by women, survive on low-wage jobs.

For people of faith, a just wage addresses the injustice of the system. "Workers must be paid a wage which allows them to live a truly human life," writes John XXIII, summarizing the church's 20th century social teachings on wages. Trying to calculate a just wage in dollars and cents, however, posses a daunting task. Numerous variables cloud the calculations. Fr. John A. Ryan, a theologian focusing on economics, published his doctoral dissertation in 1906 as "A Living Wage: Its Ethical and Economic Aspects." After careful analyses of living expenses and social expectations, Ryan suggested a $600 a year minimum for a decent living wage in an American city. At the time, the average wage for urban workers remained only $571, so about 60 percent of America's industrial labor force fell below Ryan's proposed living wage.

Today, the U.S. Catholic bishops reflecting about the just wage include provisions common in the American economic system: "adequate health care, security for old age or disability, unemployment compensation, healthful working conditions, weekly rest, periodic holidays for recreation and leisure, and reasonable security against arbitrary dismissal." Many of these provisions, though not all, have become American law and form part of a worker's social wage. Yet, the list indicates what a modern economy expects for "a truly human life."

Orthodox economists argue that raising the minimum wage for businesses contracting with lo-

See ECONOMY OF FAITH, page 15

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Spirituality and world politics

Recently the Seattle police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at men and women protesting the practices of the World Trade Organization. The press, and the TV program "Sixty Minutes II," depicted all the protesters as wild anarchists who were bent on violence.

Not so!

The fact is that a broad coalition of sane, nonviolent protesters representing 70 nations came to the state of Washington to express their objection to the WTO's agenda. This organization represents big business interests, and has consistently put free trade above human rights, fair labor standards, environmental safeguards and public safety.

As a result there has been a worldwide ground swell of opposition.

I, for one, am not afraid of the globalization trend. It began in 1948 with the establishment of the United Nations. I also believe that free trade, if managed properly, will be a potential boon for the world's economy.

However, the WTO, in the five years of its existence, has managed to alienate people from every walk of life by attempting to sweep away any local laws that inhibit free trade.

What does all this mean to the ordinary citizen?

Mothers, for instance, have joined the protest because they are afraid that their children's health will be endangered by exposure to dangerous chemicals found in the food we import. Many countries drench their products in pesticides. We have laws regulating the food that comes into this country, but the WTO wants no restrictions on imports.

U.S. farmers oppose the WTO because they are afraid of going belly-up. They share with labor leaders a fear that they won't be able to compete with countries paying substandard wages to an exploited labor force. We already have seen mass firings as a result of NAFTA, which is our free trade agreement with those south of the border.

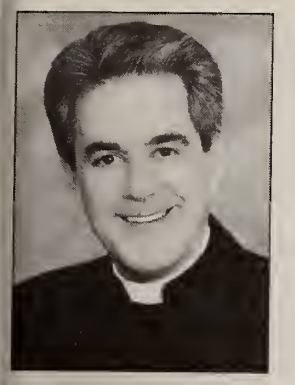
Many members of the clergy have seen the erosion of gains they made in the area of human rights and environmental protection. Even the Vatican has voiced its protest to some WTO practices.

After five years of frustration, it all came to a head. Representatives of 70 nations gathered to form an international coalition against the powerful cartel of multinational corporations. Big businesses operate internationally with no real system of checks and balances protecting the consumer. Without protests of some kind, their power will increase geometrically.

The WTO has shown a callous disregard toward those who oppose its goal of maximizing profits come hell or high water. In Seattle it caught a little bit of hell for it. I do not condone the violence of the small radical minority, but I am making a case for hundreds of protesters who came from all over the world to express their outrage.

Why am I writing about the WTO in a column dedicated to spirituality? Because spirituality can no longer be relegated to the level of private devotion, it must be part of our whole value system. Today, theologians and spiritual writers agree that spirituality involves the whole person. Your spirituality includes not only the way you pray and worship God, but also the way you think about money, politics and family.

We are all going to be judged on love. In view of this, we must all ask ourselves how Jesus would react to this situation. What would Jesus do?



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A death in the cathedral

An event took place a few weeks ago that was for me one of the most profound experiences of my twenty-nine years of priesthood.

It's been my privilege to offer Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City during the past four years. Dec. 8 was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day for Catholics celebrating Mary's unique place in God's plan of salvation. The Cathedral was full to capacity. Christmas shoppers, office workers, international travelers crowded into the pews or patiently stood along the side aisles.

The lector, music cantor and I had entered the sanctuary and were starting Mass when I noticed a couple in their 60s move from the aisle into a pew where a younger fellow made some room for them to sit. They captured my attention immediately because the older fellow beamed a broad grin and nodded cordially.

He saw me watching him and his wife settle in and eyed me apologetically — but I smiled sympathetically. It was one of those little moments when two people have a spontaneous, brief exchange of good will and warmth. The liturgy was proceeding when, just before the Gospel, a muted chorus of voices drew my attention back to where my new acquaintance had been sitting. Several faces turned to me in alarm and whispered all at once: "A doctor! A man here needs a doctor! Ask for a doctor! A doctor, now!"

At the pulpit, I leaned into the microphone and alerted the congregation: "A man is in distress. If there is a doctor here, please come forward." Several men and women moved toward him.

Sensing things would soon be under control, we continued the liturgy with a sung prayer leading to the Gospel. But, I had spoken only a few lines, when an usher came toward me, stood at my side, and said softly into my ear, "He's dead, Father. His wife is asking you to come to him and anoint him. Now."

There she was, in the midst of continuing efforts to revive her husband, summoning me to come. As I looked out to the congregation, I was struck by the silence. 3000 worshippers suspended in utter stillness and apprehension. If I had closed my eyes, I would have thought the Cathedral empty.

"I am going to tend to our friend here," I said. And in seconds, I had moved through the opening at the communion rail and knelt next to the motionless man, who only moments before had been smiling at me.

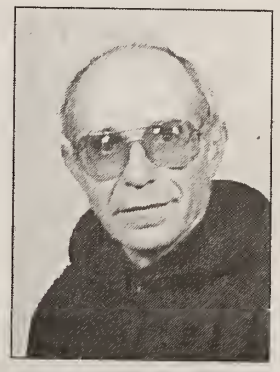
A fellow priest arrived with sacred oils for the anointing, so I stood to embrace the wife. She calmly explained that her husband and she were in New York celebrating their wedding anniversary. They had just finished seeing the Radio City Christmas Show and wanted to get to Saint Patrick's for Mass because it was there they had been married 43 years ago to the day.

And then she said, "Bless you, Father, and all these people who are trying to help. Bless you. My husband couldn't be in a better place."

Returning to the pulpit in the silent presence of all in that great Cathedral, my eyes searched the page for a place to resume the Gospel: "And Mary said: 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

No sermon was spoken. But, I know Mary's words of wholehearted acceptance of God's will had a profound meaning for us. Death and life, faith and hope, all come from God's loving hands.

Valentine's Day



FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP
Guest Columnist

Valentine's Day: Our love story lives on

Some years ago, the liturgical leaders of the Catholic Church decided to clean up the calendar of saints. They removed a number of pseudo-saints from the official roster of holy men and women. The existence of these people was founded more on imagination than on fact.

One such saint was the alleged but very popular Roman priest and martyr, St. Valentine, who was annually honored on the 14th day of February. The effort to remove the name of Valentine from our religious and secular vocabulary has not been very successful.

As a far as we know, there are at least three different St. Valentines — all of them martyrs — and they are mentioned in the early martyrologies on Feb. 14. One is described as a priest of Rome, another as bishop of Interamma (present Terni), and these two men seem both to have suffered in the second half of the third century and to have been buried on the Flaminian Way. The third Valentine was martyred in Africa with some companions, and nothing more is known.

Today, there is no longer an official liturgical commemoration of St. Valentine; however, eveybody knows that Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. If anyone thinks otherwise, just visit a greeting card shop. The awesome array of cards lavishly decorated with hearts and loaded with the language of love is not named after Romeo and Juliet. They are Valentine's cards, and nobody can tell us otherwise.

It is healthy, after all, to celebrate love in this year 2000, especially when the world stresses anger and fear; whereas God stresses love. Our culture, especially through the advertising media, conveys the message that our feelings and emotions are determined by circumstances. Are they? For example: Buy this car, and you will be happy. Buy this shampoo, and you will feel loved. The truth is that we can change shampoos and still feel lonely.

Perhaps, it is time to re-program our thinking. The old-fashioned way of love is still valid and new. "John 3:16" is not simply flashing on billboards; he is flashing in our hearts. The love story of Valentine may not be historically sound, but it is a powerful story that still fascinates young and old people, because it is our own love story.

The real love story begins with you and never ends. Love indeed has many hands:

Hands that reach
Hands that love
Hands that offer hope
Hands that feed
Hands that teach
Hands that heal
Hands that nurture
Hands that comfort.
How many hands do you have?

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The history of Christian marriage

Q. In connection with my responsibilities as a deacon, I'm requesting any information you might offer about the history of Christian marriage. Certainly the first converts to Christianity from among the pagans and Jews did not receive the sacrament of marriage as we know it today. My question is, When did the church establish matrimony as a sacrament? Why was this done?

A. In pre-Christian times, a "sacramentum" was the Latin term for a pledge of money, for example in lawsuits. Later it was the oath of loyalty to Roman officers and gods, taken by recruits for military service. This was the meaning of the word picked up by the early Christians for their primary ceremony of initiation.

When people committed themselves to a new life of holiness and service of Jesus Christ, baptism ritualized that commitment and at the same time was the channel of grace needed to become faithful Christians. Other sacraments later followed this understanding, each in its own way.

It was this understanding, that the sacraments are themselves sources of God's life and help, that kept marriage off the "official" list for many centuries. Marriage, particularly sexual intercourse, was widely accepted as necessary to alleviate sexual desire and to have children, but in itself it could not be a source of grace, since sexual desire and fulfillment, even in marriage, was always bad.

St. Augustine, who wrote more about marriage than any other early theologian, believed sexual relations were sinful, and anyone who engaged in them committed sin. "A man who is too ardent a lover of his wife," he taught, "is an adulterer, if the pleasure he finds in her is sought for its own sake" ("Against Julian," 2,7). For centuries this teaching made it difficult to assume that marriage is a sacrament.

The sacramentality of marriage, of course, was closely related to the church's involvement in the wedding ceremony. In early Christian centuries the church generally followed Roman marriage laws. A Christian marriage was simply one between two baptized persons who dedicated themselves to live their faith in Christ together.

By the year 400, some bishops and priests began to bestow a blessing to the couple, either the day before the marriage or at the festivities following the civil ceremony. The only Christians then actually bound to receive a church blessing of their marriages, by decree of Popes St. Siricius and St. Innocent I, were priests and deacons.

It took a long time before theologians could also acknowledge marriage as a sacrament, an authentic source of grace just as the other six sacraments. Augustine's concept that original sin was transmitted from parents to children by sexual intercourse remained strong.

From St. Thomas Aquinas onward, however, it increasingly was accepted that Christian marriage is a true sacrament, continuing throughout their life, and enabling husbands and wives to live and grow in a holy life together.

At last, the ecumenical councils of Florence (1439) and Trent (1563) listed marriage as one of the seven sacraments. According to Trent, the fathers, councils and tradition of the church "have always taught that marriage should be numbered among the sacraments."

Catholic teaching today contains many other profoundly rich biblical, theological and psychological insights on the sacrament of marriage. That marriage is a full-fledged sacrament, however, a source of divine grace for Christians in that vocation, remains of course the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.

Vatican reserves judgment on Austrian far-right party

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Amid European Union outcry over the inclusion of a far-right political party in Austria's new government, the Vatican reserved judgment.

"The Holy See does not have a tradition of pronouncing preventive judgments on people or programs," Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, said Feb. 3.

"When a government's plan is made known, then a judgment can be made," he said.

The only instance where the Vatican might intervene, said the cardinal, would be if governmental programs go "against Christian morality."

Austria's 14 partners in the European Union have all expressed grave concern over the inclusion of Joerg Haider's Freedom Party in the country's new coalition government.

Haider, whose comments playing down Nazi war crimes and expressing hostility to immigration have drawn widespread international criticism, will not be a member of the new Cabinet, but his party will boast six ministers.

The European Union said political sanctions against Austria would take effect Feb. 3.

Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna celebrated Mass Feb. 3, inviting all Austrians to pray for the good of the country.

In a Feb. 3 interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, Cardinal Giovanni Cheli, former president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, said while he was not familiar with Haider, the church condemned all racist ideologies.

"It's right that people oppose any policy that supports racism or xenophobia. But I am not the one to express an opinion on concrete means of intervention," he said.

"It is the responsibility of governments, which know more about the situation," said the cardinal. ♥

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Rabbis say they'll meet pope at Chief Rabbinate, not Western Wall

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II travels to the Holy Land, Israel's chief rabbis will meet with him at the Chief Rabbinate and not at the Western Wall, said a spokesman for the Chief Rabbinate.

"The pope has asked to meet with Jewish religious leaders, and so the place to meet with them is where the chief rabbis sit," said the spokesman.

"He has asked to meet with them, and they would like to welcome him in their home, and their home is at the Chief Rabbinate. If they were to go to the Vatican they would also come to greet the pope at the Vatican," he said.

Pope John Paul was scheduled to visit holy sites in Jordan, Israel and Palestinian territories March 20-26.

Jesuit Father Roberto Tucci, the main organizer of papal trips who was in Israel to coordinate the pope's schedule, could not be reached for comment on the location of the meeting of the pope and chief rabbis.

Earlier, the Vatican announced a planned papal meeting with Jewish religious leaders at the Western Wall, or Wailing Wall, the place most venerated by Jews.

Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, who represents Jews of East European descent, had welcomed a meeting with the pope at the Western Wall, saying that it symbolized a recognition of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem.

However, Chief Sephardic Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who represents Jews of Middle Eastern descent, disagreed and called for a meeting at the Chief Rabbinate.

News reports said Rabbi Bakshi-Doron brought the issue to Rabbi Lau's attention.

On Feb. 8 the chief rabbis said a meeting between the Jewish religious leaders and the pontiff at the outdoor plaza of the Western Wall would be demeaning, so the meeting should take place at the Chief Rabbinate.

Meanwhile, National Police Chief Yehuda Wilk, appointed to head the national control center overseeing the pope's visit, assembled representatives of the government and other bodies involved in the preparations to brief them on their responsibilities.

They discussed security and transportation of the papal entourage. A large contingent of police will be deployed for the operation, which has been code named "Operation Old Friend," and they will be joined by army personnel as well as internal security officers. ♥

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Director of Faith Formation: Growing 450-family parish in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for directing pre-K through high school faith formation process and oversight of RCIA process and adult formation. Includes oversight of volunteer coordinators of formation processes for baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, RCIA, and adult Bible Study. Also includes collaboration with parish Faith Formation Council. Strong people and communication skills a must, especially with middle and high school level youth. M.A. in religious education or theology, or equivalent education and experience required. Salary mid-30s, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Also diocesan benefits packages. Send resume and refcrences to: Search Committee, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614.

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Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry is desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

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The Pope Speaks, from page 12

mous with freedom itself, there is a burden for religious believers in public life to serve a "prophetic" function.

"As one who is personally grateful for what America did for the world in the darkest days of the 20th century, allow me to ask: Will America continue to inspire people to build a truly better world, a world in which freedom is ordered to truth and goodness?" said the pope.

"Or will America offer the example of a pseudo-freedom which, detached from the moral norms that give life direction and fruitfulness, turns in practice into a narrow and ultimately inhuman self-enslavement, one which smothers people's spirits and dissolves the foundations of social life?"

The pope said the world looks to the United States for leadership on "the great civil rights issue of our time," that of "cherishing every human life and in providing legal protection for all members of the human community, but especially those who are weakest and most vulnerable."

Also speaking at the prayer breakfast, President Clinton talked about the need for reconciliation among rival groups — from nations at war with each other to hate crimes committed within the United States.

Within Washington, "we often ... forget in the heat of political battle our common humanity," Clinton said. "We slip from honest difference, which is healthy, into dishonest demonization."

Appalachia Pastoral, from page 1

people, with the truth of Appalachia, with the living God."

Joe Holland, professor of philosophy and religion at St. Thomas University in Miami, delivered the keynote address of the anniversary celebration, in which he examined the contemporary state of Catholic social teaching.

"Catholic social teaching is today the core of Christian spirituality," Holland said. "Justice and peace are constitutive elements of the Gospel message."

Holland went on to say that "the Western, modern, bourgeois way of life is not sustainable." He noted that the self-sufficient communities of Appalachia are a model of lifestyle that can serve as an alternative to excessive consumerism.

"Some talk about a population problem among the poor," the bishops wrote in 1975. "There's an even bigger consumption problem among the rich."

Sister of St. Joseph Gretchen Shaffer said, "The letter is as true today as it was 25 years ago."

Todd Garland, executive director of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, pointed to the pastoral letter's easy-to-read, poetic style. "It's so meaningful and easy to read, that many people actually read this document again and again.

"Hardly a week goes by where we don't get calls for reprints of the letter. After 25 years, that's amazing," he added. "The voices still cry out to us, and urge us to continue our efforts for justice in Appalachia."

Michael Vincent, director of Catholic Community Services Southern Region in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, noted that "This Land is Home to Me" is a "pastoral of hope. It puts the reality of Appalachia out there, and moves us toward justice not only in economics, but in ecology as well."

Carol Warren, director of the diocesan Justice and Life Office, agrees. "In the coming century, our care for the earth may be the ultimate life issue," she said. "None of us will survive without food and clean water, commodities increasingly denied to the neediest among us."

Participants also discussed the 1995 pastoral "At Home in the Web of Life," a follow-up pastoral to "This Land is Home to Me."

In it the Appalachian bishops discussed the need for "sustainable communities," which would have their own permanent social and economic base in the region and be an alternative to outsiders coming in who see the area only as a source of cheap resources and labor.

The new message also stressed the abandonment of the people there in the post-industrial age and the pervasive attacks on the region's environment.

This is the cover of the 25th Anniversary Edition of "This Land is Home to Me," a pastoral letter on the Appalachia region written in 1975.

Vincent said the Appalachian pastorals have been instrumental in shaping social justice in Appalachia over the past quarter century, and that they will be "part of our spiritual geography for years to come." ♥

Economy of Faith, from page 12

cal governments makes small businesses unprofitable and hurts job opportunities for low skilled workers. Living-wage advocates cite recent studies showing that Los Angeles's $8.64 living wage increased total costs by only 1% to 1.5% for the affected businesses.

With CEO pay rising 36% in the last Business Week survey compared to a 2.7% increase for blue collar workers and no increase for the minimum wage earners, the living-wage advocates are arguing from the moral high ground. A living wage between $8 to $11 an hour approaches a just wage more closely than the anemic federal minimum wage some corporations are now paying the working poor.

Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

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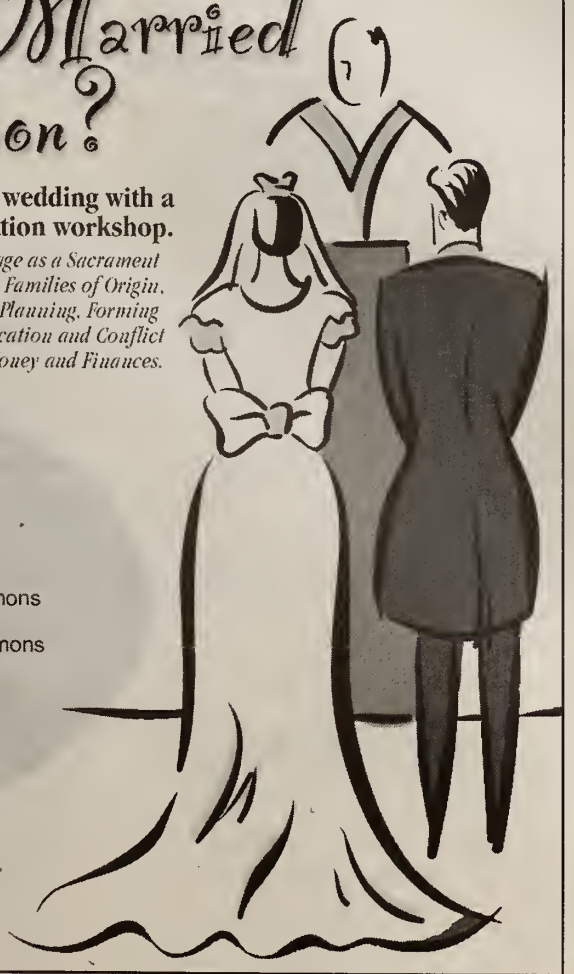

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No Regis or millions here, but plenty of blessings, religious ed

By JOSEPH YOUNG
Catholic News Service

ST. NICHOLAS, Minn. (CNS) — Channel surfers have lately been riding the wave of the popular prime-time television quiz show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" hosted by Regis Philbin.

The basement of St. Nicholas Church in St. Nicholas is no New York TV studio, and Philbin was nowhere near the church the evening of Jan. 26, but about 65 contestants were.

These contestants, however, were not your run-of-the-million quiz show contestants. They were fresh-faced seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders in the religious education program at Holy Cross Parish, Pearl Lake, and St. Nicholas Parish, which are in the St. Cloud Diocese.

Regis wasn't on hand to ask contestants, "Is that your final answer?" but a handful of the parishes' volunteer religious education teachers acted as Philbin fill-ins.

This staff — along with parish religious education coordinator Maureen Hieserich — planned the evening of quizzing for the youths by preparing 100-plus questions with a religious bent. For example, "What does Immanuel mean?" and "Who walked on the water to Jesus?"

For each one, contestants could choose an answer from four offered — one answer was correct and the three others bogus.

Students from each grade competed among themselves in a kind of simultaneous three-ring circus that was intense. Youths were placed in teams of three and four, all vying for, not money, but for the most fabulous prize of all — theological knowledge — in "Who Wants a Million Blessings?"

As a parting gift; all contestants received refreshments and a certificate for a pizza.

In the ninth-grade competition, teachers Matt Walz and Shirl Carlson grilled the team of Mitchell Braegelmann, Jennifer Kunkel and Steven Landwehr.

"Who is the patron saint of firemen?" Walz asked. "Is it St. Lucy, St. Florian, St. Stephen or St. James?"

"Of firemen?" Braegelmann asked incredulously. After consulting amongst themselves the team ventured a guess: "St. Stephen?"

"That's your final answer?" Walz asked, poker-faced. "Yes," they replied, their faces florid with hope. "No, the answer is St. Florian," he said apologetically.

Meanwhile, seventh-graders Amanda Krueger, Heather Anderson and Jessica Gully squirmed as pseudo-Regises Heidi Krippner, Sara Krippner and Leanne Donnay quizzed 'em about their wisdom.

"Which of the following is not a beatitude?" they were asked, and were given the choice of three beatitudes listed in Matthew's Gospel along with the subtly spurious "Blessed are they that starve, for they will be fed."

The girls, not really sure, used a "lifeline" — which is also an option on the TV show — and asked for help from a member of the audience. Luckily for them, Father John Caskey, pastor of the parishes who was moseying among the three classes, happened to be present and proffered the correct answer when asked.

"Are you positive?" Krueger asked, a doubt shadowing her brow. "One hundred percent," Father Caskey said confidently. The girls accepted the answer, and their doubts turned to shouts of triumph.

CNS PHOTO BY NEIL ANDERSEN, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

Tina Hennen quizzes her grandmother in a "lifeline" call during a game of "Who Wants a Million Blessings?" at St. Nicholas Church in St. Nicholas, Minn., Jan. 26. During the game-show spinoff, young people were presented with questions that tapped their knowledge of religion.

Tom Decker, a Rocori senior who emceed the eighth-graders competition along with Brenda Kunkel, said that "kids learn better when you make it fun for them, and you could tell they're having fun tonight working together and using teamwork."

Speaking of doubting, the question "Which disciple was known as a doubter?" stymied three eighth-graders — Tina Hennen, Monique Hieserich and Kelly Lochen.

So they took advantage of another form of lifeline — a telephone call for help. Hennen had warned her grandmother, Lorraine Hennen, who was waiting at home by the phone playing cribbage, that she might be getting a call.

"We asked her the question," said Tina Hennen, "and before we could even give her the multiple choices she blurted the right answer."

The telephone lifeline worked less successfully for ninth-graders Dane Inderrieden, Rodney Lutgen and Tim Krueger, who called their Rocori High School classmate Adam Hennen, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cold Spring, figuring he could help them with: "What did Jesus do at Jairus' home? Did he cure Jairus' daughter of leprosy? Of blindness? Did he bring her back to life? Or, did he cure Jairus' wife of a 12-day hemorrhage?"

"We didn't have a clue," Krueger admitted. Alas, neither did Hennen, who suggested to his friends that Jesus cured Jairus' daughter of leprosy, when he actually brought her back to life.

Tom Decker, a Rocori senior who emceed the eighth-graders competition along with Brenda Kunkel, said that "kids learn better when you make it fun for them, and you could tell they're having fun tonight working together and using teamwork."

"The kids are really excited," agreed Jim Norman, watching his seventh-grade daughter, Emily, earn a blessing or two with some correct answers. "Learning about religion while competing like on a game show — it's a great concept."

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 18, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 24

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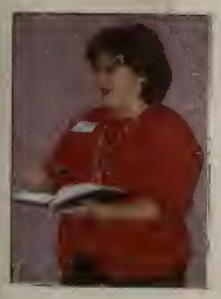

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The feast of the Chair of Peter is celebrated Feb. 22.

Family Center dedication

Photo by Joann S. Keane

St. Mark parish community celebrates new family center

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HUNTERSVILLE — A vision, a community and population growth beyond expectations. These are the key elements that — once combined — resulted in the formation of the diocese's newest parish, St. Mark.

On Feb. 12, St. Mark Family Center was dedicated with a standing-room gathering of nearly 900 parishioners, friends and members of the community at large. For the dedication Mass, Bishop William G. Curlin presided, with Msgr. Joseph Kerin, St. Mark pastor, and Father Peter Jugis, parochial vicar, concelebrating. Also concelebrating were Charlotte-area pastors Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann, Msgr. William Pharr, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, and Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral.

After just 30 months, St. Mark is making history as one of the fastest growing parishes in this and surrounding dioceses. In June 1997, St. Mark was established to serve a rapidly growing population in the north-

See FAMILY CENTER, PAGE 3

Msgr. Joseph Kerin observes Bishop William G. Curlin prepare the holy water used to bless the parishioners at the new St. Mark parish center. At left, he is assisted by Rev. Mr. Guy Piché as Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd looks on.

Western Regional CSS office expands, moves offices

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Sister Marie Frechette was searching the Internet. In rushed International Adoption social worker Carol Meyerriecks with the news that a large, century-old house, kitty-corner to the Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office in downtown Asheville, was for sale.

Sister Marie e-mailed the realtors, office manager Marie Bucher made an appointment and by that afternoon, a realtor was showing the staff the property.

"It was totally staff driven," said Sister Marie, a Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity and CSS Western Regional Office director, of the effort. In their small, current building, there was no more space for interns, no more space for grant proposals office space to write grant proposals, no more space for additional clients to be served.

Additionally, they couldn't expand their services to the fast-growing needs in the area. "We even had an office in a bathroom ... we had utilized every square inch of space," said Sister Marie.

A call went to Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte. Then the diocese sent Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, diocesan director of facilities. "Then we had to pray and wait for the diocese to make a decision," said Sister Marie.

On Jan. 4, 2000, the modernized,

See WESTERN CSS, PAGE 7

Catholic rural life group endorses Rally for Rural America

DES MOINES, Iowa (CNS) — The National Catholic Rural Life Conference has endorsed the Rally for Rural America, planned for March 20-21 in Washington. "Rural life is being left out of the economic prosperity" now being enjoyed by many Americans, said Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, the rural life conference's executive director, in a statement. "We'll be there in force, bishops, clergy, laity from across the country," Brother Andrews added. "This is the Great Jubilee; rural life is at the heart of the heritage of jubilee."

Guest worker bill said to take too much, give too little

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Senate bill addressing issues related to immigrant agricultural workers neglects critical needs and would make circumstances worse for employees, according to the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Migration Committee. In a letter to Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., argued that the Agricultural Job Opportunity Benefits and Security Act lowers the level of wages and eliminates benefits, such as requirements for certain employers to provide housing for immigrants allowed to work in the United States temporarily. Smith is the prime sponsor of the bill, which has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee. As of Feb. 15 it had not been scheduled for hearings.

Colombians meet with Vatican officials to gain support for peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Colombian delegation held talks at the Vatican as part of a European tour to gain support for the war-torn country's peace process. Msgr. Giorgio Lingua of the Vatican's Secretariat of State met Feb. 14 with Colombian government officials and members of the country's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym of FARC. "It was an informational meeting. We did not go into details," Msgr. Lingua told Catholic News Service Feb. 15. "The delegation believes the role of the Catholic Church is important," he said.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Vatican and PLO sign agreement on Jerusalem
Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat presents a gift to Pope John Paul II during their meeting at the Vatican Feb. 15. The Vatican and the Palestinian Liberation Organization signed an agreement saying both view any unilateral decision affecting Jerusalem's special character as morally and legally unacceptable.

Namibian religious leaders warn against spread of Angolan war

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Namibian religious leaders expressed concern over the government's increasing involvement in the conflict in neighboring Angola and stressed that the war be kept outside Namibia's borders. Nine members of the Council of Churches of Namibia, including Catholic Archbishop Bonifatius Haushiku of Windhoek, met with Namibian President Sam Nujoma in Windhoek in mid-February and stressed their concern that "everything be done to regain control" of Namibia's border with Angola "and to contain the spilling over of the war into Namibia." Nujoma repeatedly has affirmed his commitment to helping the Angolan government. The Namibian government recently gave Angola permission for its troops to cross its border too crush pockets of resistance.

Vatican clarifies status of secretly ordained in Czech Republic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said clandestinely ordained priests and bishops in the Czech Republic who have failed to reconcile with church authorities are forbidden to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. After several years of Vatican efforts to regularize those secretly ordained under communism — including more than 60 married priests — the time has come to clarify the status of those who have refused the Vatican's terms, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a statement released Feb. 14. "Difficulties remain and a clarifying discussion is requested," the statement said, without specifying when or where such a meeting would be held.

Report says hunger can be halved in 15 years

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new report from the Bread for the World Institute says world hunger can be cut in half over the next 15 years with the help of an extra U.S. contribution of $1 billion per year to nutrition programs. The trends in hunger eradication are promising, said the report, "A Program to End Hunger," released Feb. 10 by the institute, which works closely with Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' anti-hunger movement. "The proportion of hungry people in the developing world has dropped from one-third to less than one-fifth since 1970. The absolute number has also declined in spite of there being 2 billion more people to feed," it said. The number of hungry people was estimated at 791 million in 1997.

Vatican confirms beatification date for John XXIII, Pius IX

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has confirmed that Pope Pius IX and Pope John XXIII will be beatified in a Sept. 3 ceremony, along with three other churchmen. Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, made the announcement Feb. 7 as he presided at a memorial Mass on the anniversary of Pope Pius' death. Pope Pius, who reigned from 1846 to 1878, convoked the First Vatican Council, solemnly declared the dogma of Mary's Immaculate Conception and led the church during the rocky period in which the papacy lost its temporal control over Rome and the papal states. Pope John, pontiff from 1958 to 1963, convoked the Second Vatican Council and presided over its first sessions. He wrote the landmark social encyclical "Peace on Earth."

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 24 — 7 pm
Confirmation at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Mount Airy
February 26 — 10:30 am
Meeting with Women Religious Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
February 27 — 11 am
Confirmation at St. Mark Catholic Church, Huntersville
March 3 — 7:30 am
Knights of Malta Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
March 3 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Hispanic Center, Charlotte
March 4 — 11 am
Diaconal recommitment day
St Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

21 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd, is hosting Ellen Bartanzetti, the author of two books about Blessed Padre Pio, the 20th Century Capuchin stigmatist. Her talk and slide presentation, focusing on the life and works of Padre Pio, takes place tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Aquinas Hall. Call the church office for more information at (704) 549-1607.

22 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from St. Lawrence. Tonight's class focusing on St. Thomas Aquinas takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

23 CHARLOTTE — All families are invited to St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, for a Mass for those who have suffered a loss. The Mass is being celebrated tonight at 7:30 p.m. In order to have the name(s) of the deceased remembered during Mass and for further details, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

25 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting "Tales of Wonder," a musical production featuring all of the church's singing groups. Drama and dance are also part of the performance as they tell the Biblical stories through song and dance. There are two performances, one at 7:30 p.m. tonight and on Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 545-1224 for more details.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., is sponsoring a meeting for Catholic divorced, single moms tonight at 7:15 p.m. This serves as a time and place to

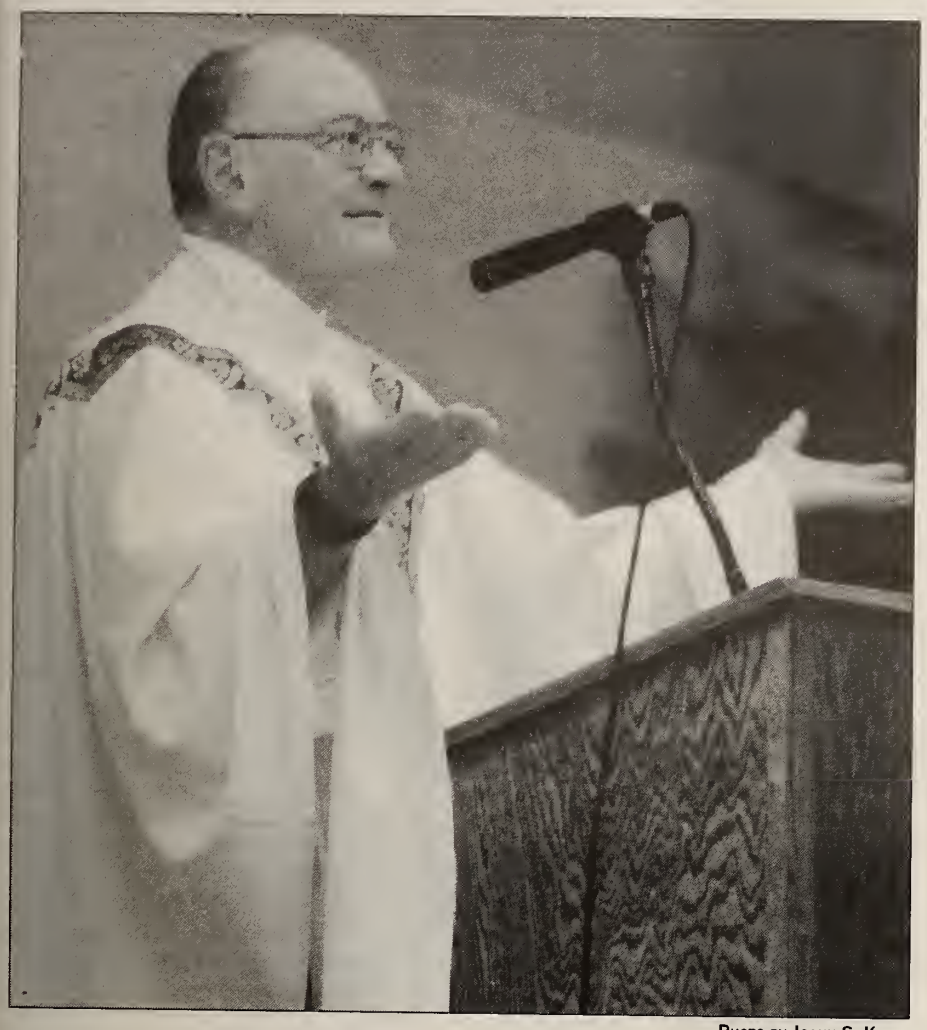

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Msgr. Joseph Kerin shared words of praise for the parishioners of the new family center of St. Mark parish.

Family Center dedication,
from page 1

western corner of Mecklenburg County. Two hundred and ninety one families signed up as charter members. Today, 1,204 families — more than 4,000 parishioners —constitute the St. Mark community.

Until Saturday's family center dedication, St. Mark was a parish family on the move. Beginning with Mass in a nearby bowling alley, moving into gymnasiums and with benevolent support of the ecumenical community, St. Mark has been a mobile community. "This was made possible through the graciousness of local churches and clergy in the area," said Msgr. Kerin.

"We were fortunate to have the clergy from our neighboring faith communities," said Pattie Fulford, chair of the parish's pastoral council. "They welcomed us into their churches, which gave us the space we needed for worship, education and fellowship."

"We had the benefit of starting our church without a facility," said Msgr. Kerin. "Instead of being a detriment, this allowed our parishioners to build a church of people instead of concentrating on bricks and mortar."

"It is powerful for a parish this large to feel that connected," said Fulford. With a roster of 1,200 families, Fulford adds, "That's a lot of people to feel connected as a family." However, the heart of the parish, she said, is its strong sense of community.

Now, 25,600 square feet in the form of a multipurpose facility will tether the community. And Msgr. Kerin expects the church population to grow another 50 percent by virtue of the building alone. The multipurpose building will be home for Mass, with a separate chapel, rooms for receptions and meetings, 15 classrooms, a youth room, a kitchen and five offices.

The Family Center is not a formal church building, stresses Msgr. Kerin. Rather, it is a building to host activities of the parish, including Mass. A formal sanctuary planned adjacent to the Family Center is expected to be built upon completion of the current debt.

St. Mark parish is located on 23 acres on Stumptown Road, near the intersection of Ranson Road in Huntersville. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

St. Mark's priest makes 50-year home in North Carolina

HUNTERSVILLE — It's ironic that what attracted Monsignor Joseph Kerin to North Carolina in 1953 was the fact that so few Catholics lived in the state.

Today, Kerin, 68, is pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church, one of the fastest-growing churches in the state.

Born in Scarsdale, N.Y., Kerin graduated from Niagara University in 1953 with a degree in business administration with an emphasis in management and accounting. After graduation, he began theological studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and was ordained a priest May 30, 1957 in Wilmington, N.C.

"I've been serving Catholics in North Carolina ever since," said Kerin. "I was originally attracted to the missionary character of the state and the scarcity of Catholics at the time. I remember hearing Bishop Waters of Raleigh say that there were less Catholics in North Carolina than in most foreign missions, less than 7/10ths of one percent."

Kerin has found his challenge. Since 1957, he has worked with Catholics throughout the state including heading a mission in Boone; as a teacher and a principal at Asheville Catholic High School; as pastor of St. John's in Tryon, Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte and Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem; and as rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Charlotte. He also participated in a special project on behalf of the Charlotte Diocese in Mexico City for nearly three years, and was Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte for seven years.

St. Mark is Kerin's second start-up parish. He also oversaw the beginnings of St. Matthew in Charlotte from 1986 until 1996.

Kerin sits back and smiles as he reflects back on his more than 40 years of serving North Carolina Catholics. "I've enjoyed every minute of it," he said. "I never had a moment's question in my mind about where I should be. I have been blessed by God in my work." ▼

share joys and sorrows, successes and challenges and questions and suggestions. On-site childcare is provided, so to reserve a space or share your story, call Betsy Strauss at (336) 885-5210.

26 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Adult Education Department presents "Journey into Lent 2000" today from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. This year's theme "Are there doors in my life that I have closed?" is being explored by Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The theme will cover "the doors to reconciliations, unresolved grief and new beginnings." Continental breakfast is being served, but please bring a bag lunch. For more information about registration, call Caryn Cusick, adult education coordinator, at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 276.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Catholic Engaged Encounter is a weekend retreat allowing couples preparing for marriage to concentrate exclusively on each other free of tensions and pressures. This weekend's retreat is being held at Winthrop University, 30 minutes south of Charlotte, today and tomorrow. For registration, directions and other information, call Dorothy Menze at (888) 310-8040 or (704) 364-6726.

27 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the new office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome to sit in and participate. For more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer/Dementia Support Group meets today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities are provided for the memory-impaired. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

March

1 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from St. Lawrence. Tonight's class focusing on St. Ignatius of Loyola takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Upcoming classes include St. Theresa of Avila on March 7 and St. Eusebius of Caesarea on March 15. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Support Group is for those living with cancer and their family and friends. Tonight's meeting takes place after Wednesday night dinner on the third floor of the ministry center, located at 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

WINSTON-SALEM — There is a pre-Lenten Taize service taking place this evening at 5:30 p.m. at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St. For further information, call (336) 722-0028. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

5 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Respect Life Committee hosts a rosary prayer session this afternoon at 3 p.m. in front of Our Lady's Grotto, located at 3016 Providence Rd. In case of rain, the session moves to the daily chapel. Call the church office at (704) 364-5431 for further details.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is holding a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 778-0600 for more details.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Census 2000: Everybody counts in diocesan census

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — With the focus on the new millennium and a new century, the arrival of another decade has become lost in the hype. After ten years pass, the U.S. Census takes place during the first 15 days of that April. Along with this year's national roll call of citizens and general information about their lives comes a census of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The number of registered Catholics in the diocese has grown seemingly overnight; however, the exact number is not known. The census will determine that figure based on questions about religion within a household.

"We now have estimates of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte based on what the parishes tell us, which is not always accurate, and we make the assumption that the Catholic population mirrors the general population based on household size," said George K. Cobb, diocesan director of planning, who will receive the information and process the results.

The Catholic census will coincide with the national census so that statistical methods can be used in order to build correlations between the general population and the Catholic population. Estimates can then be made from that data, which will be tested for accuracy and completeness, explained Cobb.

The reasons for the Catholic census include having an accurate portrait of the diocese, concerning ethnic make-up, number of people, household size and other areas and providing accurate future estimates of that portrait. The census will also provide parishes and the diocese with basic information for long-term planning and grant applications and will answer specific questions that the laity and the Church hierarchy want to know, said Cobb.

Simple information about each member of the household is needed: age, marital status, ethnicity, sacraments received, religion, if not Catholic, education level and occupation, if available.

Cobb stressed, "The information given to the diocese will remain confidential and will be reported as totals, not on an individual basis. People should feel comfortable about supplying honest answers to the questions because we are not asking anything of an overly confidential nature."

"The purpose is to census is learn how we are similar or different from the general population - not to intrude on the privacy of our parishioners," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor. "After the initial responses are entered and checked, the names of the respondents will be removed from the census database to preserve privacy."

The churches are doing most of the work by gathering the information about their parishioners already in their databases. Parishes with 300 families or less are submitting paper forms.

There are high numbers of people who attend church who are not registered in a particular parish. More work in gathering the unregistered population numbers, especially in the Hispanic community, needs to be done, said Cobb.

"Current estimates show that the number of unregistered Hispanic households will equal the total number of registered households in the future," continued Cobb.

"We have no clear understanding of the ethnicity of Catholicism in the diocese," he said. "We are increasingly becoming a multi-ethnic diocese, and the census will allow the Church to become more responsive to the minority population."

"This Catholic census will give us information needed for our parishes and the diocese to plan well into the next decade," said Father West. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Korean-American Sharing Event

Arden parish celebrates with multicultural event

ARDEN — The church was filled with beaming faces, colorful silk gowns embroidered with flowers, dancing and plenty of food. It may sound like the scene of a wedding celebration — but, in fact, it was the Korean-American Sharing Event at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Feb. 5.

Using the occasion of the Lunar New Year, the parish community of St. Barnabas celebrated the rich heritage of their Korean parishioners by incorporating Korean-language prayers and readings into the Sunday liturgy, offering an orientation for other parishioners on the Korean culture. Sister Theresa Mangieri led a dialogue for Korean members

The event culminated with a presentation by members of the Korean community on their customs, a Korean dance and a potluck dinner featuring all the cultures represented by those in attendance.

It is the custom for Koreans to go from house to house on the New Year to offer a blessing to the elders of each family. In addition to demonstrating this custom for parishioners, the Korean community honored the pastor of the parish, Father Roger Arnsparger, as "father of the St. Barnabas family" by presenting him with a gift.

The featured speaker for the vent was Sister Anna Boland, a Maryknoll sister who has served in Korea for 30 years. Sister Anna had several in-service sessions with lay leadership and staff to help them understand some of the misunderstandings possible when two cultures come together.

The event was one of several programs throughout the diocese this year supported in part by grants from Catholic Relief Services from funds collected from Operation Rice bowl.

Based on the concept of mutuality, this effort was designed to show how important this small group of Korean families is to parish life, and how important it is for the larger faith community to support and reach out to them.

As a result of the increased communication, a growing trust and a mutual dependence between the two groups, members of the parish community who speak English as a first language will be trained and become tutors for those learning English as a second language. Parish leaders note that many Korean Catholics end up in other churches because the language barrier is so difficult to overcome.

Parish leaders hope that a natural outreach to other Korean Catholics in the Asheville area will occur. ▼

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Encuentro 2000 will include multiethnic array of speakers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The speakers at the upcoming Encuentro 2000, the celebration of the jubilee year for the church in the United States, are Hispanic, African-American, Vietnamese, Native American, Jamaican and Latin American.

The speakers' list was announced Feb. 7 by Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, chairman of the event which is slated for July 6-9 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Encuentro 2000 will draw participants from around the nation to look at their experience as Catholics and seek ways to improve the acceptance of the many cultures which make up the U.S. church today.

Encuentro 2000 will draw participants from around the nation to look at their experience as Catholics and seek ways to improve the acceptance of the many cultures which make up the U.S. church today.

Previous Encuentro meetings have focused on Hispanics in the church, but for the jubilee year 2000 the bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs is seeking to broaden the event by inviting representatives of all groups.

Encuentro 2000 speakers include:

— Archbishop Francois X. Nguyen Van Thuan, a Vietnamese bishop and president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

— Georgiana Sanchez, lecturer in American Indian studies at California State University Long Beach. Sanchez, a member of the Chumash Nation, is a storyteller and nationally published writer.

— Msgr. Raymond East, a nationally known African-American revivalist and pastor of Nativity Parish in Washington. He has been active in encouraging interfaith efforts in the District of Columbia.

— Sister Marie Chin, president of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She is a native of Jamaica and a popular speaker who has worked in educational and retreat programs throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

— Mercy Sister Carolee Chanona, native of Belize and coordinator of small Christian communities in the Diocese of Belize City-Belmopan.

— The Rev. David Beckmann, a Lutheran minister, economist and president of Bread for the World, a nationwide Christian citizens' movement whose members seek justice for hungry people through lobbying efforts. He is author of "Friday Morning Reflections at the World Bank" and coauthor of "Transforming the Politics of Hunger."

— Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Gregory holds a doctorate in sacred liturgy and has written extensively on liturgical issues, especially in the African-American community.

— Kathy McGinnis, co-founder with her husband of the Institute for Peace and Justice, an interfaith, nonprofit organization based in St. Louis and working to respond to violence rooted in war, racism and global economic injustice. She is also co-founder of a spinoff organization called Parenting for Peace and Justice. She will be speaking with her daughter Theresa.

— Father Mario Vizcaino, executive director of the Southeast Pastoral Institute in Miami, one of the nation's eight regional offices for Hispanic ministry.

"The many faces in God's house at Encuentro 2000 will show dramatically the picture of the church in the United States," said Bishop Zavala. "With their history of immigration, the United States and the church therein are microcosms of the world.

"Our example of many living together as one can become a profound message to go beyond our borders," he added. "Peace begins with understanding one another and that develops as we share our concerns and feel in our hearts that what we have in common binds us. The events during the four-day Encuentro will highlight that reality."

In addition to major addresses, Encuentro 2000 activities will include liturgies, workshops, an international food festival, music and dances by various ethnic groups and other celebrations to highlight the many faces of the church. ▼

More information on Encuentro 2000 can be found on-line at www.Encuentro2000.org or by calling (202) 541-3413.

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Column on weddings in diocesan paper fills Ann Landers' mailbox

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — An Ohio bishop's column on how priests struggle with many aspects of modern wedding preparations created a firestorm in Ann Landers' advice column when she printed a letter about the issue, then invited clergy to share their views. The original column that sparked the reaction was by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Youngstown. Writing last May in his "Without A Doubt" column in his diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Exponent, he pointed out that many priests are not happy with the secular practices surrounding wedding ceremonies and receptions.

POW bracelet links nun to presidential candidate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Mary Leanne Leszczynski doesn't consider herself a political activist. But there she was on stage with U.S. Sen. John McCain Feb. 7 during a presidential campaign rally outside Detroit. It turns out the Catholic high school principal, who never met McCain before, had something very personal for him. She presented him with a metal bracelet engraved with his name and the date he was captured in the Vietnam War. She had worn it every day for nearly four years while praying for his release.

U.S. moral theologian Father Richard McCormick dies

CLARKSTON, Mich. (CNS) — Jesuit Father Richard A. McCormick, 77, a leading U.S. Catholic moral theologian of the 20th century, died of respiratory failure Feb. 12. Following a severe stroke last June he had moved to the Colombiere Center, a Jesuit retirement and health care center in Clarkston. He was to be buried Feb. 17 at Calvary Cemetery in Toledo, Ohio, his hometown, after a funeral Mass at Gesu Church there. A specialist in medical ethics, from the 1960s through the 1980s Father McCormick was one of the key figures in scores of far-reaching ethical debates over new medical technology, especially in the genetic, reproductive and end-of-life areas.

CNS PHOTO BY STEPHEN STEELE

86 arrested in protest of Iraq sanctions

A police officer escorts Catholic Worker Katie Krolczyk, holding a picture of an Iraqi child, away from the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York Feb. 14. Police arrested 86 demonstrators who were urging an end to economic sanctions against Iraq.

Prelate known for ARCIC work named Westminster archbishop

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor has been appointed archbishop of Westminster, succeeding the late Cardinal George Basil Hume. The appointment was announced Feb. 15 at Archbishop's House, Westminster. It ended months of speculation following the death of Cardinal Hume in June. Archbishop Murphy-O'Connor, 67, has been bishop of Arundel and Brighton since November 1977. He was once described by the weekly Catholic magazine The Tablet as "everyone's favorite bishop: human, genial, collaborative, imposing." He is known in his diocese and beyond as "Bishop Cormac."

Muslim, Jewish leaders say pope should repent in Holy Land

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Two religious leaders — one Muslim, one Jewish — said Pope John Paul II's visit to the Holy Land should be an opportunity to repent for the Catholic Church's past wrongs. In a February colloquium sponsored by Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn., and The Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions in Jerusalem, Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen of Haifa, Israel, said the papal visit should be used to "repair and repent from age-long preaching of hatred" by Christians against Jews, he said. Ibrahim Sarsur, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, said he would like the pope to use his visit to apologize to the Muslims of the area for wrongs of the past.

Archbishop hails journalists' soul-searching after AOL merger

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican's top media official hailed evidence of professional soul-searching by many U.S. journalists after the announced merger of America Online and Time Warner. Given the media's huge impact in shaping public opinion, all press organs must continually ask themselves about the objectivity of their reporting, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Objectivity is a "question which is always important, but which becomes even more critical as the concentration of power in the media becomes ever greater," he said. The archbishop made his remarks Feb. 4 to the Croatian Association of Catholic Journalists meeting in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. His speech text was distributed to journalists in Rome.

Vatican demands return of Congolese archbishop to archdiocese

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the return of a Congolese archbishop to his archdiocese, calling rebel authorities' refusal to let him travel home a "a grave violation that painfully injures all Catholics." The pope made his remarks following his Feb. 16 weekly general audience. He appealed for an end to Congo's civil war and prayed that Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko of Bukavu, Congo, "would return quickly to the flock that has been entrusted to him." Archbishop Kataliko was on his way home from the capital, Kinshasa, Feb. 12 when members of the rebel group Congolese Rally for Democracy seized him and sent him to Butembo, his childhood home. He remained under house arrest. A Feb. 14 Vatican statement said, "The faithful of the diocese ask with grief-stricken insistence for the return of their pastor, who has been especially appreciated for his apostolic courage in defending the rights of all people.

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Western Regional CSS Office Expands, from page 1

15-room house was purchased. It was the opportunity they had been waiting for: to expand services, to provide other diocesan offices in the west, to access much-needed parking.

Much scrambling ensued: painting, repair, creation of four walls for three new offices, carpeting, a new phone system. The CSS staff, volunteers and painters are currently working evenings and weekends to beat the March 1 date when they have to vacate their current house.

"We've had so many answered prayers," said Sister Marie. "Literal ones, like locks suddenly working, phone calls coming at the right moment."

The diocesan chancery envisioned this new acquisition of property at 50 Orange Street as a "virtual Pastoral Center West," to better meet the needs of the people in western North Carolina, Sister Marie said.

The Diocesan Support Appeal supplies substantial funding to the CSS Western Regional Office, said Sister Marie. "Last year we received $163,000 dollars — about 45 percent of our operating budget," she noted. "Without this money, we would be sorely strapped to meet the burgeoning needs of the people in this area. We realize that the amount we receive is greater than what we would get in most other dioceses."

CSS provides four main areas of service: sliding-scale counseling for families and individuals; Immigration and Hispanic Services; Adoption/Pregnancy Support; and the Christmas Program.

Counseling

Counseling for families, individuals, couples and marriage is a growing area, said Sister Marie. "There is a lack of affordable counseling in this area, since several major organizations have closed their doors," she said. CSS provides a sliding-scale fee for those needing counseling who want to make changes in their lives. These needs might be for families in developmental crisis, separation/divorce, teen crises, empty nest syndrome, grief, and so on.

Immigration/Hispanic Services

Immigration/Hispanic Services provides for people of any nationality desiring assistance with immigration papers, green cards, naturalization and permanent residency and reunification of families. There is an emphasis on the Hispanic population, since the Diocese of Charlotte has the fastest growing number of Hispanic people in the nation.

CSS has submitted a grant proposal to the United Way in Buncombe County for a case manager to help Hispanics interface with the business community and with consumer society in WNC. This includes such basic social service skills as helping Hispanics deal with auto repair or product guarantees. "In a sense, (we are) a consumer advocate," said Sister Marie.

Adoption/Pregnancy Support

Adoption/Pregnancy Support has two main areas: International Adoption, which currently places infants and older children from Russia and China; and Domestic Adoption, which places infants within the Charlotte Diocese and assists birth parents with pregnancy concerns.

PHOTO BY DIANNE RIGGE

Jerry Tudela, Sister Marie Frechette, and Marie Bucher prepare the new facility of Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office in Asheville.

Recently, CSS sent workers to Vietnam to investigate the possibilities of adoption from that nation. "We can take referrals for the whole USA," said Sister Marie.

An increasing number of requests come from couples who find themselves with an unexpected pregnancy, said Sister Marie, noting that "we are a Respect Life agency."

Christmas Program

The office's Christmas Program provides selective resources assistance during Advent.

"Our hope is that this base here in Asheville will allow us to give services to a larger area of people — something like a home base," said Sister Marie. "We would like to be able to expand to the west and be visible in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate." CSS would like to be more sensitive to the needs and be more creative with funding sources to meet the needs in out-lying areas, she added.

Sister Marie also envisions the development of volunteer assistance to free up office manager Bucher to address the concerns of the mission as an agency. "We have many generous people who often want to volunteer their time and talent," she said.

The CSS Mission Statement, approved in 1996, is one the Western Regional Office strives to live:

"Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc., 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." ▼

Catholic Social Services is among the 35 ministries and agencies receiving funds from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

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House approves Congressional Gold Medal for Cardinal O'Connor

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With just one dissenting vote, the House voted Feb. 15 to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor "in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain and a humanitarian."

In bringing the measure to a vote, Rep. Vito Fossella, R-N.Y., lauded Cardinal O'Connor for his commitment to education for all, his care for the sick, elderly and disabled, his involvement in interfaith understanding and his long career as a Navy chaplain, bishop and archbishop.

Senate approval and the president's signature are necessary before the medal may be awarded.

Cardinal O'Connor, 80, was praised by members of the House for his pro-life activities, his contributions to the Irish peace process and his sense of humor.

Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., said Cardinal O'Connor is "a good and holy priest who radiates Christ and the healing power of God to believers and nonbelievers alike."

Smith praised the cardinal for working "tirelessly and effectively to bring an end to the culture of death."

Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., said in recognizing Cardinal O'Connor with the Congressional Gold Medal, the House honored "all those men and women who each day put their faith into action."

The same day, the House also approved a measure to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal on the late Charles M. Schulz, the cartoonist who created the comic strip "Peanuts."

In both votes, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, cast the lone dissenting vote.

Paul said in a statement about the vote that he opposed spending $30,000 for such a medal.

"Appropriating $30,000 of taxpayer money is neither constitutional nor, in the spirit of Cardinal O'Connor, who dedicates his life to voluntary and charitable work, particularly humanitarian," the statement said.

Paul said he invited colleagues who asked for his vote to match his contribution of $100 toward the cost of the medal.

"To me, it seemed a particularly good opportunity to demonstrate one's genuine convictions by spending one's own money rather than that of the taxpayers, who remain free to contribute at their own discretion to the work of Cardinal O'Connor as they have consistently done in the past," Paul said. None of the members he approached took him up on his offer.

In 1997, Mother Teresa received a Congressional Gold Medal. And one has been approved but not yet awarded to Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame.

President Clinton in December signed the law authorizing the honor for Father Hesburgh. That medal is likely to be presented in an early summer ceremony, said Chris Mehl, spokesman for Rep. Tim Roemer, D-Ind., who sponsored the legislation to honor Father Hesburgh.

Mehl said it typically takes about six months to design the individual gold medals and have them cast.

There have been times when the recipient is honored before the medal is ready, however. Mother Teresa attended a June 1997 ceremony honoring her with the gold medal within weeks of the bill's approval. Her medal was presented to the Missionaries of Charity in September 1998, about a year after her death.

In the past, some medal awards ceremonies have been held in the Capital Rotunda, and others at the White House. Mehl said secondary presentations near the recipient's home also are common and that Father Hesburgh would probably have one at Notre Dame.

In addition to the legislation for Cardinal O'Connor and Schulz, bills have been introduced that would bestow gold medals on Pope John Paul II and a wide range of Americans.

Possible recipients include: the Apollo 11 astronauts; Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; 1960 Olympics three-time gold medal-winner Wilma Rudolph; civil rights activists Jesse Jackson and Rosa Parks; former Presidents Reagan and Ford and their wives; and John Walsh, victims' rights advocate and host of the TV show "America's Most Wanted.

Some of those bills have languished more than a year without action. The House bill to honor Cardinal O'Connor was introduced Jan. 31. Both House and Senate versions of the bill honoring Schulz were introduced Feb. 10, two days before his death and three days before his last original "Peanuts" strip ran in Sunday newspapers. ▼

CNS FILE PHOTO

Cardinal John O'Connor of New York was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the House on Feb. 14. Senate approval and the president's signature are necessary before the medal may be awarded.

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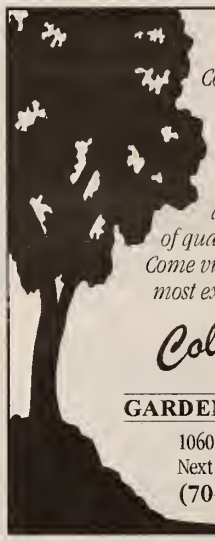

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Sick treated to musical festival at Vatican for jubilee event

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall was transformed into a concert stage as artists from all over the world donated their time and talent to the Jubilee for the Sick and Health Care Workers.

Between performances from artists like Australian actress, singer and breast cancer survivor Olivia Newton-John and 92-year-old Cuban jazz sensation Compay Segundo, thousands of pilgrims listened attentively Feb. 12 to testimonials of spiritual triumph in the midst of physical pain.

U.S. volleyball player Kirk Kilgour, who led an Italian team to the country's national championship in 1975, said the 1976 accident that left him paralyzed changed his life forever.

"I found out very quickly that as an athlete everything I did was physical," he said.

"But I learned quickly that my arms and legs were not important. It was the mind that made me a man," Kilgour said to thunderous applause from the audience.

Andrea, an Italian boy from Naples who has spent much of his young life in hospitals, recounted his admiration for Gian Luigi Buffon, the Italian national soccer team's goalkeeper.

No sooner had Andrea pronounced Buffon's name than the soccer star walked on stage, carrying an official team jersey and ball for the 9-year-old boy.

While Buffon was unable to stay long due to a big match the following day, he said he would not have missed the concert for anything.

"Faced with certain human issues, I think soccer can move into second place," Buffon said.

The concert was broadcast live in Italy on state television and around the world via satellite.

Earlier in the day, jubilee celebrations brought the sick to the Colosseum.

Once the site of bloody Christian sacrifice, the ancient Roman amphitheater was transformed into a symbol of hope.

Organizers rendered the Colosseum handicapped-accessible for the first time to allow wheelchair-bound pilgrims to take part in a Stations of the Cross service.

The previous evening, a torchlight Marian procession illuminated Via della Conciliazione, the street leading from the Tiber River to St. Peter's Basilica.

More than 60,000 people, including 4,000 sick pilgrims, thronged St. Peter's Square, each holding a candle and a copy of the Gospel of Luke, for prayers in several languages.

Enormous television screens in the square showed a simultaneous procession at the French Marian sanctuary at Lourdes.

At the end of the service, Pope John Paul II blessed the crowd from the window of his private apartment and asked that Mary, "health of the infirm," might make the Holy Year a true year of grace.

The pope concluded the three days of celebrations for the sick and health care workers Feb. 13 at his weekly Angelus.

Before reciting the Marian prayer, he said sickness helped all people to understand human fragility and the desire for healing.

In Christ, said the pope, suffering acquires meaning.

"Sickness does not cease to be a trial, but it becomes illuminated by hope," he said.

Earlier in the celebrations, at an outdoor Mass in St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul told 35,000 faithful — including 4,000 sick pilgrims — that Christ's incarnation gave meaning to suffering, so that "pain, illuminated by faith, becomes the source of hope and salvation.

"We cannot pass by in front of those who are sick. We must stop, bow down before their infirmity and generously share in it, thus lightening its burden and difficulties," said the pope. ▼

"We cannot pass by in front of those who are sick. We must stop, bow down before their infirmity and generously share in it, thus lightening its burden and difficulties." — Pope John Paul II

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A nun comforts a sick man in St. Peter's Square during a special Holy Year service Feb. 11. Pope John Paul II presided over a Mass that drew some 35,000 ill people and caregivers.

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Book Review

Plot, character appeal in Patterson's latest, but little else

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

Although he impregnates his girlfriend in a moment of mutual exuberance — demonstrating anew that sex sometimes has untoward consequences — senior homicide detective Alex Cross, the creation of the best-selling author James Patterson, again comes across as an appealing character in his latest foray against crime in Washington, D.C., the main setting for "Pop Goes the Weasel" (Little, Brown and Co., $26.95).

A caring 41-year-old former psychologist who, despite his age, "looks like a young Muhammad Ali," Cross calms crying babies, volunteers weekly at a parish soup kitchen, takes bus loads of inner-city boys to visit their imprisoned dads, and dotes on his own two children, left motherless when his wife was murdered — although why he would want to give boxing lessons to his daughter is beyond me.

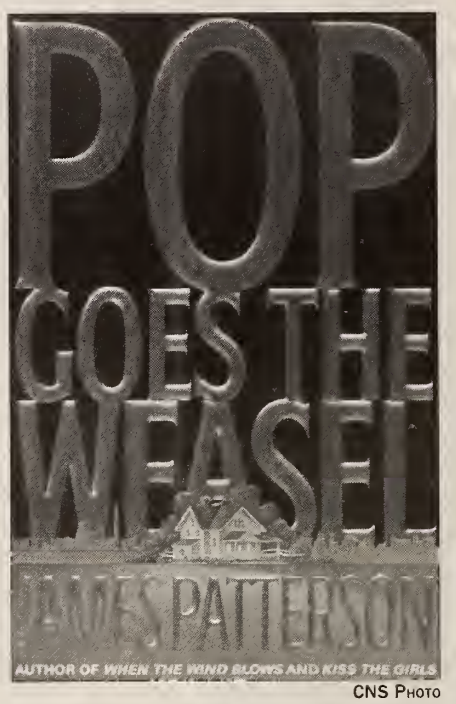
I mention all this out of a compulsion to say something positive about "Pop Goes the Weasel" other than the fact that, at its core, the plot device is a clever one. However, once you get past the character of Alex Cross, there is not much left to be positive about if you discount the fact that reading the book doesn't consume an undue amount of time.

"Pop Goes the Weasel" is Patterson's 12th — and possibly his worst — book. At least I hope he hasn't written anything worse than this because "Pop Goes the Weasel" is poorly written and poorly developed.

The dialogue is trite, descriptive passages are isolated and barren, the style is woeful, characterizations are perfunctory, inconsistent behavior is almost pandemic and events, as often as not, defy our sense of the rightness of things.

Is there, for instance, a court anywhere that would permit a clown to be called under one name but testify in full regalia as Silly Billy, or allow a defendant to make speeches in lieu of answering questions: Has television so corrupted our sense of the real that we are able to give credence to such silliness?

As for the plot, it revolves around an ongoing murderous fantasy game,



CNS Photo

"The Four Horsemen" (think in terms of "Dungeons and Dragons" with the victims being unsuspecting real people), played by British agents, some retired and yearning for the excitement of being assassins again, with the play of each being dictated by a roll of the dice.

Death, the chief player (others are Conqueror, War and Famine), is in reality Geoffrey Shafer, a psychotic now working out of the British Embassy in Washington. The head of a family he loathes, Shafer is the Weasel of the title.

This is not giving anything away because Shafer/Death is identified by Patterson right at the start when he notifies his fellow players that "death is on the loose in Washington, the game is on," then slashes the throat of a prostitute.

So this is not a whodunit because we immediately know who done it. Rather, it is a prolonged chase with the question being whether Death will be brought to justice before Washington is depopulated. Well, he is. Or he isn't. Or is he? Aye, there's the rub, as an old English hand at crime-and-punishment writing once put it in a quite different life-and-death context.

See POP GOES THE WEASEL, page 15

Word to Life

February 20, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25
Psalm 41:2-5, 13-14
2) 2 Corinthians 1:18-22
3) Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

The Gospel story this week is about Jesus healing a crippled man whose determined friends lower him through the roof. I can no longer read this story without remembering the day I picked up my son Mark at school for his regular appointment with his orthopedic physician.

Our fondest dream was of the day when a doctor would say Mark could walk out of his office in freedom, unencumbered by his foot-to-hip leg brace and built-up shoe. During our drive we assured each other we would not be utterly disappointed this time if the answer to our hopes and prayers was once again "not yet."

The summer before Mark entered the first grade he had begun to experience excruciating pain in one leg and hip. An X-ray revealed a serious, progressive and painful deterioration of the head of the femur.

My fearless, rambunctious child was not only entering the first grade, but also a world of pain, limitations and ever-curious stares.

Our original physician had predicted Mark would be in his brace for 18 months. Four and one-half years had elapsed, almost half a lifetime for a child of 11, before we were seated in the crowded warmth of the waiting room on a snowy December afternoon.

In the examining room we watched as more snowflakes swirled past the window. While the X-rays were being developed, we distracted ourselves with wishes for a possible snow day.

When the doctor came in he flipped the film up for us to see. We watched in silence, almost without breathing. With a subtle smile the doctor turned to Mark and said, "Son, I think you're ready to walk out of here today!"

Neither of us moved for a moment. Final instructions are a blur. I remember our laughter. I remember our saying "Thank you."

Peppered by blowing snow, Mark gingerly walked to the car in his socks; he had no shoes. The cold was brutal, but we hardly noticed. I'll never forget the ride home that day. We laughed, we wept. The floodgates of pent-up emotion burst open.

In the midst of laughing and crying, the story of Jesus telling a man to take up his bed and walk filled my mind. We were living a variation of the story. I knew Jesus was telling us to go home and rejoice. He was saying enjoy the beauty and the gift of the ordinary — the gift of life.

Question:
Do you take time to thank God for the ordinary goodness of life, for the gifts of walking, seeing and hearing?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 20 - 26, 2000

Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Mark 2:1-12; **Monday (St. Peter Damian)**, James 3:13-18, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday (Chair of St.Peter, Apostle)**, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Wednesday (St. Polycarp)**, James 4:13-17, Mark 9:38-40; **Thursday**, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:41-50; **Friday**, James 5:9-12, Mark 10:1-12; **Saturday**, James 5:13-20, Mark 10:13-16 .

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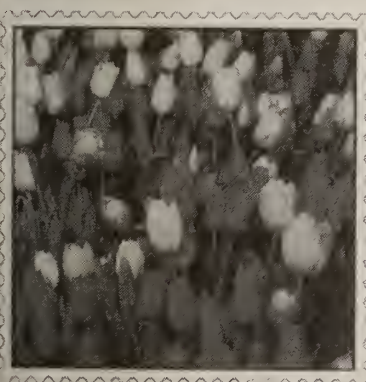

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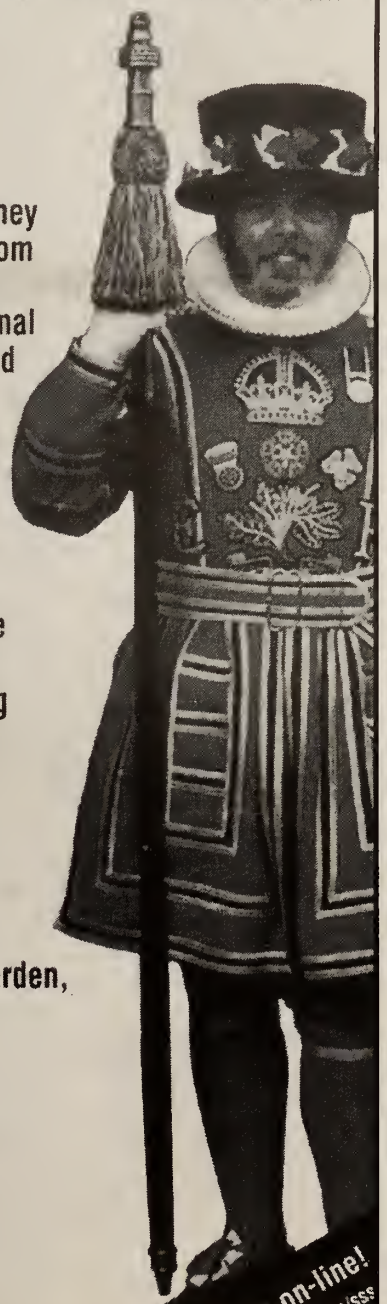

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CNS PHOTO FROM DISNEY

Tigger enjoys time with his young pal, Roo, in a scene from the animated feature "The Tigger Movie."

"Tigger" is fun, musical adventure

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Tigger, Winnie the Pooh's bouncing tiger friend, sets off for fun and adventure to find his family in the musically animated feature, "The Tigger Movie" (Disney).

Despite having great friends, Tigger (voice of Jim Cummings) begins to realize that being the one and only can sometimes be lonely. Young Roo, his springy kangaroo friend (voice of Nikita Hopkins), is a wonderful bouncing partner, but Tigger wonders if there are other tigers out there just like him — his own tigger family. Soon the ever-exuberant Tigger springs into action to search for his "gigantical" family tree.

After looking high and low, Tigger has not found any sign of his family. Seeing their dear friend disappointed, Winnie the Pooh (voice of Jim Cummings also), Roo, Piglet (voice of John Fiedler), Rabbit (voice of Ken Sansom) and the rest of the gang decide to raise Tigger's spirits by dressing up and pretending to be his tiger family. But when Tigger discovers the truth, he becomes more determined than ever to find his real family.

The spirit of A.A. Milne's characters remains intact as a heartwarming story of love and friendship is told in the first original Pooh feature ever created for the big screen. Milne's lovable creatures leap out with vivid colors and artfully crafted animation as their adventure leads them through the Hundred Acre Wood and to the discovery of the meaning of family.

As directed by Jun Falkenstein,

"The Tigger Movie"
The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G -- general audiences.

"The Tigger Movie" is at its whimsical creative best when Tigger's family members are portrayed in famous portraits such as "Whistler's Mother," Van Gogh's "Self Portrait" and even the "Brady Bunch" squares. Acclaimed Disney songwriters Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman ("Mary Poppins" and "The Jungle Book") have written six catchy new tunes for the film that will surely have young ones singing.

"The Tigger Movie" will surely have children bouncing while older ones will enjoy its clever and tender story. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

History is humanity's path toward God, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — History is not a meaningless series of events, but is the path humanity travels toward God, Pope John Paul II said.

Already in the Old Testament, it was clear that God acted in history for the benefit of the people he created and chose, Pope John Paul II said Feb. 9 at his weekly general audience.

God's actions on behalf of the people of Israel, especially freeing them from slavery and leading them to the Promised Land, proved that "the Lord is not an impassive emperor crowned with a halo of light and relegated to a golden sky," the pope said.

God is a father who acts in history with tenderness and attentiveness to those who call upon him, he said.

"God the Father is not in any way indifferent to the things that happen to us," Pope John Paul said.

"The depth of God's love was fully revealed" when he sent Jesus into the world to save all men and women, he said.

When God the Son became part of human history he underlined history's meaning as the path toward eternity with God, the pope said.

Often it is difficult to see God at work in history and to realize that "the kingdom of God is already in our midst," he said. With the help of the Holy Spirit, people can understand the meaning of history and receive the strength they need to cooperate in building the kingdom.

"In the light of the Father, Son and Spirit, history ceases being a succession of events which dissolve into the abyss of death and instead becomes ground fertilized with the seeds of eternity, a path which leads to that sublime goal where 'God will be all in all,'" the pope said.

Outgoing emissary to Russia says pope-patriarch meeting unlikely

MOSCOW (CNS) — Hope for a meeting between the pope and the leader of the world's largest Orthodox church is no greater today than it was five years ago, said the Vatican's departing emissary in Russia. Archbishop John Bukovsky, the papal nuncio who was to retire Feb. 14 after a five-year stint in Moscow, believes a meeting of the two spiritual leaders could do much to ease tensions between the Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches in the former Soviet Union. "Such a meeting would give a terrific impulse to the resolution of problems. The Holy Father is ready to go tomorrow to meet the patriarch," said Archbishop Bukovsky, a 76-year-old U.S. citizen. "But the Russians would like to see the problems resolved first."

Justice for Jubilee 2000

Justice is often thought of in Old Testament terms: of a stubbornly just God constantly calling His people back to fidelity — faithfulness to the original covenant that God struck with the chosen people and the call to fairness and equity in dealings among the people. This biblical justice is expressed eloquently in Exodus:

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry." (Ex 22: 20-22)

"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner by demanding interest from them. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it before sunset, for this cloak is his only covering for his body." (Ex 22: 24)

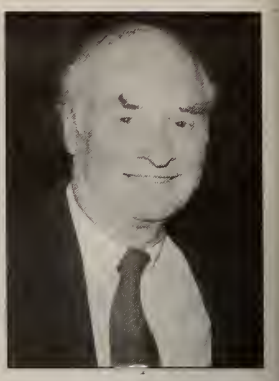
It is often difficult to make this transition from an early society of mainly personal relationships and individual acts of justice to our more structured, complex and organized society of today. Herein lies the value of the distinction between person-to-person justice in a simpler time and the virtue of "social justice" in our time.

The act of social justice today is the virtue of organizing or re-organizing systems or institutions with the goal of advancing the common good — that is, the commonweal or common good within the network and moral reach of organizations, of civic life, or in the overall society.

Justice is often thought of, then, as merely giving a person what is their due — a cold, arm's-length virtue of being fair in our dealings — no more, no less. But it is much more than that, and it is warmed by a movement of the heart as well as the mind.

The act of social justice can mean that you care deeply about the people whom you may not know or ever meet. They may well live in a future generation. They may live in a distant country or continent. Because there are usually no final victories on the road to justice, you will often not see the fruits of your handiwork or witness the gratitude of a people helped or empowered.

Justice & Peace



DR. BARNEY OFFERMAN
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Social justice can be called the public forum of love. It reaches beyond personal relationships and the familiarity of friends and associates who would be there to thank us and even reward our efforts.

Acts of social justice may involve:

— a just law or a more morally responsible budget;

— a public or private policy of including people in the shaping of their own lives and screening them into (instead of out of) participation and opportunity in the workings of society;

— working for solidarity and just relations within our community and our neighborhoods;

— the priority of a living family wage in our work life.

A successful act of social justice removes a condition that contradicts the God-given dignity of the person — whether the condition is poverty, unemployment, lack of affordable housing, discrimination, educational deficiency, or an unfair or inadequate health delivery system. In removing the dependency that often accompanies these social or economic conditions, social justice enables people to

SEE JUBILEE JUSTICE, PAGE 15

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Grandparents' rights: Law over love?

The U.S. Supreme Court has been handed a proverbial can of worms this season, and I gather the members will be engaged for quite a while in juggling questions and opinions. What's the furor all about? Grandparents' rights. What I would call sacred matters have entered the arena of law.

The bottom-line judgment will rest on how the Supreme Court justices view the current laws allowing grandparents and other relatives to seek visitation rights after divorce or some other disruptive circumstance. All 50 states have such laws. The justices are expected to make a decision by June.

This matter really hits home for the 60 million Americans who are grandparents. That number includes six of the Supreme Court's nine justices. We must pray that these august professionals will wisely balance parental rights with grandparents' rights, since it appears this issue is now to be settled by law and not by loving hearts.

That's the problem I see. Look what we're talking about from the grandparents' perspective: our bloodlines; our descendants; our legacy to the future world; our love made flesh again through the children we brought into the world who now have given birth to their children.

All of this also is the proof of our incredible destiny: to be co-creators with the Lord. I don't believe grandparents can look at their child's child and not be overwhelmed with the wonderful mystery of life renewed.

This is why I feel it is a tragedy that the question of contact between grandparents and their grandchildren has now become a matter of law over love. How sad when parents and grown children can't get along or when in-laws get cut out of the lives of their grandchildren, nieces and nephews because of a bitter divorce. How pathetic when the hostility and power plays — with children the pawns in the action — lead to virtual hate and then to the courts for a decision with clout for the winner.

The winner? I can't find any winners when families become contenders. Everybody loses. Especially the children.

I may be accused at this point of being naive, not acknowledging that some grandparents may be miserable people who shouldn't be around their grandchildren. I believe they could still have visits, quietly supervised by the parents, without the intervention of the courts. This, I believe, would be "in the best interests of the children," who have the right to know who they came from.

If interference with child-rearing is the problem, parents should be able to control that without cutting the grandparents out of the child's life. Even miserable people can be loving when it comes to their grandchildren. I've seen that a few times!

Before I started writing this, I called my sister Rosemary to ask how she felt about having courts decide the matter of grandparents' visitation rights. Between us we have 29 grandchildren and nothing but joyful times to remember. We agreed on one thing totally: It is a tragedy when families develop such hostilities that they cut one another off.

We need more love in this world, and the seedbed for growing love should be our families. Courts may be able to make decisions, but there's no way to legislate what's really needed when it comes to families: loving relationships.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

George Washington's "Happy Nation"

The foremost name in the history of the United States will always be that of George Washington. For generation after generation, Washington has stayed a constant, not merely the hero of the American Revolution and the father of a new nation, but also the man who defined our national character.

At a time when so many citizens, particularly the young, have grown weary, if not cynical, of those associated with the government and public service, Washington remains a guiding beacon.

Washington's sense of character is best expressed in his Farewell Address of 1796. At the age of 64 and after 45 years of public service, he declined to run again as a candidate for the presidency.

Rather than limit his announcement to a speech before Congress and government officials, he wrote it specifically for publication and distribution through newspapers in the hopes of reaching the American people directly. His Farewell is regarded as his most famous written work.

Washington singled out the "increasing weight of years" as his reason for retirement, then added, "Here, perhaps, I ought to stop." But he went on, explaining that the occasion gave him the opportunity "to recommend to your frequent review some sentiments which are the result of much reflection."

His concern focused on the question as to whether the American people were capable of ruling themselves. Repulsed by the spectacle of factionalism and party politics, he urged his fellow citizens "to shape a common opinion that transcends self-interested differences that divide" the nation.

To do this, Washington stressed the need to strengthen the connection between morality and public happiness: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle. Morality cannot be maintained without religion."

Here was someone who looked through the confusion of the moment and seeing the ethical issues involved, gave voice to them. For him, the only way to sustain good government is by making individual citizens aware of their moral obligation to create the conditions for "decent politics." For those of us determined to restore character to our national life, the wisdom of George Washington urges us to be more resolute about weaving moral and spiritual fiber into the fabric of our democracy.

This year, our national election provides yet another chance to express fidelity to our principles. We could do no better than to consider a 1783 message from Washington which reminds us that each of us has a responsibility to God and neighbor to endow our country with good character, starting with our own:

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and [peace-making] temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation."

Rather than saying it's impossible, we could just start by saying a prayer. Then we need only meet our own high standards to change ourselves and our country for the better.

From the Bishop

BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

"He presented Himself alive to them by many proofs after He had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God. ... As they were looking on, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight." (Acts 1: 3-9)

For centuries, the celebration of holy days of obligation has been a part of Catholic life and worship. These feasts call us from our very busy lives to pause in celebration of major occasions in the life of the church, and they invite us to rejoice as a community of faith.

Sacrifice may be required to attend Mass on some holy days. Indeed, sacrifice is part of all our lives. We Catholics recognize occasions when illness or the demands of work legitimately prevent us from attending Mass on a holy day. But the holy days of the church — like all of her great devotional and historical observances — are truly teaching moments of grace for the faithful, and we are obliged as Catholics to participate joyfully in them.

Some holy days focus on various mysteries of salvation history, while others commemorate specific milestones involving the life of Jesus, Mary and the saints. For example, Pentecost commemorates the birth of the church and is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The Ascension celebrates Jesus' ascent into heaven 40 days after His Resurrection. Both holy days are among the church's most solemn observances.

Last year, during our annual November meeting in Washington, D.C., the Catholic bishops of the United States discussed the merits of transferring the solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord from a Thursday to a Sunday. Some bishops expressed confidence that transferring our observance of the Ascension to Sunday would assure that more Catholics would celebrate this great solemnity of the church. Others felt the need to continue to celebrate the solemnity on the specific day — in this case, 40 days after Easter.

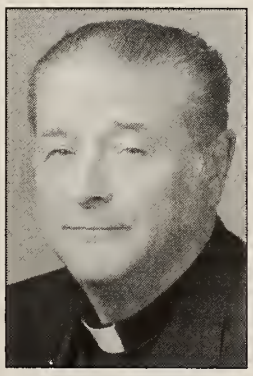
Discussion of transferring the solemnity of the Lord's Ascension from Thursday to Sunday has long been an issue among U.S. bishops, and the topic continues to make headlines.

Last August, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a formal decree approved by Pope John Paul II that authorized each U.S. province to transfer the solemnity of the Ascension from Thursday to the following Sunday. Two-thirds of the bishops within each province, or regional group of dioceses under an archdiocese, would have to vote in favor of the transfer in order to move the observance from Thursday to Sunday.

My brother bishops within the Province of Atlanta — which includes the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the dioceses of Charlotte, Charleston, Raleigh and Savannah — decided to keep

See ASCENSION THURSDAY, page 15

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

What is the "right order" of the Ten Commandments?

Q. Our community, like many others today, I understand, is having a major controversy about placing the Ten Commandments in a local park. One of the objections is that people, religious groups in particular, cannot even agree on how the Ten Commandments should read.

I'm wondering, when did the fourth commandment become the fifth commandment, as it is on a card I obtained from a religious goods store? One priest told me it is a Catholic-Protestant problem. Is that true? Is there a "right" list of the commandments?

A. The confusion arises from the fact that there are two lists of the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament, one in Exodus 20:1-17, the other in Deuteronomy 5:6-21. And there are differences.

In all major basics they are the same, of course, although some variations are noteworthy and perhaps reveal some information about the time in which each was written.

In Exodus, for example, in one commandment, a man's wife is listed as simply one of his possessions. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, it says, "nor his ox or ass or anything else that belongs to him."

In Deuteronomy, however, which reflects a later time of Hebraic culture, the prohibition against coveting a neighbor's wife is put first and is an entirely separate commandment from the prohibition about the rest of his household.

This also in part may explain the difference in numbering. Exodus combines the last two of the other list, but seems to divide the first commandment into two.

Other divergences can result, naturally, from differences in translation, though these should not affect the numbering or the meaning.

It is not entirely accurate to name this a Catholic-Protestant problem. Following St. Augustine, some Jewish traditions and many fathers of the Western church, Latin-Rite Catholics and Lutherans normally use the enumeration in Deuteronomy.

St. Jerome and the Greek fathers, however, preferred the enumeration in Exodus. Protestants other than Lutheran have generally adopted that organization of the commandments.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about ecumenism, intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths, 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.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Landings program gears up in Hickory

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — How long does it take parish members to learn a program for welcoming back returning Catholics? If they are using Landings, it just takes two to three days.

A group of St. Aloysius Church parishioners spent a Friday evening and a Saturday learning the program, and conducted their first session with returnees the following Wednesday, Feb. 9.

"We had such a good response with very limited advertisement," said Father Ed Sheridan, pastor at St. Aloysius. "I think that it's a great move forward. We need to have it in every parish. This is a non-pressure program, and I think it will help a lot of people. We need to reach out to them, show them that we're concerned about them, and make them feel at home."

Bobbie May and her husband, Rev. Mr. Hugo May, were two of the parishioners participating in the training program. "I've worked in a lot of programs," said Mrs. May. "This, to me, was an easy, welcoming thing. My husband and I both felt it was an evening well spent. It invigorated and encouraged me to see how people responded."

Tom Vallie, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and one of the people who trained the parishioners at St. Aloysius, said that was just the point. "You can go into this thing after a brief training," he said. "Once a parish is trained, they are pretty well on their own to go ahead with it."

"The object is that people tell their story," said Vallie. "We're not telling them what they need to know. When you come to a Landings meeting, you know you are being listened to, because you are being responded to." Vallie has worked with 11 different Landings groups at Sacred Heart, and in 1995 became the first person in the diocese to be certified as a facilitator to teach people in other parishes how to run the program.

He said that about 15 parishes in the diocese have been trained to use the program so far, and that Father Jac Campbell, the founder of the program, and Joan Horn, the Landings National Coordinator, trained about 12 of those parishes themselves in 1995.

According to its web site, Landings is "a safe harbor or landing place for returning Catholics to explore their faith and their future with the Church." In this Paulist program of reconciliation, a group of six to eight active Catholics joins two or three returning Catholics to welcome them back into the Church. The program consists of a two-hour meeting each week for eight to 10 weeks. At the end of the series of meetings, the group goes on a retreat together to focus on reconciliation. At this point, those who still wish to return to the Church are welcomed back as full participants in the Church family.

"Experience with Landings shows that those who return, sometimes after 25-plus years away, discover that they have never stopped thinking of themselves as Catholic," said Vallie. "They have the faith written on their hearts.... Many only needed a simple invitation to start the trip back home to the Church."

One important feature of the program is that lay people, volunteers from the congregation, run it almost entirely by themselves, with minimal involvement of church staff and clergy. Although Father Sheridan participated in the training and in the first meeting of the group, he stayed in the background so that the parishioners could run the meeting.

"The parish is so excited that they can participate in bringing people back to God and the Church," said Bonnie Tamrack, a St. Aloysius parishioner working with the group. "We're very excited about the participation from both the people in our parish and the people coming back."

She said that the parish had so many people interested in returning

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Bonnie Tamrack, a parishioner of St. Aloysius church and a Landings facilitator, talks about an item she she placed on the prayer table. The table is set up at each landings meeting, and those assigned with the prayer service or telling their faith story bring items significant to their faith lives.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills — organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Director of Development: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications or related field. Appropriate experience in fund raising and marketing may be substituted for education. Must have ability to use computer software. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaign, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to regional boards. Please submit resume by March 1, 2000 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Faith Formation: Growing 450-family parish in Raleigh, NC, is seeking a full-time Director of Faith Formation. Responsible for directing pre-K through high school faith formation process and oversight of RCIA process and adult formation. Includes oversight of volunteer coordinators of formation processes for baptism, reconciliation, eucharist, RCIA, and adult Bible Study. Also includes collaboration with parish Faith Formation Council. Strong people and communication skills a must, especially with middle and high school level youth. M.A. in religious education or theology, or equivalent education and experience required. Salary mid-30s, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Also diocesan benefits packages. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614.

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Music Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to develop a music program for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic. Responsibilities will include: Choir Director, development of cantors, weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc. Knowledge of organ, piano, and other instruments. Ability to work with children helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F., Pastor, Music Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

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Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic School, Rocky Mount, NC (Grades PK-5) seeks a principal for the 2000-2001 school year. Applicant must be practicing Catholic, hold teacher certification and principal's license (or in progress). Principal must establish residence in Rocky Mount. Send resume to: Search Committee, 331 Hammond Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Community in the coastal area of the Outer Banks, NC is seeking an energetic, motivated, spiritual individual to cultivate and implement programs for a growing faith community. Candidate should be a practicing Catholic and possess a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or related field. Spanish as a second language and musical ability helpful. Salary negotiable with benefits package. Position available summer of 2000. Application deadline March 1, 2000. Send resume to: Holy Redeemer Catholic Parish, Att: Very Rev. Michael Butler, V.F. Pastor, Youth Minister Search Committee. P.O. Box 510, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0510.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A triparish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry is desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

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Special thanks to our Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus for all the answered prayers and favors granted. C.E.A.W.

Landings, con't.

that they will be probably have to form two separate groups in the coming weeks. "People are really hungry for the connectedness ... for knowing God and loving God on an intimate level," she said.

Each meeting follows a similar format. First, each person in the group briefly tells how he or she is feeling or how his or her week has been. Following that are "angel cards," which are small cards printed with one word and a corresponding picture of an angel. Some of the words on the cards are strength, joy, power, simplicity, forgiveness, gratitude and obedience. Each person takes a card at random, and then tells the group what that word suggests to him or her.

"Experience with Landings shows that those who return, sometimes after 25-plus years away, discover that they have never stopped thinking of themselves as Catholic."
— Tom Vallie

"By beginning to relate feelings about a little card with an angel and a word, the Landings group members begin to relax about speaking in a group," said Vallie.

After this introduction, a member of the group conducts a 10-minute prayer service. Then, another member of the group tells his or her faith story, after which members of the group are invited to tell briefly what touched them about the story. A third member then introduces a topic about one aspect of the Church for discussion by the group.

Each week new people volunteer to do these three parts of the meeting, so that each person in the group has a chance to do each part during the eight to 10 sessions. A Landings participant manual is given to each person to guide him or her in preparing for each part of the meeting.

Telling faith stories is central to the program, because it gives those desiring to return a chance to say what is on their minds, and a chance to hear the stories of the parishioners in the group. "This may be the first time they've ever spoken about what's in their heart," said Vallie.

Penny Atkinson, a parishioner at St. Therese Church in Mooresville and the other trainer of the group at St. Aloysius, advised the group not to ask participants to say more than they want to while they are telling their stories. "Encourage people not to go beyond their comfort zone," she said. "You want people to heal, not be wounded."

Mrs. May talked about how the first session went at St. Aloysius. "The people responded so well," she said. "They were open. They didn't feel threatened. It seemed like we'd known each other all our lives."

"I think that this program is very much needed," she added, "not just in our parish, but in the whole diocese." ▼

Diocesan teachers and principal recognized for scholastic excellence

CHARLOTTE — Several elementary teachers and a principal from the diocese were nominated for the 1999-2000 National Catholic Educators Association (NCEA) Distinguished Teacher and Principal Award.

The teacher nominees were: Maureen Nicholls — All Saints School in Charlotte, Carole A. Bell — Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte, Patricia Formichella — Immaculata School in Hendersonville, Julie H. Crover — Immaculate Heart of Mary School — High Point, Helen Horn — Our Lady of Assumption School in Charlotte, Betty Saunders and Marlene Mode — Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, Sister of St. Joseph Mary Willmanns — Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, John Michael Thompson — Sacred Heart School in Salisbury, Judith Maskie Akins — St. Ann School in Charlotte, Emily Dunning — St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, Helen A. Rassmussen — St. Leo School in Winston-Salem.

The principal nominee was Gerald S. Healy from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

Lorraine Malphurs from St. Pius X School in Greensboro is one of 11 teachers from the South Atlantic States region to earn the NCEA Distinguished Teacher Award. She will receive her award at the NCEA Convention in Baltimore in April.

All of the teachers and Healy were recognized and honored for their achievements during the liturgy at the religion in-service day at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte on Feb. 11. ▼

Ascension Thursday, from page 13

the solemnity of the Ascension on Thursday.

Our faith permeates every day of our lives, and Ascension Thursday is one of those times in which we should come together as a worshipping community — not just out of obligation, but with a true sense of thankfulness for what God has done in our lives.

Celebrating the great mysteries of our faith by taking part in the church's holy observances — even with the sacrifices we must make from time to time — is one very important way we increase our reverence for Jesus and His church. I am convinced that our continued practice of celebrating Ascension Thursday will be a blessing for each of us and our diocese.

Pop Goes the Weasel, from page 10

The trick in reading "Pop Goes the Weasel" is not to linger over such questions as "How could this be?", "Is this a rational thing to do?", "Does C proceed from A and B?", because this is the kind of story where one person can look another in the eye and somehow know what size shoe he wears.

This is also the kind of a story where "eyes go cold and hard," a particular cop is "smart and tough and could go all the way" (but gets killed anyway), someone else is "a prize catch," another is "a lone wolf," and Death "flies as high as a kite" when on drugs, just to cite some of the more banal phrases the reader encounters.

At one point, Cross, as narrator, tells of getting "an emergency call that blew off the top of my head." Arriving at "the nightmare scene," he "moved forward as if floating in a very bad dream." Death seemingly had attempted suicide. "My mind," Cross confides, "was unhinged."

So was mine. ▼

Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.

Justice, from page 12

claim and live the dignity inherent in being a creature of God. Justice is foundational to the virtue of charity. Charity responds to and treats breakdowns in society, often on an individual basis; social justice coalesces people to organize and change the more basic condition or causes of the breakdowns.

Dr. Offerman is diocesan director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

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Catholic educators tell teachers to reawaken to vision of faith

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Through animated storytelling and with a focus on celebrating God's gifts, two leaders in Catholic education challenged over 500 diocesan Catholic schoolteachers to analyze their teaching methods and create innovative ways to help their students academically and spiritually in the new millennium.

Father Richard Fragomeni and Dr. Elinor R. Ford led two discussions for teachers from throughout the diocese on Feb. 11 at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte. The religion in-service day was part of an ongoing series of gatherings sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office.

During her presentation, Dr. Ford assumed the identity of "Mosetta," while expressing her ideas about Catholic education to the teachers. The concept she conveyed is that just as the faith journey constantly evolves with different leaders along the way, so does Catholic education with its own continuous journey every school year.

"Just as Moses was shown the Promised Land but could not enter it, I will not live to see the dream of building up the kingdom of God [through Catholic education]," explained Dr. Ford.

"We cannot teach children the same way we taught them 20 years ago," she stated. "We must change the paradigm we use for Catholic education."

Dr. Ford repeated that mantra as she talked about her topic, "A Quantum and Synergistic Creation." With paradigm meaning "model or pattern" and synergistic meaning "characteristic of a combined action," the idea is that teachers must change from "either/or" thinking to "both/and" thinking, explained Ford.

She said that children think in a "both/and" way, so teachers should try to do the same in their classrooms. Accepting differences and dealing with changes are ways in which educators can begin to focus on a "both/and" way of thinking and teaching.

She talked about the importance of faith and how Catholic schools can use that in educating their students.

"We have the advantage of speaking Christ to our young children," she said. "We are all part of the eucharisting community of Jesus Christ because we are still on a faith journey."

> **"We have the advantage of speaking Christ to our young children. We are all part of the eucharisting community of Jesus Christ because we are still on a faith journey."**
> — *Dr. Elinor R. Ford*

"If your students see you living your faith with a great passion and feel your love and concern, then you can teach them authentically, and we must give them an opportunity to practice their faith," she continued. "Every teacher has the seed of truth and faith within him or her, and if they put their heads together, the Holy Spirit will speak and a new paradigm will be revealed."

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools, coordinated the in-service day. "As in the past," she said, "missionaries have come to the Diocese of Charlotte to give us the faith, and we are all called in the new millennium to spread the Gospel to others."

The religion in-service day also featured Father Richard Fragomeni, associate professor of liturgy and homiletics at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Ill. Using his latest book, "Gifts for a Lifetime: A Sacramental Preparation Series," for teachers of sacramental preparation, he focused on the role of the sacraments in the lives of students and faculty during his talk, "The Language of God's Gifts."

A priest of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., Father Fragomeni has ministered in parish work, Christian initiation, catechetics and spiritual direction. Known for his engaging manner with his audiences, Father Fragomeni urges those he encounters in his ministry to seek a deeper union with Christ through the sacramental life.

"Father Fragomeni gave us the roots of our faith, while Dr. Ford gave us the wings to fly with our faith," said Sister Maureen. "They came with a concept of taking ownership of our faith at the deepest level of the heart."

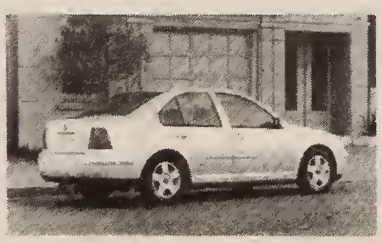
With her home base in Fairview, N.C., near Asheville, Dr. Ford travels all over giving seminars and talks. This year she will be teaching at Seton Hall University and Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

Father Richard also served as the celebrant and homilist for a liturgy, featuring David Anderson as the music director. Anderson is an Illinois parish director of music and liturgy and workshop coordinator of GIA Publications Inc. in Chicago. The day began with the "Our Sisters of Mercy Overture" performed by the Holy Trinity Middle School Band. The overture was composed and directed by Alan Kaufman, the school's band director. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools, takes time for this photo with Dr. Elinor R. Ford, one of the featured speakers at the religion in-service day for diocesan teachers at St. Gabriel School on Feb. 11.



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February 25, 2000
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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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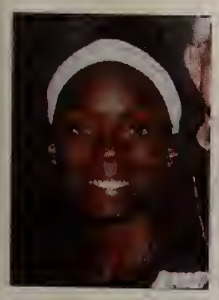

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Tending the flock

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

"In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel." (Ez 34: 14)

Sister Mary Michael tends to the sheep and goats on the 25-acre property of the Congregation of Our Lady, Help of the Clergy in Vale. The congregation has served in the Diocese of Charlotte since 1978, when Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley invited its members from Connecticut. The sisters have lived in Vale since 1980, and operate Maryvale Daycare School, host retreats for groups from throughout the diocese, serve the needy, raise livestock and offer a variety of spiritual and charitable services. For related photo, see page 14.

Diocesan youth "hip" on peace

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — There are some new special agents in the Diocese of Charlotte. Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry deputized a group of middle school youth that participated in the Help Increase the Peace (HIP) program Feb. 18 to 20 at the Catholic Conference Center.

His charge to them was to "be active champions of peace and to try to help us spread the peace" throughout the diocese.

HIP is a national program sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service. Staff in the Syracuse, N.Y., office originally developed the program in 1990 to address increasing violence in schools. Through workshops in schools and church groups, participants learn communication and conflict resolution skills that allow them to deal with confrontation in a creative and non-violent manner. They increase their awareness of different types of prejudice so that they can reduce it in their daily lives; and they learn about positive leadership and community building.

Some play goes along with all of this work. The workshops use games, role-playing and hands-on activities, alternated with discussion, to keep things lively. "I thought it was really fun," said Kate Urbowicz, a youth from Holy Family Catholic Church in Winston-Salem. "I got a lot out of it."

Shannon Hollars, a youth from St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, agreed. "They make it fun. It's not all work."

The games are not chosen at random. Specific concepts are learned from each one. For example, in one of the activities, participants were told to close their eyes while a sticker was placed on each of their foreheads. They were then told to open their

SEE MIDDLE SCHOOL, PAGE 4

Court considers school's ban on first-grader's Bible story

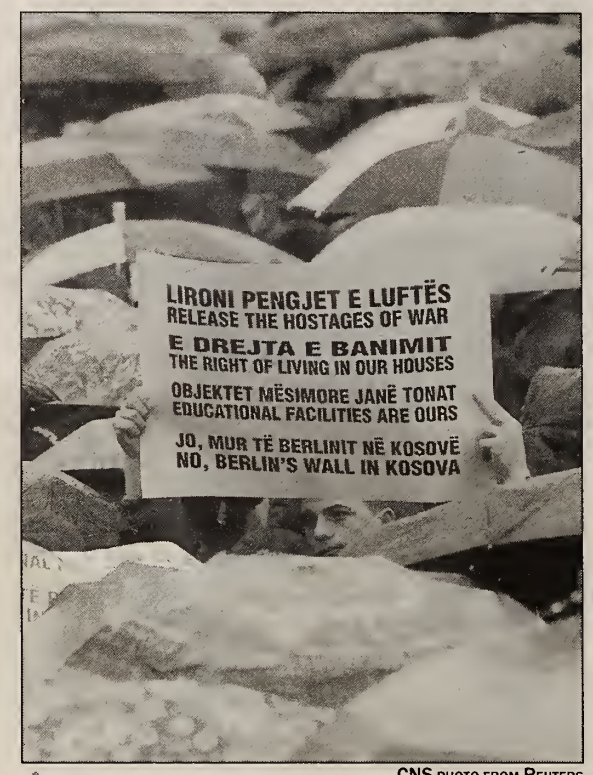
PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Twelve judges on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments Feb. 16 in Philadelphia on whether a first-grader's rights were violated when he wasn't permitted to read a Bible story to his public school classmates. The case, which has been wending its way through the courts since 1997, pits a Catholic mother, Carol Hood, as guardian for her son, Zachary "Zack" Hood, against the New Jersey Department of Education, the Medford (N.J.) School Board and the teachers and administrators at Medford's Haines Elementary School. In 1996, when Zack was in first grade, his teacher had invited her best readers to read a favorite story to the class. Zack's selection was the story of Jacob and Esau, two brothers who had been estranged then reconciled. The problem was, according to court briefs filed on Zack's behalf, the story, called "The Big Family," was in a book called "The Beginner's Bible."

Committee extends 'charitable choice' to literacy program

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Faith-based organizations may be able to participate as partners in a $500-million federal literacy program for disadvantaged families as a result of a recent House committee vote. Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce Feb. 16 adopted an amendment extending the "charitable choice" provision to Even Start, the federal program that provides tutoring for preschool children and literacy and job training for their parents. Under charitable choice, states and localities are encouraged to utilize charitable and faith-based organizations for the delivery of social services to the poor and needy.

Vaccine from aborted fetus cell lines judged morally acceptable

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The St. Louis Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office says using a hepatitis vaccine derived from cell lines developed from an aborted fetus is morally acceptable because it is the only available alternative to the spread of the disease. The office said it had been receiving inquiries about the ethics of such vaccinations when a bill was passed in St. Louis County ordering food handlers to be vaccinated. Some of them have refused to get the vaccine because of their pro-life views. Hepatitis A, a viral infection of the liver, is usually contracted by consuming food or drinks handled by an infected person. The vaccination against it requires an initial shot followed by a booster shot.



Protests in Kosovo An Albanian student holds a banner amid a sea of umbrellas during a Feb. 17 rally in Kosovo's capital, Pristina. Religious leaders were among those condemning recent violence.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Chiapas paramilitary closes church; 33 shut down in diocese

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A paramilitary group operating with the support of local officials seized a church in northern Chiapas and forced its closure, the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas reported. A Feb. 16 statement from the diocese said the group, known as "Peace and Justice," closed the church Feb. 14, bringing to 33 the number of Catholic churches in the diocese closed because of paramilitary violence. The church is located in the indigenous community of Jol-Ako in the municipality of Tila, close to the Chiapas-Tabasco state border. Residents told the diocese that the church was seized Feb. 14 by Peace and Justice members accompanied by local civil authorities, including the public prosecutor.

Church regrets 16th-century execution of philosopher

ROME (CNS) — As academics and politicians placed flowers on the spot where rebel philosopher Giordano Bruno was burned at the stake 400 years ago, a Vatican official apologized for the execution but said the Inquisition's judges had acted in good faith. Bruno's "atrocious death" in a Rome square on Feb. 17, 1600, is viewed with "profound regret" by the modern church, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said in a message to an Italian conference. But Cardinal Sodano said it was not up to modern church leaders to pass judgment on the motives of those who sentenced Bruno for heresy or carried out the execution.

Officials say Zimbabweans' vote shows deep dissatisfaction

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A referendum result that spelled Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's worst defeat in his 20-year rule was a sign of Zimbabweans' deep dissatisfaction with the economic crisis in the country, church officials said. The 55 percent vote against a new constitution that opponents said would strengthen Mugabe's already considerable powers revealed "people's reaction to the economic situation in the country, rather than to the constitutional issues involved," said Father Walter Nyatsanza, general secretary of the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Israel criticizes Vatican-PLO accord, but pope still welcome

JERUSALEM (CNS) — As a diplomatic controversy continued over the signing of a Vatican-Palestinian accord, Israeli officials criticized the Vatican move but said Pope John Paul II would still be welcome in March. "Israel views the upcoming visit of the pope in the region as an important historical mission," said Israeli Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur. "We are expecting a message of peace and conciliation that will not include any pre-determination of the results of the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians," Bentsur said.

Pope to lead mental pilgrimage to Abraham's birthplace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Unable to visit Iraq, Pope John Paul II said he will lead a special mental pilgrimage to the land of Abraham's birth. "This will be the beginning of my jubilee pilgrimage to the places linked to the biblical account of God's interventions in history," the pope said Feb. 16 at his weekly general audience. The pope said he would lead a special reflection on the life and faith of Abraham Feb. 23 at the Vatican. Pope John Paul was scheduled to travel to holy sites in Egypt Feb. 24-26 and in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories March 20-26.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 3 — 7:30 am
Knights of Malta Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 3 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Hispanic Center, Charlotte

March 4 — 11 am
Diaconal recommitment day
St Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 8 — 7:30 pm Mass
Ash Wednesday
St. Patrick Cathedral

March 11 — 3:30 pm Mass
Our Lady of the Americas
Biscoe

Diocesan planner

March

1 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from St. Lawrence. Tonight's class focusing on St. Ignatius of Loyola takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Upcoming classes include St. Theresa of Avila on March 7 and St. Eusebius of Caesarea on March 15. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

CHARLOTTE — There is a St. Gabriel Church support group is for those living with cancer and their family and friends. Tonight's meeting takes place after Wednesday night dinner on the third floor of the ministry center, located at 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

WINSTON-SALEM — There is a pre-Lenten Taize service taking place this evening at 5:30 p.m. at Joseph's House, 1903 South Main St. For further information, call (336) 722-0028. Joseph's House is a ministry of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

3 KERNERSVILLE — The Holy Cross Church Columbiettes are hosting their Spring Children's Consignment Sale this weekend from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today and a half-price sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. tomorrow. The items are being sold in the commons of the church, located at 616 South Cherry St. All are invited to sell gently-used infant to pre-teen clothing, shoes, car seats, cribs, swings, toys and other items, with 30 percent of the proceeds going to the group. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Feeney-Lewis at (336) 869-5151 or Evelyn Lawrence at (336) 788-4998.

5 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel

St. Julia Church responds to immigration protest with prayer

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

SILER CITY, N.C. (CNS) — St. Julia Church in Siler City responded to a local anti-immigration rally in perhaps the only way it could: with the Eucharist, and with prayer.

The church always holds a bilingual Mass on Friday nights, but the Mass Feb. 18 held more significance as it came the night before a demonstration aimed squarely at the hundreds of Spanish-speaking people who have settled in this small Chatham County city.

Several hundred people attended the afternoon rally Feb. 19 in front of City Hall. The demonstration featured former Ku Klux Klansman David Duke, who only recently established a group called NOFEAR — the National Organization for European American Rights.

Participants listened to Duke and other speakers and carried signs bearing slogans as "America: World's Septic Tank," "The Melting Pot is Boiling Over" and "Repatriate Aliens."

But Friday night belonged to St. Julia's. More than 250 people — Hispanic, white and African-American — filled the little church to celebrate Mass and pray for peace, understanding, and that Spanish-speaking residents will find welcome and belonging "beyond these walls."

"St. Julia's has been blessed from the beginning by the Latino population," said Father Dan Quackenbush, pastor of St. Julia's, during his homily. "It's been an experience of two cultures coming together and learning from one another."

Catholic North Americans in Siler City have been "sensitized," Father Quackenbush said. "Our eyes have been opened to the plight of many people in other parts of the world, a plight that the North American has been spared to a great extent.

"We've come to know people who want a better way of life for their children and for their families. They come here to find that. And that's certainly what I thought America was all about," said Father Quackenbush, whose grandmother was an immigrant from Ireland.

Dr. Amanda Slater, a family physician who works in a local clinic, said she came to Siler City to show support.

"I'm here because these are my patients. It's because I love them very much. They are a very gracious and hardworking people," she told the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese.

Slater, a parishioner at the Newman Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, said she had talked to several of her patients, and found that many of them were offended by the coming demonstration.

"They said, 'We were invited here to work. The jobs we're working, nobody who lives in this country wants to do — cutting the wings off chickens in freezing plants, working in the fields. We've been invited, and we're bringing commerce into these areas.'"

Nolo Martinez, director of Hispanic/Latino Affairs for Gov. Jim Hunt's office and a Catholic, attended the Mass, and said afterward that the strong protests expected at Saturday's rally were rare.

"I have been in North Carolina for 14 years, and I have not ever experienced this kind of manifestation against Hispanic immigrants," he said. "In my experience I hear more opinions and comments about the wonderful things that Hispanics bring to our state."

Martinez said the Siler City demonstrations may prove to be a catalyst for ethnic groups, churches and activists to begin to work together to better welcome Spanish-speaking peoples.

"It would be beautiful if we have the African-Americans and the Hispanics together on this," he said. "In that respect, thank you to David Duke for bringing us together."

St. Julia's also heard from Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, whose letter to the Hispanic community in Siler City was read in English and Spanish at all weekend Masses.

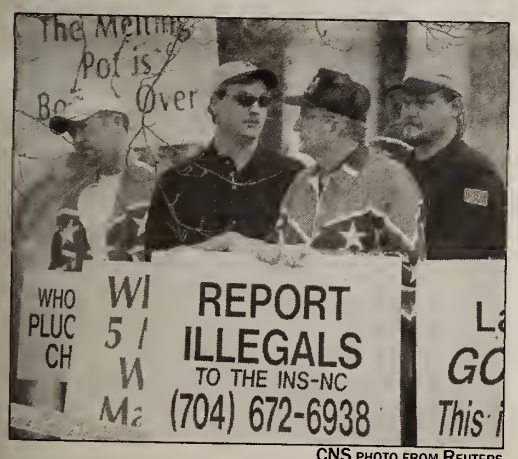
"Society has not always welcomed you as our God welcomes strangers," he wrote. "Be assured that the church stands with you on your journey and will work to respect your dignity as persons and your place in our society."

After it was all over, Father Quackenbush said, "I think we're all

See ST. JULIA CHURCH, page 4

CNS photo by John Strange, NC Catholic

Father Dan Quackenbush prays with altar servers before the start of Mass at St. Julia Church in Siler City, N.C., Feb. 18, the night before former Klan leader David Duke led an anti-immigration rally in the city. Parishioners prayed for unity and peace in their community, in which the Hispanic population has risen with a recent influx of immigrant workers.



CNS photo from Reuters

Supporters of David Duke, former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, gather for an anti-immigration rally in Siler City, N.C., Feb. 19. The local Catholic church responded with prayers for unity and peace in the community the night before.

Church Respect Life Committee hosts a rosary prayer session this afternoon at 3 p.m. in front of Our Lady's Grotto, located at 3016 Providence Rd. In case of rain, the session moves to the daily chapel. Call the church office at (704) 364-5431 for further details.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is holding a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (336) 778-0600 for more details.

10 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting an evening of traditional music of Ireland and Scotland, performed by The Poor Clares, regular musicians at O'Flaherty's Irish Pub in New Orleans, tonight at 8 p.m. For details on advanced tickets or tickets by mail, call the church office at (704) 454-1224 or check their website at: www.stlukechurch.net.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Rev. Barbara Nelson is leading a retreat focusing on the losses we experience in life and healthy ways of grieving through them. Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center is the location for the weekend retreat at 103 Living Waters Lane. For reservations and other information, call (828) 926-3833.

11 CHARLOTTE — The Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is taking place today in uptown Charlotte, beginning at 12 noon at Stonewall and Tryon Streets and finishing at Fifth and Tryon Streets. The parade is organized by Dyer-Hart Productions, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus. Local church groups, businesses and schools are welcome to participate, and volunteers are also needed for the parade and the Irish Festival afterward. Contact Jim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 for more information.

GREENSBORO — Single Again Catholics is hosting a St. Patrick's Day party and artist's reception at McKenzie's Gallery tonight at 8 p.m. The featured artist is Paul Gould from New York. Food and beverages are being provided. For directions and other information, call Patrick at (336) 379-7300.

12 CHARLOTTE — The Newly Married Couples' Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a group session on in-law relationships tonight at 7 p.m. in the Ministry Center in Room D. Call the church office for details at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is celebrating a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner after Mass. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

13 CLEMMOMS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having Parish Retreat 2000 today through March 15, featuring Dominican Father Michael Burke. There are two sessions daily beginning with 9 a.m. Mass and a 7 p.m. prayer service. The themes include "finding God in daily life," "experiencing and sharing forgiveness" and "family spirituality." For childcare and other information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200.

15 CHARLOTTE — "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium" is a workshop on this U.S. Bishops' election year 2000 statement, being given by Joan Rosenhauer of the U.S. Catholic Conference, tonight from 7-9 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Topics for discussion include Catholic teaching and principles of faithful citizenship, correct church political activity involvement and moral priorities for public life and questions for campaigns. The workshop is also being held tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. in Greensboro.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Middle school students and facilitators engage in one of the many activities included in the HIP weekend. In this photo, Peter May is on the far left and John Robichaux is on the far right.

Middle School, from page 1

eyes and find their group, without talking. The task of sorting themselves into groups led the participants to discuss how people classify themselves and others as members of various groups in society. From there, the participants discussed the positive and negative aspects of groups. This led into a discussion about prejudice.

Peter May, HIP coordinator for the southeastern regional office of the American Friends Service Committee, came from Atlanta to help with the weekend retreat. He, along with Kotlowski and John Robichaux, youth ministry event coordinator for the diocese, worked with the group, which was the first in the diocese to participate in the program. "I'm really pleased," said Kotlowski. "This is my first HIP experience. I was really eager to introduce this to the diocese, in light of what's been happening recently in the middle schools and high schools."

Kotlowski said that the pilot program in this diocese was for youth in middle school, but that the plan was to offer the program to high school students as well, while also training some youth and adults to be facilitators. He said that he did not plan to alter the program, but wanted to add Catholic and Christian components to it. Robichaux, from St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro, went to Atlanta in July 1999 to be trained as a facilitator. He said he was planning his first high school HIP weekend for the fall, and that he hoped eventually to open the program to college campus ministries.

May, who is working to expand the program in the southeastern United States, talked about this group of middle school students. "I was really impressed with them," he said. "They were an incredibly sophisticated group. They grasped the concepts immediately. It was almost like working with adults."

Shannon Hollars said that the program made her feel that way. "I liked that the facilitators treated you as an equal," she said.

"It was more than just sitting around," added Rachel Weiner, a youth from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Charlotte. "We interacted and got to know everyone."

St. Julia Church, from page 3

breathing a sigh of relief, and we're hoping it's not too premature."

But St. Julia's did not come through unscathed.

When Father Quackenbush opened the church Feb. 19, he saw that a lighted bilingual sign in front of the church had been vandalized, and that two tires on a van recently donated by a family had been slashed.

Maj. Al Craven of the Siler City Police Department said the letters on the English side of the sign were arranged to read, "White Power." Also left behind was a poster-size sign which told immigrants to leave and declared "This is our land."

According to Craven, the vandalism was being investigation. If arrests were made, he said, it would be likely that suspects would be charged with a felony under hate crime laws.

"We survived," Father Quackenbush told the NC Catholic. "But I can't say that I feel totally comfortable now.

"I think this is the first time I've ever been able to identify with the Beatitude, 'Blessed are you who are persecuted.'" ▼

John Strange is editor of the NC Catholic in Raleigh.

"I think this is the first time I've ever been able to identify with the Beatitude, 'Blessed are you who are persecuted."
— Father Dan Quackenbush of St. Julia Church, Siler City, N.C.

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Diocesan middle schoolers pause for this photo Feb. 20. Peter May, far right, and John Robichaux, center back, along with diocesan director of youth ministry, Paul Kotlowski, second from left, facilitated the weekend program.

"I got to know a whole bunch of different people," said Zachary Carter, a youth from St. Barnabas Catholic Church in Asheville. "I got to learn new techniques to stop violence and keep peace."

Kristan Cardinali, a youth from Holy Family Catholic Church in Winston-Salem, also talked about the non-violent strategies she had learned during the program. "This made me realize that I could use my mind to accomplish almost anything," she said. ▼

Youth Ministry is one the 35 ministries and programs that receive funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

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Busy Mocksville parish overflowing with activity

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MOCKSVILLE — It can be called the little parish that could. The church began as a vision and a dream for three families in the Mocksville area in 1955, and 45 years later, St. Francis of Assisi Church is a visible and thriving presence in the area.

"We want to build a new church because our parish is expanding. I can't believe how many new people have come in the past three months. We grew up together and everyone knows everyone else. The youth are the reason why we need a new church because they are important; they are the ones who will be here after we are gone."

— Vince Mannino, parish fundraising chairperson

Now and Then

From celebrating Mass in the homes of the original three families to the present building, Mary and Eugene Pope have been there from the beginning. The family had been attending Mass in Winston-Salem when they decided they wanted their own parish.

"We were very close-knit then, and we still are," said Mrs. Pope. "I am surprised about the growth. When people started coming from up north, the congregation just started getting bigger."

When there were 11 families, the liturgy began to be celebrated in the local National Guard Armory, moved to a small house that was purchased, and then, the present structure was built where the house once stood.

"We keep things very personal, and we are interested in what one another is doing. We try to involve everyone in the parish activities," continued Mrs. Pope.

The parish has seen many administrators and priests come and go over the years, including Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, Mercy Sister M. Anita Sheerin and Mercy Sister Mary Carmelita Hagan.

"I enjoyed working in that community because there is a great spirit among the people," said Sister Bernadette, now the administrator at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden. "They had to bond together to keep the church going."

November 1998 brought cooler weather and the arrival of a pastor. Third Order Regular of St. Francis Father Andrew Draper, who had been the chaplain of Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, where his parents are in residence, was sent to the parish.

"When I arrived, there were about 98 families, now, there are about 120 families," said Father Draper. Along with the installation of the first pastor, Father Draper attributes the growth to additional Masses, a Saturday vigil and daily Masses, and the steady growth in the Mocksville and surrounding areas.

"What amazes me is how the parishioners can rearrange the building from a church to a hall to something else by simply moving the folding chairs," joked Father Draper.

As more families poured into the parish, there came a time when some of the male parishioners agreed that in order to better serve the needs of the community, St. Francis needed a Knights of Columbus council of its own. The fact that Father Draper is a fourth-degree knight himself may have a little something to do with the newest council in the diocese.

Good Knight

Through the efforts of Grand Knight Roger Hunckler, Past Grand Knight Jim Gildean, District Deputy Knight Matt Reilly and State Deputy Knight Bob Singer, the St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council #12610 has the distinct honor of a Jan. 1, 2000, inception date. They are the first new council of the millennium in the United States.

"After Masses, Father Draper would encourage the men to sign up, and we were able to get the 30 men we needed for the council," explained Gildean. "Anytime you start something new, that is already great, but being able to tie it in with the millennium was really special and important."

Some of the projects that the council has been involved in include repairing and replacing the front steps of the church, replacing the front doors of the church and doing electrical work in the kitchen and back areas of the building. Their meetings are held on the property of a fellow knight who owns a nearby hall.

Gildean is not only involved with the Knights of Columbus but has also been the Shamrock Run director for the last two years. The Shamrock Run has become an event that the parishioners and the community have looked forward to for the past 12 years.

The Luck o' the Irish

In 1988, while Sister Bernadette was the administrator, she, Vince Mannino, and his daughter, Anna-Jo Mannino, came up with the idea for a fund-raiser for the building fund.

"I felt it would be a great community builder and that people in the parish could work and do things together," said Sister Bernadette. "Of course, the idea was that it would generate funds, but that wasn't the original purpose. It was a way for the other area churches and surrounding community to become involved with the congregation."

So, named after a symbol of her Irish heritage, the Shamrock Run was born. For the first year, there were 33 participants in the 5K walk and run and the 10K run. Last year, the number jumped to 182 runners and walkers. This year, on March 11, with cooperation from the local Chamber of Commerce, the route will now pass through downtown Mocksville.

When Sister Carmelita asked Gildean to take over as race director, he had no idea how much he would have to do. He and the committee are in charge of advertising, and this year, there is a website running on the Internet. They worked with the local chamber to create a new course that would challenge the participants.

"This is the largest fund-raiser for the church, and there is a lot of parish and community involvement. There has been so much positive growth, and there is a positive spirit and friendship among the parishioners," said Gildean.

Vince Mannino has volunteered his cooking talents in past years and managed to get many items donated and has generated support from local businesses through his work as the parish fund-raising committee chairperson.

"This event brings a community atmosphere to the town; it is the biggest event we have in Mocksville," said Mannino.

"We want to build a new church because our parish is expanding. I can't believe how many new people have come in the past three months," added Mannino. "We grew up together and everyone knows everyone else. The youth are the reason why we need a new church because they are important; they are the ones who will be here after we are gone." ▼

Contact race director Jim Gildein for registration forms, (336) 998-9242 or St. Francis Church, (336) 751-2973. Register on-line at www.racegate.com

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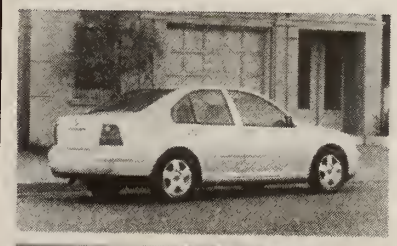

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Bring Christ to the world, pope tells permanent deacons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Permanent deacons must not let anything stop them from bringing Christ to the world, Pope John Paul II told deacons celebrating their jubilee at the Vatican. "Do not let difficulties and opposition trouble your hearts but, on the contrary, grow in your trust in Jesus who redeemed men and women through the martyrdom of the cross," the pope said. More than 2,000 people — deacons, their wives and family members — attended the Feb. 19 papal audience during the Jubilee for Permanent Deacons at the Vatican. Later the deacons, many holding hands with their wives, processed from the center of St. Peter's Square, through the Holy Door and into St. Peter's Basilica to renew the promises they made at ordination.

CEO of Best Buy gives $50 million to a Catholic university

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — A high school graduate who never attended college has endorsed higher education — and the University of St. Thomas — in a big way. Richard Schulze, founder, chairman and CEO of Best Buy Co. Inc., and his wife, Sandra, have presented the university, with campuses in St. Paul and Minneapolis, with an unrestricted gift of $50 million. This is the largest gift in the school's 115-year history, and the largest donation ever reported by a college or university in Minnesota. Schulze, who is on the university's board and received an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1998, said his family, which includes four daughters and one son, has been blessed and that it is important to give back to the community in a meaningful way.

Priest beaten with cross, stabbed in his Buffalo church

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — A parish priest in the Buffalo Diocese was beaten with a cross and stabbed with a holy water sprinkler Feb. 14 by a man who told police he wanted to kill the clergyman. Father Arthur J. Mattulke, 30, was attacked at about 6:30 a.m. on Valentine's Day at St. Margaret's Church. He was hospitalized overnight with a puncture wound to the back, and contusions and abrasions to the head. He was released Feb. 15. The priest was assaulted not long after the front doors of the church were opened for morning Mass, according to police.

Archbishop Tutu gets honorary degree from Seattle University

SEATTLE (CNS) — Though commencement is still months away, thousands of people flocked to Seattle University Feb. 13 to watch a special "graduate" receive his diploma. Retired Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate from South Africa, accepted an honorary degree from the Jesuit-run university for his role in dismantling apartheid and helping to heal its ugly wounds. "This is an important day in the history of Seattle University," said Susan Secker, acting provost, calling the archbishop's life "a model of justice for our students." Archbishop Alex J. Brunett of Seattle praised Archbishop Tutu for "the powerful message of justice and peace that you proclaim and witness in your own personal life."

Texas bishops ask governor to suspend executions

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — The Texas Catholic bishops have asked Gov. George W. Bush to suspend executions pending a thorough review of the state's system for carrying out capital punishment. In a Feb. 16 letter, Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, asked on behalf of the state's bishops that Bush suspend all future executions on a case-by-case basis. Under the Texas Constitution, the governor does not have the authority to issue a blanket order stopping executions, even temporarily. But it would be legal for the governor and the Board of Pardons and Paroles to suspend executions individually as they come up while a study is conducted.

CNS PHOTO BY DECLAN WALSH

Catholic gathering in Sudan

People gather for an outdoor Catholic service at Mankein in Western Upper Nile province of southern Sudan. Continued government attacks on southern Sudanese people over access to oil have prompted international economic sanctions.

Dallas high school soccer teammates make major league

DALLAS (CNS) — It was a dream come true Feb. 5 when Major League Soccer teams drafted two young men who were soccer standouts together while students at a Dallas Catholic high school. Nick Garcia and Dominic Schell, who played together at Bishop Lynch High School in the mid-1990s, were drafted by the Kansas City Wizards and the Columbus Crew, respectively. Both players won the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools state title in 1995. Garcia led the Lynch Friars to the state title again in 1996.

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Teacher In-service

Gay and lesbian ministry and the school system

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "Are we opening wide the doors to Christ to anyone and everyone?" This was a question posed to the group of sixth- through twelfth-grade religion teachers by Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh, administrator of St. Peter Church in Charlotte. This session, held at Charlotte Catholic High School on Feb. 16, was the second of two days of in-service, entitled "The Catechism of the Catholic Church," for diocesan teachers. The day before, teachers met at Bishop McGuinness High School for the same presentation.

"The Holy Spirit is in everyone — the inclusiveness of all as brothers and sisters of God," said Father McCreesh. "This is the great joy of our church; no one should be left out."

He is a member of the 12-person Diocesan Commission for Ministry to the Gay-Lesbian Community and Their Families, a board that advises and supports the bishop on how to best reach out to gays and lesbians in the diocese, said Father McCreesh.

The topic involved reiterating the words found in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," on which the religion textbooks used in the diocese, including "Morality: A Course on Catholic Living," are based.

"This session concerns what the church's teachings are about homosexuality," explained Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools and coordinator of the two days of teacher in-services. "With the diversity of views of teachers in the Catholic Church, we are asked to teach from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Father McCreesh gave handouts to the teachers from part three "Life in Christ" and chapter two "You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" from the catechism.

The talk was based on the section about "chastity and homosexuality," subsections 2357 through 2359. The passages read: "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them, it is a trial. They must be treated with respect, compassion, and sensitivity ... homosexual persons are called to chastity."

"We cannot tell homosexuals that they do not belong to the church and are excluded and hated by God," said Father McCreesh. He added that the church needs to ask itself if it is opening up the doors to Christ because everyone should be included.

He told the teachers that they need to be more aware of their students' thoughts and feelings and not to focus on their own ideas, regarding gays and lesbians.

"We cannot let another generation of gay and lesbian youth grow up hating the Catholic church. This is a matter of justice, not of your fear, anxiety or feelings," stressed Father McCreesh. "These youth are important because they are vulnerable to suicide and self-hatred. We are not encouraging a gay lifestyle; we are trying to make clear the fundamental teachings of the Catholic church."

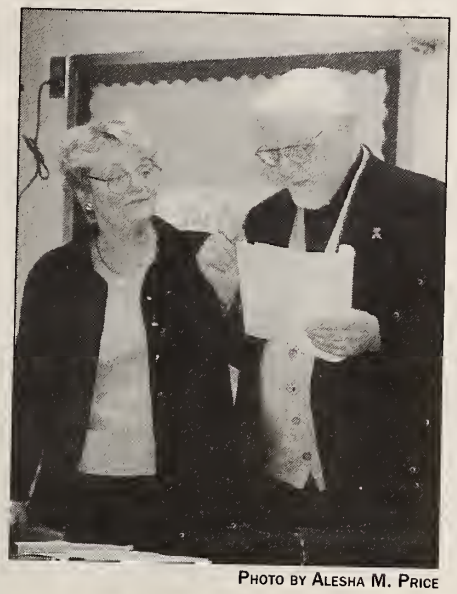

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Jackie Ferry, Charlotte Catholic High School religion department chairperson and freshman and sophomore teacher, introduces Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh, the speaker at the religion teacher in-service on Feb. 16 at Charlotte Catholic High School.

He talked about how some teachers, uncomfortable with the topic, may be as reluctant to address the issue in their classrooms. The children are also as reluctant and scared to share their feelings, so someone should take the first step, he said.

"One of the things you have to try to get over is your fear of association with people who might be different," said Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte and a member of the diocesan commission, in attendance at the teacher in-service. "You may be able to accept what Father McCreesh has said and may agree, but [you may wonder] what are people going to say about me if I try to help gay and lesbian people."

"If this conversation begins and ends in this room, then it has not achieved its true purpose. I hope that you are not afraid to talk about this — make this your homework," continued Msgr. Allen.

Gerie Schohn, a sixth- and eighth-grade religion teacher and a sixth- through eighth-grade science teacher from St. Michael School in Gastonia, said that after attending the session, she will bring up the topic in her class.

"I knew what the Catholic teaching was already, and this is a topic that we don't need to ignore. This is a message that, as educators, we can spread, that we are all filled with the Holy Spirit and made in God's image," said Schohn.

Father McCreesh informed the teachers that statistically, according to the numbers of gays and lesbians in the population, that there are, more than likely, gay and lesbian students in their classes.

"You are the bearers of the church's teachings, and change can begin with you," said Father McCreesh. "Kids are looking for one person they can talk to. Let them know that God loves them."

"The teacher of religion within the Catholic school must be in touch and in tune with the teaching of the Church. In the fulfillment of his or her role, the religion teacher participates in the ministry of the Word," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education. "We are blessed in having so many dedicated religion teachers in our schools. It is imperative that their commitment be complimented by their competency in speaking as the Church speaks." ▼

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The Catholic News & Herald

She's Presbyterian, He's Catholic: Can They Pray *Together?*

By MARY JO PEDERSEN
Catholic News Service

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

"Interchurch couples ... don't have to believe the same things to have long-lasting marriages," writes Mary Jo Pedersen. "But they do need to minimize conflict and share joint activities such as Bible study or religious education; ... working on church projects; participating in church-sponsored activities; praying together."

For several years after their marriage, Jim and Diana alternated between her Presbyterian community and his Catholic parish every other weekend. But since the birth of their two daughters, they attend Mass regularly at the Catholic parish and also attend the Presbyterian church on Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day and several other holidays.

They, like thousands of other interchurch married couples, developed a system that "works for them." What church leaders now are discovering is that such couples often seek and welcome greater church support in addressing their situations and bringing faith into their lives together.

At home, Jim and Diana pray together as a family and observe Christian traditions that their churches have in common, such as the Advent wreath. Each parent talks about God with the children and respects the differences in the spouse's worship services and traditions.

A recent national study from the Creighton Center for Marriage and Family at the Jesuit Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., found that about one-third of couples of all Christian denominations in the United States, married within the last 20 years, began their marriages as interchurch couples.

In Catholic dioceses the percentage of all marriages in which one partner is Catholic and the other is not varies greatly. In some U.S. dioceses, it is as low as 20 percent, in others as high as 90 percent.

Such marriages present both special responsibilities and unique opportunities for the families involved and for pastoral ministers in the church.

The Creighton Center's research on interchurch marriage indicates that marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics have a higher divorce rate if they enter their marriages with lower rates of religiosity (religious practice and beliefs). Often these couples also feel that the church was not serving them as well as those in shared-faith marriages.

The research indicates that these couples have problems and strengths that differ from those experienced by couples in which the husband and wife belong to the same church.

There are highly diverse groups within this population of interchurch couples, and their needs must be addressed in different ways, the research indicates. It shows that they don't have to believe the same things to have long-lasting marriages. But they do need to minimize conflict and share joint activities such as Bible study or religious education; serving or working on church projects; participating in church-sponsored activities; praying together; discussing religious matters together.

Interchurch couples who both take their church seriously may have more conflicts over children than same-church couples do. But interchurch couples also may fare better in such matters than couples where one or both spouses are lukewarm about their faith.

Kentucky's bishops recently pointed in a pastoral letter to some factors that can contribute to healthy interchurch marriages:

—Mutual respect for one another's religious convictions, an interest in and continued learning about the other's community, positive support for the other's religious practice and a willingness to make sacrifices for each other.

—Efforts to keep growing in knowledge of one's own faith and to take part in as many religious activities together as possible.

The church is responding to the growth in the number of interchurch marriages with some creative adjustments to marriage preparation and marriage support.

In the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., special panels made up of interchurch couples are part of marriage preparation for these couples, as are resources aimed at helping couples negotiate their differences. There is also an ongoing support group for interchurch couples that has been meeting for more than 10 years to discuss practical issues such as church attendance, baptism of children, home devotions and dealing with in-laws' traditions.

Couples such as Jim and Diana are trying to assure that faith will be a source of strength in their marriages. Just as they do, countless other couples need support in making religion a part of their lives.

In the current Jubilee of the Year 2000, an emphasis is being placed on the important work of creating unity among Christians around the world. While church leaders and theologians continue their efforts at ecumenical dialogue, and adjustments are made in marriage preparation, couples in ordinary conversations and actions are contributing to an increased desire for the reality of Christian unity.

Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.

In a Nutshell

• • •

The Jubilee of the Year 2000 has an ecumenical character, Pope John Paul II said.

• • •

The pope expressed hope that "the different churches and ecclesial communities" would bring to the jubilee "everything that already unites" them and that the jubilee would become "a journey of reconciliation."

• • •

Promoting Christian unity "is the privilege and responsibility of all Catholics," Kentucky's Catholic bishops said in 1999.

Faith in the Marketplace

What do Catholic parishes and other Christian churches do together in your community?

• • •

"We have a Palm Sunday service with a nearby Lutheran church every year. We meet halfway between the two churches. We share prayers and sing songs. Then we process to our respective churches for services."

— Helen Hinson,
Charlotte, N.C.

• • •

"The primary thing we do is to help the needy of the community with food, lodging and the like. There is a communal soup kitchen worked by the various churches, and we also work together through the Salvation Army."

— Father John Koelsch,
Boise, Idaho

• • •

"We have an AMOS — a metropolitan organizing strategy — group. It's a coordinated effort to bring about changes in the community through political activism. We have combined liturgy services several times a year. There is also the Church United Shelter, which aids the homeless."

— Kathy Shafer,
Des Moines, Iowa

• • •

"We have a biannual interfaith — primarily Jewish, Muslim and Christian — celebration of the arts. One of its elements is a six-week-long, juried exhibit of liturgical and sacred art.... We are not trying to solve theological issues. We are celebrating the creative spirit which unites us all."

— Father Thom Dennis,
Springfield, Ill.

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Ecumenical Spirituality: Accent on Marriage

By FATHER JOHN W. CROSSIN, OSFS
Catholic News Service

How might couples grow spiritually in interchurch marriages? In some ways the answer is that their spiritual growth is similar to that of same-church couples:

— Pray for the Holy Spirit's help and guidance.

— Attend church each week.

— Set aside time for daily prayer, and

— Perform works of charity together in the community.

Such spiritual practices are important for all couples. We root our Christian life in daily life's virtues such as patience, civility, honesty, wisdom and justice.

Yet each person is unique, each specially called by God. Each has a specific life history. Thus a couple's everyday spirituality can be lived out in many different ways.

Interchurch couples have unique opportunities to grow together spiritually. They have unique talents and possibilities. They encounter unique challenges too.

Communication for couples — as for all good friends — is always important. Interfaith couples often have much to learn about each other's Christian faith tradition.

Learning not only includes the doctrine of the church. It also includes the personal practices which make that faith come alive in worship, in family life and in the community. All the understandings and emotions — positive and negative — attached to these particulars of Christian living need to be explored.

We live out of our hearts and our heads. Thoughts and feelings often manifest themselves as Christmas, Easter or other special days come around. These days present couples with opportunities for dialogue, discussion and prayer.

Unfortunately, such special occasions can also be opportunities to ignore differences. Spouses or engaged couples may not want to risk upsetting each other. They sometimes submerge their differences by ignoring them.

This avoidance only creates a greater long-term risk for the couple's unity.

Differences need to be worked on — often many times — rather than ignored.

Reducing religious practices creates later problems. The recent study of interchurch marriages by the Center for Marriage and Family at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., indicates that these couples are at greater risk for divorce than same-church couples.

The study indicates that participation in joint religious activities can help couples grow together. Today there are many opportunities — such as ecumenical Bible studies or social-action groups — for couples to live their Christian faiths together.

The study indicates that better marriage preparation can benefit interfaith couples. Good marriage preparation begins the process of learning from one another and building a common spiritual life.

Skilled clergy and lay leaders can help couples address questions arising from their varied religious upbringing and education.

Recently, the institutions of the Washington Theological Consortium, an ecumenical group of Catholic and Protestant schools and associates, decided to offer an afternoon of practical, pastoral reflections on the Creighton study. The response so far from local clergy and laity has been positive and enthusiastic — almost overwhelming.

This indicates to me that there is a deep desire on the part of Christian clergy and laity of all denominational backgrounds to help couples grow spiritually — to share "how" we might aid couples in their preparation and in their faith-filled living.

Communion among the Christian churches will not grow by pretending differences don't exist. It will grow by taking them seriously and exploring them forthrightly.

As interchurch marriage becomes more and more the norm, I believe that these couples can grow together spiritually. And they can bring their experiences to the ongoing search for Christian unity.

Oblate Father Crossin, executive director of the Washington Theological Consortium, wrote "Friendship: The Key to Spiritual Growth," Paulist Press. His e-mail address is crossinwtc@aol.com.

Family traditions open doors to healing

By FATHER DAVID K. O'ROURKE, OP
Catholic News Service

Dominican Father David K. O'Rourke counsels couples, many of whom have interchurch marriages. "As we talk about planning their own family celebrations, we also indirectly are giving new shape to personal matters that have proven difficult," he says.

CNS PHOTO BY BILL & PEGGY WITTMAN

For 35 years I have counseled married couples seeking ways to make their marriages work. The couples come, convinced that there just has to be a better way.

And they're right. There are better ways. Getting there, however, often means recognizing that couples can benefit from cultural and religious supports to their relationship.

Our beliefs about the value of marriage and family life are examples of what I mean.

Today, of course, many couples come from mixed religious backgrounds. In my counseling I talk about the strengths in each of these backgrounds and work with the couples to draw on the strengths of each tradition.

The key word here is "tradition" — that concrete sense of who my people are and what my people do.

This is actually easy to do. For whatever our combination of religious backgrounds (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish), each tradition really values the efforts married people put into creating happy marriages and strong families.

Every year, for example, our families have wonderful religious holidays that we celebrate in our own homes. From decorating the Christmas tree to preparing the table for the Jewish seder, we have opportunities for everyone to come together in celebrations where we comfortably can invite relatives and friends across religious lines.

In the process we can resolve important personal issues.

Many people find dealing head-on with the troubling issues in their marriage to be very difficult. If counseling means talking openly about tough personal issues, then they'd rather skip counseling. But many issues can be addressed indirectly just as well.

Our families' religious traditions and their holiday preparations can provide us with indirect and safe opportunities to deal with personal matters.

Spouses, for example, can discover at holiday times that their different religious backgrounds mean more to them than they had thought. And family memories, both positive and negative, can surface.

There are really three points that I'm offering here for reflection:

—Counseling couples with different religious backgrounds can highlight rich traditions that accent family life's value.

—Examining these backgrounds in a respectful way can help us to deal symbolically with other personal issues.

—And in respecting different religious traditions we also bring broader cultural support for a solid family and marriage.

Father O'Rourke, a Dominican, is a free-lance writer in Oakland, Calif.

Food for Thought

Marriages in which one spouse is a Catholic and the other a member of another Christian community or a non-Christian tradition "are often referred to as 'mixed,' 'ecumenical' or 'religiously diverse' marriages," Kentucky's four Catholic bishops said in a 1999 pastoral letter.

"At a minimum," the bishops said, "spouses in religiously diverse marriages should:

1. Respect the person and religious convictions of the other.

2. Be knowledgeable of the other's faith expression and be able to interpret it well.

3. Continually attempt to learn more about the faith expression of the partner.

4. Be willing to make sacrifices for the other.

5. Positively support the other in the practice of his/her religion.

6. Feel obligated to do everything together in the practice of religion, except when the policies and practices of their individual churches prevent this.

7. Continually attempt to grow in knowledge of their own faith tradition and be able to interpret it well."

David Gibson,
Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

Books

Art produced on early Jesuit missions reflects cultural tolerance

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During an earlier era of globalization called the Age of Exploration, Jesuit missionaries worldwide contributed significantly to art and science and knowledge in general.

But, according to art professor Gauvin A. Bailey, tolerance is the lesson to be learned from the four Jesuit missions featured in his new book, "Art on the Jesuit Missions in Asia and Latin America, 1542-1773."

Published by the University of Toronto Press, the work examines the blend of European and indigenous art and architecture produced on missions in Japan, China, Mughal India and the Paraguay "reductions," 30 large mission towns where nomadic Guarani peoples were settled.

Over those two centuries, the number of conversions in Japan, China and Paraguay reached about 300,000 each, while the Jesuits "had virtually no luck converting Muslims" in India, said Bailey, assistant professor of Renaissance and Baroque art at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

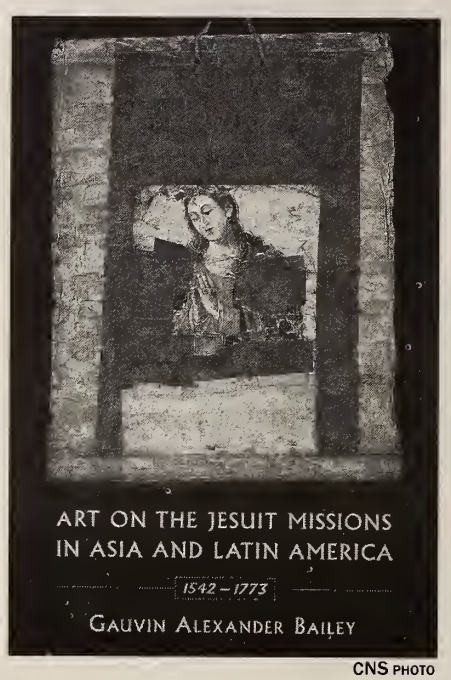
But, he told Catholic News Service in a phone interview, these missions enjoyed "flourishing artistic exchanges," and the surviving art is "a really important document" of cultural tolerance.

"The fact that the Jesuits had success culturally, but in almost all these missions really blew it in terms of pastoral activities, was because they were willing to accept and adopt culture much more than they were what I call cult or religion," said Bailey.

Though some Jesuits shared the prevailing European view that everything non-European was inferior, he said, "on the whole, they were a lot more tolerant of non-Christian, non-European societies in an attempt to communicate with them."

Art was produced for practical reasons, he said. It was used to convert, educate and facilitate sacramental and ritual life. But its main use was "to cross the language barrier as an international way of communicating," said Bailey.

Few people realize that Francis Xavier, founder of the Japan mission, never learned Japanese, he said. "He relied on converts, Japanese who would help him translate, but he also very much relied on images to teach."



CNS PHOTO

A 15th-century scroll titled "Madonna of the Snows" from the Nagasaki Martyrs Museum in Nagasaki, Japan, illustrates the cover of a new book exploring artwork of Jesuit missions.

The art also was produced in a sequence, he said. First came images, most commonly of the Virgin Mary, especially the famous St. Luke Madonna in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, and of Christ as "Salvator Mundi" or savior of the world.

Next came the church building, then sculpture. These missions fell "within the region of the Spanish and Portuguese empires or just beyond them," he said, and both traditions favored altarpieces and statues in their churches. Sculpture also was needed "for processions, for parades, for the kind of spectacle that goes on at the mission."

Said Bailey: "The vast majority of people who did the artwork and built the buildings on the missions were indigenous people, mostly converts."

Some 20 to 40 indigenous people

See JESUITS, page 15

Word to Life

February 27, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Hosea 2:16b, 17b, 21-22
   Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
2) 2 Corinthians 3:1b-6
3) Gospel: Mark 2:18-22

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

Our 11-year-old was intrigued but not dismayed by the lifestyle of the impoverished family she met in the far south of Mexico. The young couple had six children under the age of 7. They lived in two rudely built tentlike houses with dirt floors and empty flour sacks for beds. This home was in a rural neighborhood on the outskirts of a large city. They wore simple, spare clothing — in fact, the baby and toddler wore none.

After we returned from a morning visit with the family, someone asked our daughter if their situation made her sad.

"No," she answered. "They weren't sad, why should I feel sad?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus is asked why his disciples weren't fasting like all the holy people. He replied, in effect, what's to fast for? I'm here: There's life; there's love; there's hope.

Such was the case with the poor Mexican family. They obviously loved and cared for each other, even though they didn't have much.

A missionary group had provided them with a means to begin improving their life: money for materials that they used to make toys that they sold in the city plaza. The enterprise was growing slowly, with the older children sharing in the work.

Their missionary mentors also encouraged them to go to school, and so there was hope — more than there would have been if they had been given a one-time donation of food and clothing.

The hope of maintaining a better life was the "new wineskin" given them with the provision of "new wine."

Jesus' Gospel message here is a jubilee message of new life in systemic change. When a teen-age girl with an unwanted pregnancy chooses life for her baby, that's new wine. But if no one is willing to actively support and nurture her and her child, they're in an old wineskin.

If we, as a nation, provide foreign aid to a developing country where it gets swallowed up by a voracious and insurmountable debt, it may be a briefly refreshing new wine, but quickly tainted in a hopeless old wineskin.

This week's message reminds us, who live in a privileged society, that we should open our eyes to identify God's real presence in the world, but we also must be awakened to the condition of the wineskin.

Questions:

In the jubilee year, what is a systemic change you can work for to bring real hope to currently hopeless conditions? What active part will you take?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 27 - Mar. 4, 2000

Sunday (Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Hosea 2:16-17, 21-22, 2 Corinthians 3:1-6, Mark 2:18-22; **Monday**, 1 Peter 1:3-9, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday**, 1 Peter 1:10-16, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday**, 1 Peter 1:18-25, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday**, 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Mark 10:46-52; **Friday (Blessed Katherine Drexel)**, 1 Peter 4:7-13, Mark 11:11-26; **Saturday (St. Casimir)**, Jude 17:20-25, Mark 11:27-33

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Catholic cartoonist pays tribute to 'Peanuts' creator

By CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The late "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schulz "really was Charlie Brown," said Philadelphia native and "Family Circus" creator Bil Keane, 77.

"He worried a lot. If something wasn't going to work out right, he figured it wasn't going to work out for him," Keane said in a telephone interview Feb. 14 with The Catholic Standard & Times, newspaper of the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

"Right to the end, just as Lucy pulled the football and Charlie Brown never got to kick it, Schulz never got to see the final cartoon in the Sunday morning paper."
— Bil Keane, "Family Circus" creator

"Right to the end, just as Lucy pulled the football and Charlie Brown never got to kick it, Schulz never got to see the final cartoon in the Sunday morning paper," he added. "He left us the evening before. He was Charlie Brown to a T."

Keane, who spoke from his home in Paradise Valley, Ariz., drew his own "Family Circus" tribute to Schulz upon hearing the news of his death.

Schulz died Feb. 12, the night before his last original strip — a fond farewell to his fans — was published in newspapers around the world. The cartoonist, who suffered from Parkinson's disease and had several small strokes last November, was told he had colon cancer. He announced he would retire so he could spend more time with his family.

His death "is a sad thing for all the comic readers throughout the world, as well as for the cartoonists' community who were personally associated with Sparky," said Keane. "Sparky is what we always called him. I've known him for about 40 years.

"I think he is probably the best-known cartoonist in the world today and possibly is the best cartoonist of the past century."

Schulz "will always be remembered for his work, and for those who knew him he'll be remembered as a genuinely nice, personal friend," he added.

Both cartoonists were born in 1922, Keane on Oct. 5 and Schulz on Nov. 26. Keane said his last conversation with Schulz was in the summer of 1999, before Schulz was diagnosed with colon cancer.

He remembers their first conversation at a cartoonists' meeting in New York in 1960.

"He was a very warm and friendly person, not at all the caricature of a cartoonist," he said. Some people picture such artists as being wildly funny and more or less burlesque comedians.

"He never was an extrovert. I used to kid him, I'd say, 'You're the only guy I know who can walk into an empty room and blend right in.' He would laugh," recalled Keane.

Schulz was a religious man and at one time studied theology, he said. "He injected that into his strip — not on a regular basis, but occasionally he would run words from Scripture. He never was as open in showing his characters practicing religion the way I do in 'Family Circus,' but it had a spiritual feel to it."

He also "devoted a lot of time to helping young people who wanted to get started in the cartoon business," Keane said.

Schulz "is going to be missed terribly," he continued. "Certainly he is an icon in the comic business, a real gentleman."

If Schulz's death could have been scripted, "it couldn't have been done any better," said Keane. "A lot of people figure it's just coincidence, irony. I figure it was Providence. I think it was God's hand, really." ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE CINEMA

"Boiler Room"

Vin Diesel and Giovanni Ribisi star in a scene from "Boiler Room," about a shady brokerage firm that promises to make its salesmen into millionaires. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

New CD puts Mother Teresa's words, prayers to music

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (CNS) — A California composer and singer has put out a collection of songs written to the late Mother Teresa's words and prayers.

Bradley James, who has worked as a volunteer with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Los Angeles, said his CD, "Gift of Love: Music to the Words and Prayers of Mother Teresa," is the only such collection authorized by Mother Teresa herself.

James, who wrote the 13 songs over a 10-year period, said many of them are sung by the Missionaries of Charity in their homes and convents all over the world. He produced the CD through his own record label, called Only Little Things Music.

The record label takes its name from Mother Teresa's words, "We are not called to do great things, only little things with great love."

The CD contains Mother Teresa's voice blended into some of the songs. In addition to James, singers include two California choirs — the Children's Choir of Sacred Heart School in Palm Desert and the Voices of Mount Calvary Church in Indio, Calif.

In the liner notes, James dedicated the CD to Missionaries of Charity around the world. "These are your songs, and as Mother asked Christ that with each photo taken of her, he must release one soul from purgatory, I am asking him that every time one of these songs is sung or played, he hears it as a prayer for each of you. Your singing has been God's gift of love to me." ▼

The "Gift of Love" CD is available for $16 each, plus $3 shipping for 1-3 CDs and $6 shipping for 4-8 CDs. California residents also pay 7.75 percent sales tax. Write to Only Little Things Music, 42450 Bob Hope Drive, Suite 245, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. Sound clips are available on the Web at www.giftoflove.cc.

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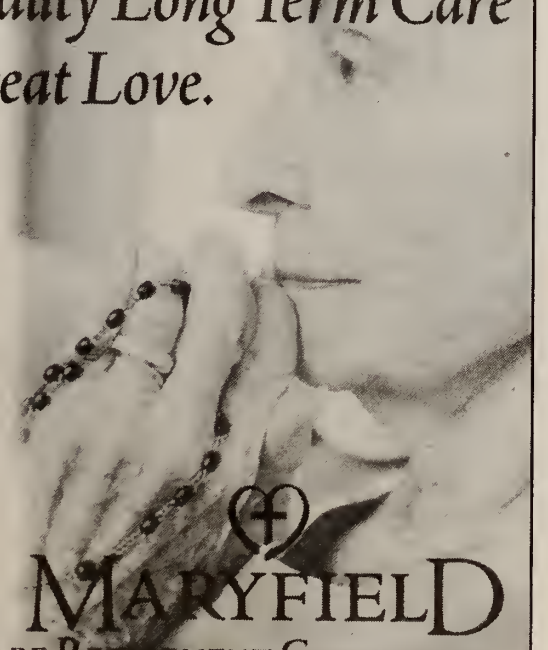

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Auschwitz concentration camp must be reminder

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz must be a permanent reminder of the horrors people are capable of committing, Pope John Paul II said.

Greeting city officials and pilgrims from Oswiecim, the Polish town where the camp is located, the pope said, "Auschwitz is a particular witness to the terrible war which caused millions of victims."

The pope spoke to the group Feb. 16 during his weekly general audience. The Oswiecim officials traveled to the Vatican to make Pope John Paul an honorary citizen.

"Your city bears the signs of the suffering and martyrdom of many nations," the pope said, referring to the 1.5 million Jews, Poles, Gypsies and other peoples killed by the Nazis at Auschwitz and neighboring Birkenau.

"The voice of Auschwitz, the cry of the tortured, must continually awaken the world so that such a tragedy will never happen again in human history," Pope John Paul said.

"I thank you for all you do to keep the memory of this painful past alive," he told the city officials and townspeople.

In December, Oswiecim Mayor Adam Bilski said his district council made the pope an honorary citizen to commemorate his visit there in 1979.

The pope, who directed the closure of a Carmelite convent at the Auschwitz camp in 1993, holds honorary citizenship of 25 other Polish cities and towns.

Pope meets with Hungarian president, jokes about keeping fit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, and afterward the two leaders joked about how hard work was keeping them fit.

"We belong to the same generation," the 79-year-old pope told Goncz, who is two years younger, after their private meeting Feb 21. He told the president he looked in good form.

"So much work keeps us well, the Holy Father, too," Goncz replied.

"That's right," the pope added as he slowly walked the president to the door.

The Hungarian leader was in Rome to preside over a ceremony marking the millennium of the founding of Hungary and the arrival of Christianity in the country.

Later, he held talks with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state. Sources said that among the topics they discussed was the drawn-out process of negotiating the restitution of church property seized under communism.

From the Bishop

BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN

Catholic Identity: Part II

I was an ordained in 1957. At that time Catholics centered their life around their parish church and school. I enjoyed teaching religion to the children. On occasion I even served as the school janitor. I remember offering the sacraments in Latin and then reading them in English so that people could understand them.

During Mass, celebrated with my back to the congregation, I would sometimes turn to greet them in Latin. We had no Latin scholars in the parish. So I smile when I hear some talk about "the good old days".

Pope John XXIII succeeded Pope Pius XII. Everyone loved him. He was a very humble person who had a great love for Christ and the Church. During this Jubilee Year he will be canonized by Pope John Paul II. When Pope John announced his call for Vatican Council II, he said that he wanted the Church to go out into the world and touch the lives of all who were hurting and in need of Christ. He reminded us, that justice precedes peace. He urged priests not remain aloof from their brothers and sisters, but to walk beside them in their journey of faith. He recognized the great treasures of the Church in the sacraments and works of charity. He believed that these gifts could change the world and make it a better world.

Mother Teresa was one of the greatest influences in my life. She professed that the Eucharist enabled her to discover Christ in the "broken bodies of the poor.' For her prayer was a continuing dialogue with God. The frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation kept her humbly at the foot of the cross. She believed that to know the Scriptures is to know the mind of God.

What is a Catholic? It's not a person who limits their relationship with God to Sunday Mass. It is to live the life of Jesus Christ. However, discipleship with Christ demands day-by-day reconsecration of our life to Christ.

I envy you, young people. This is a new century and the beginning of a new Millennium. What a wonderful opportunity you have to reveal God's love and mercy to a world desperately in need of God. Do not allow anything or anyone to discourage you. I repeat the message of Pope John II to the young people of the world: "Do not fear! God is with you. He lives in you. Fill the world with His peace and love!"

Inspired by the Feb. 4 meeting with college students attending the Campus Ministry retreat at Camp Thunderbird in Clover, S.C.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Christian marriage and modern families

Many of the ideals of Christian marriage have fallen out of favor with modern families. No longer is it seen essential to family life. Pastors struggle with their roles as those who preserve what is sacred (tradition) and direct us to what is sacred (community). For example, it is difficult to find "good news" in the teen mother who is without a spouse and pregnant with a third child. How does the Church preserve the sacredness of marriage and affirm the miracle of human procreation that our modern culture sees as not necessarily connected to marriage?

These and other questions concerning marriage in the modern world were addressed by the St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart on Feb. 9 and 10. Better known as "The Josephites," these men religious gathered in Breaux Bridge, a community just outside of Lafayette, La., to pray, listen and learn about strengthening the institution of Christian marriage in the 57 parishes the order serves in Alabama, California, Washington, D.C., Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia.

Founded in 1893, the Josephites have dedicated themselves to ministry among African Americans. The Pastoring Workshop in Breaux Bridge focused on marriage preparation and marriage enrichment for African-American Catholics.

Andrew opened the program with a presentation on marriage ministry with African-Americans. He shared our dubious beginnings in marriage, and how an effective marriage ministry evangelized us. He reported the important role that Marriage Encounter played in directing us to God at the center of our relationship.

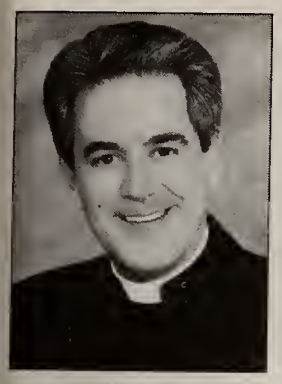
However, he also reported how easy it is to misappropriate the workings of the Spirit to human formats. He emphasized the need to honor the cultural variances of peoples of color. "When programs are design for whites they don't always fit well with African-Americans," he told the group of priests. He suggested that established programs that have been successful among whites should be open to restructuring with African-Americans in mind. The concept of process over content applies here.

Fred and Connie Sambrone, a deacon-couple from Archdiocese of Atlanta, presented a condensed overview of their marriage preparation program, "The Greatest of These is Love." One of few diocesan programs by and for African-Americans, Fred and Connie's program presents couples with realistic challenges to living a Christ-centered marriage in a material-centered world. Part of their mission is to impart "simple wisdom" that is key to unlocking marital joy long after the honeymoon.

While it was clear from the presentations that Christian married life is under siege today, there was an air of hope among those gathered. Despite the expressed feelings of frustration by some priests, there was a sense that the Paschal Mystery is operative in marriage and family life today.

The Josephites, evidenced by their focused energy on African-American marriage, are continuing a tradition of serving African-American Catholic families.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Words, Words, Words

As political rhetoric heats up this presidential election year, candidates and their wordsmiths are sculpting messages designed to persuade us to vote for them.

Some of us quickly tire, cynical of their methods: "You can't believe anything they say!" Others side with candidates whose promises square more or less with their own interests. Many say they are more concerned with character than substance (the who rather than the what) and try to find the person behind the words. Sadly, most of us won't do much listening and just "tune out" all the voices. And that's too bad.

Like it or not, the universe in which we live is a universe of words. Much of what we know, or think we know, we have learned through the words of others. Those men and women who have attempted to lead or to prod, to inspire or to intimidate, to defend values or attack conventions, have done so by using language to shape the actions and reactions of those who would listen.

On the plus side, language has at the very least helped us become civilized. As violent as our world is today, we still rely less on brute force and more on words to direct our relationships with one another. Indeed, throughout history, we have increasingly turned to the persuasive power of speech to alter or reinforce our beliefs and values.

That is why I'd encourage anyone trying to navigate the rhetorical currents of today's political scene to read a few speeches from our past. You'll be impressed with a sense of how our viewpoints have been formed for good or ill. Speeches open windows on history that demonstrate the clashes and the compromises, the successes and failures experienced by those who would lead us.

If you're interested in locating a good source for oratory born of the American experience, I'd recommend a new book I was thrilled to get as a gift this Christmas, "In Our Own Words: Extraordinary Speeches of the American Century," edited by Senator Robert Torricelli of New Jersey (who manages not to include any of his own) and Andrew Carroll. Having taught rhetoric and communications in college, I found that this volume's particular value rests in its range across the political, social and cultural landscape. It clearly illustrates that the famous and not-so-famous have a role in shaping society.

Reacquainting yourself with great speeches of the past can enhance your ability to respond more critically to today's speakers and office-seekers. We have more than a right to use our best judgment, we have a responsibility to do so. What we cannot afford to do is to give up our personal involvement in government and the political process. It's just too important.

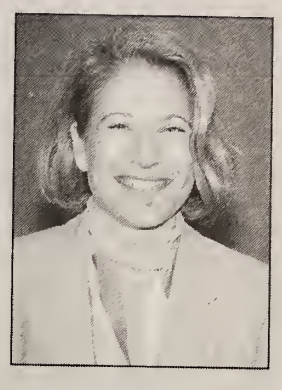
David Lloyd George, British Prime Minister during the First World War, said that "the finest eloquence is that which gets things done."

It is not enough for citizens to listen or even to form opinions. We have to express ourselves through our words and our actions. Don't be afraid to speak out, to get involved with campaigns and issues. Your voice just might transform our communities, our nation and our world forever.

And that's my last word.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Planned Giving



CINDY RICE
Guest Columnist

What a will can do for you

There are at least seven things a well crafted will can do for you.

1. A will can let you close the books on your earthly stewardship responsibilities. You've made careful decisions to conserve your estate during life, and you naturally want to do the same at death. Through your will, you can wrap up your affairs and "put your house in order."

2. A will can help you express your love and thoughtfulness to others. When a person dies without a will, those who are left behind must sort out the estate and make difficult decisions. The grieving process is compounded by frustration. What a difference when the bereaved are left with funeral instructions, an inventory list and a well-crafted will.

3. A will can remind your loved ones of your basic beliefs and commitments. The preamble can affirm not only your guiding principles, but also your aspirations for those who are left behind. Your words can provide comfort and encouragement. The way you distribute your estate can also express your commitments. Will you care for your family in an honorable way? Will you affirm worthy charitable organizations? Your will can be an inspiration.

4. A will can ensure your desires are fulfilled. If you have dependent children, you can designate who will care for them. You can specify the person who will handle the closing of your estate. You can select the trustee to oversee one or more trusts. You can time the distribution of gifts to children and grandchildren. You can make provisions to support charitable organizations. A will puts you in the driver's seat.

5. A will can conserve your assets, ensuring that more is available to meet your objectives. In many states, a will not only reduces the administrative costs of probate, it can reduce, delay or even eliminate estate taxes. Wise stewardship means making sure your assets go as far as possible.

6. A will can let you ensure the pattern of your lifetime support of your Church. With a bequest or endowment, you can continue to support your parish, Catholic school, the diocese or diocesan foundation just as you did during your life.

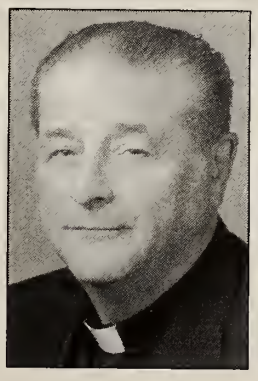
7. A will can provide peace of mind. You can relax in the knowledge that your temporal affairs are in order. You have cared for those persons and those concerns close to your heart. Your will can also bring a sense of peace and security to others.

With all the benefits, one might expect that every person would have a will. But the opposite is true. Of the 1.5 million persons who die each year in the U.S., only 30 percent have a will. For most people, making a will is like preparing a tax return — they put it off as long as they can. You may recognize some of these excuses: "It's too expensive ... I can't handle the decisions ... My estate is too small ... I'll do it later."

We encourage you to call your attorney and make an appointment to have your will prepared or updated. Please do it today.

Cindy Rice is Director of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The difference between valid and lawful

Q. Thank you for your informative column in our diocesan paper. In your answer to a question on baptism, you seem to indicate that if the water is poured rightly and the proper words invoking the Trinity are said, the sacrament would be valid.

But we have been told that the baptism of an infant is not lawful unless there is a well-founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic faith. This supposedly is canon law.

How then can the baptism you speak of be valid? The parents were not even aware of the baptism. In two years they have not bothered to have the baby baptized. There doesn't seem much hope the child will be raised Catholic. How do you explain your answer?

A. Yours is only one of numerous letters I've received recently confusing the meaning of valid and lawful (licit) sacraments. Valid administration of baptism, for example, means that the sacrament was truly, authentically ministered and received.

A sacrament may be valid, however, a real sacrament, and still be unlawfully celebrated. It is true, for example, that, outside of danger of death, canon law (868) requires the condition you mention for a licit baptism.

As I explained in the column you quote, the church has good reasons for saying it is wrong to baptize children in situations where there is no Catholic life going on in the home and no expectation that the parents will give Catholic nurturing to their child. It would not be fair to the child, the parents or the Christian community.

It is wrong and unlawful, therefore, to baptize someone in these circumstances, but not invalid.

The same is true of the other sacraments. Several have written to me worried about an "invalid" Mass because a different form of wheat bread was used. By no means does that necessarily make the eucharistic liturgy invalid.

Bread made from wheat alone, in which nothing else has been added in such a quantity that the product can no longer be commonly considered wheat bread, is required for a valid Eucharist. Note the words between the two commas. (See the Instruction of the Congregation for the Discipline of the Sacraments, 1929.)

Thus, the common leavened wheat bread one buys at the supermarket would be illicit but valid for Mass. It has in fact been commonly used in some churches outside the Latin rite. By tradition, however, repeated over the centuries (by Pope Pius X for one, in September 1912), unleavened bread such as we are accustomed to at Mass is required for lawful celebration of the Eucharist in the Latin Church.

Similar distinctions apply concerning wine. Mass wine must be made from grapes, but more conditions (concerning mixture with water or other additives) are required for validity than for lawfulness.

To offer just one more example, the ordination of priests and bishops may be wrong in certain cases, but still valid. If, for instance, a bishop ordains another man bishop without proper authorization from the pope, that ordination ceremony is gravely illicit, but still valid; the newly ordained person is truly a bishop.

The theology concerning the overall intention of the Christian community, the church, in these matters brings in other important factors. It seems, however, that keeping the above points in mind would often serve to keep things clear, reduce anxieties and preserve some Catholic peace of soul.

Maryvale Sisters, parish youth score big in annual "Souper Bowl"

VALE — The youth group of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte donated $1,431.50 to the sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady, Help of the Clergy in Vale Feb. 20. The youth group, which includes about 260 members, raised the funds for the congregation on Jan. 30 during the "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive.

Among the "Maryvale" sisters' ministries are serving 98 children enrolled at Maryvale Daycare School, providing a variety of outreach to the needy and hosting retreats for groups from throughout the region.

The ecumenical "Souper Bowl" effort is led each Super Bowl Sunday by youth in churches throughout the United States and Canada who collect donations from parishioners for local charities. This year's stats include an estimated total of $3 million raised by 12,500 church communities.

Pictured with members and sponsors of the youth group are Sister Mary Francis and Sister Mary Clare, both of Maryvale, and Capuchin Father Stan Kobel, parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. ▼

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

"Out of Africa," from page 16

born in mid-morning.

The Luo tribe is based in the Western part of the country on the shores of Lake Victoria. Its economy and food comes primarily from the fishing industry, explained Syagga.

Some of the native foods that Syagga was taught to prepare include pilau, a spiced rice, chapati, a combination of wheat flour, water and oil, which makes a type of fried bread, and ugali, ground corn flour mixed with boiling water, which is eaten with vegetables.

With approximately 28 percent of the Kenyan population being Catholic, Syagga is one of many cradle Catholics in her country. Since her arrival in the states, Syagga has become involved with the Catholic campus ministry group at WCU.

Syagga said, "As a Christian, I love religion and learning more about things I thought I knew. I like knowing who made me and why I am here."

Gloria Schweizer, WCU Catholic campus minister, said that she first met Syagga when she looked out of her window and saw her sitting on a swing near the student center. When they began talking, Syagga admitted she was feeling disconnected with her surroundings and had found the center. "[Since I am feeling like this,] where else would I go except to my church?" Syagga said.

One earmark of her African heritage is her family's acknowledgement of their tribe, a group of people descending from a common ancestor or tradition. Syagga speaks Swahili, a Bantu language distinctive to Eastern and Eastern Central Africa, English and Luo, a language derived from her tribe of the same name.

"She needed to be at the Catholic center because her faith is at the center of who she is," said Schweizer. "The way that she has made friends in such a short amount of time is amazing."

Now that she is here in America, Syagga will have four years to adjust to this country. She will not return home to see her parents until graduation because of the cost of the overseas flight. Now, living in America, when Syagga turns on her CD player and listens to her favorite song or turns on the TV, she is reminded of home. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Classifieds

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Child Care Provider and Weekend House Staff: Room At The Inn, a Catholic residential program for single, pregnant mothers located in Charlotte, NC, has openings for a full-time experienced Child Care Provider and Live-in Weekend Relief Staff. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Call Trish for more information (704)525-4673.

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

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Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

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Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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Jesuits,
from page 10

and one or two Jesuits, mainly brothers, created the art on a mission, he said. Often, those who became brothers were professional artists, then considered tradesmen, who felt a calling to use their skills to benefit the missions, he added.

Bailey finds the art so interesting because it "takes this very basic kind of late Renaissance-early Baroque ... very clear, emotional style from Europe and transforms it by making it a little more like the style of the area."

In the Christian art produced in Japan and Mughal India, for example, the figures have the specific "eyebrow and nose and coloration" of contemporary Japanese and Muslim paintings, he said. The Guarani sculptures feature pre-conquest, pre-contact traditions, showing the "impact of indigenous weaving and ceramics coming out in the patterns on the drapery."

This hybridization is "what makes it not just second-rate copies of European art," Bailey said. "It's a lot more."

The missions were funded in a variety of ways.

Bailey said the Japan mission "was paid for largely by the silk ships" from China in which the Jesuits had invested. In Guarani territory, they had a monopoly on the production and export of mate tea. In southern India, they operated plantations worked by African slaves.

The Paraguay missions also made money from their artworks. "They produced so many ... they were able to sell them to most of the colonial centers in Argentina," said Bailey.

Another new University of Toronto Press title — "The Jesuits: Cultures, Sciences, and the Arts, 1540-1773" — contains 35 essays originating in a 1997 international conference at Boston College.

Bailey, one of the book's editors, said the missions had a great impact on the order before it was suppressed by papal edict in 1773.

"The worldwide missions served as a source for information about everything from pharmacology to anthropology to ethnography to geography that was sent back to Europe," he said. This "made the Jesuits one of the world's most important purveyors of knowledge."

Jesuit missionaries found the cure for malaria in quinine, he noted, and Jose de Acosta, a Jesuit in Peru in the late 16th century, theorized "that Amerindians had crossed a land bridge from Asia."

Amazingly, Bailey added, he came up with the Bering Strait theory long before that area "had even been charted." ▼

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"Out of Africa"

Student celebrates faith, adapts to surroundings

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CULLOWHEE — Before Marilyn Syagga left home for college, she, like many other young adults, would listen to Mariah Carey on her CD player, watch "The Oprah Winfrey Show," catch the latest movie with her friends and attend Mass on Sundays. Who would guess that Syagga was born and raised in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya?

The equator runs through Kenya, a country about the size of Texas, bordered by Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania, on the Eastern coast of Africa.

Marilyn Syagga

Fresh from her trip from abroad, Syagga, 20, transferred to Western Carolina University (WCU), sight unseen, as a freshman in December. She had only heard about the school from a family friend who had moved to the Asheville area from Nairobi, but she decided to apply. Her older brother Michael was going to enroll at WCU but decided to attend school in South Carolina instead.

"It was my dad's idea to come to America because he likes the educational system better," said Syagga, one of five children, "but I also wanted a chance to go to school, see the world and explore my artistic abilities."

With her father having a doctorate in land economics and serving as the dean of faculty in architecture, design and development at the University of Nairobi, and her mother, a registered nurse and midwifery tutor, who has gone back to school to obtain her master's degree in nursing, education has always been an important part of her life.

Syagga is an interior design major, one area of study not offered at many universities, and is involved in graphic arts in her spare time.

However, Syagga did not have much room for extracurricular activities while attending boarding schools during her teen years. She attended Limuru Girls' High School, where she and the other 600 girls wore, what she described in a distasteful tone, a uniform of "white shirts, brown skirts, light brown socks and brown shoes."

"In Africa, study is the main focus, and you have to put in so much effort," she stated firmly. "At the school, we had one TV that we could only watch on weekends, but I really didn't mind because I focus better without TV and radio."

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Marilyn Syagga, pictured left, from Western Carolina University talks with Bishop William G. Curlin and Alberta Hairston, North Carolina A&T State University and Bennett College campus minister, at the diocesan Campus Ministry Retreat on Feb. 5 in Clover, S.C.

She lived and worked in a school much like a college with weekend parental visits and trips home for the break. When not busy with her studies, she was the basketball team captain and secretary of the Catholic-based school group, Youth Christian Students.

Because her family resides in the capital city, the only sign that Syagga lived in Africa came through the appearance of an occasional runaway zebra escaping from captivity across the highway between her school and home. "But, we really have the same things that you do here," she said seriously.

One earmark of her African heritage is her family's acknowledgement of their tribe, a group of people descending from a common ancestor or tradition. Syagga speaks Swahili, a Bantu language distinctive to Eastern and Eastern Central Africa, English and Luo, a language derived from her tribe of the same name.

Every child is given a Luo name based upon his or her time of birth; Syagga's is Anyango because she was

See "OUT OF AFRICA," inside page 14

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 3, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 26

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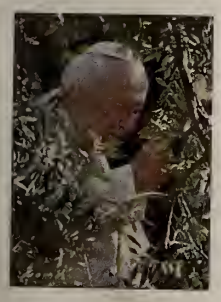

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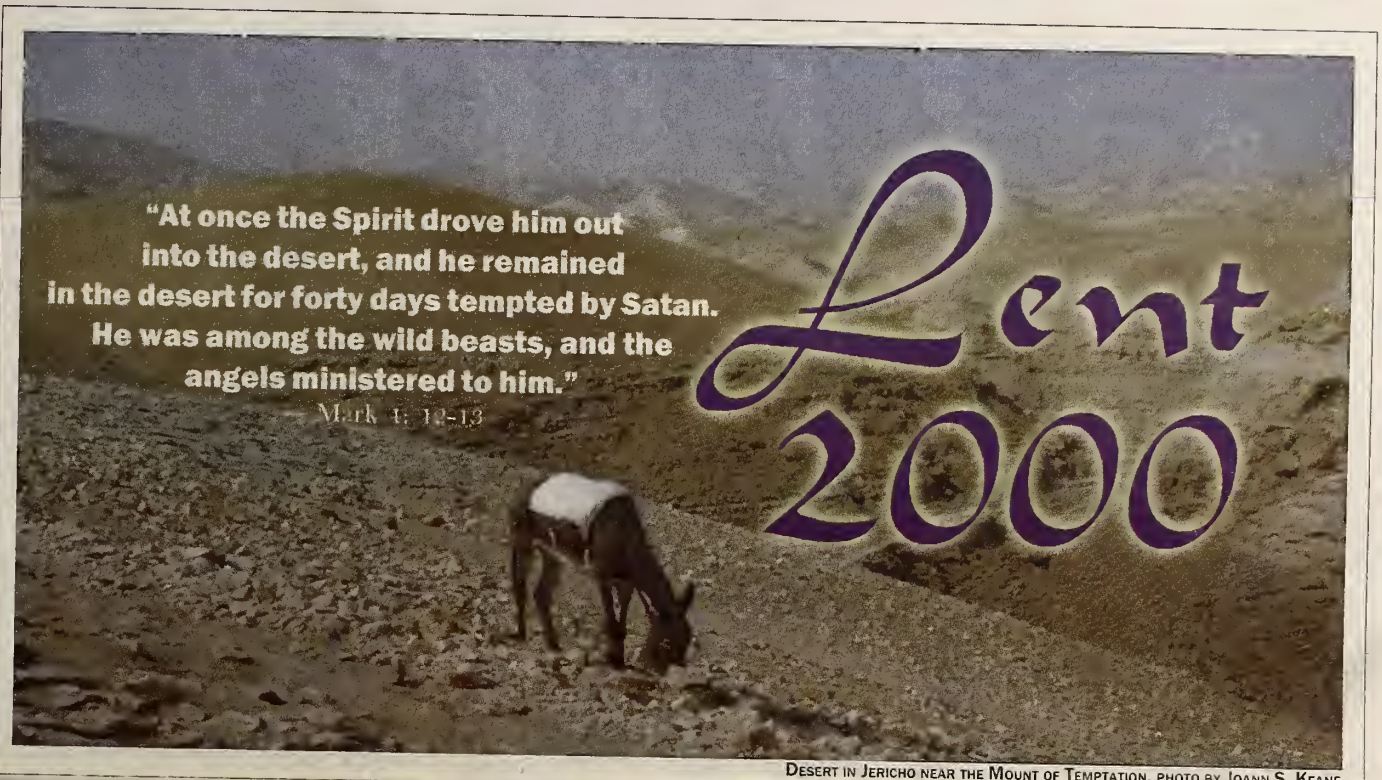

DESERT IN JERICHO NEAR THE MOUNT OF TEMPTATION, PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Faith formation

Coordinator shares ideas, talents with parishes

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

MATTHEWS — The sight of pink flamingoes sometimes brings Peg Ruble to tears. Although many things cause her to weep, pink flamingoes are a significant stimulant.

"Pink flamingoes keep showing up in my life," said Ruble. The birds' influence come from Betty Cory, one of her sisters-in-law who passed away suddenly from a brain aneurysm. Cory began a social women's group named after the pink waterfowl in Ruble's home state of Illinois, in which a particular woman would host a party. To let everyone know about the party, the hostess would place a plastic flamingo in her front yard. In order to get rid of the bird, another woman would agree to host a party.

"Pink flamingoes were a very unique symbol to Betty, and I never got the chance to say good-bye to her," explained Ruble, who now wears a flamingo pin as a symbolic reminder of her sister-in-law. "When I talk about the importance of symbols and how they carry a deeper meaning, as in sacramental preparation where the symbols are universally specific and deep, I mention the pink flamingo and the importance of symbols."

Sacramental preparation is only one area that Ruble, the Central Region faith formation coordinator, covers during her various workshops and presentations to the parishes in the Boone, Hickory and Gastonia vicariates. She meets with parish leaders and updates them on diocesan policies and guidelines, meets with the parish catechetical leaders during the vicariate meetings, and assesses faith formation programs already in place, she explained.

Ruble said that her current vocation is directly linked to her family and her faith, two strong influences from her early days.

Ruble is the third oldest of 10 children born and raised in a Catholic family in Springfield, Ill. She said that being in a large family rooted her in a sense of community and taught her that everyone has something to contribute because everyone has unique gifts to share. "And sharing is something that you learned early on in my family," she said.

Teaching was a profession that she had always wanted to do from the time she was six, when she taught her younger brother to read right after she learned. Her teaching skills did not stop with one sibling. She had a brother with dyslexia, and her mother thought that since she was so good with her other brother, that she could help this one. So, with the help of a book her mother purchased, she also taught her brother to read.

This propelled her in the direction of special education; she obtained her bachelor of arts degree in that area of study in 1972 and began teaching. "I wanted to help kids who were troubled, which was out of my understanding of who I was as a Christian. I was responding to a Christian-specific ministry, although I didn't realize it at the time," she said.

After her oldest daughter Cory was born, she decided to stay at home to raise a family. During those years, she first became involved with parish catechetical ministry. "I eased into the ministry by teaching kindergarten faith formation because I thought my knowledge of the faith wasn't sound enough," she admitted.

After the family, which had grown to five with the addition of her daughter Michelle and her son Tyson, moved to Wisconsin, where

SEE FAITH FORMATION, PAGE 5

Gap between rich and poor widens despite boom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite the booming economy, there is steadily worsening economic inequality in the United States, an economist told church social ministers. "The degree of inequality has so steadily increased since the 1970s that the United States is now more economically unequal than any other country," said Chris Tilly, a professor of regional and economic development at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. He made the comments in a Feb. 26 presentation to the Roundtable, the association of diocesan social action ministers.

Vatican II was a gift, not a break with past, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — People who believe the Second Vatican Council marked a break with the Catholic Church's past cannot correctly interpret its teaching, Pope John Paul II said. Although he had just returned from his pilgrimage to Egypt, the pope interrupted his rest to give the closing address at a Feb. 25-27 Vatican meeting on the implementation of the Second Vatican Council. Pope John Paul rejected the idea that the Catholic Church needs a new council to reorganize its structure and its mission to respond to modern needs and concerns.

Brief says partial-birth abortion not constitutionally protected

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The procedure known as partial-birth abortion is so different that it does not warrant the constitutional protection the court has given abortion in general, argues the U.S. Catholic Conference in a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court. "The killing of partly born children is new to both law and medicine," says the USCC in an "amicus," or friend of the court, brief for an upcoming case over Nebraska's law prohibiting partial-birth abortion. The brief, in the case of Stenberg vs. Carhart, was written by USCC associate general counsel Michael F. Moses and general counsel Mark E. Chopko on behalf of the bishops' conference and six other religious groups.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Floods in Mozambique
A rescue worker pulls a mother and two children from flood waters in the Mozambique city of Chokwe Feb. 28. South African defense forces were attempting to evacuate thousands of people from the flooded region of the Limpopo River.

Congress asked to condemn moves to oust Vatican as U.N. observer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House and Senate are considering resolutions that condemn moves to end the Vatican's status as a permanent observer to the United Nations. The "sense of Congress" resolution was introduced by two Catholic Republicans — Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey in the House and Sen. Robert C. Smith of New Hampshire in the Senate. The resolution says Congress "strongly objects to any effort to expel the Holy See from the United Nations as a state participant by removing its status as a nonmember state permanent observer." For about a year, the group Catholics for a Free Choice has been leading a campaign to change the Vatican's status at the United Nations to that of a nongovernmental organization. Nearly 400 organizations, including the International Planned Parenthood Federation, have asked U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to review the status of the Holy See as a permanent observer.

Nuns' beatifications will renew church in Belarus, officials say

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A spokeswoman for the Holy Family of Nazareth order said the beatification of 11 nuns martyred in World War II will encourage "renewal and reconciliation" in the East European church. Bishop Aleksander Kaszkiewicz of Grodno, Belarus, welcomed the move as a "providential event," adding that it would encourage support for church-run charity and education projects. On March 5, Pope John Paul II will beatify Sister Maria Stella Mardosewicz and 10 other Polish nuns from the convent at Nowogrodek, now in Belarus. The nuns were killed by the German Gestapo after asking to take the place of 120 arrested civilians.

Theologian says Catholics need confidence in their faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To have an impact, Catholics need to approach public life with confidence in their faith, Dominican theologian Father J. Augustine Di Noia said Feb. 23. "We have to come to our audiences with confidence that we have something valuable to share," he said. Father Di Noia, secretary for doctrine and pastoral practices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, spoke at a luncheon seminar in Washington hosted by the Faith and Reason Institute, a recently formed Washington think-tank on religion and culture.

Vatican official distinguishes between martyr, witness of faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II prepared to beatify a group of martyrs, a Vatican official said it was important to understand the difference between a martyr and a "witness of the faith." Strictly speaking, the term martyr should be used only for Catholics who died for their faith and were beatified or canonized, said Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes. The term "witnesses of the faith" may be used for Catholics whose beatification process has not been completed or for other Christians who were killed because of their faith or promotion of Christian values, the archbishop said.

Vatican rejects some claims of best way to celebrate Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a letter to a U.S. bishop, the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has rejected arguments that priests should give preference to Eucharistic Prayer 1 and should stand at the altar with their back to the people when they celebrate Mass. The letter, responding to inquiries by Bishop David E. Foley of Birmingham, Ala., was sent to all U.S. bishops and was made public Feb. 22.

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
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E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION cpa 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 8 — Ash Wednesday
7:30 pm Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 11 — 3:30 pm Mass
Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe

March 12 — 3 pm
Rite of Election
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

March 14 — 11 am
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 15 — 12:15 pm
Ecumenical Lenten Lecture and Service
St. Pius X, Greensboro

March 15 — 7:15 pm
Rite of Election
St. Pius X, Greensboro

March 16 — 7:15 pm
Rite of Election
St. Matthews, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

7 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from St. Lawrence. Tonight's class focusing on St. Theresa of Avila takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Upcoming classes include St. Eusebius of Caesarea on March 15, St. Augustine on March 22 and St. Benedict on March 29. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

GREENSBORO — "Whatever happened to penance during Lent?" is the topic of the 12:10 p.m. presentation at The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St. Capuchin Father Charles Finnegan's talk is focusing on understanding penance in the biblical and Franciscan traditions. Call the center at (336) 273-2554 for registration and more information.

10 MAGGIE VALLEY — Rev. Barbara Nelson is leading a retreat focusing on the losses we experience in life and healthy ways of grieving through them. Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center is the location for the weekend retreat at 103 Living Waters Lane. For reservations and other information, call (828) 926-3833.

11 CHARLOTTE — The Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade is taking place today in uptown Charlotte, beginning at 12 noon at Stonewall and Tryon Streets and finishing at Fifth and Tryon Streets. The parade is organized by Dyer-Hart Productions, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus. Local church groups, businesses and schools are welcome to participate, and volunteers are also needed for the parade and the Irish Festival afterward. Contact Jim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 for more information.

12 CHARLOTTE — The Newly Mar-

Morganton community discusses possibility of new Catholic school

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

MORGANTON — After working for over a year with architects, contractors, city engineers and diocesan school officials, a committee of parishioners from St. Charles Borromeo Church held a meeting Feb. 23 with over 100 parishioners and other interested people in the community to discuss their plans for a new Catholic elementary school, and to hand out applications for this fall.

Whether or not the parish school opens in the fall depends on how many applications are returned to the church by March 10. Lynn Henderson, chairperson of the Catholic school committee at St. Charles Borromeo, said that close to 70 students would need to apply to make it possible, but that plans would allow them to admit up to 90 students entering grades one through five this fall.

She also spoke of the possibilities of adding a sixth-grade class the following year, as well as seventh- and eighth-grade classes in years to come.

"I am very confident that this program will work," said Mrs. Henderson. "We can give our children something special. There will be people who will sit back to wait and see what will happen next year, but the opportunity is now."

The committee surveyed the parish last fall, and 241 families out of 258 that responded to the survey expressed support for the school, said Mrs. Henderson.

During the meeting, several education officials from the Diocese of Charlotte also gave presentations about the benefits of Catholic schools.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools, gave an overview of Catholic schools in the country, in North Carolina and in the diocese. He also talked about some things that he said were important to parents when they send their children to school.

"Catholic schools exist to really help you do what you want done in your home, while your children are away from home," he said. The spiritual and moral foundation also happens at a Catholic school, he added. "It may not happen anywhere else."

Skube also said that Catholic schools provide a safe, secure environment for students, as well as a strong academic program. "No one wants to send their child to an environment that is second-rate in academics," he said. "Our children are well-prepared for the next level."

Skube added that the children in Catholic schools are also taught respect for people of other religions. "Although we are a Catholic school, we want it to be as diverse as possible," he said. "People of all faiths are welcome, and we're stronger for that."

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the diocesan Catholic Schools Office, talked to those present about the training each teacher receives to be able to integrate religious issues into daily lessons. She said, "We have no binds on us to say we can't do it. God is so much present in the life of the child."

"I am very confident that this program will work," said Mrs. Henderson. "We can give our children something special. There will be people who will sit back to wait and see what will happen next year, but the opportunity is now."

Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent of schools for the diocese, was also present at the meeting. She talked about the testing that was required to make sure that Catholic school students are ready to go to the next grade.

In addition to the testing that is required by the state of North Carolina in the public schools, students in the diocesan Catholic schools take several nationally recognized tests as well. This is helpful, she said, for students in families that relocate to other states after spending time in schools here.

She also addressed the replacement of textbooks, which is on a five-year rotation, similar to public schools in North Carolina.

Tom Henderson, member of the Catholic school committee at the parish, presented the proposed ranges of tuition and the payment plans that would be available. He gave two examples, each based on the number of students enrolled and the number of teachers that would be hired.

In the first scenario, with 85 students and five teachers, tuition was estimated at $2,275 to $2,400. In the second scenario, with 70 students and four teachers, the tuition was estimated at $2,400 to $2,575. Both options offered a 10 percent discount on the tuition of a second student in one family that was enrolled in the school, and a 15 percent discount for a third student in one family. Students of other faiths have a surcharge of $1,000 added to their tuition.

Options for payment include monthly or quarterly plans, but a 5 percent discount will be given to those who pay the full year's tuition by July 1. The registration fee is $75.

Some in attendance asked questions about the financial liability of the parish for the school. Mrs. Henderson and Dr. Skube said that the committee had worked closely with diocesan school officials to develop the budget for the school, and that the plan was for the school to be self-supporting.

Mrs. Henderson added that she felt like this school was meant to happen. "Doors have opened during this entire mission," she said, "and that has strengthened my faith."

Dr. Skube said that the parish had been able to make a workable plan for a school without a huge capital expenditure to get started. "This will be great if this (does happen), because it will give hope to (many) other small parishes," he said, noting that this is one of the most exciting happenings in the schools in a long time. ▼

Anyone interested in more information about the school, or in getting an application, can call Lynn or Tom Henderson at (828) 584-6448.

Jubilee Days for March

March	Women's History Month
March 8	Ash Wednesday
March 12	Lent I
	Request for Pardon/ Worldwide Penance
March 25	Annunciation
	Jubilee of Women

ried Couples' Group of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring a group session on in-law relationships tonight at 7 p.m. in the Ministry Center in Room D. Call the church office for details at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is celebrating a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner after Mass. Call Josie at (704) 527-4676 for details.

13 CLEMMOMS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having Parish Retreat 2000 today through March 15, featuring Dominican Father Michael Burke. There are two sessions daily beginning with 9 a.m. Mass and ending with a 7 p.m. prayer service. The themes include "finding God in daily life," "experiencing and sharing forgiveness" and "family spirituality." For childcare and other information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200.

14 GREENSBORO — For a Salesian perspective on the Eucharist, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., is hosting Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Michael S. Murray from the De Sales Spirituality Center. His presentation, "Summit of Compassion," is taking place tonight from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and tomorrow morning from 10-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call the church office at (336) 294-4696.

15 BELMONT — Wendy Shalit, author of the book "A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue," is speaking tonight at 8 p.m. in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College, Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. She is the college's 2000 lecturer in the Father Cuthbert Allen Visiting Fellows Program, co-sponsored by the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium. The event is free to the public, but tickets are required, call (704) 825-6735.

CHARLOTTE — "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium" is a workshop on this U.S. Bishops' election year 2000 statement, being given by Joan Rosenhauer of the U.S. Catholic Conference, tonight from 7-9 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. The workshop is also being held tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St. in Greensboro. Topics for discussion include Catholic teaching and principles of faithful citizenship, correct church political activity involvement and moral priorities for public life and questions for campaigns.

NEWTON — St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., and Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry are sponsoring a support group for caretakers of elderly or ill family members and friends. All caregivers are encouraged to attend today's meeting at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Care is being provided for those adult family members who are able to attend with their caregivers. For further information, call Meg Smith at (828) 464-8442 or e-mail meg@twave.net.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is sponsoring "A Properly Drawn Will," an estate planning seminar, tonight at 7 p.m. in Conference Room A. For more information, call Cindy Rice, diocesan director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320.

18 FLETCHER — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Cross and Shamrock Division - #1 N.C., is holding its 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Broadmoor Golf Club on French Broad Lane, off of Airport Rd. The festivities start at 7 p.m. with door prizes, a corned beef and cabbage dinner and music by Joe Lavin and his band. For tickets and details, call George Dunham at (828) 298-0085. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an international organization dedicated to friendship, unity and Catholic charity.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Caring Friends program extends many hands

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — When a crisis occurs, be it a death, a serious illness, surgery or isolation, it is the Caring Friends group that lends a hand. For the past five years, the Caring Friends of St. Leo Church and School have helped many in need.

"Caring Friends grew out of an awareness of families in need when there were medical crises," says Beth Hoeing, who founded the program.

The particular circumstance that she remembers was a couple who had simultaneous emergencies. The wife was recovering from surgery when the husband was suddenly hospitalized. Hoeing found out about the situation and started making meals for the family.

For many it is customary to make meals for friends, neighbors and family that face a difficult time. Yet, what if someone has no relatives living nearby, the neighbors aren't close, or friends are unable or unavailable to help? These are some of the circumstances when the Caring Friends Program comes to the call.

Beth Hoeing felt that a pool of volunteers could help many in need. Those who volunteer are asked to prepare and freeze a meal. They are given several recipes or may make their own dish following dietary guidelines. If the meal is not needed within two months, then the volunteer may use it for her own family.

Diane and Doug Lohman are the recipients of such assistance. Expecting triplets, Diane was put on bed rest at 19 weeks into her pregnancy. The Lohmans had no family in town and had only been living in Winston-Salem for two years.

"If it wasn't for the Caring Friends, I don't think we would have gotten through these last couple of years," Diane said. "They brought us meals two or three times a week since I was on bed rest until the girls were several months old.

"It was very comforting to have so many people reach out to us. Everyone was really helpful and got us through some tough times, even when we were strangers."

The Lohmans recently had another baby, and the Caring Friends brought meals once again, and also helped baby-sit when Diane had to go to the doctor.

Providing meals, while the initial work of the group, is only one of the areas in which Caring Friends extends itself. Attention to the homebound has become a large focus.

Marlene Olenick is responsible for developing this part of the program and has about 15 volunteers helping her who visit shut-ins once every two weeks. Organizers compiled a list of about 60 parishioners the help of Father James Solari, pastor, the church office and eucharistic ministers. Some of the eucharistic ministers are also Caring Friends.

With a need for this type of outreach, Olenick came up with a unique idea. Olenick asked third-grade teacher Maureen Patti if some of her students would be willing to write to the homebound once in a while. The response was overwhelming.

Now, every student in the St. Leo School writes once a month to their homebound 'friend.' The children also periodically make favors, which are various hand-made pieces of art, with the help of school art teacher Stephanie Iauco.

Matt Sechrest, an eighth-grader at St. Leo School who corresponds with an elderly gentleman, shares, "I write to him about basketball and other sports. He tells me a lot about what's going on with himself and his wife and about their activities, in particular, singing."

Hayden Jesserer, also in eighth grade, corresponds with an elderly woman. "It was kind of strange writing to her at first because I didn't know her," he says. "By the second or third time I wrote, even though I didn't get anything back, it was much easier. I felt like I knew her a bit. I tell her what's going on in my life, about school and sports. I ask her how she is doing."

The Caring Friends volunteers also bring letters to the school from those shut-ins that have been able to write back. Olenick has helped some of her shut-ins by taking dictation. She remembers one shut-in who was anxious to write before the World Series started because both pen pals were rooting for the Yankees. Olenick also tells that many of the shut-ins have their letters and favors on display when she comes to visit.

But it is not only with correspondence that the school reaches out to the Caring Friends' shut-ins. Patti organizes two trips a year, near Christmas and in the spring, for the older children to visit their pen pals.

Says eighth-grader George Wyatt about his visit to his pen pal, "I got to see what she was really like and what she did. She likes to know what's going on with teen- agers these days. I look forward to talking to her about Wake Forest Basketball when we go back in the spring. She loves them (the team) and so do I."

Transportation is another service that the Caring Friends program provides. Pauline Rosenwald organizes this, matching volunteers to provide rides to Mass, and visits to doctor appointments, ongoing treat-

See CARING FRIENDS, next page

Photo by Jamie McAleer

Alison Eiffe and Alisha Finn, students at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem, spend some time with their friend Ms. Hessler during a recent visit organized through St. Leo Church and School's Caring Hearts ministry.

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Faith Formation, from page 1

she had graduated to teaching fifth grade faith formation and had been a substitute special education teacher and tutor, she was undergoing professional catechetical training and finished the process in her new parish home after her husband Reid was offered a job in Charlotte.

She taught faith formation classes at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte and was asked to become the youth minister in 1991.

The Office of Faith Formation invited Ruble to do a diocesan-sponsored program on natural family planning because of her implementation of a human sexuality component in her parish at the time. She was then asked if she was interested in taking a part-time diocesan regional position, involving adult education training and catechist workshops. This job led to her being hired on a full-time basis as the central regional faith formation coordinator in October 1997.

"I am a liaison and consultant and give the parishes a direct link to the Office of Faith Formation," said Ruble. "My role is to support them in their ministry to do excellent catechetical programs and to provide speakers, training and resources to help them provide the best catechetical program possible."

Ongoing personal faith formation is important to Ruble, and she will be receiving her master's degree in religious education this May from LIMEX, a program from Loyola University of New Orleans.

John Hess, the faith formation coordinator at St. Mary Church in Shelby, said, "she is very energetic, helpful and outgoing and is always open to coming to the parish to share with old and young alike. She helped set up the youth group and helped to choose the faith formation curriculum. She gives tools to faith formation teachers in the parishes and looks at different options as far as curriculum is concerned."

One recent project involves the faith formation textbook evaluations that she is working on with Marylin Kravatz, the Southern Region coordinator, and Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, the Northern Region coordinator. Both individually and as a team, the three strive to foster the faith journey and bring the jubilee message of evangelization to many areas of the diocese.

The three other faith formation regions in the diocese include the Southern Region, composed of the Albemarle, Charlotte and Salisbury vicariates, the Western region, composed of the Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates, and the Northern Region, composed of the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates. ▼

Faith formation is one of the 35 ministries and programs that receive funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Peg Ruble, Central Region coordinator, pictured center, talks with Marylin Kravatz, Southern Region coordinator, pictured left, and Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, Northern Region coordinator, during the textbook evaluation workshop on Feb. 24 for the Southern Region faith formation parish leaders.

Caring Friends, from page 4

ments and the grocery store. Even those who are not shut-in but just without transportation on a Sunday morning are welcome to utilize this service.

Marty Conrad, a younger parishioner who suffers from advanced lupus, has experienced the Caring Friends outreach first-hand. A devout Catholic who, because of her condition, doesn't get to Mass very often, Conrad converted 12 years ago and is often starved to talk about her faith with other Catholics.

"I will want so badly to talk Catholic-to-Catholic, face-to-face...," she says. "I want to be informed about what other Catholics are thinking about now and what the current issues are."

She was delighted when Marlene Olenick first called to tell her that someone would come visit her periodically. "When she (Olenick) told me about Caring Friends, I was so thrilled," she said. "I had not wanted to be selfish in asking anyone to come to my home (prior to this)."

Conrad is also involved with the Homebound Ministry program, which is an offshoot of Caring Friends. Rev. Mr. Thomas O'Connell, one of the parish's permanent deacons, had recalled a prayer program from another parish that got shut-ins involved. Katherine O'Connell, his wife, took off with the idea and developed the program at St. Leo's.

Shut-ins who wish to partake agree to pray for others. Once inducted by a eucharistic minister, the participants receive a cross, a book of special prayers and a list of intentions from the church office once a month.

"Every single day, no matter how ill I am, I take that program extremely seriously," says Conrad says of her involvement. "As a practicing Catholic, it is the only thing I can do to help the church." ▼

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Lay missionary makes return visit to Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Al Barbarino, who travels throughout North America and beyond to sing and share a message on the essence of being Catholic, will visit Charlotte for several engagements March 11-14. His mission? To benefit the needy in places he ministers as well as in his home state of New York.

Since 1991, Barbarino has recorded five albums of traditional, contemporary and original songs. A lay apostolate of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Barbarino speaks with and sings to audiences about appreciating the loving message of Jesus. All proceeds from album sales — both through mail orders and at his appearances — are given to charities that help the poor.

Locally, he gives a percentage to host parishes and organizations. Others receiving funds are the Padre Pio Center for homeless men in the Bronx, a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and Croatian Relief Services, a New Jersey-based agency aiding victims of the war in Bosnia.

Barbarino will perform a free concert of inspirational and spiritual songs March 14 at 7 p.m. in St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., in Charlotte.

He will visit St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. in Charlotte, to sing at all weekend Masses March 11-12 as well, and will sing at the 6 p.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church March 12. He will also briefly address the congregations about his ministry. On March 13, he will sing at the Little Flower Assisted Living Community.

Through his ministry, Barbarino hopes to provide for those hurting both materially and spiritually. "The message is two-fold: to remind people that God is with us every minute of the day, and to help people realize the peace of Christ," he said during a 1998 visit to Charlotte.

Barbarino's recordings will be available at all of his Charlotte appearances. For more information on the concert at St. John Neumann Church, call (704) 536-6520. ▼

Catholic scholar says don't beatify Pius XII yet

CHICAGO (CNS) — In the name of scholarship, a leading expert in Catholic-Jewish relations has said the church should take no official action for now on Pope Pius XII's sainthood cause. "Many of us who have researched Pius' record are strongly opposed to his canonization, beatification or even elevation to 'venerable' status," said Servite Father John Pawlikowski, professor of social ethics at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. "Such action would make it extremely difficult, particularly for Catholic scholars, to continue their investigation of his record." The priest made his remarks in the Feb. 23 issue of The Christian Century in a review of recently published books that took opposite sides in the debate over the response of Pope Pius XII and his Vatican offices to Hitler's World War II effort to exterminate the Jews.

Suffragette film brings Burns his fourth Christopher Award

NEW YORK (CNS) — A PBS feature on two women who were instrumental in getting American women the right to vote has won documentarian Ken Burns his fourth Christopher Award. Burns' documentary, "Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony," was one of 21 television programs, movies and books to be given Christopher Awards at a Feb. 24 ceremony in New York. Burns' previous wins came with "The Civil War" in 1991, "The Statue of Liberty" in 1987, and "The Brooklyn Bridge" in 1983. He has produced and directed each winner and he also wrote "The Civil War."

U.S. church official urges release of Congolese archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, denounced the arrest of a Congolese archbishop and urged the U.S. government to press for his immediate release. "I vehemently deplore the recent arrest of Archbishop Emmanual Kataliko of Bukavu," Cardinal Law said in a Feb. 17 statement. "I pray that our government will use whatever influence it may have" for the archbishop's immediate release by the Congolese Rally for Democracy, the rebel group that arrested the archbishop, said Cardinal Law.

All School Mass Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro was fortunate to celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Bishop William G. Curlin by participating in an All School Mass. Bishop Curlin spoke about his experiences in Catholic school and urged students to work hard and appreciate the sacrifices parents make for their children. The bishop also blessed the throats of all the students after Mass.

Family comes first, Marquette University coach emphasizes

WHITEFISH BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Put your family first, Marquette University men's basketball coach Tom Crean told a group of parents and would-be athletes at a Whitefish Bay parish. "Start with family first, and put everything else behind it," urged Crean, speaking as a coach and a young father. "Anytime you put family ahead of whatever you're doing, you're on the right track." The 33-year-old Crean, who is in his first season with the Golden Eagles, spoke to about 75 people at a fund-raising breakfast for St. Monica Elementary School.

'Romero' to be nationally televised in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — A film about the late Archbishop Oscar A. Romero, previously banned by Salvadoran authorities, will be shown on national television as part of the commemorations of the 20th anniversary of his death. "We have never before been given permission to show the film 'Romero.' ... I don't know why," Msgr. Ricardo Urioste Bustamante, an official of the San Salvador Archdiocese, told reporters Feb. 16. The film, starring the late Raul Julia, will be shown in the run-up to a series of activities being planned by the Oscar Romero Foundation for March, said Msgr. Urioste, who heads the organization.

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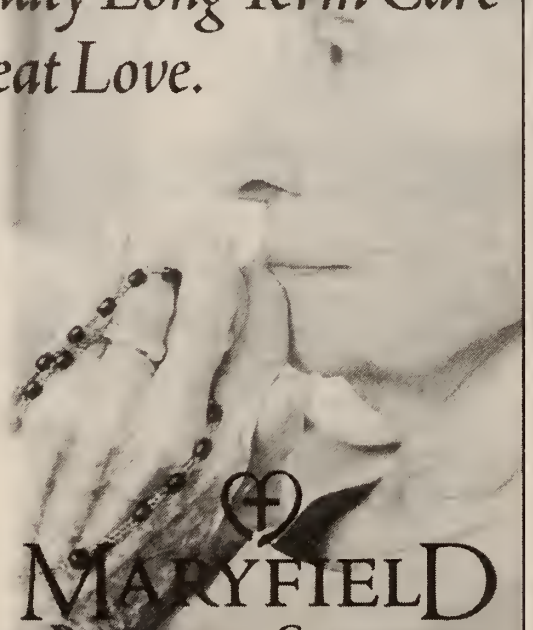

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II, seated left, joins Orthodox representatives at the foothill of Mount Sinai in Egypt Feb. 28. The pope, making his long-awaited pilgrimage to the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments, called for a return to "universal moral law."

At Vatican and in Egypt, pope begins Holy Year pilgrimages

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

CAIRO, Egypt (CNS) — With a three-day visit to Egypt and a "virtual" journey to Iraq, Pope John Paul II began a long-anticipated series of Holy Year pilgrimages to the roots of the faith.

In Egypt Feb. 26, the pope prayed at the foot of Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments, and said God's law was still the only hope for modern society.

"The Ten Commandments are not an arbitrary imposition of a tyrannical Lord. They were written in stone; but before that, they were written on the human heart as the universal moral law, valid in every time and place," he said.

Gazing over a desert mountain landscape that evoked the severity of the Bible, the pope said the world needs to rediscover the "liberating obedience" that prompted Moses to answer God's call.

The Mount Sinai pilgrimage capped a historic visit to Egypt, where the pope celebrated Mass for his tiny flock of Catholics and reached out to Muslims and Orthodox Christians.

"As-salamu alaikum — Peace be with you!" he said in Arabic after arriving at Cairo's airport, then delivered a pointed message against religious intolerance.

"To do harm, to promote violence and conflict in the name of religion is a terrible contradiction and a great offense against God. But past and present history give us many examples of such a misuse of religion," he said.

Egypt welcomed the pope with state honors and interreligious warmth. After kissing a bowl of Egyptian earth at the airport, the pontiff was greeted by the leaders of Egypt's Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic communities: Grand Sheik Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi, Coptic Orthodox bishops and Catholic Coptic Patriarch Stephanos II Ghattas.

President Hosni Mubarak, who has led a strong effort against Islamic extremist groups in Egypt, praised the pope as "a man of courage, wisdom and tolerance," and an ally in the struggle against fanaticism and hatred.

At a series of meetings, Egyptian religious leaders dwelt on the pope's efforts for peace and in particular his defense of Palestinian rights. But the pope's focus throughout the visit was spiritual, and his jubilee pilgrimage actually began at the Vatican the day before his arrival in Egypt.

Prevented by security concerns from traveling to ancient Ur, the birthplace of the patriarch Abraham located in Iraq, the pope took a mental journey there instead, leading a Vatican service filled with prayers, songs and images.

The pope said Abraham, called by God to move his family across the desert to a new land, was a model of "unconditional submission" to God's will, and in a sense a spiritual father figure for Christians, Muslims and Jews.

In Egypt, the pope's Mass, celebrated in front of 15,000 people at a Cairo sports arena, was broadcast on national television on a Friday, the Muslim holy day. The pope pointed out in his sermon that church-run social and charitable agencies were open to all, including Muslims.

"Christians and Muslims, while respecting different religious views, should place their skills at the service of the nation, at every level of society," he said.

Sheik Tantawi, considered the leading spiritual authority for the world's 1 billion Sunni Muslims, hosted the pope at his sprawling al-Azhar University complex, a major center of Islamic teaching. Sheiks and imams crowded around the stoop-shouldered pontiff to whisper a few

See PILGRIMAGES, page 8

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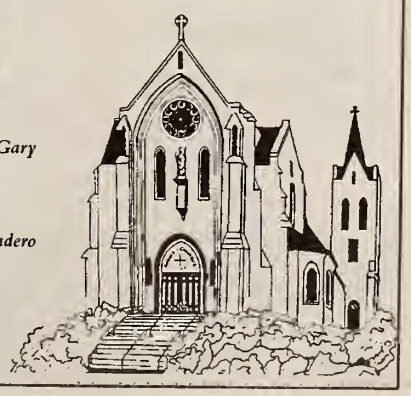

Cultural survival depends on preserving marriage, archbishop says

DENVER (CNS) — Preserving the status of traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman is "a matter of cultural survival," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said in a column published Feb. 27 in the Denver Rocky Mountain News.

"The 'tradition' in traditional marriage, after all, is not some dead habit of the past," the Denver archbishop wrote. "It's the voice of learned and re-learned experience. Alternative arrangements don't work."

Archbishop Chaput opened the column by expressing the church's support for "appropriate legislation which would class violence against homosexuals as a 'hate crime' involving special penalties."

"Whatever the content of a person's behavior, he or she never loses the right to be free from violence motivated by hate," he said. "The law can legitimately seek to ensure that."

But the Catholic Church also must support "legal efforts to define marriage as a unique relationship between one man and one woman; to protect and advance marriage's privileged status in society; and to exclude other types of relationships from sharing in that status," the archbishop said.

That support derives from the fact that marriage's unique legal status "exists largely to protect the children who depend on marriage to thrive."

"Tinkering with the identity of marriage tinkers with the welfare of children," Archbishop Chaput wrote.

"If the last few decades have shown us anything, it's this: When 'traditional' marriages dissolve, the children of those marriages suffer," he said.

"That doesn't mean blended or single-parent families will fail their children," he added. "It does mean that in those contexts, the task of parenting becomes harder, and the children involved will have more numerous and serious obstacles to overcome."

Society's response to the "extraordinary pressures" facing married couples today should be to "focus on easing those pressures and reinforcing our support for marriage, not redefining it or establishing parallel structures which erode marriage by sapping its special status," Archbishop Chaput said.

The Colorado Legislature is considering a bill that would define marriage as the union of one man and one woman and exclude the possibility of legalizing same-sex marriages in the state.

In Vermont, Bishop Kenneth A. Angell of Burlington has been at the forefront of an effort to defend traditional marriage and to keep the state Legislature from approving same-sex marriages or domestic partnerships.

The state Supreme Court in December ruled that Vermont laws discriminated against gay and lesbian couples and ordered that state laws be changed to give same-sex couples the same legal protections and benefits as married couples.

At a Feb. 17 clergy rally at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier, Bishop Angell said people sometimes ask, "What would Jesus do?" about same-sex marriages.

"I believe that he would rule on the side of 'love,'" the bishop said. "He always does, but he would also rule on the side of law, the law of God who loves us beyond our comprehension." ▼

Pilgrimages, from page 7

words of greeting.

In extemporaneous remarks, the sheik and the pope — quoting, respectively, the Koran and St. Thomas Aquinas — agreed that Islam and Christianity shared several basic beliefs about the place of religion in human development. The sheik later announced he would make an unprecedented visit to the Vatican next fall to participate in dialogue sessions.

Pope Shenouda III, the 76-year-old patriarch of about 4 million Coptic Orthodox Christians in Egypt, welcomed the pontiff to his residence the same day with a speech extolling ecumenical cooperation. The bearded patriarch escorted the pope from room to room as small children scattered flower petals in their path.

The pope repeatedly praised the Coptic church, Orthodox and Catholic, and its ancient history of keeping the faith, even to the point of martyrdom — an allusion to the harsh persecution of Egyptian Christians in earlier centuries.

Speaking at an ecumenical prayer service in Cairo's Catholic cathedral Feb. 25, the pope traced the "painful" split among the Christian community back to the fifth century and urged new momentum toward reconciliation — specifically on the issue of papal primacy.

"Dear brothers, there is no time to lose in this regard!" he said.

At the ecumenical service, the Coptic patriarch broke through the formality when he embraced the pope and told him: "We love our country, and we love you!"

The pope replied moments later, "I would like to reciprocate by saying: We love you, too."

One priest in Egypt said the problem in local ecumenical dialogue was authority, not theology.

"I think the main problem is that the Coptic Orthodox Church is afraid to lose her independence. It has its own traditions that go back centuries. The Catholic Church is a very strong, monolithic church, and the Orthodox are afraid of that," said Dominican Father Emilio Platti, a Belgian who has spent 28 years in Egypt.

Even the pope's trip to Mount Sinai hit an ecumenical snag. The Greek Orthodox community that runs the Monastery of St. Catherine on the mountain welcomed the pope warmly, but deserted his Liturgy of the Word service. Greek Orthodox Archbishop Damianos said praying together would not be proper until the churches shared full communion.

The pope was animated during a tour of the monastery's holy places. When he reached the spot where God is said to have revealed himself to Moses in the "burning bush," he fell to his knees and prayed intensely for 10 minutes.

The pope planned to continue his biblical pilgrimage in a March visit to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The idea, said papal aides, was to follow the progress of salvation history and in the process honor its chief figures: Abraham, Moses and Christ.

Vatican officials said they were still looking at the possibility of an additional visit to Damascus, Syria, where St. Paul preached the Gospel, sometime later this year or in 2001. ▼

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"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from whence comes my help." — Psalms 121:1

Lent is the season the 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.

Lent in the Great

In this early age, the Church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in the year 2000 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forebears.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God which no worldly things 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 2000 is a most special time – the Lent of a Jubilee Year, a time of favor from the Lord. Jubilee is a special time of forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and liberation from all that binds us. 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.

JUBILEE 2000

CHRIST YESTERDAY TODAY FOREVER ™

March 3, 2000

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina
in the Diocese of Charlotte

Photo by JoAnn S. Keane

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 and Good Friday, 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 the 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 years 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 Penance during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for Confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group penance 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 Sunday of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

The Sacrament of Penance and the Jubilee Year

What do sin and penance have to do with the celebration of the Millennium?

The jubilee year 2000 is for the Church "a year of the Lord's favor, the year of the remission of sins and of the punishment due to them, a year of reconciliation between disputing parties, a year of manifold conversions and of sacramental and extra-sacramental penance."1With these words the Holy Father reminds us of the importance of reconciliation and specifically the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance in the life of the church.

Why do we need the Sacrament of Penance?

"Because of human weakness..Christians 'leave their first love' (See Rev. 2:4) and even break off their friendship with God by sinning. The Lord, therefore, instituted a special Sacrament of Penance for the pardon of sins committed after baptism (See John 20:21-23) and the Church has faithfully celebrated the sacrament throughout the centuries in varying ways, but retaining its essential elements." [Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship]

What happens in the Sacrament of Penance?

In the Sacrament of Penance "the sinner who by the grace of a merciful God, embraces the way of penance, comes back to the Father who 'first loved us' (1 Jn 4:19), to Christ who gave himself up for us, and to the Holy Spirit who has been poured out on us abundantly." [Rite of Penance]3 Likewise, "those who by grave sin have withdrawn from the communion of love with God are called back in the Sacrament of Penance to the life they have lost. And those who through daily weakness fall into venial sins draw strength from a repeated celebration of penance to gain the full freedom of the children of God."

Reprinted from www.nccbuscc.org, official web site for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Notice of the Apostolic Penitentiary

The Gift of the Indulgence

The gift of the indulgence discloses the fullness of God's mercy, which is expressed primarily in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The ancient practice, about which there have been many historical misunderstandings, should be properly understood and accepted.

Although reconciliation with God is the gift of God's mercy, it implies a process involving man with his personal efforts, and the Church with her sacramental function. At the center of the reconciliation process is the Sacrament of Penance, but even after the human being has received forgiveness for his sin through this sacrament, he continues to be marked by those "remnants" which prevent him from being fully open to grace, and he needs purification and that renewal of the whole person through Christ's grace. To obtain this, the gift of the indulgence is a great help to him.

An indulgence is "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints" (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, Normae de indulgentiis, Libreria Editrice Vaticana 1999, p. 21; cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1471).

The following notice of the Apostolic Penitentiary recalls the necessary dispositions for fruitfully gaining the Jubilee indulgence.

The celebration of the Jubilee Year is not only an extraordinary occasion for benefiting from the great gift of indulgences which the Lord gives us through the Church, but it is also a fitting opportunity to recall the catechesis on indulgences to the attention of the faithful. The Apostolic Penitentiary is therefore publishing this sacred notice for the benefit of all who will be making Jubilee visits.

General remarks on indulgences

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the *Code of Canon Law* (can. 992) and in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed *conditions* (below, nn. 3,4), and the performance of certain prescribed *works* (nn. 8, 9, 10 indicate those specific to the Holy Year).

3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is necessary that the faithful be in the *state of grace* at least at the time the indulgences work is completed.

4. A *plenary indulgence* can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

• have the interior disposition of *complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;*

• *have sacramentally confessed* their sins;

• *receive the Holy Eucharist* (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required);

• *pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.*

5. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

6. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, *confessors* can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).

7. Indulgences *can* always *be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased,* but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

Specific Aspects of the Jubilee Year

Having fulfilled the necessary conditions in nn. 3-4, the faithful may gain the Jubilee indulgence by performing one of the following works, listed here below in three categories:

8. *Works of piety or religion*

• Either make a *pious pilgrimage* to a Jubilee shrine or place (for Rome: one of the four Patriarchal Basilicas — St. Peter, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul, or to the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, the Basilica of St. Laurence in Campo Verano, the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love or one of the Christian Catacombs, and participate there in Holy Mass or another liturgical celebration (Lauds or Vespers) or some pious exercise (the Stations of the Cross, the rosary, the recitation of the *Akathistos* Hymn, etc);

• Or make a *pious visit,* as a group or individually, to one of these same Jubilee places, and there spend some time in Eucharistic adoration and pious meditations, ending with the "Our Father", the profession of faith in any approved form and prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

9. *Works of mercy or charity*

• Either *visit* for a suitable time *their brothers or sisters in need or in difficulty* (the sick, the imprisoned, the elderly living alone, the handicapped, etc.), as if making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them;

• Or *support* by a significant contribution *works of a religious or social nature* (for the benefit of abandoned children, young people in trouble, the elderly in need, foreigners in various countries seeking better living conditions);

• Or *devote* a suitable part of *personal free time to activities benefiting the community* or other similar forms of personal sacrifice.

10. *Acts of penance*

For at least one whole day

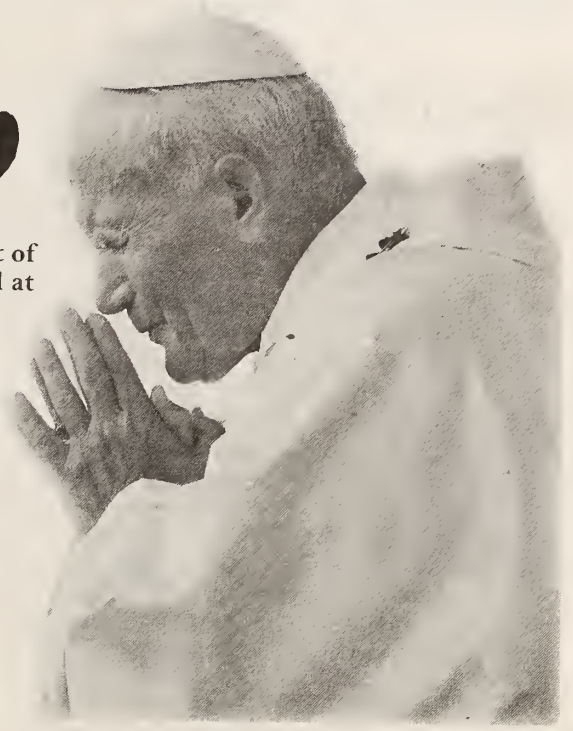
• Either *abstain from unnecessary consumption* (smoking, alcohol, etc.);

• Or *fast,*

• Or *abstain from meat* (or other food according to the specific norms of the Bishops' Conferences), and donate a proportionate sum of money to the poor.

I am with you always, to the close of the age.
— Mt 28:20

Lent 2000



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's Lenten message for 2000, released at the Vatican Jan. 27.

Dear brothers and sisters,

1. This year, the celebration of Lent, a time of conversion and reconciliation, takes on a particular character, occurring as it does during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. The time of Lent is in fact the culminating point of the journey of conversion and reconciliation which the jubilee, the year of the Lord's favor, offers to all the faithful, so that they can renew their fidelity to Christ and proclaim his mystery of salvation with renewed ardor in the new millennium. Lent helps Christians to enter more deeply into this "mystery hidden for ages" (Eph 3:9): It leads them to come face to face with the word of the living God and urges them to give up their own selfishness in order to receive the saving activity of the Holy Spirit.

2. We were dead through sin (cf. Eph 2:5): This is how St. Paul describes the situation of man without Christ. This is why the Son of God wished to unite himself to human nature, ransoming it from the slavery of sin and death.

This is a slavery which man experiences every day, as he perceives its deep roots in his own heart (cf. Mt 7:11). Sometimes it shows itself in dramatic and unusual ways, as happened in the course of the great tragedies of the 20th century, which deeply marked the lives of countless communities and individuals, the victims of cruel violence. Forced deportations, the systematic elimination of peoples, contempt for the fundamental rights of the person: These are the tragedies which even today humiliate humanity. In daily life, too, we see all sorts of forms of fraud, hatred, the destruction of others, and lies of which man is both the victim and source. Humanity is marked by sin. Its tragic condition reminds us of the cry of alarm uttered by the Apostle to the nations: "None is righteous, no, not one" (Rom 3:10; cf. Ps 14:3).

3. In the face of the darkness of sin and man's incapacity to free himself on his own, there appears in all its splendor the saving work of Christ: "God appointed him as a sacrifice for reconciliation, through faith, by the shedding of his blood, and so showed his justness" (Rom 3:25). Christ is the Lamb who has taken upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29). He shared in human life "unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8), to ransom mankind from the slavery of evil and restore humanity to its original dignity as children of God. This is the paschal mystery in which we are reborn. Here, as the Easter Sequence says, "Death with life contended, combat strangely ended." The fathers of the church affirm that in Christ Jesus, the devil attacks the whole of humanity and ensnares it in death, from which, however, it is freed through the victorious power of the resurrection. In the risen Lord, death's power is broken and mankind is enabled, through faith, to enter into communion with God. To those who believe, God's very life is given, through the action of the Holy Spirit, the "first gift to those who believe" (Eucharistic Prayer IV). Thus the redemption accomplished on the cross renews the universe and brings about the reconciliation of God and man, and of people with one another.

4. The jubilee is the time of grace in which we are invited to open ourselves in a particular way to the mercy of the Father, who in the Son has stooped down to man, and to reconciliation, the great gift of Christ. This year therefore should become, not only for Christians but also for all people of good will, a precious moment for experiencing the renewing power of God's forgiving and reconciling love. God offers his mercy to whoever is willing to accept it, even to the distant and doubtful. The people of our time, tired of mediocrity and false hopes, are thus given an opportunity to set out on the path that leads to fullness of life. In this context, Lent of the Holy Year 2000 is par excellence "the acceptable time ... the day of salvation" (2 Cor 6:2), the particularly favorable opportunity "to be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20).

During the Holy Year the church offers various opportunities for personal and community reconciliation. Each diocese has designated special places where the faithful can go in order to experience a particular presence of God, by recognizing in his light their own sinfulness, and through the sacrament of reconciliation to set out on a new path of life. Particular significance attaches to pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome, which are special places of encounter with God, because of their unique role in the history of salvation. How could we fail to set out, at least spiritually, to the land which 2,000 years ago witnessed the passage of the Lord? There "the Word became flesh" (Jn 1:14) and "increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Lk 2:52); there he "went about all the cities and villages ... preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity" (Mt 9:35); there he accomplished the mission entrusted to him by the Father (cf. Jn 19:30) and poured out the Holy Spirit upon the infant church (cf. Jn 20:22).

I, too, hope, precisely during Lent of the year 2000, to be a pilgrim in the Holy Land, to the places where our faith began, in order to celebrate the 2,000th jubilee of the incarnation. I invite all Christians to accompany me with their prayers, while I myself, on the various stages of the pilgrimage, shall ask for forgiveness and reconciliation for the sons and daughters of the church and for all humanity.

5. The path of conversion leads to reconciliation with God and to fullness of new life in Christ. A life of faith, hope and love. These three virtues, known as the "theological" virtues because they refer directly to God in his mystery, have been the subject of special study during the three years of preparation for the great jubilee. The celebration of the Holy Year now calls every Christian to live and bear witness to these virtues in a fuller and more conscious way.

The grace of the jubilee above all impels us to renew our personal faith. This consists in holding fast to the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery, through which believers recognize that in Christ crucified and risen from the dead they have been given salvation. Day by day they offer him their lives; they accept everything that the Lord wills for them, in the certainty that God loves them. Faith is the "yes" of individuals to God, it is their "Amen."

For Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, Abraham is the exemplar of the believer: Trusting in the promise, he follows the voice of God calling him to set out on unknown paths. Faith helps us to discover the signs of God's loving presence in creation, in people, in the events of history and above all in the work and message of Christ, as he inspires people to look beyond themselves, beyond appearances, toward that transcendence where the mystery of God's love for every creature is revealed.

Through the grace of the jubilee, the Lord likewise invites us to renew our hope. In fact, time itself is redeemed in Christ and opens up to a prospect of unending joy and full communion with God. For Christians, time is marked by an expectation of the eternal wedding feast, anticipated daily at the eucharistic table. Looking forward to the eternal banquet "the Spirit and Bride say 'Come"' (Rev 22:17), nurturing the hope that frees time from mere repetition and gives it its real meaning. Through the virtue of hope, Christians bear witness to the fact that, beyond all evil and beyond every limit, history bears within itself a seed of good which the Lord will cause to germinate in its fullness. They therefore look to the new millennium without fear, and face the challenges and expectations of the future in the confident certainty which is born of faith in the Lord's promise.

Through the jubilee, finally, the Lord asks us to rekindle our charity. The kingdom which Christ will reveal in its full splendor at the end of time is already present where people live in accordance with God's will. The church is called to bear witness to the communion, peace and charity which are the kingdom's distinguishing marks. In this mission, the Christian community knows that faith without works is dead (cf. Jas 2:17). Thus, through charity, Christians make visible God's love for man revealed in Christ, and make manifest Christ's presence in the world "to the close of the age." For Christians, charity is not just a gesture or an ideal but is, so to speak, the prolongation of the presence of Christ who gives himself.

During Lent, everyone — rich and poor — is invited to make Christ's love present through generous works of charity. During this jubilee year our charity is called in a particular way to manifest Christ's love to our brothers and sisters who lack the necessities of life, who suffer hunger, violence or injustice. This is the way to make the ideals of liberation and fraternity found in the sacred Scripture a reality, ideals which the Holy Year puts before us once more. The ancient Jewish jubilee, in fact, called for the freeing of slaves, the cancellation of debts, the giving of assistance to the poor. Today, new forms of slavery and more tragic forms of poverty afflict vast numbers of people, especially in the so-called Third World countries. This is a cry of suffering and despair which must be heard and responded to by all those walking the path of the jubilee. How can we ask for the grace of the jubilee if we are insensitive to the needs of the poor, if we do not work to ensure that all have what is necessary to lead a decent life?

May the millennium which is beginning be a time when, finally, the cry of countless men and women — our brothers and sisters who do not have even the minimum necessary to live — is heard and finds a benevolent response. It is my hope that Christians at every level will become promoters of practical initiatives to ensure an equitable distribution of resources and the promotion of the complete human development of every individual.

6. "I am with you always, to the close of the age." These words of Jesus assure us that in proclaiming and living the Gospel of charity we are not alone. Once again, during this Lent of the year 2000, he invites us to return to the Father, who is waiting for us with open arms to transform us into living and effective signs of his merciful love.

To Mary, mother of all who suffer and mother of divine mercy, we entrust our intentions and our resolutions. May she be the bright star on our journey in the new millennium.

With these sentiments I invoke upon everyone the blessings of God, one and triune, the beginning and the end of all things, to whom we raise "to the close of the age" the hymn of blessing and praise in Christ: "Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen."

JUBILEE 2000

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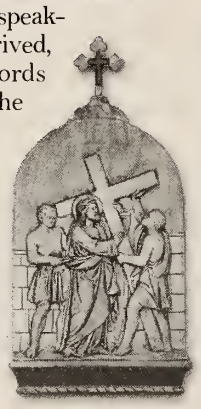
Stations of the Cross

The following stations of the cross are based on those celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. They are presented here as an alternative to the traditional stations and as a way of reflecting more deeply on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's passion. The stations shown here are located within Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, N.C.

First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

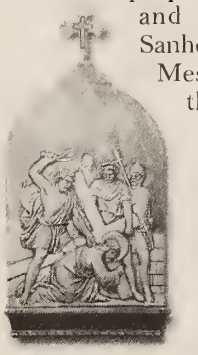
Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." — Matthew 25: 36-41

Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested



Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. — Mark 14: 43-46

Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin



When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth." — Luke 22: 66-71

Fourth Station: Jesus is Denied by Peter

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. — Matthew 26: 69-75

Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate

The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas... [and] handed [Jesus] over to be crucified. — Mark 15: 1-5, 15

Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. — John 19: 1-3

Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross

When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." ... They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. — John 19: 6, 15-17

Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. — Mark 15: 21

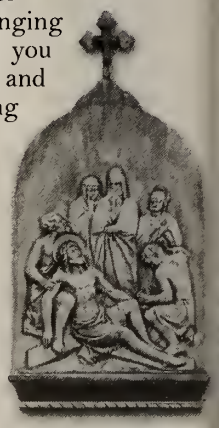
Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" — Luke 23: 27-31

Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] — Luke 23: 33-34

Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief



Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." — Luke 23: 39-43

Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. — John 19: 25-27

Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. — Luke 23: 44-46

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. — Matthew 27: 57-60

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE RADCLIFFE

Diocese to celebrate regional Rites of Election

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Bishop William G. Curlin will join Catholics throughout the Diocese of Charlotte later this month in bringing hundreds of men and women a step closer to the Catholic Church.

Bishop Curlin will celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at three sites between March 12-16. The rite is a key step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which men and women fully enter the Catholic Church through study, prayer and liturgical celebrations.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated at the following sites:

• Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. in Asheville, on March 12 at 3 p.m.;

• St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. in Greensboro, on March 15 at 7:15 p.m.;

• St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte, March 16 at 7:15 p.m.

The regional celebrations of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion have become comprehensive diocesan events in the past few years. Diocesan and parish officials involved in the RCIA have said that gatherings such as this do much to raise the awareness of the community regarding the Christian Initiation process.

The RCIA process can take several months to several years, and it involves periods of inquiry, formal instruction, sacramental preparation and formation in church life. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is the second of three major rites in the RCIA. It marks the end of the period of discernment called the catechumenate. During its celebration, participants affirm their desire to continue their preparation for full reception into the church.

The Rite of Election is celebrated for catechumens, participants who have not been baptized and who prepare to receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Communion during the Easter vigil Mass. The Call to Continuing Conversion is for candidates, those who have been baptized and who will receive the sacraments of confirmation and Communion.

Traditionally celebrated during early Lent, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion invites RCIA participants to sincere personal reflection and preparation while also calling the community of faith to support catechumens and candidates in their faith journey. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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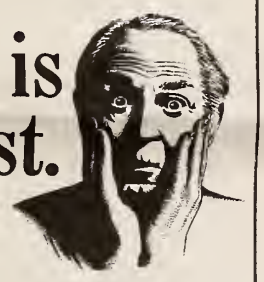

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Book Review

Author chronicles faith stories of famous, obscure sportsmen

By MICHAEL COX
Catholic News Service

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Much like the subjects he chronicles in his new book, Wally Carew is an avid sportsman, a gifted professional and a man of great faith.

Carew's first book, "Men of Spirit, Men of Sports," released late last year by Ambassador Books Inc. of Worcester, was on the Boston Globe paperback best-seller list for six of 10 weeks beginning in mid-December. A second printing was planned for March.

In the book, Carew, the son of a former St. Bernard's High School football coach, chronicles the warm and inspiring stories of both world-famous and little-known athletes of the 20th century.

The book provides rare glimpses into men of great faith, including Mike Ditka, Bob Cousy, Jimmy O'Brien, Jackie Robinson, Roger Staubach and others.

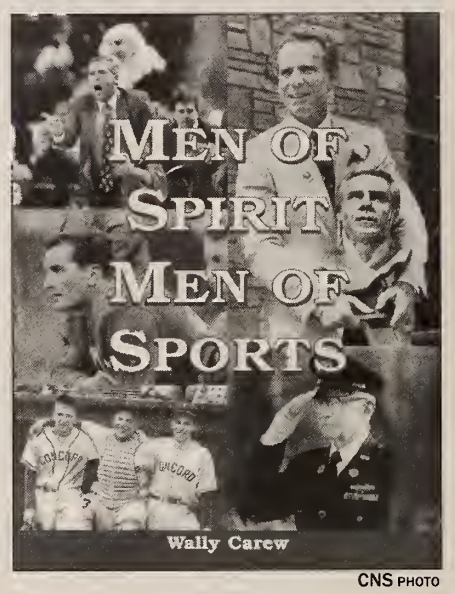
"Men of Spirit, Men of Sports"
By Wally Carew
Ambassador Books, $14.95

Carew skillfully combines those stories with his own childhood joys and sorrows growing up in Concord in the 1950s as the son of the town's legendary football coach.

"It combines two of my greatest loves — competitive athletics and my faith," said Carew, a newspaper man who spent 25 years as a sportswriter and columnist for New England newspapers.

Publisher Gerard E. Goggins said the work is about much more than sports stories. It's about human relationships and the often difficult relationship between parents and their children.

"With this book it was like Wally was coming to terms with himself," Goggins told The Catholic Free Press, newspaper of the Worcester Diocese. "Wally's relationship with his father stuck in his throat for 50 years, and I think he had to write this book to finally come to terms with it."



CNS PHOTO

Walter R. Carew Sr. was a Battle of the Bulge survivor and coach of Concord High School football through much of a stretch from 1946-55 when the team had a 58-0-1 record. He was also a gifted athlete, his son says, who would have played baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers were it not for the war.

When it came to football, his son says, Wally Carew Sr. was one of the rare coaches who brought the Gospel to the gridiron. His faith was something both his son and players admired most about him.

Wally, 55, still lives in Medford with his wife, Mary Rose. He is a former writer with the Lowell Sun and Medford Mercury and is still a regular contributor with the Archdiocese of Boston's newspaper, The Pilot.

In his book, some of the greatest athletes this century are among those who reflect on the spiritual strength that sustained them through their careers.

Carew said he did all the interviews by phone, except one, a candid interview in which former Boston College basketball coach Jim O'Brien

See MEN OF SPIRIT, page 15

Word to Life

March 5, Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:3-8, 10-11
2) 2 Corinthians 4:6-11
3) Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

My daughter Amy's eighth-grade class has been reading the 1961 Pulitzer Prize winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird." It is a great book. I've been reading it to her chapter by chapter each evening, growing in appreciation of this moving depiction of life in the deep South of the mid-1930s.

To modern readers, it is history so distant from our experience as to seem out of the Stone Age instead of the recent past. The racism depicted is so unfair, so ingrained, it seems impossible that it could be defeated — both in law, and in fact, for the most part — in so short a time.

My 14-year-old has asked vehemently how people could have lived in such a manner, never giving people a chance just because of the color of their skin. "It's just like abortion," she said. And she was right.

In "To Kill a Mockingbird," Tom Robinson, a black man with a withered right arm, is convicted of a rape he could not have committed. Today, millions of unborn children are not given the chance to live, also as a result of a prejudicial judgment.

In today's Mark reading, Jesus knows the hearts of his accusers who are looking for a chance to trip him up. Will he heal on the Sabbath?

"He looked around at them with anger, for he was deeply grieved that they had closed their minds against him. Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' The man did so, and his hand was perfectly restored. When the Pharisees went outside, they immediately began to plot with the Herodians how they might destroy him."

God's image was in Tom Robinson. God's image is in every unborn child. Jesus still grieves when men and women seek to destroy that image.

But we must never forget that destroying Jesus' body built his church, that novels such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" helped deal a death blow to racism enshrined in law and that nearly 30 years after "Roe vs. Wade," a new birth of freedom for the unborn may yet dawn, quickly, unexpectedly, like a resurrection or as the fruit of an organized movement for freedom.

Question:
Do you seek to work against your natural prejudices to help you respond to all people as individuals with inherent worth and dignity?

"Then he said to them: 'Is it permitted to do a good deed on the Sabbath — or an evil one? To preserve life — or destroy it?"' — Mark 3:4 ab.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 5 - 11, 2000

Sunday (Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 5:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:6-11, Mark 2:23-3:6; **Monday**, 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (Sts. Felicity and Perpetua)**, 2 Peter 3:12-15, 17-18, Mark 12:13-17; **Ash Wednesday (Fast and Abstinence)**, Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (St. Frances of Rome)**, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Abstinence)**, Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday**, Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

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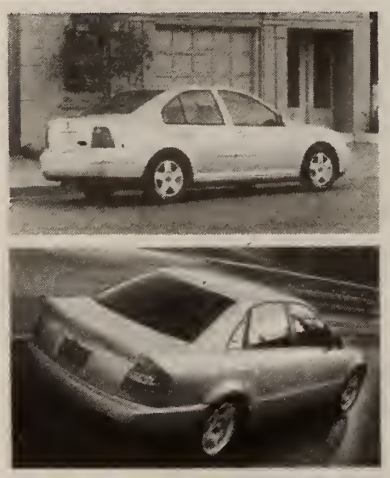
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Archbishop: TV programs can aid spiritual life if well-chosen

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (CNS) — Television can be a tool for evangelization and spiritual growth if viewers are very picky about what they watch, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley said.

"Through television, we can be intellectually enriched, creatively entertained and spiritually uplifted; but we can also be tempted and, indeed, debased," said the U.S. archbishop.

Archbishop Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, made his comments Feb. 19 during the Monte Carlo Television Festival.

Television has enabled Christians to bring the Gospel of Christ into the homes of millions of people who may not have heard it otherwise, he said.

The medium also has brought many people "a liberation from ignorance, from isolation and from loneliness," Archbishop Foley said.

At the same time, he said, by watching some television programs "we can be derailed or at least sidetracked from our journey through earthly life to eternal life with God."

Archbishop Foley said Christians have an obligation to avoid watching programs that lead them away from God and to choose programs that can bring them closer to God.

"Television can be a source of temptation, and it can also introduce a type of slavery, not only the traditional slavery of sin, but the slavery of the person who merely observes and does not participate in life," he said. ▼

Fox Family to air special on life of St. Patrick

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The life of the patron saint of the Emerald Isle is dramatized in "St. Patrick: The Irish Legend," to be shown on Sunday, March 12, 7-9 p.m. EST on the Fox Family cable channel.

As a rebellious 16-year-old in a Christian fifth-century British village, Patrick (Luke Griffith) impulsively partakes in a midnight pagan ceremony only to be snatched by Irish raiders, put on a ship and sold as a slave in Ireland.

"St. Patrick, The Irish Legend"
March 12, 7-9 p.m., EST on the Fox Family channel

Forced to tend sheep on the cold hillsides, Patrick has time to reflect on his unhappy state and turns to God. In a golden vision of light, Patrick is told he has been chosen to do God's work. Escaping slavery, he returns to his parents (Alan Bates and Susannah York) who are thrilled to see him alive six years after he vanished.

But another vision reveals he is destined to convert the Irish, so he studies for the priesthood in Gaul where Patrick (played now by Patrick Bergin) convinces Bishop Germanus he has been selected by God to become the bishop of Ireland.

The chief bishop of Britain (Malcolm McDowell), however, is suspicious of Patrick and dismisses the Irish as "an uneducated, barbaric race." Nonetheless, Patrick perseveres, facing down heathen King Laoghaire, walking unharmed through an inferno to prove God's might and conveniently shape-shifting into a deer when in danger.

Preaching to throngs and using a shamrock to explain the Trinity, Patrick gains many converts but scorns the British bishops' demands for tithes. Nearly recalled from his beloved Ireland when his one instance of teen-age idolatry is revealed, Patrick takes heart in another vision in which God confirms his place in the history of Ireland, in the church and in preserving civilization.

Filmed in Ireland, the visuals are lush and the background music a lyrical delight.

However, director Robert Hughes' extremely reverential treatment of his subject does make him seem more a magical legend than a human man who struggled with his mission and eventually became a saint.

Patrick is able to deflect the blows of sword, change men into stone with a flick of his hand and drive the snakes into the sea the moment he sets foot back in Ireland. His miracles seem more like glitzy special-effects dramatics than instances of God working through his servant.

Bergin plays the saint with the conviction of one who knows he is invincible since God is on his side. While the religious ideas expressed are inspirational, it is the overly pious treatment that reduces a saint of the early church to more of a mythical figure whose reality is shrouded in centuries of Irish mist.

Some may be pleased to see two hours of prime time devoted to the life of a saint and want to share the story with other family members. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM PARAMOUNT PICTURES

New at the Box Office

"Wonder Boys"

Michael Douglas and Frances McDormand star in a scene from the feature film "Wonder Boys." Fitfully amusing comedy about a grouchy, pot-smoking English professor (Michael Douglas) who, daunted by the success of his first novel, is laboring to finish his second and in the process unwittingly takes an odd but gifted writing student (Tobey Maguire) under his shaky wing.

Skillful performances and the picturesque campus setting enhance director Curtis Hanson's character-driven movie but they aren't enough to sustain interest in the sluggish and insubstantial narrative. Recurring recreational drug abuse, implied homosexual encounter, an extramarital affair and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Justice & Peace

JOANNE KENNEDY FRAZER
GUEST COLUMNIST

U.S. Bishops to Catholics: Get Politically Involved in 2000 Election

The Church in politics? Is that legal?!

In fact, Catholic teaching declares that citizenship is a virtue, and participation in the political process is a moral obligation. And during this election year, the U.S. bishops are pressing the nation's Catholics to get politically active in order to reshape political priorities.

Catholics must enter into a "new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests," the bishops write in "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," their guide for this election year.

They list 10 areas for inquiry, framed around principles of Catholic teaching, against which voters and candidates can measure their positions and decisions.

"We hope parishes, dioceses, schools and other Catholic institutions will encourage active participation through non-partisan voter registration and education efforts," the bishops write.

To provide some how-to's for civic responsibility, Joan Rosenhauer, special projects director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Department of Social Development and World Peace, will be in our diocese during the week of March 12th.

Rosenhauer, who worked closely with the bishops and several other departments of the USCC in preparing this statement, will give two regional workshops in Charlotte and in Greensboro.

She will also present two special sessions, one for priests and permanent deacons and one for Catholic Social Services staffs and boards.

Rosenhauer's sessions will cover Catholic teaching and principles of faithful citizenship, do's and don'ts for churches for political activities in an election year, and moral priorities for public life and questions for campaigns.

The first regional session is at St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte on Wednesday, March 15 from 7-9 pm.

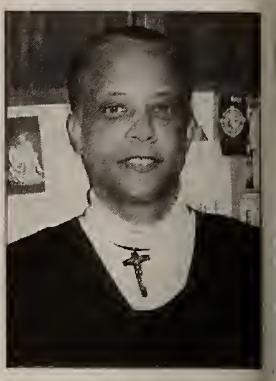
The same session will be given for the northern region at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro on Thursday, March 16 from 7-9pm.

The Office of Justice and Peace is sponsoring the sessions, and all are welcome to attend these free sessions. Call (704) 370-3225 to register.

Joanne Kennedy Frazer is director of the Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services.

"The Pope Speaks" will return in the March 10 issue of The Catholic News & Herald. Read the pope's Lent 2000 message on page 3 of "Lent and the Great Jubilee 2000."

The Season of Lent



SISTER LARETTA RIVERA-WILLIAMS, RSM
GUEST COLUMNIST

Committing to the Paschal Mystery

Each Ash Wednesday I have reverently received ashes and remained loyal to fasting on Fridays during Lent. This year, however, greater knowledge of the world around me has moved me into a deeper spirit, more consciously aware of the Passion of Christ. Prayer, Scripture and the reality of life in today's society have moved me toward experiencing Lent from a different perspective.

The cycles of life have become so violent and frightening that most people avoid listening to media commentaries. News reports, once a stage for grand celebrations and historical events, have become a wave of nightmarish activities.

As the year 2000 was birthed, technology made it possible for us to watch the year unfold worldwide. There were colorful costumes and festive dances enjoyed from Australia, the Pacific Islands, Switzerland, the United States and other countries. January 1st was a day to be bottled and magically opened for unity and peace, again and again and again.

How much of the 21st century will our children inherit? The present is too unpredictable to even assure a hopeful future. I am fearful that many young people will never have a desire to achieve higher goals. Anger and loneliness will grip the hearts of many before troubled minds find acceptance and peace. Some dreams will be deterred because they could not outrun the catalyst of contagious apathy. Violence will trample upon the footsteps of aspiring leaders and academic scholars. Too many others will roam unnoticed and never hear the encouraging words that build character.

Presently, I minister in Forsyth County, the county with the highest infant mortality rate than any other county in the state. North Carolina has the highest infant mortality rate in the United States. The redistricting of schools in the city has led to segregated classrooms, a lack of quality education in predominantly black and Hispanic schools, and a reevaluation of civil rights. Throughout the world, teen-agers are killing and being killed. What has fueled this rising pulse of inhumanity to humanity?

How can I be aware of the infant mortality rate and the content of my prayers not change? How can I know that people are still threatened by racial injustices and not advocate change? Since I have seen children lost because death came too soon for a parent, how could I never open my heart to more love?

The Paschal Mystery has to become more than a prayerful memory during this holy season. It has to be held at the forefront of human actions. People have to become the eyes, hands, heart and feet of Jesus Christ. Perhaps, then, peace would spill on the earth, not blood. Maybe then, children of the world would inherit tomorrow's dreams as aspiring leaders and scholars.

Sister Laretta Rivera-Williams, a Sister of Mercy of North Carolina, is director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem. She is a former teacher of religious education at Charlotte Catholic High School.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org. We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

Thanks from Raleigh

Dear Bishop Curlin,

I received your letter and enclosed check for $170,000 on behalf of the Diocese of Charlotte. You and the people of your great diocese are most kind in your generosity and thoughtfulness in our time of need. I know you have heard the stories and seen the destruction.

As Bishop, I have been most humbled by the generosity of the people of this state and throughout the United States. Frank Schulte in his correspondence said they know well what it means to be in need in such circumstances and like you were most generous. It puts things in perspective, doesn't it?

Be assured of my own prayers of thanksgiving for the kindness and generosity of the people of your great diocese. Please communicate to them my thanks on behalf of the countless thousands they have helped. May God continue to bless you and your diocese with a generous heart.

F. Joseph Gossman, *Bishop of Raleigh*

Pope John XXIII

That Pope John XXIII is considered by many scholars to be the greatest pontiff of the last 2000 years is yet another indication of the crisis which grips the Church.

While good Pope John's personal piety cannot be questioned, his judgement certainly can. Convoking the Second Vatican Council, though perhaps well-intentioned, was a disastrous mistake, as each passing year seems to demonstrate ever more clearly. By opening the Roman Catholic Church to the world — Pope John's stated goal — he inadvertently allowed the spirit of the world to invade and infect the Church. The much-balleyhooed spirit Vatican II is, I'm afraid, the spirit of the world, the spirit of ecumenism, the spirit of freedom.

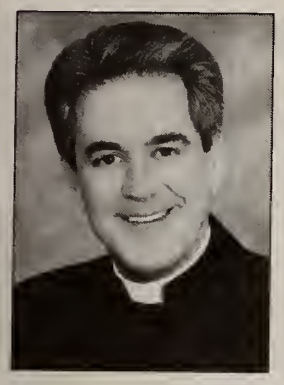
And before you accuse me of being an old fogey, a misty-eyed nostalgia freak longing for the 1950s, let me assure you I'm not: I'm a 29-year-old convert to Catholicism who has no personal experience with pre-Vatican II worship. It's grown increasingly clear to me over time, however, that Pope John's Council, with or without his approval, gave rise to a New Church, one with new liturgy, new sacraments and a new theology.

This New Church has its cheerleaders, certainly — Vatican and press officials engaged in a perpetual PR battle to portray the Council's reform as beneficial and inspiring — but their rah-rah-rahs are ringing hollow. It is no longer deniable that the reforms of Vatican II, far from renewing and energizing our priests and laity, have instead spawned devastating declines in Mass attendance, religious vocations and Church discipline.

Most troubling of all, perhaps, is the post-Vatican II preoccupation with ecumenism, a belief that all religions are equally pleasing in God's sight and are valid pathways to salvation. This belief, endorsed though it may be by our current pope, is unquestionably a violation of the First Commandment and Church dogma. When choosing between God and Vatican II, it seems we are now expected to choose Vatican II.

I am a convicted felon, a prison inmate. Aside from the prohibition against killing, there's not a single commandment in the Decalogue I've not broken. I'm a wee bit uncomfortable, then, calling into question someone else's judgement when my own has been faulty on more than one occasion. But to promote Pope John XXIII as the most outstanding pope of the last 2000 years, when the Council he called has wreaked so much havoc upon the Church and wounded so acutely the mystical Body of Christ — this is a serious and regrettable lapse in judgement and should not be repeated.

Joshua Stancil, *Marion, NC*



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Signs of "Springtime"

The word "Lent" comes from an early Saxon word for "springtime." It's a good image to keep in mind during these next forty days leading up to Easter.

Lent has a way of bringing you down to earth: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." At the same time, Lent challenges you to spend six weeks in an attempt to achieve utter honesty about the state of your soul. In the process, you open yourself to a spiritual springtime — a time for new life and the potential for personal growth.

Spiritual growth is measured differently for each individual, but ultimately, it depends on your personal desire to link your own will with the Will of God, the Father of all life. To get yourself started, try these three steps in your reflection.

First, study your daily actions, especially those activities that demonstrate your sense of commitment to those things that matter to you. They may include your family life, the way you go about your job, spend your leisure time or get involved with neighborhood concerns. Behind the priorities you give these activities is your will. Honest reflection will reveal that you cannot achieve all your goals on your own, even with the greatest effort of will.

At this second stage, you begin to see more clearly how your conscience actually negotiates what you want to do with what you actually do. Conscience motivates will into action. For example, you recognize within yourself a yearning for spiritual truth. You cannot reach it yourself. At that moment, you know you need God if you are to attain everything for which you heart aches.

For the third level of reflection, consider carefully the things religion has to say to your conscience. What does religious truth say about your deepest yearning for truth? What about the possibility that God can enable you to move beyond yourself — to share in a Will that perfects your own?

When you know you cannot become what you most want to become by yourself alone, you can open your heart, mind and soul to God's grace-filled intervention. Recognizing the pure gift of faith in God's power to bring fulfillment is the final step. Your will and the Father's will become one.

At Gethsemane, on the night before He died, Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not what I want but what You want....Your will be done." (Matthew 26:39,42)

Your challenge is to make this your prayer for Lent and for life. Ask for the grace and courage to act upon the will of the Father as your own — however humanly impossible it may seem.

Then, you will say, "I forgive you" to someone you have never had the strength to face squarely. You will take the risk of performing an extraordinary act of generosity and selflessness. You will find greater reasons than your own satisfaction to make a difference. You will trust and hope in the Lord rather than despair.

This year, welcome the fresh, beautiful growth, not just in the natural world around you, but within yourself. Join Jesus in praying those words He spoke in the Garden of Gethsemane in that long-ago springtime: Choose God's Will and you choose life.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Elder Ministry

MEG SMITH
Guest Columnist

Serving an aging population

As health care becomes more sophisticated and medications are discovered to maintain health, people in the United States are living longer. This allows older people to enjoy living in the community longer, in their own homes or with loved ones. It also creates the opportunity for family, friends and neighbors to share their love and learn from their wisdom and experience.

Sometimes, it creates challenges, as well. As people age, they must often learn to live with conditions of aging and health that have not yet been mastered by modern medicine. Some of these conditions result in pain and a decline of some functions that people have tended to take for granted.

It is often difficult to accept help, even from loved ones. In the American culture, independence is valued highly. It can, also, be a challenge to offer assistance and advice to those who have usually been the people who gave it.

As couples age together and one spouse needs more assistance, the other may need to learn complicated and physically taxing care-giving skills. When parents and family members need more help with daily chores, families are often stretched thin, balancing their time and energy among children, spouse, work and care-giving. Experiencing the illnesses of loved ones is painful. It can be even more difficult when the illnesses involve memory and changes in personality traits.

There are 25 million family caregivers in the United States. They are spouses, children, sisters and brothers, nieces, nephews, parents, friends and neighbors.

There are many services available to assist senior citizens and their families. Home health agencies provide nursing care, therapies and personal assistance. Many counties provide assistance with meals, housekeeping, errands, transportation and daily phone calls. Telephone emergency services can summon assistance at the press of a button. These services can be accessed by calling local social service agencies and physicians. Most parishes have groups who visit the sick and offer the Eucharist in the home. Pastors should be made aware of those who are unable to attend church functions regularly.

Education is important in the care of anyone who is ill. Physicians, hospitals, home health agencies, the Internet and support groups offer this kind of education. Individuals and parishes can contact Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry, which can connect them with services in the area, assist in setting up education and training sessions, or provide education as needed.

St. Joseph Church in Newton and Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry will cosponsor a Caregiver Support Group at St. Joseph's Holy Family Hall. The first meeting will be Wednesday, Mar. 15 at 1pm. Care will be offered for adult family members who accompany caregivers to the group. For more information, call Meg Smith at (828) 464-8442.

Meg Smith is regional coordinator for Elder Ministry in the Hickory/Morganton area.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The moral implications of filing bankruptcy

Q. I have a question I hope you will answer very simply. Is it against our Catholic religion to file bankruptcy? My husband and I wish to buy a home, and we have a large sum of bills that are due. Filing bankruptcy might solve our problem, but would that be wrong?

A. I can't tell you. First, however, I congratulate you for thinking of this as a serious moral decision. Too often, it seems, people consider it a purely financial issue.

We begin with the fact that we're dealing here with restitution, the responsibility we have in strict justice to repay others for what we have taken from them. If I buy a pair of shoes, for example, my debt to the seller is not simply one of charity or philanthropy, something I can pay if it is convenient and agreeable. He has a moral right, in what is called commutative justice, to what is due him, and I have a moral duty to compensate him.

Bankruptcy is one of the circumstances that excuses a person from this kind of obligation. It provides a way to satisfy one's creditors equitably when full satisfaction of all debts is simply not possible. As you know, when an individual or business declares bankruptcy, state laws control the legal process in detail. For guidance through that maze you need a good attorney.

It needs to be said that bankruptcy, when pursued honestly, is a perfectly justifiable procedure, both legally and morally. A lot of successful and very good people have had to declare bankruptcy sometime in their lives. Some have later quietly paid part of their past debts, even though there was no legal, or probably even moral, obligation to do so.

Morally speaking, insolvent persons claiming bankruptcy are not required to dwindle their possessions down to nothing. They have a right to retain what is necessary to support themselves and their loved ones in decency, according to their social status, and to try to re-establish their financial security.

Moral obligations begin, of course, long before any bankruptcy proceedings are initiated. Building debts one is fairly certain one will never be able to pay off is obviously wrong, both legally and morally. As I said, this is equivalent to stealing.

When declaring bankruptcy begins to loom on anyone's horizon, another obligation is to explore what settlements one might make with creditors. Sometimes that is more attractive to creditors than attempting later to extract payment from a debtor who is bankrupt.

Fat Tuesday

Q. Please explain the significance of Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Some say it means to feast or pig out before Lent. Can this be correct?

A. The celebration of Mardi Gras in anticipation of the rigors of the Lenten fast goes back many centuries.

Foods forbidden during the Lenten time included meats and fats, common condiments for cooking, which would spoil by the time Easter arrived. (Our word carnival comes, in fact, from a Latin phrase which means taking away the meat.)

Thus, the day before Lent began was a time to consume all the fat in the house. It also provided Christians a chance to enjoy their last pre-Lenten party, often in company with the non-Christians around them who were in the midst of their own spring masquerades and feasts. Not much, it seems, has changed, except the fasting.

Accusations of anti-Catholicism color GOP primaries

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Texas Gov. George Bush told New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor in a Feb. 25 letter that he wanted to assure Catholics his Bob Jones University appearance does not mean he "approves of the anti-Catholic and racially divisive views" associated with the school.

Charges of anti-Catholicism have followed the GOP candidate around the country since he spoke at the evangelical Christian university in South Carolina in early February.

See Joann Kennedy Frazer's guest column, "U.S. Bishops to Catholics: Get Politically Involved in 2000 Election"
...Page 12

The school bans interracial dating as immoral, and its leaders have called Catholicism a cult and likened it to satanism.

The Bob Jones University issue reached a peak during the Michigan primary campaign, when some voters there received recorded phone calls accusing Bush of religious bigotry because of his appearance and urging support for Arizona Sen. John McCain.

The McCain campaign initially denied any involvement with the calls, but later acknowledged the calls originated with his staff.

In the days leading up to the Michigan primary, Bush's campaign, in turn, criticized McCain for not disassociating himself from former Sen. Warren Rudman, McCain's campaign co-chair.

Some Michigan voters also received recorded calls from Christian Coalition founder Rev. Pat Robertson, calling Rudman "a vicious bigot who wrote that conservative Christians in politics are anti-abortion zealots, homophobes and would-be censors. John McCain refused to repudiate these words."

The Bush campaign said Rev. Robertson's calls were made independently of their organization.

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida decried the injection of religious bigotry into the campaign in his state.

In the Feb. 25 edition of The Michigan Catholic, newspaper of the Detroit Archdiocese, Cardinal Maida said the bishops of the United States are clear in their insistence that the church keep out of partisan politics. The challenge, he said, is "to be principled without being ideological, to be political without being partisan, to be civil without being soft."

The Detroit Archdiocese goes to great lengths to encourage political involvement and responsibility, he said. But "it's not our approach to label candidates as 'pro' this or 'anti' that," he added.

The Texas governor, in his letter to Cardinal O'Connor, released Feb. 27, said he "should have been more clear in disassociating myself from anti-Catholic sentiments and racial prejudice. It was a missed opportunity, causing needless offense, which I deeply regret."

New York's Republican primary is March 7. Some news sources said the letter also was sent to Catholic leaders in other states with imminent primaries.

Bush told the New York cardinal that because of the cardinal's "long friendship" with members of the Bush family and the cardinal's meeting with Bush last year, he should know that the accusations of anti-Catholic views leveled against Bush are "unfair and unfounded" and such views "are personally offensive to me."

Bush, whose brother and sister-in-law are Catholic, noted he has "profound respect for the Catholic Church — a sympathy beyond mere tolerance."

Cardinal Maida's post-primary critique of campaign tactics also was directed at calls made in Michigan by Michigan Right to Life. The organization made recorded calls urging voters to support Bush, whom the National Right to Life Committee has endorsed. The calls reportedly challenged McCain's commitment to the pro-life cause.

Detroit archdiocesan communications director Ned McGrath issued a statement saying he told callers that Catholic Voters Alert — the name of the group which made the anti-Bush calls — is not affiliated with the archdiocese.

"The reality is, the word 'Catholic' isn't copyrighted," McGrath said. "It can be used and misused."

At Bob Jones University, in response to the political furor, its Web site explained the school's positions, including that "if there are those who wish to charge us with being anti-Catholic, we plead guilty. But we are not Catholic-haters."

It added, "All religion, including Catholicism, which teaches that salvation is by religious works or church dogma is false. Religion that makes the words of its leader, be he pope or other, equal with the Word of God is false. ... We love the practicing Catholic and earnestly desire to see him accept the Christ of the Cross."

Bob Jones III's late father, former university president Bob Jones Jr., was known for calling the Catholic Mass "blasphemy" and referring to the papacy as "the religion of the anti-Christ" and "a satanic system."

A third Republican candidate, former Ambassador Alan Keyes, spoke at the university Feb. 14 and challenged his audience to reject racial and religious bigotry. Keyes, who is black and a Catholic, noted that "there are folks who don't think I should be talking at Bob Jones University."

But just as his speech "put the lie to that," Keyes said, "we are, all of us, enjoined to put the lie to it by what we do, and what we pray for, and how we act, and how we love." ▾

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Principal: Our Lady of Grace School, a K-8 Catholic school in Greensboro, NC, is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for this school year. Applicants must possess the following qualifications: practicing Catholic; current teaching/administration license for the state of NC; master's degree in education; and at least five years teaching experience. Please send resume and salary expectations to: Ms. Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. Deadline for applications: March 31, 2000.

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation, coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Director of Faith Formation: Full-time position is open at Our Lady of Mercy, a mid-size parish in Winston-Salem. Responsibilities include weekly classes for pre-school through grade 8; parent and student preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation; coordination of RCIA and adult education. Some background and/or experience in Religious Education preferred. Send resume to Rev. Joseph Angelini, 1919 S. Main St., Winston-Salem, NC 27127. For more information and/or a detailed job description, call Fr. Angelini at (336)722-7001.

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Chris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline March 24, 2000.

Infant Care Provider: South Charlotte. Excellent pay and flexible hours for warm and loving person who can help out busy mom with infant. Non-smoker and references required. Please call Judy at (704) 553-8136.

Infant Care Provider: Henderson/south Buncombe County. Seeking non-smoking, experienced adult to care for infant part-time; flexible hours beginning late April. References required; pay negotiable. Call Katy at (828)698-2956.

Liturgy/Catechumenate Director/Adult Formation Coordinator: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established process that seeks further implementation of the Re-Membering Church. Parish in initial stages of learning Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church (1 year old) with excellent worship space (with adult immersion font). Need help in maximizing the full potential of the abundant gifts present in this community. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30, for position July 1.

Music Ministry Director: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established program that includes hand bells, pipe organ, grand piano, tympani, etc. Select music for liturgies; direct/develop traditional and children's choir; coordinate with contemporary choir. Parish in initial stages of implementing Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church with excellent worship space. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30; Position available July 1.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic School, Rocky Mount, NC (Grades PK-5) seeks a principal for the 2000-2001 school year. Applicant must be practicing Catholic, hold teacher certification and principal's license (or in progress). Principal must establish residence in Rocky Mount. Send resume to: Search Committee, 331 Hammond Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Weekend House Staff: Room At The Inn, a Catholic residential program for single, pregnant mothers located in Charlotte, NC, has openings for Live-in Weekend Relief Staff. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Call Trish for more information (704)525-4673.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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Clergy respond to Kansas cross burning

By JOE BOLLIG
Catholic News Service

LANSING, Kan. (CNS) — A cross burning outside the trailer of an interracial couple in Lansing prompted an outcry of protest and an outpouring of prayer.

More than 70 people gathered in the street and narrow yard of a trailer in east Lansing for a noontime prayer vigil Feb. 16. The vigil had been organized by Clergy And Church Against Race Violence, an organization based at the Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Kan.

Father Michael Stubbs, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Lansing, and president of the Leavenworth and Lansing Ministerial Alliance, was the local liaison between Reginald Timmons and Angela Jones, the residents of the trailer where the cross was burned, and Clergy And Church Against Race Violence.

"We are here to show support for the family, as well as to state to the community that this kind of thing can't be tolerated, that it must be stopped," said Father Stubbs. "The firefighters put out the fire, but it's important for us to put out the fires of hatred, and stop it from spreading throughout the community. The way for that to happen is through the power of God's love."

The vigil was attended by ordinary citizens, representatives of various faiths (including three Catholic priests), city officials and the acting police chief. Several Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth also attended.

The cross burning sent shock waves throughout Leavenworth and Lansing, which adjoin each other. Timmons and Jones were awakened at about 4 a.m. on Feb. 13 by the lights of police and fire vehicles, and firefighters putting out a small fire in front of their trailer.

Someone made a crude cross out of two pieces of broken furniture, 18 by 20 inches, held together by a wire hanger. The cross had been splashed with gasoline, set upright on the trailer hitch and set on fire. The fire didn't consume the cross, but it spread to a plastic gasoline container on the ground.

Fortunately, a neighbor noticed the fire and called the Lansing fire department. The fire could have killed the couple and their three small sons, said Timmons, a native of the area.

The family had only lived in the trailer park for four months and didn't know anyone there. No unusual incidents happened before the fire, and Timmons and Jones don't know why they were singled out.

"It was intimidating," said an angry and exasperated Timmons. "This is a problem that must be addressed."

Timmons and Jones stood quietly together in the crowd as Father Stubbs began the vigil, standing on grass burned black by the flames. The damage had been repaired, but pieces of melted, plastic trailer skirting lay nearby.

After a short introduction, he led the semicircle of people in singing "Amazing Grace," and then read from the Book of Ezekiel. Timmons and Jones were visibly moved when the Rev. Don Baker, pastor of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Leavenworth, spoke to the crowd.

"Some people may call this hate. Some may call it anger. May I remind you that anger destroys the vessel that holds it, and destroys what it is poured out upon," he said. "But I look at it another way. I look at it as a sickness in the mind, that somehow Satan has risen up again to destroy what God has created.

"So I pray that somehow or another, as we bind ourselves together, that this will be the last time in Leavenworth County that people will have to come together to combat racism, that somehow we will understand that we are all God's children."

A number of other people spoke, including Timmons, clergy, and political advocates. Henry Gueary III, chief legislative advocate in Kansas for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, decried the rise of hate crimes in the United States.

He urged citizen support for passage of House Bill 2309, held up for two years in the Kansas Legislature, which would enhance hate crime penalties.

Lansing's acting police chief, Allan Collins, said this is the first hate crime that has occurred in town, so far as he knows, since he became part of the force in 1981. Some hate crimes may have been committed since then, but were not reported to the police, he said. ▼

Men of Spirit,
from page 10

spoke at length about his wife's death. At the time of her death, O'Brien had two teen-age daughters.

"We just sat down and started talking," Carew remembers. "In my mind I wanted to ask him about it but I didn't know how to do it comfortably." O'Brien, he said, just took over.

"It was a watershed moment that he would share that tender and delicate experience with me," Carew says.

Mike Ditka, the former New Orleans Saints and Chicago Bears coach who is best known for his sideline tirades, was the first interview Carew did for the book.

"He was the only one who called me back two times," recalls Carew. "He wanted to reiterate a few things."

The book describes how Ditka prays to calm himself down, finds comfort in the words of St. Paul, attends Bible classes and makes no apologies for living his faith.

Writes Carew: "Ditka becomes incensed when he is criticized for his beliefs, particularly his opposition to abortion. 'Everything is washed over today — not exactly right and not exactly wrong,' Ditka says. 'Abortion is murder. If I believe something is morally wrong and against the laws of God, I am going to say so. This is my right and my duty.'"

Carew says Jackie Robinson is his all-time favorite athlete.

"What he endured to bring new life to a whole race of people makes him one of the greatest men, not only this century, but any century," he says.

The book also profiles some lesser-known athletes including Boston Auxiliary Bishop Jerry Minihan, who played football in the '30s for Georgetown University, and two of his father's former Concord High football players who became priests, Franciscan Father John Joseph Pierce, awarded the Bronze Star for valor while serving in Vietnam, and Father Charles B. Hancock, who spent much of his life as a missionary working with the poor in Japan. ▼

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Catholic couple picked as longest married in nation

DRUMS, Pa. (CNS) — Susan and Andrew Lechman, who will celebrate their 76th wedding anniversary in May, have been honored for having one of the longest marriages in the nation.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter recognized the couple on World Marriage Day in February, as did the Diocese of Scranton, where they live.

Each year Marriage Encounter groups conduct an annual search for the longest married couple and the Lechmans had the longest union of all couples nominated.

"The Diocese of Scranton is thrilled that Mr. and Mrs. Lechman are being cited by Worldwide Marriage Encounter," said Mary Ann Paulukonis, diocesan director of family life in the Office of Parish Ministries. "We have been blessed by their efforts of nearly 76 years to model love that mirrors God's unfailing love."

"The Diocese of Scranton is thrilled that Mr. and Mrs. Lechman are being cited by Worldwide Marriage Encounter," said Mary Ann Paulukonis, diocesan director of family life in the Office of Parish Ministries. "We have been blessed by their efforts of nearly 76 years to model love that mirrors God's unfailing love."

The Lechmans, who live in a nursing home in Drums, were born in the Freeland area; Andrew was born in 1903 and Susan in 1907. Andrew, a member of St. Mary's Byzantine Church, married Susan at her church, St. John Nepomucene in Freeland, in 1924.

After enduring the hardships of the Great Depression, they moved to Baltimore with their only child, Helene, during World War II. While there, they were active in the establishment of a new parish, Most Precious Blood. In addition, Mr. Lechman became a member of the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus and Mrs. Lechman became a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Upon Mr. Lechman's retirement, the couple returned to Pennsylvania, and are still active. Last summer he finished a term as resident council president at their nursing home, while his wife continues to serve as vice president of the council.

Helene and her daughter, Barbara Kasecamp, and several grandchildren have actively led worship at the home and shared music with the other residents.

Nursing home administrator Marjorie Bell said the Lechmans are "faithful and faith-filled" and they "exemplify the joy and love of the Lord."

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC LIGHT

Susan and Andrew Lechman have been recognized by Worldwide Marriage Encounter as the longest married couple in the United States. The Lechman's of Drum, Pa., are to mark their 76th wedding anniversary May 20.

The Lechmans are also members of Good Shepherd parish in Drums, where Father Gerard Safko, pastor, helped the couple mark their 75th wedding anniversary with family members last year by celebrating a special Mass.

The Lechmans have four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to the Lechmans, two other couples who have been married 70 years or more were nominated for the longest marriage by the Scranton Diocese.

Rose and Joseph Sileo of Peckville, married six months after the Lechmans in 1924, have three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The couple, who are in their 90s, are parishioners at St. Anthony's Church and reside in a nursing home in Peckville.

According to Colleen Murphy, the activity director at the nursing home who nominated the couple, the Sileos say "you need a lot of patience and faith in God" to sustain a marriage for as long as they have.

Anna and John Ruspi of Clarks Green, married in 1930, are parishioners at St. Gregory in Clarks Green. They have one child and two grandchildren.

World Marriage Day is observed on the second Sunday in February. Originating with the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement, it honors married couples for their love for each other and their example to the church. ▼

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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The Season of Lent

"Lent: A Time of Reconciliation"

A column by Father Fidel Melo

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

World Day of Prayer
14-year-old Cecelia Pueschel holds a candle while Sister Maxine Tancraitor, C.D.P. lights the candle in a symbol of unity. See story, page 8.

Hispanic Ministry

Report shows Hispanic Catholic boom in some unlikely places

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Since 1960, Hispanics have accounted for 71 percent of the growth in the U.S. Catholic Church.

While such a statistic may not come as a surprise in El Paso or Miami, the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C., isn't where most Americans would expect to find an 84 percent increase in the number of Hispanics over six years.

SEE HISPANIC MINISTRY, PAGE 5

Support Appeal an avenue for stewardship, says director

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — As the annual Diocesan Support Appeal nears its closing later this month, its director said the appeal opens the doors to Christ while providing an opportunity for Christian stewardship.

"The DSA provides us in the diocese a chance to live the Beatitudes and the corporal works of mercy," said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development and director of the Diocesan Support Appeal. "More and more people are embracing that spirituality — that self-giving stewardship — and because of that, the DSA does so well every year."

The support appeal is the Diocese of Charlotte's primary fund-raising effort, providing moneys for 35 vocational, educational, social service and multi-cultural ministries of the diocese. Reflecting the church's celebration of the jubilee year, the theme of this year's appeal is "Open Wide the Doors to Christ."

As of March 6, 51 percent of this year's $3.14 million goal had been pledged. The appeal officially closes with Appeal Sunday Weekend, March 18-19. Pledge reminders will be sent in early May to donors choosing to give over a six-month period.

"On Appeal Sunday, in most parishes a lay presenter shares about what the DSA means to them," said Rohrman. "Many times, it is someone who has received help from the DSA or who is a parish leader who knows about the benefits of the appeal."

As of March 6, 51 percent of this year's $3.14 million goal had been pledged. The appeal officially closes with Appeal Sunday Weekend, March 18-19. Pledge reminders will be sent in early May to donors choosing to give over a six-month period.

While letters and pledge cards have already been mailed to registered Catholics in the diocese, Appeal Sunday Weekend invites those who have yet to respond to give.

"It's also a way of reaching out to those new parishioners who perhaps did not get a letter or pledge card in the mail," said Rohrman. "This diocese is growing so quickly that in just the short month since the first mailing went out, many people have joined parishes."

With that rapid growth comes an ever-pressing need for outreach through ministry, said Rohrman. The past several issues of The Catholic News & Herald have brought readers several glimpses of how the appeal touches the lives of thousands throughout the western half of North Carolina. The permanent diaconate, the lay ministry program, a preparation program for engaged couples, Hispanic Ministry, Catholic Social Services, youth ministry, campus ministry and faith formation are but a few of the ways the DSA brings ministry to those who need or seek it.

"When we open wide the doors to Christ, we open ourselves to something that is all-inclusive," Rohrman said. "When we dedicate ourselves to serving Christ, we are provided with an opportunity to recognize him in all people. At the same time, we are called to be Christ for others."

Through the efforts of the DSA, Rohrman added, parishioners live their commitment to giving of their time, talent and treasure.

"Each year, more and more people embrace the DSA as another avenue for their stewardship," she said. "They are participating in the mission of the church." ▾

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Colombia Caritas says government must aid massacre survivors

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While the church can offer some aid to survivors of a paramilitary massacre in northern Colombia, the government must take responsibility for helping the people, said the director of Caritas Colombia. "For me the problem is how the army didn't know" that paramilitaries were in the town for four days killing the people, said Msgr. Hector Henao Gaviria, head of Caritas Colombia. "Four days — and it is not very far from the army. So I think the Colombian government has a responsibility there, and they must help the people," he said. In late February in El Salado, in the Archdiocese of Cartagena, paramilitaries cut the throats of more than 40 people, including one in a church. Investigators said a 200-man death squad murdered the villagers during a four-day raid in the community in Bolivar province.

Conference reviews Catholic-Jewish relations, looks to future

ST. LEO, Fla. (CNS) — Experts at a national conference described Catholic-Jewish relations as flourishing, with no small amount of credit due to Pope John Paul II. They also looked at the future, as the start of the third millennium brings what Rabbi A. James Rudin called a "new frontier of Jewish-Catholic relations." Rabbi Rudin, interreligious affairs director for the American Jewish Committee in New York, was among some 60 Catholic and Jewish leaders who came to The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University, northeast of Tampa, for its third annual Catholic-Jewish conference. "There have been more positive encounters between Jews and Catholics in the last 35 years than there were in the first 2,000 years of the church," said Rabbi Rudin, one of the featured speakers.

Sierra Leone Caritas official says abductions may halt aid work

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — If rebel abductions of aid workers and U.N. peacekeepers in Sierra Leone continue, the Catholic Church's local charitable agency may suspend operations, said a Caritas official. "If they continue, we have no alternative but to cease operations," John Conteh, monitoring and evaluation officer for Caritas, told Catholic News Service. He said the frequent abductions have caused Caritas workers to fear venturing into the interior of Sierra Leone, where the agency's projects are based. "We have partners we are working with. If abductions continue, they will cease aiding us," he added.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Pope to visit Palestinian refugee camp

Huda Salameh, 70, cooks a meal with her granddaughter, Lara, on the floor of their tiny house at the Dehiyshe Refugee Camp just outside Bethlehem. Salameh has lived in the camp since 1948. Pope John Paul II is to make a stop there during his March visit to the Holy Land.

Religious leaders, 'Granny D' back campaign finance changes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious leaders who have fought for significant changes in federal campaign financing over the last three years now have a high-profile ally in Doris Haddock, the 90-year-old "Granny D" who walked across the country for the cause. Haddock met with two members of Congress who are pushing for campaign finance changes and representatives of the group Religious Leaders for Campaign Finance Reform at a March 2 forum at the Capitol. At the forum, Haddock said her trek had a spiritual dimension to it. "God often speaks to us with crazy ideas," she said. The House has twice passed campaign finance bills only to see them stall in the Senate. In 1997, the religious leaders' group said passage of bills then under consideration "will go a long way toward meeting moral standards and restoring credibility and public trust in the democratic process."

Pope urges aid to flood-stricken Mozambique

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged international aid to flood-stricken Mozambique, where thousands were feared dead in the wake of a cyclone.

As aid agencies scrambled to provide emergency food and medical assistance to hundreds of thousands of survivors, the pope praised the international response but said more was needed.

Speaking at a Sunday blessing March 5, the pope said his thoughts were with "the people of Mozambique, who are experiencing a tragedy of unprecedented proportions caused by the serious flooding that has stricken a vast portion of the country."

The worst areas of flooding were in Mozambique's Limpopo River valley, about 100 miles northeast of the capital, Maputo. Despite deliveries of emergency supplies by helicopter, aid workers said they risked running out of safe water in camps where more than 200,000 people were being temporarily sheltered.

The Mozambican government has not made an official estimate of the dead, but relief agencies said the final toll is likely to be in the thousands.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, said March 2 it was sending an assessment team to the region to begin an emergency response in cooperation with local church partners.

If your parish chooses to take up a special offering, please contribute in that way. Alternately, individual conations may be sent by check payable to the "Diocese of Charlotte — Mozambique Relief" and mailed to the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203. All money collected will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services, which is the U.S. Catholic community's official overseas relief effort. ▼

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 12 — 3 pm
Rite of Election
St. Lawrence Basilica, Asheville

March 14 — 11 am
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 15 — 12:15 pm
Ecumenical Lenten Lecture and Service
St. Pius X, Greensboro

March 15 — 7:15 pm
Rite of Election
St. Pius X, Greensboro

March 16 — 7:15 pm
Rite of Election
St. Matthews, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

13 WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 South Main St., is having its parish Lenten mission, beginning tonight through March 15 from 7:30-9 p.m. with Father John Hoover, pastor and director of the New Creation Monastery in Boonville, N.C. Topics of discussion include the domestic church, sacraments, liturgy and the millennium. A free will donation is also being taken. For details, call the church office at (336) 722-7001.

14 GREENSBORO — For a Salesian perspective on the Eucharist, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., is hosting Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Michael S. Murray from the De Sales Spirituality Center. His presentation, "Summit of Compassion," is taking place tonight from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and tomorrow morning from 10-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, call the church office at (336) 294-4696.

15 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women's Lenten Retreat begins this morning with 10 a.m. Mass and light refreshments at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. The retreat continues this month on March 22 and 29 and next month on April 5 and 12. On April 12, there will be a finger food luncheon after the Mass. For more information, call Lillian Leonard, council president, at (336) 299-0736.

18 ASHEVILLE — For parish leaders and interested people in the Western areas of the diocese, Glenmary Father John Rausch is the featured speaker, and the topic is "Catholic Teaching, Principles and Skills of Social Analysis: Transforming Society and Putting Your Faith to Work." The event, sponsored by St. Eugene Church, 1 Culvern St., and the Office of

Put on your ghillies and dance a ceili

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For those not familiar with Irish dance terms, ghillies are soft dance shoes, and a ceili is an Irish dance or gathering. Since the arrival of "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance," the popularity of Irish dancing has gained momentum in the United States. Although the dancing that many Americans have seen on stage and on screen differs in some ways from tradition, many local children and adults have joined the Irish dancing craze. For many, the dancing has a deeper meaning — one reaching back to Ireland.

"I was dancing before 'Riverdance,'" joked Emily Adkisson. Adkisson, a freshman at Bishop McGuinness High School and a St. Leo the Great Church parishioner, who has been dancing for six years. Her Irish lineage comes from her mother's side with her great-grandparents who immigrated to America. "This is really neat because it is something my ancestors would have done," she said. "It is good exercise, and it is fun." In celebration of her heritage, she also plays the Celtic harp, a smaller version of a concert harp, and reads about Irish history and culture.

Mrs. Adkisson travels back and forth from Winston-Salem to Charlotte at least twice a week for her daughter to attend dance classes. "It does get tiring, but this is something we do as a family. The competitions are family-oriented because my girls share, practice and work together. They are learning self-discipline and how to be gracious winners and losers, and this helps with values that you try to teach them," said Mrs. Adkisson.

Rince Na h'Eireann, meaning "dance of Ireland," is the name of Sandra Connick's dance school that Adkisson attends. Connick, originally from Cork, Ireland, has been living in America for seven years. The family moved here because her oldest daughter Sarah, now 11, has cerebral palsy. After researching schools, she and her husband William moved with their son Killian, now 9, to Charlotte to enroll Sarah in the St. Mark's In-School Program in Billingsley Elementary School, said Connick.

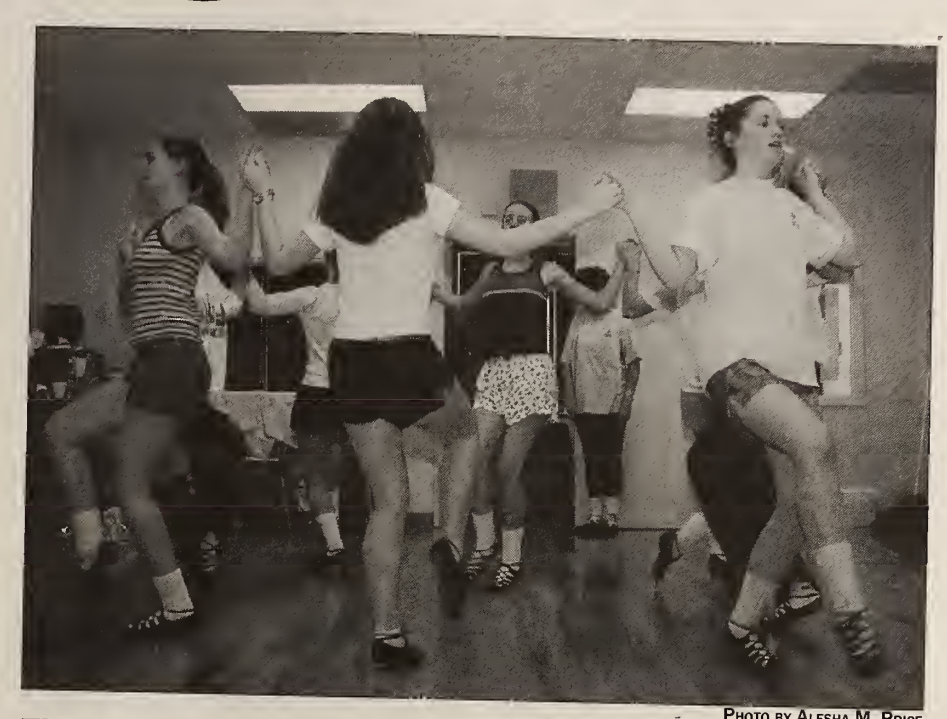

Photo by Alesha M. Price

The 16 and older ladies group from Rince Na h'Eireann dance school in Charlotte practice their routine for the world Irish dancing competition held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, during late April around Easter. The young women are one of three groups traveling along with three soloists to compete with other Irish dancers from around the world.

Connick, who had been involved with Irish dancing since she was a child, began the school in 1993 with the help of a registered teacher. At the time, there were no registered schools in Charlotte or in North Carolina; one of Connick's former students has since started a dance school in Raleigh. Her sister Aine Walsh-Kelley began teaching with Connick until Walsh-Kelley began her own school. Now, the sisters good-naturedly compete against one another.

Connick is a member of the Irish Dance Teachers' Association of North America and the Irish Dancing Commission of Ireland. She had to go through an extensive examination process in order to become certified.

For over two years, Connick's partner, Pam Pierce, has helped her in her teaching. Pierce, who is from Dublin, Ireland, has been living in the states for over 20 years. She met Connick after enrolling her daughters in the school in Charlotte and began to help out with teaching. She has been dancing for many years, also beginning when she was very young.

Connick has 160 children enrolled in her Charlotte school and nearly 80 in her recently opened Winston-Salem school. She opened the new school because of the demand in the Triad area.

Throughout the year, the students literally kick up their heels — all dancing is done on the toes with arms straight at the sides— at feishanas throughout the Southern region, consisting of East Coast states from Maryland to Florida, all the way to Texas. Feishanas, plural for feis, are regular competitions or festivals held throughout the year. The students can hone their craft, showcase their skill and practice for the oireachtas, the qualifying round for the world championships in Ireland, explained Connick.

After placing in the top positions at the Southern Region oireachtas held in Baltimore, Md., in December, 26 students from Rince Na h'Eireann qualified to take the trip to Belfast, Ireland, for the competition with students from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Australia, United States and New Zealand. This is the school's third trip to Ireland for the world championship.

Three teams — boys and girls under 13, girls under 16 and senior ladies 16 and over — and three soloists — Emily Adkisson, Caitlin Gill and Oliver Shock — will be competing in April around Easter in the ceili championships and the solo championships.

Pierce Beach is one of four boys competing with the mixed team. Eleven-year-old Beach said being one of a few boys in the school doesn't make him uncomfortable. "We have all known each other for so long that we are like brothers and sisters. I like Irish dancing because it is competitive and fun. I've been to Ireland for competition and saw where my grandfather's grandma was baptized," said Beach. The fifth grader at St. Patrick School has been dancing for three and a half years.

Judi Burchard, the business man-

See IRISH DANCING, page 5

Justice and Peace, is being held today from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For further information, call Jerry Bergeron at the church office at (828) 254-5193.

BELMONT — The Fourth Annual St. Patrick's Day Emerald Ball to benefit Holy Angels Inc. is being held from 8 p.m.-12 midnight in Founders Hall in the Bank of America Corporate Center in uptown Charlotte. The event, sponsored by the Emerald Ball Committee, is semi-formal and features heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, dancing to big band music by Reflections and Irish blues by The Federals, a cash bar and a silent auction. The Irish dance group from Rince na h'Eireann is also performing during the evening. For sponsor and ticket information, call Linda Dyer Hart at (704) 542-6846 or Suzanne Jeffries at (704) 825-4161. Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1956 which provides residential services and programs for mentally, physically and developmentally challenged children and adults.

FLETCHER — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Cross and Shamrock Division - #1 N.C., is holding its 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner at the Broadmoor Golf Club on French Broad Lane, off of Airport Rd. The festivities start at 7 p.m. with door prizes, a corned beef and cabbage dinner and music by Joe Lavin and his band. For tickets and details, call George Dunham at (828) 298-0085. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an international organization dedicated to friendship, unity and Catholic charity.

HENDERSONVILLE — The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Sweepstakes tonight at Immaculata School, 711 Buncombe St. The dinner of corned beef, cabbage, vegetables, bread and dessert is being served at 6 p.m. with post time at 7:30 p.m. For ticket and other information, call the Immaculate Conception Church office at (828) 693-6901.

19 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is celebrating Mass at 2:30 p.m. and the sacrament of anointing of the sick to powerfully demonstrate Jesus' presence among us as our healer and comforter. Call the church office at (704) 364-5431 for details.

20 CHARLOTTE — All women of Charlotte and the surrounding areas are invited to a morning of prayer and reflection, sponsored the St. Gabriel Church Women's Club, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 3016 Providence Rd. Jesuit Father Vince Alagia, the featured speaker, is also hearing confessions at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

21 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center is having a "Chrism Day of Reflection" today from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with Mass followed by lunch and a talk by Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the center. To make reservation by March 16, call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099.

24 HICKORY — Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: A Journey of Post-Abortion Healing is taking place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, this weekend. This retreat, facilitated by Dr. Martha Shuping, psychiatrist and pastoral minister, and Debbie Woodhams, licensed professional counselor and the president of Transfiguration Ministries, is one that focuses on a biblical healing process based on Dr. Burke's book "Rachel's Vineyard." The weekend includes discussions, prayer, living Scripture exercises, private letter writing and a memorial service. Participation is strictly confidential and offers an opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness and compassion. For more information, call Dr. Shuping at (336) 659-1342.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Textbook evaluations to benefit faith formation students

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

"These evaluations will help make sure the parishes are using good materials that are doctrinally-sound and immersed in scripture... The materials should help the catechist in teaching the church beliefs to the students who must learn and internalize the lessons."
— Marylin Kravatz, southern regional coordinator of faith formation

MONROE — In an ongoing effort to ensure that students are being assisted in their need for spiritual and religious growth, diocesan and parish-level faith formation coordinators and directors met to discuss the policy, criteria and procedure for the evaluation of the textbooks used in kindergarten through sixth-grade faith formation programs. Our Lady of Lourdes Church was the host parish for the Feb. 24 workshop for those from parishes in the Southern Region, which includes the Albemarle, Charlotte and Salisbury Vicariates.

The process of analyzing the textbooks being used in parish faith formation classes began nearly a year and a half ago, when diocesan staff members began to review the Faith Formation and Guidelines Handbook for the Diocese of Charlotte. At the time, the evaluation of textbooks was a concept evolving from the guidelines update; therefore, Father James Hawker, vicar for education, assigned staff members to begin the procedure, explained Peg Ruble, Central Region coordinator for faith formation.

After a committee of parish catechetical leaders evaluated a set of two series of textbooks, the two diocesan staff members on the committee wrote textbook summaries and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each series of catechetical texts, said Ruble. A list of recommended and non-recommended textbooks for faith formation classes was formulated based upon the evaluation.

In order to assist the parish catechetical leaders to select the most appropriate of the recommended series for use in their faith formation programs, a criteria list was developed for their use, based on the six fundamental tasks of catechesis, as written in the General Directory for Catechesis, said Marylin Kravatz, Southern Region cooordinator.

Translated by the American Catholic bishops, the directory comes from Rome and serves as a guide for pastors and bishops for catechetical ministry. The focus of the new directory is evangelization because in order to catechize, evangelization has to take place at every stage of development and should be the framework for passing on of faith, she explained.

The six tasks — promoting knowledge of faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life and missionary initiation — were used as a basis for the updated criteria for evaluation of catechetical materials. The focus areas include the overall faith formation program, the catechist manual, the student text and family resources. Each area is graded as strong, weak or absent, as it corresponds to each of the six tasks.

"The textbook selection instrument, or criteria list, is based on the new General Directory for Catechesis and the six tasks of catechesis, which makes the instrument on the cutting edge," said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs. "It's been at least five years since the Office of Faith Formation has had any kind of textbook evaluations. This is very important because it impacts the catechetical life of the parish, not only in terms of the orthodoxy of the material to be selected but also in terms of those resources which are pedagogically important."

One of the members of the parish catechetical committee, Martha Drennan, director of faith formation for St. Therese Church in Mooresville, talked about her experiences with reading through the different textbook series. "The publishers of the various textbook series are trying hard to address the new General Directory for Catechesis and the incorporation of the catechism. This is good because the publishers should be rooting their materials in church documents, which are central to what we do as catechists," she said.

"When the diocesan staff members made the instrument for evaluation more user friendly by connecting it to those six tasks for catechesis, I see that as a great improvement because it has to be practical so that people on the parish level can use it," continued Drennan.

These revised criteria and other supplemental findings were presented to the southern region parish catechetical leaders and teachers at the workshop. Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, Northern Region coordinator, began the workshop with a prayer service and spoke about the history and evolution of catechesis since Vatican II.

"The purpose of this workshop was to inform and help parishes who may change what they are using; this serves as a guide for them by pointing out the strong and weak points of various textbook series," said Sister Bernadette. "They should use materials that employ good teaching methods based on life experiences and methodology using the senses and their own life experiences."

Some parishes have already begun to evaluate the texts that they are using in their faith formation programs. St. Patrick Cathedral has begun its own evaluations, and Joanna Catabui, parish coordinator for faith formation, was very interested in the information she received.

"This workshop was very informative concerning the special criteria as far as the selection of catechetical texts. Our parish is doing a textbook evaluation now, so the criteria will help us in establishing what our priorities in selecting a text." Catabui also signed up to become a part of the parish catechetical leader evaluation committee because she wanted to represent her parish's needs to the diocese.

If a parish decides not to evaluate their catechetical materials, and those they use are not on the recommended list, then the parish has to meet with the regional faith formation coordinator and present some supplemental materials to support the weaknesses or remedy the weaknesses if they don't plan to make changes, said Ruble.

"These evaluations will help make sure the parishes are using good materials that are doctrinally-sound and immersed in scripture," said Kravatz. "The materials should help the catechist in teaching the church beliefs to the students who must learn and internalize the lessons." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Census 2000

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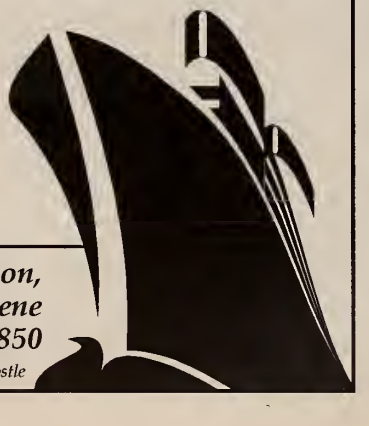

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Irish Dancing, from page 3

ager at Sacred Heart Church, and her daughter nine-year-old Katie Tobias, who is in fourth grade at Sacred Heart School, travel from Salisbury to Charlotte several nights a week. "I don't mind the driving because this involves our heritage," said Burchard, whose great-great grandparents are from Ireland. "The dancing is exciting to watch because the music is upbeat and fast-paced, and I like the Catholic connection we have with everyone." Katie has been dancing for six years and said, "I like it because I get to meet different people and go to different places."

"We all interact and work well together, and we are really strong as a team," said Gill, a 17-year-old junior at Charlotte Catholic High School who attends St. Matthew Church. Both sides of her family are Irish, and she has been dancing for nine years. "The focus is on the feet, the straight body, rhythm and grace. My friends think that it is interesting that I do this because it is so different from other types of dancing." In addition to her dancing, she is also involved in cross-country, track, basketball and soccer. "The scheduling is hard sometimes," she added with a smile.

"These dances are hundreds of years of old, and the children work very hard," said Connick. "I like it that I can raise my kids and keep them in touch with their Irish heritage and nationality." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Church leaders say confessing sins of past sets precedent

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Unprecedented acts, like Pope John Paul II's jubilee gesture of confessing the sins of the church's past, often set a precedent.

The Christians of today, having aired in detail the faults of their predecessors, can expect the same treatment by future Christians, church leaders said.

"What will the men and women of tomorrow think of us?" said Dominican Father Georges Cottier, the pope's personal theologian.

"We are no better than the men and women of the past. It is with modesty and 'fear and trembling' that we must judge their acts," he said.

The theologian's musings were echoed by other Vatican officials during a press conference March 7 detailing the pope's much-awaited "request for forgiveness" liturgy March 12 in St. Peter's Basilica.

"How will we ourselves be judged in a hundred years by future generations for our current blindness?" said Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Vatican's jubilee committee.

In hanging out the dirty laundry of past Christians, the church must not forget to do its own wash, he said.

"Don't we today sometimes think with satisfaction that all of the church's clothes are white?" he asked.

The central danger in focusing on sins in the church's past, according to Father Cottier, was the potential for overlooking current problems.

"The danger, in fact, is that the request for forgiveness for the wrongs of the past might serve as an alibi for amnesia toward recent wrongs or for the wrongs of our epoch," he said.

Current evils for which future generations may take the church to task, he said, included modern forms of slavery like child-trafficking and large-scale prostitution — "phenomena which are growing under our eyes, amid the greatest indifference."

Done correctly, though, reflection on the errors of past believers may be the best possible way of preparing for the scrutiny of future Christians, Cardinal Etchegaray said.

"Our solidarity with the church of yesterday helps us better discover our responsibility for the church of tomorrow," he said. ▼

Hispanic Ministry, from page 1

Charlotte topped the list of dioceses with the largest percentage increase in Hispanic population between 1990 and 1996. It was followed by Reno-Las Vegas, Nev., Atlanta, Raleigh, N.C., and Portland, Ore.

The ranking came in a list of dioceses and archdioceses with the greatest percentage increases of Hispanic population in a report on "Hispanic Ministry at the Turn of the New Millennium," released March 7 by the Hispanic Affairs Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (Reno-Las Vegas was split into two dioceses in 1995, but was considered as one entity for the purposes of the study.)

It only took 22,735 Hispanic newcomers to the Charlotte Diocese to account for that 84 percent increase. The total Catholic population of Charlotte in 1990 was just 63,973.

Nationwide, estimates of the percentage of Hispanics who are Catholic range from 67 percent to 71 percent, according to the NCCB committee. Between 30 percent and 38 percent of U.S. Catholics are Hispanic.

Even dioceses where the Hispanic population has always been significant reported steady increases in the study period, according to the report. For example, the Diocese of San Bernardino, Calif., recorded a 41 percent increase in Hispanic population and the Diocese of Austin, Texas, had a 37 percent increase.

In three of the 13 episcopal regions of the country, the Hispanic population growth rate exceeded 40 percent, according to the report.

The smallest regional increase was the 14 percent growth in Hispanic population in region 2, made up of just the state of New York. The area with the biggest growth was the five-state region 12 — Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Montana — where the Hispanic population grew by more than 50 percent.

And those figures are likely to be proved low following this year's census. The Census Bureau and independent demographers believe the Hispanic population was dramatically undercounted in the 1990 census. Various changes have been made in the census program to avoid an undercount this year.

According to the report, the five U.S. dioceses or archdioceses with the largest number of Hispanics are: Los Angeles, 4.27 million; Miami, 1.3 million; New York, 1.2 million; Galveston-Houston, 1 million; and San Antonio, 979,000.

No U.S. diocese reported a decrease in its Hispanic population from 1990 to 1996, and only three had an increase of less than 10 percent. Those are: Cheyenne, Wyo., with a 7 percent increase; Juneau, Alaska, with an increase of 9 percent; and Steubenville, Ohio, with an increase of just under 6 percent.

The data was based on the actual population count and statistical sampling of the 1990 census, and updated by the Census Bureau based on statistical estimates. Information from the General Social Survey of the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago and the Strategy Research Corporation was used to calculate numbers of people who identify themselves as Catholic, according to the NCCB committee report. ▼

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Catholic leaders want House chaplaincy issue resolved

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Amid the growing dispute over the deadlocked appointment for the next House chaplain, some Catholics are urging a quick resolution. About 40 Catholic Republican lawmakers met privately with GOP leaders March 1 to discuss possible solutions to what has now become a political quagmire. Catholic legislators also brought up some of these solutions on the House floor during the first week of March. Suggestions included that the nomination process should start over or that the position of House chaplain be abolished and replaced with a rotating voluntary ministry.

Colo. governor says family ties key to stopping violence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The key to stopping youth violence on the street and in the schoolyard is to strengthen families, Republican Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado told a Washington think-tank Feb. 29. Government must do what it can to help families spend more time together, in part by lessening their tax burden, he added in a talk titled "A Year After Columbine: How Do We Heal a Wounded Culture?" "We have to strengthen our families," said Owens, a Catholic and a father of three. "There is no institution more critical to the success of this country or our culture."

Dominican sister wins CCHD Development of People Award

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dominican Sister Teresa Auad received the Development of People Award from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Feb. 27 in Washington during the 2000 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington. Sister Auad has worked over the last 17 years in migrant and immigrant populations in Indiantown, Fla., a small town in the northern Everglades about 40 miles from West Palm Beach, Fla. After hearing and recounting her many accomplishments in Indiantown, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. bishops, said, "Sister Teresa, you are one hot number!" to the cheers and applause of the 450 in attendance.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cardinal O'Connor accepts Congressional Gold Medal
Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., (center) and Rep. Vito Fossella, R-N.Y., congratulate Cardinal John O'Connor after presenting him with legislation awarding him the Congressional Gold Medal March 6 at the cardinal's residence in New York. The medal is the highest civilian honor given by Congress. It has been awarded to 250 people including George Washington, the Wright brothers and Mother Teresa.

British prime minister's wife backs appeal for children

LONDON (CNS) — Cherie Booth, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, has backed an appeal by the Catholic Children's Society in the Westminster Archdiocese. The "Family 2000 Challenge," launched in the February edition of the charity's Network newsletter, aims to recruit 2,000 families to raise money for the charity, which works with children throughout the archdiocese, including London. Writing from 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's official London residence, Booth, a Catholic, said the appeal was a wonderful opportunity for all families, large or small, to work together for the common purpose of helping other families and children. Booth, also a distinguished lawyer, has three children and is expecting a fourth in May.

Religious, civil rights leaders urge participation in census

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and other religious leaders at a March 6 press conference in Washington joined civil rights figures in urging participation in the 2000 census. "We stand fully behind an accurate count," said Beverly Carroll, director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African-American Catholics. "We've asked schools, parishes to open their doors" to assist in the effort, she added. Speaking to those who receive help from the church through soup kitchens, day-care centers and children's programs, Carroll said, "We are asking you to trust us again. We want to make sure the services of the federal government are available to you."

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Jesuit House of Prayer facility restored, readied for future

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HOT SPRINGS — It's a renovation whose time has definitely arrived. Now nearing completion, the restoration of part of the Jesuit House of Prayer includes remodeling the kitchen, dining room and the bedrooms at the north end of the house.

Mercy Sister Margaret Verstege, director of the Jesuit House of Prayer, said most of the work will be finished by April 1, when a group is expected for a one-day retreat.

"We'll have enough in order to have that day of recollection," she said.

Getting to this stage has been a long process. The Jesuit House of Prayer Advisory Board began implementing a five-year plan in 1994. The first phase was renovation of the Chapel of the Redeemer, which was completed in May 1998. Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the altar Oct. 25, 1998.

Phase 2 is renovation of the north side of the house. Phase 3, planned for the future, will include renovating the house chapel and the bedrooms adjacent to it.

The house was built in 1892 as a private home. It had several owners before Jesuit Father Andrew Graves bought it in 1954 or 1955. Father Graves had come to the area as a missionary in 1937. He periodically purchased additional land totaling seven acres.

Over the years, a dining room and laundry room were added to the house, and the kitchen was enlarged. An early photo shows a glassed-in porch where the north-side bedrooms are now.

"Historically, I think the story of the Society has been one of responsibility to the needs of the people of God in this area," said Sister Peggy, who has been director of the Jesuit House of Prayer since October. "It's a ministry of prayer. We're here to make it available to everyone. A Catholic presence, particularly Ignatian, is a charism that needs to be shared with the world."

Father Frank Reese arrived in 1978 to start the retreat center and to serve as Catholic pastor in Madison County. The first retreatant was a Sister of Mercy from Tennessee who traveled about, teaching religious education to children in rural areas. She discovered the Jesuit House of Prayer by accident and decided to make a six-day retreat.

"Historically, I think the story of the Society has been one of responsibility to the needs of the people of God in this area," said Sister Peggy, who has been director of the Jesuit House of Prayer since October. "It's a ministry of prayer. We're here to make it available to everyone. A Catholic presence, particularly Ignatian, is a charism that needs to be shared with the world."

The House of Prayer's staff and the advisory board saw that the aging facility needed an upgrade. A capital campaign, begun in 1997, raised more than $100,000, mainly from donations, including one from the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. The retreat staff — Jesuit Fathers Joe McGovern and George Hohman — are members of that province.

The money will provide a new dining room and a more efficient kitchen with a bigger cooking and cleanup space. The dining room will have a domed ceiling. Also, the dining room already had a concrete floor; now the kitchen will have one, too.

More efficient insulation and new walls will mean quieter bedrooms, and each bedroom will have individual heating and air conditioning. The electrical system and plumbing are upgraded, and an additional water heater has been installed. Some cosmetic changes will be made in other parts of the house.

Not that improvements weren't needed. When the kitchen walls were ripped out, workmen discovered that no support beams were holding up the ceiling. How did the ceiling stay up? "God or the tension of the building," Father McGovern quipped.

The foundational sills in the kitchen were so rotted the wood could be pulled apart by hand. A cracked pipe had been leaking water under the kitchen. Workmen pulled up red, cream and green vinyl and several layers of flooring to reveal a hole deep enough for a wading pool.

With the renovation nearing completion, people are already booking retreats, Sister Peggy said. A variety of formats is available, including private retreats, or directed retreats with the staff. Groups such as confirmation classes are welcome for retreats and there are Advent and Holy Week retreats. Or people can visit the center for a day of private prayer and meditation.

Information about the Jesuit House of Prayer is available by e-mail at vpaul@madison.main.nc or by calling (704)-622-7366. ▼

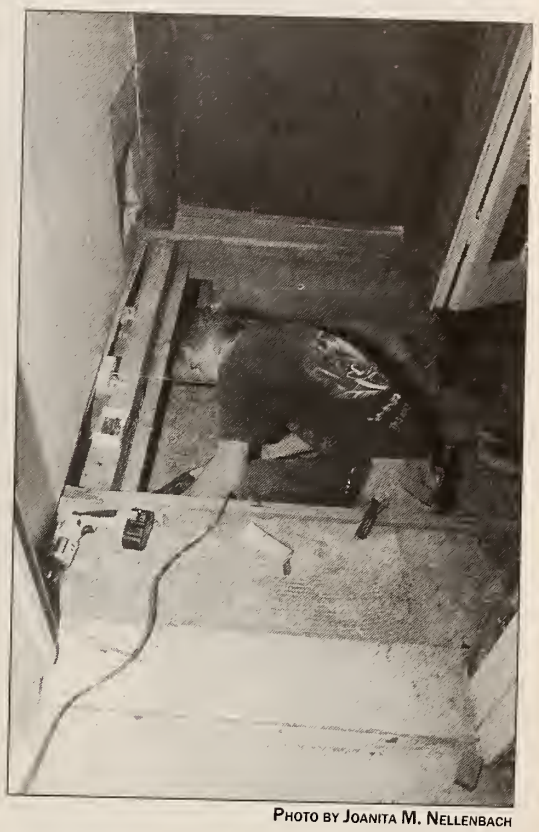

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Jonathan Vinkowski of Happy Hollow Enterprises of Madison County prepares to install a new wooden floor in the hallway adjacent to the kitchen.

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United in faith, World Day of Prayer brings solidarity

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WADESBORO — At the same time as the human rights of a young woman are being violated, a woman worlds away says a prayer on her behalf.

An ecumenical group of about 30 gathered at Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro, united for the international March 3 World Day of Prayer. Around the globe, others joined in solidarity, raising awareness and standing together in faith and action with and for the people of Indonesia.

"We are invited to stand up in faith and action with the people of Indonesia," said Sister of Divine Providence Theresine Gildea. "To stand up against human rights violations." Sister Theresine along with her counterpart Sister Maxine Tancraitor are outreach icons in the Wadesboro community.

More than four decades have passed since the first World Day of Prayer. Beginning with a 1957 prayer service in East Java, from its early intentions of a day to reflect on the strife and suffering of those in Indonesia, WDP has blossomed into an ecumenical event celebrated by an estimated 12,000 internationally.

On the easternmost edge of the diocese, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist are the prevalent denominations. This year, for the first time, WDP brought a community together in prayer with their Catholic neighbors.

"It's important to show our support of our churches in this community and how well we work together," said Carole Heste Evans, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro.

More than a sense of community, participants got a brief rundown on the plight of Indonesian citizens while a slideshow depicting scenes of seemingly destitute women brought a slice of the Third World into view.

The gathering gave 14-year-old Cecelia Pueschel an opportunity to connect on a global level while fulfilling a few confirmation community service hours. "It helps in my understanding of what confirmation and church is all about," she said. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

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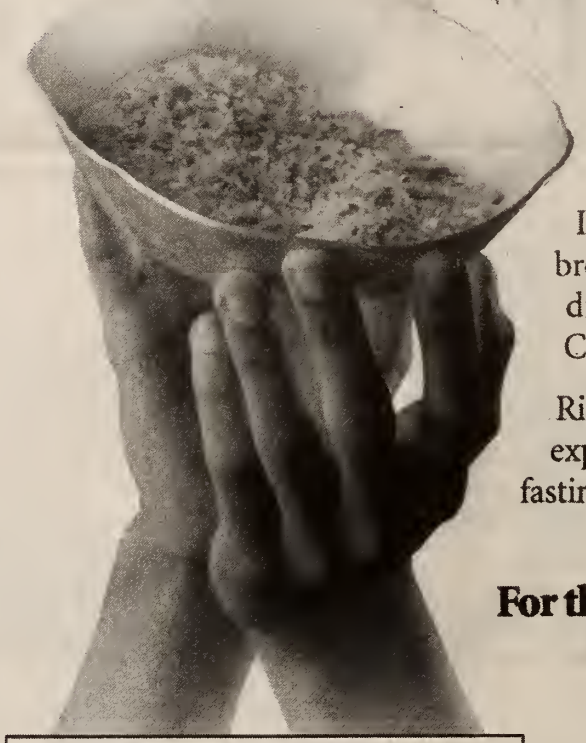

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And of the $105 million raised through the years, 25% has helped fund programs to improve local communities, too. For example, right here in the Diocese of Charlotte, contributions are disbursed as mini-grants to community groups working toward ending poverty and hunger. But there is still more to be done.

So as Operation Rice Bowl marks its 25th anniversary – with a new look for the new millennium – celebrate what your contribution has done and how your participation can make all the difference in the world.

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Operation Rice Bowl: Supplying physical and spiritual nourishment for twenty-five years

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rice is a complement to a meal for many families in the United States, but for those in less-fortunate countries, a meager supply of rice serves as the main dish. Operation Rice Bowl, named for this unfortunate dietary fact, has collected over $88 million for the impoverished and hunger-stricken in Third World countries for 25 years. This year's Beatitude-inspired theme "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall have their fill," is part of the silver anniversary of the Lenten program, one of the programs of Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

"Along with Operation Rice Bowl, CRS also handles agricultural programs, clinics, conflict resolution between warring parties in places like Rwanda and Kosovo and aid to countries like Mozambique," explained Joanne Frazer, diocesan director of the Office of Justice and Peace and CRS.

The Operation Rice Bowl slogan — pray, fast, learn, give — reflects the season of Lent and is expressed in the activity calendar that accompanies the cardboard rice bowl for money collection. These items will be sent to every family in the mail through the parish coordinators. The calendar includes activities and reflections for every day of the season of Lent, including recipes and biblical passages for family participation.

"The main thrust of Operation Rice Bowl is to educate people and to help them identify with those who are poor, their experiences and their daily lives," said Terri Jarina, office assistant for the Office of Justice and Peace and the diocesan Operation Rice Bowl coordinator.

Ed Konarski, chair of the CRS diocesan committee and the parish coordinator for St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, said, "Operation Rice Bowl isn't just about collecting money; it is about education and living out Catholic beliefs. It should give insight into other people's countries and their needs and can serve as a way of fostering spiritual growth."

St. Charles Borromeo Church has had the highest contribution per household for the past two years. The parishioners follow along with the calendar to show solidarity as part of their Friday stations of the cross services. Designated groups prepare a simple meal every week according to the activity calendar and share in group prayer, said Konarski. "Our parish has responded enthusiastically and generously." Konarski's family also participates in the activities included in the Operation Rice Bowl calendar.

The CRS diocesan committee works with Frazer and Jarina by offering feedback on ways to enhance the program, promoting Operation Rice Bowl to the parishes to increase participation and expanding the mini-grant program, said Konarski.

Seventy-five percent of the money collected from Operation Rice Bowl goes to the national CRS office for micro-enterprise efforts in Third World countries. Women primarily receive the money, anywhere from $30 to $500, to start their own small businesses, explained Frazer. "They are the poorest of the poor, and these businesses help them to provide money for their families to move toward economic self-sufficiency."

Twenty-five percent of the collected money remains within the diocese to fund $500 mini-grants. Parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations may apply for the grants, which can be used for any program or service with an immigrant or migrant focus, said Jarina. Many parishes sponsor a sister parish in another country, and there is much work with immigrants and migrants in various local areas around the diocese.

Last year, many parishes received the mini-grants for their efforts with people from other countries. For instance, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee received a mini-grant to finance a project entitled "Operation Love" to help with the citizenship process for Hispanic parishioners, and Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro used their grant to buy a CD recorder/changer for the startup of a radio station at Our Lady of Assumption Church in Khrakov, Ukraine. The parishioners also have an annual Ukrainian dinner

See RICE BOWL, page 14

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Word to Life

March 12, First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B Readings:
1) Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-9
2) 1 Peter 3:18-22
3) Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The evaluations were gratifying. Students were saying wonderfully complimentary things. For a long time it had been a goal to teach university students, and he'd thought the class was going well all semester. Now, here was proof.

One after the other the numerical rankings were high and the comments laudatory. He was thrilled, almost floating.

The jagged edge that burst his bubble surfaced toward the bottom of the pile. On an item asking about class lectures, a student had circled "good" and then written, "Lectures are sometimes elusive."

The criticism, mild as it was, fractured his brittle self-confidence. He suddenly remembered those few times he'd felt uncertain about a fine philosophical point or rushed past some historical sequence he was unsure of. In his mind, the insights of the other students now seemed shallow, flawed. The excitement of success was gone.

"Repent, and believe in the good news," Jesus tells us on this first Sunday of Lent. Repentance usually occupies our focus, with its call to root out selfishness and sin, to turn our lives around. We are most of us skilled discoverers of failure and weakness in ourselves.

What's often missing in our approach to Lent is the second part of Jesus' invitation: "Repent," he urges us, "and do so by believing the good news that you are loved beyond all measure, before and beneath any accomplishment, any demonstration of good faith or talent or effort."

To believe that — deep down, in our bones — is to embrace a radical and liberating truth. To believe in that great good news is to repent of both our self-reliance and our self-doubt. It is to trust God and give ourselves away more and more every day.

May this Lenten season move us to deep repentance and joyful belief. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 12-18, 2000

Sunday (First Sunday in Lent), Genesis 9:8-15, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:12-15; **Monday**, Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday**, Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (St. Patrick of Ireland)**, Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (St. Cyril of Jerusalem)**, Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

Readings for the week of Mar. 19-25, 2000

Sunday (Second Sunday in Lent), Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10; **Monday (St. Joseph)**, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Luke 2:41-51; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (St. Turibius of Mogrovejo)**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday**, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (The Annunciation of Our Lord)**, Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38

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Book Review

Book explores public role of American women in religious life

REVIEWED BY NANCY L. ROBERTS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

While women have not been able to develop their public role in American religion as fully as have men, "The Religious Imagination Of American Women" demonstrates that they have been thinking long and hard about the spiritual life.

Mary Farrell Bednarowski's provocative, readable analysis covers a wide range of religious traditions, including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mormon, and Buddhist.

Bednarowski, professor of religious studies at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and a practicing Catholic, illuminates key areas that have compelled American women religious thinkers.

The book is exhaustively researched and reflects Bednarowski's years of immersion in her subject, an effort which produced two earlier, well-received books, "American Religion: A Cultural Perspective" and "New Religions and the Theological Imagination in America."

The author delves into such questions as: "When women write and speak publicly about religious ideas, what do they have to say?" and, "What does it mean to be a human being and a woman and how does our understanding of God and reality shape our answer to this question?"

Bednarowski's book aims not to create a pan-woman spirituality but to interpret critically what women religious thinkers have had to say.

She starts by noting that, "Having inhaled the contradictory nature of their experiences, women breathe out in their religious thought an ambivalence toward their traditions."

She says that this very "ambivalence about one's religious tradition — about where one stands in relation to it — can be viewed quite positively."

In a fascinating chapter on healing and religion, Bednarowski views this subject "as one more angle from which to explore women's search for intellectually and emotionally adequate ways, more theologically creative ways, to expand and transform traditional religious ideas."

"The Religious Imagination of American Women" is a scholarly work whose subject, scope, and graceful prose will command readership beyond the academy, among any who wish to explore this subject in thoughtful depth. ▼

"The Religious Imagination of American Women"
By Mary Farrell Bednarowski
Indiana University Press
(Bloomington, Ind., 1999)
240 pp. Hardcover, $39.95;
Paper, $15.95.

Roberts, professor of journalism and mass communication at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has written two books about Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement.

From readers' suggestions, The Catholic News & Herald will begin printing two weeks of Scripture readings every issue.

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Out on video

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"The Best Man" (1999)

Uneven romantic comedy in which a wedding is jeopardized when an autobiographical novel by the best man (Taye Diggs) suggests he was intimate with the bride-to-be (Monica Calhoun) while she was dating his best friend, the now-enraged groom (Morris Chestnut). Writer-director Malcolm D. Lee's talky take on the war of the sexes strains for obvious laughs over the sexual double standard and is often raunchy despite the groom's fervently held Christian beliefs which finally lead him to forgiveness. A fleeting sexual encounter, crude bachelor-party lap dancing, brief violence, occasional profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Random Hearts" (1999)

After discovering his wife and the husband of a congresswoman were having an affair when both were killed in a plane crash, a Washington cop (Harrison Ford) becomes romantically involved with the man's widow (Kristin Scott-Thomas), jeopardizing her re-election. Director Sydney Pollack explores the painful aftermath of adultery in a plodding drama whose melodramatic subplot is similarly uninvolving. A discreet sexual encounter, brief violence, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Shooting the Past" (1999)

Character-driven drama in which the devoted staff of an obscure London photo archive, which is about to be discarded by its new American owner (Liam Cunningham), connives to find a new home for their treasured stills. Writer-director Stephen Poliakoff's quirky tale is somewhat flawed but captures the still camera's ability to freeze a moment in time forever. Ethical issues, drug references and a few Victorian-era nude photos. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Suburbans" (1999)

Trite comedy in which the love lives of four guys from a once-popular early 1980s rock band are complicated when they move in together to attempt to produce a comeback album. As directed by co-star Donal Lardner Ward, the characters are sophomoric, their romantic problems dull and the humor flat. Sexual situations, intermittent rough language and minimal profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Drowning Mona:" Witty, dark comedy

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — When a nasty resident of a small upstate New York town is suspected of being murdered, the chief of police has a harder time figuring out who wouldn't want her dead than who would in the dark comedy, "Drowning Mona" (Destination).

Chief Rash (Danny DeVito) has a problem. It seems that Mona Dearly's (Bette Midler) plunge into the Hudson River was no accident. As local mechanic Lucinda (Kathleen Wilhoite) puts it, the Yugo she was driving was "fixed to kill."

More accustomed to breaking up

CNS PHOTO FROM DESTINATION FILMS

William Fichtner, Bette Midler and Marcus Thomas star in the film "Drowning Mona."

bar brawls than investigating murders, Chief Rash is finding that his list of suspects is growing longer by the minute. It seems everyone had a reason for wanting brash and brutally honest Mona dead.

With his finger tightly on the pulse of lower-class America, director Nick Gomez captures the essence of what some would describe as "white trash" in this often acerbically funny film.

The main characters are well fleshed out with each having a convincing reason for killing the queen of mean. Bobby (Casey Affleck), co-owner of a fledgling landscaping business with Mona's lazy son Jeff (Marcus Thomas), is being pushed to the edge by Jeff's incompetence and Mona's insistence on getting a bigger share of the dwindling profits. He just wants to earn a decent living to support himself and his wedding-obsessed fiancee, Ellie (Neve Campbell).

Mona's henpecked husband, Phil (William Fichtner), who wears snazzy "Members Only" clothing and is having a steamy affair with Rona (Jamie Lee Curtis), a wannabe rocker turned waitress, is suspiciously unmoved by his wife's death. "You snooze, you lose," according to Phil.

Shaggy-haired, belching Jeff, who was bullied and belittled and rarely shown any maternal love, has plenty of reason to do it. The only question is whether the dull-witted son has the smarts to even come up with the idea of murdering his mother, much less pull it off.

And the list goes on, as everyone in town has at one time or another incurred Mona's wrath.

The witty script is filled with comedic details including wild rumors describing how Jeff's hand was chopped off, all built around him reaching for a beer; and throwaway lines are delivered with deft timing and deadpan faces.

The solid cast provides some good performances, including DeVito, whose keenly reserved Chief Rash works well, and Affleck, whose wide-eyed boy-next-door look fits Bobby's character perfectly.

Taken as a very dark comedy it succeeds, but the viewer is subject to flippant attitudes and cynical viewpoints. Even the local priest does not escape the sardonic edge, being portrayed as an alcoholic. Not one person in the working-class town shows any sorrow for Mona's death and the movie's laughs are built around this idea.

Because of the comical treatment of extramarital affairs, fleeting violence and homosexual innuendo, and a few instances of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope expresses gratitude for Mount Sinai pilgrimage

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pausing between Holy Year pilgrimages, Pope John Paul II expressed gratitude for his recent trip to Mount Sinai and looked ahead to a planned visit to the Mount of the Beatitudes in Israel.

The two biblical sites — where Moses received the Ten Commandments and where Christ gave his sermon on the Beatitudes — sum up the divine law that modern men and women must still follow, the pope said at a general audience at the Vatican March 1.

Both expressions of moral law should find an echo in the human heart, he said.

"The person who follows Christ does not feel oppressed by a multitude of rules, but, driven by the strength of love, experiences the commandments of God as a law of freedom: freedom to love, thanks to the inner action of the Spirit," he said.

The pope, his face tanned after his Feb. 24-26 visit to Egypt, said the high point of the trip was the one-day stop in Mount Sinai. While there he was able to pray at the site of the "burning bush," where God revealed himself to Moses, and at the foot of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

"Individuals cannot think they are faithful to God if they do not observe his law. To be faithful to God, in fact, is to be faithful to oneself, to one's own true nature and one's deepest and strongest aspirations," he told some 6,000 people in the Vatican audience hall.

He thanked Egypt's political authorities and religious leaders, including Grand Sheik Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi, for the welcome he received in the predominantly Muslim country. He recalled his meetings with Pope Shenouda III, the Coptic Orthodox patriarch, and said he hoped for new progress in ecumenical dialogue.

Having focused on Moses during his trip to Egypt, the pope said he would dedicate his upcoming Holy Land pilgrimage to Jesus Christ. The March 20-26 visit will take him to Jordan, Jerusalem and other holy places in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"I ask everyone to accompany me with prayers ... in the spiritual preparation of this important event," he said.

The pope, scheduled to celebrate Mass for thousands of young people near the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel, said that when Christ preached the beatitudes, he brought new meaning to the old law of Moses.

In Christ's life and suffering, "the Ten Commandments are heard through his voice," he said. Christ came to perfect the old law, becoming himself the "new law" through which salvation is offered to all peoples, he said.

The Season of Lent

FATHER FIDEL MELO
Guest Columnist

Lent: A Time of Reconciliation

As we enter the season of Lent, we understand that we are observing the forty days of preparation before Easter. Its purpose is to better prepare us for the feast of the Resurrection of the Lord. Lent is a privileged time during the liturgical year that disposes us for a more fruitful reception to the graces that Christ merited by his passion, death and Resurrection.

Lent is an opportunity to reform ourselves, individually and as community, in order to practice the virtue of love. Some good forms to live the season of Lent include a more attentive listening to the Word of God and a more constant attention to prayer.

Scripture and the fathers of the church will insist on three forms: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. But these three forms will make no sense if there is no interior conversion, conversion of the heart. The Lenten practices such as fasting, prayer and almsgiving are to express sincere conversion in relation to oneself, to God and to others. Fasting and almsgiving have a much wider significance than just refraining from eating or buying. They symbolize giving up our own ways to take up those of Christ.

The main purpose of Lent is the struggle against evil within ourselves. If we give up a plate of food but don't give up our desire for revenge, our fasting will be almost sterile. If we take out money from our wallets to give alms but don't remove from our hearts hatred or pride, almost nothing has been gained.

Reconciliation is attained in daily life through gestures such as desire to forgive, attention to the poor, the exercise and defense of justice, acceptance of suffering, the owning of our faults before our brothers and sisters, examination of conscience, and so on. Lent will be a true time of reconciliation if we fix our eyes in Christ's love, mercy and compassion and try to put them into practice.

May the good Lord bless us during this Lenten season with his divine grace in order to experience reconciliation with him and one another. And let us close our thoughts with the words of St. Peter: "Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers. Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs glory and dominion forever and ever." (1 Pt 7-11)

Father Fidel Melo is administrator of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe.

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERY
Guest Columnist

Evaluating Hispanic Ministry

The 1998 study of Hispanic Ministry, commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, offers an evaluation of diocesan structures and parish structures, regarding Hispanic Ministry in the U.S.

With regard to diocesan structures, it concludes the following:

On the plus side...

A growing number of dioceses have created new structures for Hispanic ministry at the regional or deanery level.

On the down side...

a) Collaboration between Hispanic Ministry and other diocesan departments tends to be limited in duration.

b) Most dioceses do not conduct pastoral planning for Hispanics on a consistent or regular basis.

With regard to parish structures, the study finds the following:

On the plus side...

a) Hispanic Ministry's "presence" at the parish level has grown by almost 50 percent.

b) The recognition of Hispanics as a "presence" in local parishes has increased.

On the downside...

a) Most Hispanics continue to worship in "mixed" or "parallel" parish settings. These settings allow Hispanics to maintain their own identity and culture, but the administration and life of the parish is divided into separate, and at times, highly unequal spheres. Most Hispanics attend their own masses in Spanish, usually at non-peak times, and not always in the main church sanctuary.

In addition, Hispanics rarely have the same level of representation on the parish pastoral council as non-Hispanics, and frequently rely on volunteers to manage their own parish programs.

b) Most Hispanics are not receiving culturally sensitive programs in their parishes. Less than a third of the parishes with a significant Hispanic presence offer youth ministry, RCIA, lay leadership training, parish renewal or retreat programs in Spanish. Only 13 percent are developing Christian "base" communities for evangelization and outreach to Hispanics.

In addition, about 21 percent of all Hispanic-oriented parishes offer no Hispanic programs, aside from the liturgy and mass in Spanish.

Again, I hope this has been helpful.

Vincentian Father Vincent H. Finnerty is director of Hispanic Ministry.

We welcome your comments and letters.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Sabbath: "Do I Gotta?!"

"Why do I gotta go to church?!" is part of the weekend ritual in many households where teenagers test the patience and skill of many a dutiful parent. "It's so-o-o-o boring!" "John's mom doesn't make him go!" "I find God more in nature, so howsabout I just sit in the backyard while you're gone?"

Some arguments are more informed. One dad told me that his 13-year-old recently shot back: "Remember what Jesus said! 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'" "What did you do?" I asked. "Well, I was so impressed that he even knew something from Scripture, I let it go!"

But what is a parent to do? One of the most frequent concerns I hear from moms and dads everywhere is what to do about getting their kids to church. Some have found it helpful to take a closer look at the matter.

The word Sabbath comes from the Hebrew "shabbot," the "cessation of labor." The first thing in the world that God made holy was not a mountain, not an altar, not a person, but a day — the Sabbath. "God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it." (Genesis 2:3)

In time, the Sabbath was defined by elaborate rules and regulations. All work was forbidden. So when Jesus and his disciples were going through a field of grain one Sabbath and plucked the ears of grain to eat them, they were technically breaking the rules. Reaping a meal from the harvest was a form of labor and they were lawbreakers. When confronted, Jesus argued that human need takes precedence over human, and even, divine law. He insisted that we are not to be enslaved by the Sabbath. Quite the opposite, the Sabbath exists to make our lives better.

And here, Jesus teaches us at least three essential truths vital for our life of faith. First, religion does not consist of rules and regulations. There is a great deal more to religion than Sunday observance. As Garrison Keillor aptly put it: "If you think going to church makes you a Christian, you probably think sitting in a garage will make you a car." Whenever we forget the love and forgiveness, the service and mercy that are at the heart of religion, and replace them by adherence to rules and regulations, religion loses meaning.

Second, if the performance of your religious faith stops you from helping someone in need, then you misunderstand the essence of religion. People matter far more than systems. Persons are far more important than rituals. Jesus could not have been more clear on this point: the best way to worship God is to serve others.

Third, the Sabbath is never more sacred than when it is used to help those who need help. The altar is sacred not only because it is dedicated to God's worship but also because it is used for the spiritual well-being of His children. Bread is never more holy than when it is used to feed one who is starving.

Then "Do I gotta go?" My answer: the Sabbath means more than not working. It is a day devoted to God and our spiritual lives. Its observance begins in the home, where we show love for family and friends. And as family and friends, we go to church freely to join with others to thank and worship our Lord and Creator.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

I dare you to take Lent seriously

Do you remember, ages and ages ago, when you were just a little kid, and you'd get dared to do something?

"Dare you to climb up to the top of that tree!" "Dare you to eat that worm!" "Oh, yeah? Well I triple dare you to steal home!"

Do you remember how a dare made you feel? If you were a normal kid, it probably made you feel as if you just had to run out and do whatever that dare was about. It didn't matter what it was. You'd been challenged, and you weren't about to back down, right?

OK, how about this? It's Lent. I dare you to take it seriously. Double dare you, in fact.

Giving up candy bars and cutting down to one soda a day was fine and dandy when you were a little kid, but you're older now. Don't you think you're ready for a more grown-up approach?

I dare you to take a few minutes out of your life and reflect on what Lent is really all about. Dare you to confront that whole issue of "giving things up" as an adult.

Maybe do it this way: Ponder the whole concept of "sacrifice." Think about how many important things in life require sacrifice.

Being a good athlete requires you to sacrifice time and comfort. Doing your absolute best in school, using the brain God gave you to explore this fantastic world, requires its own kind of sacrifices too. So do relationships. Being happy in your relationships with friends and family requires the sacrifice of ego and pride, and the willingness to give.

And it's just like that with God. Being close to God and living within God's comfort and peace requires sacrifice too.

We have to examine our lives closely, all the time, for those things that are keeping us from God. Sometimes those things are sinful, and sometimes they're just a waste of precious time, energy and focus.

So what we do during Lent is try to put a microscope to the stuff in our lives that is keeping us from being closer to God. For some of us it's alcohol or sexual sin that's working at destroying our best selves. For some it's the hours we spend in front of mindless entertainment. For some it's just plain, shut-the-door-in-everyone's-face selfishness.

So I dare you. Dare you to think about Jesus and how much he loves you.

—Dare you to clear your life of junk this Lent: junk relationships, junk entertainment, junk pastimes.

— Dare you to open the door to your room and face the rest of your family as though they're human beings, not impositions on your freedom.

— Dare you to go to Mass every single Sunday during Lent, open your heart to God and pray, really pray this time.

— Dare you take 15 minutes a day and in silence read God's word and listen to him.

— Dare you to rest your eyes on Jesus on the cross and not look away after two seconds.

— Dare you to reflect on the pain he suffered out of love for you.

Dare you. Double dare you.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Determining the Sunday readings

Q. I have been struck by the prayerful coherence of the three Scripture readings at the Sunday liturgies and especially appreciate when the homilist shows how they illuminate each other.

I know the readings come in three-year cycles, but would like to know how they are selected, who does the selecting and when this all began.

When I was growing up, as I recall, the same Sunday passages were read every year. Are these readings fixed or can they be altered if the priest wants to use others?

A. At Vatican Council II, in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963), the bishops of the world ordered that a more lavish table of the word of God be spread before the faithful, that the treasures of the Bible be opened up more widely and that a more representative part of the holy Scriptures be read to the people over a prescribed number of years (No. 51).

The Lectionary for Mass is the result of that request. First completed in 1969, some expansions and slight revisions were added later.

In spite of its inevitable limitations, the Lectionary truly is, as you indicate, a remarkable achievement. Under the auspices of the Vatican congregation responsible for the church's worship and sacraments, a group of experts in Scriptural exegesis, liturgy, catechetics and pastoral theology from all parts of the world worked on the task for several years.

They first refined the principles which would guide the choice of readings and then assembled the list of texts itself. The Order of Readings is the result of their combined effort.

Underlying the entire effort, of course, is the church's ancient belief that the celebration of Mass — hearing God's word and offering and receiving the Eucharist — is one single act of worship. In both of these elements Christ is present as he carries on the work of salvation, makes our human family holy and offers perfect worship to the Father.

Somewhere along the line much of that vision got lost. As with the rest of us older Catholics, you obviously are one who remembers when what we now call the Liturgy of the Word was still considered a negligible, even unnecessary, part of the Mass.

Today we have returned again to acknowledge liturgically the one presence of Christ, who both speaks to us when the Scriptures are proclaimed and who is sacramentally with us above all in the Eucharist.

As you note, the Sunday readings are arranged in three-year cycles (A, B and C), designated as if the series started in Year 1 of the Christian era, Year 2 being B and so on. Thus, all years evenly divisible by three are in the C cycle, with the others falling into place behind them.

Most of us know from experience that the Bible texts during Advent, Lent and Easter harmonize with the character and themes of those seasons. During the rest of the year (Ordinary Time), the Gospel passages are predominantly from Matthew (A), Mark (B) and Luke (C).

Not many Catholics, I believe, realize that when the Scripture passages for each year were chosen, a particular effort was made to reflect the unique theological and stylistic characteristics of that par-

SEE DIETZEN, PAGE 14

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Women religious gather at Catholic Conference Center

About 50 sisters representing a cross-section of the nearly two dozen orders of women religious who serve the Diocese gathered Feb. 26 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. The women met to discuss ways to support one another in ministry, and to discuss future plans as a collective group.

"We used to live in convents and had the support of our communities right there with us," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious. "Today, we have a lot of sisters who live alone, separated from their communities in distance. We need to build in some support, both spiritually and socially."

The women also met with Bishop William G. Curlin, who thanked the women for their dedication and service, and pledged support to their endeavors. Pictured here, Mercy Sisters Mary Timothy Warren and Rosalind Picot chat with one of the Missionaries of Charity Sisters during the Hickory gathering.

Dietzen, from page 13

ticular synoptic Gospel.

One can, for example, learn much about the "feel" of Matthew by being sensitive to the Gospel texts in the A cycle.

The same is true for Mark and Luke in their years, as well as for John in the many texts from that Gospel during Lent and Easter.

The first reading, most of the year from the Old Testament, usually is chosen because of some relationship to the other readings, especially to the Gospel of the day.

Obviously the entire Bible cannot be covered in three years, so some large sections must be omitted. But the church is very concerned that "difficult" texts not be easily passed over.

Some profound literary or interpretative difficulties arise from the texts themselves. But there is "no justification," according to the rules of the Lectionary, "for concealing from the faithful the spiritual riches of certain texts on the grounds of difficulty if the problem arises from the inadequacy either of the religious education that every Christian should have or of the biblical formation that every pastor of souls should have" (Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, Art. 76).

This helps to explain that, while considerable flexibility in readings is possible on other occasions, such options are very rare on Sundays and major feasts so as not to blur the character of the season, the sequence of readings or the message from a particular book of the Bible.

Rice Bowl, from page 9

and host two Ukrainian priests.

The diocese was recently honored with the Operation Rice Bowl Award at the Annual Social Ministries Gathering in Washington, D.C., for the efforts of CRS and Operation Rice Bowl. "We have quadrupled our Operation Rice Bowl offering in the last three years, and we have the diocesan CRS committee, which most other dioceses don't have. Also, our mini-grant program is unique among the dioceses in the United States," said Frazer.

"The Operation Rice Bowl Program provides an opportunity for families to realistically experience how the poor live," said Jarina. "The second step is by contributing to Operation Rice Bowl to help improve that situation." ▼

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Principal: Our Lady of Grace School, a K-8 Catholic school in Greensboro, NC, is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for this school year. Applicants must possess the following qualifications: practicing Catholic; current teaching/administration license for the state of NC; master's degree in education, and at least five years teaching experience. Please send resume and salary expectations to: Ms. Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. Deadline for applications: March 31, 2000.

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Controller: The Diocesan Finance Office is accepting applications for a Controller for Regional Schools. The position is responsible for the accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, annual audit; and supervises the accounting staff. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in Accounting and three years relevant experience. CPA preferred. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history to: Chief Financial Officer, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28207.

Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Director of Faith Formation - Full-time position is open at Our Lady of Mercy, a mid-size parish in Winston-Salem. Responsibilities include weekly classes for pre-school through grade 8, parent and student preparation for Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation; coordination of RCIA and adult education. Some background and/or experience in Religious Education preferred. Send resume to Rev. Joseph Angelini, 1919 S. Main St., Winston-Salem, NC 27127. For more information and/or a detailed job description, call Fr. Angelini at (336)722-7001.

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Chris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline March 24, 2000.

Infant Care Provider: South Charlotte. Excellent pay and flexible hours for warm and loving person who can help out busy mom with infant. Non-smoker and references required. Please call Judy at (704) 553-8136.

Infant Care Provider: Henderson/south Buncombe County. Seeking non-smoking, experienced adult to care for infant part-time; flexible hours beginning late April. References required; pay negotiable. Call Katy at (828)698-2956.

Liturgy/Catechumenate Director/Adult Formation Coordinator: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established process that seeks further implementation of the Re-Membering Church. Parish in initial stages of learning Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church (1 year old) with excellent worship space (with adult immersion font). Need help in maximizing the full potential of the abundant gifts present in this community. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30, for position July 1.

Music Ministry Director: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established program that includes hand bells, pipe organ, grand piano, tympani, etc. Select music for liturgies; direct/develop traditional and children's choir; coordinate with contemporary choir. Parish in initial stages of implementing Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church with excellent worship space. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30; Position available July 1.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic School, Rocky Mount, NC (Grades PK-5) seeks a principal for the 2000-2001 school year. Applicant must be practicing Catholic, hold teacher certification and principal's license (or in progress). Principal must establish residence in Rocky Mount. Send resume to: Search Committee, 331 Hammond Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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Blessed Bakhita a model of Christian faith, piety

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

The lives of the saints provide the faithful with exemplary models of men and women who dwelt in the love of Christ and lavished that love upon others, often in the most humble of ways. Such was the life of Blessed Josephine Bakhita, who will become the first Sudanese saint when she is canonized on Oct. 1.

Called Mother Moretta, our Black Mother, by the Canossian Daughters of Charity community at Schio, Italy, Josephine Bakhita emerged from a cruel background and became a woman of faith, whom those at the Canossian Institute found humble, simple and tender of heart.

Born into a prosperous, loving family in Sudan, Africa, in 1869, Bahkita experienced a world turned suddenly upside down when she was kidnapped and sold into slavery at the age of nine. So severe were her tortures, both physical and moral, that she even forgot her own name. She was sold and resold in the markets of Sudan's cities. One owner named her "Bakhita," which means fortunate.

She described in first-person narrative one of the horrors, according to the February 2000 issue of Living City magazine: "One day I unwittingly made a mistake that incensed the master's son. He became furious, snatched me violently from my hiding place, and began to strike me ferociously with the lash and his feet. Finally he left me half dead, completely unconscious. Some slaves carried me away and placed me on a straw mat where I remained for over a month."

In 1883, she was bought by the Italian consul, Callisto Legnani. For the first time, no one used the lash, but instead treated her in a loving, cordial way. According to the Canossian sisters' Web site, in the consul's residence she "experienced peace, warmth and moments of joy, even if always veiled by nostalgia for her own family who were perhaps lost forever."

She was eventually sent to Italy to care for a young woman named Mimmina, the daughter of one of the Consul's friends, who was attending a boarding school run by the Canossian sisters. It was here, through the sisters' nurturing, that she learned of the Catholic faith and of the God whom she knew was always in her heart.

After several months, Bakhita was initiated into the Catholic Church and assumed the name Josephine. The year was 1890. From then on, according to the Canossian Web site, she was often seen kissing the baptismal font, saying, "Here, I became a daughter of God."

When Mimmina's mother came to take her and Bakhita back to Africa, Bakhita, who was now of age, refused. With the help of the Canossian superior, the cardinal and the king's procurator, it was declared that since slavery was illegal in Italy, Bakhita could not be forced to return to Africa.

Bakhita remained with the sisters, discerning her call to become a religious. On Dec. 8, 1896, she was consecrated forever to God, whom she called the Master.

In community, Bakhita performed very humble tasks: sewing, cooking, embroidery, door-keeping. She was known to pray for the sisters of her community, who held her in high esteem for her piety, and she was fond of the children whom the sisters taught.

According to the Canossian Web site, her voice, "which had the inflection and rhythm of the music of her country, was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor and suffering and encouraging for those who knocked at the door of the Institute."

Her experiences in childhood and young adulthood did much to shape her desire to serve God and to live the religious life. She once said, according to Living City, "If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today.'"

In 1930, a biography of her life was published and from then on, she had many speaking engagements. Towards the end of her life, she became ill and was confined to a wheelchair. Even with the long, painful years of sickness, Mother Bakhita continued to witness in faith. To those who visited her and asked how she was, she would respond with a smile, noting that she accepts God's wishes.

She died on Feb. 8, 1947, at the age of 78, surrounded by sorrowful, praying sisters. A large crowd gathered to see for the final time their "Mother Moretta" and to ask for her intercession from heaven.

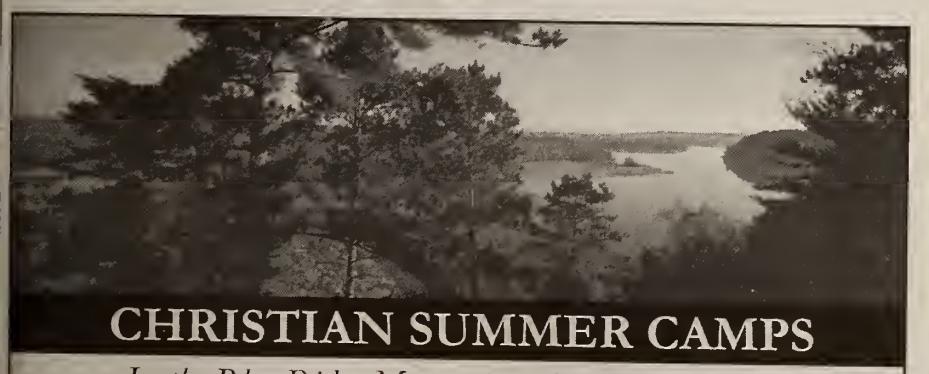
At the Canossian General House, hundreds of letters were received from persons who had experienced the efficacy of her intercession. She was proclaimed blessed by Pope John Paul II on July 6, 1991. ▼

Charlotte parishioners to travel to El Salvador, commemorate Romero death

CHARLOTTE — A delegation from St. Peter Church in Charlotte that has fostered a relationship with a community in northeast El Salvador will travel to the Central American locale later this month meet with some old friends and commemorate the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador.

Since 1990, the parish's El Salvador interest group has fostered a relationship with Segundo Montes, a civil-war weary refugee community 100 miles northeast of San Salvador. Continuing their pastoral and financial assistance to Segundo Montes, the parish group will send a delegation there March 18-26 as part of its jubilee observation. The delegation will get updates on the status of a variety of social justice, educational, community and church projects made possible through the involvement of the interest group. The delegation will also take part in the 20th anniversary observance of the death of Archbishop Romero, who was killed while celebrating Mass during El Salvador's bloody civil war.

To commemorate this jubilee event, the interest group has designed sweatshirts for its supporters. For further information on how you can help support the work of the interest group, call Mike Horn at (704) 598-4283. ▼



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— Psalms 121:1

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Black History Month celebrated at St. Lawrence Basilica Mass

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — People must look beyond the symbols to the soul of black, white and Catholic cultures, the vice chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte told the congregation in the Basilica of St. Lawrence at a recent Mass observing Black History Month.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, who also serves as vicar of African American Affairs in the diocese, was homilist at the Feb. 27 Mass. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the diocese, presided. Father Cecil Tice, rector of the basilica, had invited Father West and Rev. Mr. Todd to help the parish celebrate Black History Month.

What started some years ago as Black History Week has become Black History Month, but, Rev. Mr. Todd said, "We want to be celebrated all year — as all cultures should be."

The Catholic Church also is celebrating a Jubilee year. A banner hanging in front of the basilica proclaims the Jubilee message, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ." But, Rev. Mr. Todd says, there's more to that than might seem obvious.

"Who is the church?" he asked. "We are. The doors to be opened are not the doors to the building. We must open our minds and our hearts to Christ. Opening wide the doors to Christ means being the Jesus someone needs to see."

Rev. Mr. Todd added that before one can evangelize others, he or she must experience evangelization of self.

Rev. Mr. Todd took his homily theme from the day's second reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. He quoted from the reading: "You are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by all, shown to be a letter of Christ ministered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh."

"What do people see when they read my heart's letter?" he asked.

He acknowledged the differences between black and white cultures, but said, "All people are created in the image and likeness of God, and we are not entitled to deny that. Some people say when they look at me, 'Curtiss, I don't see a black man.' I know what they mean, but I have to ask, 'What do you see?' Because that's what I am. That's what God made me to be."

White U.S. culture in America has been shaped by white European culture, he said, and so has Catholic Church culture. When blacks look at the Catholic Church in the United States, Rev. Mr. Todd said, many feel unwelcome when all they encounter is white priests and nuns, a white hierarchy, the grandeur of European royalty, and art and icons showing fair-skinned people.

While differences in worship style between white and black congregations exist, he added, one is not better than the other.

Rev. Mr. Todd's comments reflect on the ethnic makeup of today's church, both in the United States and in the Diocese of Charlotte.

There are more than 62 million Catholics in the United States. According to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference's Secretariat for African American Catholics, 2.3 million Catholics are African American.

In this diocese, two priests in active ministry are African American, and Rev. Mr. Todd is the only African-American permanent deacon currently serving. Of the 94 parishes and missions in the diocese, three have predominantly African-American congregations.

In November 1989, the U.S. Catholic bishops approved and recommended a pastoral plan for black Catholics. The plan, originally adopted by the National Black Catholic Congress in 1987, focused on Catholic identity of African-American Catholics, ministry and leadership in the community, and the obligation to reach out to broader society.

The plan was part of an effort by the U.S. bishops to more effectively evangelize the nation's African-American Catholics. It dealt with a multitude of issues, including cultural, spiritual, educational and social awareness and development.

Black soul and culture come mainly from Africa, Rev. Mr. Todd said in his homily, but "slavery stripped Africans of their culture, their identity, even their humanity. What they were allowed to keep was for the entertainment of others."

But, he said, "Everybody has the right to belong to their own culture. No one culture is better than any other. Jesus came for everybody. There should be respect for all cultures. Go beyond the symbols and understand the soul of the culture."

All are to evangelize, reconcile and celebrate, he said. America has been called a "melting pot," but a better term might be "stew pot," he added. In a melting pot, all the ingredients blend into one, with no distinctions, but in a stew pot, each ingredient contributes to the whole while retaining its individuality.

Rev. Mr. Todd noted that he is asked from time to time why he feels a sense of belonging in a church with such a relatively small percentage of African-American congregants. "I tell them, a Catholic is a Christian who believes that God manifested himself to the world through Jesus Christ," he said, "and that the purpose of life is to know, love and serve God through divine worship and service to others." ▼

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, left, and Father Mauricio West greet parishioners after Mass at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

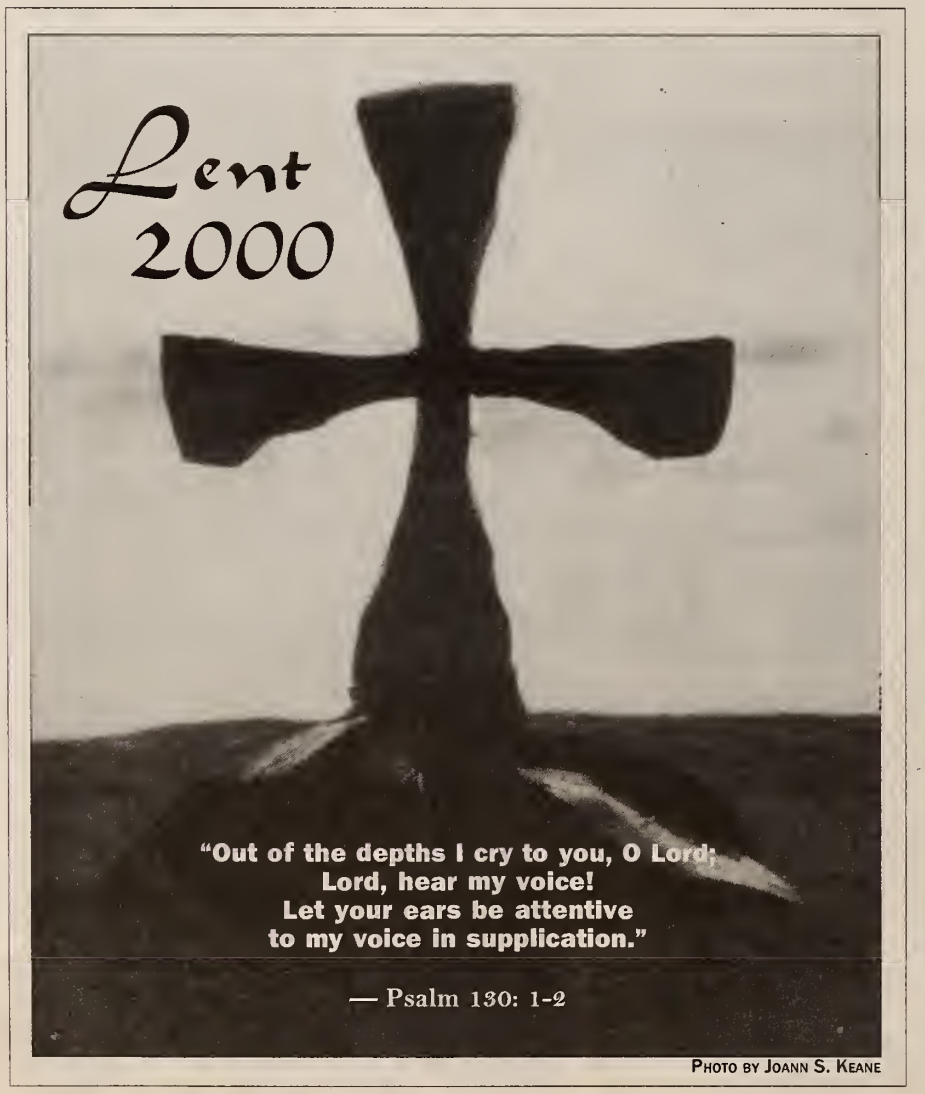

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

In this Jubilee Year,
St. Patrick Cathedral invites you to join us every Friday during Lent.

✝ *7:30 pm: Solemn Stations of the Cross*
✝ *8:00 pm: Holy Hour of Adoration*
✝ *9:00 pm: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*

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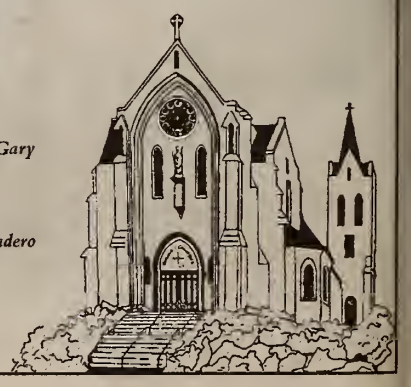

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 17, 2000
Volume 9 • Number 28

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With 'mea culpa,' pope culminates church's examination of conscience

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II made an unprecedented apology for the sins of Christians through the ages, the culmination of the church's "examination of conscience" for the jubilee year.

The pope's long-awaited "mea culpa" March 12 was echoed by local churches in the United States and elsewhere and generally welcomed by non-Catholics around the world.

The pope's idea of a day of atonement, which met some resistance even inside the Vatican, was designed to acknowledge shortcomings in the church's past, in order to give Catholics a sense of reconciliation and make future evangelization more credible.

"We forgive and we ask forgiveness!" the pope said during a historic Lenten liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica. He and seven top Vatican officials pronounced a "request for pardon" for sins against Christian unity, the use of violence in serving the truth, hostility toward Jews and other religions, the marginalization of women, and wrongs — like abortion — against society's weakest members.

The pope said the church has had many saints, but some of its members have shown disobedience to God and inconsistency with the faith — in the past and present.

"For the part that each of us, with his behavior, has had in these evils that have disfigured the face of the church, we humbly ask forgiveness," he said.

Pronouncing the apology for Christian intolerance in the past was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was created more than 450 years ago under a different name to run the Inquisition.

"Even men of the church, in the name of faith and morals, have sometimes used methods not in keeping with the Gospel in the solemn duty of defending the truth," the cardinal said.

Other Vatican officials expressed regret for actions by Christians that have aggravated ecumenical divisions, increased discrimination against minority and ethnic groups, "humiliated and marginalized" women, and shown contempt for local cultures and religious traditions.

The pope called for "genuine brotherhood" between Christians and Jews, telling Jewish people that "we are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours to suffer."

At the conclusion of the apology liturgy, the pope embraced and kissed the crucifix and, in a final blessing, declared that "never again" should such sins be committed. Thousands of people attended the service, packing the basilica and watching on giant-screen TV in the square outside.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger lights a lamp symbolizing one of the seven petitions for forgiveness at the jubilee "request for pardon" service in St. Peter's Basilica March 12. Pope John Paul II solemnly asked for pardon for the past and present sins of Christians during the service.

SEE "MEA CULPA," PAGE 8

Network helps Greensboro families find their way home

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — In the early-'80s, Karen Olson felt compelled to give a sandwich to a homeless woman in a subway station in New York. After she talked to the woman and learned about her life, she and her two sons began delivering sandwiches in and around New York and New Jersey. When area churches became aware of Olson's efforts, that is how the first Interfaith Hospitality Network came to be formed in October 1986 in New Jersey.

The National Interfaith Hospitality Network (NIHN) was later organized, which oversees the approximately 73 local networks throughout the country. One of those 73 networks includes a group of Greensboro churches — the Greensboro Interfaith Hospitality Network (GIHN) — all trying to help homeless families in that area to find their own shelter from the storm.

"This is a grass roots organization in which churches pair together to provide housing for families and provide transportation for them and their belongings to and from the host church," explained Jeanie Roberts-Wyatt, the GIHN director.

The GIHN began in October 1999 to accommodate up to 14 people, or about five families, in a rotating schedule with the host churches using their facilities for five weeks during the year. The network was created through the efforts of Bruce Bergen, now, the president of the GIHN Board of Trustees, and a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Greensboro. He attended a meeting with members who wanted to start a local network, and because of his prior ecumenical work, he and others went to churches to pitch the idea.

"The churches are not shelters but are safe places. We aren't just feeding them; we are having dinner with them and trying to bring some hope to their lives," said Bergen. "For the people of the churches, this puts a gentler face on homelessness because

SEE INTERFAITH, PAGE 14

Two-year minimum wage hike has church support, but veto likely

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A House measure to boost the minimum wage by $1 over a two-year period has the support of Catholic Charities USA and other church organizations, but President Clinton said he would veto it because the bill includes business tax cuts. The House approved a two-step $1 increase in the hourly minimum wage to $6.15 in a March 9 vote of 282-143. The Senate has approved $1 wage boost over three years and different tax cuts. Organizations including Catholic Charities that have pushed for the two-year increase instead of the Senate version's three-year increase backed the House action.

Religious leaders urge moratorium on federal executions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Representatives of more than 30 church-based groups joined in a plea to President Clinton to impose a moratorium on use of the death penalty by the federal government. In a March 9 letter, religious leaders told President Clinton that "our nation is slowly realizing the truth of capital punishment: the death penalty, as applied in America today, threatens to shed innocent blood." It was signed by leaders of Baptist, Quaker, Episcopal, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ and Methodist organizations, among others. Columban Father Michael Dodd, director of the Justice and Peace Office of the Columban Fathers was among the signers.

Israeli officials pledge to keep politics out of papal visit

ROME (CNS) — After meeting with Pope John Paul II, Israeli officials pledged to keep politics out of the pontiff's Holy Land visit and called on Palestinians to do the same. "I hope that politics will not shadow what is a very important spiritual and religious visit," Haim Ramon, a Cabinet minister in charge of government planning for the trip, told reporters at a Rome press conference March 10. "I want to thank the Vatican, which is doing its best to make sure this visit is not used by anyone for political purposes. I hope the Palestinians will respect this. It is not just our request, but the request of the pope."

CNS PHOTO COURTESY ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY

Dead Sea Scrolls

This ancient fragment of text contains commentary on the biblical verses of Hosea 2:8-14. It is part of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 in the Judean desert. Fifteen of the texts, believed to be the earliest surviving copies of the books of the Old Testament, are on display at the Field Museum in Chicago through June 11.

Don't just forgive debt, reorder economies as well, says priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — External debts of poor countries should be forgiven, but a reordering of the world's economy is also needed, said a priest serving in Bolivia. Debts of poor countries should be forgiven "for moral reasons, but it's not going to change things in the end," said Oblate Father Gregorio Iriarte, author and specialist in Catholic social justice. Father Iriarte spoke March 3 in Washington. "The problem of external debt is related to the deterioration of commercial relations," said the priest. "The raw materials produced by the Third World are every day cheaper in relation to the intermediate products the people have to buy. So if what you produce is worth less every day and what you have to buy is worth more, obviously that's going to lead to debt," Father Iriarte said.

Bishops praise support for traditional definition of marriage

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — California's Catholic bishops praised voters for approving a measure March 7 that defines marriage as a union only between a man and a woman. The church leaders, speaking as the California Catholic Conference, said they were "saddened," however, by passage of a measure extending the circumstances under which the death penalty is warranted. On another crime issue, the state's Catholic Charities consortium voiced regrets at the voters' decision to have more juvenile offenders tried and sentenced as adults "while allocating nothing for programs to prevent juvenile crime."

Pakistani official confirms notice on blasphemy cases

TOBA TEK SINGH, Pakistan (CNS) — A member of Pakistan's National Security Council has confirmed a government notice that no blasphemy case will be registered without proper inquiry. Local papers reported council member Attyia Inayatullah said deputy district commissioners have been ordered not to register cases of blasphemy against the prophet Mohammed or the Koran without proper investigation. The council is a top-level body that advises the government on various matters, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Syed Zakir, spokesman for the rights group Solidarity International, welcomed the move to change the process of registering blasphemy cases and said those who make false accusations should be punished.

Maryland bishops support Spanish translation for courts bill

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Concerned that Spanish-speaking Maryland residents are not always given equal access to the state's justice system, Maryland's Catholic bishops want the General Assembly to support a bill that would help eliminate the language barrier in the court system. S.B. 741 would require Maryland courts to provide certified language interpreters for Spanish speakers who are not proficient in English. The bill would prohibit a state department, agency or program from denying public services or discriminating against a person based on language ability.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 20-21
LARCUM Ecumenical Meeting
(Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist)
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
March 21 — 7 pm Confirmation
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albermarle
March 25
Journeys to Justice Retreat
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
5:30 pm Confirmation
Immaculate Conception, Forest City
March 28 — 6:30 pm
Diocesan School Board
Mass and Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
March 29
Priest personnel meeting

Diocesan planner

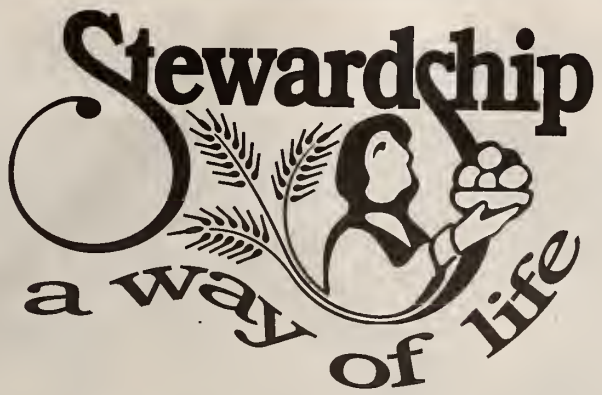
March

19 ASHEBORO — Everyone is invited to attend the Lenten parish mission at St. Joseph Church, 512 West Wainman Ave. A team of people involved in Catholic Renewal are presenting the mission and its theme "A Life in the Spirit," beginning this morning at Sun. Masses at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. and continuing tonight at 7 p.m. Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp, permanent deacon at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, is presenting the mission at the Masses. The mission will continue through March 21 at 7 p.m. For details, call Doris Blase at (336) 629-7478.

20 CHARLOTTE — To learn more about techniques and tools that can be used to help people through a meaningful death, St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is having a workshop entitled "Final Rights: How to Care for People in the Last Phases of Life." The morning session, designed for professionals, lasts from 9 a.m.-noon with registration at 8:30 a.m. The afternoon session for family and friends lasts from 1-4 p.m. with registration at 12:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 364-5431 for more information.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montlieu Ave., is having its annual Parish Lenten Renewal featuring Tom Kendzia, a composer and lecturer. Beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m., Kendzia is leading an evening of song and reflection. Continuing through March 22 at 7:30 p.m., the renewal also includes a reconciliation service and a Eucharistic celebration. For more information, call Wanda Garrett at (336) 884-5212.

21 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center is having a "Chrism Day of Reflection" today from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with Mass fol-



Embracing stewardship

Regional workshop highlights giving of time, talent, treasure

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

FRANKLIN — Stewardship. It's not just about money.

That was the message to 20-plus parishioners of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate at the Charlotte Diocese's first Regional Stewardship Day March 11. Barbara Rohrman, the diocese's associate director of development, spoke to representatives from Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hayesville; Our Lady of the Mountains, Highlands; St. Joseph, Bryson City; St. Margaret, Maggie Valley; St. William, Murphy; and St. Francis of Assisi, Franklin, which hosted the event.

Rohrman said she hopes to hold at least two more regional stewardship days in other areas of the diocese.

"I help parishes promote stewardship, to embrace stewardship as a way of life," Rohrman said. "Too often, when I come into a parish to do a workshop like this, people get out their wallets, or (the pastor) brings the finance council for me to talk to."

There's much more to Christian stewardship than that, she added.

The Charlotte Diocese formed the Office of Development in 1986. Its primary responsibility is to "help educate, encourage, and assist people in the diocese to use their gifts of time, talent, and treasure so that they may grow spiritually." Charlotte was ahead of the game in another way. In 1989, it created a stewardship manual, one of the first dioceses in the country to have such a publication.

In 1992, the bishops of the United States were asked to address the church's diminishing resources. The bishops drafted a pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," which calls upon all Christians to embrace stewardship.

The letter does not talk about money, but rather, describes stewards as disciples of Jesus, who joyfully appreciate all that God has given them. "These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord," it says.

Gone are the days when the pastor did it all. The bishops' letter emphasizes that stewardship is integral, not optional. Everyone is called to be involved.

Motivations to give time and talent, as well as treasure, range from fear to gratitude, Rohrman said. Fear is at the bottom of the ladder. Next above fear is reward: giving to get something in return. Then comes social approval ("I'll let people know what I did so they can appreciate how good I am").

Need is next: People give to those in need, but when the need is over, the giving stops. Nearer to the top is sacrifice — giving until it hurts. Some people give and give and then tell everyone how much it hurt. But, Rohrman said, if it is to be a real sacrifice, it must align the giver with Jesus.

The top reason for stewardship is gratitude — giving until it feels good, until you feel good about your giving, whether of time, talent or treasure.

"Proportionate giving," rather than tithing, is what the Charlotte Diocese prefers, Rohrman said, giving in proportion to what the person has been given. "And only you know what you've been given," she added. "Perhaps you've been given more time than others. Some people have been gifted with more talent. Stewardship is something we plan. It's intentional, as in, 'I'll spend three hours this week working at the soup kitchen,' rather than, 'If I have any time left, I'll work at the soup kitchen'."

Rohrman suggested that each parish form a stewardship committee under the parish council. The stewardship committee would be responsible for helping the parish to be aware of stewardship through a program guided by an annual plan. Members of the committee would be spiritually motivated; exemplify stewardship in their own lives; envision where stewardship can take the parish; and have personal qualities such as accountability, optimism and creativity.

She said that moving fully into stewardship can take a parish seven to 10 years, but the results are worth it. Rohrman shared the example of Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Charlotte. Some of the fruits of its stewardship efforts are:

- Weekday Mass attendance increased.
- Bible study groups increased.
- In 1990 the parish had no prayer group; now it has five.
- Invited to participate in community outreach programs, more than 60 parishioners committed to a six-week seminar, "Moving Faith into Action," and are now involved in ministry to the hungry, elderly and immigrants.

Attendees at the Regional Stewardship Day were eager to get involved in their own parishes.

"She gave us a lot of good ideas," said Carole Johnson of St. William Church. "We're just getting started in stewardship. She gave us a lot of food for thought."

Dan Lange is already involved in stewardship as a lector, lector chairman, eucharistic minister and member of the pastoral council at St. Francis of Assisi. "I just thought it was wonderful to have this workshop," he said. "So many people in the parish want to do things, but they don't know who to ask." ♣

For more information about stewardship, contact Rohrman at the Office of Development, (704)370-3302 or e-mail stewardship@charlottediocese.org.

"Perhaps you've been given more time than others. Some people have been gifted with more talent. Stewardship is something we plan. It's intentional, as in, 'I'll spend three hours this week working at the soup kitchen,' rather than, 'If I have any time left, I'll work at the soup kitchen'."

— Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the diocese

lowed by lunch and a talk by Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the center. To make a reservation by March 16, call Mary Violante at (336) 282-4099.

24 HICKORY — "Rachel's Vineyard Retreat: A Journey of Post-Abortion Healing" is taking place at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, this weekend. This retreat, facilitated by Dr. Martha Shuping, psychiatrist and pastoral minister, and Debbie Woodhams, licensed professional counselor and president of Transfiguration Ministries, focuses on a biblical healing process based on Dr. Burke's book "Rachel's Vineyard." The weekend includes discussions, prayer, living Scripture exercises, private letter writing and a memorial service. For more information, call Dr. Shuping at (336) 659-1342.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, is having a special retreat today through March 26 for women, entitled "Women Healing and Being Healed." In the context of prayer, dialogue and personal reflection, the focus of the retreat is on the unique role women enjoy as healers in relationships, the gifts women bring and those they often fail to accept. The facilitator and presenter is Dr. Patricia Kelly, counseling psychologist, therapist and mother of 12. For registration and other information, call the center at (828) 926-1997.

25 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is having a "Day of Retreat and Prayer" today, starting with 8 a.m. Mass and ending at 3:30 p.m. The spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montford is being featured in the morning, and the revelations to Sister Faustina of the Divine Mercy are being featured in the afternoon. For reservations, call the church office at (828) 254-6042.

CHARLOTTE — "Women Saying 'Yes' to God" is the theme of an all-day conference for women and teenage girls, ninth grade and up, being held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The speakers include Mercy Sister Larretta-Rivera Williams and Joanna Case. There are going to be small group gatherings after each major topic and special sessions for teenage girls with Katy Volponi from Belmont Abbey. For more information or to pre-register, call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., invites everyone to "Theology on Tap ... Unplugged: A Christian Coffeehouse" tonight from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the family room of the parish center. This is an opportunity for fellowship and socializing in an alternative Saturday night setting. Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church, is presenting a theology message "Get Ready 'Cause Here I Come." The music is being provided by Redeemed, featuring Kathy and David. For further details, contact Kathy Piontek at (704) 614-9100.

DENVER — Holy Spirit Church, 537 North Hwy. 16, is having Irish Night 2000 tonight at 7 p.m. The dinner includes corned beef, cabbage and beverages. The proceeds will benefit the diocesan seminarians. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448.

31 HICKORY — To experience the presence of Jesus while walking down the road to Emmaus, there is a men's Emmaus retreat at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. and continuing this weekend until 3 p.m. on April 2. Space is limited. For more information about registration, call Joe Christian at (704) 543-1892.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Getting to the bottom of Teen Summit 2000

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — A local radio station decided to give area teens a dose of discussions of social issues violence with a sugar spoonful of a concert featuring national recording artists. WPEG FM-98 sponsored their first Teen Summit 2000, a day of talks and performances geared toward African-American middle, junior high and high school students.

"There are so many issues that the youth have to deal with on a daily basis, and this was a forum where they could address issues like sex, violence in schools and drugs," said Andre' Carson, WPEG program director. "Hopefully, we were able to further educate them and possibly change some viewpoints."

Of the many teen and young adult attendants who listened to the panel discussions and benefited from the statistical and social information, the Youth in Action group from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte participated in the event on March 11 at Halton Arena at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The segments, with panelists from the Chemical Dependency Center, Teen Health Connection, Metrolina AIDS Project and other agencies and organizations, were hosted by the station's DJ's who gathered questions from the audience.

During the first segment about drugs, one of the youth from OLC, Ashley Grier, 15, a freshman at Charlotte Catholic High School, said that students should be tested for drugs at school to the boos and groans of the young crowd.

Thirteen-year-old Courtney Colon made a plea on behalf of her brother, a victim of drug experimentation. She wanted to know what agencies could help him and her family with intervention. "I have experienced the negative side of drug experimentation because of what my brother has gone through," said Colon. "I wanted to know how he can get help, and I think that we can definitely try to help him, even if he doesn't want it."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

The Youth in Action group from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte gather for a minute during Teen Summit 2000, sponsored by WPEG FM-98, on March 11 at Halton Arena on UNCC's campus.

"It is important for me to support my children and to be a part of everything they do. I want to see if they are learning what I am teaching them, that they have to believe in God first and their friends and other things should come second."
— André Tompkins

After a 21-year-old mother of two stated that there should be more parental involvement with children, one of the parents of two Youth in Action members, Celean Tompkins said, "Parents need to trust their children and trust that what they have taught them. You need to pay more attention to your children."

The Tompkins attended the event as a family with their son, Nicholas, and daughter, Cerita. "It is important for me to support my children and to be a part of everything they do. I want to see if they are learning what I am teaching them, that they have to believe in God first and their friends and other things should come second," said André Tompkins.

The musical interludes consisted of young popular R&B and rap artists Sammie, N-Toon, J-Shin and the Youngbloodz and a junior and senior high school step competition, an African-American fraternities and sororities' art form.

The segment about sex and violence brought with it the many statistics that affect many youth and teens. Michelle Gay, community health educator, from the Mecklenburg Council on Adolescent Pregnancy said that there were 1,670 pregnancies reported in Mecklenburg County in 1998. The highest age range of these reported pregnancies were between 15- and 18-year-olds, and 67 percent of fathers identified were 20 years of age and older.

One single 28-year-old mother of three warned the audience about the dangers of unprotected sex and said that young women should be more careful about their lives.

"The event was educational but also fun. I thought that the session about sex was the most important of the day," said Bianca Graham, a 16-year-old junior at Charlotte Catholic High School. "People think that the cool thing to do now is to have sex, but when the consequences come, people aren't ready to face them."

Seventeen-year-old Fernando Steele said, "This was very informational because it let kids know about things they should and should not do, depending on their age. What hit home for me was the segment about violence in schools — six-year-olds shooting each other is ridiculous. We are here to live, learn, have fun and praise God. You should look toward your religion and the groups you are involved in to prevent those negative things from happening."

Nanette Lide, one of the parish's youth minister, thought that the event was important for her kids to attend. "This gave them a platform to communicate their beliefs about abstinence and other teen issues, like community awareness, social justice and drugs, and to share their beliefs as Catholics. Most of what they are dealing with are issues that seem to run rampant in the black community, and it is even harder for them because there are so few young black Catholics in this area."

"They need to feel comfortable sharing what they experience in their lives, which is why they need to be exposed to environments like this," said Leslie Johnson, the parish youth minister. ♣

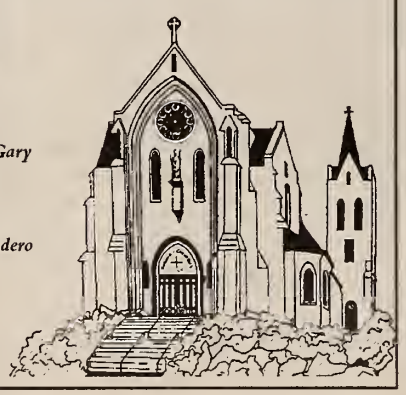
Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

In this Jubilee Year,
St. Patrick Cathedral invites you to join us every Friday during Lent.

+ *7:30 pm: Solemn Stations of the Cross*
+ *8:00 pm: Holy Hour of Adoration*
+ *9:00 pm: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*

Stations of the Cross
for the Jubilee 2000

Fridays during Lent at 7:30 pm



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Performer brings biblical-times women to life

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Who were they — the women who surrounded Jesus and Mary? You can find out who one woman thinks they were.

Olivia Woodford has written "Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story" and "The Heart of the Cross," one-woman plays that bring to life some of the women who were — and who may have been — part of Jesus' and Mary's world.

"You watch the characters have spiritual awakenings," she said. "Women are usually silent in Scripture, and in real life, their voices are often not a strong as men's. So, to have a whole evening where women's voices are heard affirms our place in the world and our relationship to the church and God. At the same time, men are not threatened."

She has been performing "Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story" for two years. Last Advent she gave performances at Grace Baptist, Emma United Methodist, and St. Eugene Catholic in Asheville; St. Margaret Mary Catholic, Swannanoa; St. John Catholic, Waynesville; and St. Margaret Catholic, Maggie Valley, among other churches.

The play is about Mary; although, Mary herself never appears. Instead, the characters are women who knew or might have known her: her cousin, Elizabeth; her mother, Anne; Anna, the prophetess; a shepherdess watching a flock of sheep on a hill above Bethlehem; and Leah, a young woman who was one of Mary's schoolmates. The audience can see how each woman changes because of her relationship with Mary.

"I think what I do is end up putting myself in their shoes," Woodford said.

She uses few props. The most important is a shawl that she wears in a different way for each character. For Elizabeth, it becomes an apron. For Anna, the prophetess, the shawl is bundled so that she seems to be carrying the baby in her arms as she pronounces about his future. Leah, involved in the world, starts out wearing the stole seductively but finally is blanketed in it.

"I knew I wanted someone who wasn't caught up in the story," Woodford said. "Leah's attention is focused the same place as most people's. Everybody has their own time and their own season. She ends up as an old woman, dedicating her whole life to Jesus."

Woodford graduated from Boston University with a bachelor's degree in theater and worked as an actress in New York. She did mainly Shakespeare but left "because the quality and message of the theater didn't speak to me," she said.

Moving to Asheville, she started the Healing Theater. "I wanted to create a venue where the audience was impacted," she said. "I wanted theater that initiated some kind of reflection. In one play, the actors stepped forward to say how their characters were like them."

Woodford began working on "Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story" during six months spent recuperating from back problems. She read books, absorbing details about the time and place in which Jesus lived.

"I wrote the Christmas play in 10 days," she said, "but I thought about it for six years and researched it for five months. When I was rehearsing it, I cried all the way through. In some scenes, I still cry.

The Easter play has a 10-year history. Just as Mary is not a character in the Christmas play, Jesus does not appear in the Easter play. The women in "The Heart of the Cross" include Veronica, Mary Magdalene, Martha and Jesus' mother.

What was life like for Martha, who had to take care of the household details when Jesus and his disciples visited?

"I think, what if we just did what Jesus did and went from town to town thinking "God will provide"; well, somebody has to do the providing," Woodford said. Referring to the Last Supper, she adds, "What would you do if 13 people suddenly showed up [for dinner]?"

And then there is Jesus' mother. In this play, she does appear, standing at the cross, "not only losing her son, but losing him in such a violent, humiliating way," Woodford said. "To watch someone you love die, the purest person you've ever met, [and he's] not being embraced by the world. Am I safe in the world? Will God be accepted in my community?"

She wrote the play to perform at her own church and invited a friend who was a member of a Congregationalist Church to attend the program.

"You've got to have this at my church," the friend exclaimed, which began a series of performances for people of various faith traditions, including a group of Hindus.

She believes that the stories of the women she portrays are the stories of all women.

"You're already whole, and your story has a wholeness," she said.

Woodford will perform "The Heart of the Cross" at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville on March 26, beginning at 7:30 p.m. ♣

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Olivia Woodford prepares for a performance of one of her one-woman plays about Jesus and Mary and the people who knew them.

Archbishop says Catholics first to respond in Mozambique

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Missionaries and Catholic charities were the first to respond to Mozambique's flood disaster, said a Vatican official.

"They know the (Mozambican) people and are close to them," said Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, head of "Cor Unum," the Vatican's charity promotion and coordinating agency.

Archbishop Cordes held a press briefing March 14 to discuss his March 9-12 trip to the devastated southern African country, where floods have claimed 500 lives and left another 260,000 people homeless since January. While foreign countries reacted slowly, he said, Catholic agencies took immediate action, and Pope John Paul II was one of the first people to draw attention to the crisis.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, relief efforts are organized through diocesan contacts for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

If your parish chooses to take up a special offering, you can contribute in that way. Alternately, individual donations may be sent to the Diocese of Charlotte - Mozambique Relief" and mailed to the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203. All money collected will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services. ♣

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Archbishop predicts food crisis if farm crisis isn't solved

TOPEKA, Kan. (CNS) — America's farm crisis may become a food crisis if state and federal governments do not halt the decline of family-owned farms, said Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City. "Our (meat) lockers are filled with food and so are our grocery markets," he said. "We don't realize there's a farm crisis. But I'll tell you this; if we don't solve our farm crisis, there will someday be a food crisis." The archbishop was a featured speaker March 8 at the Kansas Farm Rally at the state Capitol, attended by about 200 family farmers, state legislators, clergy, agriculture activists and assorted lobbyists.

Pope says late Cardinal Kung showed 'heroic fidelity to Christ'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The late Chinese Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-mei demonstrated "heroic fidelity to Christ amid persecution and imprisonment," Pope John Paul II said. The cardinal, who was diagnosed with stomach cancer in late February, died in Stamford, Conn., March 12 at the age of 98. He was the Catholic Church's oldest cardinal. Cardinal Kung, considered by the Vatican to be the legitimate bishop of Shanghai until his death, had spent more than 30 years in prison in China for his refusal to renounce his ties with the Vatican and with the pope.

Florida women mobilize for 'sane' gun laws

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla (CNS) — Ann Nanni knows what the mother of the 6-year-old Michigan student killed Feb. 29 must be experiencing. Nanni's son was murdered in Florida more than a decade ago. "You literally step outside of yourself and there is nobody who can make you whole again," said Nanni, a member of St. Luke Parish in Lake Worth. She is the organizer of the Florida chapter of the Bell Campaign, a nondenominational support group and grassroots movement that is calling for greater gun-user education and controls. Campaign members are organizing a Million Mom March for Mother's Day, May 14.

Erie bishop travels diocese to welcome Catholics back home

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — If Catholics in the Erie Diocese have a complaint against the Catholic Church that has kept them from the sacrament of reconciliation, or if they simply have drifted away from the spiritual benefits offered by God in the sacrament, Bishop Donald W. Trautman is inviting them back home. For the second consecutive Lent, the bishop will be traveling to parishes in the Erie Diocese to listen to their concerns and invite them to reconcile with the church. "We're trying to reach out to those who are alienated from the church and help them understand that God loves them," Bishop Trautman said.

Week of events to mark 20th anniversary of Romero's killing

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Up to 40,000 people are expected to participate in religious events in San Salvador during a five-day commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Processions, religious services, and an international ecumenical conference are among the events planned in the run-up to the commemorations, while books, posters and a CD are being produced for the occasion.

COURTESY PHOTO

MACS spelling bee participants

CHARLOTTE — Pictured above are the participants in this year's Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools spelling bee, hosted this year at All Saints School in Charlotte. The annual system-wide event includes students in grades four through eight who finished first and second in their schools' own spelling bees.

Participants were: Jessica O'Connell and Madison Tillman, St. Patrick School; Abby Hildreth and Kaitlyn Wutshel, St. Ann School; Diem Nguyen and Samantha Grzegarzewski, Our Lady of the Assumption School; Emily Sharp amd Catherine McCormick, St. Gabriel School; Bridget Farrelly and Madison Williams, All Saints School; and Katie Gigler, Katie Hildreth and Paul Lascara, Holy Trinity Middle School.

Also pictured, at far right, is Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent of schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The winner of the MACS Spelling bee was Katie Gigler of Holy Trinity. Paul Lascara, also of Holy Trinity, was runner-up. Gigler went on to represent MACS at The Charlotte Observer Spelling Bee.

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St. Patrick scholar sees more than a saint for a party

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christopher Snyder wants people to understand a few things about St. Patrick.

First, the patron saint of Ireland wasn't Irish. His ethnic background was probably Celtic, like the people of Ireland, but he was the son of a landowning British deacon. Patrick originally got to Ireland as a kidnapped teen-age slave, in fact. After escaping, he returned years later as a bishop.

Then there's that "drove the snakes from Ireland" legend.

"There weren't any snakes there before he arrived," explained Snyder, an assistant history professor at Marymount University in Arlington, Va., and an authority on St. Patrick and his era in Britain. Scientific reports from the third century — more than 100 years before Patrick lived — reported an absence of snakes on the island.

Most likely, the legend that St. Patrick chased the snakes from Ireland was an allegory for his success in converting people to Christianity from the pagan druid beliefs, Snyder said.

There also is no proof that St. Patrick ever made a practice of teaching about the Trinity using a shamrock, according to Snyder. According to legend, St. Patrick explained the principle of three beings in one God by using the three-leafed shamrock as a model.

The story may well be true, but since the church's history in Ireland at that time was largely handed down by oral tradition, there's no way of knowing for sure, said Snyder. Shamrocks have long been reputed in folklore to have special powers, so the Trinity story could have been the cause of their origin, he said. But, just as likely, the Trinity story may have grown out of a pre-existing Irish affinity for shamrocks.

CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT, CATHOLIC STANDARD

A man dressed as St. Patrick, bishop and apostle to Ireland, waves from atop a float in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Washington March 12. Washington holds the annual parade on the Sunday prior to the saint's actual feast day, March 17.

Two documents known to have been written by St. Patrick account for most of what Snyder and other historians of the "sub-Roman Britain" period know about the saint.

In one, his "Letter to the Soldiers of Coroticus," Patrick excommunicated the Christian and Romano-Briton soldiers who had kidnapped some of his new Irish converts and sold them into slavery.

In the other, his "Confessions," Patrick told of his own faith revelations, of his escape from slavery and journey back to the continent, where he studied for the priesthood and was ordained.

Because Patrick only began to become famous 150 to 200 years after his death, the details of his life are unclear. Snyder said by the time word of Patrick's success in evangelizing Ireland became well-known, his life story was as much legend as fact.

Tales abound of dramatic battles with wizards and druids, of rainfalls of fire and of other outrageous events.

But some elements of the accomplishments of St. Patrick are clear, according to Snyder.

First, his monklike simple existence was an inspiration to followers, including several of Ireland's homegrown saints.

St. Patrick's practice of fasting and praying to this day inspires thousands of pilgrims to climb up a mountain in Connaught each July. Croagh Patrick, named for the saint, is a traditional pilgrimage site, with many people making the trek barefoot.

As for a more recent claim-to-fame linked to St. Patrick — that the Irish "saved civilization" — Snyder's a little more reserved.

In his 1995 book "How the Irish Saved Civilization," one of author Thomas Cahill's central points is that St. Patrick's evangelization of Ireland was the key to the preservation of the documents of Western civilization. It was the monks at Catholic monasteries in Ireland who copied Greek and Roman books and scholarly works when barbarians overran Europe, destroying much of what had been written, according to Cahill.

"The notion of Patrick singlehandedly saving civilization is a big stretch," said Snyder, who said he hasn't read Cahill's book but is familiar with its premise. "That the Irish alone saved 'civilization' is also a stretch."

By inspiring his followers to learn more about the church, St. Patrick clearly helped improve literacy in Ireland, Snyder conceded. "So he may have contributed to the preservation of traditions."

And finally, to burst another popular American myth, the tradi-

See ST. PATRICK, page 9

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"Mea Culpa," from page 1

Commentators inside and outside the church hailed the event as a historic step, and the pope was described by one Italian newspaper as a "voice in the wilderness" for his willingness to publicly ask forgiveness.

Jewish leaders also praised the pope, but some said he should have been more specific about the Holocaust. In Israel, where the pope was to visit later in the month, Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau welcomed the pope's words but said the church needs to apologize for the actions of Pope Pius XII during World War II; many Jews think the wartime pope did not speak out strongly enough against Nazi persecution of Jews.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said that in failing to specifically mention the Holocaust, the pope had "missed a historic opportunity to bring closure" to Christian responsibility for sins against Jews.

In the United States, local bishops took their cue from the pope and conducted Lenten services with public apologies for church actions against Jews, women, native peoples and other groups:

— Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, in a Lenten message, asked forgiveness for any of his own actions or those of the archdiocese and its Catholics that have offended or hurt others. He made specific apologies to Jews, Muslims, women, ethnic and cultural minorities, organized labor, victims of clergy sex abuse, divorced and remarried Catholics and women religious. To gay and lesbian Catholics he apologized for "when the church has appeared to be nonsupportive of their struggles."

— Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law led a prayer service March 12 asking forgiveness for the faults of local Catholics throughout history, specifically regarding slavery, racism, anti-Semitism, sex abuse by priests and the treatment of women.

— Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, Calif., invited survivors of clergy sexual abuse to a March 25 service of apology and reconciliation.

— Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., presided over an atonement service, apologizing for the sins of church leaders. Those attending were asked to express their own forgiveness by writing down names or situations of sin involving the church; the forms were then ritually burned, symbolizing atonement.

Similar services were held in Norwich, Conn., and Santa Fe, N.M., and other dioceses.

In Australia, bishops asked forgiveness for their failures in dealing with such issues as church unity, care for aborigines and sex abuse. Swiss bishops acknowledged that Catholics did too little to prevent persecution of Jews by Nazis.

Vatican officials emphasized that the church's apology was not a political but a religious act, addressed first of all to God. On March 7, they presented a 19,000-word document titled "Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past," which examined several difficult theological questions and tried to eliminate some misperceptions about the apology movement.

The church's "mea culpa" cannot be seen as a form of "self-flagellation" performed in public for the benefit of others, said French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Vatican's jubilee committee.

Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the International Theological Commission, which prepared the document, said the church was not setting itself up as a tribunal to judge the actions of past Christians. The aim was to "know ourselves and open ourselves to the purification of memories and to our true renewal," he said.

The document said the church was holy and cannot sin, but that its members have sinned through the ages. Acknowledging these faults can foster renewal and reconciliation in the present, it said.

The document, however, rejected any notion of collective guilt by Christians, saying that would be as unfair as blaming all Jews for Christ's death.

"Sin is ... always personal, even though it wounds the entire church," it said.

The church officials also said that the pope's unprecedented gesture of confessing past sins could set a precedent — today's Christians and church leaders can also expect to have their actions closely judged.

"What will the men and women of tomorrow think of us?" asked Dominican Father Georges Cottier, the pope's personal theologian.

"We are no better than the men and women of the past. It is with modesty and 'fear and trembling' that we must judge their acts," he said. ♣

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CSS soaring high on "Wings of Hope"

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Social Services, Charlotte Regional Office's, yearly fund-raiser and award dinner has undergone some major reconstruction. The Col. Francis J. Beatty Award Dinner has become the Wings of Hope Annual Award Gala and Fundraiser, benefiting CSS. The name, location and program have changed, but the focus, spirit and intention have not.

"This is the major fund-raising event of the year for the agency," said Geri King, CSS director of the Charlotte Regional Office. "It has become a social event in the Catholic community and other faith communities as well."

"We wanted to give the event a face-lift and give it some new life. We wanted to make it a fun-filled evening," continued King.

With that in mind, the event-planning committee, chaired by Bea Staub, worked with the CSS-Charlotte Regional Office Advisory Board and staff to make the changes. The first was the name of the event. Staub based her choice on her own experiences with CSS and their overall function.

Staub and her husband Pat adopted their son, Dylan, and daughter, Danielle, through CSS. "I wanted to be a part of something that provides opportunities within the community, and I wanted to tell the community what they had done for me and for others," explained Staub.

Staub said of the new name of the reception, "'At the same time we fly, sometimes we are able to give wings of hope' — that is where the theme comes from. CSS gives hope to those in need."

"She (Staub) suggested the theme which captures the heart and essence of the agency," said King.

The fundraiser has honored members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community, regardless of religious affiliation, with the Col. Francis J. Beatty Award. Col. Beatty was the one of the founding members, co-chairperson and the first Catholic to be a part of the local National Conference for Communities and Justice, chairperson of the Belmont Abbey College Board of Trustees, and a U.S. Army officer in three wars. During his '80s, even until close to his death, he delivered meals to shut-ins.

This year's recipient, who will be honored at the ninth annual April 1 banquet at Founders Hall in the Bank of America Corporate Center, is Gerald G. "Jerry" Fox, Mecklenburg's County Manager for the past 20 years. One part of Fox's job is to supervise the annual county budget of over $1.4 billion. The part-time Santa Claus for his office's family Christmas parties is a parishioner at St. Peter Church, where he is a Eucharistic minister and lector, and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

New additions to the evening gala include a silent auction, dancing with music by The Blue Moons and Larry Sprinkle, NBC 6 weather anchor, as the master of ceremonies. A video using the pictures and personal illustrations from this year's annual report will also be shown during the evening event.

Brady Drummond-Ryan, director of development for CSS, said, "We've looked to expand the focus of the event to reach out not only to the Catholic community but to the greater Charlotte community as well." ♣

For tickets, call the CSS-Charlotte Regional Office at (704) 370-3232.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or email amprice@charlottediocese.org.

St. Patrick, from page 7

tional Irish celebration of the March 17 feast day is more along the lines of going to Mass or following the Stations of the Cross, than the Americanized day of parades and drinking parties, Snyder said.

That's apparently changing, however. Since 1996, Dublin has been marking St. Patrick's Day in a more secular style. A Web site for this year's St. Patrick's festival advertises "Four Days of Music, Madness and Magic," including parades; a ceili, or Irish dance contest; a festival; and a carnival-style masquerade ball.

It does mention an ecumenical church service at Dublin's St. Patrick's Cathedral March 19, but that seems only a footnote to the "Xerox Night Parade," the "Norah's Ark, Community Pageant," and the Trinidadian-style "Masquerade 2000." ♣

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Word to Life

March 19, Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B Readings:
1) Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15-19
2) Romans 8:31b-34
3) Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Secured hot-pink and white balloons sway almost imperceptibly in clusters. The glorious, triumphant notes of the Pachelbel's "Canon" and Purcell's "Trumpet Voluntary" resonate among the congregation. I am immersed in the absolute joy and beauty of this familiar and much-loved music. The unexpected notes of "Silent Night" take on new meaning for me. Tears begin to escape and roll down my cheeks.

Those of us who have gathered here today have not come to witness a wedding, as the music might indicate, nor have we come to celebrate Christmas now long past. We have come to celebrate the life of a faith-filled Christian.

For the last few weeks my friend Carol and I exchanged e-mail messages as her illness advanced with a furious intensity. One day she wrote that she knew she would be going "home" soon. I asked her to pray for me when she was finally enveloped in the glory of God. She quickly replied: "Oh, how I love those words! 'Enveloped in the glory of God.'"

The minister sadly covers the casket with the pall. Carol was his friend as well. I wonder what it must be like to be enveloped in glory. The age-old questions about the meaning of life and death that we ponder at funerals fill my mind and imagination.

Then I notice a blue banner, hanging on the wall at the foot of Carol's shrouded coffin and read the words, "God of Glory." Obviously, the banner has been suspended there the whole time, but only now does the message speak to my heart. I smile. We can count on God.

Here in the midst of balloons, music, grieving family and friends, I have experienced a moment of grace — a glimpse of glory that I know will sustain me in some future hour.

In this week's first reading I feel Abraham's relief when he sees the animal for sacrifice in the thicket. I am in awe of his great faith, for he has discovered that the Lord's presence is often palpable if we are able to open our eyes to the unexpected — the God of glory. ♣

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 19-25, 2000

Sunday (Second Sunday in Lent), Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10; **Monday (St. Joseph)**, 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Luke 2:41-51; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday**, Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (St. Turibius of Mogrovejo)**, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Abstinence)**, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (The Annunciation of Our Lord)**, Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38

Readings for the week of Mar. 26 - April 1, 2000

Sunday (Third Sunday in Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; **Monday**, 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday**, Daniel 3:25, 33-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday**, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Abstinence)**, Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday, Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

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Catholic Bestsellers for March 2000

Hardcover
1. "She Said Yes." Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
2. "Lamb's Supper." Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
3. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
4. "Witness to Hope." George Weigel (HarperCollins)
5. "Imitation of Christ." Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. "Reform of the Papacy." John Quinn (Crossroad)
7. "Catholic Morning Prayers." Michael Buckley (Servant Publications)
8. "Here and Now." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
9. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. "Eyes of the Heart." Frederick Buechner (HarperCollins)

Paperback
1. "Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Doubleday)
2. "In the Name of Jesus." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
3. "Catholic Book of Prayers." M. Fitzgerald (Catholic Book Publishing)
4. "Return of the Prodigal Son." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
5. "Together for Life with Nuptial Mass." Joseph M. Champlin (Ave Maria Press)
6. "Workbook for Lectors & Gospel Readers" (RNAB translation — Year 2000). Susan E. Myers (Liturgy Training Publications)
7. "Mission 2000 Cycle B." Mark Link (Thomas More)
8. "Wounded Healer." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Doubleday)
9. "The Awakening." Friedrich Zuendel (Plough)
10. "At Home With the Word 2000." Martin F. Connell (Liturgy Training)

Children and Young People
1. "I Pray With Jesus." Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)
2. "Making Things Right." Jeannine Timko Leichner (Our Sunday Visitor)
3. "Picture Book of Saints." Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)
4. "Children's Way of the Cross." Anne Joan Flanagan (Pauline)
5. "My First Missal." Maria Luisa Benigni (Pauline)
6. "Catholic Children's Bible." Mary Theola (Regina Press)
7. "New Catholic Picture Bible." (Catholic Book Publishing)
8. "Stations of the Cross Coloring Book." Daughters of St. Paul (Pauline)
9. "My Picture Missal." Lawrence Lovasik (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. "Children's Book of Saints" Louis Savary (Regina Press)

Spanish-language
1. "Juntos Para Toda la Vida." Joseph M. Champlin (Liguori)
2. "El Bautismo de su Bebe." A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)
3. "La Planificacion Familiar." Charles and Elizabeth Balsam (Liguori)
4. "La Primera Confesion de su Hijo." (Liguori)
5. "Manual Para Proclamadores 2000." Marina A. Herrera (Liturgy Training)
6. "Un Llamado a la Pureza." Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough)
7. "Catecismo de la Iglesia Catolica." (Doubleday)
8. "La Primera Comunion de su Hijo." (Liguori)
9. "Palabra de Dios 2000." Alejandro von Rechnitz Gonzalez (Liturgy Training)
10. "Setenta Veces Siete." (Plough)

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CNS PHOTO FROM TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

"Mission to Mars"

Kim Delaney and Gary Sinise star in the feature film "Mission to Mars." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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New at the box office

"Mission to Mars" (Touchstone)

Sleek space fantasy set in 2020 when four NASA astronauts (led by Tim Robbins and Gary Sinese) head for Mars to rescue the sole survivor (Don Cheadle) of the first manned landing after a catastrophic but unexplained event on the barren red planet. Director Brian De Palma crafts an intriguing, visually alluring if quite fanciful tale of aliens and their connection to human life on Earth. Brief sci-fi violence and mild profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Erin Brockovich" (Universal)

Fact-based tale of an earthy single mom (Julia Roberts) who persuades her litigator boss (Albert Finney) to pursue a class-action suit against a major California utility for contaminating local waters. As directed by Steven Soderbergh, Roberts vividly captures a foul-mouthed but good-hearted woman who makes something of herself in doggedly seeking justice for families beset by cancers. An implied affair, some profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Ninth Gate" (Artisan)

Atmospheric but dramatically dull satanic thriller in which a venal rare books dealer (Johnny Depp) becomes entangled in a demonic web while trying to authenticate a centuries-old book supposedly authored by Lucifer. Despite sumptuous cinematography, director Roman Polanski's nonsensical plot goes nowhere with its callous characters intent on summoning the devil to their midst. Devil-worshiping theme, intermittent violence, a few sexual situations with nudity and minimal profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says priests called to lead by example

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests are called to lead their congregations by example, including the example of going to confession, Pope John Paul II said.

"The priest himself, minister of God's forgiveness, needs to receive this forgiveness in a spirit of faith, humility and profound trust," the pope told priests from the Diocese of Rome.

The priests' March 9 audience, an annual appointment with the bishop of Rome, was expanded to become the Jubilee for Roman Clergy and included a procession into St. Peter's Basilica, a penitential prayer service and individual confessions before the pope arrived.

Priests must be the first in their parish to heed the Lenten call to conversion, repentance, charity and reconciliation, the pope said.

Going to confession, he said, is a "great help for overcoming indulgence in those forms of self-justification, part of the mentality and culture of our day, which make one lose a sense of sin and prevent one from experiencing the consoling joy of God's forgiveness."

Although it is easy for a priest to get buried under a pile of pastoral commitments, he must not forget the importance for his personal and spiritual life of fostering a sense of communion with the bishop and his brother priests, the pope said.

Pope John Paul said supporting continuing education programs, reaching out to priests who are undergoing difficulties, offering support and friendship to elderly priests, "openness to dialogue and meeting those who have left the priesthood" all demonstrate a commitment to "the ways of communion and reconciliation."

"A united and harmonious presbyterate able to work together is a strong witness for the faithful and multiplies the effectiveness of ministry," the pope said.

Nothing can replace personal witness and contact, Pope John Paul said.

Even if they need to rely on using lay missionaries and foreign priests studying in Rome, he said, parishes should continue the practice of visiting every home in the parish boundaries during Lent.

"The visit reinforces the sense of belonging of many people who frequently live at the parish's margins" and are awaiting a sign that someone is willing to listen, to offer friendship and to help them rediscover their faith, the pope said.

Pope John Paul said the priests must make a special, personal effort to reach out "to families in difficulty, those who are estranged from the church and those who have serious problems of faith or morals."

The Holy Year, he said, "offers everyone the possibility of being listened to, accepted and encouraged to find the path of reconciliation with the Lord and with their brothers and sisters, even where everything seems lost or irreversible."

The Season of Lent

FATHER TERRANCE HYLAND, O.S.A.
Guest Columnist

Living Lent is a matter of attitude

Several years ago, I was visiting patients in a Philadelphia-area hospital when I heard someone call out my name from a hospital room. I went in and found a young man named Ted whom I had taught in high school a few years before. Ted was wrapped in bandages, punctured by tubes and surrounded by electronic equipment. He had been in a car accident and had been told by doctors that he would most likely never walk again.

Ted surprised me by saying, "You know something, Father, I think they're wrong! I think I will walk again because I have a good attitude. Everything in life is a matter of attitude!"

As Ted's slow recovery continued, I visited him frequently at the rehab center. One day he grinned and pulled the blankets up from over his feet. He wiggled his toes and said, "See that, Father; everything in life is a matter of attitude!"

Shortly after that I was transferred to another state, and I never saw or heard from Ted again. I never found out if he was able to walk or not. To me, that's not so important. What is important is that Ted learned a wonderful life lesson. Everything in life is a matter of attitude. And so, I believe that wherever life takes him, Ted will be okay because he has learned and lived the importance of attitude.

As we continue living our Lent, it's helpful to remember that Lent is about attitude. It's about the way we look at life, our relationships and our circumstances. As the prophet Joel reminds us, Lent is about our interior disposition: "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning: rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord your God."

We sometimes use the expression "wholehearted" to refer to living life with exuberance. When God invites us to return to Him with our "whole hearts," the invitation implies an exuberant response. We are invited to "put God first." A friend of mine likes to compare this generous attitude with what he calls EGO — Easing God Out!

St. Paul describes a whole-hearted response to God's invitation in even more challenging words: "Your attitude must be that of Christ Jesus ... who empties himself ... and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross." Such is the extravagant love of God for us! In Sunday's second reading, Paul describes this generosity as the foolishness of God that is wiser than human wisdom and the weakness of God that is stronger than human strength.

The lesson of the cross teaches us that Lent is about self-emptying. It is about imitating the extravagant generosity of God in our relationships. It is about the foolishness of the cross that encompasses the power of God and the wisdom of God. In short, it is about attitude — an attitude rooted in the self-emptying of Christ.

My friend Ted was right. Everything in life is a matter of attitude. This is true of life, and it is true of Lent. Once again this spring, we have a graced opportunity for an "attitude adjustment."

Augustinian Father Terrance Hyland is director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Lent: Invitation to create an ever-green world

When I was very young, it was clear to me that Lent had a specific meaning. It was the time to chalk up sacrifices, like grades on a report card, so I would not forget how flawed a person I was.

Even as I got older, I thought this was solely a time to think about my mortality, my destiny of ashes. I thought the importance of Lent was to keep the reminder of my death ever fresh, and so I kept my body uncomfortable with self-denials and morning risings at 5:30 in order to make it to 6:30 Masses.

Lent for me was colored purple and fringed with black. The effect of the 40 days of Lent in the earlier years of my life was to put a focus on me, my soul and my salvation.

Then gradually, well into my adulthood, I found that I had misinterpreted the road signs from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent wasn't deep purple; it was green, teeming with life. It wasn't suffering and death; it was love and hope.

That required a readjustment in my thinking. In my mind Christmas was the season of love and hope. The coming of God as an innocent baby was a natural for love-thoughts. Knowing that the baby who had come was the one who would jolt us into a new human and joyful way of interpreting life added to the excitement.

Then Lent came, with its Good Friday uneasy love, and we got so caught up in the mourning that we shrouded the impact of what had happened. In his preaching Jesus had said, "Greater love than this no man has, that he lay down his life for his friend."

Christmas was the promise that Jesus would transform the world with his love, and it was peaches and cream. But Good Friday was the fulfillment of the promise. Without Good Friday, Christmas would have been just another day on which another Jewish male child had been born. It would have gone quite unnoticed by history.

Unless we embrace the fact that Lent is about Good Friday, and Good Friday set the model for what it means to truly love, then we're stuck in the deep purple. Jesus defined love in terms of what he was willing to give of himself for another. And on Good Friday he showed us that he set no limit on his love.

Strange, how we all yearn to be loved like that, completely, perfectly, no conditions attached. Strange, how difficult it is for us to love others that way.

I think Lent is the time for reflecting on love, as demonstrated by Jesus, by whatever method you choose: fasting, morning Mass or volunteering in a soup kitchen. Lent is the time for trying a little harder to say yes to his invitation to make this an ever-green world.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Missing Erma

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me." So said Erma Bombeck, the housewife-turned-columnist, who spent the last 32 years of her life helping us laugh at ourselves and the everyday routines of family life.

"Too old for a paper route and too young for Social Security," she started to write with such engaging humor that her columns quickly syndicated to 700 newspapers, and her books, like "The Grass is Always Greener over the Septic Tank," became instant best sellers.

I do not belong to her official fan club, but I do miss Erma. Whether on TV or in print, she consistently taught me how to find humor in the people and values we cherish without ridiculing them. And there is a huge difference: Ridicule picks on and ultimately discriminates against an individual or group for the sake of a heartless laugh. Genuine humor has heart and actually celebrates our shared human response to life's unending incongruities.

Enjoy a few samples of Erma's vision and feel the bond between humor and humanity:

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died."

"Marriage has no guarantees. If that's what you're looking for, go live with a car battery."

"Spend at least one Mother's Day with your respective mothers before you decide on marriage. If a man gives his mother a gift certificate for a flu shot, dump him."

"Giving birth is little more than a set of muscular contractions granting passage of a child. Then the mother is born."

"The age of your children is a key factor in how quickly you are served in a restaurant. We once had a waiter in Canada who said, "Could I get you your check?" and we answered, "How about the menu first."

"Good kids are like sunsets. We take them for granted. Every evening they disappear. Most parents never imagine how hard they try to please us and how miserable they feel when they think they have failed."

After she found out she was dying of cancer, Erma wrote: "If I had my life to live over, I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained or the sofa faded. I would have taken time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth. I would have cried and laughed less while watching television — and more while watching life.

"I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day. I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains. But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute ... look at it and really see it . . . live it and never give it back."

Thanks, Erma. Your words still make me laugh at and cherish my humanity at the same time. I think it's safe to say you really did use everything God gave you.

I hope all of us will be able to say the same.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fallowness: A spiritual alternative

Three images help capture a daily part of our economic life. How many times do we see a car circling the mall parking lot looking for a place? How about a person using a cell phone in a store, on the street or in a car? And what about those vibrations we feel from a car stopped beside us at a light rocking with the sound blasting from customized speakers? We are a buying people, a busy people, and frequently, a boisterous people. In the process our spirits become dulled by bargains, distracted by phone calls and deadened by noise.

In the midst of this self-imposed perpetual motion, one biblical theme especially helps us discover ourselves and find the path to peace. The theme points out a direction rather than a step by step formula. Yet, it contains the potential to change individuals and influence the way we do business.

"Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed" (Mk 1:35.) Evidently, Jesus occasionally had to withdraw from the demanding crowds, from the stress of his enemies, even from his own inner circle. In silence Jesus entered the mystery of Self and God. At rest Jesus could converse with his Father while he let his body-spirit lie fallow. Fallowness, the key biblical theme, represents a movement from distracting noise to peaceful solitude.

In Leviticus 25, fallowness applies to the land. The land must rest every so many years in order to remain fertile. Theologian Maria Harris reminds us we are "dust and breath" (Gn 2:7) and allowing our "human land" to lie fallow, brings balance and perspective to work and life.

In contrast, the business world continually bombards us with music in shops and restaurants and commercial announcements from in-store loud speakers. TV and radio have become so common they play as background noise even when people hold a conversation. Those watching prime time TV hear more than 20 commercials an hour telling them what to buy, invest and think.

The antidote to noise pollution comes with fallowness, allowing time for solitude and prayer. In everyday life it means making choices: less TV, fewer commercials, perhaps driving with the radio off. Biblical fallowness allows us to "waste time" with others building healthy relationships, encourages a day off and time for a hobby so our "dust and breath" can rest and our spirit can heal.

Since few can easily find the flexibility to take time for solitude, fallowness begs a communal effort. Mothers of young children might need a program like Mom's Day Off to structure their time for fallowness. Married couples might consider Marriage Encounter or periodic retreats. Families could designate the Sabbath as a special day together with few outside activities.

Fallowness demands some structural changes, as well, since the business world

See RAUSCH, page 14

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The Eastern Star and the Masons

Q. My long-time friend is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and has invited me to join. I know from your past columns that the Catholic Church still officially prohibits men from joining the Masons. But what is the position on women's auxiliary groups? I'd like to join, but frankly would not want to do so if it is forbidden by my church.

A. As you say, the prohibition against Catholic men joining the Masonic orders remains in existence, even in our country.

However, without getting too technical, there is a principal of church law which states that any church regulation which restricts the right of a person must be interpreted strictly.

That is legal language for saying that such regulations must not be extended to cases other than those actually expressed in them (Canon 36).

Applied to your question, this means that the ban on joining the Masons means just that and nothing more. Thus, the restriction would not apply to the Order of the Eastern Star, which is an adjunct group, not a formal part of the Masons. In fact, as is well known I believe, women are not even eligible for membership in Freemasonry.

The same would hold for the other two major auxiliary groups related to the Masons, Job's Daughters for girls, and DeMolay for boys.

Other concerns naturally need to be weighed in making such a decision. As a 1985 background report for the American bishops noted, for example, "Although the possibility of scandal may exist, the fact remains that these women and young people do not swear Masonic oaths and are not considered Masons."

"Other Catholic Churches"

Q. Not long ago you discussed intercommunion with "other Catholic Churches." You called them Eastern churches, but what are they? This seems to deny what I thought we always believed, that there is one Catholic Church. Who are these others? Are they really Catholic?

A. In the creed we recite together every Sunday, we do proclaim belief in "one, holy, Catholic and apostolic" church. Perhaps most Catholics are like yourself. They are unaware that there are 22 Catholic churches in the world who profess that faith. One of them, and by far the largest, is the Latin, or Roman, church.

They all have the same sacraments, profess the same basic Catholic doctrines and believe in the primacy of the bishop of Rome in the universal church.

The other 21 churches are called Eastern primarily because they trace their origins to the eastern part of the Roman Empire, which later became the Byzantine Empire. Many of their traditions and customs, therefore, reflect quite different cultures than the primarily Western European cultures which have heavily influenced the Roman church.

In other words, the differences go beyond simply different ways of celebrating the Eucharist. Each of them has its own rich heritage of feasts, devotions, church structure and other elements of faith life which deserve to be part of the continuing life of the church.

As the Vatican representative to an assembly of these churches said several years ago, the reason for the existence of the Eastern Catholic churches is that they might contribute their valuable and unique gifts to the universal church.

Interfaith Network, from page 1

of the many children who are involved."

There are 19 churches currently in the network with 12 host churches, which actually house the families, and seven support churches who help with cooking or supplying the necessary 50 to 60 volunteers a week, over 1,000 volunteers total, at each church. Those include A.M.E., Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Church of Christ, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Evangelical area churches, who all are working jointly to help homeless families.

"The ecumenical aspect is important because poverty and homelessness is an equal opportunity disease. Most major religions want to serve and assist the poor," said Roberts-Wyatt. "This transcends religious differences because our common ground is helping unsheltered families."

With the network's 15-passenger van purchased with the help of a local synagogue, volunteers transport the families from the Pathways Shelter of the Greensboro Urban Ministry during the day to the host church in the evening. Dinner is prepared, and the volunteers counsel and interact with the families or help the children with their homework.

The families sleep in either the parish center, if the church has one, or faith formation classrooms. "We try to make the sleeping areas as homey as possible. This is not the old mentality of a shelter with just a cot in the basement," explained Roberts-Wyatt.

Breakfast is also served before the residents leave for work, the children go to school or the others are driven back to the Pathways Shelter.

The average length of stay for an individual family is 30 to 90 days, and the network can get most families into homes of their own within two months. Not only do they help with temporary housing but the GIHN also helps with debt counseling and management, budgeting, job-training skills and educational support for the children, explained Roberts-Wyatt.

"We are able to work with them intensely since there are four to five families. We try to give them a really good start in their own homes with donated furniture, clothes, food and other things. We provide food and shelter so that they can save their money to afford their own homes," she said.

Patti Ross, the GIHN coordinator for St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro, became involved with the network after a call from Bergen. St. Pius X Church has hosted 11 families since then with the help of their support church Bethel A.M.E. Church in Greensboro.

"I have seen this work, and we have had our eyes opened," said Ross. "Hopefully, other outreach programs will come out of this to change Greensboro for the better." ♣

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic group condemns desecration of Montreal cathedral

By ART BABYCH
Catholic News Service

OTTAWA (CNS) — The desecration of a Montreal cathedral brought condemnation from the Catholic Civil Rights League and left a national newspaper wondering why there had not been more public outrage.

"These acts are those of terrorists, deliberately planned and executed on the people and property of Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, and those responsible should be charged to the full extent of the law," said Thomas Langan, president of the civil rights league.

A group of vandals burst into the cathedral March 8, disturbing several afternoon worshippers. Witnesses said the group shouted anti-Catholic slogans, spray painted "Neither God Nor Master" on the altar, littered the church with condoms and sanitary napkins and tried to overturn the tabernacle.

The demonstration reportedly was organized by a group of feminist activists opposed to patriarchy and the Catholic Church's stance against abortion.

Seven people were arrested and later released to appear in court on several charges, but a police official said hate crime charges would not be laid against the group. Such charges apply only to spreading hatred against specific groups, not for voicing issues of public concern or for expressing their opinions, said the official.

Langan disagreed, saying, "This was nothing less than a hate crime that meets the legal requirements for the extreme form of vilification."

Similar desecration of a mosque or synagogue would be "a national outrage and would be energetically opposed by the Catholic Civil Rights League," said Langan. "Catholics should be treated like anyone else." ♣

Economy of Faith, from page 13

thrives on activity and noise. Americans now work 163 hours more each year than they did 25 years ago, and they spend 10 to 12 hours fewer each week with their children. Estimates range between 8 percent to 17 percent of the work force work longer hours than they desire because of employer demands. Fallowness has a justice dimension. In order to have time for fallowness, people need more flex time, less overtime, and above all, a living wage so they can avoid a mandatory second job.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Principal: Our Lady of Grace School, a K-8 Catholic school in Greensboro, NC, is accepting applications for an Assistant Principal for this school year. Applicants must possess the following qualifications: practicing Catholic; current teaching/administration license for the state of NC; master's degree in education; and at least five years teaching experience. Please send resume and salary expectations to: Ms. Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403. Deadline for applications: March 31, 2000.

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Director of Religious Education: St. Jude Parish, Radford, VA, is seeking a full-time director for its religious education program, involving development of catechetical programs Pre-K through 12, sacramental preparation, adult education, RCIA within both parish and campus, catechist formation, and other related areas. Qualifications include: committed Catholic lifestyle, master's or certificate in Religious Education or equivalent background, with strong interest in liturgical development. Available July 1. Application deadline: May 1. Contact: Pastor, St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073; phone (540)639-5341; e-mail: Rjudgerad@aol.com

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Chris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline March 24, 2000.

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Liturgy/Catechumenate Director/Adult Formation Coordinator: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established process that seeks further implementation of the Re-Membering Church. Parish in initial stages of learning Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church (1 year old) with excellent worship space (with adult immersion font). Need help in maximizing the full potential of the abundant gifts present in this community. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30, for position July 1.

Music Ministry Director: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established program that includes hand bells, pipe organ, grand piano, tympani, etc. Select music for liturgies; direct/develop traditional and children's choir; coordinate with contemporary choir. Parish in initial stages of implementing Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church with excellent worship space. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30; Position available July 1.

Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church seeks energetic, motivated individual for full-time position in 1,100-family parish. Successful candidate will build upon a well-established program. Responsibilities include planning and directing music for weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc.; directing adult and children's choirs; developing cantors. Keyboard skills required; knowledge of other instruments helpful. Competitive salary and benefits. Position available Summer 2000. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory,NC 28601.

Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, English, Social Studies, Drama, and Religion. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Request application from: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A triparish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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St. Leo the Great Church spreads Mardi Gras spirit

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — Beads, balloons, games and prizes were all part of the festivities for Mardi Gras this year at St. Leo the Great Church. Hosted by the St. Theresa Guild for the third year in a row, many parishioners gathered for this fun-filled family event March 7 — the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

A new parishioner, Lyann Church, attended with her two sons and two nieces. She expressed her fondness for St. Leo the Great Church, noting that it seemed to be a very family-oriented parish. "Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun," she said. "This is something we can do for the family while helping them learn Catholic traditions. It's a little party before Lent."

Mardi Gras — a French term meaning "Fat Tuesday" — is characterized by parties, parades and other festivities in the days leading up to Lent. Many Latin American and European countries call this merry time "carnival." New Orleans, Rio de Janiero, Nice and Cologne are among the cities with the best-known celebrations.

At St. Leo the Great Church, Mardi Gras was celebrated in a spirit of fun, too — and with a variety of food. A light supper was served and dessert came in the form of game prizes. The "Cake Walk," a game of guessing the number to match that on the spinning wheel, gave entire cakes to winners. Parishioner Gwen Schweighart reported that there were at least 25 homemade cakes baked for this game.

Several children reported the "Cake Walk" to be their favorite part of the Mardi Gras celebration. Said third-grader Adam Morgan, "I almost won the 'Cake Walk.' My Mom did. I don't know what the cake was. It was brown."

Katherine Allen, a 10-year-old, shared, "Last year my family won three cakes, and I was really looking forward to winning one again, but I didn't. I played the 'Cake Walk' as many times as I had tickets for."

Cupcakes by the dozens were also made for the "King Cake" game, which represents a traditional form played in New Orleans. Kathy Bryan, co-president of the Guild and event organizer, explained that those interested bought cupcakes to try their luck at finding a plastic baby inside (and because they looked delicious). If they found one, they were allowed to reach into the paper maché "King Crown" for a prize. In addition, finding a winning cupcake was supposed to bring a year of good fortune.

Photo by Susan deGuzman

St. Theresa Guild co-presidents Maggie Henning and Kathy Bryan of St. Leo the Great Church, shown at right with some of the attending children, organized the Mardi Gras celebration and festivities held March 7.

The children played a number of other games, including a duck pond, a fish pond, basketball and face painting. Trinket prizes were given to participants of these booths.

David Bruce, a third-grader, shared that bingo was his favorite game. He said, "I played about five times. I wanted to win a golf chip game for my Dad." Kody Kuhn, his classmate, agreed that bingo was his favorite: "I almost won, and I kept on trying and trying."

Maggie Henning, also co-president of the St. Theresa Guild and planner of this event, expressed, "We keep the theme pretty light each year." Several substantial prizes were given away by raffle, too: First prize was a television set, second prize was a Mardi Gras Special Edition Barbie, and third prize was a homemade quilt with matching pillow shams.

A new parishioner, Lyann Church, attended with her two sons and two nieces. She expressed her fondness for St. Leo the Great Church, noting that it seemed to be a very family-oriented parish. "Everyone seemed to have a lot of fun," she said. "This is something we can do for the family while helping them learn Catholic traditions. It's a little party before Lent." ♣

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Philadelphia prepares to honor a saint of its own

By LOU BALDWIN
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — During a Mass celebrating the feast day of Blessed Katharine Drexel, Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia praised the woman who will soon be named a saint as "a brilliant example of unselfish and unconditional love."

During the March 3 Mass, the cardinal announced that Mother Drexel, a native of Philadelphia, would most likely be canonized on Oct. 1. That date was confirmed by the pope during a March 10 meeting announcing the upcoming canonization of Mother Drexel along with 120 martyrs killed in China and a Spanish nun who was killed in 1912.

At a news conference following the Mass, Cardinal Bevilacqua explained that Oct. 1 isn't the day Mother Drexel becomes a saint, but "an admission that she already is one. She will be a canonized saint."

The canonization process for Mother Drexel started 36 years ago in Philadelphia. She was beatified in 1988 and has since been credited with two miracles through her intercession for two people suffering hearing disorders.

"The miracle part is the easy part," the cardinal said. Saints must have led "heroic lives, not just ordinary holy lives but heroically holy."

In his homily, the cardinal spoke of Mother Drexel's devotion to the Eucharist. With some saints, he said, this devotion "was seen in the hours that they spent in contemplation and adoration of the Eucharist. For others the reality of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist led them to share his way of living and loving and therefore be truly like the bread that was broken in order to be distributed to those in need."

He said Mother Drexel "seemed to fuse these two ways of understanding Jesus in the Eucharist. For her the commandment to love God and to love one's neighbor were interdependent and harmoniously fused in the consecrated bread and wine."

Mother Drexel, who was born in 1885 and died in 1955, inherited a large fortune when her father died. She spent the money building and supporting schools and missions for African-Americans and Native Americans with the congregation she founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

More than a half-dozen church communities in North Carolina are among the recipients of Mother Drexel's benevolence. In 1904, Mother Drexel visited Belmont Abbey.

Cardinal Bevilacqua pointed out that with the many obstacles that Mother Drexel and her sisters faced, they often prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

It was only after ill health forced her retirement from active ministry that she was finally able to do what she always wanted to do, he said, "to spend her hours in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."

"For her, the Blessed Sacrament was a living, vibrant reality," he added.

Among those present during the Mass honoring Mother Drexel were Robert Gutherman, whose 1974 cure of a serious ear infection and hearing impairment was the miracle approved for Mother Drexel's 1988 beatification, and Amy Wall, whose 1994 cure of deafness was accepted as Mother Drexel's most recent miracle.

Sister Monica Loughlin, president of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters, warmly welcomed Gutherman and the Wall family, all of whom have played an important part in the cause of Mother Drexel.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES

African-American and Native American children are depicted with Mother Katharine Drexel in a painting. Pope John Paul II, recognizing a second miracle attributed to the American nun, cleared the way for her canonization. She will become the second U.S.-born saint.

But she also stressed that Mother Drexel's message is "not one of miracles but of mission."

Her message speaks of quiet, simple, everyday action that contributes to the accomplishment of goals," Sister Loughlin said. "Her vision is a long way from being accomplished."

"Let us resolve today to honor Katharine Drexel through our prayer and through our celebration," she added, "especially through our work for social justice."

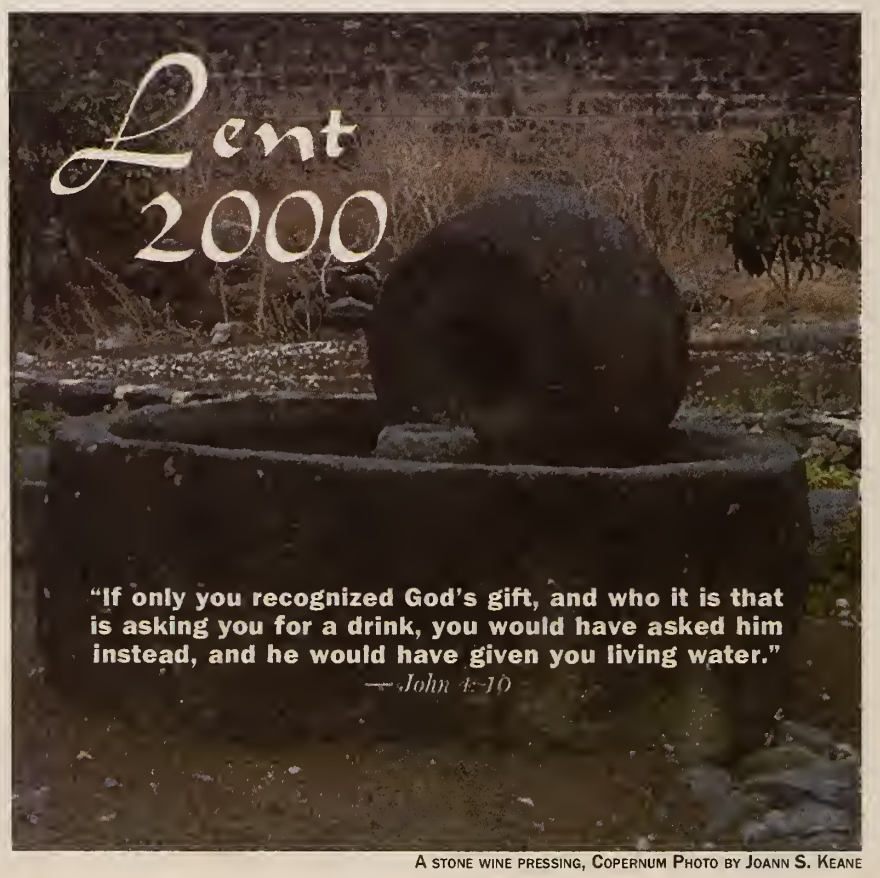
Philadelphia's African-American community was well represented in the overflow congregation and also in the ceremony. Chief Buffy Red Feather Brown, representing Native Americans, led the Blessing of the Four Winds.

Among those representing the Drexel family was Cornelia Biddle, a descendant of Anthony Drexel, who was Mother Drexel's uncle and founder of Drexel University in Philadelphia.

"I am in awe of this woman," said Biddle, adding that Mother Drexel's miracle was the way she had lived her life for the "bettering of humanity."

During her lifetime, Mother Drexel helped establish some 63 schools, including Xavier University of Louisiana, the first Catholic university in the United States for African-Americans. It is still operated by her order.

Following the announcement of her upcoming canonization, Xavier University issued a statement describing their school as Mother Drexel's "very first miracle." ♣



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The Season of Lent

"Lent 2000: I am thirsty"
A column by Father John Aurilia

Lent in the Lives of Youth

Retreat reminds students about Lent's significance

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

HUNTERSVILLE — Luke 4: 1-15 — The passage about Jesus' forty days of temptation in the desert was the central focus of the Lenten Retreat 2000 for high school youth. The retreat, entitled "Into the Wild, Led by the Spirit ... Out From the Wild, Armed with the Spirit" was held at St. Mark Church during the weekend of March 17-19. It served as a meeting place for diocesan youth from various backgrounds to reflect on Lent and its meaning in the lives of Catholics.

The weekend consisted of small and large group activities and presentations from the team leaders based on prayer, fasting, charity, almsgiving and sacrifice. The sessions were mixed with journal writing, prayer services given by each of the six smaller groups, arts and crafts and games.

"We focused on temptation with Lent being our own personal wilderness time. For some young people, the challenges of Lent are harder than for others because they are growing up in today's culture, which brings its own temptations," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. "This is a means for the young church to enter more fully into the Lenten experience by pulling out of the fast lane and entering into Jesus' life and responding to the call of Lent to conversion in preparation of Easter."

One of the activities required the students to find pictures of worldly temptations in magazines to paste on one side of a card with a related Bible passage on the other side.

Sixteen-year-old Jezrael Hood from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte said that activity was one of the parts that he liked. "I am exposed to many temptations in my life, but I tend to reject them. You have to in order to remain close to God."

John Robichaux, the Office of Youth Ministry event coordinator, said that the other teens seemed to understand the overall theme and to grasp the point of the activities. "This group has been excellent, and they are one of the more energetic and largest groups I have seen, with 38 participants. They have been really outgoing toward each other and the topics."

As the weekend progressed, the teens' feelings about the other participants and their roles as young Catholics also seemed to move forward.

Matthew Newton, 14, from St. Jude Church in Sapphire Valley was skeptical about the retreat. "It has turned out better than I expected. I've met a lot of new people, and it has been nice to hang out with others communicating about church and our personal lives with people other than my friends at home. We have formed a kind of trust with each other."

Hood agreed, "This retreat has brought me closer to God because of the teachings I have learned. I realize that seeing people who are less fortunate and turning your back is like turning your back to God."

The retreatants also took part in an arts and crafts activity where they constructed banners depicting the Stations of the Cross for a Saturday afternoon presentation to the group.

The activity that many of the teens favorably commented about was the World Hunger Banquet, which had them separated into three groups — first, second and third worlds — representative of the world's population and given food accordingly. The first world was served a full meal, and the second world had vegetables and an adequate supply of water in cups.

However, those from the third world, the group with the most people, were given bread and water, without cups. As in society, many in the three different groups reacted in the same way as the general population.

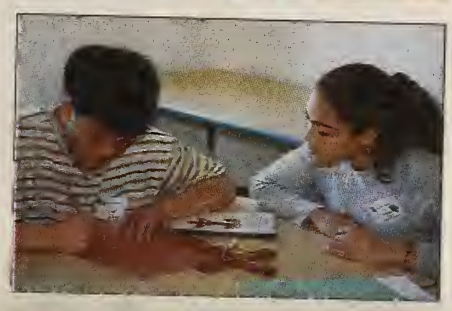
"The third world folks were complaining and upset and trying to steal food. Eventually, some from the second world gave their food away, while those from the first world watched, which was really interesting," explained Robichaux. "One girl from the first world said that she wanted to help but felt like she couldn't because no one in her group acted."

Matthew Houghland, 16, from St. Mark Church in Huntersville said that the activity helped to demonstrate what the world is actually like, but on a larger scale, he thought more people would probably give more of what they had.

Other activities included a presentation on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and the crucifixion and a silent reflection time, rosary prayer and closing Mass.

Sixteen-year-old Hanna Gordola, a parishioner from St. Stephen Church in Elkin, said, "I liked being with people I've never been with before, and it was nice to reflect on my religion and how it affects me and other people. It is hard because I come from a predominately white neighborhood with mostly Protestant families, and in the Phillipines, most of the people are Catholic. So, it was nice being with other Catholics from

See Lenten Retreat, page 5



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Students are taking part in a Stations of the Cross activity during the Lenten Retreat 2000 at St. Mark Church in Huntersville during the March 17-19 weekend. First picture from left to right, Jennifer Murphy and Elizabeth Misiewicz from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, Evan Hege from Holy Spirit Church in Denver, and Matthew Houghland from St. Mark in Huntersville, second picture from left to right, Liem Nguyen from St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte and Courtney Colon from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, and third picture from left to right, Fernando Steele from Our Lady of Consolation Church and Phong T. Nguyen from St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Cardinal announces opening of Dorothy Day's sainthood cause

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York announced "with great joy" that the Vatican had approved opening the cause for canonization of Dorothy Day, the Catholic Worker leader who died in 1980. "With this approval comes the title Servant of God," he wrote in his March 16 column in his archdiocesan weekly newspaper, Catholic New York "What a gift to the church in New York and to the church universal this is!" On the same day, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, Texas, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement calling the Vatican approval "a blessed moment for the church in the United States."

Jewish, Christian leaders laud papal apology

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's jubilee-year apology for wrongs committed by Catholics has drawn strong praise from U.S. religious leaders including two national rabbinical groups. In a joint statement the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) and the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) hailed the pope's "inspiring leadership" and "courageous strides in working to heal the historic breach that has separated our communities." In a separate statement the Executive Committee of the Rabbinic Committee for Interreligious Dialogue called the pope's expression of sorrow a "revolutionary and epic-making confession."

Only General Assembly can review Vatican U.N. status, says official

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations, cannot conduct the review of the Vatican's U.N. status that Catholics for a Free Choice has called for, according to a spokeswoman at U.N. headquarters in New York. Myriam Dessables, a staff member in the office of the spokesman for the secretary-general, told Catholic News Service in mid-March that such a review could be conducted only if it was formally requested by the General Assembly. So far, no government has taken or proposed any action that could lead to the voting of such a request.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Mass suicide in Uganda

A crucifix is found outside the prayer house at the compound where some 500 people died in a mass suicide in Kanungu, Uganda, March 19. Those found burned to death were said to be members of a Christian cult "Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God." Some of the cult leaders were former Catholic priests and nuns.

AFL-CIO, bishops to collaborate on amnesty, immigration reforms

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops and the AFL-CIO will collaborate on efforts to reform U.S. immigration policy, including a new amnesty program for illegal immigrants. At a March 15 press briefing, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, and Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., announced that the two organizations will work together to seek fundamental changes in U.S. immigration policies. The church-union collaboration will start by coordinating with like-minded organizations and establishing a core agenda, said Bishop DiMarzio, who chairs the bishops' Migration Committee. "Obviously, a broader coalition needs to be developed."

English text recounts Romero's anger at curial stonewalling

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An English translation of a book about slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero recounts his anger at being in Rome to meet Pope John Paul II, then being stonewalled by Vatican officials. The story is one of several vignettes in "Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic," by Maria Lopez Vigil, a Cuban-born journalist and editor of Envio, the Jesuit magazine on Central American affairs. The book, a translation of the Spanish work published in 1993, was released in mid-March, just before the 20th anniversary of the archbishop's death. The account is based on Lopez's interview with Archbishop Romero in Madrid May 11, 1979, as he returned to San Salvador from Rome.

'Roe' abortion case figures ask courts to reconsider rulings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The women in whose names the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973 are asking the courts to reconsider those rulings on the grounds that their participation was coerced and exploited and that many women today have abortions under similar coercive circumstances. At a March 15 press conference, Norma McCorvey and Sandra Cano Saucedo said they are making their appeal in connection with a New Jersey class-action lawsuit by women who have unsuccessfully tried to sue doctors who performed abortions on them without first obtaining informed and voluntary consent. That case, Santa Marie vs. Whitman, follows attempts by three women who had abortions to sue different doctors and clinics for wrongful death of their babies.

Ten convicted for trespassing at School of Americas protests

COLUMBUS, Ga. (CNS) — A 70-year-old Catholic nun and nine others have been convicted of trespassing during protests last fall at the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Nine people who joined last November's 12,000-person protest aimed at shutting down the military training program at Fort Benning, Ga., were convicted March 10 and face sentences of up to six months in prison and fines of up to $5,000. A 10th protester who also engaged in a separate December protest was also found guilty in a March 13 trial. He faces a possible sentence of 12 months in prison and $10,000 in fines.

Priest charged with murder of Guatemalan auxiliary bishop

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — A Guatemalan prosecutor formally charged a diocesan priest with the murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City. Police officers delivered the charges March 10 to Father Mario Orantes in a city hospital, where he is recovering from a chronic ailment. Father Orantes lived in the same house as Bishop Gerardi and claimed to be the first person to find his body April 26, 1998. Under Guatemalan law, the charge of "murder" covers direct and indirect involvement in a crime, said Neri Rodenas, director of the archdiocesan human rights office.

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 28 — 6:30 pm
Diocesan School Board
Mass and Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
March 29
Priest Personnel Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
April 1 — 1 pm
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Salisbury
April 1 — 7 pm
Catholic Social Services
Annual Beatty Awards Banquet
Founders Hall, Charlotte
April 2 — 11 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
April 4 — 7:30 pm
Penance Service
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

26 KING — Good Shepherd Church, East End of Kirby Rd., is sponsoring a parish mission today through March 28 with Father John Hoover of New Creation Monastery as the facilitator. The title of the mission is "Practical Spirituality for the Home" with topics on praying with Sunday scriptures, sacraments, keeping the Sabbath Day and process in the spiritual life. All are invited to attend the two daily sessions. Call the church office at (336) 983-2680 for further details.

29 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from the basilica. Tonight's class focusing on St. Benedict takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Upcoming classes include Venerable Bede on April 5, St. Jerome on April 12 and Pope John Paul II on May 2. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: March 29 — St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem at 10 a.m. and a Spanish service at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m. tonight, and March 31 — Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem at 10:30 a.m.

30 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. with refreshments to follow. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 252-3151.

31 GREENSBORO — The Our Lady of Grace Church staff are sponsoring a fish fry today from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at 2205 West Market St. in the school cafeteria. Patrons may dine-in

Glenmary priest visits with economic justice message

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — "If you want to be a holy and wonderful person, you've got to look after your economic life and the economic lives of those around you," Father John S. Rausch told attendees at "Putting Your Faith to Work: Transforming Society," a workshop held March 18 at St. Eugene Catholic Church.

It's all about choice, Father Rausch said, and the choice should affirm human dignity, opt for the poor and involve community. Father Rausch, a Glenmary priest, has organized three worker-owned business in central Appalachia; taught at the Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center in Berea, Ky.; and has organized the Mountain Management Institute to serve the business needs of Appalachian cooperatives. His column, "Economy of Faith," appears in 22 diocesan newspapers, including The Catholic News & Herald.

The marketplace drives everything, including how people regard each other. "In the marketplace," Father Rausch said, "your worth equals your wealth. What happens in the marketplace when you're not strong, smart or beautiful?"

Even when people can work, their income is often insufficient to meet their needs. "The global economy should be called the one-third economy because only one-third of the world can participate," Father Rausch said. "The two-thirds can sew my pants, but they don't make enough to buy what they produce. When you are in the marketplace, the wants of the rich bid against the needs of the poor. We send a message into the marketplace if we continue to consume luxury goods. As a consumer, my choice of lifestyle has an impact on the economic system."

Father Rausch, who has a master's degree in economics from Notre Dame, said that economics is based on scarcity. "It also is called the science of choice," he said. "You can have a standing forest or cut it down and make tables and chairs. Economics also is a study of power. A company can devastate a small community."

He suggested that people ask themselves how much they need, as opposed to how much they want. "We should all have enough, in order to be more," he said. "When you have enough, you can dispose yourself to grow. If you don't have enough, you can't function well and your mind will always be on yourself.

"The marketplace is not a dogma, but it is a device. It's wonderful, but it falls down. If it was so great, there wouldn't be 44 million people without health insurance or one out of five children in the United States who are malnourished. I'm not saying throw out the marketplace, but let's recognize that it's limited."

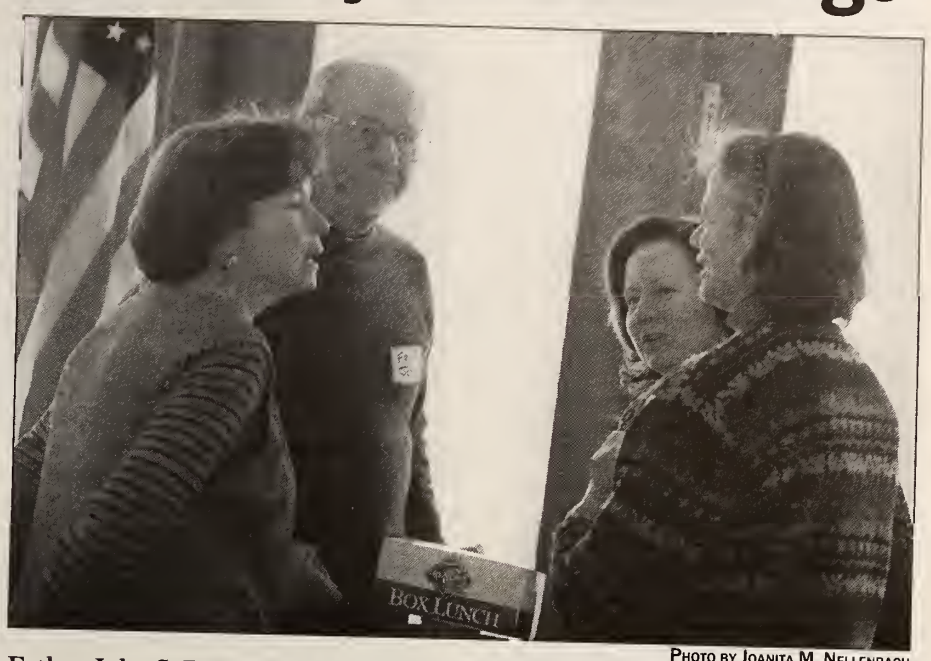


Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Father John S. Rausch chats with attendees at his workshop on social justice held March 18 at St. Eugene Catholic Church.

In the Old Testament, idolatry was the greatest sin; the New Testament equates only one thing with it, "the greed that is idolatry" (Colossians 4:5), because, Father Rausch said, "you are taking a part of creation and making it your god."

We use the "poor you will always have with you" (John 12:8) as an excuse not to do anything," Father Rausch said. "Mary was in a stance of listening, so she could hear. We have to be careful who we are listening to. We have to hear what the poor are saying. What's important, more toys for me, or enough for everyone?"

There are other things we can do besides living simpler lives, he said. "Invest yourself in a group that has the purpose of making life better for others," he said. He also suggested getting together with friends to work for better conditions for the poor and disadvantaged by forming a mediating structure, "which is one in which each person is heard, but together we have more punch."

That made an impression on the Rev. Beth Glass, a Methodist minister who is director of Transylvania Christian Ministries. "I though it was wonderful," she said, "bringing the issues of the poor to the megastructure so those issues can be heard. And I think about how the poor go home to their houses and we go home to ours, and what could we be doing to bring us together?"

Claudia Blackstock, a parishioner at St. Eugene, also was impressed with the workshop and its focus on social justice. "Sometimes you wonder what you could do," she said. "It's given me a lot to think about."

Father Rausch suggested that the church's social teachings are principles. "Everyone of us has to figure out how to put those principles into play in their own lives. We (the church) have a vision that we can be stewards of creation, have a fulfilling life, and live in community with others because we don't take everything for ourselves." ▼

Carolina's fastest-growing parish kicks off campaign

CHARLOTTE — The Carolinas' fastest-growing parish has announced "Campaign 2000: Give to Touch a Life." St. Matthew Church launches its capital campaign this weekend with a goal of $2.5 million for expanded spiritual, educational and recreational facilities. Plans include a multi-purpose/education center, a daily Mass chapel, and a sports and recreation facility. Landscaped gardens are also in the plans, as are memorial dedications available for parishioners and supporters. St. Matthew Church now has more than 12,000 registered parishioners representing over 4,000 families. Sixty parish ministries address a variety of needs, and five Masses are celebrated each weekend. ▼

or take out dinners of fried fish, baked potatoes, hush puppies, Cole slaw and beverages. Proceeds will benefit a local charity. For more details, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

HICKORY — To experience the presence of Jesus while walking down the road to Emmaus, there is a men's Emmaus retreat at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. and continuing this weekend until 3 p.m. on April 2. Space is limited. For more information about registration, call Joe Christian at (704) 543-1892.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, is having a retreat, "Conscious Breathing: Taking a Journey to Wholeness," this weekend through April 2. Mary Guthrie and Augustinian Father Terry Hyland are showing how relaxation and proper breathing can profoundly influence every dimension of a person's life. The focus is God's spirit breathing within everyone. For reservations, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

April

1 CONCORD — A Catechist Recognition Process Workshop is being held today from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. James Church, 251 Union St. North. The courses offered are part of the requirements for catechist certification. Call Marylin Kravatz, Southern Region coordinator for the Office of Faith Formation, at (704) 370-3247 for further information.

2 CLEMMONS — The Fourth Annual Mother/Daughter Tea is for mothers and daughters of all ages to share the afternoon together. The event is being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., in the parish center from 2-4:30 p.m. All attendants should try to bring at least six pictures for the "Creative Memories" craft project. Finger sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and more are being served. For ticket information, call (336) 778-2670.

4 CHARLOTTE VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 4 — St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 5 — Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., April 9 — St. Luke Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., April 10 — St. Mark Church in Huntersville at 7 p.m., April 11 — St. Matthew Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 12 — St. Peter Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m. and St. Vincent Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 13 — St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 15 — St. Joseph Church in Charlotte at 1 p.m., April 16 — St. Ann Church in Charlotte at 4 p.m., April 17 — Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., and April 18 — St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m.

5 CONCORD — The Catholic Home School Group of St. James Church, 251 Union St. North, is holding a curriculum night from 6-9 p.m. in the church hall, located under the church. For further information, call Geri Young at (704) 795-6077.

WAYNESVILLE — Augustinian Father Augustine M. Esposito is directing the St. John Church, 234 Church St., parish mission today through April 7. The mission begins today with a covered dish supper in the parish hall at 5:30 p.m. with Mass and the first talk at 7 p.m. Father Esposito will celebrate morning liturgies at 9 a.m. on April 6 and 7. On April 6 there will be evening sung prayer and a homily, and on April 7, there will be the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of 9 a.m. Mass until the 7 p.m. closing of the retreat. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Sisters are doing it for themselves

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

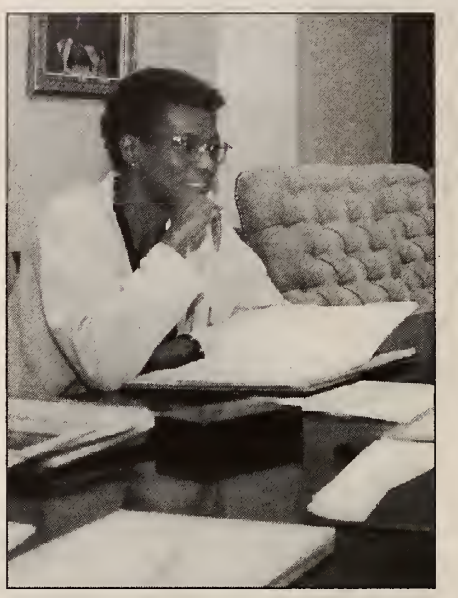
CHARLOTTE — History is in the making for July of 2001. The city of Charlotte will be the host site for the first national gathering of black women Catholics. Three representatives from the National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC), sponsor for this summer meeting of the minds, traveled to Charlotte from various places to talk with diocesan officials, hotel staff and other businesses to continue their preliminary preparations for the event.

"In many urban cities, black women are the movers and shakers in the church," explained Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia J. Chappell, president of the NBSC. "There is a hunger on the part of black Catholic women to experience renewal in their own faith and a need to talk about issues specifically related to black women and to bond and celebrate who they are as black and Catholic women."

The event with the theme "Black Catholic Women — Untapped Treasures ... Magnify the Lord" — will take place during the weekend of July 27-29, 2001 at a local hotel with workshops, speakers, performances and vendors. There will be four speakers with five workshops, where participants can choose to attend two of the workshops.

The keynotes are as follows: "The Gift and Genius of Black Women," presented by Franciscan Sister Francesca Thompson, "The State of Black Women in the Catholic Faith," presented by Dr. Diana Hayes, "The Emergence of Black Women in the Catholic Faith," presented by Dominican Sister Jamie Phelps, and "Untapped Treasures Revealed ... Magnify the Lord, presented by Daughter of the Heart of Mary Sister Anita Baird.

The workshops include a focus on solidarity, health and spirituality, with topics including "Sister to Sistah" about building relationships

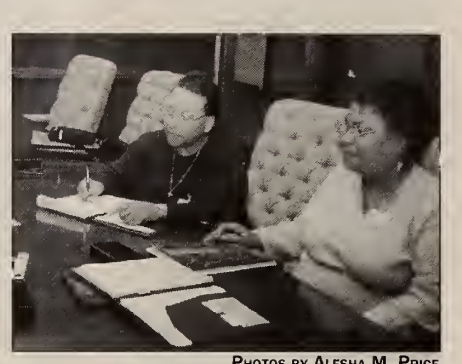


between black Catholic lay women and black Catholic women religious, the link between institutional racism and the link with stress among black women and group witnessing to Jesus' role in the lives of black women.

"What we have found is that black Catholic women have not come together, and we are excited about this and want it to come together," said Carol F. White, co-chairperson of the NBSC Black Women's Project Committee and the campus minister for St. Philip's College in San Antonio, Texas.

One of three programs or committees of the NBSC is the Black Women's Project, where the idea for a national gathering first emerged. The national gathering serves as the culmination of diocesan forums on local levels to identify the reasons for the lack of representation of black women within Catholicism and to work to resolve those issues on local and national levels.

Forums have taken place in Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Chicago, Ill., Sumpter, S.C. and St. Paul, Minn. Plans are in the works for similar forums in Boston, Mass., St. Louis, Mo. and Greensboro, N.C. for black Catholic women from the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia J. Chappell, NBSC president, is pictured at left, and from left to right, are Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Martin de Porres Coleman, NBSC treasurer and pastoral minister and care coordinator for her religious community in the California Province, and Carol F. White, co-chairperson of the NBSC Black Women's Project Committee and the St. Philip's College campus minister in San Antonio.

The idea is to form an on-site committee consisting of women from both dioceses to handle local details, said White.

"We hope to publish the proceedings from the national gathering and possibly a study guide in addition to forming a national black Catholic women's organization that actively promotes change," said Sister Patricia.

The idea for this type of national gathering, for and by black Catholic women, began several years ago, and many strides have taken place. The event had not had the support it needed to take off until NBSC representatives spoke with Bishop William G. Curlin, who suggested having the event in Charlotte and Father Mauricio W. West, who supported the idea.

"I am excited about this national gathering for black Catholic women, and we in the Diocese of Charlotte will do whatever is necessary to ensure that the event is a success. This is significant, not only for diocesan women, but for black Catholic women across the nation," said Father West.

Sister Patricia said, "We are so appreciative and grateful for the invitation from Bishop Curlin to come to Charlotte and for the help and support from Father West."

"The people in Charlotte and the diocesan personnel have been enthusiastic and so willing to offer resources and service to see that this is a success," said Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Martin de Porres Coleman, NBSC treasurer and pastoral minister and care coordinator

According to the mission statement, the NBSC has been in existence since August 1968 and includes black Catholic women religious and lay male and female associates from across the United States. It serves as a center for education and support of black women religious and education in the African-American community and a source for statistical research about black women religious. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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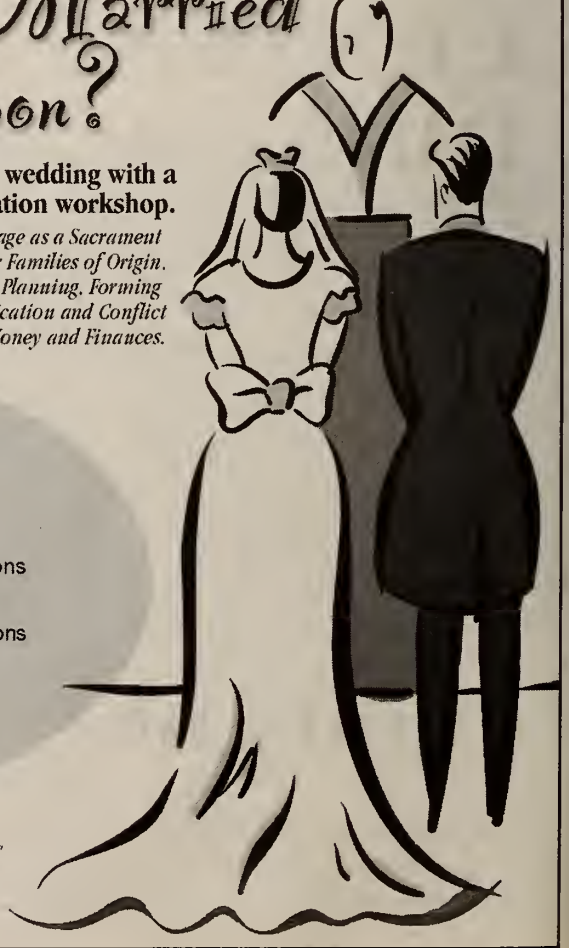

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Catechists urged to renew faith

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

STATESVILLE — Catechists and parish catechetical leaders from across the Diocese of Charlotte gathered with Bishop William G. Curlin March 18 for a day of reflection at St. Philip the Apostle Church.

The diocesan Office of Faith Formation organized the day to help catechists and parish catechetical leaders be renewed in their faith so that they could be more effective in their day-to-day, teaching and reaching out to others.

The day began with a short prayer service, and it included two talks by Bishop Curlin and a time for silent reflection.

Bishop Curlin's stories illustrated a point that he came back to time and time again during the day: that catechetical leaders have to feel Jesus in their hearts to be effective in teaching others about him.

"When you are really in love, you have to share that love," he said. "When it is real to you, unconsciously, you radiate that love."

"You have the power and the ability to say, 'Let me show you Jesus,'" he said. "The goal of your ministry is to set the world on fire with Christ."

"How do you find that spirit where every day is a good day, whether it's raining or it's sunny?" he asked. "Don't see life as a struggle. Get up each day and say, 'Here I am, Lord. Let's do this together.'"

Bishop Curlin also talked to those gathered about the importance of seeing Christ in every person. "Jesus knew how to reach people where they were," he said. "To do that, we need to know where we are."

He also said that every person has dark times in life, but that prayer helps. "When you bring your weakness, your fears, your brokenness to God, he gives new life," he said. "The world is ours if we believe that God walks the world in us."

Bishop Curlin also stressed the importance of the Eucharist, the sacramental life and reading the Scriptures. "It is important for us to have the Eucharist present in the church," he said. "It's the presence of the Living God. The power of that sacrament is the power to love."

He also suggested spending extra time in reflection before Mass to prepare for receiving Communion. "We should nourish the spirit before the Eucharist so that we hunger for it," he said.

Marie Jordan, a faith formation teacher at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, talked about what Bishop Curlin had to say. "It just reminded me of what my role is as a faith formation teacher," she said. "I have to go inward and be aware of the presence of Jesus, and pray and hope that the message that is received is influenced by the presence of Jesus."

Ann Marie Bridges, director of faith formation at Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, talked about the importance of faith renewal for those who teach others about the faith. "Everybody has to be fed in order to feed," she said. "This is something you have to do. You have to go to the source. If I can't feel it, I can't help them to feel it."

Bishop Curlin ended his second talk during the retreat with a challenge to the group. "The hunger is out there for God," he said. "But, do we have the food for the hunger?"

"To be Catholic is to surrender in Jesus, to be so in love with him that you cannot hide the love," he added. "You have the power to do it. (Say every day to God), 'I'm yours.' ▼

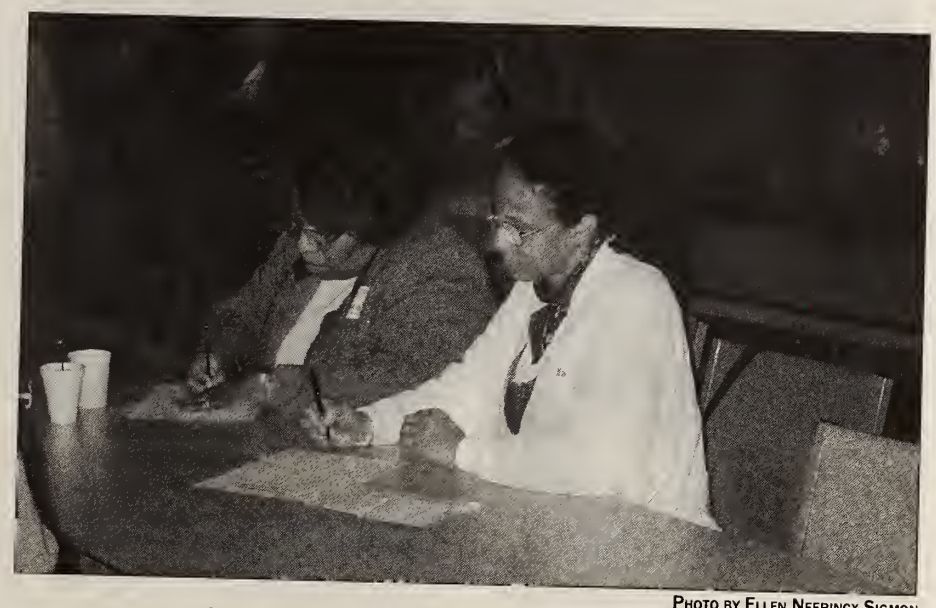

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Theresa Watkins and Rhonda White of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem fill out an evaluation sheet at the end of the retreat.

See coverage of Pope John Paul II's historic trip to the Holy Land
... PAGES 8-9

Lenten Retreat, from page 1

different backgrounds."

One of the team leaders, 20-year-old Erin Graves, a junior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, has participated in prior retreats and is the co-coordinator for the senior high youth group at St. Ann Church in Charlotte. "So many times, especially during the Lenten season, the kids get flack for being Catholic. When they come here, they see that it is O.K. to express their Catholic beliefs. If they can leave here feeling better about themselves and take an active part in the Lenten season, then the rest of the team and I have done our jobs. We try to get them to mature as Catholics, while we are maturing at the same time." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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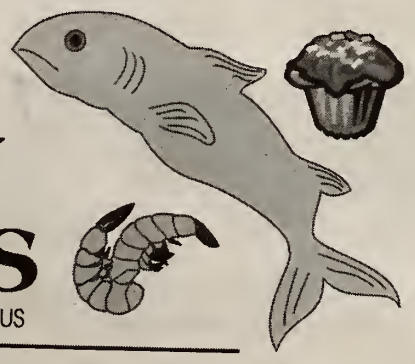

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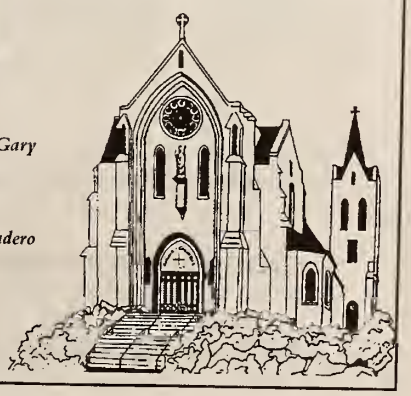

Cardinal O'Connor's absence felt at St. Patrick's Day parade

NEW YORK (CNS) — St. Patrick's Day festivities in New York were marked by cool temperatures, rain and snow, but even more by the absence of the Irish-American who has been a central figure for the past 15 years, Cardinal John J. O'Connor. The cardinal, who has celebrated Mass each year for the patron saint of the New York Archdiocese in the cathedral named for him, and then has stood in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral to greet dignitaries and review the parade that goes up Fifth Avenue, was too weak to leave his residence.

Founder of Catholic teachers' organization dies

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — John Reilly, founding president of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers, died of cancer March 2 at the age of 77. In 1978, he spearheaded the creation of the organization representing lay teachers in Catholic elementary and secondary schools. He continued to lead the organization until his retirement in 1993. Reilly, who initially taught in a Catholic high school, founded Philadelphia's Association of Catholic Teachers, the country's first Catholic teachers' union.

No medical explanation found in cure of Pennsylvania girl

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The medical board of the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes has ruled there is no medical explanation for the cure of a Pennsylvania girl who suffered from a crippling and debilitating spinal ailment. The cure is attributed to the intercession of Blessed Frances de Sales Aviat, the French religious who founded the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia did not name the girl, but the Philadelphia Inquirer daily newspaper identified her as Bernadette McKenzie. She was also identified in the parish bulletin of St. Bernadette Parish in Drexel Hill. The Oblate order founded by Blessed Frances Aviat runs the parish school there.

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN GLOVER, FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC

Cardinal Kung dies

A nun of the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate places her hand on that of Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-mei prior to his funeral Mass at St. John's Church in Stamford, Conn., March 18. The Chinese cardinal, who had been living in exile, died in Stamford March 12 at age 98.

Robert Burns, columnist and editor at U.S. Catholic, dies at 80

CHICAGO (CNS) — Robert E. Burns, an award-winning columnist who served for more than 20 years as executive editor of U.S. Catholic magazine, died March 13 after a long illness. He was 80. His funeral Mass was scheduled for March 18 at St. Vincent Ferrer Church in River Forest, with burial to follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside. "Mr. Burns was an invaluable friend of and partner with the Claretians," said Claretian Father James Maloney, who worked with Burns for many years.

Polish director's Oscar highlights Christian values

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — When Poland's veteran director, Andrzej Wajda, collects a lifetime achievement Oscar in Hollywood March 26, church leaders will join in the applause. While not stressing a church affiliation, Wajda has won praise for his skilled expression of Christian ideas and images. "It's risky to call him a Catholic director," said Father Adam Boniecki, editor of Poland's Tygodnik Powszechny Catholic weekly. "But Wajda's work represents an encounter with Christianity on a foundation of supreme values that both respects and is respected by the church."

Wrestling coach gives Catholic high school $1 million

BALTIMORE (CNS) — When Alan Gebhart first came to Archbishop Curley High School more than a decade ago to help coach the school's wrestling team, he didn't know much at all about the Franciscan order of friars who staff the all-boys' school in east Baltimore. He wasn't Catholic. And he hadn't attended a Catholic school. But from the instant he saw the black-robed priests and observed their commitment to shaping the "total student," Gebhart said he was convinced he had discovered one of the best schools in the state. That's why the successful 52-year-old businessman decided to give the school $1 million — believed to be the largest contribution ever to a school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Fides says Chinese martyrs' canonization is challenge to Beijing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's decision to canonize 120 Chinese martyrs can be seen as a challenge to China's communist government, said the Vatican's missionary news agency. "The canonization of China's martyrs is a challenge to Beijing, a challenge of courage," said a March 11 editorial in Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The Vatican announced March 10 that Pope John Paul II will canonize the martyrs Oct. 1. The group includes Chinese citizens and European missionaries, clergy, religious, men, women and children; half of the martyrs were killed during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, and the other half were martyred during 17th- and 18th-century persecutions.

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Faithful citizenship a moral imperative, official says

"As bishops, we do not seek the formation of a religious voting bloc, nor do we wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates. We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address all issues in the political arena. We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not simply party affiliation or mere self-interest."

— from "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," by the Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic bishops

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Catholics who connect faith values with decisions they make in the public arena are taking an important step toward shaping public policy, said an official from the United States Catholic Conference during a visit to the Diocese of Charlotte.

Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator for the USCC's social development office, was in western North Carolina March 14-16 to speak to parishioners, priests, permanent deacons and Catholic Social Services personnel about the U.S. bishops Administrative Board's 1999 statement on political responsibility, "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium."

In a March 16 interview in Charlotte, Rosenhauer highlighted key points of the statement, and discussed ways Catholics can — and should — be faithful citizens.

"The primary message of the statement is about participation," she said. "This is a call to Catholics and to all people to get involved in public life, to not become so cynical that we drop out, and to understand that that there is a connection between our faith and the decisions we make as citizens."

Rosenhauer said concerns about separation between church and state, as well as discouragement with candidates whose positions do not reflect Catholic teaching, are barriers to Catholics' involvement in public policy discussions.

"You do have to make a decision in the voting booth, but then you also need to recognize the importance of continuing to work on the issues that we care about."

— Joan Rosenhauer

"The separation of church and state doesn't prohibit us from being involved in political life and in public policy decisions," she said. "The Constitution prohibits the state from opposing religion, from discriminating against people because of their religious beliefs, or treating people with favoritism because of their religious beliefs."

Involvement in public life must go beyond Election Day as well, she explained.

"This is an ongoing obligation," she said. "You do have to make a decision in the voting booth, but then you also need to recognize the importance of continuing to work on the issues that we care about."

She cautioned against the thought that the church endorses or opposes certain candidates, noting instead that the bishops "certainly encourage Catholics to look at church teaching, to look at the importance of the issues that they talk about in their statement, and then make that difficult decision (of whom to vote for) themselves."

The difficulty many Catholic voters run into is that candidates often do not stand for the wide range of life, social justice and other issues that the Catholic Church holds in its teaching, she said. In addition to apathy and discouragement, divisions over issues can result, she added.

"All of us have to challenge ourselves to see that there is a consistent message in our teaching that says we do have to be concerned about all human life," she said. "That doesn't mean that at any given time we might not put more effort into one issue than another.

"But in the larger scheme of things, we have to challenge all Catholics to see that we care about human life and that we need to be working together to advance that as a priority in our society" so that Catholics do not dilute their ability to shape how decisions are made.

The bishops' statement reflects the need for Catholics to address such challenges by knowing and acting on church teachings.

It points out the broad range of the Catholic moral framework and how those issues are important in public life. In particular, the statement highlights the principles of Catholic social teaching, which range from the dignity, rights and responsibilities of the human person, to the need for family and social life and outreach to the poor and vulnerable.

In its discussion of moral priorities for public life, the statement suggests a number of issues the bishops say are important concerns, including war, development, the death penalty, family life and social justice. The statement also quotes from the U.S. bishops' 1998 statement "Living the Gospel of Life": "'Abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human life and dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others.'"

Rosenhauer's visit here is part of an ongoing diocesan effort to instruct Catholics on the principles of faithful citizenship. Educational efforts led by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace will continue into the fall, and a resource kit from the USCC was mailed to all parishes in the United States this month.

Especially in this election year — the first year of new millennium and one the church calls the great jubilee — Rosenhauer said civic concern is especially important for Catholics.

"The Constitution protects the rights of people to participate in the debate about public policy," she said. "What the bishops are saying in this statement is we need to be a part of the public policy discussion, and they hope others will also be a part of that discussion and bring their moral convictions to it."

Additional copies of the bishops' statement and other related materials can be ordered by calling (800) 235-8722. For information on diocesan educational efforts, call Joanne Frazer in the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3225. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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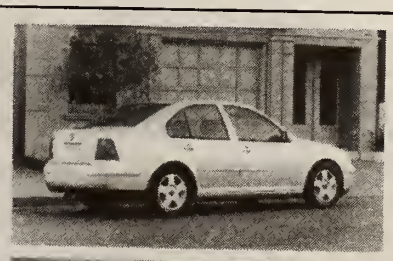

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In Jordan, pope walks in footsteps of St. John the Baptist

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Reading from chapters of salvation history in the Holy Land of Jordan, Pope John Paul II evoked St. John the Baptist as a sure guide for Christians of all ages, then walked in his footsteps near the Jordan River.

During a Mass in an Amman soccer stadium March 21 for 20,000 Jordanian Catholics, the pope recalled how John the Baptist, an itinerant preacher, had prepared Christ's path throughout the river valley area more than 2,000 years ago.

"We look for a guide to show us the way. And there comes to meet us the figure of John the Baptist, a voice that cries in the wilderness," the pope said.

"He will set us on the road that we must take if our eyes are to see the salvation of God," he said. John, who baptized Christ in the waters of the Jordan River, was the "last of the line of prophets" who, like Abraham and Moses before him, defended God's law and nurtured the divine promise made to God's people, he said.

The pope, on the second day of a historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land, sat hunched on an altar half-covered by a fabric canopy, as a cool breeze blew across the soccer field. Dressed in brilliant red vestments, he coughed occasionally but spoke in a strong voice.

His popemobile was mobbed by well-wishers when he arrived at the complex, and the stadium was decked with banners proclaiming Jordan "the land of prophecy and salvation." Among the crowd were dozens of Christians from Iraq, many of them living in Jordan since the 1991 Gulf war. They waved small Iraqi and Vatican flags.

Some 2,000 children, dressed in white with yellow sashes, made their first Communion during the papal liturgy, and the pope offered them a simple message in his sermon: "Jesus is your best friend; he knows what is in your hearts. Stay close to him, and in your prayers remember the church and the pope."

He also marked Mother's Day in Jordan by asking mothers to help build a "civilization of love" where the dignity of all life is respected.

The pope described himself as a pilgrim through the church's historical landscape and said his pilgrim's path led naturally to Christ, the "realization of the promise" of the Old Testament and "the goal of all our journeying."

"The risen Christ alone reveals the full meaning of all that happened at the Red Sea and Mount Sinai. He reveals the true nature of the Promised Land, where 'death shall be no more,'" he said.

The Mass was a high point for Jordan's small Catholic community, which represents just more than 1 percent of the population in the predominantly Muslim country.

The pope praised the results of a recent regional synod and said the future of the church in the Holy Land clearly lies in "unity and love," expressed through parishes, lay movements, schools and other activities.

"There is no more effective way to be involved socially, professionally and politically, above all in the work of justice, reconciliation and peace," he said.

He also urged Christians to strengthen the bonds of friendship with members of "the other great religions that flourish here."

Later in the day, before heading to Jerusalem, the pope made a brief prayer stop near the banks of the Jordan River at Wadi al-Kharrar, where many Christians believe Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist.

"Glory to you, O Christ, Son of God! ... From the river blessed by your presence you went forth to baptize not only with water but with fire and the Holy Spirit," he said in a prayer.

Thousands of people covered the dry and dusty hills of Wadi al-Kharrar for the visit. The site's few date palms usually provide the only touches of color in the barren landscape, but for the papal visit the panorama was enriched with red-coated soldiers on horseback and the crowds waving Vatican, Jordanian and Palestinian flags.

The pope rode through the crowd in a golf cart, following a path lined with newly planted palms to a small platform, where, in a strong wind, he led the crowd in prayer. Asking the people to remember their own baptism, the pope blessed a terra cotta jug full of Jordan River water and sprinkled the crowd with it.

Jordan has uncovered archeological evidence that it says indicates this was the place where St. John did his first baptisms. In Israel, other experts claim the most likely site of Christ's baptism lies on the western side of the Jordan River, in disputed territory now under Israeli control.

The pope, in a display of even-handedness, was scheduled to visit that site later in the week. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls downplayed the rival claims, noting that the Bible speaks of St. John performing baptisms throughout the river valley, not in one place. ▼

CNS PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope looks out over the Jordan valley from Mount Nebo March 20. The pope recounted how Moses led his people for 40 years through the desert before reaching the mountain, where he died before he could reach the Promised Land.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Jordan's King Abdullah smiles as Pope John Paul II waves upon his arrival to Amman March 20.

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The Papal Trip to the Holy Land

At the time of publication, Pope John Paul II was halfway through his visit to the Holy Land. Look for coverage of the Israeli portion of his trip in next week's issue of The Catholic News & Herald. For current papal coverage, visit www.charlottediocese.org.

Mon., March 20 (Rome, Amman, Madaba)
Tues., March 21 (Amman, Wadi al-Kharrar, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem)
Wed., March 22 (Jerusalem, al-Maghtas, Bethlehem, Dehyishe, Jerusalem)
Thurs., March 23 (Jerusalem)
Fri., March 24 (Jerusalem, Korazim, Tabgha, Capernaum)
Sat., March 25 (Jerusalem, Nazareth)
Sun., March 26 (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Rome)

Pope reaches Israel as a pilgrim, realizing his dream

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Pope John Paul II reached Israel March 21, realizing a dream that frail health, interreligious squabbles and political tensions could not stop.

Arriving at the airport in Tel Aviv, the 79-year-old pope briefly acknowledged the sensitive issues surrounding his visit, but said he came as a pilgrim, "in a spirit of humble gratitude and hope, to the origins of our religious history."

His seven-day pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, he said, was "a tribute to the three religious traditions which coexist in this land" — Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

After kissing Israeli soil held up to him in a bowl, the pope said, "I pray that my visit will serve to encourage an increase of interreligious dialogue."

Pope John Paul said the teaching of the three religions should give all their members "the motivation and the perseverance to work for the peace and justice which the peoples of the Holy Land do not yet have and for which they yearn so deeply."

The pope's arrival in Israel coincided with the opening in the United States of a new round of peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, and amid increasing signs that Israel and Syria would restart direct talks about the Golan Heights, territory Israel captured in 1967.

"May peace be God's gift to the land he chose as his own," the pope said at the rainy airport welcoming ceremony.

Pope John Paul told Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and other officials at the airport that although he traveled as head of the Roman Catholic Church, his visit was also a private pilgrimage that began in late February at the Vatican and in Egypt and continued the day before in Jordan.

"Along every step of the way I am moved by a vivid sense of God, who has gone before us and leads us on, who wants us to honor him in spirit and in truth, to acknowledge the differences between us, but also to recognize in every human being the image and likeness of the one creator of heaven and earth," he said.

The pope and Weizman spoke of rapid changes and improvements in Catholic-Jewish relations, especially over the past 20 years, paving the way for the visit.

Pope John Paul, who repeatedly used the phrase "the state of Israel" in his airport speech, said "many things have changed" since Pope Paul VI visited the Holy Land in 1964. Pope John Paul specifically cited the launching of diplomatic relations with Israel in 1994 as "a seal on our efforts to open an era of dialogue."

"With new-found openness toward one another, Christians and Jews together must make courageous efforts to remove all forms of prejudice. We must strive always and everywhere to present the true face of the Jews and of Judaism, as likewise of Christians and of Christianity, and this at every level of attitude, teaching and communication."
— Pope John Paul II

For many Jews, the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and the Vatican was a long-awaited sign that the Vatican recognized Israel's existence as a state.

Relations on a religious level have improved as well, the pope said.

"With new-found openness toward one another, Christians and Jews together must make courageous efforts to remove all forms of prejudice," he said. "We must strive always

See POPE IN ISRAEL, page 14

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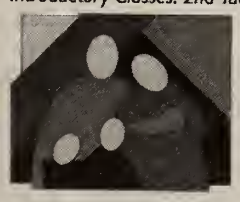
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Book Review

Irish subjects explored in three new books

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Three new books on Irish subjects — one for the armchair historian, one for the scholar of sociology and religion and one for the researcher on the Irish in America — have just been published. Not all three are for everyone, but I highly recommend them all.

"For the Cause of Liberty: A Thousand Years of Ireland's Heroes" by Terry Golway is a very readable survey of Irish history for a general audience. Golway begins with the conquest of Ireland in the 11th century and ends with November of 1999 and today's heroes struggling for peace. Golway is an editor and columnist for The New York Observer and an author of two other books on Ireland. The bulk of the book is the period from the late 18th to the early 20th century, the years of repressive legislation, emigration, famine and revolution.

In telling the larger story Golway focuses on individual heroes with inspiring personal vignettes, such as the story of attorney Thomas Addis Emmet, whose client was convicted in 1795 of administering the United Irishmen's oath. Taking the oath was an act of sedition punishable by death. Emmet read the oath aloud: "I will endeavor, so much as lies in my ability, to forward a brotherhood of affection, an identity of interest, a communion of rights and a union of power, among Irishmen of all religious persuasions." He turned to the judges: "My Lords, here in the presence of this legal court ... I myself in the presence of God, declare: I take the oath." Emmet's clients were spared the death sentence, and Emmet was marked as a dangerous man.

A contemporary hero is Gutsy Spence, who served 18 years in prison for his role in a sectarian killing and emerged from prison in 1984 committed to nonviolence. Spence, a Protestant, became a spokesman for progressive Unionists and had a public friendship with the late Catholic Cardinal Tomas O Fiaich of Armagh.

This carefully footnoted history helped me sort out the Loyalists from the Nationalists, Theobald Wolfe Tone, Padraig Pearse, Michael Collins, Daniel O'Connell and where they were featured in the story that produced today's Bernadette Devlin, Gerry Adams and Rev. Ian Paisley.

"For the Cause of Liberty: A Thousand Years of Ireland's Heroes"
By Terry Golway
Simon and Schuster (New York, 2000). 397 pp., $26.00

"Irish Pilgrimage: Holy Wells and Popular Catholic Devotion"
By Michael P. Carroll
Johns Hopkins University Press (Baltimore, 1999). 226 pp., $38.00

"The Encyclopedia of the Irish in America"
Edited by Michael Glazier
University of Notre Dame Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 1999). 1,096 pp., $89.95

A more scholarly work by sociologist Michael P. Carroll is "Irish Pilgrimage: Holy Wells and Popular Catholic Devotion." Carroll writes that in the years between the Reformation in the 16th century and the famine in the 19th century Irish Catholics had a tradition of visiting sacred spots to complete a series of prayers and a pattern of pacing. There were hundreds of these pilgrimage destinations all over Ireland. Some, like Croagh Patrick, are still pilgrimage sites today. Carroll examines why this custom began and declined in Ireland.

The bibliography alone is worth the price of the book, but Carroll, a professor at the University of Western Ontario, also has an interesting theory to defend. He disagrees with the widespread belief that these pilgrimages were not mainstream Catholicism but were rather vestiges of Celtic pre-history. Carroll says this interpretation was invented by writers of the Romantic era who preferred to believe that charming folk customs were pre-Christian; Druids seemed more fascinating. Carroll argues that

SEE IRISH BOOKS, PAGE 14

Word to Life

March 26, Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B Readings:
1) Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19:8-11
2) 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
3) Gospel: John 2:13-25

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Today's Gospel reading includes the story that often seems to get dragged out as an apologetic for giving in to anger. It shows, the argument goes, that, hey, Jesus got angry, and with good reason. But my friend Peggy's story helps me see that Jesus' behavior in the temple was motivated by something other than anger.

Peggy was a diligent homemaker, keeping the house clean and comfortable for her family. But, as happens in homes with adolescent children, she "constantly was picking up after them." No sooner would she finish a day of housecleaning than the troops would come in, drop their bookbags and jackets in the middle of the floor, get a snack and leave a trail of cups, chip bags and crumbs throughout the place.

One day, exasperated, Peggy directed the kids to do a thorough housecleaning — not just their own mess, but it was their turn to do the entire job. After a day of work, the children sat in the den, exhausted but pleased with how clean and neat they'd made their home.

So imagine their horror when Peggy strolls through the room, dropping her coat, shoes and a shopping bag in the middle of the floor, plops down a can of soda and a plate of half-eaten pizza, strews magazines all over, and finally, literally, throws popcorn everywhere!

As the kids stared incredulously she said, "Now you know how it feels." Then she instructed them to clean up the mess, which they did without complaint but with some amusement.

Peggy told me the story. She laughed, "I love object lessons."

Was she angry? No. She was a little frustrated, maybe, but mostly she just wanted her children to appreciate their home and take part in caring for what they valued. As she went about trashing the den, she was neither in a rage nor gleeful. She was going about a task — to make an important impression.

That's how I see Jesus knocking over tables and spilling money in the temple. When Jews complained, noting that it took a long time to build the place, Jesus' point was: Then why are you making such a mess, are you forgetting what it stands for?

He knew that, as with the temple building, people would abuse God's goodness wherever it was present, even in his very person. That's what is in the human heart, this Scripture reminds us. Mercifully, the Lord continues to pick up after us, but he also offers this object lesson. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 26 - April 1, 2000

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-42; Monday, 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; Tuesday, Daniel 3:25, 33-43, Matthew 18:21-35; Wednesday, Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; Thursday, Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; Friday (Abstinence), Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; Saturday, Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

Readings for the week of April 2 - 8, 2000

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; Monday, Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; Tuesday (St. Isidore of Seville), Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; Wednesday, Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; Thursday, Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; Friday (St. John Baptist de la Salle), Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; Saturday, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

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Priest serves as consultant to new NBC animated series

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — NBC's new animated series, "God, the Devil and Bob," has a little extra help in the God department.

Paulist Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser and Rabbi Harold Schulweis serve as theological consultants to the show, seen at 8:30 p.m. EST Tuesdays. If you squint hard enough as the closing credits zip by, you can see their names.

Father Kieser, producer of the "Insight" TV anthology series and the movies "Romero" and "Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story," is proud of the work he's done so far. "I've read the first 13 scripts, and I've got the next two sitting on my desk," he said.

In "God, the Devil and Bob," God (voice of James Garner), is getting a little tired of creation, and lets Satan (voice of Alan Cumming) choose a soul to determine whether the world should be destroyed once and for all. Chosen is Bob Alman (voice of French Stewart), a Detroit autoworker whom God admits is not his best work.

Father Kieser, in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Paulist Productions' office in Pacific Palisades, Calif., said he's not a big fan of the show's animation style, having been raised in the era of the Disney movie classics. But "the most important thing is the script," he added. "In the beginning was the Word."

As a consultant, Father Kieser said he reads the scripts, then sends memos with suggestions for rewrites of "problem areas," such as things "an unconditionally loving God wouldn't do."

One script, he said, was so problematic he told the show's executives, "You're not putting my name on the credits without making some significant changes."

The result? The writers are working on those changes, Father Kieser said. Incidentally, he added, "the rabbi had significant problems with that same show."

But Father Kieser said he has trust in the series' creator, Matthew Carlson, a onetime seminarian who has won two Humanitas Prizes for his work on "The Wonder Years."

A handful of NBC affiliates in Utah, Idaho and Mississippi caused a stir by yanking "God, the Devil and Bob" from the prime-time schedule.

"I think they're uncomfortable with a truly human God, an earthy God, a God who doesn't confine himself to the heavens, a God who shows his vulnerability," Father Kieser said, noting that any resemblance of God to the late Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia is unintentional.

CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

The devil and God are portrayed in the new NBC animated series "God, the Devil and Bob." A Paulist priest and a rabbi are serving as theological consultants for the show, which has drawn some criticism for content and style.

And in Bob, station managers may want their viewers to avert their eyes from his "stupidity, and sometimes sinning," he added.

Still, Father Kieser can't get over the fact that one of the stations involved airs NBC's "Veronica's Closet," a sex comedy about a lingerie company, "but they don't want to run 'God, the Devil and Bob.'"

The series has also gotten the once-over from some well-known U.S. religious figures.

The priest noted that the Rev. Jerry Falwell "came out and called it blasphemous," and American Family Association leader Rev. Donald Wildmon in Mississippi "came out and attacked it."

One hurdle to overcome is ABC's blockbuster show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which airs opposite "God, the Devil and Bob."

NBC debuted the show between "Friends" and "Frasier" March 9, and 14.42 million people made it the 18th most watched show of the week, but Father Kieser said it is not known how many viewers will follow the show to its regular time slot.

Another hurdle is the mixed critical reception. The Washington Post panned the show, The New York Times had a mixed review, the Los Angeles Times was "basically favorable," Father Kieser said, and the Wall Street Journal "liked it a lot."

Anne Navarro of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting faulted the animation style and said "the jokes fail to reach the smart, acerbic style of 'The Simpsons.'"

"The series gives the tired premise of good vs. evil an interesting twist," Navarro added, saying there was a good scene in the premier with Bob crying out to God "with a laundry list of complaints: God is vague, unknowable, more like a deadbeat dad than a father." But "the final product doesn't really have any bite," she added.

What if "God, the Devil and Bob" gets nominated for one of the Humanitas Prizes which Father Kieser helped initiate more than 25 years ago?

"That's an interesting question," he replied, noting that a selection committee of 20-25 people — of which he is not a member — nominates the finalists.

"It's certainly eligible," Father Kieser said. "Whether it would win, I don't know." ▼

TV of note — Week of March 26

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of March 26:

Wednesday, March 29, 8-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "Puccini's Tosca." A "Live From Lincoln Center" program in which the New York City Opera stages the three-act opera with soprano Amy Johnson in the title role, which takes Tosca into Fascist Italy.

Thursday, March 30, 10-11 p.m. EST (ABC) "Wonderland." Premiere of a gritty ensemble drama series set in a New York hospital's psychiatric and emergency wards.

Friday, March 31, 9-10 p.m. EST (PBS) "The Other Immigrants: Importing our Brain Power." From the "National Desk" public affairs series, the other side of the immigrant issue, dealing with how America imports many of its doctors, lawyers and nurses from abroad.

Friday, March 31, 10-11 p.m. EST (PBS) "Faith, Hope and Capital." Program explores grassroots activists and organizations using loans rather than charity for creating economic success and empowering the impoverished.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Lenten retreat highlighted power of hope

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Concluding his annual Lenten retreat, Pope John Paul II said the week of prayer highlighted the power of hope.

The pope thanked the retreat master, Archbishop Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, for "deepening our vocation as witnesses of evangelic hope at the beginning of the third millennium."

Speaking March 18 to Archbishop Nguyen and other Vatican officials who participated in the spiritual exercises, the pope said that today's world is in urgent need of hope in the risen Christ.

Archbishop Nguyen's 13 years in Vietnamese prison make him a "witness of the cross," said the pope, "reinforcing in us the consoling certainty that when everything crumbles around us and perhaps even within us, Christ remains our tireless support."

The archbishop, who fled Vietnam in 1988, used his personal experiences in prison to illustrate the role suffering can play in realizing the truth of God's mercy. He chose the theme "Witnesses of Hope" for the March 12-18 retreat.

Archbishop Nguyen said his years in prison taught him the value of searching for God not in any one particular place, but in daily life itself.

He cited three examples of witnesses of hope: Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Pope Paul VI and Blessed Faustina Kowalska, who was to be canonized April 30.

The archbishop said they showed the importance of living God in the present moment, "trusting in divine mercy."

Archbishop Nguyen said that during his years in prison, he found strength from the Eucharist, "the bread of hope."

He said the Masses he celebrated in prison, with wine relatives sent him as "medicine" for a feigned stomach ache, were the most moving of his life. Today's Christians, said Archbishop Nguyen, have a duty to be credible witnesses in a world "anesthetized" to the Holy Spirit.

"The church," he said, "has a perennial need of its Pentecost. It needs fire in the heart, words on the lips, prophecy in the eyes."

Pope says Iraqi people always present in his thoughts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Iraqi people, "severely tried" under a U.N. embargo, "never cease to be present in my thoughts," said Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul has consistently condemned the international embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, saying it hurts primarily the weakest members of Iraqi society. The pope made his remarks during a March 18 audience in the Paul VI Hall, attended by a large contingent of Chaldean Catholic jubilee pilgrims, mostly from Iraq.

Lent 2000: I am thirsty

I have celebrated Lent 59 times. I don't know how many "Lents" you have been through. Which Lent, if any, has made a difference in our lives?

Lent has been around since the year 325 (Council of Nicea), and perhaps it is time to ask at the beginning of the third millennium: "What is Lent, anyway?" For me it comes down to the **three thirsts of humanity**.

First, a **physical thirst**. Have we heard yet Jesus saying "I thirst" in the squalid field of South America, amid the tea-pickers of Sri-Lanka, in the unemployed, in the refugees of Kosovo? Yes, there are people in the world who suffer physical deprivation, who are still able to live with $25.00 a month.

Second, an **emotional thirst**. There is thirst for understanding, for companionship, for forgiveness, for friendship. As Jesus moved about the dusty roads of Galilee and Judea, he experienced first hand the isolation and loneliness of many people. He himself had to go through the dryness of abandonment. "Will you also go away?" Then came the garden of Gethsemany, "... they all forsook him and fled." Finally, even God seemed to have gone away, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" Loneliness today can be found everywhere in the great cities of the Western World, where millions of people live quietly and lonely. Yes, there are crowded building complexes, but still neighbors don't know neighbors and some die without the comfort of a human being. Lent 2000 will be meaningful if we are able to make somebody smile and say "I belong."

Third, **thirst for God**. Sometimes in our lives, we have experienced that money, sex, alcohol, drugs, have not been enough to satisfy our thirst. Those who have expeirenced some or all of the above can testify to that through their ordeal; there was an inner cry for God, a thirst for something or someone better. Yes, happiness is nothing else than the experience of our conscious relationship with God.

The "I thirst" of Jesus is not rooted in wishful thinking. There are two pairs of words which all true believers should stay away from. They are: *if only* and *next time*. If only I had prepared my life better, if only I was given an opportunity, if only I had taken the other job. This pair of words makes no sense. Yesterday is past. Then we go into the *next time*. Next time I am going to speak up. Next time I am going to apply for that job I heard about last month, next time I will be more forthright in my comments, next time I will step into a given situations. Pretty good idea, isn't it? The problem is that we are living into the future, forgetting the present.

The "I thirst" of Jesus is the mother's love for you. There is a story about Bradley Walker when he was 10 years old and had a bad habit of evaluating everything by its worth of money. He wanted to know the price of everything he saw, and he constantly talked about the money he was going to make in life. One morning when Bradley came down for breakfast, he left on his mother's plate the following note, nearly folded:

Mother owes Bradley	
For running errands	$1.50
For being good one week	$ .50
For taking music lessons	$ .50
Extras	$ .50
Total	**$3.00**

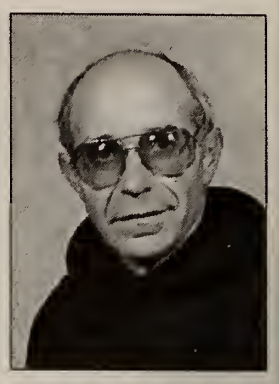
His mother smiled at the statement, and at lunchtime the bill and three dollars were on Bradley's plate. Bradley's eyes fairly danced when he saw the money. Then he saw that beside his plate was another piece of paper on which his mother had written:

Bradley owes Mother	
For being good to him	Nothing
For nursing him through his long illness with scarlet fever	Nothing
For clothes, shoes and toys	Nothing
For his meals and beautiful room	Nothing
Total Bradley owes Mother	***Nothing***

Happy Lent 2000 and may Jesus' thirst and your thirst be quenched.

Father John Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville.

The Season of Lent



FATHER JOHN AURILIA
Guest Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org. We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

"This Land is Home to Me"

In your Feb. 11 issue, you ran a front page article from Catholic News Service relative to the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Appalachian Pastoral, "This Land is Home to Me." Although I realize that you took this story 'off the wire,' I would like to correct some impressions left by the article as it was printed in our paper.

Our Bishop Michael J. Begley was the major force in bringing this pastoral into being. It was the first pastoral ever presented by the bishops that was printed on 'cheap' newsprint. I was pastor at St. Patrick Cathedral when this pastoral was written. The diocese has just been created and St. Patrick had just become a cathedral. Bishop Begley and his small staff were squeezed into the present rectory and that was also the Chancery office.

In looking back since that time, I have never experienced a driving force (The Holy Spirit) take over the life of a man as it did Bishop Begley. He was in the midst of helping to settle a major coal miners strike in the Appalachian Mountains, and shuttling between the mine villages and Duke Power in downtown Charlotte, who owned the mines. He was putting a fledgling diocese together *and* taking on the leadership role to give birth to one of the most revolutionary pastoral latters since Bishop Vincent Waters pastoral in the mid-50s which pointed out the evils of segregation in our state of North Carolina.

Days and nights of meetings (They really blew our rectory budget on coffee!) turned into a marathon of rewriting. Just try to get twenty-six bishops to agree on every word in that pastoral. But Bishop Begley did that. He brought together an outstanding group of men and women who 'knew the mountains.' Priests, sisters, brothers, and laity, the poor and the rich, those who worked the mines, and yes, some of those who owned the mines.

Perhaps this adjustment to your published article will get no further than the pages of The Catholic News & Herald, but on the occasion of this 25th Anniversary, we all need to collectively shout "Thank you!" to Bishop Michael J. Begley for taking the risk. And, to use an oft quoted saying of Bishop Begley's, *"You did real good, partner!"*

With gratitude to Bishop Begley,

Msgr. Richard F. Allen
Pastor of St. Ann Church, Charlotte

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

In the court of public opinion

Lately, I have found myself tuning into NBC's dramatic series "The West Wing," a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the inner workings of a fictional White House. While obliging the popular demand for subplots that intersect the staff members' personal lives, the writers frequently allow characters to rise above melodrama to tackle some thorny social issues. The results are often compelling.

A recent episode dealing with capital punishment riveted my attention. Essentially, the story line drew the president, his staff, the Supreme Court, a rabbi and a Catholic priest into a series of conversations about the State's right to execute criminals — and the exercise of that right. The president's dilemma: how to bring into line the court of public opinion with the "higher court" — that of God's judgment seat.

The program's frequent mention of history and statistics got me to do a little research on my own. Watt Espy, director of the Capital Punishment Research Project, estimates that over 18,000 executions have taken place from the early 1600s through the 1990s. Official statistics were recorded only since 1930 and indicate 4,646 executions since then. There were none in the 1968-1976 period.

Over the last few decades, the Gallup organization has conducted polls about capital punishment. In 1966, 42 percent of those polled favored the death penalty, in 1981, 66 percent favored it, and last year, the percentage was 71 percent. Why has 29 percent of the population turned to favoring capital punishment in the last thirty-four years? And why does the same poll report that fully 51 percent of the respondents "would still support capital punishment even if studies showed conclusively it does not deter crime"?

Yet, people often argue that deterrence justifies capital punishment. If not to deter crime, why do people support it? Thirty percent of those who favor capital punishment indicated their reason was simple: Revenge.

One might argue that the cycle of violence has become so intense in our society that it is appropriate and understandable for people to support capital punishment. What alternative is there, some ask, in a violent society other than to meet violence with violence? This is the verdict in the court of public opinion.

But what about the opinion of the "higher court"? The moral argument depicted by the writers of "The West Wing" is enacted by two religious figures. A rabbi asserts that the Jewish faith has never sanctioned revenge. And a Catholic priest cautions the president that the death penalty might satisfy a vindictive desire, but such a desire cannot be an objective of a Christian approach to punishment.

These characters speak for many real people who oppose the death penalty not just for what it does to those guilty of brutal crimes, but for what it does to the rest of us. As Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops put it: "It offers the tragic illusion that we can defend life by taking life."

We owe a debt to all people — leaders in religions and producers of popular culture, public servants and private citizens — who encourage reflective, informed assessments of civil law. They enhance our capacity for moral criticism within our society and impress the dignity of the human person more deeply on the consciousness of public opinion.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

The story of Eddie

Eddie Hannigan came into this world 36 years ago. He was seventh child of Frank and Alice, who were told that Eddie would not live long enough to raise his head. After Eddie beat those odds, his parents were told he would not likely make it to adolescence. He died two weeks ago at the age of 36 after a full life beating the odds.

Born with Down Syndrome, Eddie's life condition was not received as good news by his family. It would take extraordinary love from extraordinary people with extraordinary faith to raise such a child. Frank and Alice, though they would balk at the characterization, have turned out to be such people. What a blessing for Eddie!

However, after witnessing the outpour of love and grief from family and friends, and the many "Eddie stories" told, it seems that it was the people Eddie loved who are the blessed ones. At the funeral Mass, the family's grief was as evident as their faith. Father Pat Marshall, the celebrant and a longtime family friend, wore his grief, as well. Present also were members of his "other family" from Park Lawn School.

As Eddie's story unfolded through the homily, the special prayers of the faithful and the eulogy, it became clear to us who didn't know him, that Eddie was indeed a special person. His brother, Jack, said in the eulogy, "I never knew anyone who wanted to be with his family more than Eddie." His love was pure and flowed undauntedly.

In the stories, we heard about Eddie's passion for sports through his participation in the Special Olympics. There was also a very special bond he had with his dad and brothers. He held dear a toolbox and union button that symbolized his being one of the guys. The family told of special sayings and expressions that were Eddie's. Most clear in the stories were the lessons of love that they had learned for him. He taught them exuberance with life by showing it. He taught them to rejoice in the presence of others by his own rejoicing in their presence. He taught them to bet against the odds when life is at stake by beating the odds himself. He taught them his own special love by loving them.

Through his illness, months before his passing, the Hannigan family showed their love and devotion to Eddie through the diligent care they gave. It was a rare moment when a family member was not at his side.

It has been said that it is difficult for people of affluence to hear the gospel as "Good News." Perhaps, it is similarly true that those of us who haven't had a special person like Eddie in our lives would find difficulty in receiving such a person as a blessing. In a world that too often sees persons like Eddie as only tragic, the Hannigan family has witnessed the ironic, counter-cultural character of the gospel in their life with Eddie. Indeed his life was good news. And the "Eddie stories" that will live on in the Hannigan family will be part of their testament of faith.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The removal of a saint's name from the calendar of Feasts

Q. My question stems from our Holy Father's recent visit to Mount Sinai, at the monastery of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Our religious community formerly observed her feast on Nov. 25, with much celebration. I know the same was true even in other countries.

Since around 1970, her feast has been eliminated from the breviary and from the Sacramentary. With the interest newly shown in her life, why is her name still removed? Such an attractive personality could draw numerous religious elements together, including Greek and African Christians.

A. As has happened at other times in the history of the church, names of some saints, which had accumulated over the years, were eliminated from the annual calendar of feasts in the revision of the missal around 1970.

One criterion used in the process was the general relevance of a particular saint to the whole Christian world. Very few of the numerous saints canonized by Pope John Paul II, for instance, will find their way onto the list of celebrations for the universal church.

They may well be honored more in their own locality where their lives and virtues are better known. The pope himself seems to hint at that by often canonizing Koreans in Korea, Poles in Poland and so on.

Another criterion is the authenticity of information about that saint's life. St. Catherine, for example, has been honored as a saint for hundreds of years, in the East and later on in the West. Churches were named in her honor. Hers was one of the heavenly voices St. Joan of Arc claimed to hear.

Yet, the fact is we know absolutely nothing for sure about her. Descriptions of her exploits and martyrdom are known to be historically unreliable.

This is not to claim she never existed. The widespread devotion and honor given to her by Christians for hundreds of years, and apparent evidences of the influence of her prayers, are always significant for the church in matters like this.

When it comes to saints celebrated each year by the universal church, however, effort is made to focus on those about whom there is sufficient knowledge to make them helpful models and signs of God's presence to the rest of us.

Because of her purported conversions of many pagan Romans with her learned Christian teachings (about 310 A.D.), St. Catherine is the patron of philosophers, teachers and women students, among others.

As news reports noted at the time of the pope's visit there, her body is said to repose in the monastery at Mt. Sinai. Her feast is still Nov. 25.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

We welcome your letter and comments.
Send your Letter to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Pope in Israel, from page 9

and everywhere to present the true face of the Jews and of Judaism, as likewise of Christians and of Christianity, and this at every level of attitude, teaching and communication."

Weizman, welcoming the pope, traced the history of the Jewish people and of their return to the Holy Land and proclamation of statehood in 1948.

"During the years of exile, we suffered religious persecution and anti-Semitism, and a third of our people were exterminated, incinerated in the terrible Holocaust," Weizman said.

The president thanked the pope for "condemning anti-Semitism by labeling it as a sin against God and humanity" and for his March 12 request for forgiveness "for deeds carried out in the past by representatives of the church against the Jewish people."

With the Vatican continuing to insist on the special character of the city of Jerusalem and on the need for internationally guaranteed access to holy sites by all believers, Weizman encouraged the pope to see for himself how Israel governs the city.

"From its inception, the state of Israel has guaranteed freedom of religion and freedom of access to holy sites to all peoples, and you will certainly see the evidence of this, your Holiness, throughout your visit in Israel," the president said.

"You are arriving this evening in Jerusalem, the city of peace, the capital of the state of Israel, the heart of the Jewish world, which is also a holy site for Christianity and Islam," he said.

The president called Jerusalem "the city of eternity, a city that has been reunified" by Israel in its 1967 war with Jordan.

The city, he said, is "the capital and source of pride of the state of Israel."

Just before the pope arrived, the director of the Anti-Defamation League in Israel told reporters the papal visit would be an educational opportunity for Israeli Jews.

Pope John Paul II is a "different pope" than Jews are accustomed to historically, said Rabbi David Rosen, the ADL director.

Jews who do not live in predominantly Christian countries might not realize how much has changed in relations between the Vatican and the Jewish people, he said.

"What we need from the Christian world is a lot of tolerance, love and patience so the wounds of our boxed ears can heal," he said, referring to the historical animosity between Judaism and Christianity.

The pope's visit, he said, is a "personification, substantiation, witness and recognition of the relationship of the Jewish people and their ancestral homeland." ▼

Contributing to this story was Judith Sudilovsky.

Irish Books, from page 10

the Irish pilgrimage was a distinctive expression of Irish Catholic faith, what today we might call an example of inculturation.

"The Encyclopedia of the Irish in American" is a surprise-filled reference work. About 300 writers contributed entries on every state, dozens of individuals and hundreds of Irish-American related topics. The lengthy entry on emigration from Ireland to the United States contains maps illustrating the numbers and home counties of emigrants since the 1700s, concluding with the 1990s when, for the first time in eight generations, more Irish went home than left the island. There are sections on ethnic relations between the Irish and the German, Polish, Jewish, Italian and African Americans. The encyclopedia is a good starting place for information on the Irish and the American Revolution, the Civil War, the move West and the labor movement. ▼

Maureen E. Daly is associate editor of Catholic Trends and assistant editor of Origins, publications of Catholic News Service.

Catholic paper calls NRA 'immoral organization'

DALLAS (CNS) — The Texas Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Dallas, called the National Rifle Association an "immoral organization" and urged Catholics not to support it.

Editor Bronson Havard said the March 17 editorial was in response to the NRA's "newest propaganda campaign against reasonable gun regulation proposed in Congress."

"Every citizen should raise his or her consideration of the gun issue in America to the level of moral conscientiousness," said the editorial in the 51,000-circulation newspaper.

The editorial added: "The NRA consistently fights to thwart every social effort made at reducing gun violence through better gun regulation."

"After that remark," said the editorial, "there should be a heightened level of concern on the part of every citizen over the NRA. The charge is so vicious, so irrational, that it reveals the deepest, darkest nature of the NRA, whose sole reason to exist is to lobby on behalf of the interest of those who manufacture and own guns."

"Catholics should not give any support to the NRA. It would be immoral to do so," the editorial concluded.

The newspaper has been outspoken over several years against gun violence and has called for better gun regulation, such as longer waiting periods for purchases at gun shows and strengthening the federal "Brady Law." ▼

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Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Director of Religious Education: St. Jude Parish, Radford, VA, is seeking a full-time director for its religious education program, involving development of catechetical programs Pre-K through 12, sacramental preparation, adult education, RCIA within both parish and campus, catechist formation, and other related areas. Qualifications include: committed Catholic lifestyle, master's or certificate in Religious Education or equivalent background, with strong interest in liturgical development. Available July 1. Application deadline: May 1. Contact: Pastor, St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073; phone (540)639-5341; e-mail: Rjudgerad@aol.com

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline April 21, 2000.

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Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church seeks energetic, motivated individual for full-time position in 1,100-family parish. Successful candidate will build upon a well-established program. Responsibilities include planning and directing music for weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc.; directing adult and children's choirs; developing cantors. Keyboard skills required; knowledge of other instruments helpful. Competitive salary and benefits. Position available Summer 2000. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory,NC 28601.

Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, English, Social Studies, Drama, and Religion. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Request application from: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

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PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

The Poor Clares perform during the St. Patrick celebration at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. Band members are, from left, Betsy McGovern, Patrick O'Flaherty, Justin Murphy and Beth Patterson.

The Poor Clares visit for Irish celebration

BY STEPHEN UZZELL
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Foot stomping, clapping hands, bobbing heads and sing-a-long revelry filled the pastoral center at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill from floor to high rafters recently. The Poor Clares were the music, green was the color and full Irish merriment was the mood of the evening March 10.

Some 200 parishioners and guests crowded the round tables across the church floor. They began their merry making for St. Patrick's Day early within a homestyle Irish pub atmosphere. Amid lively songs and dancing, not a soul young or old, could sit still.

The Poor Clares' boot-kicking tempo danced music lovers along high winding meadow traces of the Emerald Isle, and then romped them through low trail bayous of the Cajun country. These talented pilgrims were on a flash tour of the Southeast from their home base: O'Flaherty's Irish Channel Pub in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Their lightning trek would lead through Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia to the District of Columbia before a dash back south to Lafayette, La., by March 17.

And Irish hearts were on their feet. Some created a fancy "River" steppin' at stage front and center. Others rocked and sang from wherever they were afflicted with the tonic throb of the beat.

"A very lively party — and well organized," is how parishioner Griselda Sanders described the event. "And the music really accented the celebration."

Lead singer Betsy McGovern trilled heavenward, cascaded through lowlands and hovered soulfully upon the balance in between. With harmonica, button accordion and mandolin, Patrick O'Flaherty measured, marked and quickened the pace. Murphy's flute, whistle and bodhran wove and twined a mystical theme twixt the four musical wizards. And Beth Patterson banked the fire and flanked the song magicians with a bowl-you-over bouzouki and bass.

"It's better with four. We get along very well together. That's half the battle," spoke O'Flaherty of the group's balance and success. "This year will be our 8th year in a row playing at the Louisiana Jazz Fest."

Their music was proof. And their portrait on stage was one of grace and refreshing exhilaration fused in a solid, even blend. Their image was a merry mix that would lean you dizzily forward, then lay you back into a rambunctious roll.

The evening passed all too quickly for some. Parishioners were serenaded with a varied repertoire between 8 and midnight. "The Well Below the Valley," "Greenwood Laddie" and "In Cannemara" were a few melodies enjoyed. And a crowd favorite was the familiar "Oh Danny Boy."

"I thought the music was very unique — authentic Irish, a great variety of songs," said parishioner and former musician Dominique Francese. "Their instrumentals were artistic and original." ▼

Conflict workshop scheduled for April

CHARLOTTE — A workshop on healing and dealing with conflict, presented by "The Solo Partner: Repairing Your Relationship on Your Own" author Phil DeLuca, is scheduled for April 8 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Best Western Merchandise Mart Hotel, 3024 E. Independence Blvd., in Charlotte. The workshop is designed to instruct participants involved in a variety of relationships. Participants include persons in a troubled relationship whose partner insists there's no problem; rational people whose discussions about problems lacks reason; those seeking intimacy with a partner who always seems to retreat; those hoping their partners will admit blame for problems in their relationship; those who have either tried counseling together only to make matters worse or are in a relationship where one party refuses counseling; and dating or engaged couples who want to ensure strong relationships. For more information about the workshop and registration, call (704) 334-2283, ext. 11. The workshop is sponsored by St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. ▼

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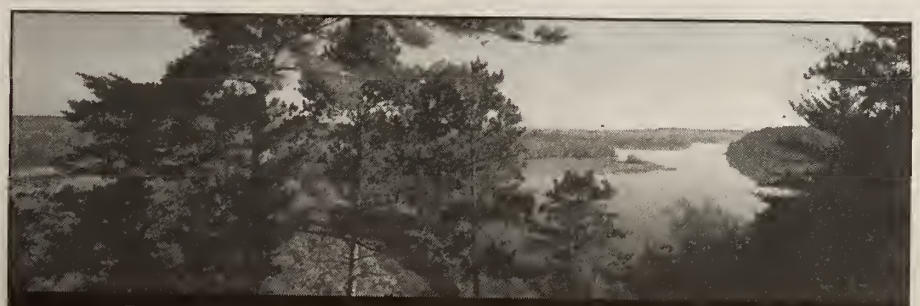

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Mountain doctor making a difference in Madison County

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

MARSHALL — While some people may just "talk the talk" when it comes to making a difference, Dr. Marianna Daly also "walks the walk."

In rural Madison County, Daly practices family medicine at the Marshall-Walnut Health Center. "I've always been intrigued, fascinated with rural life and culture — how the people are tied to their roots, the land, the extended family," she said.

Daly, who grew up in Durham, was not always going to be a doctor. She studied to be a forest ranger at Princeton. But long philosophical talks with a close friend and the chance to spend an intern year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps changed all of that.

With other volunteers, she served an outreach ministry in southern West Virginia, living in an old rectory in a small town, doing home visits, a recreation program, an ecumenical Sunday School and nursing home visits. Based on that pivotal year, she went to graduate school in public health in Chapel Hill and then on to East Carolina University Medical School in Greenville, N.C.

"It was a privilege to go to medical school. And I asked myself, what am I going to do with it — with this chance I've been given," said Daly.

While doing her residency at MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center) in Asheville, Daly discovered Madison County to the north. For her, it had the same feeling and values she had found in West Virginia. So now, married and with a house in Asheville, she found the ideal place to practice family medicine that was in concert with her values.

Marshall-Walnut Medical Center is part of the Hot Springs Medical Center: fee-for-service, community-owned, private, non-profit. It comprises four centers, with nurse practitioners and 11 doctors, of which Daly is one. While services are charged, Daly said, "We have never turned anyone away."

"What you do with your life is all tied in with your faith. It's about using your God-given talents — serving others," she said.

"I feel I've built really strong relationships with the patients that might not be possible somewhere else," she said. "It keeps me going. It is not a materialistic society. People are committed to taking care of the elderly."

A member of St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill, she did not grow up Catholic. In college, she found herself drawn to the Church, and at one time, was attending Mass three times a week.

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps experience was also important.

"It (the Church) was where I found myself most comfortable," she said. She stressed the universality and the ritual elements of the faith. "I was once overwhelmed by Communion — this one action being done by millions of people in the world," she said. "When you walk up there (to receive Communion), you're all one."

She was confirmed in 1987.

Her faith in Christ permeates the medical office as well. "What you do with your life is all tied in with your faith. It's about using your God-given talents — serving others," she said. "As one office staff member stated, 'Every person who walks through this door could be Jesus.'" When appropriate, when a patient signals, Daly shares her faith and sometimes prays with patients.

Social justice and development concerns shape her hopes for Madison County's health problems. She cites the need for some form of universal health care, since the most difficult thing about her job is "having to spend so much time trying to find access for people without insurance for X-rays, (diagnostic tests), subspecialty visits and medicines." Also, transportation to and from medical facilities is a problem, she said.

But Daly's hopes also span across the U.S. She believes Americans must take better care of both the geriatric population and the youngsters. "As a society we must change our attitudes on what priority children take," she said. "How much do we value our children? There is such a domino effect from that."

"It is important for people to develop an ethical framework," said Daly. "They must know what and why they believe and then follow it in their lives." ▼

Photo by Dianne Riggs

Dr. Marianna Daly examines Sidney Hensley at Marshall-Walnut Health Clinic. In rural Madison County, she has found the ideal place to practice family medicine.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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CAMPUS MINISTRY

Nurturing the lives of young Catholics on campus

Special to The Catholic News & Herald

Jubilee of Women

Women observe day with prayer and praise

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Many women took a vacation day from work, and some women chose to use the time as an escape and a day of relaxation. Over 200 women, young and old, celebrated the essence of being a woman and commemorated the Annunciation of the Lord during the International Jubilee Day for Women on March 25, held at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

The idea to have the Charlotte celebration in honor of women came from Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, parish pastoral associate, who asked the members of the parish Ladies' Guild and the parish adult education program to help sponsor the event.

"We are celebrating the jubilee of women on the same day as the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The Holy Father designated this day as the jubilee day of women, and it is also the day Mary said 'yes' to the angel Gabriel. The women who attended the event wanted to renew their own 'yes' and to celebrate who we are," said Sister Jeanne.

The day's themes, "women saying 'yes' to God" and "the work of women's hands" were demonstrated through the artwork and decorations displayed in the parish center. Several women of the parish offered their handmade quilts, needlepoint designs and artwork to add to the springtime décor of lights and flowers.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pictured center, stands with participants under the Giving Tree at the March 25 International Jubilee Day for Women at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The Giving Tree was decorated with leaves written with the names of nationally known and unknown women admired by the attendants.

Enclosed in the programs were green leaves of varying sizes, on which the attendants wrote the name of a woman they admire to add to the "Giving Tree," a nearly life-sized tree taped on the wall. Among the names were Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Mary, Madame CJ Walker, Princess Diana and other common names of mothers, grandmothers and sisters

See JUBILEE OF WOMEN, page 4

Marking women's jubilee hails 'feminine genius'

By Maureen Boyle
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass in Nazareth on the feast of the Annunciation, Catholic women worldwide — including hundreds in Washington — gathered to observe the church's Jubilee Day for Women.

At a prayer breakfast before a March 25 Mass in Washington's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon used the example of the late Dorothy Day's life to urge the women to "open their hearts to the grace of God."

A convert and a founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, Day lived before her conversion during the 1920s in the Bohemian lifestyle that "has spread to all corners of life today," Glendon said. "And that has taken a toll on women."

She urged the audience to resolve "to reach out to all the Dorothys we know."

Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity College in Washington, told the women to use their voices to spread Christ's message, especially in today's secular and modern age. "If we believe in the Gospel of life, we must speak out against all who mock the Gospel values," she said. "And we don't need Roman collars to do that."

She said Pope John Paul's Lenten pilgrimage to the Holy Land is "an incredible witness to what we must give out — forgiveness, faith, hope and charity."

Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, in his homily during the Mass, called the Annunciation "the turning point in salvation history." Bishop Daniel A. Hart of Norwich, Conn., concelebrated the liturgy, which drew about 700 people, including many groups of women religious.

See FEMININE GENIUS, page 7

Mexican bishops call for changes in government, economy

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico's bishops said collaborating with electoral fraud was a sin and democracy not framed in human rights could become demagoguery. In a wide-ranging document launched in a celebration at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's bishops proposed changes in the country's government, economy and other social structures. The document is intended to guide the church's participation in Mexico's elections this year and in the country's democratic development in years to come.

Russian Catholic leaders unsure what Putin will do for religion

MOSCOW (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Russia say it is unclear what the administration of newly elected president Vladimir Putin will mean for religious minorities like the Roman Catholic Church. "As everyone stresses, Putin is an unknown quantity. No one knows what he is thinking or will do," said Jesuit Father Stanislaw Opiela, general secretary of the Russian bishops' conference. Putin, 47, was elected Russia's second president March 26 with more than 52 percent of the vote.

El Salvador's Congress recognizes Romero's work for justice

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — El Salvador's Congress recognized murdered Archbishop Oscar A. Romero of San Salvador as "a pastor who fought for justice, freedom, democracy and peace." The Congress approved the recognition March 23, the eve of the 20th anniversary of the archbishop's killing. "As we commemorate one more year since his death, we hope that incidents such as his and thousands of other murders never happen again in our country," said the statement, supported by the majority of the 84 representatives. The statement was the subject of intense negotiations between its proponents, members of the former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, now a political party, and deputies of the governing ARENA party.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

20th anniversary of Romero's death

Marina Palacios, 108, prays at the tomb of slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero at the cathedral in San Salvador. Palacios traveled from the countryside to attend ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's death. He was gunned down while celebrating Mass in San Salvador March 24, 1980.

Philippine group that seized kids requests Vatican negotiator

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A Muslim group that seized dozens of children, school personnel and a priest in the southern Philippines wants the Vatican to name a representative to negotiate the hostages' release, the chancellor of Isabela Prelature said. Father Martin Jumoad told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, March 23 that the children's parents have asked government and church leaders to respond quickly and decisively so the children can be freed. He said the parents gathered after he met with a man called Abu who identified himself as the spokesman of the group that took the hostages from schools March 20.

Clinton's India visit evokes mixed reaction among church groups

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to India drew mixed reactions from church people. While an official from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India said the U.S. president should be "warmly welcomed," the Jesuit-run Indian Social Institute said it joined the protest against the visit, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Father Donald D'Souza, bishops' conference deputy secretary-general, said India should welcome Clinton, although there are areas in which the church and other groups might disagree with the United States. Jesuit Father Ambrose Pinto, director of the Indian Social Institute, said it was "very shameful" for a government that supports self-reliance and indigenous people to welcome "the symbol of multinationals and capitalism."

Nigerian bishops call for unity, interreligious harmony

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS) — The Nigerian bishops' conference reiterated its commitment to a unified Nigeria where people of different religious and ethnic traditions can live in peace and harmony. The bishops declared March 31 a day of penance, reparation and reconciliation for Nigeria. "We do not countenance the breakup of Nigeria, neither are we in favor of the split of Nigeria into different pockets, where one state lives under the constitution and a neighboring state lives under another law," the bishops said in a statement at the conclusion of their March 13-18 meeting at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Lagos.

Churches stand with you, official tells farmers at D.C. rally

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "The churches stand with you because you are on the right side," a Catholic official told farmers at the Rally for Rural America March 21 in Washington. Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, director of the Des Moines-based National Catholic Rural Life Conference, was among the 30 featured speakers at the rally, which was co-sponsored by his organization and others. The rally had been intended to be held in front of the U.S. Capitol, but a steady three-inch rainfall caused the event to be held under a big tent pitched on the Mall.

Court upholds student activity fees at public university

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Public universities may continue using mandatory activities fees to subsidize extracurricular programs to which some students object, the Supreme Court ruled March 22. The court unanimously found that the University of Wisconsin-Madison student activities fee does not infringe upon the constitutional rights of students who disagreed with some of the groups receiving funds. The fee system had been challenged by students who objected to parts of their $167-per-semester activity fee going to groups involved in activities they disagreed with.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 4 — 7:30 pm
Penance Service
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 5 — 7:00 pm Mass
Lenten Soup and Substance talk
St. Barnabas, Arden
April 6 — 10:00 am
Triad Pastors Meeting
Holy Family, Clemmons
April 8 — 4 pm Mass
Boy Scout Jamboree
Baden, NC
April 9 — 9:30 am Confirmation
St Benedict, Winston-Salem
12:noon Confirmation
Good Shepherd, King
April 10 — 10-4 pm
Retreat Day of the LARCUM Bishops
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

April

4 CHARLOTTE VICARIATE — April 4 - St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 5 - Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., April 9 - St. Luke Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., April 10 - St. Mark Church in Huntersville at 7 p.m., April 11 - St. Matthew Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 12 - St. Peter Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m. and St. Vincent Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 13 - St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 15 - St. Joseph Church in Charlotte at 1 p.m., April 16 - St. Ann Church in Charlotte at 4 p.m., April 17 - Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., and April 18 - St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m.

5 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from the basilica. Tonight's class focusing on Venerable Bede takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Upcoming classes include St. Jerome on April 12 and Pope John Paul II on May 2. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

CONCORD — The Catholic Home School Group of St. James Church, 251 Union St. North, is having a curriculum night from 6-9 p.m. in the church hall under the church. For further information, call Geri Young at (704) 795-6077.

WAYNESVILLE — Augustinian Father Augustine M. Esposito is directing the St. John Church, 234 Church St., parish mission today through April 7. The mission begins today with a covered dish supper in the parish hall at 5:30 p.m. with Mass and the first talk at 7 p.m. Father

International dinner fills the air with dynamic flair

By DEBRA HARTRUM
Correspondent

GASTONIA — The fragrant aroma of gourmet cooking drifted across the parking lot at St. Michael Church in Gastonia last Saturday night on March 25 where hundreds of people waited anxiously to bite into the delicious food that created such delightful smells.

The fourth annual International Dinner — the parish's largest fundraiser of the year — was an evening of fabulous food, lively entertainment, colorful atmosphere and music for all tastes. The doors opened at 6 p.m. to reveal a multicultural environment filled with colorful flags, lighted trees and festive tables.

"I wanted the theme to reflect multiculturalism, tradition and festive surroundings," said Cheryl Cherry, chairperson of decorations.

At 7 p.m. St. Michael's welcomed guests to the gymnasium, where the perimeters of the room offered tables of main dishes, side dishes and desserts, representing culinary treasures from all over the world. Father John Allen, parish administrator, gave the blessing, and over 500 people formed lines at every corner of the room.

"Eastern Europe, Western Europe, The Middle East, Latin America and North America were among the geographical areas represented," food and beverage chairperson Pauline Pearce said. "I have been involved with the International Dinner for the past few years, and this event is something St. Michael Church can patent. Our cultural identity in the larger community is diverse, and this is where our colors shine."

Stuffed shells, Italian Wedding Soup and Italian cookies were just a few items that led the crowd toward the Italian table, where Mike Bordino proudly shared his wares. The Western European table could hardly keep up with the requests for paella from Spain. The Middle Eastern table galvanized the palate with hummus, tabouli and baklava.

"This is the best international dinner I have ever attended," raved parishioner Kelly Rath. "The food was fabulous."

At 7:30, the entertainment began. North America, Colombia, Mexico, Ireland and Spain were represented with colorful costumes and lively music as dancers took the floor. The audience, caught up into a world of foot-stomping and hand-clapping excitement, captured the passion of dance.

The voices of Laura LaFrancis, Yvonne Bratcher and Chrissy Glisson brought an element of classical performance to the evening entertainment. Parishioners from St. Michael lent their special expertise to the evening, with Kristopher Hartrum and Eliana Martinez dancing a courtship dance from Colombia called "The Cumbia." Erin Sigmond ignited the room with "Jazz Dance in the American Vernacular."

Photo by Debra Hartrum

Kristopher Hartrum and Eliana Martinez perform a Colombian courtship dance during St. Michael Church's International Dinner.

"A nice touch this year was the availability of two rooms for seating and entertainment," commented one parishioner. In the main room, seating for about 350 allowed guests to enjoy the DJ and the dance floor. The "Easy Listening" room sat about 200 people, and Dave Pearce, a multi-talented singer, instrumentalist and parishioner, who volunteers his talent every year, provided the entertainment.

In addition to the entertainment, a silent auction was held. "My objective was to provide an upbeat, different and diverse auction, and I know we were wonderfully successful," said chair Alice Krawczyk. "Bids were higher than expected, and I think we came close to raising $2,500."

Four years of core cooks, organizers and helpers make St. Michael's International Dinner more improved every year. This year, over $10,000 was raised for parish programs and development.

Debbie Freeman, staff member and parish 'organizer' summed up the evening: "This was the best yet."

As the evening came to a close and the crowds moved toward the exits, a lone woman stood folding the flags of nations that graced the walls. Lindsey Meekin, the energetic, ambitious and organized mind that chaired the entire event, just smiled.

When asked about the evening she simply said, "St Michael's strength is its parishioners, the old, the young Americans and the newly arrived. What we did tonight was pulled together and showed the citizens of Gaston County the beauty and strength of true cultural diversity."

"For me, the biggest success was not the financial goal, but the number of people who want to be a part of this event next year." ▼

JUBILEE 2000

Jubilee Days for April

April 8
National Day for Reconciliation (USA)

April 27
Jubilee Day for Single People (USA)

Esposito will celebrate morning liturgies at 9 a.m. on April 6 and 7. On April 6 there will be evening sung prayer and a homily, and on April 7, there will be the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of 9 a.m. Mass until the 7 p.m. closing of the retreat. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

6 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre is presenting Stephen Soundheim's musical "Assassins," directed by Simon Donoghue, in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. The performances are as follows: tonight and April 7,8,13 and 15 at 8 p.m. with matinees on April 9 and 15 at 2:30 p.m. with no performance on April 14. The musical depicts the violent underside of American history, and because of its language and theme, is intended for mature audiences. For further information and tickets, call (704) 825-6787.

7 ALBEMARLE — The annual Catholic Camporee XXV for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts is being held this weekend at Camp Barnhardt on the Western shore of Badin Lake near Albemarle. The 25th anniversary theme is "The Great Jubilee/ Holy Year," with many activities focusing on the jubilee year, Catholic faith and Scout Craft. All Catholic Scout troops, Cub packs, individual scouts or units led by Catholics are encouraged to attend the event. The staff is providing lunch on Saturday. For more information, contact Joe Vari at (704) 846-5155.

HIGH POINT — There is a meeting for divorced, Catholic moms at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 512 Montilieu Ave., in the administration building tonight at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting is being held on April 28. Tonight's topic is children and divorce, and for more information, call Betsy Strauss at (336) 885-5210.

9 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is holding a charismatic Mass this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner after the Mass. For details, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

11 WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 11 - Christ the King Church in High Point at 7 p.m., April 14 - Holy Family Church in Clemmons at 7:30 p.m., April 17 - St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m., and April 19 - St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m.

13 CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., is presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," being held in the school's gymnasium tonight through April 15 at 7:30 p.m. There will be dinner theater April 14 and on April 15 at 6 p.m. For ticket and other information, call Jennifer Johnson in the school's alumni office at (704) 543-9118.

14 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having a spring and summer children's clothing sale today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and April 15 from 9-11 a.m. There are select half-price items on April 15 with many bargains on both days. Call the church office at (336) 778-0600 for more information.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., is presenting "Jazz Dance 2000," featuring the music of the school's jazz band, swing dance instructions and food provided by Pasta and Provisions. The event is open to all adults and high school students and is being held May 6 from 8-11 p.m. For advanced tickets, available until April 14, call Helen Katz at (704) 370-0019.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Jubilee of Women,
from page 1

— honoring women who have given in some way, explained Rita Brennan, from the parish event steering committee.

The two keynote speakers, Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Joanna Case, a parishioner at St. Gabriel Church, were followed by two breakout sessions with four talks on different subjects, led by women religious and laywomen from local parishes. Katy Volponi, campus minister at Belmont Abbey College, and her daughter Rose led the teen breakout sessions.

Rose Volponi said, "It is important for younger women to celebrate their womanhood and to start thinking about how the woman is viewed in society, and part of growing up is learning what it really means to be a woman."

Through dance and words, Sister Larretta addressed the crowd about prayer and the manner in which it is done during her talk, "Being Women of Prayer, or Women Who Pray." "Prayer is more than a conversation with God; it is sacred time and space we have with God, which can be expressed in many different ways."

Sister Larretta expressed one form of prayer through a liturgical dance she performed for the audience to a version of the "The Magnificat" by John Michael Talbot. "This form of prayer is not for everyone, but liturgical dance is something that has been used throughout biblical history," she said.

She continued, "Prayer is interior and a mystery. We know we are in touch with something, and it is that hope that gives the intangible validity."

Joanna Case used posters to illustrate her topic, "'Yes' to God in My Actions." Priest, prophet and king were the three focal points of discussion, as Case used humor and personal stories during her talk. The terminology was taken from words used during the rite of baptism.

"Each of us, in our baptism, is called to become Christ; we are Christians — the anointed ones," said Case.

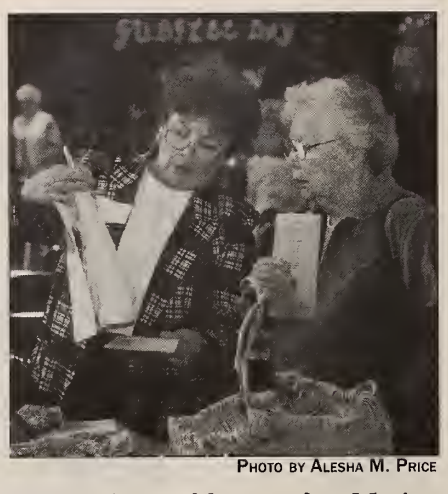

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Fran Fallon and her mother Marion Fallon look at some of the homemade crafts from parishioners during a break at the International Jubilee Day for Women at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte on March 25.

Case talked about everyone living as "priest, prophet and king" in terms of prayer, proclamation and power. "Our priestly role concerns prayer, which should be at the center of our lives. It is your priestly role to teach your children to pray. ... Our prophetic role is to speak out when you see injustices. ... The kingly role is to provide what is necessary to live; as women, we have the power to encourage or support someone else. ..."

"Even though these words sound masculine, they have to do with roles in our lives. We are called to say 'yes' to God in those three ways," she continued.

The day ended with candlelight as the women recited a closing prayer and an act of commitment with Mary as the intercessor.

"I wanted to celebrate the jubilee year by doing something special to refocus my direction," said Lisa Revilla from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte. "It is vital for women to get together because it gives us the strength to go out and be spokespeople for Christ in our churches, communities and families." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedicese.org.

Bishop McGuinness High School students perform "Grease"

By SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — April 6, 7 and 8 are the dates for performances of "Grease" in Winston-Salem. Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, dean of students at Bishop McGuinness High School and faculty moderator of the play, has collaborated with more than 60 students, faculty and parents for the past seven weeks for this presentation.

A professional actress and friend of Sister Anne's, Micki Sharpe, has come from Philadelphia to direct the students. Sister Anne explains that the school has been fortunate, as this is the fourth production with which Sharpe has assisted. These recent performances, of which there are two each year, included "You Can't Take It With You," "Godspell" and "Our Town."

Professional expertise is in abundance among the faculty who are helping with the play as well, according to Sister Anne. English teacher Kim Leavitt, in charge of the technical and stage crew, holds a degree in drama and was recently in Tennessee to work on a play she has written.

Music teacher Dr. Alan Hirsh brings phenomenal expertise to the production as orchestra director. Carol London, school guidance director, and Debra Gray, a science teacher, have put in many hours sewing costumes.

"More parents have been involved this year," Sister Anne reports. She is grateful for what she calls her "parent guild."

Senior student Kevin DeLury plays the role of Danny. Meredith Roche, also a senior, plays the role of Sandy. Twenty-seven students make up the cast, and 20 students are the technical and stage hands with 20 students making up the orchestra. Overall, Sister Anne feels the play is a "pretty well-devised operation in the sense of having faculty and students involved." She also feels this to be an important learning experience for the students to see that the amount of work that goes into such a production is similar to what it takes to play on an sports team.

"Grease" will be performed at the Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Winston-Salem State University. Show times are 7 p.m. on April 6, 8 p.m. on April 7, and two performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on April 8. Tickets will be available at the door.

A special performance at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 7 will also be presented for the area parochial grade schools. Approximately 900 students from the schools, including those from Salisbury, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, will be attending this particular performance. Sister Anne feels this to be a wonderful opportunity for the younger students to gain exposure to the arts.

For further information, call (336) 725-4247. ▼

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Youth fling themselves into spring at diocesan event

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

MORGANTON — It was a physically and mentally challenging day for over 200 Catholic middle school students who came to St. Charles Borromeo Church on Saturday, March 25 for Spring Fling 2000. It was also a day for fun.

Participants were able to choose three of the activities offered during the day. Their options included "extreme games" that were held outdoors and a variety of workshops. The Office for Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte offers the event annually for students in grades 6 to 8. The theme for this year's event was "Open Wide Your Heart to Christ."

Jarred Dawson, a middle school student from the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, tried out the extreme games as one of his morning activities. "It was awesome," he said. "The gladiator ring took a lot of skill, and you had to focus a lot." In the gladiator joust, two students put on padded head protectors, took padded jousting poles, and tried to knock each other off of pedestals and onto the padded surface below.

Tiffany Oddo, a student at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, enjoyed the games as well. "The Jupiter jump was really cool," she said, speaking of the air-inflated trampoline.

Both students spent their first part of the morning in the "Make a Joyful Noise" workshop, which focused on music. "We learned the 'Magnificat' in music," said Oddo. "It was fun." Peter Hartman, organist at St. Charles Borromeo, led those sessions.

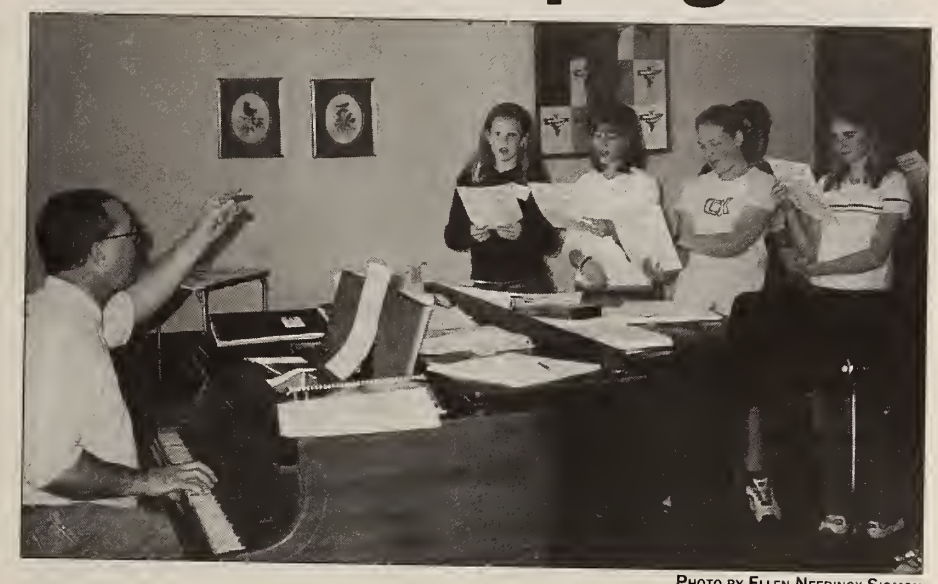

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Peter Hartman, organist at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, plays the piano annd leads a group of middle school students in song during a workshop entitled "Make a Joyful Noise."

Dennis Seavers, a seminarian from the Theological Union at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., who is spending a pastoral year at St. Michael Church in Gastonia, led the workshops entitled "Vocations — Called to Service." He said that in his first session that he tried to get the students to discuss various life issues and how God fit in to all of that. "This is wonderful for me," he said. "There's something about this age where nothing is taken for granted. I really have to put myself into it."

> **"I think that it gets the message across that Christianity ... spirituality ... is about taking joy in life."**
>
> *— Dennis Seavers*

Seavers said he was glad to see everyone having so much fun. "I think that it gets the message across that Christianity ... spirituality ... is about taking joy in life," he said.

Peg Ruble, diocesan faith formation coordinator for the Central Region, conducted the workshops entitled "Jubilee for Juniors" in which she led discussions about the jubilee year and how it applies to middle school students.

Some of the topics they touched on included what things hold people prisoner, what they could do to help the poor and needy and how they could find their own voices in the world. "Much wisdom was shared by the young," Ruble said. "When they hear it from their peers, it means more than when it comes from me."

Several students attended a workshop on racism. Emma Frankart, a student from St. Joseph Church in Asheboro, enjoyed the experience. " ... It was kind of like a seminar," she said. "You got to tell about your experiences with racism."

Suzie Moore, a student from the Basilica of St. Lawrence, agreed. "We learned new things. I've had discussions like that before, but that was the best I've ever had," she said. "It was interesting and fun."

Lizette Lopez, also a student from the Basilica of St. Lawrence, said she found the racism workshop interesting as well. "A lot of things made you think really deeply about how you are related to them," she said.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, led workshops entitled "Scripture Alive." In these workshops, students divided into small groups, looked at three parables, and then picked one to do a skit or other rendition of it. For example, one group chose the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15: 4-7) and decided to tell about their individual experiences of being lost or losing someone.

One workshop leader taught students about holy art and icons and had them paint their own renditions. Students made their own rosaries and learned how to pray with them in another workshop. Other workshops offered were "Liturgy Ministry" and "Celebrate Diversity."

Lunch was served after the first two sessions, and a liturgy was celebrated at the end of the day.

Tony Santoro, a student from Good Shepherd Church in King, was a satisfied customer. "I went last year," he said, "and I knew I wanted to do it again." ▼

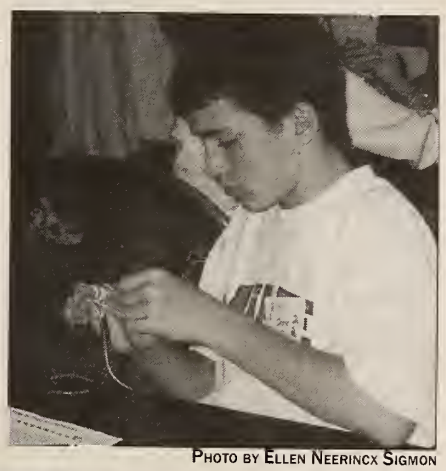

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Drew Saia, a student from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, makes a rosary. Participants in this workshop also learned about saying the rosary.

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Archbishop praises women for special gifts to church, society

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Women unite reason to feeling, combine sensitivity with intuitiveness, and know how to listen, said the head of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. "If Jesus were here ... he would thank every woman for the simple fact of being a woman," Archbishop Harry J. Flynn continued. "Women help make human relations more honest and more authentic." Archbishop Flynn addressed more than 700 people — mostly women with a sprinkling of men — who attended the liturgy that opened the archdiocesan evening of prayer and reflection for women March 18 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul.

Rabbi cites revolutionary changes in Jewish-Catholic relations

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The last 50 years have brought extraordinary progress in Catholic-Jewish relations, the significance of which is inadequately appreciated by people of both faiths, according to the leader of a major Jewish organization. In a wide-ranging talk at Assumption College in Worcester, March 23, Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, touched on the dramatic changes in the church's attitude toward Judaism; criticisms from some Jewish leaders that apologies for past wrong-doing by the Catholic Church are inadequate; and the tangled nature of Jewish-Catholic and Vatican-Israeli relations.

Chicago priest named new House chaplain

WASHINGTON (CNS) — House Speaker Dennis Hastert named a Catholic priest, Father Daniel Coughlin, as the new House chaplain March 23, ending a four-month political quagmire over who would get the position. Father Coughlin, vicar for priests in the Chicago Archdiocese, had not applied for the position that had stirred up political controversy in the House when Democrats accused Republican leaders of anti-Catholic bias for not selecting a top candidate, Father Timothy O'Brien, for the job. The Rev. Charles Wright, a Presbyterian minister and the primary candidate for House chaplain, reportedly offered to withdraw his name for consideration March 21.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Putin elected president of Russia

Russian President-elect Vladimir Putin takes a call at the Kremlin March 28 from British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Putin, 47, a former KGB spy, was elected Russia's second president with 52.6 percent of the vote.

Georgetown University president to retire in 2001

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan, the 47th president of Georgetown University, announced March 20 that he will retire next year. "In June 2001 I will have served 12 years as president. In my heart I know that will be the right time to pass the torch," Father O'Donovan wrote in a letter to the Georgetown community dated March 21. Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington said he extended both prayers and best wishes to Father O'Donovan as the college president planned for his future.

Catholic labor leader inducted into Labor Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Terence Powderly, an Irish-American Catholic who organized hundreds of thousands of laborers into the Knights of Labor by the 1880s, was inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame in Washington. Powderly, who settled in the Washington area and has many descendants in the area, was the 23rd person inducted into the Hall of Fame at the U.S. Department of Labor building. During the ceremony, U.S. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman and Msgr. George Higgins, a nationally known labor priest, extolled the long-overlooked accomplishments of Powderly, who served the cause of labor from about 1880 until his death in 1924.

Bishop Vera installed as bishop of Saltillo, Mexico

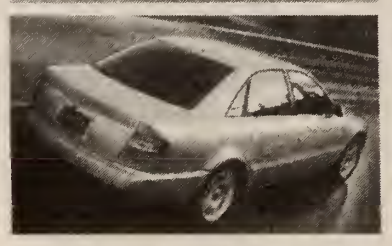
SALTILLO, Mexico (CNS) — Bishop Raul Vera Lopez was installed as bishop of the Diocese of Saltillo and called for service to those who suffer most. At his March 20 installation Mass in the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle, Bishop Vera said the problems facing Mexico and the world could provoke despair and pessimism, but that the signs of the kingdom of God allowed a more hopeful view of the action of the Holy Spirit in history. "In this jubilee year that the church lives in the year 2000, we have been called to retake with all sincerity our identity as the people of God at the service of those who suffer most, of the communion and fraternity among all men and women of our time," Bishop Vera said.

Sister Prejean leads vigil as Texas executes killer

HOUSTON (CNS) — Houston-area Christians gathered with death-penalty opponent Sister Helen Prejean in a vigil for a convicted killer who was executed March 15 as they prayed. Sister Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking," a book about her experiences with death row inmates in Louisiana, joined Texans at Houston's Sacred Heart Cathedral in the vigil for Timothy Lane Gribble. During the vigil Sister Prejean said, "Anybody who is not standing up against the execution and not working against it ... is involved in the killing that happened tonight." Gribble was the 211th death row inmate executed by Texas since 1982 and the 12th executed this year.

New British archbishop says family key to policy-making

WESTMINSTER, England (CNS) — Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster said the family must be central to government policy-making, and he urged continued dialogue among Christian churches. The archbishop spoke in a March 20 interview with the editors of the English Catholic press about his aspirations for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Two days later, the former bishop of Arundel and Brighton was installed as Westminster's new archbishop. Referring to the new social and political agenda that faces the church today, Archbishop Murphy-O'Connor said the family must remain at the center of policy-making.



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K OF C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of April:

Rev. Joseph J. Lash, 1999
Rev. Msgr. Charles Gable, 1977

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Jubilee of Women

Feminine genius, from page 1

"Through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, the eternal Son of the Father becomes flesh," the cardinal said. "God among us is flesh of her flesh."

Sponsors of the Mass included the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and the Church; the National Council of Catholic Women; Women Affirming Life; Catholic Daughters of the Americas; St. Mary's Press; Magnificat magazine; the Leadership Conference of Women Religious; and Trinity College.

The prayer breakfast and Mass marked the close of a two-day conference on "The Feminine Genius and the Culture of Life" sponsored by Women Affirming Life and the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Drawing more than 200 women from around the United States and five countries, including more than 75 female college students, the conference offered prayer services, workshops and training sessions, all aimed at finding ways to promote pro-life efforts in their professions, parishes and communities.

In a keynote address, Janne Matlary, a member of the Norwegian Christian Democratic Party and a professor at Oslo University, described the "feminine genius" as the unique difference between men and women and said secular society downplays that notion.

"Women are told, 'We should be like men,' and in order to be like men, we must forgo or neglect motherhood," she said.

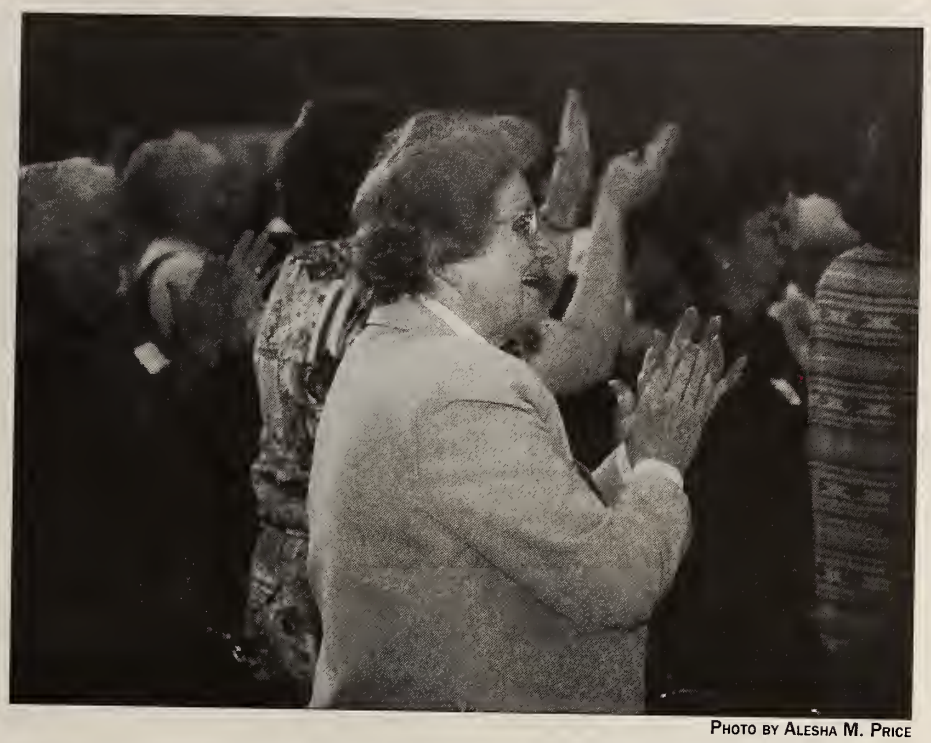

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, applauds those who helped her and her committee to celebrate the March 25 International Jubilee Day for Women through song, dance and prayer.

Matlary, who is married and the mother of four, urged the women to define a "new feminism" which emphasizes the family unit. She said that not only requires support from the church, but the government as well. "To retain the family as a natural unit of society, it must be supported by politics," she said.

At an evening banquet March 24, Glendon said women are especially called to be transformers of culture, since "the changing of the culture boils down to the formation of humans, one by one."

Glendon noted that currently "the main institution speaking out in favor of protecting women is the Catholic Church." She cited Pope John Paul as one of the clearest voices speaking out on behalf of women, their "true advancement" and their role in building the culture of life.

Cardinal Law read a letter from the Vatican secretary of state on behalf of Pope John Paul on the occasion of the Boston-based group's anniversary.

"Women are called to be a moral force in society," he wrote. "As messengers of healing, hope and reconciliation, women have an irreplaceable role to play in the conversion of hearts and change of attitudes."

At the conference March 24, Mary Cunningham Agee, founder and executive director of the Nurturing Network, led a workshop on "Taking the Crisis Out of a Crisis Pregnancy."

A former business executive, Agee began the organization 15 years ago as a practical outreach to women facing pregnancies in vulnerable situations. To date, some 13,000 mothers have received aid from a network that has grown to 25,000 volunteers nationwide.

Many of the workshop attendees said they work in crisis pregnancy centers, and Agee offered practical approaches to their work. She said the woman most likely to abort her child is between 20 and 26, from a middle-class background and "can't imagine hurting her parents."

"That is the phone call more often than not we receive," she said, adding that the Nurturing Network also gets calls from professional woman contemplating an abortion for job-related reasons. "We hear the rhetoric of the 'freedom of choice,' but a vast majority of women (have abortions) because they feel they have no choice and their pregnancy compels them to leave the corporate world."

When encouraging a woman to choose life for her baby, Agee said counselors must be "highly interactive," primarily by being available and ready to listen.

"Conversion to the pro-life movement will come about one life at time. We must do something positive and practical," she said. "Remember, Christ healed one broken life at a time and performed one miracle at a time."

Boston attorney Frances Hogan, president of Women Affirming Life and a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said she was especially encouraged by the attendance of so many college students, who made up one third of the conference participants.

Among the universities represented were Harvard, Boston College, Wellesley, Boston University Law School, Fordham, St. John's, Georgetown University, Creighton, the University of Dallas, Franciscan University of Steubenville, the University of Maryland, and Marquette. ▼

Contributing to this story was Clare MacDonnell.

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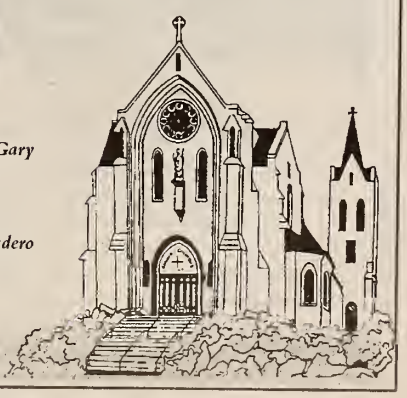

Pope creates new pilgrim's path with interfaith journey

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Walking at last amid the ancient stones where Jesus lived and died, Pope John Paul II created a new pilgrim's path by reaching out to other religions and to the divided peoples of the Holy Land.

His March 20-26 visit to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories will be remembered as an interfaith journey that, despite some notes of dissonance, struck a spiritual chord among those who watched and listened.

In sharing prayer and emotions with Christians, Muslims and Jews at places of deep religious significance, the pope was clearly trying to set an example of harmony in a land beset by political conflict and religious turf-guarding.

"Our gaze directed to Jerusalem, let us lift up our prayer to almighty God for all the peoples living in the lands of the promise. ... They share the same place of blessing, where the history of salvation has left an indelible trace," he said at the start of his long-awaited pilgrimage.

But he also spoke with realism, telling interfaith leaders in Jerusalem: "Not everything has been or will be easy in this coexistence."

At the heart of the pope's message was the conviction that the Holy Land can and must be a homeland for all its faiths and for all its peoples.

His path of prayer took him from Moses' mountain in Jordan to the river where St. John performed the first baptisms; to Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem; to Nazareth, where Mary received the annunciation and where Jesus grew up; to Galilee, where Christ preached; and to Jerusalem, where he was crucified.

For the church, this is the historical homeland, and the pope did his best to encourage the dwindling Christian population to remain in the region where so many chapters of the Old and New Testaments were written.

He made a strong connection with the mostly Muslim Palestinian population when, preaching the justice of the Gospel, he endorsed their right to a political homeland and said their suffering as a displaced and desperate people had "gone on too long."

And, in a gesture that made one of the deepest impressions of the trip, he prayed at Judaism's holiest place, the Western Wall, the stone remnant of the temple that for many Israeli Jews symbolizes the religious homeland they once lost and have now regained.

Like the daily reality of the Holy Land, the pope's trip was a blend of the spiritual and the political. The jarring notes were heard on the few occasions when politics gained the upper hand.

From Israeli and Palestinian leaders came repeated claims that Jerusalem was each side's "eternal capital." The pope ignored these assertions, and after awhile they seemed petty and out of place.

Interreligious dialogue went off-key during a meeting presided over by the pope in Jerusalem. Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Israel Meir Lau started it when he erroneously claimed the pope had accepted Israel's territorial claim over Jerusalem. A Muslim cleric responded with a righteous harangue against Israeli occupation and discrimination against Palestinians.

"It's a photograph of the reality here," shrugged Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Better that the pope see it and hear it than "walk on the clouds," he added.

But the squabbles paled next to the beautiful form the pilgrimage assumed, as the pope moved from places of the Old Testament to the New Testament, from the Old Law of the Ten Commandments to the New Law of the Beatitudes, and along the path of suffering and salvation walked by Jesus, from the manger in Bethlehem to the tomb in Jerusalem.

Although each of his audiences viewed the pope through a different lens, they all appeared to appreciate that this man was truly on a religious pilgrimage and seemed to receive new energy from each stop. The pope who knelt for long periods at the holy places, hunched over in silent prayer, became more fascinating as the trip went on.

TRIP ANALYSIS, PAGE 9

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II kneels and kisses a marble stone at the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher March 26 in Jerusalem.

Papal visit to Bethlehem longtime dream of local Christians

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — For Palestinian Christians, the arrival of Pope John Paul II was the fulfillment of a longtime dream. Many came hours before the open-air Mass March 22 to stake their place on Manger Square. Samayah Khosh, 37, who came with her 12-year-old daughter, said she had been waiting since she was a child to see him. "For many years, since I was small, we have been waiting for the pope to come here. Now I am big and I want to see him, to know who I am, where I come from," she said. "Now my daughter will see him." Mai Asmar, a 33-year-old Catholic, said as she waited with her husband and three children: "We have been waiting for him. He is our father. We feel much better when he comes to visit."

Pope celebrates Mass in room of Last Supper, Pentecost

JERUSALEM (CNS) — In the land where Jesus was born, Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass in the room where the church was born. "I thank the Lord who has given me the grace of celebrating the holy Mass in this place," the pope said March 23 as he began the liturgy in the Chapel of the Cenacle. The Israeli government, which owns the building, installed an elevator so that the 79-year-old pope could reach the upper room of Jesus' Last Supper as well as the Pentecost descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles.

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Special to The Catholic News & Herald

March 31, 2000

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Nurturing the lives of young Catholics on campus

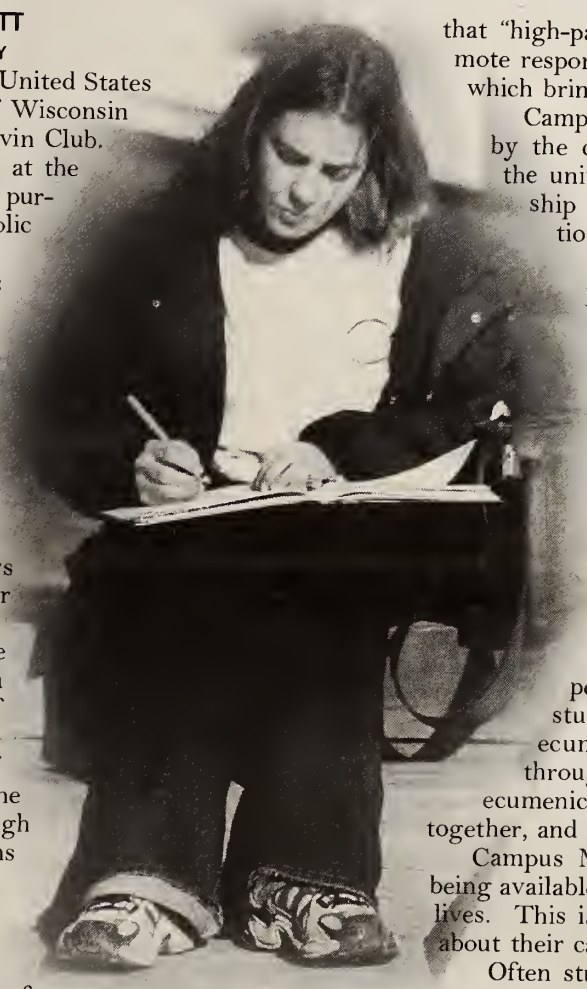
By COLLEEN MCDERMOTT
Director of Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry began in the United States in 1883 at the University of Wisconsin with the founding of the Melvin Club. The first Newman Club was established at the University of Pennsylvania in 1893. The purpose of both clubs was to keep the Catholic students in touch with their faith.

When "Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future," a pastoral letter on Campus Ministry by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops was written in 1985, there were approximately 2,000 campus ministers across the country serving in teams at large public universities and working individually at small community colleges.

Currently, many campus ministers work alone at large public universities or small private colleges.

In fact, at NC A&T University, the Catholic campus minister, Alberta Hairston, is the only campus minister of any denomination serving that campus. Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte is blessed by the support of the Bishop, the priests and the laity through their parishes' outreach and contributions to the DSA.



Additionally, the number of Catholic students is growing on many college campuses in this diocese. Catholics are often the second largest denomination of students and, at Wake Forest University which is Baptist in heritage, Catholics are the largest denomination on campus.

At a recent meeting of the interns in Campus Ministry, they were challenged by the words of the Bishops about the alienation that students may experience. They added their concerns about the fragmentation and compartmentalization that they observe and remarked that the students' spiritual life often lags behind their intellectual life.

There are so many opportunities offered through clubs, student life departments, athletics and academics that students are unable to choose. One campus minister said many of his students appear to be seeking as many experiences as possible. Students participate in highly academic classes and are involved in community service activities sponsored by the college, but often do not integrate this knowledge and experience with their faith.

Campus ministers work with other college professionals to assist students to set priorities and reflect upon these experiences. Campus ministers support professors who voice concern about the students who view learning as a means to achieve that "high-paying job." They work together to promote responsible citizenship and encourage learning which brings about the transformation of society.

Campus ministers have also been encouraged by the development of leadership programs by the university offered to all students in leadership positions including religious organizations.

The bishops' letter describes six aspects of Campus Ministry: forming the faith community, appropriating the faith, forming the Christian conscience, educating for justice, facilitating personal development and developing leaders for the future.

When Friar Greg Spuhler, OFM Conv, an intern at WFU, spoke at Our Lady of Fatima Church during the DSA, he demonstrated that campus ministry in this diocese lives out the bishops' values. He spoke about the retreats offered, gatherings with family and alum, communion services, student peer ministry, collaboration with offices of student life and the local chaplain and the ecumenical work that the ministry does through the Listening Post, fellowship night, ecumenical chapel services, Thanksgiving meal together, and Wesleyan social events.

Campus Ministry is a ministry of presence — being available to students in this critical time of their lives. This is a time when students make decisions about their careers, lifestyles and vocations.

Often students grapple with issues of faith and life. They want to learn about the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church. Campus Ministers often comment that they never know what a student may need to discuss when they walk through the door. It could be anything from the meaning of a particular teaching, a comment on a popular news article about religion or a personal issue.

The campus ministers must be ready to respond on all these levels — to present the official teaching of the Church, to assist students with preparation for the sacraments, to discuss how to integrate faith and life and to discern with them God's call in their lives.

Like those who started Newman Clubs in the late 1800s, students today are still looking to Campus Ministry to keep them in touch with their faith. ▼

Colleen McDermott is Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. She can be reached at (704) 370-3212.

"The campus ministers must be ready ... to present the official teaching of the Church, to assist students with preparation for the sacraments, to discuss how to integrate faith and life and to discern with them God's call in their lives."

Greensboro students feel at home at Thea House

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — There is a place where students from North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) and Bennett College go for spiritual and emotional support, and they get that and much more from campus minister Alberta Hairston, better known as "Mama Hairston." She does her mothering at Thea House, the center for Catholic campus ministry, located on the campus of NC A&T.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY & BENNETT COLLEGE

Thea House is named for the late Franciscan Sister Thea Bowman, a consultant for intercultural awareness for the Diocese of Jackson, Miss., and a faculty member of the Institute of Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana. The center was opened in 1992 with funds and donations from St. Pius X parishioners, the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province, who staffed the campus ministry as part of their outreach program until 1994, and the Black and Indian Mission Fund, explained Hairston.

"It is named after Sister Thea because of her deep faith and love for the church and her love of kids and family," said Hairston.

The center is a quaint, white house furnished with pillows and plants, stocked with books of all subjects and religious brochures, with enough room left over for students of all denominations to hang out, talk, sit and reflect and eat the home cooking of Hairston.

"We want to do what to what we can to help the students through college, not only spiritually but also academically," said Hairston. "Sister Thea said, 'it takes the whole church to raise the child,' and I represent the church for them. These children become my responsibility, and even though they are young adults, they still need nurturing and mothering. I work with them out of African-American ministry, and we are like a family."

"Having a Catholic center on a black campus where there aren't many Catholics is a comforting feeling."
—Nadra Wagner

Hairston serves as the housemother, spiritual advisor and surrogate mother all in one. She has been the campus minister since 1994, after graduating from Bennett College with a bachelor's degree in social work. She is working on her master's degree of religious studies through the LIMEX program from Loyola University of New Orleans.

"She is like the grandmother I never had and is someone I can look up to and talk with," said Christina Donovan, an 18-year-old freshman majoring in graphic communications systems. "Ms. Hairston is like a teacher and a support system, and Thea House keeps me focused because I can attend Mass, more often than I would because I don't drive, and make new friends."

Mass is celebrated on the second Sunday of the month with family dinner, prepared by Hairston herself. Wednesdays feature afternoon meals and fellowship, with the second Wednesday of the month dedicated to feeding the homeless at Grace Community Church. The students help to serve food instead of having the dinner themselves. Every Thursday, the students have a "spiritual check-up" — Bible study with Hairston and the Rev. James McDaniels, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church. The students have also been involved with service projects like Crop Walk, the Winter Walk for AIDS and the Big Brother/ Big Sister Program.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, offers the Eucharist to Susan Hairston, daughter of Alberta Hairston, campus minister, at North Carolina A&T State University during a visit to Thea House on March 22. Pictured left is sophomore Nadra Wagner.

Nineteen-year-old sophomore Everett Henry, a computer science major, said, "It is like a home away from home because when I come here [to Thea House], I don't even feel like I am on campus; it is like your grandparents' home."

Dr. Stuart and Dolores Ahrens, St. Pius X parishioners, have been with Thea House since the beginning. Dr. Ahrens, a now retired physics professor who taught for 26 years at NC A&T, said, "This is their own little place of retreat, where they can meditate and find some quiet. Alberta adds her warmth and motherly touch."

"Having a Catholic center on a black campus where there aren't many Catholics is a comforting feeling," said Nadra Wagner, a 19-year-old chemical engineering sophomore and peer minister. "This is good for people my age at a time when we are exploring who we are and growing in our faith, to have someone in a place where we can learn." ▼

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Courtesy photo

Davidson students pose for a photo with Fr. Brian Sheridan and campus minister, Barbara Bagnall, at right.

DAVIDSON — Davidson College Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) sponsored an "alternative" spring break from March 3 through March 10 to Orlando, Fla. Six men and six women responded to the call to lead them to Florida to immerse themselves in serving in whatever way was necessary.

Accompanying them and organizing the trip was Barbara Bagnall, the college campus minister. Bagnall contacted Father Brian Sheridan, a friend of hers who is pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Orlando, Fla. They established five sites of ministry:

1) Working the Good Shepherd Mardi Gras Festival in a variety of capacities, from running games to serving food and cleaning. The festival is the major source of income for the very diverse community and school, which the church serves.

2) The Hope Team is made up of experienced substance abuse counselors, social workers and registered nurses who go out in jeeps and canoes into the surrounding wooded areas of Orlando in search of homeless in need of provisions and medical attention.

3) The Coalition of the Homeless Facility helps to staff the medical clinics for the homeless and to provide after school care for the children living in the shelters.

4) BETA stands for birth education, training and acceptance of unwed mothers and their children. The purpose is to provide necessary nursery care where mothers attend classes and to distribute supplies to anyone proving need of infant provisions, food and other goods. Many of the mothers were 12 and 13 years or age.

5) The Catholic Charities Food Pantry gleans and sorts donated vegetables and fruit and prepares packages of emergency food staples for those in need.

The students rotated through different sites during their weeklong stay. They were housed through the generosity of Good Shepherd Church and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The trip was challenging and quite a gift for all involved.

As one student reflected in the required journal: "I believe that a conscientious faith must encompass an ethic of service and sacrifice. That theme and calling seems to me inescapable in the teachings, actions and life of Christ. Christ calls us to live in the world, not outside of the world. I can say from my experience on this trip that the ethic of service is based in a belief in the basic value of each human life. ▼

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Appalachian State University students share a smile with Bishop William G. Curlin at the Campus Ministry Retreat at Camp Thunderbird in Clover, S.C.

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"Ministry of presence" felt on Lenoir-Rhyne campus

HICKORY — When Dr. Sal Inglese arrived on the campus of Lenoir-Rhyne College in the fall of 1998 as the new Catholic campus ministry intern, he immediately made a lasting impression on faculty and students alike as a people person.

Inglese is part of the growing presence of Catholic campus ministry throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. At Lenoir-Rhyne, a Lutheran institution, he reaches out to Catholic students in a spirit of devotion to the church and to all with strong sense of ecumenism.

In an August 1999 letter to diocesan campus ministry director Colleen McDermott, the Rev. Andrew Weisner, college pastor, called Inglese an enthusiastic, reliable minister with a keen sense of issues that college students face.

LENOIR-RHYNE COLLEGE

"Sal's presence at Koinonia House, where his and my offices are located, has enormously enriched the ministry of 'the House,'" the Rev. Weisner said. "When I was there alone, various campus responsibilities often called me away, leaving the house vacant. Sal's presence draws students there, and he has proven a trusted friend and counselor to people in need of ministry. Also, his conversation and posters around the house draw attention to the Church's struggle against racism, prejudice, and service to the poor and children."

The Rev. Weisner noted Inglese's skill in approaching and meeting students, faculty and families, especially in one of the campus's more popular haunts.

"Much of Sal's skillful 'ministry of presence' (better described as a 'ministry of incarnation') occurs at the college's favorite meeting place and time: in the dining hall during lunch and dinner," the Rev. Weisner said. "There, Sal amiably goes from table to table, greeting students, faculty and staff, engaging them in conversation and often inviting them to upcoming campus ministry events."

The Rev. Weisner said that Inglese promotes a variety of events on campus, not exclusively Catholic campus ministry ones, and that Inglese's presence is often felt in ecumenical settings — prayer services, dinners shared by students of various campus religious organizations, and other group gatherings.

"It is a great tribute to Sal's openness and ecumenical spirit ... that students from the Lutheran Student Movement wished for him to join them in their yearbook photograph," the Rev. Weisner noted. "In this regard, he is an exemplary Roman Catholic."

Weisner commented on what he called the success of the Diocese of Charlotte's campus ministry intern program, adding that "the success is due, in large part, to the minister the diocese sent to Lenoir-Rhyne, Dr. Inglese."

"Sal is a kind, loving man," he said, "who has become dear in the hearts of many at L-R." ▼

COURTESY PHOTO

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Wake Forest Catholic Community Alternative Spring Break Trip in Philadelphia. From left, bottom row, Ben Desiderio, Phil Travisano, Sara Wells Stick, Val Parker; middle row, Elena Jimenez, Jeff King, Mario DeMarco, Fr. Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv., Brian Mirshak; back row, Jon Ladewig, Lake Herman, Julie Ostergaard, Friar Greg Spuhler, O.F.M. Conv.

A few of us from the Catholic community at Wake Forest University came up from North Carolina to Philadelphia for our spring break and had the honor of working with the Redemptorist Volunteer Ministries. Each of us was moved by what we saw at the Sarnelli House.

The first day of our visit to the house, we came bearing fresh fruit and cupcakes and were welcomed by Father Kevin. We passed out snacks, towels and soap, assisted with haircuts, had great conversations with both the visitors and the volunteers of the Sarnelli House, and played hour-long chess games with the guests. By the end of the afternoon, their showers and haircuts had transformed visitors. Each left cleaner, happier and more energized. Many asked us to return that Thursday night for dinner. We had planned to help with Thursday's dinner, and it was exciting to be welcomed back by the visitors we had met.

The Thursday night dinners resemble weekly Thanksgiving gatherings. The neediest come not just from the neighborhood but also the surrounding areas to reunite, share a blessing, and nourish both their bodies and their spirits. Father Jude's homemade lasagna was served with salad and music. We brought a guitar with us and within a few minutes, music by Redemptorist Volunteers was heard and God's blessing was felt throughout the halls. Wilbur helped roll instruments into the main room, Gail started her guitar, Ben echoed on bass, and Janis kept the rhythm with her drums.

Once everyone had been well fed, the music carried on and Susanna, another volunteer, talked with us about some of her experiences with the ministry. Farewells to everyone at the Sarnelli House followed. We left with hopes that the Redemptorists would come share their ministry during a retreat to North Carolina...and, just over two weeks later, they did indeed make the trip down and we again broke bread together!

We also volunteered at a Catholic Worker Clinic and St. John's Hospice. We stayed at a Friary of the Conventual Franciscans and came together in the evenings to pray and reflect. ▼

Students from Guilford College proclaim Jubilee in the Capital

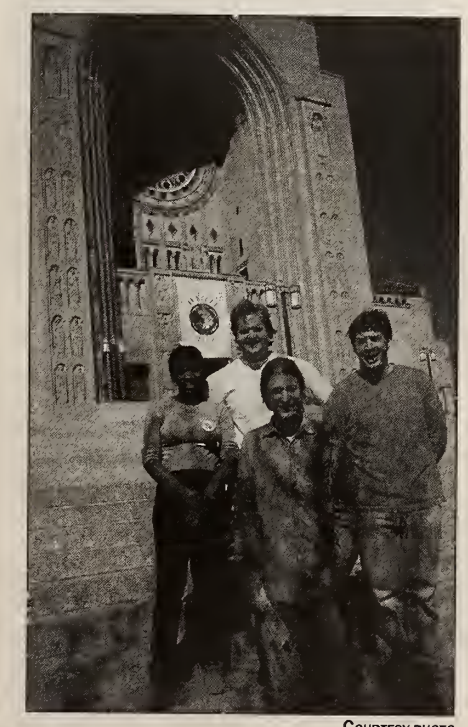
GUILFORD COLLEGE

Remembering the words that encompass this Millennial Jubilee: Biblical text from Leviticus that speaks of restoring economic justice to the people, Claire Adams, David Hedman, Will Link, and Trisha Matthew, and Campus Minister Douglas Campbell set out for Washington, D.C. The Guilford College students would spend their week of spring break proclaiming Jubilee in the nation's capital.

First stop was at the Education for Peace in Iraq Center where they meet with its director, Eric Gustafson, and EPIC's staff. EPIC works to change U.S. foreign policy and raise public awareness in support of human rights in Iraq and peace in the Middle East.

From EPIC's office, the students left to meet their host, Father Frank Higdon, known to the students as Pancho, at his Maryknoll House in D.C. One of the highlights of the trip was listening to the many stories that Pancho told of his 25 years in Bolivia. He shared his experiences of working with the poor and helped the students make contacts with other Catholic peace activists.

On Tuesday, the students visited the office of Jubilee 2000 where they met with Director Dan Driscoll and others to work for an end to the debt burden of the poorest countries in the world. Jubilee 2000 is part of a worldwide movement seeking to cancel the unpayable international debts of the poorest countries by the new millennium.



COURTESY PHOTO

Doug Campbell, campus minister from the Triad area, is shown here with students from Guilford College.

Last fall, the pope issued a statement to world leaders to take urgent and decisive action towards resolving the debt crisis that afflicts the world's poorest countries. He warned that it is the poor that pay the cost of indecision and delay. In Washington, students brought the pope's message to U.S. Representative Howard Coble of Greensboro. The congressman listened for half an hour to their concerns for the poorest people in the world. Though not convinced of the justice of canceling these debts, Congressman Coble promised to look further into the matter.

The next morning began with an Ash Wednesday service in the Maryknoll Chapel, where the students received ashes as a sign of their solidarity with the poor and the earth. Later, the group met with staff person of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where they brought the message of Jubilee. One of the most rewarding moments of the trip came later that afternoon when the students were able to help remove a North Carolina representative's name from a letter endorsing sanctions against Iraq. Long a supporter of debt cancellation and peace and justice for the citizens of Iraq, the congressman mistakenly signed a letter asking for continued sanctions against Iraq. Partly through the student's efforts, the mistake was realized and the signature of support was removed before it was to be circulated the very next day.

In retrospect, first-year student Trisha Matthew spoke of her experiences, "The overall visit was great. Though we had a lot of work to do we still got to do some sightseeing and we also got to do some worship." ▼

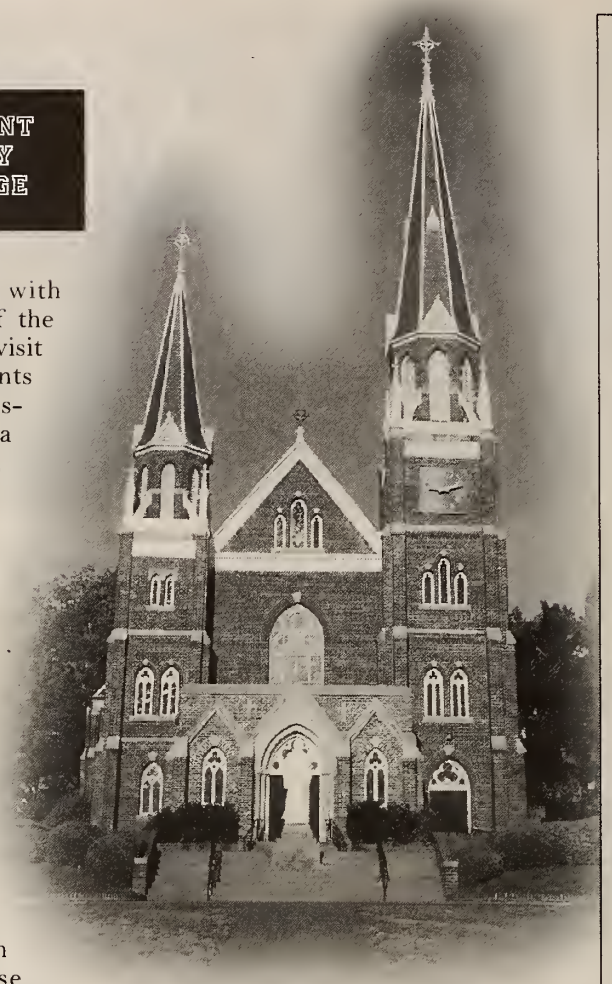
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

March 25 was the Feast of the Annunciation. Sr. Jeanne-Marie Kienast asked Campus Minister Katy Volponi to invite Belmont Abbey women to assist with breakout sessions for teenagers after talks at the special event being planned for the day. Kara Bohlinger and Sharon van der Horst participated in the Jubilee celebration of 2000 years of women saying "Yes" to God at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte. Kara Bohlinger facilitated the morning session on prayer with the teenage girls who were attending the conference. Rose Volponi of UNCGreensboro facilitated the afternoon session.

Campus Ministry students, under the direction of Chaplain Fr. Kieran Neilson, O.S.B., continue to fill the roles of Lector and Server for the daily Mass in the Basilica. In addition to those duties, students serve in several other capacities for the 7pm Sunday evening student Mass. Nicole Bouffard, especially gifted on the piano and Alex Larsen as Cantor make the Mass truly a celebration.

Belmont Abbey monk Br. Agostino and Campus Minister Katy Volponi are putting together a Lectio Divina weekly study group for students that will be held on Thursday evenings in the Clancy's student lounge.

Thirty-five students, Theology Professor David Williams and Volunteer Coordinator Gayle Butterfield attended the Ripples retreat with Katy Volponi and several of the monks including a daylong visit from the Abbot. The retreatants spent four days at High Pastures in the North Carolina mountains in reflection, prayer and fellowship. Matt Memrick saw that a Perpetual Adoration Chapel was set up and adorers kept constant watch for over 24 hours. Mass, Reconciliation, Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary and meditation were all part of this special time away. The purpose of the retreat was to build community and deepen holiness. One of the highlights of the weekend was having Brian Brady playing the bagpipes. The proprietors of High Pastures asked us to please bring him along when we return next year.



Prayer Ministry team continues to speak aloud in prayer the name of each person in the community every week. Built on the idea from the Campus Ministry at Lenoir-Rhyne College, this faithful team lights a candle and says a prayer then speaks their particular list of names aloud. The list includes all monks' faculty, administration, staff of all kinds and every student. A day retreat in December included planting bulbs on the nature trail in conjunction with saying the rosary, Mass, pizza for dinner and Vespers with the monks in the Basilica. ▼

WCU group makes a difference on Johns Island

CULLOWHEE — As students from the Catholic campus ministry group at Western Carolina University are entering the home stretch of the spring semester, they know they have made a difference in the lives of others.

Members of the group spent their spring break on Johns Island, a sea island south of Charleston, S.C., whose rural areas are marked by need. The group worked with the local Sisters of Charity at Our Lady of Mercy Outreach Center in a variety of projects, including home repair and painting and providing an after-school program for a group of children.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

The group's theme, "Go Make a Difference," was adapted into song and inspired a variety of educational and recreational activities. The mission was sponsored in part by a mini-grant from Operation Rice Bowl through the Diocese of Charlotte, which funded seven months of preparatory programs. ▼

Colleen McDermott smiles with UNCC campus minister Mary Wright.

UNC CHARLOTTE

I feel my life has come full circle. When I was a student at Sacred Heart College back many moons ago, I was instrumental in starting Campus Ministry. Now more than twenty (20) years later, I find myself once again in Campus Ministry. God as a wonderful way of calling us to that which we feel most passionate.

This year has been spent continuing the good work that Barbara Neff Hutchinson had done for so many years. Unfortunately with Barbara's departure was also the students in leadership. We have worked hard this year evaluating and planning strategies to attract students to UNCC Catholic Ministry. On a brighter note, UNCC Campus Ministry was very fortunate to have Jennifer Rupp, an alumni from UNCC doing her Diocesan Internship here. Her ability to meld together the past, present and future was invaluable.

We have focused on four (4) areas: Prayer/worship, an opportunity to deepen one's relationship with God; Retreats, an opportunity to deepen one's relationship with each other; Service, an opportunity to deepen one's relationship with those less fortunate in society; and Leadership, an opportunity to plan and develop Catholic Campus Ministry at UNCC.

UNCC Catholic Campus Ministry is incredibly blessed by the support of the Capuchin Friars at St. Thomas Aquinas. They believe in the UNCC Catholic community so much they have assigned Fr. Martin to UNCC in addition to his many other responsibilities at St. Thomas and Our Lady of Consolation. Fr. Martin, O.F.M. Cap gives endlessly of his time, energy and enthusiasm. He celebrates Mass once a week on campus and joins us for lunch afterwards. I am also continually inspired by the presence of Fr. Ignatius and Fr. Stan at our monthly dinners.

It is very reassuring to know that they are "just down the road." Sometimes it gets a little difficult on a large, secular campus. St. Thomas's spiritual, professional and technical support has made my first year most enjoyable, gratifying and enriched. ▼

— Mary Wright

Campus Ministers Listing

Appalachian State University
828-265-9698

Mellisa McGhee

Belmont Abbey College
704-829-7196

Katy Volponi
kponitale@juno.com

Davidson College
704-892-2917

Barbara Bagnall

Lenoir-Rhyne College
828-328-7329
Sal Inglese

Inglese@LRC.edu

NC A&T, Bennett College
336-272-5868

Alberta Hairston

UNCC
704-547-4069

Mary Wright

UNCG, Greensboro College, Guilford College
336-334-5548

Douglas Campbell
Dcampb@aol.com

Wake Forest University
336-758-5018

Father Jude DeAngelo,
deangejt@wfu.edu

Friar Greg Spuhler,
spshlegp@wfu.edu

Julie Ostergaard,
ostergjm@wfu.edu

Western Carolina University
828-293-9374

Gloria Schweizer

Wingate University
704-233-8153

Jennifer Rupp
choosetolove@hotmail.com

Reach Colleen McDermott, Director of Campus Ministry at (704) 370-3212.

Trip Analysis,
from page 8

He made connections even where they were problematic.

In Bethlehem, a Muslim call to prayer interrupted the papal Mass. The pope waited patiently — the picture of religious tolerance — and had his aides point out that the muezzin's call had been abbreviated out of respect for the pontiff.

Speaking to ecumenical leaders in Jerusalem, the pope spoke so movingly that his host, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros, added a spontaneous message thanking the pope "from the bottom of our hearts" at the end of the ceremony.

At Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the Holocaust memorial where spiraling smoke from an eternal flame hauntingly evokes the deaths of Jews in the extermination camps, the pope met with Polish survivors, including one woman who said that in 1945 the future pontiff had personally carried her out of a prison camp and given her food and drink.

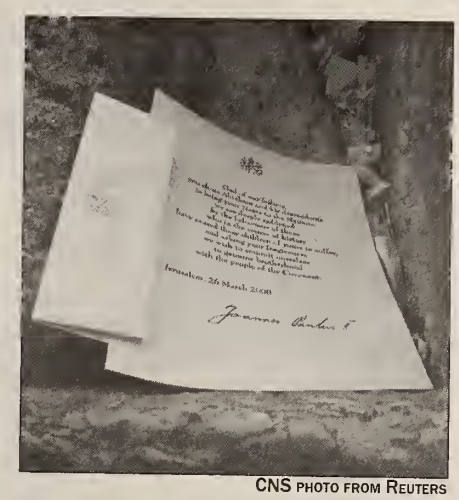
The story, which the pope says is "possible" but which he does not specifically recall, was discussed at length on Israeli TV and seemed to introduce a significant new side of the pontiff to Israeli Jews.

At the Western Wall, the pope amazed Jews by leaving his own written prayer in a crack of the stones, like Jews have done for centuries. It prompted one rabbi to remark, "He touched the wall and the wall touched him."

In the end, the pope managed to bring a week of good will and good news to a region sorely in need of both. On the plane carrying him back to Rome, his spokesman, Navarro-Valls, was asked how the pope managed to navigate the Holy Land's political minefields without any major explosions.

"The key thing, I think, was that the pope told the truth to everyone, but without humiliating anyone. He spoke in charity ... and people respected that," Navarro-Valls said.

That was no small accomplishment in today's Holy Land. ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A prayer that begins "God of our Fathers..." was left in a crevice of Jerusalem's Western Wall by Pope John Paul II March 26. He was the first pontiff to pray at Judaism's most sacred site.

Unlike when Jesus prayed in garden, pope can't find silence

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — When Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane outside Jerusalem the night before his death, he did so in silence and solitude after his apostles had fallen asleep.

Pope John Paul II revisited the spot of the agony in the garden March 25, but he had company: a small but noisy army of aides, priests and journalists that appeared to make prayer a difficult prospect.

When he strolled past what's left of the garden — eight massive olive trees, one of which has been dated at more than 2,000 years old — he paused to lean on a fence and reflect as police helicopters buzzed overhead and his entourage waited behind.

Then he was ushered inside the Church of the Agony, built around a rock Christ was thought to have fallen upon when he prayed: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

The pope knelt and put his head in his hands, to a crescendo of camera shutters. A few feet away, chairs scraped, plastic video cases dropped loudly and then, what sounded like a ladder crashed to the marble floor. Another crash, and the pope lifted his eyes and looked to the side.

After four minutes, without warning, a woman began reading from Scripture through a loudspeaker. The pope simply stayed where he was, praying. The click of the shutters decelerated, and after 14 minutes the pontiff rose stiffly and sat down, gazing up at a mosaic depicting Jesus on the Mount of Olives.

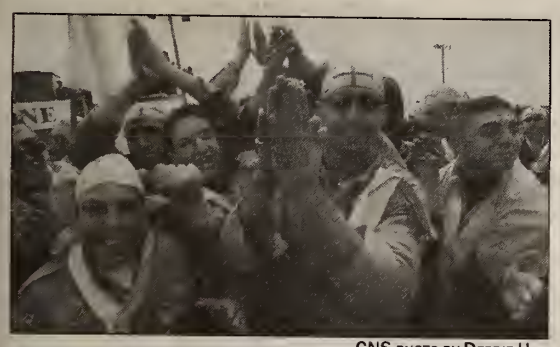
Judging from his expression of awe, he had reached an inner place where he could pray. ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II prays March 25 inside the Church of the Agony, built near Jerusalem's Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed before his crucifixion.

Pope calls for 'just solution' to plight of Palestinian refugees

DEHIYSHE REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (CNS) — Delivering a message of support to the Palestinian people, Pope John Paul II emphasized the plight of their refugees and called for a "just solution." Throughout his pontificate, he said, he has felt close to the Palestinian people. He said he hoped his March 22 visit to Dehiyshe Refugee Camp would "draw attention" to their continuing difficulty. "You have been deprived of many things which represent basic needs of the human person: proper housing, health care, education and work," the pope said.



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Sea of Galilee Mass
Young people from Nazareth chant "John Paul II, we love you!" as the pope arrives for an outdoor Mass overlooking the Sea of Galilee March 24.

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Word to Life

April 2, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B Readings:

1) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Psalm 137:1-6

2) Ephesians 2:4-10

3) Gospel: John 3:14-21

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

The parish hall was filled with Father Joe's friends, members of the parish he had served so quietly and faithfully for more than a decade. They had gathered to wish him well and extend their blessings as he left for a pastorate in the distant city of Pittsburgh.

Story after story poured from them in praise of this great bearded bear of a Franciscan. Their affection was evident, and it was based on the love of Christ which had flowed from him to them and to those they served in the parish together.

One of the most touching stories was of a youth retreat. The response to his availability for confession before he celebrated the evening Mass was unanimous — and there were 70 plus teens.

So starting at 7 p.m. they lined up. Time for the Mass came and went. The youth minister telling the story approached Father Joe between confessions. "What should we do?"

"OK, we'll move to the Mass now; just give me a minute," he had responded. Father Joe announced to those still waiting, "Remember where you are in line, and we'll take up where we left off after Mass."

And he did. And the line finished up around 2 a.m. After he finished, Father Joe sat down at a table and wrote 70 plus notes to the young people on the retreat. When he had completed his task, he drove home from the retreat to celebrate the Sunday morning 7 a.m. Mass.

In today's readings, John tells us that God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but to redeem the world. And John implicitly invites all of us to come into the light of God's redeeming love, lamenting the fact that humanity has loved darkness and so has avoided that light.

The light of God's love is not intended to scar us like burn victims, but to heal us and give us the glow of spiritual health. Repentance, bringing our sins before God along with our intent to "change our ways" for God's ways, is life-changing, liberating and a cause for personal joy. This is just as true, even though the doorway to this joy is entered by way of the sadness we experience as we express regret for our sins.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 2 - 8, 2000

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41; **Monday**, Isaiah 65:17-21, John 4:43-54; **Tuesday (St. Isidore of Seville)**, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday (St. Vincent Ferrer)**, Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday**, Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (St. John Baptist de la Salle)**, Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday**, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

Readings for the week of April 9 - 15, 2000

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday**, Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (St. Stanislaus)**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Pope Martin I)**, Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Abstinence)**, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday**, Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

Book Review

Book on Archbishop Romero shows man behind the controversy

Reviewed by AGOSTINO BONO
Catholic News Service

"Oscar Romero: Memories In Mosaic" does a lot to cut through the myths and mysticism surrounding the late Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador. It shows the man behind the controversies.

Twenty years after his assassination, Archbishop Romero is revered by many as a saint and martyr while pillaged by others as a stooge for Marxist subversives wanting to undermine traditional Salvadoran society and values.

Rather than offer a traditional biography, this book provides vignettes by people who knew him. What emerges is a church leader who was above all a pastor of souls, concerned for the sheep as well as the wolves threatening them. His growing opposition to the military and its civilian power brokers was not the result of an ideological mindset; it came from a painful, continuous witnessing of repression against the poor Salvadoran peasants whom he came to know by sharing their daily lives.

The image pieced together is of a basically conservative man, bending over backward to give the country's military and civilian leaders the benefit of the doubt that they wanted what was best for the nation. Yet he was simultaneously consumed by a Christian conscience which could not accept massive injustices by the powers that be.

On March 24, 1980, Archbishop Romero was assassinated by a right-wing death squad while celebrating an evening Mass at the tiny hospital where he lived. Publication of this book coincides with the 20th anniversary of his death. It is the English translation of a Spanish work issued in 1993 by Maria Lopez Vigil, a Cuban-born journalist who has lived for many years in Central America.

Vigil interviewed firsthand witness, friends, colleagues, parishioners and employees of Archbishop Romero. She then organized these into short, colorful and anecdotal essays tracing the archbishop's transformation into the only figure in the country able to effectively and publicly criticize military governments. Interspersed are excerpts from the archbishop's homilies and diary.

"Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic"
By Maria Lopez Vigil
EPICA (Washington, D.C., 2000)
424 pp., $19.95.

Most of all, the vignettes show the human being who was the archbishop. A friend recounts their secret trips to Mexico to attend concerts and circuses when the archbishop needed a break from the tensions of El Salvador. Another tells of his anger and disappointment after being scolded by Pope John Paul II because he was causing church-state problems. One vignette describes a Christmas Eve meal in a poor parish where the archbishop sat a runny-nosed, dirt-stained boy on his lap and shared the food off his plate because there was literally no room for the child at the dinner table. ▼

Bono is Catholic News Service wire traffic editor and was a reporter in Latin America from 1968-78.

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UPN program shows teens the devasting effect of drugs

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Teens get a dose of reality about the devastating effects of drugs in the informative program, "Teen Files: The Truth About Drugs," airing Friday, April 7, 9-10 p.m. EDT, on UPN.

"The Truth About Drugs" begins by giving a group of four teens who casually admit that they have fun taking drugs and don't see any reason to stop a glimpse at what their futures might be like if they continue.

The teens are taken through the motions of being arrested for drug possession; raped while drugged up; found unconscious with possible brain damage; and dead of a drug overdose. Although these mock situations are well-done, the experiment loses some of its gripping edge because the viewer — and more importantly the group of teens — realizes that they are fake.

"Teen Files: The Truth About Drugs"
April 7, 9-10 p.m.
onUPN

More powerful than the mock situations is the teens' visit with a young man who overdosed on the deadly "club drug" GHB. One capful of GHB is equal to six glasses of alcohol. Blind, unable to care for himself and barely able to speak, the young man slurs out the words, "don't take drugs."

Next the program concentrates on the dangers of inhalants. A second group of kids, younger than the first, are treated to an unforgettable trip to the coroner's office where they see the effects of "huffing" — inhaling from an aerosol can — on each of the body's parts.

In an emotional scene, the kids also talk with the father of a 14-year-old boy who died the first time he huffed and hear the desperate 911 call made by his mother minutes before his death. The message here is loud and clear: Even though inhalants are defined as poisons, not drugs, a person can die the hundredth time he huffs or the first.

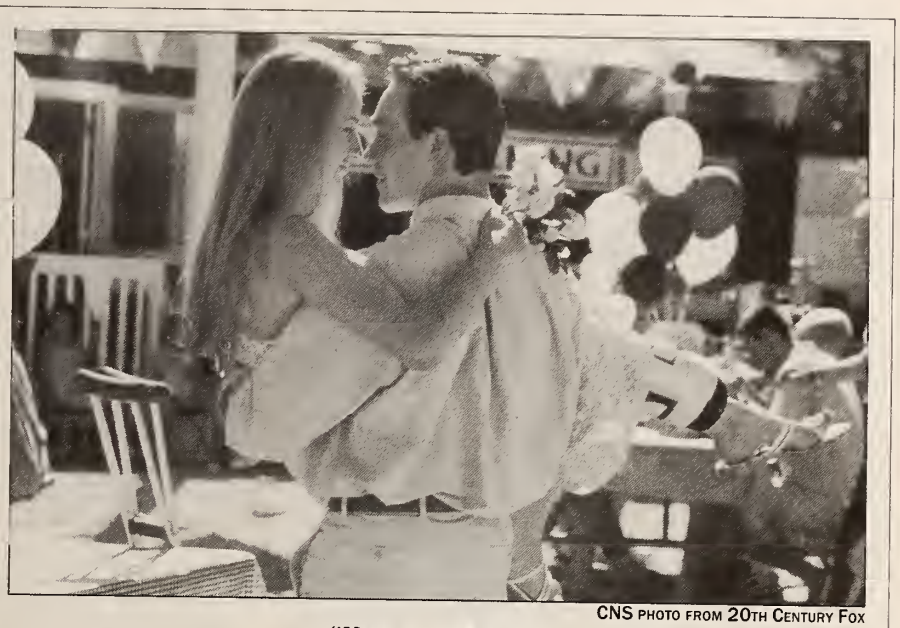
The final segment of the program deals with addiction to drugs. A third group of teens walk the streets of Seattle where homeless, drug-addicted teens talk about life on the street. What they have to say is sobering.

One homeless teen sums up his addiction by saying, "It's not about getting high anymore, but keeping from getting sick." A young woman who is recovering from her addiction in a rehabilitation home explains that because of her addiction, taking drugs was "not even fun anymore, it was just a chore." The program compellingly shows that addiction is not just a possibility of continued drug use, but a definitive result.

The program, hosted by Leeza Gibbons, is peppered with sobering statistics such as 500,000 teens use inhalants a month and every 60 seconds a baby is born with a drug addiction. It uses MTV-style camera work with skewed angles and quick zooms, which is sure to appeal to teens accustomed to these fast-paced visuals.

Informative and attractive despite some contrived moments, "The Truth About Drugs" offers parents an opportunity to discuss the crippling effects drugs have on the users and their families and loved ones. The program is preceded by back-to-back episodes of the series "Moesha" which focus on pre-teen drug use and a family's solution to that shocking revelation. Together the programs are a good reason to make it a family night in front of the TV April 7. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

"Here on Earth"
Chris Klein and Leelee Sobieski star in a scene from the movie "Here on Earth."

New at the Box Office

"Here on Earth" (Fox 2000 Pictures)

Sweet but schmaltzy romantic teen drama about a poor local girl (Leelee Sobieski) who falls in love with a rich prep-school boy (Chris Klein) and encounters many obstacles — including her boyfriend, her family's opposition and a serious illness — on the path to happiness. As directed by Mark Piznarski, the film's manipulative plot is filled with contrived dialogue and few surprises, but it does offer a sentimental look at the blush of first love. Implied sexual encounter, brief violence and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Romeo Must Die" (Warner Bros.)

Entertaining hip-hop action drama about an ex-cop (Jet Li) who escapes from a Hong Kong prison to avenge the death of his beloved brother in California only to get caught in a gang war between Asians and African-Americans, and by chance, fall in love with the rival gang leader's daughter (Aaliyah). Director Andrzej Bartkowiak's feature debut combines skillfully choreographed martial-arts action with cutting-edge music but the surprising twists produce a convoluted plot. Recurring violence, brief homosexual innuendo, fleeting nudity, brief recreational drug use, and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Whatever It Takes" (Columbia)

Forgettable romantic teen comedy in which a socially awkward boy and a popular high school jock hatch a plan to woo their respective dream girls. As directed by David Raynr, the "Cyrano de Bergerac" imitator lacks any original spark with its predictable plot and strained comedic efforts. Several sexual references, adolescent drinking and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Jubilee of Women

ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Gathering at the well

I have vivid memories from my childhood of waiting impatiently in the car after church each Sunday for my mother to "stop talking" so that we could go home, change into more comfortable clothes and eat some lunch. My father, brother and two sisters usually joined me in this waiting, while Mom, oblivious to our scowling faces and growling stomachs, chatted with friends and acquaintances for what seemed like hours (but really was only 20 minutes or so). We were hungry. After all, it had been some time since breakfast!

Now that I'm a mom, I realize that my mother was hungry, too — hungry for conversation and friendship with other women. She spent her weekdays taking care of the needs of four children, a house and her husband. On Sundays after church, she decided to spend a little time caring for her own needs.

I've come to this realization because I am now doing this to my own husband and children. The children are not old enough yet to go sit in the car by themselves, but they are old enough to tug on my arm and give me subtle hints like, "Mom, let's go! I'm hungry!"

I am not alone in this. On several occasions I have observed other people, sitting in cars and looking dejected, while a family member chats, blissfully unaware of what time it is.

I am also part of a long tradition. My grandmother loved going to church. She especially needed this outlet, because in addition to taking care of four children, a house and a husband, she also cared for her mother and her mother-in-law who lived with her at different points of her life. My mother says she never had to eat her peas because her paternal grandmother would step in, saying, "You know that child doesn't like peas!" I'm sure my grandma needed that time at church more than most of us do!

Of course, the tradition goes back much further than that, to biblical times when women journeyed twice a day to the village well to draw the family's water supply. This was their meeting place, their time to chat with friends. I wonder if their families ever had to wait a few extra minutes for the evening meal!

The well was also the place where Jesus met a Samaritan woman, asked her for a drink of water, and then told her about the living water that would give her eternal life (John 4:5-15).

These days we don't have to travel for our daily water. It comes to us. We still, however, come together for the living water that is our sustenance.

The Church is our well. It gives us the strength to go on with our daily lives. It brings back our focus — the proper perspective with which to look at our day-to-day problems. It saddens me that there are families who feel they can do without the comforts that loving God and being involved at church can bring. They feel it is not worth the time and effort, or maybe their shyness holds them back. But, they don't realize that the friendships formed at church can be deeper and more satisfying than all others because we have our belief in God in common. Indeed, these relationships

GATHERING AT THE WELL, PAGE 15

The pope's message from the Holy Land

The papal reign of Pope John Paul II has been truly remarkable. The depth of his faith, the breadth of his hope and the inclusivity of his love have been inspiring. His fidelity to the Person and message of Jesus has been apparent for all to see. For twenty years the Holy Father has led and guided the Church with conviction, commitment and courage. He has exemplified consistently the meaning of the message he shares so often, "Don't be afraid."

Recently, as we know, the Pope experienced a personal, spiritual journey to the Holy Land. He visited as a pilgrim longing to be refreshed and renewed as a disciple of the risen Christ, to be strengthened and sustained as God's faithful servant. During that unforgettable week, he spoke as a prophet proclaiming the relevancy of God's Word to every aspect of the human condition.

As we listened to or read the magnificent messages that Pope John Paul II shared at the shrines and sacred sites, we were touched by his absolute belief that the message of Jesus Christ supercedes and overcomes racial, ethnic, territorial and political realities and boundaries. The heart of Christ cannot be contained or controlled by narrowness of vision or smallness of mind. The Gospel of Jesus is a gift intended to speak loudly and clearly to human life and relationships; to penetrate and permeate the human mind and heart; to transform the attitudes and actions of its hearers.

When the Holy Father visited with the Israelis and Palestinians, he came with a message of peace, hope and reconciliation. He urged them to hear and heed the call of the passionately present God, to appropriate and cultivate a spirit of mutual respect and common responsibility. The Pope was well aware of the long-standing disputes and divisions among these people. He recognized that they were based upon a merely human interpretation of tragic events and inhuman experiences. The message of the Holy Father, however, was rooted in the spirit and vision of the Lord. All are God's children regardless of the conflicts and tensions apparent on the territorial, communal or personal level.

The Season of Lent

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Pope John Paul II reminded his hearers and all of us that in praying the "Our Father," we acknowledge not only our personal identity but our mutual responsibility to extend God's Kingdom of peace and justice, compassion and forgiveness. As God's children we are to be agents of reform, renewal and reconciliation. If we are faithful to our common vocation, we cannot be mired in the muck of pride and prejudice, isolation and orientation. As we open our hearts to the Father of us all, we have no reason to fear. In witnessing to His presence in our lives we are to choose life rather than death, love rather than hatred, peace rather than violence, solidarity rather than separation, hope rather than despair.

The message of the Holy Father during his sojourn in the Holy Land is universal. Its comfort and challenge cannot be contained. As the Lenten season unfolds and we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, each of us should reflect prayerfully upon the wondrous words of the Pope. In appropriating their spirit, we shall be more ready, willing and able to witness to the Resurrection and its power in our lives.

Father James Hawker is vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org. We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

Gay and Lesbian ministry and schools

We are indeed called to "open wide the doors to Christ to anyone and everyone" as Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is quoted to say in the article "Gay and Lesbian ministry and the school system" (Feb. 25, 2000). No small part of loving our brothers and sisters is to educate and instruct them — especially our youth.

Although the article did not distinguish, I pray that the teachers and members of the Diocesan Commission for Ministry to the Gay-Lesbian Community make clear to all that God loves the sinner, but not the sin. We are all sinners, and though Jesus embraces us anyway, he also says "Go [and] from now on do not sin." (John 8:11)

The article briefly quotes the Catechism by mentioning that "homosexual persons are called to chastity" (CCC 2359). Of course we are all called to a life of chastity (controlling our sexual desires) according to our vocation — be it marriage, a single life or a celibate religious. This is not a message of hatred, but of love, since "homosexual activity prevents one's own fulfillment and happiness by acting contrary to the creative wisdom of God" (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons, 1986, no. 7.)

Father McCreesh says in the article "We cannot tell homosexuals that they do not belong to the church and are excluded and hated by God," but the church doesn't hate or exclude. If anyone said these things to a homosexual person, then they were misrepresenting the church. If so, indeed, this jubilee year is a great occasion to beg forgiveness for these misunderstandings and say that we welcome you, we love you, and together let us pray to God our Heavenly Father, for love, acceptance and the courage to fulfill His will.

Cheryl Bohlen, *Charlotte, NC*

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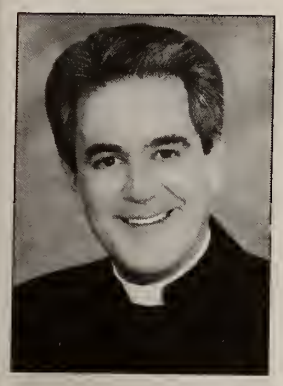


Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

"Such a beautiful death"

A lot of wonderful folks took the time to let me know how deeply affected they were by my recent column, "A Death in the Cathedral." Among them was one letter which I must share — a handwritten "thank you" from Ruth Otto. She is the widow of Ray Otto, the man who died of a massive heart attack while attending a Mass I was celebrating at Saint Patrick's in New York City.

The column described how a capacity crowd of worshippers at the Cathedral was suddenly drawn into Ray's death vigil. It was a holy day celebrating the Virgin Mary's unique role in our salvation, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It was as powerful an experience of communal prayer and reflection as you can imagine.

Ruth explains that she received copies of my column from friends around the country: "You touched a lot of people. My husband was a wonderful man, and God certainly was very good to give him such a beautiful death."

Such a beautiful death. Those words tell you that this is a woman of extraordinary faith. In the midst of the alarm and anguish of that chaotic moment at St. Pat's, Ruth graciously blessed and inspired all of us with her assurance that Ray couldn't be in better hands or in a better place.

And there are more blessings to report concerning the events of that fateful day because we touch each other in so many ways. As Ruth explains, "I have so many people to thank. Two people came from nowhere and did CPR on Ray until the ambulance arrived, one a nurse, whose name I didn't get, the other a doctor from Fort Smith, Ark. His name is Dr. John Swicegood. He was on vacation in New York and attending Mass and came to Ray's aid and did all he could to help him, but Ray was dead already.

"Then there was Father John Fraser, a priest assigned to the Cathedral, who rushed to the hospital and comforted me with his heartfelt prayer.

"Loria Russo, a woman who was at the Mass, sat with me all day until my family came for me. When she learned that Ray and I had been to the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall, she arranged for her daughter, Nicole, who had a friend at Radio City to have all the Rockettes sign the program from the show. Nicole framed it and sent it to me.

"Then there were all those people at Mass who were praying for me and Ray. It was very comforting. I was all alone, but I know God always gives you the strength to go on."

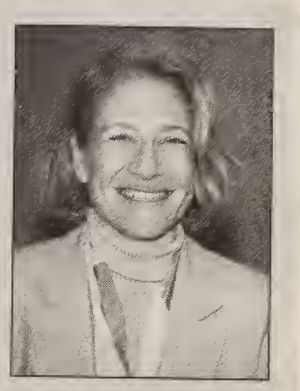
Indeed. Strength came through the kind help of complete strangers. Ruth Otto's letter of thanks confirms the meaning of an old Irish greeting I regularly use to welcome out-of-towners to Mass: "There are no strangers here at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Only friends who have not yet had the opportunity to meet."

And it is also true, Ruth, that all of us who unexpectedly came to know you have been equally strengthened. Your love for your wonderful Ray and your faith in God at a time of unspeakable sorrow gave witness to that joy no one can ever take away.

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Planned Giving



CINDY RICE
Guest Columnist

What your endowment will do

Endowment funds are growing in popularity as more and more donors discover the remarkable benefits they provide. Perhaps you have even thought of creating one of these funds yourself. Your endowment, should you establish one, will accomplish many things. Here are just three to consider:

1. Your Endowment Will Endure

Diocesan Foundation endowments are like artesian wells; they never run dry. That is because our policies prohibit us from spending the principal. Only the income can be used to meet the purposes of the endowment.

For example, let's say you create an endowment to provide assistance to your parish or Catholic school. Once established, your endowment will generate financial grants every year to that entity. Even after you're gone, your endowment will live in perpetuity. A hundred years from now, parishioners and students will benefit from your prudent planning and generosity. This enduring quality makes endowments the perfect tool to create a lasting legacy.

2. Your Endowment Will Enable

Regular cash gifts to your parish or the diocese certainly help us meet our financial obligations. But what happens when the donor dies? Or what if these cash gifts are not so readily available in lean years? Because of their enduring quality, endowments enable us to plan ahead with confidence. We can project endowment income and develop programs accordingly.

Sometimes our donors create endowment funds to enable us to accomplish things we would not ordinarily be able to do through normal budget channels. For example, an endowment may provide ongoing resources for such things as priest retirement, seminarian education, refugee support or social justice outreach.

Your endowment will enable the Catholic Church in Western North Carolina to be a stronger, more viable organization both now and in the future.

3. Your Endowment Will Inspire

When you establish an endowment, you inspire your Catholic community. That is, you deepen our financial foundation and lift us higher in the minds of fellow Catholics. Through your endowment, you say, "This is an organization worthy of my resources. I expect the Church to be fulfilling its mission far into the future."

Your prudent and forward-looking decision encourages us and challenges us to honor your "investment." Inspiration spreads to your family as well. Your children and grandchildren have added reason to appreciate their Catholic heritage. The ongoing impact of your endowment reminds them of who they are. It lifts their own sights and inspires a benevolent spirit.

Your endowment will do more than endure, enable and inspire. Call me for information on ways you can establish an endowment in The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, at (704) 370-3320, or write to me at the Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Cindy Rice is director of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Celiacs and reception of the Eucharist

Q. I have read your two recent columns in our Catholic paper about eucharistic bread. In some ways I feel sad that so much attention is given to the form of the bread. As a person with celiac disease, who can eat nothing made of wheat, I realize people should be grateful just to receive Communion. It is apparent from our support group that celiacs are finally managing to get diagnosed. When there are enough of us, maybe some way will be found for us to be among those called to the supper of the Lord.

Some time ago you suggested that celiacs could receive Communion from the cup only. A friend asked her priest to do that and was told, "We will not serve wine in this parish." Others don't even seem to believe they receive Communion unless they receive the host.

I feel better at least having unburdened myself about the plight of celiac "second-class citizens" in the church. Is anything being done to help?

A. As one who is blessedly spared from this disease, I had no idea how many celiacs there are, many of them Catholics with the same dilemma you have. Even a tiny bit of wheat (or rye, oats, barley and other grains) can, in many cases, be dangerous for those who have it.

Obviously, for them the Eucharist is but one of many daily challenges, but that one is a major spiritual concern for any Catholic, since bread must be made of wheat flour to be valid for celebration of the Eucharist.

Some efforts are under way to find a solution. A possible alternative presently being worked on is spelt flour. Spelt ("triticum spelta") is a grain related to wheat, but digests differently from other flours in that it doesn't stay in the digestive tract as long. For some this may eventually be a solution, if it meets the conditions.

A group of Benedictine sisters in Missouri, who bake Communion hosts for hundreds of parishes, are working with specialists to produce a low-gluten or gluten-free wheaten flour.

In a letter on this subject to the American bishops (June 19, 1995), Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, again affirmed that bread from which all gluten is removed is not valid for the Eucharist.

If enough gluten remains to permit the making of bread, however, such flour could be used for Communion. Low-gluten hosts, containing only about 13 percent of normal gluten, are available now.

I return, however, to what I've said on this subject before. The most obvious solution is to receive Communion only under the form of wine. A lot of people are still under the impression that unless one receives the host, one does not receive Communion. That is wrong.

It is Catholic doctrine, and always has been, that Jesus is no more or less present under the form of wine than of bread. I have heard even priests occasionally speak of ministering the "cup" with the precious blood, and then of ministering "Communion" with the host. Both are equally holy Communion, whether received separately or together.

Two sources of information on what is being done to deal with this problem are the Benedictine Sisters of Clyde, Mo. at (800) 223-2772); and the Institut Voor Doven in the Netherlands, who supply Catholic distributors in the United States. The number for their host bakery is 011-31-735-588434.

Rumor about nonexistent FCC petition circulating again

By MIKE KILLEEN
Catholic News Service

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — The rumor that will not die about a fictitious Federal Communications Commission proposal to limit or ban religious programming on television and radio is circulating again.

According to e-mails and letters sent to a few St. Cloud diocesan offices, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, a self-proclaimed atheist, is asking the FCC to consider limiting or banning religious programming. The letters say that O'Hair has been granted a hearing to discuss that proposal.

In addition, the FCC has received mail claiming that O'Hair filed a formal petition (RM-2493) calling for an end to religious programs on radio and television.

The rumors — which have also been reported in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Diocese of Belleville, Ill., in recent weeks — are untrue, according to a statement on the FCC Web site (www.fcc.gov).

In fact, O'Hair has been missing since 1995 — the victim, authorities believe, of foul play.

"There is no federal law or regulation that gives the FCC the authority to prohibit radio and television stations from presenting religious programs."
— FCC Web site statement

"There is no federal law or regulation that gives the FCC the authority to prohibit radio and television stations from presenting religious programs," the Web site statement says. "Actually, the Communications Act (the law that established the FCC and defines its authority) prohibits the FCC from censoring broadcast material and interfering with freedom in speech in broadcasting.

"The FCC cannot direct any broadcaster to present, or refrain from presenting, announcements or programs on religion, and the FCC cannot act as an arbitrator on the insights or accuracy of such material," the statement adds. "Broadcasters, not the FCC, nor any government agency, have the responsibility for selecting the programming that is aired by their stations."

According to the statement, the rumor has circulated periodically since 1975.

"The fact that the FCC has been forced to set up a Web site to deal with it states how problematic it is to them," Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, associate director of communications for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said by phone from Washington.

She told the St. Cloud Visitor diocesan newspaper that her office has received calls from around the country regarding the rumor and refers people to the FCC's Web site.

"This is the first time it has risen up in a few years," Sister Mary Ann said. "It's out there now. All of the sudden, we've had a spate of calls."

Why does it happen? "They (the rumors) make it into the national folklore. I guess I don't know why it happens. I guess people believe ... it seems feasible, and it's something that would just send them over the edge. It captures people's imaginations," Sister Mary Ann said.

The petition quoted in the letters and e-mails — RM-2493 — was actually filed in December 1974 by Jeremy Lansman and Lorenzo Milam. They had asked, among other things, that the FCC inquire into operating practices of stations licensed to religious organizations. The Lansman-Milam petition was denied by the FCC on Aug. 1, 1975.

"Since 1975 to the present time, the FCC has received and responded to millions of inquiries about these rumors," the FCC's statement said. "Many efforts have been made by the FCC to advise the public of their falsehood."

The rumor "wastes a lot of time," said Sister Mary Ann, adding that "if people are putting their efforts here, they're not putting them" in other important areas.

O'Hair and two of her adult children vanished from San Antonio in 1995. Last December, a federal grand jury indicted a Michigan man on charges of kidnapping O'Hair, resulting in her death. Her body has never been found. ▼

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Choir Director, Part-time: St. Barnabas Catholic Parish in beautiful western North Carolina (680+ families) is seeking a practicing Catholic to direct our music program. Applicant to have: experience in liturgical music and a working knowledge of Church documents on liturgy and music; keyboard skills - organ and piano; skills in choir directing. A college degree in liturgy, music or related field preferred. Responsibilities include: working with pastor, staff and liturgy commission; fostering parishioner participation; coordinating music and volunteer musicians for all liturgical services, primarily for our three Masses each Sunday and Holy Day; directing the adult and youth choirs; working with cantors and musicians; collaborating with an independent folk group. Salary: $10,000 - $12,000 range plus some benefits. Call Mary Ann Demelfy (828)684-6098 or write to the address below for a job description. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, c/o Fr. Roger Arnsparger, St. Barnabas Catholic Parish, P. O. Box 38, Arden, NC 28740.

Director of Faith Formation: St. Philip Neri Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, a growing Catholic parish of 700 families in the suburbs of Charlotte, North Carolina, is seeking someone to direct its parish formation programs. This person would be responsible for directing K-High School, RCIA, and developing an adult education program. Person should have a master's in theology, at least three years' experience, and three written recommendations. Person needs to recruit and train catechists and have good managerial skills. Send resume plus references to Search Committee, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill, SC 29715.

Director of Life Teen Ministry: Vibrant, 4,000-family parish seeks a full-time director for one of the largest Life Teen programs in the country. Principle responsibilities include assisting with the Sunday evening Life Teen Mass, directing the Life Night program that reaches 200-300 high school teens weekly with creative catechesis about the Catholic faith, and supervising a Core Team of 25-30 adult volunteers. The Life Teen Director is also responsible for preparing high school teens for the sacrament of Confirmation. Preferred candidates should have education in ministry or theology, prior experience in youth ministry, and a heart for sharing Christ's love with young people. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Contact Liz Riegel, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, NC 27513 (919) 468-6134; lizriegel@hotmail.com

Director of Religious Education: St. Jude Parish, Radford, VA, is seeking a full-time director for its religious education program, involving development of catechetical programs Pre-K through 12, sacramental preparation, adult education, RCIA within both parish and campus, catechist formation, and other related areas. Qualifications include: committed Catholic lifestyle, master's or certificate in Religious Education or equivalent background, with strong interest in liturgical development. Available July 1. Application deadline: May 1. Contact. Pastor, St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073; phone (540)639-5341; e-mail: Rjudgerad@aol.com

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline April 21, 2000.

In-home or Skilled Nursing Care: Henderson/Transylvania/Polk Counties. All workers with Personal/Professional Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurances and FBI checks. Licensed through Raleigh, NC. Please call (828) 696-0946 - COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS, INC.

Liturgy/Catechumenate Director/Adult Formation Coordinator: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established process that seeks further implementation of the Re-Membering Church. Parish in initial stages of learning Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church (1 year old) with excellent worship space (with adult immersion font). Need help in maximizing the full potential of the abundant gifts present in this community. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30, for position July 1.

Maintenance/Custodial: St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, NC seeks a full-time 2nd shift maintenance/custodial employee. Must work independently performing various custodial and maintenance duties. Salaried; hours 2 - 10pm. Retirees welcomed. Reply to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or FaX:(336) 273-0199.

Music Ministry Director: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established program that includes hand bells, pipe organ, grand piano, tympani, etc. Select music for liturgies; direct/develop traditional and children's choir; coordinate with contemporary choir. Parish in initial stages of implementing Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church with excellent worship space. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30; Position available July 1.

Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church seeks energetic, motivated individual for full-time position in 1,100-family parish. Successful candidate will build upon a well-established program. Responsibilities include planning and directing music for weekend liturgies, weddings, funerals, etc.; directing adult and children's choirs; developing cantors. Keyboard skills required; knowledge of other instruments helpful. Competitive salary and benefits. Position available Summer 2000. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory,NC 28601.

Teacher, Middle School: St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, NC seeks reading/language arts teacher, 8th-grade homeroom. Must be practicing Catholic with NC certification in the field. Experience preferred. Benefit package included. Send resume to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax (336) 273-0199.

Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, English, Social Studies, Drama, and Religion. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Request application from: Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Teaching Assistants, Full-time: St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, NC. Middle school, technology, and grades 4 and 5. If interested is working in a faith-oriented environment, contact: School Office, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax: (336) 273-0199.

Toddler Care Provider: Winston-Salem. Professional couple seeking an experienced, caring adult to care for a toddler part-time. Excellent pay ina warm and comfortable home. Non-smoking and references required. Transportation required. Please call Rhonda at (336) 922-1649.

Tutor: For a special needs child. Winston-Salem. Tutor needed to join team of people in a home school for 3 1/2-year-old girl. Will train extensively. No experience necessary, but a love of children is a must. Six-month minimum commitment. Call (336)922-2997 and leave message.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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Gathering at the well,
from page 12

are a gift from God to us. We need to remember this, take the time while we are there to cultivate those friendships, and look for more ways to become involved in our church so that our relationships can grow.

So, instead of spending time waiting in the car, or leaving immediately after church, why not take a chance and join us at the well? I think you will find that you have forgotten your hunger, and found something far more valuable. I promise that your lunch will still be there when you get home, and it will taste much better when you eat it!

Ellen Neerincx Sigmon is a correspondent for The Catholic News & Herald.

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Supreme Court rules on immigrant detention, welfare cases

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court on March 27 rejected the appeal of a man who has been detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Florida since 1997 pending a deportation order. The court also refused to hear the appeal of a group challenging a 1996 law that cut off welfare benefits to legal immigrants. In that case, the court left intact a 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that found a 1996 law cutting legal immigrants off from food stamps and other welfare benefits to be constitutional.

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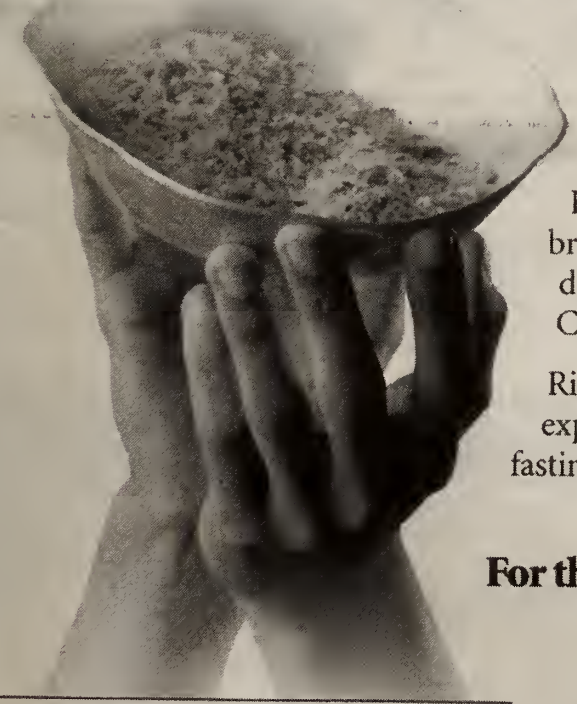

More than half of the world's population is surviving on less than one bowl of rice each day.

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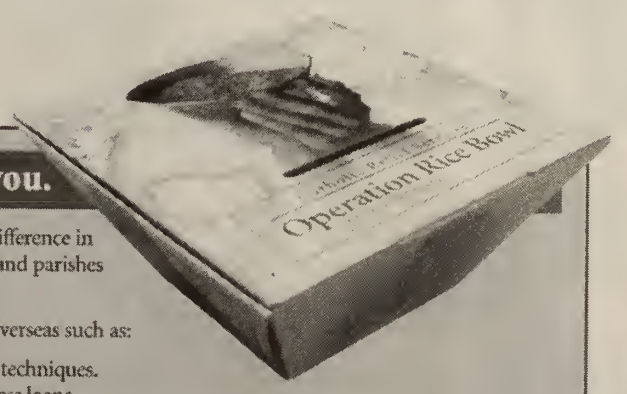

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Brevard parishioner inspired by Day's example

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

BREVARD — There are people who come into others' lives — miraculously, in person, or through the printed page — who, by what they say and who they embody, call people beyond themselves, closer to what God would have them become.

Connie Nash, a soft-spoken Brevard homemaker, writer and social activist, found such a person in the late Dorothy Day, who has been voted by Catholic scholars as the most important Catholic lay person of the 20th century.

"Through Dorothy Day's writings and journals, I learned that Christ's love for the disinherited is the core of the Gospel," said Nash. "No human being who has ever lived on earth is less than loved by God.

"Christ came to love the poorest of the poor, the most voiceless, the most angry, the most evil. Christ came for the least among us."

Dorothy Day, a Catholic social reformer, was one of those persons whose life touched the Church in significant ways. Her tireless work among the poor, the laborers, the disenfranchised, as well as, in picket lines, peaceful demonstrations and the Catholic Worker newspaper, left an indelible mark on the Catholic understanding of works of mercy.

Day lived in community with the homeless at Hospitality House, which she and Peter Maurin had begun in the slums of New York and became the model for Catholic Worker houses across America, according to Nash.

"Through Dorothy Day's writings and journals, I learned that Christ's love for the disinherited is the core of the Gospel. No human being who has ever lived on earth is less than loved by God."

— Connie Nash

There she came to know and love the disinherited from the streets, breaking bread and delighting in their personal histories, sharing in their problems, joys and gifts. Taking her cue from Christ himself, she found no one unlovable.

Like Day, Nash and her physician husband have chosen to embrace a lifestyle in solidarity with the poor. Early in their marriage, they were missioners to Nigeria. They live in a modest home and work in a modest office. Of their four children, three were adopted.

"My greatest joys have come from sharing community with people, including our own children, of different races, ethnic backgrounds, social classes and countries," said Nash. Indeed, the Nash residence has housed many people with nowhere else to go. Their dinner table has always been ready for the unexpected guest.

"Instead of staying within the protected church institutions, Day and Maurin embraced the suffering in the streets inspired by Christ himself," said Nash. "They provided a vehicle for lay people to minister to the poor in a way that had only been done historically in American Catholicism through the religious orders."

Photo by Dianne Riggs

Connie Nash, a fairly recent convert to Catholicism, says she was influenced in part by Dorothy Day. She and her husband have chosen to embrace a lifestyle in solidarity with the poor.

Nash attributes her fairly recent conversion to the Catholic Church (she is a member at Sacred Heart parish in Brevard) in part to Day's influence.

"Dorothy Day, like me, had the intuition that the best place for her to blossom was within Catholicism," said Nash.

Day had an enormous respect for the Sacraments, hierarchy, basic doctrines and spiritual life of the Church. She was also an avid reader of the Bible, said Nash.

Day brought Nash another realization: that much beauty and treasure is to be found in the hearts and lives of those who are shy or can't get out of their home, or whom others might pass by as inconsequential.

"Sometimes the most dear and compassionate are without the resources we think are essential," said Nash.

"Dorothy Day thought we needed to be creative and original in living out the Gospel in our own place in history — following the lead of the Holy Spirit," said Nash. "She was unafraid to do what she believed in, even if she was the only one doing it."

Following her mentor's lead, Nash began an AA-like group for black alcoholics in her town. She held day camps and motivational groups for high-risk youth, both boys and girls. "Dorothy Day showed me that if you see a need and your heart is in it, just do it," Nash said. "You only need your heart and God — and then go and do."

At present, Nash is hard at work seeking the abolition of the death penalty, through writings, demonstrations, friendships with victims' families and friendships with death row inmates and their families. She is also writing a novel corresponding to the above.

"One of the most glaring instances of the disinherited of our culture today is the growing prison population," said Nash. "We're hiding our mistakes, our problems — ones we don't want to look at. We're executing the least salvageable, and we think by this, we can erase our society's mistakes." ▼

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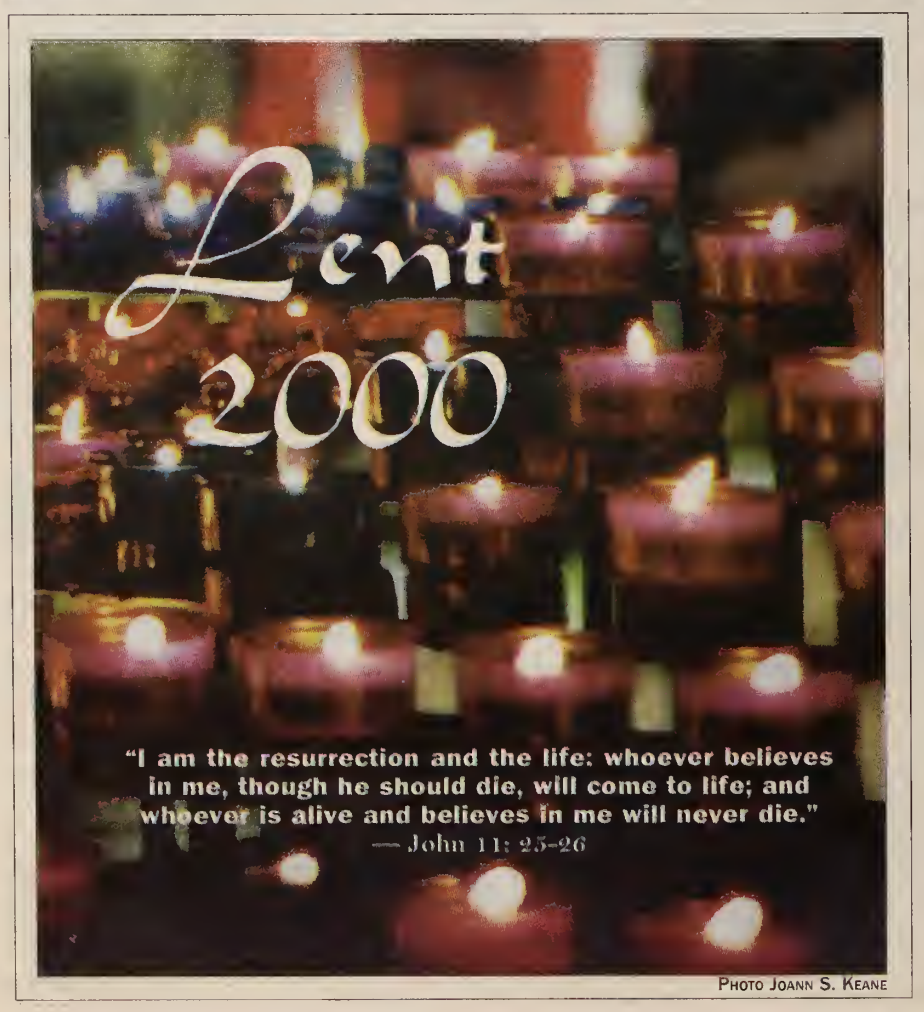

Photo Joann S. Keane

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 7, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 31

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Aging with Grace

Special supplement to The Catholic News & Herald on Retirement, Healthy Living and Seniors' Contributions to Our Church and Community

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Mother & daughter tea party in Clemmons

Rosemary Killion shares a smile with her three daughters, Kathleen Boss, Rosemary Killion and Suzanne Fudge, during a tea party at Holy Family Church in Clemmons on April 2. Moms and daughters of all ages from Holy Family and other nearby parishes and locales gathered for tea, conversation and camaraderie. Tuxedo-donned Knights of Columbus served the ladies at the annual event.

Catholic Social Services presents ninth-annual Beatty Award; annual gala ascends with Wings of Hope

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — In acceptance comments of Catholic Social Services' annual award, Mecklenburg County manager Gerald G. "Jerry" Fox drew parallel to a prayer of the late Dorothy Day with a community where he sees needs.

His timing was impeccable. Last month, the Vatican approved opening the cause for Day's canonization, while a recent news report called her ability to see Jesus in the weakest of his brothers and sisters and her realization of the call to right injustice an inspiration to the world. In her lifetime, Day worked tirelessly for justice.

In her prayer Embracing the Outcasts, Day petitioned God to "help us to embrace the outcasts of society."

"Where in Charlotte-Mecklenburg do we find those in need of embracing?" was the rhetoric posed by Fox. For the outcasts of society, Fox suggests compassion.

In further alliance with Day's prayer for the people, he pointed to a need to break down barriers that divide a growing disparity of wealth within the community [and nation]; crossing the thresholds of prejudice; and feeding each other in the likes of senior nutrition sites, soup kitchen, homeless shelters and in schools.

Not unlike the Catholic Social Worker who died in 1980.

Nearly 400 CSS staff, civic and community leaders, family, friends and associates of Fox attended the April 1 Wings of Hope reception and dinner at Founders Hall in the Bank

See BEATTY AWARD, page 4

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Jerry Fox, this year's recipient of Catholic Social Services' Beatty Award, smiles as Bishop William G. Curlin congratulates him.

Vatican installs metal detectors around St. Peter's Square

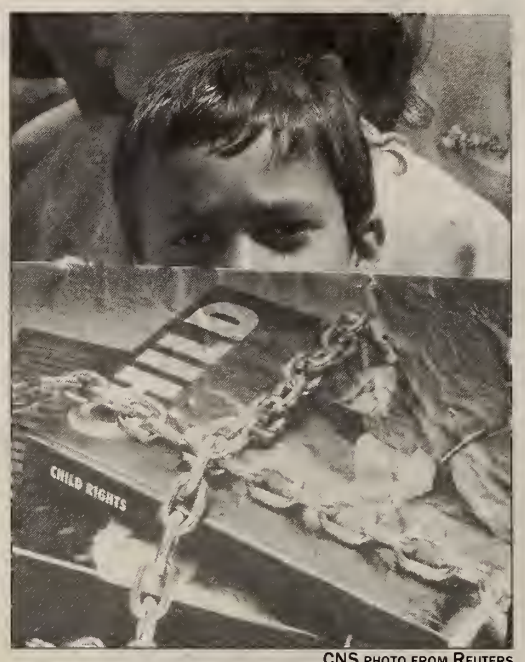
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Significantly raising its security profile ahead of the arrival of Easter Week pilgrims, the Vatican installed airport-style metal detectors and X-ray machines around St. Peter's Square. The new security measures were expected to be operational as soon as technicians finished testing the equipment, said Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman. No specific threat had prompted the changes, the spokesman told Catholic News Service April 3. Italian police officials, responsible for security in St. Peter's Square, had asked for the devices because of larger-than-usual crowds of pilgrims in the jubilee year, he said.

South African bishop urges continued aid for Mozambique

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A South African bishop said it was crucial "that there is the political will to keep aid flowing" to Mozambique so that people there can rebuild their lives after severe flooding. "There is concern that, when the cameras go, the help will stop," said Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg, who heads the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference's justice and peace commission. He said many of the land mines laid in Mozambique during a 16-year civil war that ended in 1992 might have been displaced by rushing floodwaters, increasing the danger to people returning to their homes.

Irish prelate urges disassociation from Magnificat Meal Movement

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Archbishop Desmond Connell of Dublin urged Catholics to disassociate themselves from the Magnificat Meal Movement and its Australian founder and leader. Archbishop Connell repeated the views expressed by Australian Bishop William Morris of Toowoomba, who launched an investigation into alleged visionary Debra Geileskey and into her movement, which claims to have thousands of members in 62 countries, including Ireland, where there are at least 300 members. Geileskey visited Ireland in late March. Based in Australia at Our Lady's Mount in Helidon, a small town about 60 miles from Melbourne, some of the movement's members dress in habits and describe themselves as "slaves of the Eucharist."



Childrens' rights demonstration in India
A boy demonstrates for the rights of children near the India parliament building in New Delhi April 3. Hundreds of freed child laborers and children left out of school took part in a campaign organized by the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude. They were calling for basic education for all children.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

East Timorese refugees must be allowed to return, says bishop

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — The 100,000 East Timorese refugees residing in Indonesia-controlled western Timor must be allowed to return to their country and not be forced to resettle in other parts of Indonesia, said Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili. "No forced resettlement must be permitted. I know that many want to come home, and they have not yet been given the freedom to do so," Bishop Belo said. The bishop called on the international community to pressure the Indonesian government to not resettle the East Timorese should the refugees not leave the camps in western Timor by the end of March. Indonesia has said that it would cut off all humanitarian aid to refugees March 31.

Supreme Court tackles prayer before football games

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court, having barred organized school prayer from public school classrooms and graduation ceremonies, must now decide if it will allow student-led prayers over the public address system before football games. In oral arguments before the court March 29, most of the justices seemed hesitant to allow this now-suspended policy of a pre-game invocation in a Texas school district to resume. The court's ruling on the case, which is expected by early July, could have a significant impact in the ongoing debate over religion in public schools.

Successor to Archbishop Tutu urges moral responsibility

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — "Seek 'ubuntu.'" This was the message Anglican Archbishop Winston Hugh Njongonkulu Ndungane of Cape Town, South Africa, brought to Worcester State College. Loosely translated, "ubuntu" means to have compassion and fairness and to have good morals — themes the archbishop explored March 21 as guest speaker at the college's annual Academic Honors Convocation. "With ubuntu as your guide in life you won't make big bucks," said the archbishop, successor to Archbishop Desmond Tutu. "But all of us will become richer. You will satisfy your most essential self. And we will share together in the fulfillment of humanity."

Denials of genocide are 'madness,' says editor of new encyclopedia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Whether a denial of genocide is rooted in malevolent bigotry, opportunistic gain or popular skepticism, it "is madness to begin with," said the editor in chief of a new two-volume "Encyclopedia of Genocide." "It appeals to everything ugly or violent, just as genocide, Holocaust, is madness," said Israel W. Charny in a March lecture at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. He is executive director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem and professor of psychology and family therapy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The encyclopedia was published in December by ABC-CLIO.

Sri Lanka bishop, at rally, appeals for end to 17-year war

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Bishop Thomas Savundaranayagam of Jaffna called for an end to the 17-year war in Sri Lanka at a peace rally in Jaffna attended by 6,000 people. "The conflict has been going on for many years with suffering increasing year by year," said Bishop Savundaranayagam, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The bishop urged all concerned leaders to stop hostilities and war, to seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict and to ask for a third party to help in the peace process. "While we earnestly desire for peace, let us ask what we ourselves can do to bring about peace," he told the mid-March rally organized by the Peoples' Committee for Peace and Goodwill in collaboration with at least 60 organizations.

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Editor. Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail. catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 11 — 7:30 pm
- Meeting with leadership of Catholic Relief Services
- Penance Service
  Belmont Abbey College

April 12 — 1:30-3pm
- Catholic Social Services Elderly Housing meeting, Pastoral Center
- Friends of Seminarians
  Program and dinner, Greensboro

April 13
- Bishop Curlin's 6th anniversary of installation as Bishop of Charlotte
- Attending Bradley Institute "Preaching the Easter Lectionary"
  Belmont Abbey College
- Mass for Catholic Seniors
  Diocesan Spring Fling
  Catholic Conference Center

Diocesan planner

April

9 CHARLOTTE — The choir for the diocesan Chrism Mass on April 18 at 11 a.m. is rehearsing this afternoon and April 16 from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. Today's rehearsal is being held in the church office on Buchanan St. due to today's charismatic Mass also being held at 4 p.m. All choir members and singers from all areas of the diocese are invited to be involved in the Chrism Mass choir. For more information, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, music director, at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 22.

10 CHARLOTTE VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 10 - St. Mark Church in Huntersville at 7 p.m., April 11 - St. Matthew Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 12 - St. Peter Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m. and St. Vincent Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 13 - St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m., April 15 - St. Joseph Church in Charlotte at 1 p.m., April 16 - St. Ann Church in Charlotte at 4 p.m., April 17 - Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., and April 18 - St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m.

11 WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 11 - Christ the King Church in High Point at 7 p.m., April 14 - Holy Family Church in Clemmons at 7:30 p.m., April 17 - St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m., and April 19 - St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m.

13 CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., is presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," being held in the school's gymnasium tonight at 7:30 p.m. There will be

Shelby seniors find fountain of youth

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SHELBY — As the years go by, many people dream of the day when they can step off of the beaten path to explore the woods around them. Retirement — a period of rest, a time to travel and a reward for working. However, many wonder what they can do after leaving work permanently. This is not the case for seniors from St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Church in Kings Mountain, involved in an organization that keeps them feeling "young at heart."

"Even though I am retired, I still stay so busy. I wonder how did I get everything done when I was working," joked Sylvia Kaiser. "Now, I can do the things I like doing."

After meeting with the diocesan Task Force on Aging in 1997, out of which diocesan Elder Ministry was created, Louise McMurry brought the idea of beginning an organization for seniors in their parish to a steering committee made up of Sylvia Kaiser, the current chairperson, Ann Quire, Yvonne Nuhrah, Bill and Kathy Campbell, Velma Skibo, Evelyn and Bill Hill, and Pat and Dave Hobart, explained McMurry.

One of the objectives of the task force meeting was to identify and work to service the needs of seniors in each parish, said Sandra Breakfield, diocesan director of Elder Ministry.

"We in Elder Ministry work as a support to parishes in forming, promoting and nurturing elder groups as we help them assess the needs of elders in their parishes and look with them for ways to address those needs," continued Breakfield.

The nameless group from the Shelby parish and mission started having meetings in 1998, and a year later, Dot McNamara, one of the current committee members from Christ the King Church, came up with the title "Young at Heart."

"We are a senior citizen group, yet we are young in our hearts," said Dot McNamara. "I certainly don't feel old."

Courtesy photo

St. Mary Church and Christ the King Church parishioners participate in the Soup and Substance program on March 22. The Young at Heart group sponsored the Wednesday night Lenten event.

"We are a senior citizen group, yet we are young in our hearts," said McNamara. "I certainly don't feel old."

"Young at Heart" is for men and women age 60 and older; it serves as a time for the area's older Catholics to socialize and evangelize. The 14-member committee helps to plan the events and serve as advisors. The group is still in its early stages but has plans for more activities and events.

"Everyone really enjoys it, and we do things in the middle of the day because it is so much easier to travel," said McMurry. "We would rather eat a big meal in the middle of the day, and nighttime driving is difficult."

During the first year, there were spiritual and social gatherings, but as the numbers grew, Kaiser noticed a pattern. "I have heard from people in my age group and older that they want to relax and have a good time now that they are retired. People want friendship and socializing; they want to have fun now, but they also want to enhance their spirituality" she said.

She and the committee members have started sending invitations to the parish seniors to inform them of diocesan and parish-level events. "Invitations make people think of a party," added Kaiser.

The numbers have grown over the past few months through the efforts of the committee. They have sponsored the parish "Soup and Substance" program and have participated in the Day of Reflection in Hickory and will be attending the Spring Fling in Hickory. They took part in the Stations of the Cross on Ash Wednesday with lunch afterward and had a soup and sandwich luncheon with door prizes and bingo and a coffee and dessert social.

"I am really pleased that people are interested, and there is a great appeal in our parish to have the get-togethers," said Quire, one of the committee members. "We did a survey to ask about people's hobbies and interests, and we are working to organize groups according to similar interests."

Some of the groups already in place are golf and bridge, and upcoming groups will include crafts and travel.

Committee member Evelyn Hill said, "This gives us an opportunity to keep in touch with people in our own age group in the community and in church. We can also enhance our spirituality, even at our age."

McMurry is pleased with the growth of the senior group and the presence of couples. "This is one of the few organizations in which couples work so well together. There is a lot of husband and wife teamwork," she said.

As for what keeps these seniors feeling young at heart, Kaiser and McMurry said their grandchildren keep them feeling youthful, while McNamara said the ordinary things make her happy. Pat Hobart sweetly admitted that her husband and her good marriage have a lot to do with her staying young at heart. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

dinner theater April 14 at 7:30 p.m. and on April 15 at 6 p.m. For tickets and other information, call Jennifer Johnson in the school's alumni office at (704) 543-9118.

14 CHARLOTTE — The Living Stations, a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross with narrative, reflection and inspirational music, is being presented at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 8 p.m. tonight. The presentation is free and is offered as a prayerful way to begin Holy Week. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having a spring and summer children's clothing sale today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and April 15 from 9-11 a.m. There are select half-price items on April 15 and many bargains on both days. Call the church office at (336) 778-0600 for more information.

15 GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., is having its first annual Easter egg hunt this morning at 11 a.m. in Lindley Park on the Market St. side. The parish Moms' Group, Family Life and Youth Ministry are sponsoring the event for children ages one to six, who should try to bring baskets or containers for eggs. Call the parish youth ministry office at (336) 274-3766 to leave your name and the number of children participating in the hunt.

16 ASHEVILLE — The youth pilgrims from the Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., are going to World Day XV in Rome, Italy, in August 2000 and are offering donation tickets for an Italian, handcrafted Santini Pieta. The deadline for tickets is today, and the winner will be announced tomorrow. For details about tickets and other information, call the parish faith formation office at (828) 252-8816.

18 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

19 CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is having "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

20 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is taking place in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717.

Ongoing

BRYSON CITY — St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., opens its thrift shop every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (828) 488-2266.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford County Division, recently received its national charter. With fifty members at present, they are looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them. Meetings are evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., is presenting "Jazz Dance 2000," featuring the music of the school's jazz band, swing dance instructions and food provided by Pasta and Provisions. The event is open to all adults and high school students and is being held May 6 from 8-11 p.m. For advanced tickets, available until April 14, call Helen Katz at (704) 370-0019.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Sister Genevieve Noonan dies at age 81

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Sister Genevieve Noonan, a Daughter of Charity who spent 12 years ministering to the poor in Greensboro, died on Feb. 14, 2000, at Villa St. Michael, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul province's retirement residence in Emmitsburg for the elderly and infirm sisters. She was 81 years old, and she was a Daughter of Charity for 62 years.

A native of Richmond, Va., Sister Genevieve was born on Jan. 16, 1917. She entered the Daughters of Charity in 1937. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph College in Emmitsburg in 1950, and a master's degree in religion from LaSalle College in Philadelphia.

Sister Genevieve spent 60 years as a Daughter of Charity serving the poor and homeless in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts. She was stationed at St. Mary Church in Greensboro during her 12 years in North Carolina, and she was quoted in a 1987 Portsmouth, Va., newspaper article to say that she considered the Greensboro residents she knew as her family.

While most of her career was in social ministry, she also served in pastoral ministry and as a teacher in numerous elementary schools in the province. From 1987-97, she served at Immaculate Conception Center in Baltimore in parish ministry and as director of outreach. In her desire to serve and be of service to the poor and homeless, Sister Genevieve lived the charism of the Daughters of Charity.

Sister Genevieve Noonan

A wake service was held at Villa St. Michael Feb. 17, and a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Feb. 18 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

A daughter of the late John Joseph and Genevieve Bozzelli Noonan, Sister Genevieve was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister. Her nearest living relative is a niece, Patricia Kirkpatrick of Fairfax, Va.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters Support Fund for the Elderly and Infirm, 333 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. 21727. ▼

Beatty Award, from page 1

of America Corporate Center in Charlotte.

Fox, who will retire this fall after four decades of civil service — including 20 years as a county manager — is a member of St. Peter Catholic Church, where he serves as lector and eucharistic minister. He is a member of the Diocese of Charlotte's Vision 2000 committee and the Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue, and he works with Habitat for Humanity.

Fox and his wife, Dee, are parents to three sons and one daughter.

Under Fox's administration, Mecklenburg County received national attention as an All-American City in 1990. Mecklenburg is one of 12 counties nationwide to maintain a AAA bond rating from two rating agencies: Standard & Poors, and Moody's.

The Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award — established in 1991 — is presented annually to an individual whose strong religious faith promotes effective church and public service in Mecklenburg County.

The late Colonel Beatty served as a U.S. Army Officer in three wars. He was involved in textile, trucking and warehouse industries. A Knight of Malta, Beatty delivered hot meals to shut-ins until his death at age 89.

Fox was introduced by last year's recipient, Jan Valder Offerman, and joins a line-up of former recipients: Diane English, Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, Peter Keber, John Engler, Ray Ferris, Chuck Grace and Jim Babb.

This year's CSS gala was renamed Wings of Hope. Along with a new name, a change in format and venue fell into place. The former dinner and presentation were revamped, adding a silent auction and live entertainment.

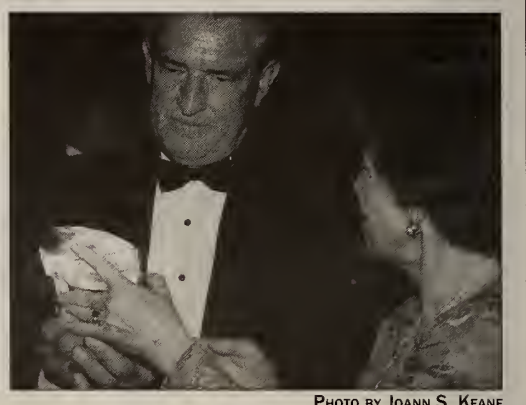

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Jerry Fox shows the Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award to CSS advisory board member Gail Grim.

Fox thanked the Beatty family for establishing the award, and Catholic Social Services for their selection. Moreover, he thanked those in attendance, "because in the final analysis, its [CSS] success depends on you." ▼

Contact Editor Joann S. Keane at (704) 370-3336, or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Dr. Paul Wadell to present at Oratory

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Dr. Paul Wadell is the speaker for the "Visions in Faith" program this June at the Rock Hill Oratory. The annual conference on faith and doctrine is scheduled for June 11-14 at the Pope John Center at the Oratory. "Friendship in the Christian Life" is the topic for Wadell's examination of the moral life for contemporary Christians. "It will examine both what it means to think of the Christian life as a life of friendship with God, and why so much of our own moral and spiritual development takes place in the deepest and most lasting of our lives," Wadell said of the program. "Attention will also be given to what this model of friendship means for the church today, and the virtues such friendships both require and encourage."

Paul Wadell currently teaches theology at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wis. He taught Christian Ethics at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago from 1983-97, and his articles in the moral field are widely published. He is the author of four books, and he earned his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"Visions in Faith" is a yearly gathering for continuing education in doctrinal and moral faith. The course especially enriches the ministries of teachers, preachers and those involved in faith formation, parish, campus and social ministries. The seven sessions are offered in late afternoons, from 4-5:30 p.m., and evenings, from 7-9 p.m.

For information on registration, tuition, and room and board options, contact The Oratory, Center for Spirituality, Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., or call Sarah Morgan weekday mornings at (803) 327-2097. ▼

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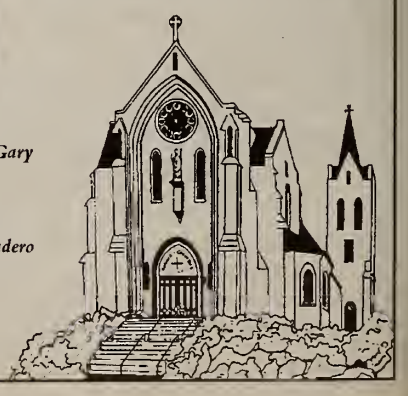

Pilot praises priest's airborne medical ministry in Tanzania

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Wayne Collins has seen the world — twice when flying his single-engine plane around the world, and several other times when taking trips across the ocean.

One of the most impressive places Collins has visited is the jungle of Tanzania, where physician-priest Father Pat Patten runs the Flying Medical Service.

"The work they're doing there is fantastic," Collins told the St. Louis Review, archdiocesan newspaper. "You should see how much good they are doing."

Collins, a 75-year-old Texan, delivered an airplane to Father Patten in January. Collins is a volunteer pilot with Wings of Hope, a St. Louis-based nonsectarian organization that refurbishes planes for bush-type flying.

Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis had blessed and dedicated Father Patten's Cessna 206 after the plane was rebuilt and modified at the Wings' hangar at Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield.

The next step was for Collins and Bill Bancroft of Madison, Wis., 67, to fly the plane halfway around the world on an 11,000-mile trek.

The pilots took a northern route to avoid areas over Africa where permission to enter the air space is routinely denied because of civil wars or security concerns. The two men flew to Maine, then on to Newfoundland. From there they went southeast to the Azores for an overnight stay on the island of Mallorca. The next day they continued east to the Greek island of Crete, then turned south to Luxor, Egypt, then to Djiboubti, and across Ethiopia to Nairobi, Kenya.

Father Patten met the pilots when they arrived in Nairobi. Collins returned with the priest to his medical service headquarters outside of Arusha, Tanzania.

"I wanted to spend time in Tanzania to see the areas he's serving, to see where the Matzi tribe is," Collins said.

CNS PHOTO FROM ST. LOUIS REVIEW

Bill Bancroft of Madison, Wis., and Wayne Collins of Mineola, Texas, pose in front of a single-engine plane before taking off from St. Louis in January. They made a 11,000-mile trip to Tanzania to deliver the plane to a priest working with Flying Medical Service.

Father Patten and his two volunteer pilots fly doctors to health clinics and hospitals, covering some 35,000 square miles in northeast Tanzania. The clinics are next to airstrips built by the priest's organization.

Collins said he was impressed with the work at the clinics, especially the prenatal care for pregnant women and inoculation programs. Measles kills about half of those who contract it.

"If they inoculate 500 children, they save 250 lives," Collins said. "That's how dramatic this kind of work can be."

Collins described a day flying with the medical crew. They went to two clinics and treated about 60 patients. Four people were transported to the hospital and a woman and her two babies released from the hospital were flown back to their village.

Father Patten and his pilots "fly an unusual amount — way above most planes doing this kind of work," Collins explained. "They're short hops, often 20 or 30 minutes, but it would take days by foot."

Some trips are for medical emergencies, such as the time Father Patten's quick response saved the life of a girl. Her head had been crushed when she was attacked by a hyena. She is expected to make a full recovery, Collins noted.

The priest's work is linked closely with the Arusha Diocese. The medical service compound is on 12 acres and includes a school, where tailoring, masonry, carpentry and mechanics are taught. Collins, who is not Catholic, attended Mass celebrated by Father Patten.

Collins has retired "two or three times" from retail and banking businesses in Mineral, Texas. Even now in retirement, he is as busy as ever as a volunteer with Wings of Hope and is proud to serve the organization.

"If I wasn't impressed with the way they maintain their planes I wouldn't fly them," he said.

Wings of Hope has about 175 volunteers, many of them McDonnell-Douglas retirees who have been around aviation nearly all their lives.

Collins' next trip is expected to be across the Pacific. "They said stand by," he said. ▼

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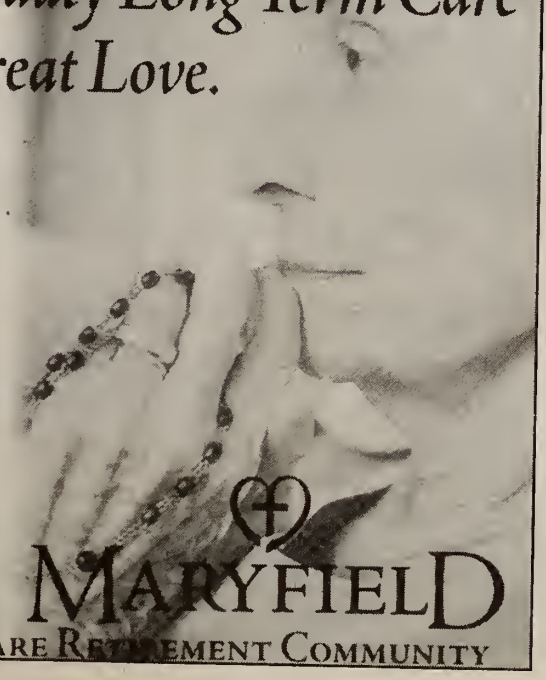

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Word to Life

April 9, Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B Readings:

1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
   Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15
2) Hebrews 5:7-9
3) Gospel: John 12:20-33

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

Crystal goblets sparkle expectantly on the counter. The host stands unsteadily on a stool and reaches into the depths of a high cabinet.

The wine had been a gift from a knowledgeable and generous friend, its label bearing dignified testimony to its excellence. After suitable expressions of gratitude, it had been put away for a special occasion. Many had come and gone, but none had seemed fully worthy of such fine wine. Now the moment is here, and the host smiles to think how pleased the guests will be.

The bottle is carefully lifted from its dark haven and brought forth. The host wipes off accumulated dust, then draws the cork.

Open at last, the wine is allowed to "breathe" for a bit, then ceremoniously poured into waiting glasses. The diners lift them to the light, swirling the red wine, and a noble toast is offered. They drink.

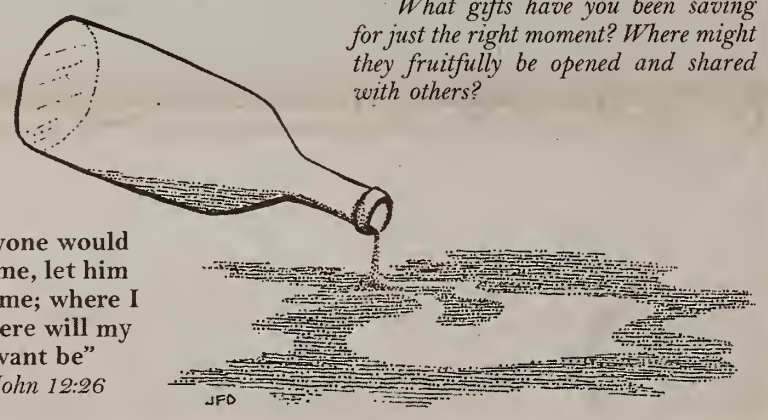
Their faces tell the tale. Involuntarily cheeks twist, and eyes shut, and lips purse at the sour taste in their mouths. The glorious wine, so carefully saved for just the right moment, has gone bad. The guests swallow it courteously and try to return their faces to neutral. No one wants more.

Jesus warns us in today's Gospel that a grain of wheat — or a gift for service or a life of faith — finds its purpose only in the death-defying act of being buried, immersed in the tomb-like confines of ordinary earth, ordinary life. Only in being spent does the gift bear fruit.

The supernova of Easter light is visible only after the Good Friday darkness of disappointment, rejection and loss endured for the sake of love. May our impulse to hoard our gifts, to prize security over discipleship, not blind us to Christ's invitation to follow him through the sorrow of the cross to the glory of resurrected life. ▼

Questions:

What gifts have you been saving for just the right moment? Where might they fruitfully be opened and shared with others?



"If anyone would serve me, let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be"
— John 12:26

Devotional Bible for Catholic women to be published

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (CNS) — A new devotional Bible especially for Catholic women will be published in September by Zondervan Publishing House in Grand Rapids.

The more than 1,700-page "Catholic Women's Devotional Bible," which will sell for $24.99, features 260 daily meditations drawn from classic and contemporary sources.

It also includes 52 meditative weekend devotions that summarize a week of devotions and encouraged an activity designed to help the reader apply a biblical principle to her life.

Its editors hope the Bible will aid in answering women's questions about a number of everyday life issues including their relationship with their spouses, raising their families, career pressures, and finding personal fulfillment.

Ann Spangler, general editor of the Bible, said women today want to understand the roots of their faith and their own spirituality.

"In Catholic circles over the last 20 years there has been a huge increase and interest in spirituality, as evident in the expansion and variety of books and other resources now available," she said. "But no such Bible has been readily available to Catholic women to encourage and strengthen readers in their pursuit of holy and godly living."

"Catholic Women's Devotional Bible"
Edited by Ann Spangler
$24.99, Zondervan Publishing House
(Due in September)

"Catholic Women's Devotional Bible" is written in the New Revised Standard Version translation, is tied to the Catholic Lectionary, and will include a Catholic imprimatur. ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 9 - 15, 2000

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45; **Monday**, Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday (St. Stanislaus)**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Pope Martin I)**, Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Abstinence)**, Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday**, Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

Readings for the week of April 16 - 22, 2000

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), John 12:12-16, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47; **Monday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Holy Thursday**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Good Friday**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Holy Saturday**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Mark 16:1-8

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April 7, 2000

Aging with *Grace*

Special supplement to The Catholic News & Herald
on Retirement, Healthy Living and Seniors' Contributions
to Our Church and Community

CNS PHOTO BY MIMI FORSYTH

Ways to be useful in retirement

By VICTOR PARACHIN
Catholic News Service

When a young mother died giving birth to her third daughter, there was no one in the family able or willing to take care of the three girls. While other family members hesitated, one woman — the 83-year-old great-grandmother — came forward to open her home to them. She lived another 16 years, dying at age 99, but living long enough to parent each of those girls into their teen years.

That remarkable "senior" citizen is an inspiring example of the reality that there is more to retirement than golf games, rocking chairs, television viewing and boredom. Today, more and more people are living longer, healthier lives than ever before in our history.

With many experiencing good health and financial stability, retirees today are ready for interesting, challenging and meaningful pursuits.

Here are some ways to live a retirement that is both useful and busy with a purpose:

• Become a person of regular, disciplined prayer. While Christians are called and urged to be persons of prayer and while prayer is an indispensable part of Christian living, many people experience difficulty finding time for prayer. Retirement, bringing an end to rigid schedules determined by outside forces, provides more time for prayer.

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

Retirees often have the time and talent to pursue community activities like neighborhood beautification projects.

Offer yourself and your day to God's holy use. Mornings, for example, speak of praise, wonder and gratitude, while the mid-day is an ideal time to pause, pray, reflect on God's love, goodness and guidance. The evening can become a sacramental time when one can whisper "thank you" messages for the blessings of the preceding 12 hours and can ask for forgiveness for mistakes and/or missed opportunities.

• Become a "prayer warrior," championing the cause of the sick, the anxious, the grieving, the troubled by bringing them and their issues before God in prayer.

• Let your retired life be a blessing upon others. Be creative and intentional about letting your life become a source of blessings upon other lives. Consider ways in which you have had a real impact on people's lives in the past and how you can draw upon those experiences to do so in retirement.

• Clean up the environment. Caring for the environment is one way in which one person can have a significant effect to help reverse decades of pollution, neglect and abuse. One retired couple walk four miles every morning beginning at 5:30. As they walk, one of them carries a large trash bag while the other picks up trash and litter they find on their route. Caring for your property and lending a hand when neighborhood beautification projects come up are other ways to make a positive impact on the area living space.

• Provide practical help to your children and grandchildren. Take an interest in and discuss ways in which you can provide material and emotional support to the next generations. Many retirees spend time caring for grandchildren on a full-time or occasional basis, providing needed care where no other exists or a needed and appreciated break to the parents. Yet, the most important element is the sharing of life that seniors have the opportunity to with young people, to the enhancement of both generations.

• Utilize your life experience by volunteering your time. There are many civic and religious organizations which seek to serve others, but must do so with limited funds. There

CON'T NEXT PAGE...

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The Little Flower chapel

Bishop Curlin visits with resident, Mary Sharpe.

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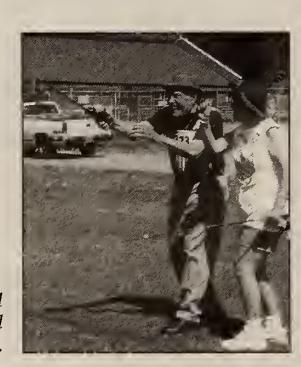

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- Coach athletic teams
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen
- Mentor young people
- Tutor struggling students
- Teach the skills you have
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Shelve books at the library
- Join community programs like "Big Brother" or "Big Sister"

is an overwhelming need for help and always a desperate shortage of volunteers for the many organizations devoted to helping others. Usually no experience is necessary and many organizations offer training when necessary.

Here are just a few ways retired people are making a positive impact by volunteering their time: reading for the blind; coaching athletic teams; feeding the hungry at soup kitchens; mentoring young people; tutoring struggling students; being a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister"; teaching quilting, cooking, sewing or other skills; staffing an animal shelter; shelving books at the public library; and, being a docent at a museum or zoo.

Other volunteer options an be explored through your church, senior center, hospital, family service agencies, Catholic Charities, or nursing homes. Keep in mind that you have much to offer and that volunteering provides you with an opportunity to make new friends, stay connected and make a positive impact on other lives.

Finally, when considering ways to have a successful, creative and meaningful retirement, be guided by this wisdom from Gen. Douglas MacArthur: "Nobody grows old by merely living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair." ▼

Plan ahead to ensure milestones are memorable

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

Too often the lament is uttered, "Oh, we only get together at weddings and funerals."

It doesn't have to be that way, as there are plenty of milestones that are occasions for getting together and sharing memories and good times. If you want others to share in your joy, you can plan ahead to ensure that your joy will spread to others. Sometimes, others will do it for you.

When my mother celebrated her 65th birthday, my brother and I took charge. When an aunt and uncle of mine celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, they were the guests of honor at a surprise party.

What are some things that should go on the to-do list to make sure your celebration goes off without a hitch?

Decide what kind of celebration you're going to plan: formal or informal; sit-down dinner, buffet, pot-luck or dessert-only; several hundred in attendance or immediate family. As part of these decisions, determine the budget with which you will work. Budgetary considerations as well as the amount of help you will have to make arrangements will be major factors in determining the way you will be able of celebrate.

Identify who should be on the invitation list, those who truly will be able to celebrate the guest or guests of honor. Make sure invitations — formal or informal — are sent out with plenty of notice in order that guests may plan to attend and make appropriate travel arrangements, if needed.

Reserve the space where the celebration will take place, whether that's a hall, a hotel ballroom or the home of a family member or friend. Make sure that there is enough space for the number of people you want to attend. Remember the larger and more complex the event, the more important it is to plan in advance with enough time to secure necessary reservations.

In choosing when to hold the celebration, you have to balance the desire to schedule it on the milestone date itself and to schedule it on a day and time most convenient for the most people and/or the most important people to be present. You might want to consider holding the observance on a Sunday afternoon so attendees can go the church first or even to connect the family event to the larger Catholic community celebration of the Mass.

CNS PHOTO FROM CLEO

Gifts can range from the modest to the extravagant. For my mother's 65th birthday, my brother and I purchased her a new color television. A cousin suggested a "money tree," to which guest can attach bills of any denomination. It helped my widowed mother pay for a new roof on her house.

My uncle and aunt had their surprise anniversary recorded with a video camera and were given a gift of the tape. When they protested that they didn't have anything to play it on, they were presented with the next surprise: a television-videocassette recorder combination, for which all of the nieces and nephews contributed.

One last tip to make sure the milestone celebration will be remembered in as much detail as possible: Have available a number of videocameras and cameras and plenty of film. ▼

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Holy Thursday, April 20, 7:30pm — ***Mass of the Lord's Supper*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

Good Friday, April 21, 3pm — ***Stations of the Cross***

Good Friday, April 21, 7:30pm — ***Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

Holy Saturday, April 22, 8pm — ***Easter Vigil Mass*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*

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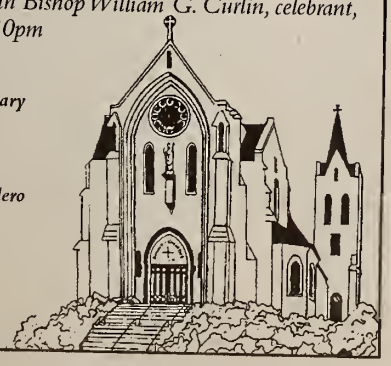

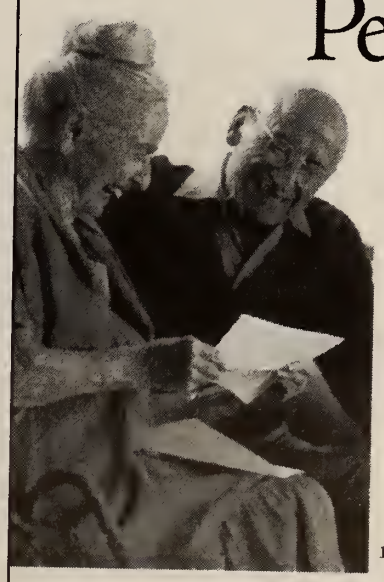

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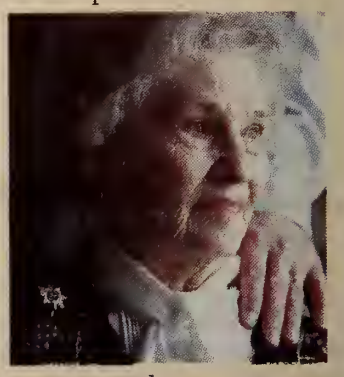

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Caution needed to play the sweepstakes game without losing your shirt

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

The oversized envelope promises riches beyond your dreams.

"Guaranteed prize winner."

"Reply immediately to improve your chances."

"Official winner notification."

What the envelope's contents won't say quite so clearly, however, is that you probably stand a better chance of being struck by lightning than of being the "guaranteed winner."

There are indeed some huge prizes being awarded through legitimate sweepstakes promotions. But, there are far more phony or, at best, misleading contests, sweepstakes and "give-aways" enticing people into buying unwanted products and sending money to scam artists.

Congress, the U.S. Postal Service, attorneys general from at least a dozen states, consumer organizations and lobbyists for direct mail businesses are among those trying to crack down on unscrupulous or outright deceptive sweepstakes programs.

In August 1999, the U.S. Senate passed a bill that would require sweepstakes sponsors to include "clear and conspicuous" messages in mailings telling participants that no purchase is necessary to enter or win a sweepstakes. Violators could face a fine of up to $2 million.

In hearings about the legislation, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said the four largest legitimate sweepstakes companies send more than a billion mail solicitations a year. Dozens of smaller companies send out an estimated 100 million more offers and take in $40 million in sales, according to Collins.

That means each year, thousands of people buy something or send in a fee they think they need to pay in order to claim a prize they believe they have won.

Ongoing lawsuits against some sweepstakes companies have highlighted stories of people who were so convinced they have won a valuable prize that they travel across the country to claim their winnings, only to learn they misread the material.

In testimony to the House Government Reform Committee, Chief Postal Inspector Kenneth J. Hunter described recent investigations into direct mail and sweepstakes companies.

Each year, thousands of people buy something or send in a fee they think they need to pay in order to claim a prize they believe they have won.

Typically, according to Hunter, the mailings came in official-looking envelopes, bearing seals resembling government emblems. Some told recipients they had only to send in a "transferal fee," "acquisition fee," "release fee," "redemption fee," or "mandatory processing fee" in order to claim their prize.

After money was sent to the "claim centers," some companies disappeared, only to reappear under other names in other states, Hunter said. Other companies create intricate rules disqualifying entrants who submit their claim in the wrong envelope, for instance.

Besides the actions Congress is taking to help protect consumers, the U.S. Postal Service is teaming up with the American Association of Retired Persons, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Attorneys General to try to make consumers more aware of how to avoid being taken in by unscrupulous sweepstakes and contest pitches, according to Hunter.

In the fall of 1999, the Postal Service was sending every home in the country a card with fraud prevention tips, including an 800 number to call and an address to write for additional information. The agencies also planned to create a fraud Web site with links to the participating organizations, and a video that would be available at 16,000 public libraries and on the Web site.

Information about sweepstakes offers from the Postal Service and the Direct Marketing Association, which represents direct mailers, include:

• Under federal law, no purchase or entry fee is ever necessary to enter a sweepstakes. The odds of winning are supposed to be the same, whether or not you purchase anything from the company.

Separate "yes" and "no" envelopes or stickers are supposed to be used by the companies to sort which entries contain an order to fill, not determine whether entries are included in the contest.

• Lotteries by mail are illegal.

• A legitimate sweepstakes mailing should include the following information: entry procedures; date the contest ends and date by which entries must be received; the number, retail value and complete description of all prizes offered; approximate odds of winning a prize; method by which winners will be selected; eligibility requirements; dates when winners will be selected and notified; information about tax responsibilities of winners; and, a mailing address for participants to request a list of winners.

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Information contained in mail-in sweepstakes packages can be confusing and misleading.

If you suspect someone you know may have fallen prey to unscrupulous sweepstakes companies, short of initiating legal action to take over a loved one's finances, the Direct Marketing Association suggests:

• Volunteer to help the person sort through sweepstakes offers. Point out that no purchase is necessary in legitimate offers.

• Offer to help the person with his or her finances to determine whether excessive amounts of money is being spent to "qualify" for contests or sweepstakes.

• Contact a consumer protection organization or group such as the AARP, which may provide volunteers for advice. ▼

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Myths about cost of health care for seniors shrouds issue's moral dimension

By AGOSTINO BONO
Catholic News Service

"Nothing is sure but death and taxes," goes a traditional American adage.

But a variation of this may be on the horizon as the United States moves into the third millennium: "Do we want to spend tax money to postpone death?"

The question arises as the ongoing revolutionary advances in medicine and medical technology prolong life but at spiraling costs, producing fears that Medicare bills will soar, burdening younger taxpayers. The issue also has its political dimensions as lawmakers debate using significant chunks of projected budget surpluses to revitalize and reform economically crunched Medicare programs.

Advocates for the elderly say that the economic and political considerations often are twisted around popular misconceptions about the Medicare costs for a graying America and their true weight in the financing of overall health care.

Often shrouded by the economics and politics of Medicare are the moral and social dimensions of health care for the elderly.

The U.S. Catholic bishops are among the supporters of fortifying Medicare.

"In this time of projected budget surpluses, I urge you to dedicate a portion of those surpluses to strengthening the financial stability of the Medicare program," said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, chairman of the U.S. bishops Domestic Policy Committee, in a July 1999 letter to members of Congress.

The cardinal's letter said improvements in Medicare are needed to foster the common good and respect for the human dignity of the more vulnerable members of society.

He asked legislators to "protect seniors and disabled recipients who have limited financial resources by subsidizing their premium contributions and copays for both current and new benefits" and to ensure that future Medicare benefits "reflect the advances in medical care, including the increased and cost-efficient use of pharmaceutical therapy, often as an alternative to expensive hospitalizations."

Patricia King, policy adviser to the bishops on health and welfare issues, elaborated on the cardinal's letter. She cited studies on the stability of health care costs for the elderly over the past 20 years.

One study, published in 1993 in the New England Journal of Medicine, found no evidence that seniors in the last year of life accounted for a larger share of Medicare expenditures than in the years prior to the rapid advances in technology.

A report published in 1998 by the Alliance for Aging Research, an independent citizen advocacy organization promoting health research on the elderly, criticizes what it calls "myths" about the high cost of Medicare programs.

Dr. Gene Cohen, chairman of the panel conducting the report, said the "myths" are being propagated as a "politics of blame" against the elderly.

"It appears that age alone is not a reliable predictor of medical-care outcomes or expenditures, nor is health care at advanced ages usually characterized by recourse to futile expensive technologies," said Cohen, director of George Washington University's Center on Aging, Health and Humanities in Washington and former director of the National Institute on Aging.

Even putting limits on health care for the elderly near the end of life would not significantly save Medicare money, said the alliance report. "If care had been cut off to the 3.5 percent of Medicare patients who were high-cost users in 1993 and who died in that year, national health care costs would have fallen only slightly, from $900 billion to $895 billion. The savings would have amounted to one-half of 1 percent of total U.S. health care expenditures for that year," it added.

The alliance report also criticized the belief that "as the population ages, health care costs for the elderly will necessarily overwhelm and bankrupt the nation."

The alliance report notes, however, that between 1986 and 2040, the United States is projected to have an increase of one-quarter of 1 percent in

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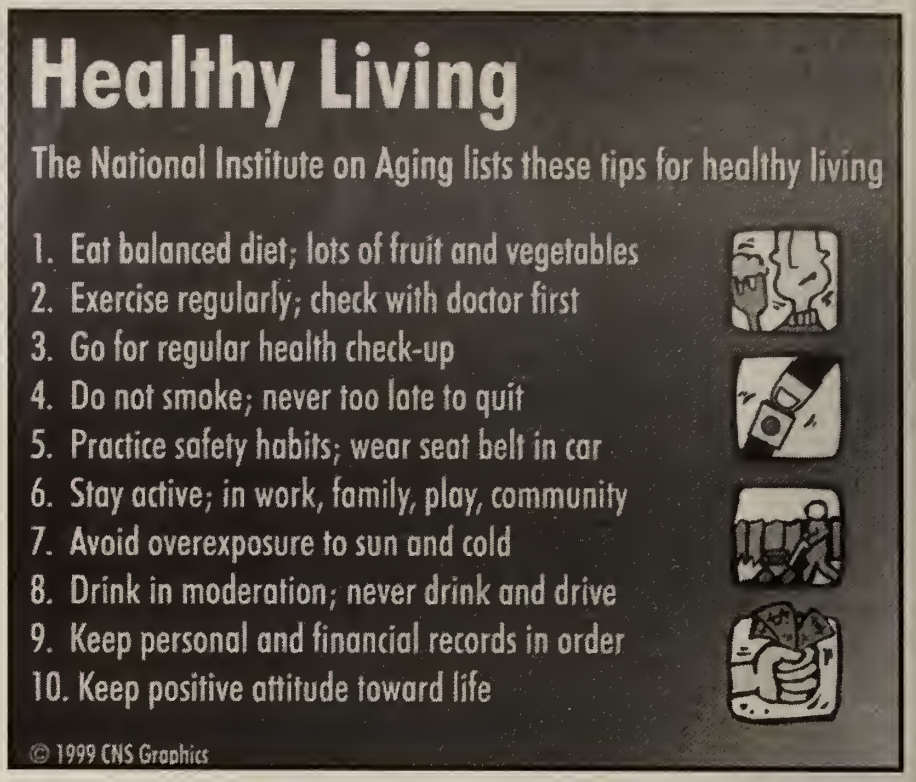

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Parish ministry to seniors urged to move beyond bingo, buses and brownies

By MAUREEN E. DALY
Catholic News Service

At the beginning of the 20th century, one in every 25 Americans was 65 years or older. Today, one in eight — a total of 34.1 million Americans — has reached that milestone. A person who reaches 65 can expect on average to live another 17 years; many live well beyond that.

How are parishes responding to this change? Is senior adult ministry just "Bingo, buses and brownies?"

While older adults do need the opportunity to socialize together, experts agree they need much more than that from the parish, and the parish should ask much more of them.

The U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Laity suggests that parish ministry to older persons be guided by these five principles:

• Older people are providers, not just recipients, of pastoral care. The parish must look beyond serving seniors to embracing them.

• Older people themselves should help identify their pastoral needs and decide how they are met.

• As seniors may differ in age from each other by more than 20 years, older people are as diverse, if not more so, than other generational groups.

• Older people need a mix of activities that connect them with each other as well as the larger faith community, and need those activities to be physically accessible to all.

• Spiritual health is affected by and affects the individual's physical, emotional, mental and social health. Parishes cannot be expected to answer these needs but they should be prepared to direct older people to assistance and to advocate for older people with the wider community.

"Senior adult ministry is going to be as big or bigger than youth ministry and we have to be prepared for that," said Richard Johnson, a gerontologist specializing in the spiritual life of older adults.

Johnson founded the Association for Senior Adult Ministry, based in Wildwood, Mo., "to raise the spiritual fare that is offered to senior adults at the parish level by providing good tools for parish ministers to work with."

The association trains parish workers "to understand senior adults' real needs on a spiritual level, to develop relationships with senior adults and to see retirement living as a spiritual journey," he said.

The organization publishes Well, Wise and Whole Monthly, which provides parish ministers with curriculum for formal classes, content for a monthly day of prayer and reflection, and literature for the church vestibule and for home visits.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has created several programs to respond to the changing population. The Elderly Outreach Program trains parish workers to provide service to older and "home-centered" persons.

The diocese's Senior Connection Collaborative was born out of an identified need for coordinated care for persons age 60 and over. The program helps older adults and their families connect with the many services for the elderly: energy assistance, meal delivery, budget counseling, legal services, transportation, home health care and other practical matters.

With the average retirement age today being 57.5 years, Johnson asked, "What are they doing with their time?"

"The culture says to them 'Go play.' But the church," he said, "should have a more challenging answer than that."

"Any church that is serious about development and evangelization needs to be serious about ministry to older adults," he said — "development because seniors hold the checkbook, and evangelization because the church has to have expectations for the armies of retiring adults who are now available to spread the Gospel." ▼

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

The U.S. bishops committee on the laity suggests that senior adults can be providers, not just recipients, or pastoral care.

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the relationship of inactive to active citizens. The report says that this is a manageable rise for a highly industrialized country experiencing economic growth and the rise is less than many other industrialized countries.

On the positive side, there are signs that medical advances and improved health practices are causing serious illnesses to drop in the elderly, which could bring long-term economic relief.

"Data from the National Long-Term Care Survey show that the prevalence of seven chronic conditions — dementia, stroke, arthritis, hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure, circulatory disease and emphysema — declined almost 15 percent among people age 65 and older between 1982 and 1994," the report said.

King noted that medical advances make possible the use of drug therapy and outpatient services for cures that before required the more costly hospitalization.

King said that any balancing act between the health needs of the elderly and the financial concerns of the younger generations must keep in mind the common good and respect for human dignity.

The struggle now is how to balance these needs and concerns, said King.

"People need affectionate caring at the end of life," she said. The common good is also served because "all of us will be vulnerable one day and have to look to the community to provide for us," she said. ▼

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Retirement planning requires preparation for future changes

By JULIE ASHER
Catholic News Service

Financial planning for your retirement means the dif ference between enjoying one's golden years and having to scrape by.

When it comes to planning, prospective retirees must prepare for an extended life span, the effects of inflation, future taxes and health costs and changes in life circumstances.

But many Americans really don't want to think about their retirement, said Louise Piazza, a senior program specialist on economic security with the American Association of Retired Persons in Washington.

"We say that people spend more time planning for a two-week vacation than they spend planning for their retirement," she said. "People tend to think they are about 10-15 years younger than they are. Baby boomers, in particular, do not want to think of themselves as retiring. To confront those issues of retirement is to say I'm getting older."

The idea of "getting a handle on your money" can be so overwhelming that many people "just don't do anything," she said, but "it's never too late to start planning."

First, to figure out how much you need to put away through savings, investments and pension funds or to determine if the money you've already socked away is going to be adequate, you need to think about the lifestyle you want for retirement and calculate what that will cost.

For example, deciding whether you want to be near a golf course in North Carolina or you would be content to have a condo in the town where you live now will "drive how much money you'll need," Piazza said.

Remember, your future will cost more. Inflation will make what you save today buy less tomorrow as prices for goods and services continue to increase.

Inflation through most of the century has averaged 3 to 4 percent a year, but it has been as high as 12 percent, said Piazza. In 1990, a pound of regular coffee cost $2.97, the average car was $15,900, and a basic home was $122,900. In 2010, the same pound of coffee will cost $6.50, the car will be $34,840 and the typical home will go for $269,300.

When it comes to planning, prospective retirees must prepare for an extended life span, the effects of inflation, future taxes and health costs and changes in life circumstances.

Piazza also stressed that longevity also must figure into your planning. People are already living far longer than their predecessors, so you may need to stretch your money out over 25, 30, 35 years.

A tool called "Ballpark Estimate" will help you calculate what you are going to need to live the way you want in retirement. It's available from the American Savings Education Council (www.asec.org).

It's a step-by-step work sheet that asks you what annual income you will want in retirement, what income you expect to receive from Social Security, employer pension, part-time income and other income sources, and what your savings totals to date. The council also offers a "retirement readiness" quiz.

Piazza said there are four main sources of money in retirement: Social Security, pensions (either a 401K or a defined benefit plan), personal savings and investments, and work.

"Within five to 10 years of retiring you should have a pretty good idea of what your monthly income is going to be from Social Security and pension (funds)," she added.

Currently Social Security pays the average retiree 40 percent of his or her pre-retirement earnings, but over time that may fall to 20 percent, Piazza noted. To find out about your Social Security benefits will be, call the federal agency at (800) 772-1213 for a free statement.

Your employer should be able to provide you with figures on what you can expect to get from your pension. If you have a 401K, Piazza noted, "you decide what to invest in, stocks, bonds, whatever, so you really have responsibility for how that is allocated."

Beyond investments in the stock market, people also need to have savings, she added. While much of the news these days about this nation's low rate of savings may make the situation seem more dire than it is, Americans clearly are spending more than they should, she added.

Another factor to consider in planning is that your needs during retirement will change. "Plan not only for that period after you retire when you're going to be in pretty good shape," Piazza said, but also for the possibility "you're going to be in a nursing home or assisted living."

Vashishta Bhaskar, a professor of finance at the Catholic-run Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, offered these tips for getting started on a financial plan:

- Make a good estimate of your net worth and do this annually as you move toward retirement.
- Get more conservative in your investments.
- Concentrate on estate planning and tax planning.
- Look at your overall insurance situation, including life, health, disability and long-term care, which "becomes more vital as you get older."
- Start to slowly move about 10 percent of your funds each year from your stock market portfolio to more conservative investments, in fixed income funds. ▼

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What's in a name? To Catholic musician Kenny D, not everything

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — So what's in a name? Easy listening music has its Kenny G. Now, contemporary Christian music has its Kenny D.

The D stands for Discorfano — a mouthful, to be sure. "My friends used to call me Kenny Disco," he said, and he uses that moniker for his personal e-mail address.

In the early 1970s, when he cut a handful of singles for Mercury Records under the guidance of two of the Four Seasons, he was Kenny Russell.

CNS PHOTO

Catholic musician Kenny Discorfano, who goes by the name Kenny D, is breaking in the contemporary Christian music scene at age 54. His debut album is titled "Do You Believe?"

But for Kenny D, it's not so much the name as it is the message in his music.

He made that abundantly clear in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service from his home in Tucson, Ariz.

"Look at the lyrics," he said, talking about his debut album, "Do You Believe?" The CD includes the lyrics to each of the dozen shimmering pop songs on it.

Discorfano's especially fond of the title track that leads off the self-produced album, which he says asks the question, "What kind of a Christian are you actually?"

He says the next song — "You Can Look It Up!" — promotes Bible study. "It's the first song I've ever heard that addresses reading the Bible," he added.

"Momma, I Love You!" is sung from the point of view of the child inside a mother's womb. Discorfano said it was "getting played a lot down South" after this year's March for Life in Washington.

He added he's getting resistance from some Christian radio programmers about "No Man Shall Ever Undo What God Has Joined Together," which deals with the indissolubility of marriage. "Some of the Protestant groups say, 'It's too Catholic for us,'" Discorfano said.

Discorfano is one of the relatively few Catholics trying to hit the big time in the contemporary Christian music industry — an even tougher nut to crack at age 54.

Having just retired as a police captain in his native Lodi, N.J., Discorfano said age isn't that much of a barrier. "Yes, to start a rock group. But not, not when you have Tony Bennett in his 70s singing pop," he said.

He also related a story about how crooner Frank Sinatra once said he wanted to retire after 15 years as a singer, "then he came back at 50 and said, 'I'm not so old after all.'"

Discorfano said he's aiming for the 30-and-up age group with his music, which is being sold by a Nashville label via the Internet.

As for concerts, he said he'd rather wait until "Do You Believe?" had sold a lot of copies, allowing him to be a headliner.

"Local performing doesn't do that much for the record," Discorfano said. "Once you get on the charts you can get on a tour. I want to wait until I can lead the chorus."

One place he said he'd like to play is Israel. He's visited three times and met Christian musicians while he was there. ▼

Kenny D's CD release is available at www.amazingcds.com.

CNS PHOTO FROM DREAMWORKS PICTURES

"The Road to El Dorado"

Tulio, voice by Kevin Kline, offers a gift to El Dorado native Chel, voice by Rosie Perez, in the animated feature film "The Road to El Dorado." Disappointing animated adventure about two Spanish con men (voices of Kenneth Branagh and Kevin Kline) who find El Dorado, the legendary city of gold, but run into trouble when the natives mistake them for gods. As directed by Eric Bergeron and Don Paul, the film has a strong cast of voices and vibrant coloring, but the story sometimes limps and the flat, formulaic music is forgettable. Mild animated violence that may scare younger children and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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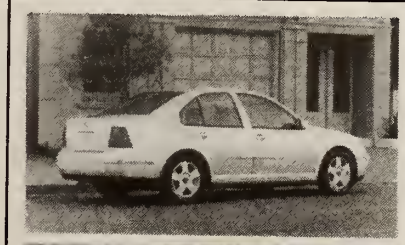

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says God wants sinners to convert and be faithful witnesses

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God does not want to destroy sinners, but to convert them, Pope John Paul II said.

Addressing members of Holy Year pilgrimages from dozens of parishes, dioceses and organizations April 1-2, the pope said, "Only those who really convert can be faithful and credible witnesses to the world.

"This is the true significance of the Holy Year," he told 6,000 people participating in the national pilgrimage of the Czech Republic.

The pope said the Czech Catholic Church, having survived the years of communist persecution, "intends to offer its spiritual treasures to all the people."

The church wants nothing more than to help people realize their dignity as children of God and to offer them guidance and spiritual support as they discern their God-given vocations, he said April 1.

"Unfortunately, a progressive secularization and a widespread moral relativism" are starting to affect not only Czech society in general, but Czech Catholics as well, he said.

Religious education programs must be strengthened, but the first line of defense is strong families that educate their children in perennial moral values, the pope said.

Addressing thousands of visitors in St. Peter's Square April 2, the pope said the midpoint of Lent is a time for Catholics to reflect on the power of God's love, rather than on their own sinfulness and need for conversion. Catholics, he said, should experience a sense of happiness and joy, which "comes from awareness of the mystery of love which is before us."

"God does not want the death of the sinner, but that he converts and lives," the pope said.

"In order to live," Pope John Paul said, "man must turn to him, must abandon the ways which degrade his dignity and return to the house of the father."

The pope prayed the rosary the evening of April 1 with thousands of Rome university students in St. Peter's Square and, via satellite link, with students at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington and at Marian shrines in the Philippines, Brazil, Portugal and Poland.

He told the U.S. students: "Continue to bear witness in your college life and in your daily activities to your faith in Christ.

"Defend and promote respect for the dignity of every human being," he said. "The church and society need such apostles at this time of extraordinary developments in the fields of information technology and bio-medicine."

The pope told the Portuguese students that they and their peers face many challenges, but also many opportunities at this point in their lives.

"Be courageous and faithful to the Gospel," he said.

The Season of Lent

SISTER ANDREA INKROTT, OSF
Guest Columnist

Holy Week in Chiapas, Mexico

Twenty-four years ago, on a hot day in mid-April, I walked down dusty streets behind a man carrying a heavy wooden cross. The town was Socoltenango in southern Mexico, and the man was a farmer from one of the parishes in which Sister Annette and I were serving as members of the pastoral team.

The farmer was wearing a crown of thorns, and along the way, he was beaten by "soldiers" carrying whips made of rope. Along the sides of the roads, many people with compassion written on their faces followed, and several men took turns helping carry the heavy cross.

The procession stopped at a doorway decorated with flowers and branches of palms and banana leaves, and the pastor announced the station and led the prayers. The choir intoned the sorrowful melody of a Lenten hymn, and the procession continued on to the next decorated doorway.

This was my first Lent in Chiapas, Mexico. It has been a memory that I have held dear ever since, because for me, it was the grace of going back to the Holy Land and accompanying Jesus as He suffered and died for us on the first Good Friday almost 2,000 years ago. What had become real to me on those dusty streets was what I had tried to imagine during the Stations of the Cross in my home parish and other parishes where I had been stationed earlier.

Twenty-four years later, I still love the ceremonies of Holy Week. They don't move me in the same way as that first Lent in Chiapas, but I believe that I have grown in the realization that the Jesus who suffered and died almost 2,000 years ago continues to suffer and die in our brothers and sisters alive in the world today.

He is humiliated in the persons who are humiliated by others because of their race or their beliefs or their status in society. He suffers in the poor and the hungry. And He dies in the persons who die because of the violence rampant in our society today.

I wonder, will this Lent touch people, especially us Catholics who have the opportunity of participating in the Lenten ceremonies so rich in tangible symbols? Will we realize that it really is the Jesus whom we know and love who suffered then and who suffers now in our brothers and sisters? As I help with the preparations for this year's Holy Week in the different parishes where I coordinate Hispanic Ministry, I like to pray that the services will be beneficial to all of us and lead us to a deeper awareness of the reality of Jesus' great and unconditional love for us.

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott is coordinator for Hispanic Ministry in the Hickory Vicariate of the Diocese of Charlotte. She ministered in Chiapas for about seven years and has served in this diocese since 1990.

The Season of Lent

FATHER JUDE DUFFY, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

Carrying the cross for others

"Is that your final answer?" is a statement that is as popular today in our country as the Golden Arches. It is a statement that could have been asked by Pontius Pilate to Jesus, but Scripture tells us that Jesus did not even open His mouth to reply. Instead, we are told He was scourged and spit upon, and a crown of thorns was placed on His head.

The longing to be a millionaire is probably in the heart of most people today. No one wants to be poor, and with the booming economy it is easy to forget that there are homeless and forgotten people. We fail so often to notice that people go to bed hungry every night, can't pay their rent, have inadequate medical attention and are forgotten. But Jesus did not forget. When He placed the cross on His shoulders, He felt the pain of all future generations and loved them with immense compassion.

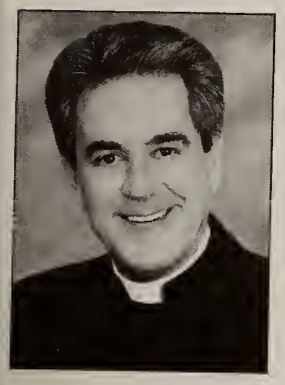
We feel so powerless, so helpless. We want to do something but are often unable. We are called upon to carry our own cross — the cross of loneliness, the cross of rejection, the cross of our own powerlessness. As Jesus carried the cross for all of us who suffer, during Lent we are reminded that we, too, can join Him in carrying the cross for others. We can suffer in solidarity with them without murmuring or complaining, but in offering it all in union with Him who told us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest."

Across the street from our rectory and church, there is a small shopping center. It houses a Laundromat, as well as a small store where people can purchase some of the small food items they need. It also has a men's club and a topless bar. On many of the nights of the week, we hear gunshots coming from that area. They tell us it is because of the drugs and prostitution in the area. I think then of the poor people who live in this area and are trapped in their homes at night, fearful to venture out.

Some years ago Leonard Bernstein wrote a musical work called "The Mass." Toward the end of the work, the priest, richly dressed in splendid liturgical vestments, is lifted up by his people. He towers high above the adoring crowd, carrying in his hands a glass chalice. Suddenly the pyramid collapses, and the priest comes tumbling down. His vestments are ripped off, and his glass chalice falls to the ground and shatters. As he walks slowly away from the debris of his former glory, we hear singing: "laude, laude, laude — praise, praise, praise." The priest notices the broken chalice. He looks at it for a long time and says: "I never realized that broken glass could shine so brightly."

It speaks of brokenness — the brokenness of our lives, the life of Jesus, the life of all those who suffer. It reminds us that we are the hands and feet and bodies of the Lord here on earth. It reminds us that as we, too, are broken and hopefully healed, we are called upon to do that for our brothers and sisters as well. Let us make ourselves a gift for others.

Capuchin Father Jude Duffy is pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Lighting a candle at work

Best-selling author Richard Carlson and I are kindred spirits. His "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff" series of books captures the heart of the Christopher credo — "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." Put simply it means that no amount of worry or complaining ever baked a cake, built a bridge or did anything positive.

At a recent taping of the "Christopher Closeup" television program, Richard and his wife Kris shared with me some of the ways "lighting a candle" can brighten all our relationships. And when our conversation turned to the workplace, where most of us spend an enormous amount of time and energy, their insights were particularly illuminating.

We talked about the simple ways in which stress and conflict can be minimized at work while bringing out the best in ourselves and others. The question wasn't whether or not stress exists in the workplace, but how we deal with it.

Richard asked me to imagine how much energy is expended in being frustrated and angry over relatively minor things. It's exhausting just thinking about it! "Now imagine," he suggested, "what might happen if you use that same energy by taking a positive approach."

Then he recounted a couple of examples from "Don't Sweat The Small Stuff at Work." "Suppose gossip or talking behind others' backs is a problem where you work. Rather than remaining resentful or frustrated that this bad habit exists, see if you can make a tiny dent in the problem.

"Gather together a few of your friends and gently bring the issue to the table. But rather than accusing anyone, focus on your own contribution. Confess that you have been as guilty as anyone else in indulging in occasional gossip, and state that you are going to make a genuine effort not to do so.

"Make your invitation lighthearted and unthreatening. There is solid evidence that people will jump at the opportunity to join you — simply because you have taken the first step."

Richard Carlson told another story about someone making a decision to change things for the better — starting with herself. Sarah, a young woman Richard met at the Department of Motor Vehicles, was the most helpful clerk he'd ever seen. People in her line moved quickly and were smiling and leaving satisfied. He asked her what her secret was.

Sarah explained, "I spent several years putting customers off with the excuse, 'That's not my department.' The truth was, at least half the time, I knew the answer to their questions and could have helped. Practically everyone in line was either mad at me or disgusted by my bureaucratic attitude.

"I became fed up with my sourpuss behavior and decided to change. I help people when I can instead of putting them off. Everything has changed — I feel better about myself, and my job is a lot more fun!"

For most of us, "lighting a candle" begins within ourselves. As Gandhi put it, "You have to be the change you want to see in the world." The good news is, when you do, your work life — in fact, your entire life — becomes more purposeful, less stressful and more fun. And you have that much less to sweat about.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

The Passion of Jesus

Andréa, our firstborn, came home after a teen session with Father Terry Tuesday evening deeply touched by what she had experienced. The teen group had re-enacted the passion of Jesus in such a way that they really "got it" this time. She said it was like hearing it for the first time. Somehow life's experiences had given her and her fellow adolescents a context in which the bogus trial, the scourge, the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus made new sense. The story reached her in a new place and touched her in a new way.

This profound revelation is just one of many she'll experience as the Paschal Mystery opens for her through the stages of life. As parents we too were touched by her newfound understanding of a story that has been told to her all her life.

We reflected on how we have come to know Jesus in small doses through our lives by way of the stories from which we come and in which we live. Some things we just can't "get" because we're not ready for them. Life gives us experiences that help us make meaning of God's story.

For example: though we may grasp the meaning of John 3:16, ("For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."), this verse took on new meaning for us when we became parents. Having a child ourselves gave us a new context in which we better grasped the meaning of God's love for us.

Andréa was moved to tears as she shared with us how she connected with the horror that Jesus experienced through the insults and mockery at the hands of the Romans. But, she really identified with the feeling of betrayal when Jesus' friends disowned him and hid as he suffered a most horrible death.

Friendship is very important to her. The adolescence stage is when we differentiate ourselves from our family. Our peers begin to take on more important roles in our lives. At this stage we experience friendships in new and exciting ways. The betrayal of friends brings a new level of pain. Jesus' friends turned their backs on him. What a horror, particularly in the context of adolescence.

Thank God the story doesn't end here. What does Jesus do after rising from the dead? He goes back to the same friends who had "dissed" him to comfort them, encourage them and give them peace. This reveals, perhaps also in new ways, how radical the gospel of Jesus is, and how God's ways aren't our ways. Most people would find new friends.

As parents we are encouraged by our children's growth in their faith. The context of family life offers us opportunities to find ever-new meaning in the Paschal Mystery through all the stages of life. Though it may never be fully revealed in this life, the Paschal Mystery's unfolding in stages make our faith journey a real adventure.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Those who leave Catholicism for another faith

Q. What is the Roman Catholic Church's policy on the salvation of those who were baptized and raised Catholic, but have left the church to practice another religion? I recall reading once that this is the only sin the Catholic Church does not forgive, or finds it difficult to forgive. Can they ever return to the Catholic Church?

A. Any sincere and knowledgeable Catholic believes that in the Catholic Church there are certain channels of truth and grace and intimacy with Jesus Christ that normally are not present in the traditions, liturgy and life of other churches.

If he did not believe this, one would assume he would belong to another church or to none at all. The same, we presume, would be true of Baptists or Presbyterians or any others who deliberately and prayerfully join another particular denomination.

Our doctrines in this matter are stated often and clearly. We believe that "the one true religion subsists in the catholic and apostolic church," and that truth imposes its demands on the human conscience "by the power of its own truth" and not by coercion. (See Vatican II, "Declaration on Religious Freedom," Art. 1, which is quoted here; and the decrees on ecumenism, Art. 2, and the constitution on the church, "Lumen Gentium," Art. 15.)

In the face of widespread and frequently vicious repression of religious freedom in the world today, however, the Catholic Church is vigorous and urgent in its declarations that people everywhere must be free to exercise their religion as they understand themselves obliged and called by God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, has this significant sentence, among others, in connection with salvation inside and outside the church: "Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded as necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or to remain in it" (No. 846, quoting the Vatican II "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church").

If you read that carefully, it states that individuals who do not believe membership in the Catholic Church is a religious obligation for them personally can be saved even if they were members of the Catholic Church but now do not wish "to remain in it."

Perhaps they were never sufficiently educated or committed in their Catholic faith in the first place. Or perhaps something happened to make them lose it. Whatever the reason, the church explicitly recognizes that in this matter the essential requirement is candor, sincerity and truthfulness by the individual before God. And that, of course, is something we cannot judge.

Pope John Paul II repeated this teaching even more plainly as recently as last year. The theme of his message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1, 1999) was respect for human rights. In the section on religious freedom, which he called the "heart of human rights," he writes that "no one can be compelled to accept a particular religion, whatever the circumstances or motives."

The inviolability of religious freedom "is such that individuals must be recognized as having the right even to change their religion if their conscience so demands. People are obliged to follow their conscience in all circumstances and cannot be forced to act against it."

Our Holy Father then refers to the Vatican II "Declaration on Religious Freedom," (n. 3) which expands broadly on the same point.

People who have left their practice of the Catholic faith are always welcome to return. It happens a lot.

Kenyan archbishop warns against repeating Ugandan cult tragedy

By JOSEPH NGALA
Catholic News Service

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Archbishop Raphael Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki of Nairobi urged the government to be on the alert for cultists who could plunge the country into a tragedy like the recent cult killings in Uganda.

Archbishop Ndingi said in early April that Kenyans should learn from what happened in Uganda, where some 900 cult members were systematically killed.

"It happened to our close neighbor Uganda, it can happen here. It has happened elsewhere," the archbishop said.

The prelate said there were so many suspicious people with misleading interpretations of the Bible who could lead others to a situation similar to the Ugandan one.

Archbishop Ndingi said that in 1998 a woman in Mwala, Kenya, was led to believe that the world was to end that May. She sold all her belongings and even withdrew children from school to stay home as they waited for the imminent coming of the Lord, which never occurred.

"It is easy for those working with the devil's power to hypnotize even the educated, let alone the illiterates like the Mwala woman. These are strong signs of what is developing in our society," he said.

Ndingi said Christians should know God does not advocate death and nobody knows when the world will come to an end.

He said all sorts of religious organizations were springing up and some of them could be dangerous. Some, he pointed out, even influence followers not to work as the world will come to an end soon and that there is no need for earthly things.

Ndingi said Christians should know God does not advocate death and nobody knows when the world will come to an end.

He cautioned Christians against running from their mainstream churches and rushing to suspicious religious organizations.

"Whereas there is freedom of worship, the government must watch out for fundamentalists who could mislead the people into committing mass suicides and murders.

"Nobody has the right to take the life of the other or influence its taking, and the government has the cardinal responsibility of ensuring that people live their full lives," he said.

Meanwhile, the apostolic nuncio to Uganda, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, confirmed Pope John Paul II's concern over the tragedy.

The pope "is very, very concerned about the unfortunate event. I have informed him," said the nuncio in Kampala, Uganda.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Prisoners dig for bodies behind the house of a leader of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments in Rugazi, Uganda, March 27. Police investigating the death of hundreds involved with the cult have discovered more graves. Hundreds died in a blaze at the cult's compound in Kanungu March 17.

Archbishop Pierre dismissed claims by cult leader Joseph Kibwetere that he had met the pope during the pontiff's visit to Uganda in 1993.

"Certainly he (Kibwetere) did not meet the Holy Father. People don't meet the pope just like that," he said.

The cult leader "should produce evidence to prove that he met the pope. We don't have any proof that he met the pope," Archbishop Pierre said.

A Uganda minister of parliament said by telephone that Kenyans, Tanzanians and Rwandans were among those burned to death or found dead in and around various properties of the movement.

Stanley Kinyata, in whose constituency the cult's Kanungu headquarters is located, said that the movement had recently opened branches in the three nations.

He said that the cult's leaders, including two suspended Catholic priests, could have hired experts in the mass murders or trained their own killers.

"They must have hired the killers. For a priest to kill these numbers of people he must be wild and crazy," Kinyata said. He suspected that the murders were deliberate and planned long beforehand by the leaders, because some of the pits containing dead bodies have been discovered inside and under houses of the cult leaders.

Police have arrested one of the suspected leaders of the cult, Joseph Settumba Ssemande, in the southwestern Uganda town of Rakai. ▼

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New chaplain expects to be 'spiritual guide' to House members

CHICAGO (CNS) — When Father Daniel Coughlin's spiritual adviser heard that he had been interviewed to become the first Catholic chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, "he just laughed and laughed," Father Coughlin reported.

"I told him, 'It's all your fault. You helped create in me an openness to God where I can say, "Do with me what you will."' Nobody, least of all me, expected this," the new House chaplain said in an interview with The Catholic New World, Chicago archdiocesan newspaper.

The interview took place March 28, five days after the 65-year-old priest was sworn in to his new post by House Speaker Dennis Hastert. Vicar for priests in the Chicago Archdiocese for the past five years, Father Coughlin served before that as director of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein, Ill.

Although Father Coughlin said he found it "kind of daunting" to be the first Catholic House chaplain in history, he said his primary role would be to serve as a "spiritual guide" for House members.

"The unique challenge in the position is that they're very public persons, they're leadership types," he said. "Sometimes people can tend to think they've got it all together or they're removed from the ordinary class of people. Ministry has taught me there's a common ground in us all."

Father Coughlin said he wasn't sure how many members of the House were Catholics.

"In truth, I approach this quite ignorant of their religious or political affiliations," he said. "I want to meet them simply as people."

The priest said he has received a warm welcome from House members and others at the U.S. Capitol. "So many of them are saying, 'I'm glad you're here and I'm so glad we're putting this controversy behind us,"' he said. "Even the staff people. The guards. ... It's been wonderful."

The priest said he has received a warm welcome from House members and others at the U.S. Capitol. "So many of them are saying, 'I'm glad you're here and I'm so glad we're putting this controversy behind us,"' he said. "Even the staff people. The guards. ... It's been wonderful."

The controversy to which Father Coughlin referred involved the nomination of the Rev. Charles Wright, a Presbyterian minister, by House leaders despite a bipartisan selection committee's recommendation of Father Timothy O'Brien, a Marquette University professor of political science.

CNS PHOTO BY DAVID V. KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Father Daniel Coughlin, newly appointed chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives, speaks to Catholic New World about his duties. Speaker Dennis Hastert named the Chicago priest to the position March 23, ending a four-month political quagmire over who would get the job.

Critics had accused the House leadership of anti-Catholic bias when Father O'Brien was not selected for the chaplain's post.

Before Father Coughlin's appointment, no Catholic had served as chaplain of the House in its 211-year history.

Father Coughlin said his primary focus as chaplain will be to serve the members of the House.

"You look for inroads, the moments when you can be with people, the glimpses into their lives, the prayer with them and for them," he said.

In his first days on the job, the Chicago priest also had discovered a prayer room in the Capitol. "It's not a chapel — no services take place there — it's just a little room for silent meditation and prayer," he said.

"While I was waiting for someone today, I spent some time there," Father Coughlin added. "In the prayer room is a stained-glass window of George Washington and all the names of the states on banners. It was wonderful for me to pray and immediately look for Illinois, and then expand my prayer to all the states." ▼

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Aug. 13-18
Aug. 20-25
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Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

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Family honors devoted Catholic through endowment

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Robert H. Moeller Sr. spent his life in women's hosiery.

Inheriting his business savvy from his father's work in the same field, Moeller Sr. and his partner Elwood Sachsenmaiere started Larkwood Hosiery Mill in 1929 at a time when mills peppered the landscape in and around Charlotte. In those days, hosiery mills were a popular resource up and down the East Coast, and Moeller Sr. had moved to Charlotte to start what grew into a successful endeavor. His beginnings, however, were not as easy to overcome, as his son Robert Moeller Jr. remembered.

After immigrating to Philadelphia, Pa., from Germany, the elder Moeller's father Hans Hinrich Moeller and several partners began a business in ladies' full fashion hosiery, but after his untimely death, the business folded. A prepubescent Moeller Sr. dropped out of school to support his mother and sisters by selling vegetables from a pushcart, and then, began attending night school to finish his education. His start in the hosiery business as a knitter came from an opportunity given to him by his father's former partners.

"Those times were rough, but my father was able to build up a reputation as a knowledgeable worker," said Moeller Jr.

Moeller Sr., his wife and family moved to Charlotte to begin a hosiery mill at the advice of one of his father's partners. Larkwood became one of three hosiery mills in the area and was the source of many jobs. Moeller Jr. recalled how the family would go with his father to the mill after Mass at St. Peter Church in Charlotte: "I would run around and play in the large bins of bagged hosiery while my father prepared the machines for the work week."

"People would come to him for business and personal advice, and the mill workers were like an extended family," said Moeller Jr. "He was known to be helpful to his employees and others in financial trouble and was a personal aide and comfort to his workers as well."

John Everett Roberts, a friend of Moeller Sr., is well acquainted with the daily operations of the mill; he worked for Larkwood for nine years and later became a mill sales representative until World War II. "My sister, who was working in the office at the time, told me how well the boys in the mill were being paid. So, I became a machine operator and was earning $50 a week, which for the early 1930s, was a good wage. Those were great years, and it was good move to work out there (at Larkwood)."

Moeller Sr. sold the mill in 1945 and remained for a year before retiring. However, to Moeller Sr., retirement — the first of three — meant finding other endeavors as the years passed. He was on the board of Holy Angels Inc. and Mercy Hospital and was active with the Knights of Columbus as a Fourth degree Knight.

"He was a generous benefactor and a wonderful, loving and generous man who was a wonderful friend to the Sisters of Mercy," said Mercy Sister Mary Michel Boulus, former president of Sacred Heart College in Belmont. "He helped to build up the nursery at Holy Angels."

Moeller Sr. was ready to lend a helping hand whenever necessary. His daughter Madeline Tyser recalled a incident when a neighbor asked her father to help to tend her yard after she observed a man she did not recognize in dirty clothes and cap in the Moellers' yard. When she asked him "how much" for the service, much to her surprise, he replied, "no charge for a neighbor."

In his later years, Moeller Sr. lived in Wesley Nursing Center, a Methodist-run facility, and even though he was treated well and was invited to the religious services at the nursing home, he missed attending Mass on a regular basis. "He thought there should be a home for Catholics and felt there was a great need for it," said his daughter Patricia Gaylord. "He was worried about other people even when he was sick."

Bob Moeller Sr. lost his third bout with cancer in 1994 at the age of 95. Gaylord remembered one of their last conversations: "Tutti (he had nicknamed her after her love of Tutti fruitti ice cream), I can't fight it anymore," he told her.

His children decided to establish the Robert H. Moeller Memorial Endowment Fund in honor of their father with the intention that the money be used in the form of grants to aid Catholic elderly and their families with assisted living program expenses. "He wanted it to be Catholic-oriented but not limited to Catholic people," explained Moeller Jr.

"My brother William Moeller, my sisters, brothers-in-law John Gaylord and Bud Tyser and I gave the money to initiate the fund. We sent letters out at the end of 1999 and received a favorable response from people he had known," continued Moeller Jr. "We four kids weren't able to support it alone, so we asked a number of people to make donations."

"I contributed to the fund because of my appreciation of Bob Sr.," said Roberts. "I saw him often in later years. At first, he was the mill owner, and I was a worker, but as time went by, we got to be such good friends."

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation, which earns interest over time. The original amount is not spent but the income can be used in the manner stipulated in the endowment agreement, said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development. The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations, he continued.

The four Moeller children are serving as advisors to a committee from Catholic Social Services, who will decide who will receive the grants.

"This is a wonderful resource for needy elderly," said Cindy Rice, diocesan director of planned giving. "This is a way to support a critical need for the church."

"The Moeller family has set up this endowment to honor the legacy of their father, and by doing so, they are able to ensure that the values that Robert Moeller Sr. lived by are handed down to the next generation," said Kelley. "More and more people around the diocese are setting up endowments in memory of loved ones." Moeller Jr. said, "It was in his nature to help people. My father came from a poor background and never forgot it, even though he became financially successful. He felt an obligation to be generous and helpful to people without calling too much attention to himself."

"It is our hope that this endowment can grow and meet the needs of Catholic seniors for help with assisted living," he added. ▼

If you would like to know more about the Robert H. Moeller Memorial Endowment or setting up an endowment, contact Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or Cindy Rice at (704) 370-3320.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

refugee, hispanic & immigration services
domestic & international adoption
counseling
material assistance
pregnancy support

Administration, Refugee, Justice & Peace, Special Ministries

Executive Director:	Elizabeth Thurbee	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3298 fax
Refugee Office:	Cira Ponce	(704) 370-6930	(704) 370-3290 fax
Justice & Peace:	Joanne K. Frazer	(704) 370-3225	(704) 370-3377 fax
Special Ministries:	Gerard A. Carter	(704) 370-3228	(704) 370-3377 fax

Charlotte Area Office
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203

Area Director:	Geri King	(704) 370-3232	(704) 370-3377 fax

Western Area Office
35 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801

Area Director:	Sr. Marie Frechette	(828) 255-0146	(828) 253-7339 fax

Piedmont Triad Area Office
621 W. Second Street, P.O. Box 10962, Winston-Salem, NC 27108

Area Director:	David Harold	(336) 727-0705	(336) 727-9333 fax

Satellite Office
Greensboro, NC (336) 274-5577

The Diocese of Charlotte Catholic Social Services

For information on the following programs, please contact the number listed below:

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Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220
Family Life	(704) 370-3250
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND
Host Homes	(336) 725-HOST
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Natural Family Planning	(704) 370-3230
Operation Rice Bowl	(704) 370- 3231
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Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Retrouvaille	(704) 544-0621
Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Widow/Separated/Divorced	(704) 370-3250

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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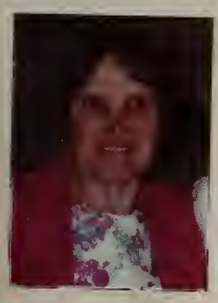

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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Good Friday in the Jubilee Year 2000:
NC Catholic Bishops Call for an End to the Death Penalty

This Great Jubilee year, a year of favor from the Lord, provides an opportunity for conversion and reconciliation, a time to open the door to Christ as He comes to change hearts, to make all things new.

It is in this Spirit of Jubilee, that on this day when we recall the execution of Jesus Christ we call for an end to the death penalty. In doing this we reaffirm the US Bishops' Conference 1999 statement, A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty.

We call on all people of good will to join us in working toward ending this cycle of violence in our state and country. The death penalty is not a deterrent to murder. Murder is a crime of misplaced passion, often fueled by drugs or alcohol and made possible by ready access to guns. The possibility of the death penalty as a punishment is never thought of in most murders. Moreover, recent evidence has revealed that innocent people have been tried, convicted and sentenced to death both in our state and across the country. The possibility that an innocent person can be executed should be enough, by itself, to cause people of conscience to stand against the death penalty.

In his pastoral visit to St. Louis in January 1999, Pope John Paul II said, "The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life; who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

This statement affirms the church's teaching that public authority should limit itself to means which do not take a life when these means are sufficient to deter an aggressor and protect the safety of persons. Today, with the advances in our penal system, such protection is available through long-term incarceration, including even sentences of life imprisonment without release.

We do not call for the repeal of the death penalty at the expense of the victims, their families or loved ones. We understand the enormous pain those close to a murdered loved one must feel. Our family of faith must stand with all victims of violence as they struggle to overcome their terrible loss and fear and find some sense of peace.

But we must understand that the violent act of capital punishment is merely vengeance, an act that keeps us as a nation steeped in violence. Please join with us to pray for a change of heart, that we may stop this cycle of violence, break the culture of death and seek justice without vengeance.

We encourage parishes and communities to hold discussion groups on the death penalty and to form ministries to provide long term spiritual and material assistance to grief-stricken families.

This is not an easy issue. All of us need to consider how we will stand up for life for all human beings, how we will stand with the victims of crime and how we can work for a society that imposes justice without violence.

+ William G. Curlin — F. Joseph Gossman

The Most Rev. William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

The Most Rev. F. Joseph Gossman
Bishop of Raleigh

For study material on the death penalty, or to find out more about working for a moratorium on executions, contact the Office of Justice and Peace, [704] 370-3225.

NC bishops in solidarity against death penalty

CHARLOTTE — Leaders of the Catholic Church of North Carolina, Charlotte's Bishop William G. Curlin and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh chose Good Friday — the day of the crucifixion of Christ — as a release date for a letter calling for an end to capital punishment.

"While Bishop Gossman and I call for an end to the death penalty in all cases in our state, we also recognize the expediency of an interim step which would establish a moratorium on executions in North Carolina," said Bishop Curlin. The bishops' letter parallels the 1999 statement issued by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops: Stop capital punishment in the United States.

"We call on all people of good will to join us in working toward ending the cycle of violence in our state and country." This plea to end capital punishment is included in the joint letter of the two Roman Catholic Bishops of North Carolina.

Theologian James J. Megivern of Wilmington, writing in the recently published Contemporary American Religion, said the shift from support of capital punishment to a rejection of it, is based on the understanding of the "dignity of human beings as the handiwork of God."

Megivern noted that after World War II, the western world began to take a different view of capital punishment. The sheer magnitude of destruction of people by the state, he said, had a major impact on the theories about the value of human life.

Soon after the war, the dignity of the human being was clearly established, said Megivern. "This cleared away the theoretical smoke screen. Capital punishment was exposed as a direct and deliberate act of destruction of human life, unnecessary [and therefore unjustified] in a modern society.

"It has long been recognized that one major difficulty inherent in capital punishment is the possibility of error," said Bishop Curlin. "We now know that in recent years 79 people [at least three from NC] who were sentenced to death were subsequently proven to be innocent and freed from death row. A mistaken infliction of the death penalty is especially abhorrent because it is irreversible." ▾

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story, along with the NC Catholic's Assistant Editor, Matt Doyle.

World Youth Day to feature papal meetings, catechetical events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year's World Youth Day celebrations in Rome will feature three encounters with Pope John Paul II, special Masses and catechetical services, and plenty of opportunities to build international friendships, Vatican organizers said. As many as 1.5 million young people are expected to participate in the Aug. 14-20 celebrations, with some arriving as early as Aug. 10 for several days of hospitality in Italian dioceses.

Pope beatifies five, including priest who ministered in U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul II beatified three religious women and two priests, including Redemptorist Father Francis Xavier Seelos, a German who ministered to immigrants in the United States. Known as an expert confessor, Father Seelos "invites the members of the church to deepen their union with Christ in the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist," the pope said. More than 40,000 pilgrims, bundled up against stiff winds and dark skies, attended the beatification Mass April 9.

Southern African bishops accuse Zimbabwe of encouraging unrest

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference accused Zimbabwe's political leaders of encouraging lawlessness in the country since white-owned farms were invaded by blacks. "We note with great regret that the political leadership of Zimbabwe has not only failed to intervene to restore order, but actually seems to be encouraging the lawlessness," the bishops said in an April 8 statement. President Robert Mugabe has called for redistribution of white-owned land to Zimbabwe's black majority, and Zimbabwe's Parliament voted April 6 to sanction the seizure of farms without compensation.

Haitian bishop rejects international pressure for elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — As the world increased the pressure on the Haitian government to organize overdue legislative elections, Bishop Willy Romelus of Jeremie has spoken out against the threat of economic sanctions. Breaking ranks with the Haitian bishops' conference, Bishop Romelus said in a local radio interview that the government and the electoral council should not heed foreign pressure to organize elections so that the Parliament can be seated June 12 if the date does not suit the Haitian government. Bishop Romelus said the Haitian government should prioritize the organization of "serious and democratic" elections, rather than rigidly work toward the June 12 deadline.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Rally in Jakarta

An Indonesian Muslim brandishes a dagger shouting "God is great!" during a rally at Jakarta's Senayan stadium April 6. Thousands of Muslims vowed to send an army to Indonesian's ravaged Molucca Islands to fight a holy war against Christians. The islands have been the scene of violent religious conflict for more than a year.

Vatican urges liturgy commission to get Psalms version off market

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Vatican official has called on the International Commission on English in the Liturgy to do all it can to halt further publication or distribution of its "doctrinally flawed" 1994 English version of the Psalms. "The text does not accurately represent the word of God and therefore risks being a danger to the faith," said Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, in a letter Jan. 14 to ICEL's chairman, Bishop Maurice Taylor of Galloway, Scotland. "Such a text is clearly no more suited for private prayer than it is for public proclamation," he wrote.

Missionary council criticizes police action against indigenous

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — Brazil's Indigenous Missionary Council criticized police action against the indigenous population of Santa Cruz de Cabralia, in Brazil's coastal state of Bahia. Representatives of the church-backed group said police destroyed a monument constructed by the Pataxo Indians on the beach of Coroa Vermelha. The beach is famous for being the location where on April 26, 1500, the first Mass was celebrated on Brazilian soil by Portuguese explorers. "It was a political statement," said the council, known by its Portuguese acronym as CIMI. "The state and federal governments are not allowing the indigenous to participate in the official celebration of the 500-year anniversary of the discovery of Brazil."

Catholics glad at registration extension, but some face problems

MOSCOW (CNS) — Catholic officials are relieved at a recent extension of the deadline for religious organizations to register under a controversial law that threatens unregistered groups with "liquidation." "It is very important for us. It means that we still have hope," said Father Krzysztof Kempa, rector of a small Catholic parish that has been consistently denied registration under Russia's 1997 religion law. An informal survey of Russia's four Latin-rite Catholic jurisdictions indicates that roughly 90 percent of the country's 200 parishes successfully obtained reregistration with the Justice Ministry under the original Dec. 31, 1999, deadline.

Pope urges U.N. to promote 'holistic vision of development'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the United Nations to promote a "holistic vision of development" in the third millennium. "The millennium just ended has left in its wake a series of unusual challenges," the pope said at an April 7 audience with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, members of the U.N.'s administrative committee and officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The pope said while challenges like war and poverty might not be new, they are different from the past, "because the world's increasing interdependence has given them a global dimension."

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

April 16 — 11:00 am
Palm Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 18 — 11:00 am
Chrism Mass: Blessing of Holy Oils and renewal of commitment of priests to their priestly service
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 20 — 7:30 pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 21 — 3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross
7:30 pm
Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 22 — 8:00 pm
Easter Vigil Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
April 23 — 11:00 am Mass
Easter Sunday
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

April

16 CHARLOTTE — The choir for the diocesan Chrism Mass, being held on April 18 at 11 a.m., is rehearsing this afternoon from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. All choir members and singers from all areas of the diocese are invited to be involved in the Chrism Mass choir. For more information, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, music director, at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 22.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 16 - St. Ann Church in Charlotte at 4 p.m., April 17 - Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte at 7 p.m., and April 18 - St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte at 7:30 p.m.

17 WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Lenten reconciliation services are being held as follows: April 17 - St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m. and April 19 - St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem at 7 p.m.

18 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

19 CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is hosting "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

20 HIGH POINT — A healing Mass is taking place in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 427-9717.

24 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer's/

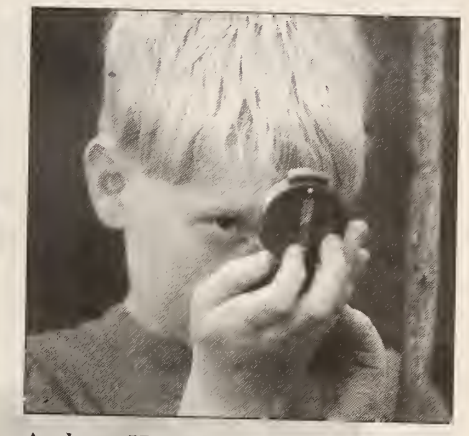
25th Annual Catholic Camporee

ALBEMARLE — The annual Catholic Camporee XXV was held on April 7, 8 and 9, at Camp Barnhardt on the western shore of Badin Lake, near Albemarle, N.C. The theme for the camporee was "The Great Jubilee/ Holy Year." Many of this year's camp activities focused on the Jubilee/Holy Year and the Catholic faith, as well as Scout Craft.

Photos by Chuck Eaton

Home on the range

Sebastian Pelo of Pack 232 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte gets help on the archery range from Mark Spisik of Pack 8 from St. Matthew Church. The Camporee was held at Camp Barnhardt on the western shore of Badin Lake, near Albemarle, N.C.



Andrew Hagopian of Troop 174 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte finds his way on the compass course.

Assistant Scoutmaster Willis Joseph helps Paul Stroud make breakfast. They are from Troop 172 of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte.

Dementia group is meeting today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities are being provided for the memory-impaired and their caretakers. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

26 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend a Mass for the deceased tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the names of the deceased so that they can be remembered at Mass.

27 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to attend a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

30 CHARLOTTE — Due to the Easter season, the monthly Ultreya for Charlotte-area cursillistas is meeting today from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., in the Fellowship Room. All cursillistas are encouraged to attend. In May the Ultreya will meet on the fourth Sunday as regularly scheduled. For more information, call Tom or Teresa Sanctis at (704) 541-6850.

HENDERSONVILLE — Due to the Easter season, the St. Francis of the Hills Secular Franciscan Order is meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the large parlor meeting room. Capuchin Father Vincent Fortunato is joining this month's meeting. In May the group will meet on the fourth Sunday as regularly scheduled. Visitors and inquirers are welcome to attend. For more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246, Barbara Carter at (828) 684-2126 or Lucy Nordland at (828) 891-8117.

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday today at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in Mass, the rosary and chaplet, followed by refreshments. For more information, call the church office at (828) 686-3243.

May

2 ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., is offering a course on the doctors, scholars and fathers of the Church. The series of classes are being held in the St. Justin Building across the street from the basilica. Tonight's class focusing on Pope John Paul II takes place from 7:30-9 p.m. Call the church faith formation office for further details at (828) 252-8816.

6 CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., is presenting "Jazz Dance 2000," featuring the music of the school's jazz band, swing dance instructions and food provided by Pasta and Provisions. The event is open to all adults and high school students and is being held tonight from 8-11 p.m. For more information, call Helen Katz at (704) 370-0019.

Ongoing

BRYSON CITY — St. Joseph Church, 316 Main St., opens its thrift shop every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (828) 488-2266.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Guilford County Division, recently received its national charter. With fifty members at present, they are looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them. Meetings are evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Ukraine native says faith helped her persevere

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — When Lucy (Oksana) Kukla shares stories of escaping the Communist regime in the Ukraine, she brings mementos of those trying times. And, she brings her Bible.

The book is a powerful reminder of Kukla's early years. "It's my treasure," she said. "I take this wherever I go. God blessed me with the strength to go on to give testimony about Him."

Kukla was seven years old when the Communists, under Stalin, took over her homeland of the Ukraine. Fleeing from the regime at the risk of starvation, her family escaped to the coal mines — the only place where her father, a doctor, was able to find work, dragging dead and injured workers out of the lower levels of the mines.

At that age, Oksana, who had never heard of God, was looking for something. "I was searching and I was questioning myself, 'Where is the good?'" she said. "'I know the evil. Where is the goodness? It has to exist.' I didn't know about God. You could not talk about God. I couldn't ask anybody."

It was very cold outside on the first night that she had to wait in line for bread. She was alone, as her mother had to take care of her siblings at home, and she saw two ladies in the distance who were wearing long skirts. Thinking she might be able to get under the skirts somehow to keep herself warm, she crept closer to the ladies, not wanting them to see her. She heard one of them say, "He is good." That interested her, so she crept closer, and she heard them talking about angels.

"I was so excited, I forgot about being cold," she said. "I said to myself, 'I will keep that good in my heart.' I didn't get any bread that night (the adults waiting squeezed her out), but I got something awesome."

Kukla, a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Hickory, tells stories like this and many others to those who listen to her speak, often at schools and churches.

As a child, Kukla lost a brother, a sister and her grandmother to starvation. She went out with her mother at night to find rotting leftover potatoes in the fields to eat. Her uncle was taken to Siberia, and during World War II, her father was taken away to the front.

Kukla herself was taken away to Auschwitz after the Germans occupied the Ukraine. Although she was not Jewish, she was taken there when she was 15 years old because of a false accusation made by some German soldiers who were angry with her because she had disagreed with them. It would be many years before she found out what happened to her family, and 22 years before she would see any of them again.

After she was released from the concentration camp, she spent four years working in a boot factory in Cologne, Germany, under very bad conditions until the war ended in 1945. During her time at the factory, she helped to smuggle several Jewish people out of Germany.

She came to the United States with her husband when she was in her 20s, and he died two years later, leaving her with four young children.

Despite these experiences, she emphasized how God has worked in her life.

The thing that saved her, she said, from a longer time in the concentration camp was the fact that she was born with blonde hair and blue eyes, even though both of her parents had dark hair and eyes. "He (God) knew what I would have to go through," she says. "He knew, but I didn't. He knew me, but I didn't know Him."

Before she was born, she said, her father had a dream. In his dream, an angel came to him and told him that he would have a daughter, and told him to name her Oksana, after a child martyr who was burned on a cross because she refused to stop helping the poor. Her father went to the local priest to tell him about the dream, but the priest told Oksana's father that he would have to name her according to the religious calendar, depending on when she was born. Her father felt strongly about the dream and protested this, she said, and "my father won."

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Lucy (Oksana) Kukla, left, with her friend Suzanna Williams after a recent talk she gave for a women's group at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Hickory. Mrs. Kukla's sons and Mrs. Williams' husband are doctors in the same medical practice in Hickory.

She remembered what her father told her on the day he was taken to the front. "Do three things for me," he said. "If you have a little piece of bread, cut it in half and give it to somebody hungry. Be good, and keep my name clean."

Kukla's mother, father, two sisters and a brother survived the war, although her father lost a leg. Kukla went to Kiev as a tourist, 22 years after she was taken away at the age of 15. Her sisters, were one and eight years old when she was taken, and her brother was four, so she was hardly able to recognize them when she finally saw them again.

"I could not go before that," she said, due to political conditions in the Ukraine at the time. She said that she wrote and received letters during the time before her visit, but that they were heavily censored and mostly unreadable.

Even though Mrs. Kukla has endured many hard times in her life, she said that she is more impressed by the suffering of Jesus, Paul and other early Christians. "Because of them, that's why we are all believers today," she said.

In addition to speaking to groups and telling of her experiences, Kukla has a favorite project that she does every summer. St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Hickory sponsors a group of children from Belareuse each year, and Mrs. Kukla teaches the Bible to these children in Russian. "It's awesome when they come," she said. "What a joy to see the smiles on their faces." This summer will be her fourth teaching these children.

Kukla remarried 44 years ago and now has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She was Russian Orthodox before she got married, but became a Catholic like her husband. They have lived in North Carolina for 10 years. ▼

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Holy Thursday, April 20, 7:30pm — Mass of the Lord's Supper — Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant
Good Friday, April 21, 3pm — Stations of the Cross
Good Friday, April 21, 7:30pm — Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross — Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant
Holy Saturday, April 22, 8pm — Easter Vigil Mass — Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant
Easter Sunday Masses — 8am, 9:30am, 11am with Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant, and 12:30pm
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South Vietnamese woman aids needy children back home

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Because of the war, many Americans avoid the subject of Vietnam entirely. However, South Vietnam holds strong memories for St. Pius X parishioner Minhthu Ngo Lynagh.

Because of these memories, Lynagh wanted to become involved with Children of Vietnam, a Winston-Salem group, when she first read about it over a year ago.

Children of Vietnam, a non-profit, tax-exempt charity organization, was established after Ben Wilson, the founder, had been working in the country through his job. He saw the handicapped and destitute children, who resided in Danang in the Quangnam Province in Central Vietnam. Wilson and the board of directors, of which Lynagh has been a member for over a year, solicit medical and monetary donations from various churches, businesses and organizations to take to Vietnam, explained Lynagh.

"When I was working in Vietnam, I came to know and understand the people, their positive attitude toward life and the closeness of their families; I felt it was to become my life's work to help the children," said Wilson.

The group also helps with building houses, supplying 45 pounds of rice, to needy families, purchasing prosthetic limbs, wheelchairs and medicine and paying for hospital stays for children, many still affected from war materials. In March, Lynagh, Wilson and two other board members traveled to Danang to deliver the money and supplies and help with distribution and building efforts, explained Wilson.

"She (Lynagh) is outgoing and resourceful and interested in what's going on," complimented Wilson. "She made contacts to people in Greensboro and is our spokesperson, and she is looking for ways to help broaden our scope."

Lynagh was born in Dalat in South Vietnam, sixth in a family of 12, to parents who had converted to Catholicism. "Dalat was on a plateau, about 2,000 feet up, with a temperate climate and was simply a beautiful city," remembered Lynagh. "Before my parents met, my mother had worked in the Daughters of Charity convent, where she was converted, and my father worked on a coffee farm, where a priest informed him about Catholicism."

> **"I want to develop programs to build bridges between my two countries and between U.S. churches and Vietnamese churches. Through faith, I think we can achieve many things."**
>
> — *Minhthu Ngo Lynagh*

Growing up Catholic in a predominantly Buddhist country was not difficult for Lynagh: "It was interesting because everyone would come to my house for our holidays and celebrations, associated with Catholicism. As a minority, we were united in our faith with the other Catholics around us."

After graduating high school, she enrolled in LaSalle University in Saigon, where she majored in chemical engineering and lived with her uncle and his family. Living in Saigon was a change from life in Dalat, where she was not exposed to the war on a large scale. "There wasn't a lot of fighting in Dalat as compared to some places in Vietnam; it was hard for the Communists to infiltrate the city because of the schools and other establishments. It was understood that you wouldn't destroy Dalat," she said.

"Saigon was noisy, and there was some fighting. By then, the war was coming to an end" she continued. "I really didn't think about the war as such because we had one war after another; we hadn't had peace for years. However, I had two brothers killed in the war, which affected my family and me very much. Every family had someone who died in the war, and we (the Vietnamese) paid a painful price."

In April 1975, right before the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists, eighteen-year-old Lynagh, her older sister Dieu Ngo and her uncle and his family left her homeland with several others on a shrimp boat. After being lost at sea, the small vessel was picked up by a Taiwanese Navy boat, which brought them to the Philippines, then to Guam, where she sent her parents a telegram to let them know she was safe.

She traveled to Fort Walton Beach, Fla., to Eglin Air Force Base to a refugee camp, where she was assigned to a sponsor couple, Dr. Jack and Kathy Wagoner. She later went to live with her sister in Washington D.C.

Lynagh said, "When I left Vietnam and came to the U.S., I had no idea what would happen. I didn't want to go, but I knew I couldn't stay by myself with my parents and other family members so far away. I didn't have time to think about it. I had faith while I was in the camp, but I was worried about what would happen. The sponsor family and everyone I met were so nice, and what I experienced was beyond my expectations."

At the urging of a priest at the refugee camp, she enrolled at Catholic University in Washington D.C. and received a four-year scholarship to major in nursing and worked in the dining hall to pay for housing. In college she met her husband Dr. Bill Lynagh, who was in graduate school at the time. After graduation, she worked as a pediatric nurse, and her husband went to medical school and was in residency in Florida.

"Going to school strengthened my faith as a Catholic," expressed Lynagh. "I think what drew Bill and I to each other was our Catholic faith."

Three years ago, after her two sons, Sean, now 13, and Kevin, now 12, had arrived, the family moved to North Carolina to Charlotte, then to Greensboro. She read about "Children of Vietnam," and Wilson and was immediately interested in helping in any way she could.

"I thought it interesting that Wilson had never been in Vietnam during the war, and I was impressed by his generosity. By then, I felt I was ready to go back to Vietnam to help," admitted Lynagh.

Lynagh's goal is one of solidarity and hope for the future of her native and home countries: "Through Children of Vietnam, I hope we can improve the lives of families and especially children, but I also want to focus on the bigger picture. I want to develop programs to build bridges between my two countries and between U.S. churches and Vietnamese churches. Through faith, I think we can achieve many things." ▼

For more information about Children of Vietnam, contact Ben Wilson at (336) 727-1110.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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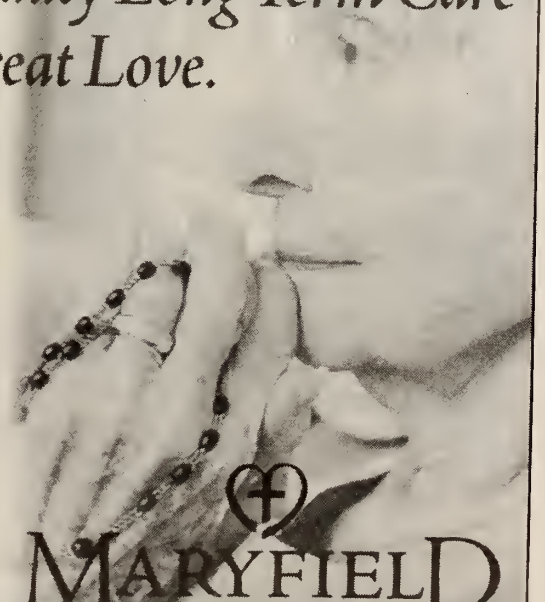

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Gallup Poll explores anti-Catholic bias in U.S.

PRINCETON, N.J. (CNS) — A Gallup Poll has found that roughly one-fourth of Americans have a negative view of the Catholic religion and nearly two-thirds view it favorably. Contrary to widespread opinion that anti-Catholic bias exists disproportionately among evangelical or born-again Protestants, the survey found that only 29 percent of that group — compared to 30 percent of Protestants generally — described Catholicism as "unfavorable." Despite recent flaps over alleged insensitivity to Catholic feelings by Republican leaders, the poll found that Democrats and independents are slightly more likely than Republicans to view Catholicism negatively.

Illinois bishops issue pastoral to combat 'sin of racism'

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Illinois Catholic bishop have issued a pastoral letter on combating racism called "Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to See With the Eyes of Christ." The letter, six years in the making, was officially released April 4, the 32nd anniversary of the assassination of civil rights activist Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "This is not just about a change in attitude, but a change in behavior so that we can go enter the millennium free of the sin of racism," said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago.

Annan says he, pope in same business: working for peace

ROME (CNS) — Ahead of a meeting with Pope John Paul II, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he and the pontiff "were in the same business." "We both work for peace, but we use different means," the secretary-general said at an April 6 press conference at the U.N.'s Rome-based World Food Program. Annan was due to meet the pope as part of his April 5-11 visit to Italy and the Vatican. Annan said the pope's March 20-26 trip to the Middle East "was a very positive one."

Nun says years of death penalty has not deterred crime

ROMEOVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Use of the death penalty has not deterred crime, says Providence Sister Dorothy Rasche, who has worked in prison ministry for 20 years. She believes that although it has taken nearly 25 years, people are beginning to realize that the death penalty is ineffective. In an interview with the Catholic Explorer, newspaper of the Joliet Diocese, Sister Rasche pointed to efforts in Illinois and in the nation's capital as evidence the political climate is shifting. In January, Illinois Gov. George Ryan announced a moratorium on the state's use of the death penalty, the first such moratorium in the nation and a move widely praised by Catholic leaders.

Proms in Florida county conflict with Holy Saturday services

LEESBURG, Fla. (CNS) — Catholic teens in Lake County are facing a tough choice on April 22: they can go to their proms or to Easter Vigil services. Proms for Leesburg and South Lake public high schools in the Orlando Diocese have been scheduled on Holy Saturday. "We don't believe the prom committees made the decision intentionally but it puts our teens in a difficult spot — to go to prom or to participate in Easter Vigil services," said Linda Clark, business manager at St. Paul's Parish in Leesburg. "Our youths shouldn't have to make that kind of choice," she said.

Identical twin priests hold chaplain posts at Houston hospitals

HOUSTON (CNS) — As transplant patient Steve Foster tells it, when Father Bruce Noble visited him in the intensive care unit, the clouds outside the window cleared away, letting the day's first sunlight into his room. Father Noble, chaplain at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, won't take credit for the daylight but has brought sunshine into patients' lives for 12 years. Father Noble, 63, and his identical twin brother, Father David Noble, a chaplain at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, have been recognized for their hospital ministry work with two lifetime achievement medals.

CNS PHOTO BY PETER FINNEY JR., CLARION HERALD

Beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square
Pilgrims pray during a beatification ceremony in St. Peter's Square April 9. The pope beatified five individuals, including Father Francis X. Seelos, a Redemptorist priest who ministered in Pittsburgh, Baltimore and New Orleans.

Peruvian bishops urge calm amid post-election tensions

By ALEJANDRO BERMUDEZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Peruvian bishops renewed their call to citizens to avoid violence amid tensions following the country's presidential election.

The president of the Peruvian bishops' conference, Archbishop Luis Bambaren Gastelumendi, said the Peruvian population showed a "great level of civility and respect for the democratic system."

"This respect must be kept," Archbishop Bambaren added.

Tensions between the followers of President Alberto Fujimori and those of candidate Alejandro Toledo increased late April 10 after the president of the National Office of Electoral Process, Jose Portillo Campbell, stated that the official results of the elections would not be known until two or three days later.

Following a demonstration by opposition supporters protesting possible election fraud April 10, Bishop Miguel Irizar Campos of Callao, secretary-general of the Peruvian bishops' conference, urged citizens to avoid violence "at any cost."

Toledo protested that day along with 4,000 demonstrators at Government Palace in Lima, where they were dispersed by police tear gas.

Portillo said that after counting nearly 40 percent of the votes, Fujimori had almost 50 percent, just short of winning the first round.

But the spokesman for the international organization Transparency, which monitored the elections, said that, statistically, "it is impossible to deny a second electoral round." Transparency said its sample counting of less than 1 percent of the vote indicated Fujimori should face a runoff and added his outright win would confirm its suspicions of fraud. ▼

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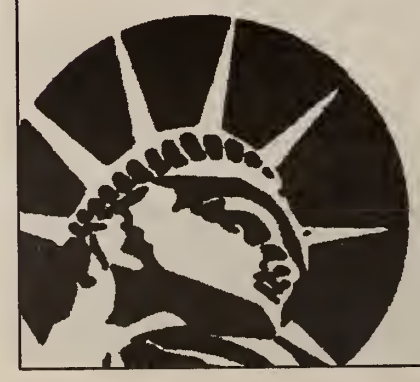

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Tikkun Olam: "Repairing the World"

Habitat for Humanity event crosses many faith traditions

By LARRY CHANCE
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, non-denominational and Jewish faithful have gathered in the eastern part of Greensboro to build homes together, with several of them being built for Muslim families. This ecumenical effort is "The Building on Faith Blitz," sponsored by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro.

The build began April 5, and the homes should be ready for families to move in later this summer.

Many Habitat for Humanity homes are sponsored by single organizations, such as churches, businesses, civic groups and even members of the U.S. House of Representatives. All Faith Blitz 2000 is unique because these eight homes are being co-sponsored by more than 50 Christian churches and Jewish congregations in the Greater Greensboro area.

"We knew that there were a lot of small congregations that didn't have the financial resources to sponsor a house but would like to be involved, so we thought this was a way to come together in an ecumenical way so that we could involve the small and the large," said Bob Kelley, president of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro. "We enjoy good spirit all the time, but this is just special."

Kelley said that Habitat for Humanity believes in the importance of being overtly Christian by reaching out and being respectful of all faiths. Kelley believes that this event embodies the spirit of the organization's mission of bringing "people of all faiths and backgrounds to work as partners building decent, affordable housing."

Photos by Larry Chance

An interfaith group of volunteers works on a Habitat home during the The Building on Faith Blitz in Greensboro. Twelve denominations represented by more than 1,000 people volunteered for the four-day blitz.

Twelve denominations represented by more than 1,000 people volunteered for the four-day blitz.

For instance, the traditional Habitat home dedication ceremony is highlighted by giving the homeowner a Bible. In this case, seven of the homes are being built for Sudanese Muslim families, so at the dedication, Habitat will also present them with the Koran.

An ecumenical worship and celebration kicked off the blitz. At the service, Christian hymns and prayers, the blowing of the shofar, and South African freedom songs all blended to provide a truly spiritual backdrop for the labor to follow.

"By the end of the service, everybody was holding hands, singing the Unity song, exchanging smiles and shedding tears," said Trudy Menzzentto, a parishioner at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and Habitat board member.

"It was a very moving experience," she added.

This sentiment was echoed by Rabbi Fred Guttman of Greensboro's Temple Emanuel, who felt that the service was one of the most spiritual interfaith events he had ever attended.

Volunteer coordinator Roland Russoli said that the spirit of unity from the service has carried over into the actual building process. "They're all working together as one group, doing something good in the community, building these eight houses," he said.

On the second day of the blitz, Rabbi Guttman led a Temple Emanuel youth group that had teamed up with a Presbyterian youth group to work on the home co-sponsored by St. Mary Catholic Church, one of the smallest congregations represented.

"For us, a major tenet of Judaism is called 'Tikkun Olam' ... which means 'repairing the world,'" Guttman said. "So we really feel that by doing this we are helping to make the world better, helping to repair the world. And I would also say that we're bringing more of the Godliness that exists within each one of us out into this."

The homes being built during "The Building on Faith Blitz" are the final eight homes in Poplar Ridge, a Habitat subdivision consisting of 67 occupied homes. Building on this site began in 1996. In addition to the faith communities involved, the Greensboro Bar Association is also part of the effort. ▼

Gail Feddish and Joe White, parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church in Greensboro, were among the volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity's Building on Faith Blitz.

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VOCATIONS

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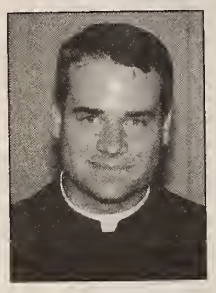

Rev. Mr. Matthew Kauth

These seemed to the best options that the world had to offer. What more could a man want? I was plagued with the question *why*?

Why at that moment was I burdened with questions? *Why*, with all of these viable options did my heart, propelled by my mind, stretch itself to find something more?

I quickly discerned that if I was to talk about a purpose at all, I had to consider the One who made life meaningful. If my life has any purpose at all, it is because I was created for something, and more specifically, for some One. I had to discover the mission for which I was created.

I was a novice at prayer, utilizing it mostly when I was in trouble. I had lived for some time as if God was a mere helper, ready at hand to aid me in all of my trivial dilemmas. I knelt down one day, reluctantly, in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and He began to pull. The desires I possessed were revealed to be the deeper longings for the fullness of goodness, truth and beauty found in God alone. In Him was the source and abundance of life. I went to Him with the questions, and over time realized that He, Himself, was the answer.

He has led me to the Holy Priesthood. And answered the question, *why*.

Deacon Matthew Kauth will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 3, 2000.

For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen, Office of Vocations, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3353.

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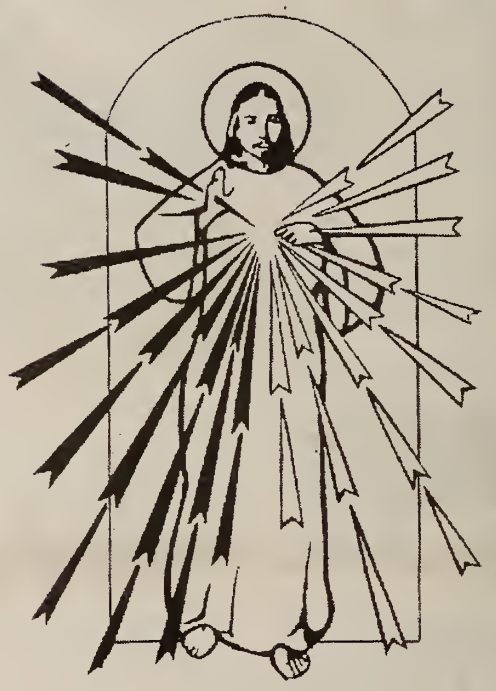

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PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Jim and Jane Loufek, seated left, and Ken and Isabelle Marino, seated right, sit down to a meal of vegetable soup and bread with Bishop William G. Curlin on March 5. Bishop Curlin gave a presentation on the Eucharist during the Wednesday night program. The Soup and Substance Program at St. Barnabas in Arden is one of several such programs around the diocese.

Food for the body and soul

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

ARDEN — Parishioners at St. Barnabas Church in Arden have reflected on the Lenten season through soup, song and scripture with their "Soup and Substance" program. On March 15, a designated parish group sponsored the first of the Wednesday night sessions with their homemade meatless soup and featured various speakers with specified topics of discussion after the community meal.

"We tried to focus on jubilee themes and have tried to hold to a level of continuity this year," explained Sheryl Peyton, the parish Soup and Substance program coordinator and the parish director of religious education. "In Lent we fast and abstain. Many Catholics have the tradition of giving up meals or eating simple meals and treating their Wednesday like a Friday."

The attendants feasted on varieties of soups from potato and cheese and vegetable to minestrone and a dish of Cuban black beans and rice, courtesy of parishioner Mirtha Martinez and her mother. The parish youth group, the Knights of Columbus, the Family/ Community Life Commission and the Marconi Lodge members presented their soup to an average of 50 to 80 fellow church members every week.

Dana and Paulette Wardwell agreed, "This (the Soup and Substance Program) gives us an opportunity to grow in faith and to share with fellow parishioners and to learn more about Christ."

This year's theme, "Open the Doors to Christ: Jubilee 2000 Soup and Substance," was reflected in the different topics. Peyton and Mary Ann Poli, parish youth minister, gave the first night's talk, "Pilgrimage as a Model for Understanding our Spiritual Journey." "We talked about how we are on a spiritual journey toward God and how Lent is a special time to focus on our spiritual journey," explained Peyton.

SEE SOUP & SUBSTANCE, PAGE 14

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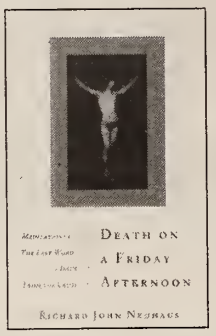
Book Review

Priest says Good Friday meditation not just for one day of year

By MARY CLAIRE GART
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — The title of a new book by Father Richard John Neuhaus — "Death on a Friday Afternoon" — would probably catch the eye of anyone searching for spiritual reading for Holy Week.



But the author says that exploring the mystery of Christ's death should not be confined to one day alone.

"Every day of the year is a good day to think more deeply about Good Friday," he writes in his preface, "for Good Friday is the drama of the love by which our everyday is sustained."

Father Neuhaus, head of the Institute on Religion and Public Life in New York, discussed his latest work, published by Basic Books, during a reception and book signing March 31 at Pauline Books and Media in Chicago.

"Of my 30 or more books," he said, "this is different in that it is an exploration into the core reality of what it means to be a Christian — the cross of Our Lord."

Explaining that it is "not an academic work," the former Lutheran minister said his aim was "to see why the worst of all things — the death of God — becomes for us the beginning of life eternal."

Subtitled "Meditations on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross," the book devotes a chapter to each "word" — actually the seven last statements Jesus made from the cross. Father Neuhaus noted that he is just the latest in a long list of writers and composers — from Haydn to Gerard Manley Hopkins — who have delved into the meaning of the Seven Last Words.

But, he said, the book is not entirely meditative. Arguments are also advanced and there are stories about people "who in their troubles find themselves, as they say, at the foot of the cross."

Father Neuhaus asked those at the bookstore not to follow the example of one woman who liked the book so much she read it all in one sitting. "Please don't," he said. "Take it as a companion for your own reflection."

Noting that every one of the church's doctrines is "a door opening to mysteries beyond," he said that after writing each chapter, he realized he had just begun to explore each word. "It was an immeasurably rewarding experience for me and I hope it will guide your own exploration." ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 16 - 22, 2000

Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), John 12:12-16, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47; **Monday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday of Holy Week**, Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Holy Thursday**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Good Friday (Fast and Abstinence)**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Holy Saturday**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Mark 16:1-8

Readings for the week of April 23 - 29, 2000

Easter Sunday, Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Mark 16:1-8; **Easter Monday**, Acts 2:14, 22-32, Matthew 28:8-15; **Easter Tuesday**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Easter Wednesday**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Easter Thursday**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Easter Friday**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Easter Saturday**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

Word to Life

April 16, Palm Sunday, Cycle B Readings:
Procession: Mark 11:1-10
1) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
2) Philippians 2:6-11
3) Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

Earlier in the day the sun had cheerfully shone, but by the time of burial the north wind came raging across the plains of southeastern New Mexico, filled with an icy vengeance. Hurried prayers and final condolences were hardly audible over the thundering blast that scattered tumbleweeds, dirt and mourners alike from its furious path.

Now quiet had descended, accompanied by a numbing cold. We were a small group of tired, despondent and somewhat dazed people who re-entered the cemetery where long cold shadows covered the mound of freshly piled moist dirt.

The smell of flowers and freshly turned earth mingled with our sorrow, because resting below us was the battered body of one we had known as the kindest and gentlest of people.

Here was the final resting place of a woman who always was in church if the doors were open. She was a Christian woman, a peaceful woman, a mother, a grandmother, a widow, a murder victim. She was my mother-in-law whose life ironically had ended in her own kitchen where she had cooked hundreds of meals for all of us who now surrounded her grave in disbelief.

The last rays of light disappeared, leaving us enveloped and shivering in the darkness. We wondered among ourselves what we should do next. Agreeing that we were hungry, we decided to go to my mother-in-law's favorite restaurant.

Around the table was her immediate family, the 14 people she loved most in the world. It was the most memorable family meal I ever shared.

As we ate and talked, "remember-when" stories about her began to fill the air. We laughed. The meal became an island of joy in the midst of deepest grief. Moreover, it would sustain us in legions of dark days yet to come.

Tomorrow would be another day of sad challenges, but we were family. We possessed faith.

Driving back to the hotel, I thanked God for the wonderful meal we had shared. I thought about the Last Supper. I thought about Jesus' wisdom in choosing the power of a shared meal so that people would be able to remember and would be strengthened by him for all time.

Questions:
Can you make connections in your own life between significant meals shared with others and their lasting impact on your life? Does this offer you any new insight on how the disciples might have experienced the Last Supper?

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"Keeping the Faith" a witty comedy of childhood friendship

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The lifelong friendship of a rabbi and a priest is threatened when a childhood friend re-enters their lives and both fall for her in the troubling yet witty comedy "Keeping the Faith" (Touchstone).

How's this for an opening scene: A young priest, plastered from a night of binge drinking, falls down onto a pile of garbage bags on the streets of New York. Is it more than a bit off-putting? Absolutely. Is it typical of the rest of the film? No.

"Keeping the Faith"
The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

It is certainly upsetting to see a Catholic priest portrayed in such an unholy manner. But don't be deceived; this is not all the film is about.

Best friends since childhood, Rabbi Jake Schram (Ben Stiller) and Father Brian Kilkenny Finn (Edward Norton) chose careers serving God because of their passionate faith. Jake and Brian work hard to get their respective congregations as enthusiastic about God as they are, sometimes in unconventional ways.

Determined to bolt his congregation out of their ingrained worshiping routine, Rabbi Jake brings in a black gospel choir to sing a rousing rendition of a traditional Hebrew song and encourages group meditation. Father Brian, a conscientious priest, has a good rapport with his parishioners, parleying in their native Spanish, and delivers thoughtful and spirited homilies that pack the house.

The trouble comes when a childhood friend, Anna Reilly (Jenna Elfman), now a high-powered executive permanently attached to her cell phone, comes back to New York and both men fall for her.

As the Upper West Side's most eligible bachelor, Jake is constantly set up with the daughters of the well-intentioned mothers at his synagogue. These outlandish dates provide the film with some of its most comical moments. But each woman lacks that certain zing and Jake finds that unexpected sparks begin to fly with Anna.

Although they both agree to keep things low-key and — most importantly — a secret from Brian, Anna falls harder for Jake than either anticipated. This poses a serious problem for Jake. What would his congregation say about their young rabbi dating a gentile?

Anna's feelings for Jake prompt her to study Judaism. Her willingness to leave behind her implied Christian roots is troubling even though it is clear that she has only become interested in her own spirituality through Jake's influence.

CNS PHOTO FROM TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

Ben Stiller and Edward Norton star as a rabbi and a priest in the romantic comedy "Keeping the Faith."

In the meantime, Brian's mind has wandered into the murky territory of romantic love with Anna and he begins to have doubts about his priestly vows.

Distraught when Jake distances himself, Anna seeks comfort from Brian. But he misreads her signals and blurts out his attraction to her, even going so far as to kiss her. When, humiliated and embarrassed, he discovers that not only are the feelings not reciprocated, but that he has been deceived by his closest friends, he uncharacteristically goes on a bender, bringing the audience full circle to the beginning of the film.

As directed by Norton, the majority of the film is concerned with Anna and Jake's relationship, but it does tread on dicey territory, namely a priest's confrontation with temptation.

When Brian sits down to speak with his pastor (Milos Forman) about his trouble, the old monsignor's response that he has fallen in love at least once a decade since he became a priest may be disconcerting. But the more significant implication is that he did not succumb to these temptations and his faith is stronger because of them.

Even the provocative issue of celibacy is taken on in a clear and straightforward manner. Brian explains that his fulfillment with God is so satisfying that the question of sex has been settled for him.

The film is at times reminiscent of Woody Allen's films in its humor and ample footage of New York with the city presented in all its racial, cultural and religious diversity. This is exemplified not only by the close friendship between a rabbi and priest, but also by their joint effort in opening an interfaith senior citizen karaoke center.

Although some may be discomforted watching a priest battle with temptation, "Keeping the Faith" presents Father Brian in a humble and human way. And the film's droll dialogue and fine performances help to balance some of the more predictable moments of the yarn.

Taken as a whole, the film gives a fresh, smart look at thirtysomethings who may have gotten a little too comfortable and are inadvertently pushed to question their lifestyles and opinions and grow in the process. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Trinity is center of Christian life, pope says at audience

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Far from being abstract and irrelevant to believers' daily lives, faith in the Trinity is the central mystery of Christian life, Pope John Paul II said.

The creed's description of one God in three equal and distinct persons "cannot be interpreted as a sort of 'celestial arithmetical theorem' from which nothing derives for human existence, as the (18th-century German) philosopher (Immanuel) Kant supposed," he said.

Speaking during the weekly general audience April 5 in St. Peter's Square, the pope said the glory of the Trinity manifests itself throughout time and space in the whole of creation, reaching a high point in the Incarnation.

God's sending of his own son to take on human flesh reveals his love for humanity and enables humans to become his children, the pope said.

"To know God and his son is to accept the mystery of the loving communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit into one's own life, which even now is open to eternal life because it shares in the life of God," he said.

The revelation of the Trinity's glory in the Incarnation was not "a simple illumination which threw back the darkness for an instant, but a seed of divine life deposited forever in the world and in human hearts," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, the pope appealed for greater respect for the human rights of Gypsies.

Noting that April 8 marked the International Day of Gypsies — dedicated this year to Gypsies victimized in the Kosovo conflict — the pope said he hoped that the commemoration would help "to promote the full respect of the human dignity of these brothers of ours, promoting their adequate integration in society."

He said he looked forward to meeting with Gypsies at the Vatican during jubilee celebrations June 2 for migrants and travelers.

Looking relaxed and alert throughout the audience — attended by 40,000 pilgrims from more than 20 countries — the pope smiled and joked after Croatian pilgrims sang him "Gaudeamus Igitur," a rousing Latin-language students' song.

The pope was fresh from a unofficial day trip outside Rome, most likely to the clean air of nearby mountains, according to Italian news reports. His destination was unknown, but he left the Vatican at 7:30 a.m. April 4 in a black BMW with a small escort, the ANSA news agency reported.

Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, declined April 5 to confirm or deny the reports.

The Season of Lent

REV. MR. FRANK SEABO
Guest Columnist

Holy Thursday and RCIA

Holy Thursday evening is the beginning of the Easter Triduum. The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. Holy Thursday begins a three-day period of prayer, reaching its climax when Jesus Christ is raised from the dead to new and eternal life at the Easter Vigil, where we celebrate the baptism and confirmation of new Catholics, new members of the Catholic Church.

What an awesome experience; what a joyous occasion!

For those journeying in the RCIA program, Holy Thursday marks a series of spiritually intense events leading to the beginning of new and blessed lives as Catholics. On Holy Thursday evening, the period of solemn preparation and the "purple" of Lent are left behind, as the priest and deacons put on white vestments for the evening Mass of the Last Supper. This evening is the first time that the Elect are not dismissed from the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the breaking open of the Word.

For the last two years, my ministry has primarily been involved with the RCIA program at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring, Md. For a catechist and now a transitional deacon of the church, there is no more joyful moment than witnessing my fellow journeyers, my friends, enter the Catholic Church.

Holy Thursday itself is an awakening from the season of Lent. We celebrate the Eucharist, we commemorate the Last Supper "on the night he was betrayed," and we have a special option for the washing of the feet. St. John the Evangelist directly told us that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, came to serve — and not to be served. All those who follow Jesus are expected to follow the example of the Master. We follow Jesus, carrying our own crosses, for in doing so, we will share everlasting life with him.

My brothers and sisters, Christ is the light of the world. For myself, Holy Thursday Mass brings all these wonderful experiences to a clear focus and meaning. Christ's intention is for all those baptized to follow his example, and by following his example, to serve the people of God. The beautiful witness of faith by those who, as adults, choose to enter the Catholic Church by attending RCIA feeds my own faith.

On Holy Thursday evening, we witness together, we pray together and we watch together as the Blessed Sacrament is carried out of the church to a prayerful place of reservation. For on Good Friday, on Calvary, Jesus — the Son of God and the Son of Mary, the Lamb of God, the sinless one — one time and eternally takes away the sins of the world.

Rev. Mr. Frank Seabo is a transitional deacon in formation for the priesthood of the Diocese of Charlotte. He is currently completing formation at Theological College in Washington, D.C. He will be ordained to the priesthood in June.

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
Guest Columnist

Evaluating Hispanic Ministry

Last month we took a look at an evaluation of diocesan and parish structures with regard to Hispanic Ministry. Let's now take a look at programs for priests and seminarians as well as lay participation and leadership in the Church.

The 1998 study commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops offers the following with regard to programs for priests and seminarians:

On the plus side...

Language and cultural training for priest candidates has increased in recent years. In 1990, only 18 percent of the dioceses offer "English as a Second Language" programs to Hispanic seminarians; in addition, only 31 percent required their non-Hispanic seminarians to study Spanish.

By 1998, the number of dioceses offering ESL to Hispanics had doubled, and the number requiring non-Hispanics to study Spanish had increased by 67 percent.

On the down side...

a) The number of new Hispanic vocations remains low. The growing pool of male Hispanic newcomers is a potential source of new energy for the priesthood.

However, education, language and cultural barriers continue to limit their entry into seminary. Among the native-born, new opportunities for social advancement outside the Church, coupled with a lack of active recruitment in the parishes, has led to a decline in Hispanic vocations to the priesthood. In the Northeast alone, the number of Hispanic seminarians has declined 64 percent since 1983.

b) Continuing education in Hispanic Ministry for non-Hispanic priests and sisters is on the decline. In 1998, far fewer US religious are taking courses in Spanish or studying Hispanic faith culture.

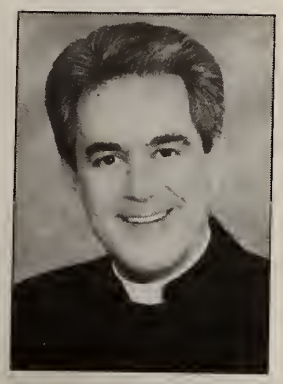
For example, in 1990, 9 percent of priests and about 6 percent of sisters nationwide were studying Spanish; in 1998, the combined figure for all religious was under 4 percent. The percentage of U.S. religious engaged in studies of Hispanic devotions and sacramental life has declined by well over 50 percent.

In the Diocese of Charlotte this year, we have organized a one day cultural consciousness awareness day for the priests. We will take advantage of this workshop to provide materials to the priests of the Diocese to help them celebrate more effectively the sacraments in Spanish. The workshop will be conducted by Father Mario Vizcaino and Lidia Menocal from SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute).

Vincentian Father Vincent H. Finnerty is director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Peace! Shalom!

Every once in a while, we hear a story that we never forget. This is one that has affected me that way.

The world premiere of one of composer Deems Taylor's most beautiful works had just been played. The concert hall's capacity audience reacted as though spellbound for a moment. Then, wild applause. Over and over again, they called for the composer.

When Deems Taylor finally walked to center stage and bowed gracefully, the audience settled back expecting a curtain speech. Instead, Taylor just stood there, slowly turning his head, from center aisle to side aisles, and then looking up into the balcony. He wanted everyone in the audience to get a good look at him. Then, with utter joy in his voice, he simply said, "Now you can go home and tell your friends for once in your life you have seen a truly happy man."

I would hope this Easter, if you were with me and I with you, we would look into each others eyes and find a truly happy person.

I believe that is what we are called to do for others — to be that truly happy person that the Resurrection Power of God makes possible. To be that truly peace-filled person speaking the word of love, as it is needed — carrying food to the hungry, aid and comfort to the sick, new hope to the despondent.

To encourage young and old alike to nurture and develop all of their God-given creativity. To listen when someone needs a friend to pay attention. To hug when someone needs a friend's comforting arms.

Actually, those of us who joyfully celebrate the Peace of Christ this Easter are called to do these things. Why? Because with Easter, we rejoice in Jesus' final victory, the fulfillment of His life and ministry, and our fulfillment as a Christian people. The Prince of Peace has conquered, not by the power of the sword, but by the power of love.

The Hebrew word for this complete personal fulfillment is Shalom — the presence of harmony and wholeness in your life. There is nothing better you can wish for yourself and for others. When you think about it, you begin to realize what an important part Shalom played in the life of Jesus.

That first Christmas, when the Angels sang, they sang, "Peace on earth!" On the very last night of his life, in the upper room, Jesus said to the disciples, "My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

And, in between, again and again, he offered Shalom. As the Prince of Peace, Christ makes his Peace real to us, and delegates each of us to make it real to one another. Indeed, once you experience Christ's Peace you cannot contain it. It radiates from your very being, and others can sense it.

How wonderful it would be this Easter for someone to actually sense the reality of Christ's Peace in your life. Indeed, my prayer during this Holy Week is that you will be so at peace with God and yourself, that your joy will be as contagious as it is visible. And please remember me as working and praying with you to bring His Peace to all we meet.

God is with us! God loves us! Shalom! Shalom!

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

A jury no longer out

During the Easter season each year, someone is bound to challenge me on what happened after the crucifixion of Jesus. Questions usually range from, "How can you prove Jesus rose from the dead?" to "How do you know for sure that the Holy Spirit infused the apostles with grace, courage and spiritual powers 50 days later?"

Well, the answer is, of course, we can't really "prove" such incredible happenings that are so completely out of the range of what can be attested to scientifically. We can only respond that we walk in faith, which means we accept that these events are mysterious, yet believe they are true.

The source that verifies this for us is the church, which — as the sign of Christ on earth — could not be in error. I felt it would always be comforting to be able to go beyond faith and say, "These are the facts, friends. It happened just the way the Bible says."

Well, I had the good luck to get my hands on a new book that puts all the questions raised by the Gospels to the test. The author comes up with a conclusion that should force even doubters to reconsider their questions about Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

The book is written by an attorney, Pamela Binnings Ewen, and is called "Faith on Trial — An Attorney Analyzes the Evidence for the Death and Resurrection of Jesus" (Boardman and Holman Publishers). A specialist in corporate finance, Ewen began her investigation with a question: "Would the testimony of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John stand up in court?"

From there, the fascination begins. From the perspective of a lawyer, who needs to have compelling evidence for proof in building a factual case, the author analyzes the four Gospels with magnifying-glass detail. She presents her case as if her readers were members of the jury in a trial.

She offers scientific, archaeological and historical evidence to prove that Jesus' life, death and resurrection actually occurred as described by the four evangelists, who, she also argues, give us the accounts of reliable eyewitnesses. Her "Summation to the Jury," proving that the evidence is valid, that the events in the Gospels did occur as a historical fact, is a document in itself that believers should have in hand to pass on to doubters.

Ewen says she wrote the book when, in the middle of life, still an agnostic, she went on a search for faith. Yet, though she found she wanted the answers faith provided, she still needed to understand faith with the logic and reason she had acquired in her professional life as an attorney. For, she states, "The heart will not accept what the mind rejects."

Her personal search went on for 15 years. She studied the researched works of great biblical scholars and archaeologists, subjecting every detail to the rigorous standards of proof required in a court of law. Now her work of documenting the veracity of the Gospels, legally, is completed, and she shares her findings with us — the jury.

Her book is a faith journey that is an eye opener and a heart warmer.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Jesus' Exhortation: Take up your cross

Q. Your column in our diocesan paper is very informative and helpful. Our question is about the passages in Matthew and Mark where Jesus tells his disciples that they must "take up their cross" if they are to follow him.

How would they have understood this since it was Jesus' death on the cross that gave the cross its significance? And obviously that had not happened yet. Does it have to do with the fact that the Gospels were written after the resurrection, when the apostles knew about his death on the cross?

A. That certainly would be a significant part of the answer. Whatever Jesus actually said in this context, it is certain that the early Christians would have read these words in the Gospels of Matthew (10:38 and 16:24) and Mark (8-34) with their minds on the death of Jesus.

The church's well-established teaching about the formation and writing of the four Gospels supports that interpretation. In their preaching during the first few decades after the Lord's death and resurrection, "the apostles passed on to their listeners what was really said and done by the Lord with that fuller understanding which they enjoyed" after being instructed by the Spirit following the resurrection and Pentecost ("The Historical Truth of the Gospels," instruction of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, 1964).

The instruction explains that just as Jesus, after the resurrection, interpreted to them passages of the Old Testament and his own words, so the apostles interpreted his words and actions from the perspective of their enlightened beliefs and the needs of their listeners.

These apostolic teachings then found their way into the written Gospels, with each of the evangelists presenting the life and teachings of Jesus according to his own theological purpose and forms of expression. (See the encyclical, "The Promotion of Biblical Studies," Pius XII, 1943; and the above instruction.)

In this way, as you say, words of Jesus spoken before his death were seen and understood later on in the context of his death and his presence in the living community of believers.

We should note also, however, that these verses in Matthew and Mark would have a particular spiritual significance even before Calvary.

Punishment by death on the cross was common in those days. Chances are that all the people in the entourage of Jesus had looked on frequently as condemned men carried their cross, at least the upper cross bar, to the place of crucifixion.

Commentators have noted that when Jesus adopted this exhortation to carry the cross in the way the Gospels suggest, he would also be urging his followers to submit themselves to God's authority in some way comparable to the condemned criminals' submission to Roman authority.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

OLG students place first in NASA Competition

GREENSBORO — An eighth-grade science class team at Our Lady of Grace School has been awarded first place in the NASA Student Involvement Program's (NSIP) 1999-2000 competition. Kyle Barbour, Matthew Frederick, Al-don Schraeder and Craig Reed of Danita McDonald's class are being honored for their work on "Design a Mission to Mars."

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. The competitions are "Design a Mission to Mars," "Earth Systems in My Neighborhood," "Watching Earth Change," "Aeronautics and Space Science Journalism," and "Flight Opportunities."

Over 360 students submitted more than 1,200 entries to the competitions. Students engage in research that promotes critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration skills.

Student entries are judged at NASA Centers by teams of scientists, engineers, educators, journalists and other professionals who select the first, second and third place winners. The Our Lady of Grace School winners were judged and selected at NASA Langley Research Center.

COURTESY PHOTO

Kyle Barbour, Matthew Frederick, Al-don Schraeder and Craig Reed are winners in this year's NASA competition.

NASA headquarters will officially announce the names of all NSIP winners in mid-April and post the names on the NSIP website www.nsip.net. A NASA representative will visit the school to present plaques to the winning students. ▼

Soup & Substance, from page 9

Jesuit Father Frank Reese, on staff with the Jesuit House of Prayer, spoke about reconciliation and how "God the Father of Mercy Calls Us to Conversion," the second presentation. Dominican Father Michael Burke from Raleigh participated in the parish mission and returned to discuss the Beatitudes.

Bishop William G. Curlin joined the Arden group on March 5 to celebrate Mass and to facilitate the program focusing on the Eucharist and its place in the lives of Catholics, especially during the season of Lent. "Lent is a period of retreat and a time to purify ourselves and to reassess and re-evaluate our lives," said Bishop Curlin. "When we receive the Eucharist, we become the extension of Jesus presence on earth. The Eucharist is the living Christ, which we should try to remember during this holy time."

The final topic, "Go Now and Transform the World," was presented by a panel of parishioners. "For the final week, the idea was to go out and change the world. Through the weekly presentations, we should have received the sense of going out to live these truths in the marketplace and the workplace. We have to make choices that reflect our Christian understanding of our place in the world," said Peyton.

"Lent is a period of retreat and a time to purify ourselves and to reassess and re-evaluate our lives," said Bishop Curlin.

Cornelia Scibetta has been attending the programs for several years and mentioned that it sparked the interest of a Baptist friend who was impressed about the concept of nourishment for the body and soul. "I enjoy the program because it is an opportunity for fellowship and is a learning experience and a part of my Lenten journey," said Scibetta. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: St. Therese Catholic Church, Mooresville, NC is seeking a replacement vital to its ministry team in the role of Administrative Assistant to the Pastor. Our dynamic parish comprises 1100 families and continues to grow. Administrative Assistant is principally responsible for day-to-day administration of the parish and supervision of other staff. Applicant must have pastoral sensitivity and respect for a Catholic environment. Proficiency in Microsoft Office or comparable computer software systems is required. Prior experience in office management is desirable. We offer an attractive compensation package, including comprehensive benefits program. Interested applicants should submit their resumes with references and salary history to: Pastor, St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117.

Director of Life Teen Ministry: Vibrant, 4,000-family parish seeks a full-time Director for one of the largest Life Teen programs in the country, serving 200-300 high school teens weekly. Director works in collaboration with two other full-time staff members devoted to youth ministry and manages a wonderful team of 25-30 adult volunteers. Responsibilities include liturgical preparation for the Teen Mass, directing the "Life Night" program that provides teens with creative faith formation, and Confirmation preparation. Preferred candidates have education in ministry or theology, experience in youth ministry, and a heart for sharing Christ's love with young people. Contact Liz Riegel, St. Michael Catholic Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, NC 27513 (919) 468-6134; Fax: (919)468-6130, lizreigel@hotmail.com.

Director of Religious Education: St. Jude Parish, Radford, VA, is seeking a full-time director for its religious education program, involving development of catechetical programs Pre-K through 12, sacramental preparation, adult education, RCIA within both parish and campus, catechist formation, and other related areas. Qualifications include: committed Catholic lifestyle, master's or certificate in Religious Education or equivalent background, with strong interest in liturgical development. Available July 1. Application deadline: May 1. Contact: Pastor, St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073; phone (540)639-5341; e-mail: Rjudgerad@aol.com

Faith Formation Director: Growing parish in western North Carolina seeks a dynamic and energetic catechetical leader to oversee a total education ministry for elementary, middle and high school students. Coordinates sacramental programs and acts as resource for OCIC, OCIA. Assists parish staff as resource for adult programming. Parish needs a candidate who can work on a team, works well with people and who is comfortable inviting others into ministry. A self-starter with good organizational and communication skills is desired. Candidate must be comfortable in a growing community with a vision based in Vatican II. Seek candidate who has an R.E. or related degree. Experience helpful. Send resume and salary requirements to FF Search, The Parish of Saint Eugene, PO Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.

Faith Formation Office - Diocesan Regional Coordinator: Charlotte Diocese seeks person with Master's degree in Rel Ed/allied field, five years of demonstrable successful experience in parish/diocesan work. Well-rounded in catechist formation skills. Collaborative. Sensitive to cultural minorities. Good written/oral communication skills. Position is located in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Region. Please send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203. (704)370-3246. Application deadline April 21, 2000.

Infant Care Provider: South Charlotte, Providence Plantation. Looking for a caring, responsible person to care for my 6-month old son, in my home, two mornings per week. References required. Please call Tricia (704)321-0619.

In-home or Skilled Nursing Care: Henderson/Transylvania/Polk Counties. All workers with Personal/Professional Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurances and FBI checks. Licensed through Raleigh, NC. Please call (828) 696-0946 - COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS, INC.

Liturgy/Catechumenate Director/Adult Formation Coordinator: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established process that seeks further implementation of the Re-Membering Church. Parish in initial stages of learning Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church (1 year old) with excellent worship space (with adult immersion font). Need help in maximizing the full potential of the abundant gifts present in this community. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30, for position July 1.

Music Ministry Director: Dynamic college town parish. Successful candidate will build on a well-established program that includes hand bells, pipe organ, grand piano, tympani, etc. Select music for liturgies; direct/develop traditional and children's choir; coordinate with contemporary choir. Parish in initial stages of implementing Stewardship and all of its ramifications. New church with excellent worship space. Secretarial support provided. Competitive salary and benefits. Contact Parish Administrator, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514, by April 30; Position available July 1.

Principal, Elementary: St. Peter's Catholic School, in southeastern NC university town near coast. The K-8 school is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is fully enrolled with 530 students. Starting date: July 1, 2000. Ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic with vision, proven leadership and administrative skills. Principal will work collaboratively and maintain educational excellence. Applicant must hold teaching certificate, hold or be eligible for NC Principal License, and have a minimum of five years administrative experience. Send resume with salary requirements, references and statement of educational philosophy to: Search Committee, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 2700 East Fourth St., Greenville, NC 27858-1712 by April 30, 2000.

Principal, High School: St. Francis Xavier High School, Sumter, SC, seeks a Catholic for the position of principal beginning 2000-2001 school year. Master's degree or administrative course work required. Candidate must be an innovative, committed Catholic and be ready to guide and direct the growth and development of St. Francis Xavier High School. (http://web.infoave.net/~SFXHS) Request application and more information from: J Seth (803)773-8676 or (803)773-0757. E-mail Sethjc@GTE.com. Send resume with application by April 25 to Search Committee c/o J Seth, PO Box 1268, Sumter, SC 29151.

Teachers: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte has openings beginning in August for a Pre-School Teacher and a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher. Part-time positions. NC teacher certification required. Call (704)531-0067.

Tutor: For a special needs child. Winston-Salem. Tutor needed to join team of people in a home school for 3 1/2-year-old girl. Will train extensively. No experience necessary, but a love of children is a must. Six-month minimum commitment. Call (336)922-2997 and leave message.

Youth Minister: A half-time position as a Youth Minister is available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in High Point, NC (1000 households). The parish has a Total Youth Ministry Program, which includes the Confirmation Program, for middle and high school youth. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and a member of a Catholic parish. Experience in Youth Ministry and Religious Education is desirable. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Fax (336)884-1849. For more information call (336)884-5212.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Prince of Peace, a growing community of 1800 families in beautiful Upstate SC, seeks practicing Catholic to develop: a middle school ministry (social and service); a comprehensive high school ministry of prayer, formation, and service; and a young adult program. Experience and/or related degree preferred. Position available July 1. Send resume and three references by May 5 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 1209 Brushy Creek Road, Taylors, SC 29687. P(864)322-2233x216. Fax(864)322-2239.

JOB WANTED

CNA Caregiver: Charlotte area. Needs night work or sleep over. 16 years experience. (704)394-3404.

Stations program brings Way of the Cross to life

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

SYLVA — The narrator announces the first station, "Jesus is Condemned to Death." The sanctuary of St. Mary Church darkens for a moment, then lights come on as the narrator reads the commentary about the station. The sanctuary goes dark; mysterious figures move into position.

The lights come up again as a group sings. The congregation sees that the mysterious figures have become people frozen in time: Jesus, accosted by the Roman soldiers, and, just to his right, Pontius Pilate, his hands poised over a bowl held by a servant.

It is the first of 14 tableaux in St. Mary's annual presentation of the Living Stations.

One Friday evening during each Lent, St. Mary youth recreate Jesus' passion and death in this manner. This year, members of the confirmation class portrayed Jesus, Mary, Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, Pontius Pilate, the soldiers and the crowd. They stopped each moment in time along the Way of the Cross. Singers and guitarists from Western Carolina University and Smoky Mountain High School accompanied each scene with a different song, including "Be Not Afraid," "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe," "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman," and "Behold the Death of the Lord."

This year's Jesus, chosen by the youth from among their group, was Cliff Thompson, a junior at Smoky Mountain High School in Sylva. Thompson and his brother, Adam, recently converted to Catholicism. "I felt that I needed to be closer to God," he said. "As I came to be here, I learned more about Jesus because the Catholic Church stressés Jesus."

Gloria Schweizer, campus minister at Western Carolina University in nearby Cullowhee, brought the Living Stations idea to St. Mary when she and her family moved to the area nine years ago. Her previous parish, Holy Spirit in Union, N.J., had presented the program on Good Fridays.

"It was something we really looked forward to," she said. "This (St. Mary) was our new church, and I wanted to bring that here and have my son experience what my daughter had."

She approached Father James Cahill about having the Living Stations at St. Mary. It was Father Cahill's first Lent at St. Mary, and he was enthusiastic about the program. He's still pastor there, and he still enjoys the Living Stations. "It's been great every year," he said.

He also sees how it influences those who take part: "For some of them, just in the way they do things for others, both in the church and in the community. We've got a great bunch of kids here."

Linda Kinnear, whose son Tyler worked on the lighting this year, also praises the parish youth.

"They're very spiritual kids," she said. "They always rise to the occasion, and they really like each other. It's very moving, and every year we have the most wonderful Jesus."

The group did rise to the occasion, going flawlessly through the program after only two rehearsals, the second one finishing only half an hour before the Living Stations began.

This year's Jesus, chosen by the youth from among their group, was Cliff Thompson, a junior at Smoky Mountain High School in Sylva. Thompson and his brother, Adam, recently converted to Catholicism. "I felt that I needed to be closer to God," he said. "As I came to be here, I learned more about Jesus because the Catholic Church stresses Jesus."

He understands more about Jesus as a result of representing Him in the Living Stations, he said, "by understanding what actually happened. He went through torture, humiliation, a long ordeal. I will have an understanding of that, more than just pictures on the wall. It's like bringing the pictures out of the wall."

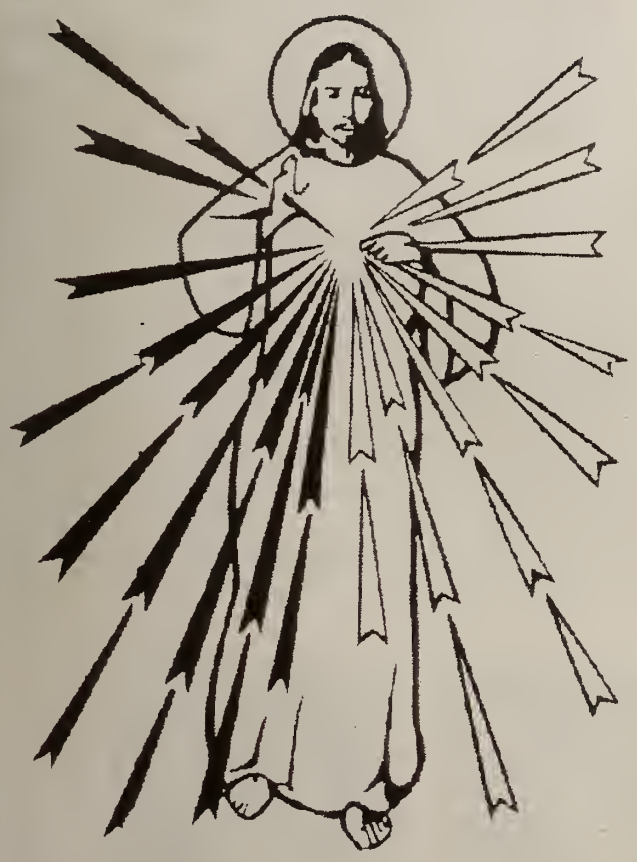
Joel Stroot, who portrayed Jesus last year and was stage manager for this year's presentation, offered Thompson advice on how to remain still during each tableau: "Make sure to concentrate on one thing so as not to blink. To make it mean more, think of it as a service to Jesus, and when you're up there, think about what it was really like."

Megan Hayes was one of those in the crowd scenes. It was her third year in the program. What means the most to her, she said, is "just to see how Jesus' life was. It's just touching to see how everything goes on, how everything fits together."

Lisa Heim has also been a member of the crowd for the last two years, but this year she portrayed Mary. She thinks about what Mary must have thought, the sadness at the death of her son. "I think about the stations more seriously now," she said.

"It's incredibly beautiful and moving," said parishioner Don Buzney. His son Scott was co-narrator, along with Eric Carpenter. Buzney's son Brian played one of the guards.

"We all grew up with the stations, but this live performance is so moving," Buzney's wife, Jean, said. "They give us a great gift." ▼



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 30, 2000

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— Ps. 32:10

2:00 pm Rosary
2:30 pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
3:00 pm Concelebrated Mass
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Lutherans open hospice named for Cardinal Bernardin

By PAUL BARRA
Catholic News Service

COLUMBIA, S.C. (CNS) — Mere months after Lutherans and Catholics signed an accord, U.S. leaders of the two religions gathered April 2 in Columbia to dedicate The Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Hospice House in the birthplace of the late cardinal of Chicago.

The hospice, run by the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, will provide a residence for terminally ill patients.

"The Catholic community is humbled and honored that you decided to name this hospice after a Catholic bishop and cardinal," said Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston during a worship service at St. Joseph Church to dedicate the hospice.

"It's a great tribute to a great man and a practical sign of follow-up to the recent Lutheran-Catholic accord," he added.

Msgr. Kenneth Velo, director of the Catholic Church Extension Society, was the guest homilist. He was Cardinal Bernardin's executive assistant, and he delivered the homily at the cardinal's funeral.

Msgr. Velo called the hospice dedication "most significant" and, alluding to the Gospel reading chosen for the service, he said "Joseph Cardinal Bernardin was a good Samaritan. He stopped by the side of the road all his life."

The priest said it was appropriate that the Lutherans chose to name the hospice after the late cardinal and that in the work they do, Lutheran Homes would also "stop by the side of the road" like the Samaritan.

He pointed out that the cardinal was born in Columbia and served the Charleston Diocese as a priest. The then-Father Bernardin was named an auxiliary bishop of Atlanta, then appointed Cincinnati's archbishop in 1972 before becoming archbishop of Chicago 10 years later. He was named a cardinal in 1983. In June 1995, he had surgery for pancreatic cancer and he died from the disease in November 1996.

"Through it all, his ministry was marked by reconciliation, peace, reaching out to people of all cultures and faiths," Msgr. Velo said. "He himself was a gift of peace. He was a prince of peace."

The Rev. Boyd Cook, president and CEO of Lutheran Homes of South Carolina, also spoke fondly of Cardinal Bernardin.

"Our brother Joseph was Columbia's favorite son. Reconciliation was the compelling instinct of his life," he said.

John White, Pulitzer-prize winning photographer from the Chicago Sun-Times, who was the photographic biographer of Cardinal Bernardin, attended the dedication service.

He told The New Catholic Miscellany, diocesan newspaper of Charleston, that he wasn't Catholic, except when he was around the cardinal.

Octavie Mosimann, a native of Charleston, and the cardinal's secretary for 32 years, said the cardinal would have been pleased with this honor.

"He was a great reconciler," she said. "Everyone who knew him misses him very much."

The Bernardin House has 12 private patient suites, family rooms, a library, a nondenominational chapel, a dining room and bedroom facilities for families of patients.

"The Bernardin Hospice House will be a safe haven for patients, family members and friends to have an opportunity to prepare for the final event of living," said Cathy Askew, executive director of nursing for the hospice.

The dedication ceremony took place on the cardinal's birthday. He would have been 72 years old. ▼

Photo by Joann S. Keane

A Mother's Love

"Thank you, women who are mothers!
You have sheltered human beings within yourselves...
This makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child."
— John Paul II, Letter to Women

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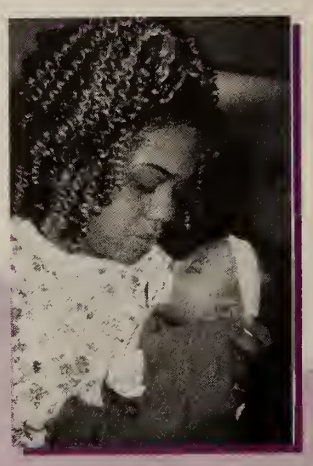

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April 21, 2000 ▼ Volume 9 ▼ Number 33

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

The Risen Christ

A Living Presence

Thirty years ago I joined friends in serving dinner on Easter Sunday to the senior members in our community. Many of our guests were alone in this world without family or friends. While dessert was being served, one of our guests rose to express her appreciation. I will never forget her words: "Don't go looking for Jesus in a tomb. He ain't there. He is right here with us in this room."

One does not have to be a Christian to admire Jesus. Many non-Christians believe Him to be a hero. They often quote His words to support the cause they champion, especially His teaching concerning peace and justice. But, they do not accept His claim to be the Son of God. For them, Jesus, like many great leaders in this world, is dead, while His words live on. Unfortunately, some Christians also look for Him among the dead. They fail to understand that He lives and can be found in those around us.

We will discover Jesus if we seek Him with "eyes of faith," for He appears in many disguises. Jesus is that homeless man or woman on the street corner. He is the elderly person next door who lacks the strength to walk to the grocery store or visit the doctor. He is the single parent who feels very much alone in trying to be both mother and father to his or her child. He lives in those whom society brands a social outcast. He can be found in every hospital and nursing home. He is husband and wife, son and daughter in every home. He is everywhere love needs to be!

During the forty days of Lent, we walked beside Jesus on His journey towards Calvary. Holy Week invites us to be with Jesus in the upper room where He gives us Himself in the Eucharist as a lasting memorial of love. Good Friday bids us to celebrate that price He paid for our sins. Easter rings with joy in His triumph over death.

We cannot allow these days of special grace to end. Jesus has asked us to be witnesses to His triumph over the death. Again, if we look for Him among the living "with eyes of faith," we will find Him. May this Easter discover us sharing His gifts of love and peace, especially with those most in need of these gifts.

God grant you and your loved ones a Blessed Easter!

Prayerfully in the Risen Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JULIE RADCLIFFE

Vatican to publish new general instruction on liturgy in June

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican plans to publish updated instructions for celebrating the Mass when it releases the third Latin edition of the Roman Missal in early June. Archbishop Francesco Tamburrino, secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said the revised "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" will be released around Pentecost, June 11. The archbishop said the instruction will be dated April 20, Holy Thursday, which marks the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Anglican, Catholic bishops to meet in Canada in May

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thirty Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops will meet near Toronto in May to review the progress in their 30 years of ecumenical dialogue. "This high-level meeting is happening at a time when Anglicans and Roman Catholics around the world are exploring the possibilities for further steps toward visible unity," said a April 17 Vatican statement. The May 14-20 meeting at the Queen of Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga will be led by Anglican Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury, primate of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

U.S. bishops oppose giving China permanent normal trade relations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are urging members of the House of Representatives to vote against granting China permanent normal trade relations because of China's human rights violations, especially in the area of religious freedom. Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Policy, stated the bishops' position in an April 12 letter to House members. Under a historic U.S.-China trade deal announced last November, the United States agreed to support China's long-sought membership in the World Trade Organization.

CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Refurbished Notre Dame Cathedral

Gargoyles high up on Notre Dame Cathedral peer over the city of Paris. The facade and roof of the gothic cathedral have undergone a five-year restoration project revealing cleaner, brighter sculptures on the centuries-old church.

Vatican asked to declare Chinese patriotic church in schism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a letter to top Vatican officials, the nephew of the late Chinese Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-mei asked the Vatican to declare the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association schismatic. "The CPA is not and cannot be Catholic because it continues to deny the ... supreme authority of the successor of Peter," said Joseph Kung, president of the U.S.-based Cardinal Kung Foundation. Kung sent the letter March 28. The Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association was founded by and continues to be directed by China's communist government. It elects its own bishops and spurns all ties with the Vatican. The Vatican press office would not comment on Kung's letter April 14.

Vatican diplomat presses for law against kids enlisting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While applauding an international effort to raise the minimum draft age to 18, a Vatican diplomat pressed for a broader law prohibiting children under 18 from even voluntarily enlisting in the armed services. "In many cases, it is difficult to recognize a truly voluntary and free decision," said Archbishop Giuseppe Bertello, the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations in Geneva. The papal diplomat spoke April 12 in Geneva during a meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, which discussed new rules to prevent child soldiers and the sexual exploitation of children.

Pope likely to travel to Oceania in 2001, say regional prelates

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is likely to travel to Noumea, New Caledonia, in the weeks following Easter 2001 to present a major document on church life in Oceania, prelates from the region said. A draft, prepared in the wake of the 1998 Synod of Bishops for Oceania, was virtually complete, said Cardinal Thomas Williams of Wellington, New Zealand. Members of the post-synodal council, made up of Vatican officials and seven prelates from Oceania, met in Rome April 4-6 to add last amendments to the draft before it went to the pope.

Indian archbishop calls attacks on Catholics an 'opportunity'

AGRA, India (CNS) — The Agra Archdiocese in northern India witnessed attacks on missionaries that its archbishop considers a challenge for dialogue. Three of the four attacks reported March 31-April 11 were on priests and nuns associated with schools. They were manhandled, verbally abused and threatened, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Archbishop Vincent Concessao of Agra told UCA News April 11 that the attacks posed "an opportunity for us to come out and tell what we are doing and why." He said he wrote a letter to federal and state officials, including Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, seeking "immediate action" to provide security to Christian schools.

Vatican to hold Easter vigil outdoors to accommodate crowds

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — So many pilgrims want to celebrate Easter with Pope John Paul II that the Vatican has decided to hold the April 22 evening Easter vigil Mass in St. Peter's Square. The Mass, which will begin at 8 p.m. with the blessing of fire and a procession with the Easter candle, usually is held inside St. Peter's Basilica. St. Peter's Basilica holds about 8,000 people seated. The piazza, when filled with chairs, can accommodate five times as many.

Peruvian bishops urge calm amid post-election tensions

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Peruvian bishops renewed their call to avoid violence amid tensions following the country's presidential election. "This is the moment for serenity, respect and confidence in the law," said Archbishop Juan Cipriani Thorne of Lima. The president of the Peruvian bishops' conference, Archbishop Luis Bambaren Gastelumendi, said the Peruvian population showed a "great level of civility and respect for the democratic system." "This respect must be kept," Archbishop Bambaren added.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER cpa CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 1998

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 30 — 11 am Confirmation
Holy Spirit, Denver

May 1 — 7 pm Confirmation
St. Joseph, Newton

May 3 - 10
Annual pilgrimage with Knights of Malta to Lourdes

May 12 — 7 pm Confirmation
St. Aloysius, Hickory

May 13 — 11 am
Diocesan Lay Ministry
Graduation Mass
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
5 pm Confirmation, St. Piux X
and blessing of Pro-life monument

Diocesan planner

April

24 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer/dementia group held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is not meeting today but will meet on May 22 from 2-3:30 p.m. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135 with any questions or concerns.

27 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to attend a healing Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the Mass. Call the church office at (828) 252-3151 for details.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Assumption Church, 4207 Shamrock Dr., is sponsoring a presentation on the death penalty and how it works within our legal system by James P. Cooney III, a local attorney. A question and answer period and light refreshments will follow the presentation, beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight. For more information or for babysitting arrangements, call Betty Leone at (704) 334-6553.

28 HIGH POINT — To benefit the residents of Maryfield Nursing Home, the Volunteers of Maryfield are having their annual yard sale today and tomorrow April 29 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Providence Place, 1701 Westchester Dr., in the old Westchester Mall in the Lerner Shop. Donations are being accepted until April 26, and tax deduction acknowledgements are being given. For more information, call Dot Hockett at (336) 886-2444 or (336) 869-8186 or Sarah Shelton at (336) 886-2444 or (336) 454-2864.

29 BOONE — The third annual "Swing into Spring" golf tournament, sponsored by the Pi Sigma Epsilon service club from Appalachian State University, is taking place today at the Boone Golf Club, 433 Fairway Dr. The round, breakfast, lunch and a gift are included in the package, and the proceeds will benefit the Ivette

Catholic mayor, marchers want end to debate over Confederate flag

By JORDAN MCMORROUGH
The New Catholic Miscellany

COLUMBIA, S.C. (CNS) — The vast majority of South Carolinians support moving the Confederate flag from atop South Carolina's Statehouse, yet the Legislature has failed to act, Charleston's Catholic mayor told a rally in Columbia April 6.

A throng of people converged at the Statehouse for the rally, which marked the conclusion of a five-day, 120-mile trek led by Mayor Joseph P. Riley to call for action on the issue.

The effort was a "grass-roots initiative to let the South Carolina Legislature know that the citizens of South Carolina want an immediate end to the Confederate flag debate," according to march organizers.

In his remarks, Riley, a parishioner at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, shared a threatening letter he received prior to the event, which necessitated the wearing of a bulletproof vest throughout the march as well as a beefed-up security presence for marchers.

The anonymous letter writer told the mayor that if he marched with blacks through Calhoun County south of Columbia, "I will put you in my gun sights."

"Ladies and gentlemen," Riley said, "that is not his heritage, that is his hate."

Opponents of the flag see it as a vestige of hatred and slavery and want it removed from the Statehouse dome. Supporters see the banner as a symbol of Southern heritage that honors Confederate dead and demand that it stay where it is.

Mayor Riley started the walk April 2 with about 600 people. Marchers braved rain, rough roads, blisters, and groups of protesters along the way. About 2,000 people walked the final leg, including Charleston Bishop Robert J. Baker.

"It is time to reconcile and to find a solution that represents the sentiments of the parties that disagree about the meaning of the flag over the state Capitol," the bishop said in a statement.

> **"There are those who value the flag for its historical and cultural heritage, and there are those who feel the flag does not represent them," he added. "Now is the time for a solution, not tomorrow — in this session of the Legislature, and not the next."**
>
> *— Bishop Robert J. Baker, Bishop of Charleston*

"There are those who value the flag for its historical and cultural heritage, and there are those who feel the flag does not represent them," he added. "Now is the time for a solution, not tomorrow — in this session of the Legislature, and not the next."

"Get in Step" officials noted the event drew thousands of participants along the way — some for a few minutes and others for an entire day. Church groups came by the busloads, as did school groups.

One morning found four of South Carolina's top university athletic coaches joining Riley at the front of the line — University of South Carolina football coach Lou Holtz and basketball coach Eddie Fogler, along with Clemson football coach Tommy Bowden and basketball coach Larry Shyatt.

Others who joined in the final leg

See CONFEDERATE FLAG, page 9

St. Philip's parishioner earns Morehead Scholarship

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

TROUTMAN — Dan Folliard, a high school senior at South Iredell High School and a member of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, had a problem that many high school seniors would like to have. Should he accept an appointment to West Point, an appointment to the Naval Academy or a Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill?

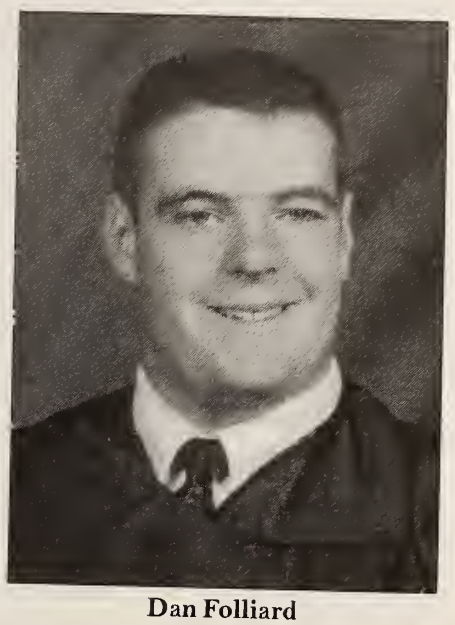
He chose to go to UNC. "It was really a tough decision, but I think I made the right one," he said. "I'm so lucky. All my friends are filling out scholarship applications to see what they can get. I'm so happy I don't have to worry about that stuff anymore."

One thing that factored into Folliard's decision was the fact that his brother is currently a junior at UNC. He also mentioned the atmosphere of the campus when he went there for final interviews last fall, just when the leaves were starting to change colors and fall off the trees.

"The scenery was breathtaking," he said. "They really spoiled us in the finals weekend." His room and food at the Carolina Inn were paid for by the Morehead Foundation.

He was able to visit his brother's dorm room and play video games before his interviews. "That helped me relax," he said. "All my interviews went smoothly. Nothing went wrong."

This year was the first time that the Morehead competition did not include local interviews, Folliard said. Instead, nominees wrote essays and listed their extracurricular activities and sent that directly to the screening committee in Chapel Hill. Folliard then had his regional interview in Greensboro before the finals in Chapel Hill.



Dan Folliard

Folliard doesn't plan to play too many video games once he arrives at UNC. "I'm not one to stay in my room and study or play games too much," he said. He is considering a major in international affairs or foreign relations. He also talked about volunteering at the Newman Catholic Student Center in Chapel Hill, where his brother just received an internship for next year to work as program director.

He plans to get involved in other ways as well. He had thought he might try out for the wrestling team, but he injured his knee during high school wrestling this year and wasn't able to finish the season, and he thinks that the injury may prevent him from participating in the future.

Tina Swaney, youth minister at St. Philip the Apostle, said that Folliard is not the type to let injuries get him down. "He's a real neat kid,"

See MOREHEAD, page 4

Rubio Fund, a 19-year-old St. Elizabeth Church parishioner suffering from leukemia. For time and details, call Karen James at (828) 297-4084.

30 CHARLOTTE — A Polish language Mass is being offered tonight at 6 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. Father Roch Drozdzik is hearing confessions after Mass, and there is a reception in the activity center also after Mass. Call the church office for more information at (704) 523-4641.

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday today at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in Mass, the rosary and chaplet, followed by refreshments. For more information, call the church office at (828) 686-3243.

WADESBORO — Sacred Heart Church, 205 Rutherford St., is having an "afternoon of song, praise and fellowship" today at 4 p.m., featuring Theodore Carr, mayor of Morven, the Cason Trio from Charlotte, the Voices of Harmony from Lilesville, the Notes of Praise, St. James Church Choir and Sacred Heart Church's children's choir and Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor. The theme for the program, being held in Madonna Hall, is "Stepping into the New Millennium." Call the church office at (704) 694-5183 or (910) 582-0207 for further details.

May

3 CHARLOTTE — The support group for those living with cancer and their caretakers is having its monthly meeting tonight at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., after the Wednesday night dinner. The group is gathering in the ministry center on the third floor. For more information, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 27.

4 CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church Women's Guild is having a spring card party tonight from 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the church activity center at 6828 Old Reid Rd. Refreshments, door prizes and a raffle are on hand for attendants. For reservations, call Doris Reinhardt at (704) 552-2026 or Anne Kenney at (704) 552-0376.

5 HICKORY — There is a Marriage Encounter Weekend happening this weekend at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. This serves as a time for couples to enrich their marriages and to enhance communication and spirituality within their marriages. For information, contact Kevin and Theresa Williams at (704) 374-0973, and for registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

6 CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured and supportive environment for pregnant women, is holding its annual "Walk for Life" this morning from 10 a.m.-12 noon at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. If interested in participating in the walk solo or with a group, contact Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School, 1730 Link Rd., annual fund-raiser, sponsored by the home school association, is taking place tonight at 6:30 p.m. The theme is "Celebrating 40 Years of Catholic High School Education," and the event features a silent auction, food, a live auction and a cash raffle. For details, call Eddie Mitchell at (336) 725-4248 or Jamie McAleer at (336) 777-0217.

7 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is having its 48th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day at 3 p.m. this afternoon, with Legionaries of Christ Father Peter Devereux from Atlanta, Ga., as the speaker for the event. The day includes a procession, a homily, the rosary, hymns and Benediction. For more information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127 or the church office at (704) 554-7088.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Program sends fresh air through the minds of afflicted elderly

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Suzanne Bach's learned to respect and cherish the elderly from her childhood in a small German Catholic community made up of her older family members and other elderly people who were a part of her life. She carried this respect with her throughout her life as she served as the former diocesan director of CRISM or Elder Ministry and now, with her work with the memory-impaired.

Bach is spearheading an information session on May 6 for caregivers and family members suffering from Alzheimer's Disease or dementia, featuring local panelists, Dr. Fred Allen, a neurologist, Bill Claytor, an attorney specializing in the legal ramifications after a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, Henry Bostick, the newest director of the Alzheimer's Association in Charlotte, and Bach herself, the director of the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, held weekly at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

The Alzheimer's Information Day is being held at Providence United Methodist Church, across from St. Gabriel Church, from 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and will be a time for caretakers to learn the latest information about the disease and for those with Alzheimer's to experience a little of what takes place at the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite sessions.

Shining Stars grew out of the support group, held on the fourth Monday of the month from 2:00-3:30 p.m., also at St. Gabriel Church, for those who are faced with the day-to-day task of caring for those family members or friends whose memories are slipping away.

> **"With something as difficult as Alzheimer's, many feel embarrassed because their loved one is not the same anymore. The Church is a good location because of the certain level of trust people feel for it."**
> *— Suzanne Bach*

"With something as difficult as Alzheimer's, many feel embarrassed because their loved one is not the same anymore," explained Bach. "The Church is a good location because of the certain level of trust people feel for it."

The adult day respite, a state-regulated program, serves as a place for the memory-impaired to go to participate in activities and for the caregivers to have some time for themselves, said Bach. "The day respite is a little jewel because it helps the care receiver to get out of the home and interact in a safe social setting with people who are trained to work with them," continued Bach, who has a master's of human development and learning in counseling..

Courtesy photo

Suzanne Bach, director of Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, far right, stands with Nancy Groover, program director, back center, and several people involved with the program, designed for those suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia. Left to right are Juni Bannin, Helene Russell, Rosa Coiro and Lena Gabriel.

The people who participate in the activities can still take care of most of their functions because the caregivers can drop them off for the day's activities from 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., which include reminiscing activities, physical chair exercises, arts and crafts and occasional work with the pre-kindergarten children from Cradle, St. Gabriel's early childhood program. Bach added that the group does something spiritual every day from Bible readings to Stations of the Cross and sing-a-longs, which adds an element on which other such programs do not focus, explained Bach.

"We are lucky as Catholics because we have so many rote prayers and song committed to memory, and we can recite those prayers and songs learned as children," said Bach, in reference to someone in the group who remembered the words to several songs though suffering from memory loss.

To help with the Shining Stars program, Bach went in search of funding and received a positive response from United Way. The grant will also help with the newly established program in place at Providence United Methodist Church, the host site for the May 6 information day. Associate Pastor Rev. Mr. Bill Jeffries, one of the ministers at St. Gabriel's neighbor church, had taken a notice to the program and thought that it would work well with several in his congregation dealing with Alzheimer's and dementia.

"It is hard for families to deal with, but underneath all that confusion, these people do shine," Bach said of the name of the program. "I see them as a blessing." ▼

For more information about Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, the monthly support group and the upcoming Alzheimer's Information Day, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

St. Phillip parishioner earns Morehead Scholarship, from page 3

she said. "He's the type that can take just about anything and deal with it and make the best of it. He has a positive attitude."

Swaney also talked about Folliard's involvement at the church. "He's always been an active part of our youth group," she said. "He's always been a leader, mainly by example," she said.

In addition to being involved with the youth group, Folliard teaches the first-grade faith formation class at St. Philip the Apostle, along with Katie Swaney, her daughter. "They do a great job," said Swaney. "There are not a lot of kids who will get up every Sunday morning to teach faith formation."

Swaney said that there were about 20 children in the class, and that the class continued to grow. She also said that the class recently took its turn leading a Sunday Mass at the church, doing the readings, the responsorial, the petitions, the ushering and the bringing in of the gifts.

"Several people made a point to tell me what a great job they did," she said.

Folliard is involved in many ways at school as well. He was captain of the football and wrestling teams this year, as well as the senior class president, an executive officer of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC, a member of the Beta Club and the Junior Jaycees.

Folliard said that Father Peter Fitzgibbons, pastor at St. Philip the Apostle and a former army chaplain, wanted him to go to West Point. All the same, Father Fitzgibbons wishes Folliard well. "Dan's a great kid," he said.

"He's very devoted and energetic. He has a great sense of humor. He's just a real all-around good kid." ▼

For more information, please write:
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Springtime rain does not dampen seniors' spirits

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Hundreds of years of living were represented through smiles that shone through the rainy, blustery day during the Spring Fling for seniors March 13 at the Catholic Conference Center. Many seniors from all points of the western half of North Carolina braved the weather and traveled on charter and school buses and in cars to join together for a day of games, demonstrations and an all-around pleasant time.

"It is nice to get out and see other Catholics from my parish and other parishes," said Marie Isley from St. Mary Church in Greensboro. "This gives me a good outlook on life, and as an older person, you have to enjoy life now because you don't know how many more years you have. This also makes you appreciate your religion more."

"This gives me a good outlook on life, and as an older person, you have to enjoy life now because you don't know how many more years you have. This also makes you appreciate your religion more."

— Marie Isley

Nearly 300 elderly men and women from approximately 30 parishes attended the annual event, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry. "Spring Fling is a day filled with fun and activities and is a time for elders to step out of the normal role and reconnect with their inner child," said Sandra Breakfield, director of Elder Ministry. "They come together on common ground to renew their faith and get reacquainted with friends."

Breakfield enlisted the help of several elderly men and women from around the diocese to serve as this year's Spring Fling team. This was Helen and Tom Gassen's first time on the committee. "This is critical for seniors because of fellowship and simply getting out and moving around," said Mrs. Gassen, who teaches tai chi in her spare time. "This can bring some people to life, and we need more activities for senior citizens."

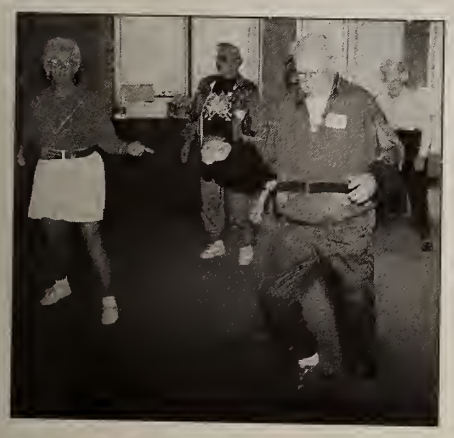
After the morning group presentation from Mika Magic, a magician, the seniors had their pick of several afternoon activities including: blood pressure and pulse checks, arts and crafts, where attendants made miniature cloth angels, bingo, professional massages in the "chairway to heaven," line dancing from J.N. and Company, and a presentation about edible flowers from Rachel Sigmon.

Lisa Bruen, a licensed massage therapist from Carolina Myotherapy Clinic, talked about the importance of massage therapy especially for seniors.

"For elderly people that do not receive touch or one-on-one contact anymore, massage brings them comfort and helps with bodily and emotional systems and lets them know they are not forgotten," explained Bruen, who, along with Arc Drumheller, helped to relax the eager people standing in line for the rare treat of personal massage.

Photos by Alesha M. Price

Joanne Grabinski, one of the Spring Fling event committee members from Holy Spirit Church in Denver, assists Daisy Hinton from St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem with her miniature cloth angel during the arts and crafts session at the Spring Fling for seniors on April 13 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.



A Spring Fling participant happily and bravely struggles with the Electric Slide during the line dancing portion, taught by J.N. and Company.

"I became involved with herbs and edible flowers a few years before my retirement in 1985," said Sigmon, who presented one of the more popular events among men and women. "If you don't stay active as you grow older, you tend to lose something vital and important in your life," she continued.

Some of the participants decided to forgo the scheduled events and used the time to catch-up with friends, visit the center's chapel or sit on the sofas and read. Edward O'Brien and a large group of fellow parishioners from Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem sat around smiling while joking and talking the day away.

"It is delightful to get together with friends who feel the same way I do about things. There isn't much for us old-timers to do except watch TV, and this is a way for us to have a nice, casual time," said O'Brien.

After the closing liturgy of the day, celebrated by Bishop Curlin, he and the audience were surprised by a large cake with candles in honor of his sixth anniversary as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. "It was a good ending to a nice day of activities and fellowship, in spite of the rain," said one participant.

James Thompson traveled to the Catholic Center from St. Mary Church in Shelby and noted, "Events like this help keep me motivated and young, and a little change always helps. I meet people who can help me, and I can help someone else. You never get too old to learn." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Extend religious workers visas, cardinal asks Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill to permanently extend a visa program for religious workers is critical to many pastoral ministries, Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida told a Senate subcommittee. "The work of the Catholic Church in the United States would suffer dramatically without the assistance of nonminister religious workers," said Cardinal Maida in April 13 testimony to the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration. The 5,000 visas approved annually for nonminister foreign church workers benefit more than half the U.S. dioceses, he said. The nuns, religious brothers and others given the visas work in health care, parish ministry, teaching, nursing and counseling.

Chicago Archdiocese takes part in 'No Sweatshop' campaign

CHICAGO (CNS) — Chicago's cardinal said his archdiocese has joined a national anti-sweatshop campaign because the church is called in a jubilee year to proclaim "'liberty to captives,' including those 'enslaved to undignified working conditions.'" In a statement April 12, Cardinal Francis E. George said the archdiocese is working to make sure that school uniforms are made "sweat-labor free." He noted that similar campaigns are under way in the Archdioceses of Philadelphia and Newark, N.J. He said the U.S. Labor Department has been asked by the archdiocese to review a list of 19 uniform vendors known to be used by Catholic school personnel "in an effort to identify the source of manufacturers of school and sports uniforms."

Project Rachel ad campaign not for proselytizing, official says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The national advertising program for Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's post-abortion reconciliation ministry, is not aimed at "returning Catholics to the faith nor proselytizing," a spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops' pro-life efforts said April 12. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said in a statement that the purpose of the ad campaign and of Project Rachel "is to offer women and men suffering after abortion any help they need." She said widespread interest across the United States and internationally had prompted stories that contained some "inaccuracies which should be corrected."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Palm Sunday in El Salvador

Children carry palms in a street procession through Panchimalco, El Salvador, April 16. Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphant return to Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his life on earth.

Way of Cross marks jubilee-year debt protests

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 100 praying, singing protesters marched from the U.S. Capitol to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund April 11, linking Jesus' passion and death with the suffering of the world's poor. The fifth annual Economic Way of the Cross brought an afternoon of prayerful reflection to a week of escalating protests in the nation's capital against policies of the World Bank and IMF. Those institutions were to start their annual spring round of meetings in Washington April 16. Members of the Religious Working Group on the World Bank and IMF sponsored the outdoor prayer/protest.

Black Catholics often feel invisible in U.S. church, says priest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — African-American Catholics often feel invisible in the U.S. church, says a Nashville pastor. "They may not say it, but they feel it: This is not our church," said Franciscan Father Ferdinand Cheri, who is black. In an interview with the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese, he recalled an assignment as a young priest at a New Orleans parish that had a mixture of black and white families. Parishioners celebrated St. Patrick's Day for the Irish families and St. Joseph's feast day for the Italian families, but when the black members wanted to celebrate a black saint, like St. Martin de Porres or St. Augustine, there was opposition, he said.

Protestants honor Catholics for defense of Christians in India

NEW YORK (CNS) — Protestant evangelicals honored a Catholic archbishop and layman from India April 11 for leadership in defending India's Christian community against attacks by Hindu fundamentalists. The International Council of Evangelical Churches and the Global Center for Indian Christians, both led by an Anglican minister, the Rev. Bernard Chand of Wilmington, Del., gave the Staines International Award for Religious Harmony to Archbishop Alan de Lastic of Delhi and John Dayal, a newspaper editor in Delhi and official of several organizations.

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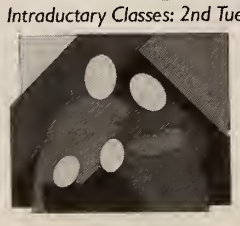

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Pope to beatify two visionaries in Fatima in May

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will travel to Fatima, Portugal, in May to beatify two shepherd children who had visions of Mary in 1917, a Vatican official confirmed.

"The Holy Father accepted the invitation of the bishop of Fatima to hold the beatification ceremony of the shepherd children directly in Fatima," Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, secretary-general of the Vatican's jubilee committee, told Vatican Radio March 21.

The pope will leave for Portugal May 12 and celebrate the beatification Mass the following day — the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima — on the shrine's esplanade, he said.

The announcement marked the first Vatican confirmation that the pope would travel to Fatima to beatify Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the three children who had visions of Mary. The third child, Sister Lucia dos Santos, is a 93-year-old nun living in a Portuguese convent.

Portugal's bishops, after visiting the Vatican in November, said that the pope had agreed to make the trip.

Archbishop Sepe also announced that the Fatima statue of Mary would be brought to the Vatican in October for a special ceremony entrusting the third Christian millennium to Mary's care.

Archbishop Sepe said that at the end of Mass Oct. 8 during the Jubilee for Bishops, the pope will lead an "act of entrustment" to Mary.

Pope John Paul has several times spoken of Our Lady of Fatima as a special protectress. He was shot and seriously wounded on her feast day in 1981, and a year later he paid a visit to the Fatima shrine to give thanks for his survival. On the 10th anniversary of the shooting, he placed a fragment of the bullet that wounded him in the crown atop the Fatima statue of Mary. ▼

CNS FILE PHOTO BY LESLIE KOSSOFF

The Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima will be the site of the beatification of Fatima visionaries Francisco and Jacinta Marto in mid-May. Pope John Paul II will celebrate the beatification Mass at the Portugal shrine May 13.

Have a blessed Easter!

From the staff of The Catholic News & Herald

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?

Rev. Mr. Frank Seabo
is a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Charlotte. He is completing formation at Theological College in Washington D.C. He will be ordained in June 2000.

"For 14 years I worked in law enforcement education after receiving an undergraduate degree in finance and an MBA.

During that time, I became active in my parish and the Catholic community in North Carolina. I taught faith formation classes and became active in the Knights of Columbus serving as Grand Knight for my Council.

I really loved teaching and helping others in a parish setting. My friends encouraged me to consider the priesthood, knowing my love for serving the people in our church. With their encouragement and prayers, I answered God's call to be a priest.

Joyfully, I can serve you as a priest in this diocese. I hope that others will prayerfully consider their vocation in life."

... Are you answering His call?

For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen,
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Senate bill would award Congressional Gold Medal to pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., has introduced legislation that would award the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II.

Sixty-six senators have co-sponsored the bill.

"Though many people see the pope as an important statesman, diplomat and political figure, Pope John Paul II is much more than that," Brownback said April 13 on the Senate floor. "As spiritual leader to the world's 1 billion Catholics, the pope has commenced a great dialogue with modern culture, one that transcends the boundaries of political or economic ideology."

A House version of the bill was introduced in January.

The pope "stands boldly as an ever-vigilant sign of contradiction to a culture that is darkened by the clouds of death," Brownback said. "In the face of this mounting storm, he has tirelessly proclaimed the need for a culture of life."

Brownback added, "He is a crusader against the offenses against human dignity that have transpired in the 20th century. More than any other single person this century, Pope John Paul II has worked to protect the rights of each individual. As well, John Paul II has addressed almost every major question posed by the modern mind at the turn of the millennium."

A Brownback spokesman said the bill has been assigned to the Senate Banking Committee for consideration.

The pope "stands boldly as an ever-vigilant sign of contradiction to a culture that is darkened by the clouds of death," Brownback said. "In the face of this mounting storm, he has tirelessly proclaimed the need for a culture of life."

— Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan

Earlier this year, a Congressional Gold Medal was approved for Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York. Last year, a medal was approved for Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, the former president of the University of Notre Dame. In 1997, Congress approved a medal for Mother Teresa.

Others under consideration for Congressional Gold Medals are the late "Peanuts" cartoonist Charles Schulz, the Apollo 11 astronauts, 1960 Olympics three-time gold medal-winner Wilma Rudolph, civil rights activists Rosa Parks and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford and their wives. ▼

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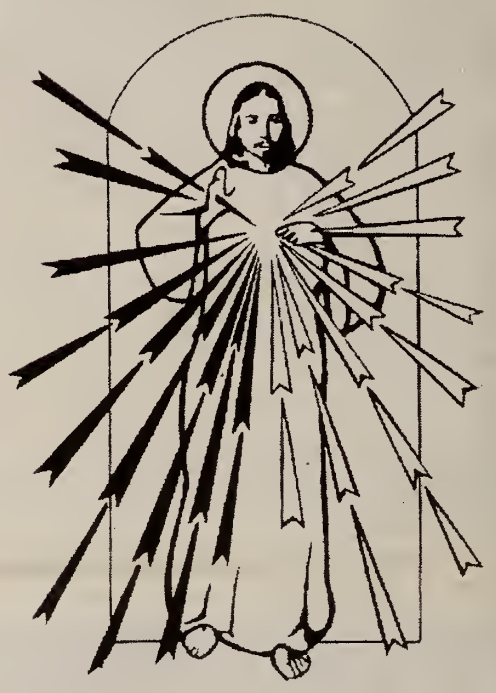
April 30, 2000



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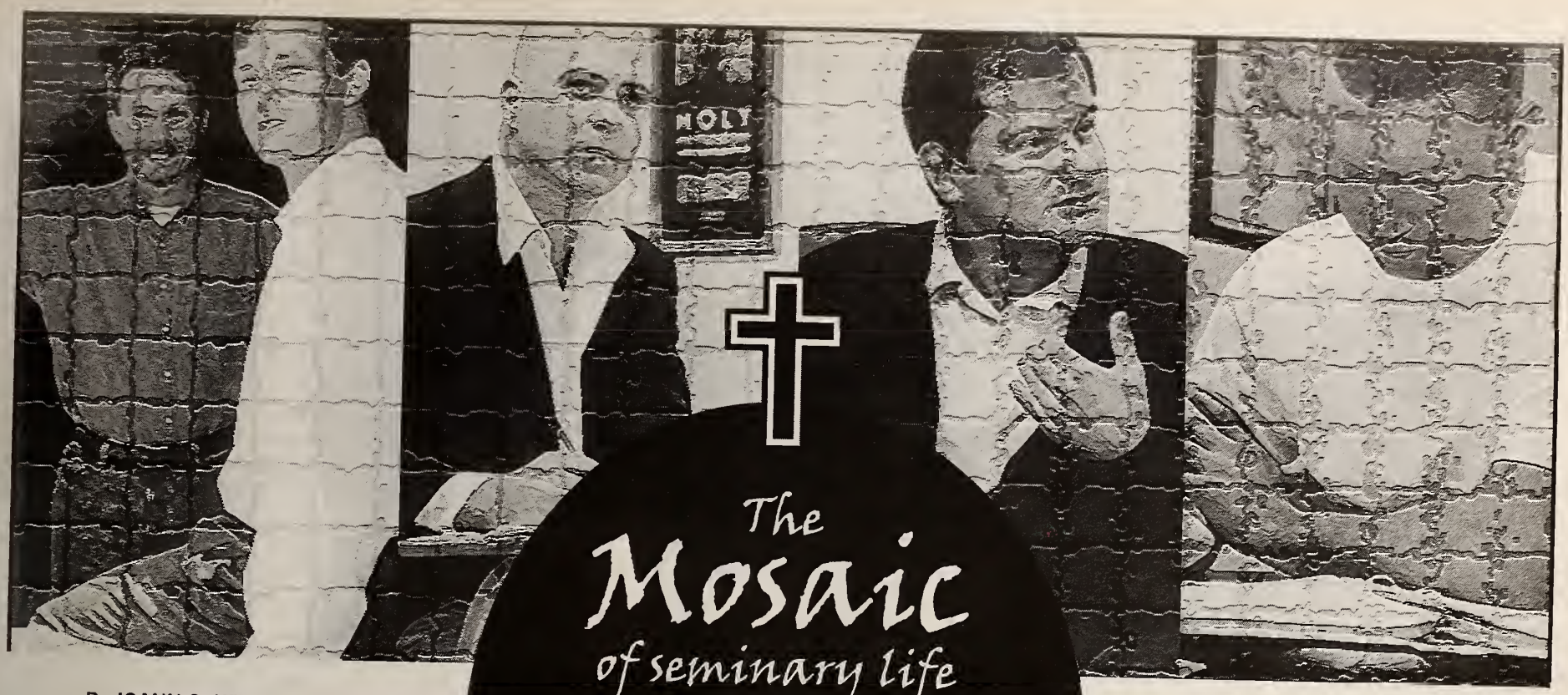


The Mosaic of seminary life

Special to The Catholic News & Herald • April 21, 2000

We set out for a glimpse of the future church.

A couple months back, Editor Joann Keane and Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar met with Bishop Curlin, seeking counsel on how to best bring vocations to the pages of The Catholic News & Herald. With 22 seminarians in formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, what could be placed in print to develop a picture of who and what these men are all about?

What we wish to share with you in this special section, is what Bishop Curlin calls, "a mosaic of seminary life."

As we prepare to celebrate new beginnings in Easter, let us introduce you to another form of new life — in the stories of men of faith.

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

LATROBE, Pa. — We set out as voyeurs of the future church. What we found comes as no surprise: We are in good hands.

We were driven by the prospect of a historic number of priestly ordinations this coming June, when seven men will commit themselves in service to God and His people in the Diocese of Charlotte.

But our story plans traveled well beyond our initial thoughts. As we mulled over the editorial direction of this edition, it became more than just the seven. We wanted to introduce all of the 22 seminarians in formation for the Diocese of Charlotte. Moreover, we wanted to cut into a slice of daily life in seminary.

As practicality set in, we realized the daunting task of 22 interviews, not to mention the logistical challenge posed by nearly half a dozen seminaries up and down the East Coast. Last month, Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar and I hit the road. Destination: St. Vincent Archabbey and Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., with plans to meet with the largest coalition of seminarians studying at the same institution.

In Pennsylvania, we found the mosaic — not a cookie-cutter mold of a priestly man, but nine distinctively unique personalities. Nine diverse men preparing to serve a diverse church, nine men, not unlike the rest of us, sharing some of the same challenges of daily life. Yet, one sacrament will someday separate them from the flock: The sacrament of ordination.

We met a man who escaped the religious persecution of a communist regime, only to be captured, returned, imprisoned. His faith journey is one of near fatality. And while a second escape proved successful, his road to freedom was blighted with horrendous obstacles. He survived on faith.

We met a man holding the world in his hands, or so he thought. The trappings of wealth and success, as it turns out, were but smoke and mirrors to his true calling.

We met a man contemplating marriage and coming to grips with the whisper that grew louder: God has other plans.

We met a man who always had an inkling he wanted to be a priest. Though he joined the working class, he felt an emptiness. This void is filling now with the Holy Spirit.

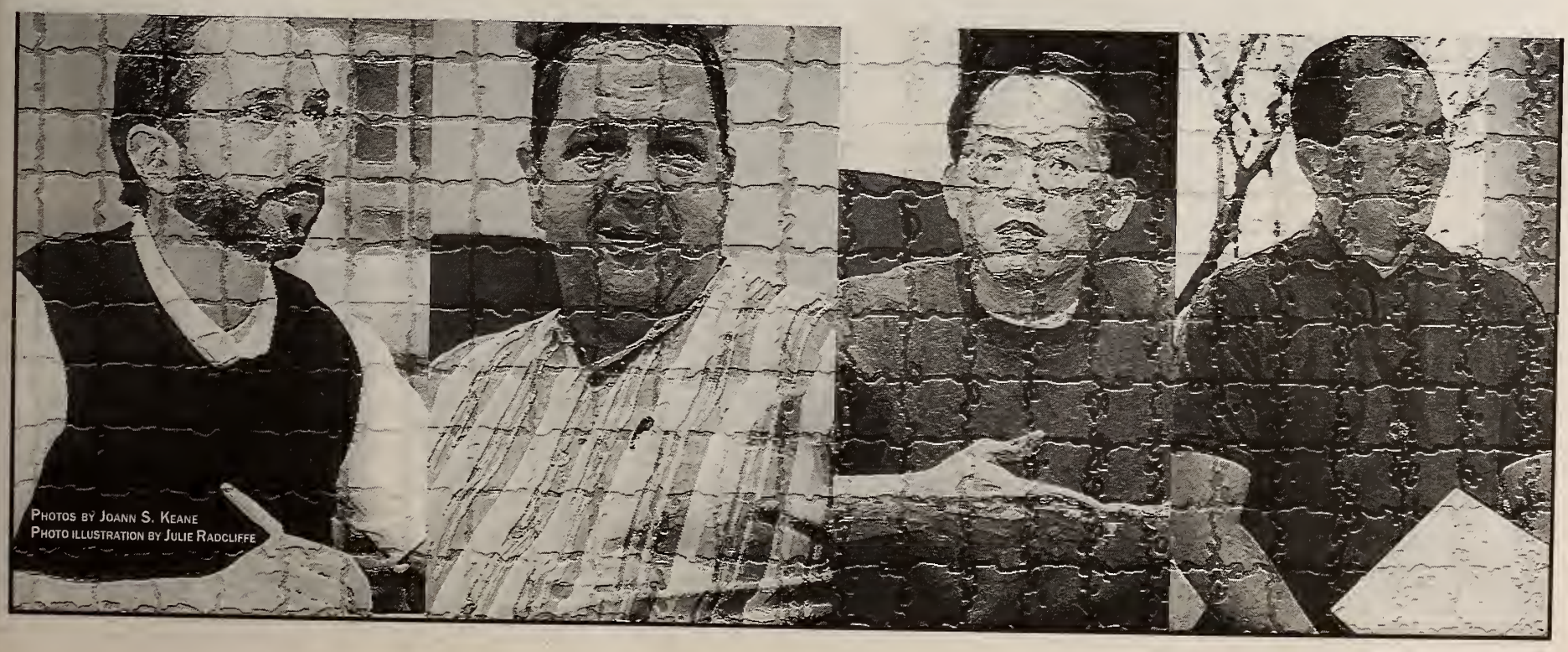
We met a man already immersed in faith. For the better part of a decade, he was a brother in a religious community. The fork in his faith journey brought him to the diocese to fulfill his desire to become a priest in service to Western North Carolina.

The stories go on, poignant and honest, each unique. Every interview a new tile in this mosaic of faith.

On the campus of St. Vincent Seminary, these men are learning more than homiletics. They are finding camaraderie in friendship and support that extends beyond the diocese in which they will serve. St. Vincent Seminary is the formative home for men from 16 dioceses.

And while support comes from their brother seminarians, it is nurtured by a faculty and staff eager to assist with theological quandaries and the intricacies of faith formation.

We met nine men in love with the church. And while diversity was evident in their stories, the cohesive bond of this mosaic is irrefutable: Jesus. ▼



Photos by Joann S. Keane
Photo illustration by Julie Radcliffe

Profiles

Sharing the Faith: Rev. Mr. Dave Brzoska

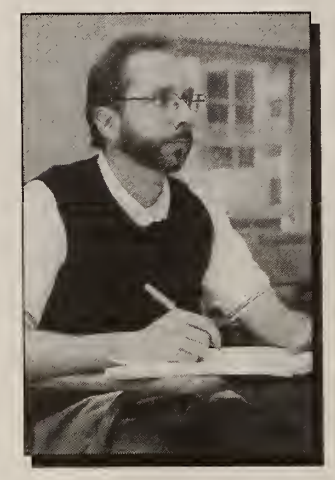
Rev. Mr. Dave Brzoska sees the church as a place for people to share their faith, find support and encounter a sense of life in their faith. It wasn't all that long ago when he, too, found himself looking for those very elements.

Brzoska grew up outside Philadelphia, where, he says, Mass was much like a production line. Move 'em in, fill the parish, get ready for another Mass. It was a delivery of the sacraments, but there wasn't much life to it. He drifted away.

When Brzoska's job transferred him to Newton, a small hamlet near Hickory a dozen years back, he got reacquainted with his faith. He found St. Aloysius in Hickory. More significantly, he discovered the peaceful prayerful manner of then-pastor Father Wilbur Thomas. "It gave me a new perspective on the Mass," says Brzoska. "Going to church on Sunday was something I really started looking forward to."

While enjoying the success of his job, it was at the expense of stress and pressure, and little life outside the work environment. He became involved in parish ministries, and found relief and satisfaction in his volunteer efforts.

The idea of priesthood and a future of service drifted through his mind. The thought of priesthood was dismissed about as quickly as it popped into his head. Dismissed, but not forgotten. Time passed and he broached the idea with Father Thomas.



Rev. Mr. Dave Brzoska
June 2000

"I had no clue about what would be involved," says Brzoska. Father Thomas listened, encouraged his vocation and connected him with then-Director of Vocations, Father Frank O'Rourke. "And the process went from there, and here I am, six years later," he says.

In those intermediary years, he felt at times as though he'd been plucked from his friends and family, and went through a natural progression of 'what am I doing here.' But seminary is discernment, and a time of learning more about yourself. It's a time of, "trying to come to grips with yourself and recognizing gifts, talents and weaknesses. And learning to improve them," says Rev. Mr. Brzoska. Further, he says, "it is a time of becoming aware how God works in yourself and others."

This past year has been one of practical experience, with his assignment to assist a nearby parish on weekends. As a transitional deacon, Rev. Mr. Broska can celebrate sacraments such as matrimony and baptisms. In St. Bernard parish, he also preaches at a couple of the weekend Masses. It's invaluable, he says, "Learning to preach and how to effectively express Scripture and the church's teachings for the people to make it practical in their lives."

Today, Rev. Mr. Brzoska is much more comfortable with himself and the growth of his own spirituality. "More specifically, in relationships with others ... and taking an active role in bringing expression to God's presence in those relationships."

It wasn't all that long ago when he set out on a journey for those very elements. ▼

A lifelong dream to serve: Christopher Roux

From the age of five, Christopher Roux sensed he wanted to be a priest.

"That was sort of always there, through grammar school, high school, dating and everything else," said Roux, now 36 and anticipating ordination by 2002. "I just somehow always knew."

To be an instrument in the eucharistic mystery is what Roux looks most forward to in priesthood. "The greatest miracle on earth is when that bread and wine is transformed into the body and blood of Christ," he said. "To be used by God in that way is very awe-inspiring."

Like many of his brother seminarians, Roux entered the professional world after college, working as a youth ministry director, for a pediatric health project, and as an assistant director of human resources for a catering company. The calling to priesthood stayed strong, however, and Roux spent a year in college seminary.

The youth ministry and health care experiences, he said, taught him much about evangelizing and helping people in need, while the human resource work fostered some of the management skills he'll need in parish life.

"I think I can handle hiring a parish staff a lot easier than some of the human resources work," he said with a laugh. "They don't have to tend bar."

A couple of chance meetings with Bishop William G. Curlin — in addition to having family in the Carolinas — influenced Roux to decide to pursue studies for the priesthood of the Diocese of Charlotte.

He said support from his family, brother seminarians and the people he will someday serve as a priest has been invaluable while in formation.

"I don't think that can be underestimated," he said. "It's just nice to know that people are thinking of me and praying for me." ▼

Humble servant: Leo Fowler

There is a pleasantness on Leo Fowler's face when he speaks of the things he is passionate about.

He has vivid recollections of growing up in Louisiana and of family life in South Carolina. He wears a contented look when he discusses the spirituality of the saints. And when the subject of his upcoming life as a priest comes up, Leo Fowler's happiness is unmistakable.

"I've always felt the desire to be a priest, even as a kid," said Fowler, 52. He recalls knocking on his pastor's door in grade school, eager to be an altar server. He loved the Mass from his earliest memories.

Even St. Nicholas himself got in on a plan that had yet to fully unfold itself.

"By fifth or sixth grade, Santa Claus brought me a Mass kit, so I had my little altar and white vestments and alb, and I used to practice Mass," he said with a chuckle. "That was sort of the beginning of my vocation, and it's something that's stayed with me all these years."

Fowler's discernment process took him to Belmont Abbey, where he spent nine years preparing for the Benedictine life. But, as is common in the faith journey, a new path unveiled itself. Fowler began studies for the diocesan priesthood last fall.

"The experience of God and wanting to be in his service requires a great deal of taking second looks," he said of his vocation. "You can't take your prayer life for granted."

Fowler said his ambitions, shaped in profound ways by his faith, are simple. Again, that pleasantness returns to his face. "All I want," he said with a humble smile, "is to be is a good priest." ▼

Is God calling you?

Are you answering his call?

For information on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Father John Allen in the Office of Vocations, (704) 370-3353.

Surviving through Faith: Tien Duong

Tien Hung Duong is alive by the grace of God. Eight years ago, Tien and his younger brother attempted a daring escape from oppression in Vietnam. They failed. The two Duong brothers were returned and jailed. A determined Tien escaped a second time with his older brother, making their way to a refugee camp in Indonesia.

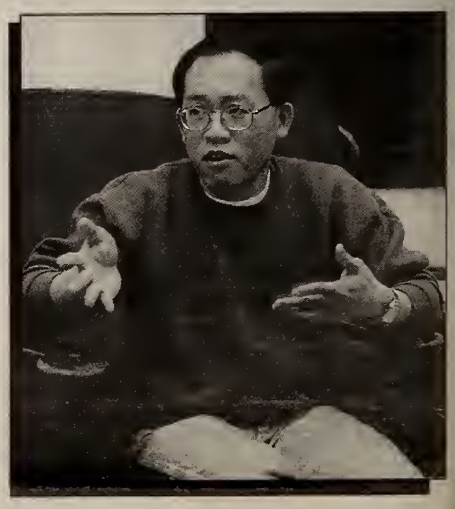
In Vietnam, Tien went to minor seminary, that is until the government closed the seminaries. "The more they forbid people to become priests," says Duong, the more determined he became to someday be ordained.

It would be two and a half years before Tien would leave the encampment. Malnutrition took its toll, and Tien was temporarily paralyzed, unable to walk. All the while, thoughts of priesthood remained. Tien prayed and prayed. He could not walk, and asked, "God, why? Why me? You brought me safely to the free country, I want to be a priest, but how can I serve if I am paralyzed?"

His epiphany came when he realized, it wasn't God wanting him to be like this. "It's just a challenge," recalls Tien. "I just prayed and prayed." He exercised and got himself back on his feet.

Tien had hoped to reach America, and be able to sponsor his parents and nine siblings. Instead, his family would reach the United States first. Through resettlement by the United States Catholic Conference, the Duong family put down roots in Charlotte.

The family sponsored Tien and his brother Duc, allowing them entry into the United States. The brothers entered seminary together, spending their first couple years in Lousiana before transfering, Tien to St. Vincent, Duc to St. Mary Seminary in Washington, D.C. A younger brother is studying to become a Vincentian priest in New York. ▼



Profiles

Resolved in his calling: Rev. Mr. Luis Osorio

Rev. Mr. Luis Osorio is an early riser, but his calling to the priesthood didn't exactly come at the sunrise of his vocational discernment.

Now 42, Rev. Mr. Osorio experienced a variety of professional choices before answering that call to ordained ministry in the church. A native of Colombia, South America, he will be ordained in June as one of seven new priests to serve the Diocese of Charlotte.

"My parents made the effort to pay for my studies, and after I graduated, I had nice jobs," says Rev. Mr. Osorio, who worked in a government office and a sugar refinery in Colombia.

"But I felt that I was missing something here," he adds, pointing to his heart. "I was looking for something else."

It was during a trip to visit his sister in Statesville back in 1988 that Osorio's path to the priesthood slowly began to unveil itself. Father Joe Waters, long known in the Charlotte Diocese for his work with Hispanics, was pastor at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville at the time. Osorio felt an instant connection.

"It was marvelous, because we could relate in Spanish," he says. "Since I met him, his kindness, his friendship, the way that he relates with the people have been so special. He is a very holy priest."

Osorio left Colombia in 1990, relocating to Statesville and searching for a new career. Father Waters asked him to help with the immigrant population. Soon enough, Father Waters brought up the priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Luis Osorio
June 2000

"Oh ... ," says Osorio, smiling at the memory. "I said, 'Father, why are you asking me that?' I never in my life thought of that. Never."

But in Father Waters, Osorio found a mentor and an example of faith. He entered a four-year period of prayer, during which he felt the support of many. Finally, the call he felt was strong enough to lead him to seminary life.

He said it was a life lesson on letting God do the directing.

He recalls a conversation with Father Frank O'Rourke, diocesan vocations director at the time Osorio entered the seminary. "I asked him, 'Father, why did this happen to me so late?'"

They laughed, and Father O'Rourke offered advice that stays with Osorio today: "'It's not your time. It's God's time. God is a mystery, and he works in mysterious ways.'"

With ordination just weeks away, Rev. Mr. Osorio is more resolved than ever in his calling. He begins his mornings by 5 with a holy hour, attends classes, enjoys a hike or a meal with friends, catches the evening news, spends weekends in a parish pastoral assignment, and studies — a lot.

He says the opportunity to serve a diocese with such ethnic variety is appealing. "In our diocese, there is a big necessity for bilingual priests," he says. "Our population is multicultural, and we need to understand the language, the culture and the behavior of the people. The church is universal, and we have to include everybody in that family."

His life at seminary has been one of self-discovery, too. "I have looked at myself in the mirror and asked, "Who is Luis?'" he says. "'What were the mistakes? What kinds of failures and doubts do I have?' I came to understand that, and I forgave myself. Because I came to this place, I could do that."

"It's something that moves your inner being," he added. "If you know yourself, you can love yourself. And in that way, you can share that kind of love and understanding with others." ▼

Conversion of faith: Rico De Silva

Perhaps nobody is more surprised by the priestly vocation of Rico De Silva than Rico himself. At 34 and now in his second year of studies, Rico describes his former self as a party-boy with a eye for the women, a taste for drinking and somewhat reckless living.

"I was a fallen-away Catholic, even though I had gone to Catholic school all my life," says De Silva. "I stopped practicing my faith right after graduating from high school."

Certainly a lifetime away from the Rico today, who rises before dawn for a personal holy hour to start his day.

Panamanian-born De Silva came to the States in 1985, landing at Radford University in Virginia. Though he studied journalism, he found he had a nack for sales. He made his way to Charlotte, falling into a relationship that appeared to have him headed for the altar.

His altar call took an abrupt turn. He'd returned to the church on a casual basis, but something drew him closer. He found himself turning more and more to prayer. He questioned his relationship and was surprised to find himself pondering questions of the priesthood. "God had me in the palm of his hand," says De Silva.

Now in year two of formation, De Silva remains faithful to prayer and Eucharistic adoration as he continues his journey towards anticipated ordination in 2004.

De Silva will bring much-needed bilingual skills to the diocese. His native Spanish will serve a diocese listed by the United States Catholic Conference as home for the largest Hispanic influx in the country. ▼

A new path: Chapin Engler

In a 1995 commencement address at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, singer-songwriter James Taylor had this to say about his craft: "I thank God for music, and I thank music for God."

Those words are ones Chapin Engler can relate to, for it is through music that his journey toward the priesthood was initially orchestrated.

"I had a conversion experience, and the beginnings of it were while I was singing," said Engler, who was a cantor at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte for eight years.

"It's quite an odyssey how God just basically tapped me on the shoulder. I finally turned, and it was like he said, 'Hey, you! I've been trying to get your attention for a long time.'"

Engler had been struggling with his appreciation of the liturgy for a number of years, and it wasn't until he had the chance to serve as cantor that he returned to weekly Mass.

His struggle continued, and then one Sunday, as he was singing, the lyrics and the music moved him to tears.

"I was right in the middle of this song, I just started breaking down," he recalls. "I said, 'Lord, I don't know what's up with this, but I need to figure it out.'"

That experience began an intense discernment process that would immerse him in a love of the church. That process would eventually take him away from a successful eight-year career as a stockbroker to St. Vincent Seminary, where Engler, now 37, prepares for the priesthood.

Though he'd never have guessed it then, the faith struggles of his earlier years were lined with a heavenly plan.

"There's an incredible amount of peace that happens when you finally say, 'Okay, Lord, I've made a mess of things. If you've got a better plan, I'll do what you want me to do,'" he said. "When you get to that point, you never look back.

"That's a very unique and special place to be, and I think that is the peace of Christ. I want to communicate that message of God's love to as many people as possible." ▼

"It's quite an odyssey how God just basically tapped me on the shoulder. I finally turned, and it was like he said, 'Hey, you! I've been trying to get your attention for a long time.'"

Unwavering Faith: Thomas Darcy

Thomas Darcy wrestled with his calling for twenty years. That time frame just about covers his entire lifetime. At 31, Darcy is fulfilling his call to the priesthood as he studies at St. Vincent Seminary. "I felt the call for over 20 years," said Darcy. "God is persistent."

In the interim years, Darcy received a degree in Archaeology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He spent time in a wide variety of professions, from broadcast TV to mental health.

His is a faith that follows the magisterium to the letter. If it is written, then so let it be done. It is through this faith he sees little need for concern for the future. "The church was founded by Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit," said Darcy.

Darcy describes himself as a gentle and loving man with many life experiences.

"I believe [these experiences] will enable me to be empathetic towards most and sympathetic towards all. I desire to be a good and faithful servant." ▼

Seminary administrators see change, growth in future priests

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

LATROBE, Pa. — Witnessing a seminarian grow in faith, confidence and fidelity to the church is a true joy of seminary administration, said key personnel involved in priestly formation at St. Vincent Seminary.

Benedictine Father Thomas Acklin, who for 11 years has served as rector of the seminary, said to walk with a seminarian on his faith journey is a grace-filled opportunity.

"The most important area is the spiritual," he said of seminarians' formation, a period of discernment, deepening of faith and intensive studies. "To see them grow in their prayer life and in their faith life, to see them go through the process of really coming to know the Lord better, has just been a beautiful thing."

Father Acklin serves as chief pastor and administrator of the 154-year-old St. Vincent Seminary, where nine of the Diocese of Charlotte's 22 seminarians are in formation.

Benedictine Father Kurt Belsole

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Benedictine Father Thomas Acklin with Rev. Mr. David Brzoska

Mercy Sister Cecilia Murphy

> *"It's Christ who forms the person He has called for ministry, but to be involved in seminary work is really an experience of grace and of the miraculous every single day."*
>
> — *Benedictine Father Thomas Acklin*

The rector's responsibilities are many, but the one Father Acklin holds most dear is the ministry of preparing others for the priesthood. Through that work, he said, his own resolve as a priest is renewed.

While seminary rectors work from what is called the external forum — meaning they do not hear seminarians' confessions or serve as their spiritual directors — they do share a dynamic relationship with those in formation. They are models, teachers and evaluators. They reach out as brothers in faith.

"It's all grace," said Father Acklin of seminary life. "It's Christ who forms the person He has called for ministry, but to be involved in seminary work is really an experience of grace and of the miraculous every single day."

Like Father Acklin, Mercy Sister Cecilia Murphy noted the spiritual benefits in her administrative role.

"I often tell them that if I could give them one gift, I would want to give the gift of listening," said Sister Cecilia, academic dean for the seminary. "I think that would include listening to God, listening to the needs of others.

"That dimension of other-centeredness is so important for a minister of the church."

Sister Cecilia, who is responsible for the seminary's academic programs, curriculum and hiring of faculty, meets with the seminarians regularly for theological reflection sessions and other encounters, both academic and informal. She agreed that such gifts as service to others are natural results of the formation process, in which personal growth is so important.

"It's really a privilege," she said, "to be in this kind work, to see them learn to look at an experience they had in terms of what happened 'then' — but also, what the religious, social and cultural dimensions of that experience are."

Benedictine Father Kurt Belsole, assistant rector of the seminary, agreed that a seminarian's growing self-awareness is essential in the formation process. That very personal process, he added, builds a future priest's foundation of spiritual life.

"We try to have them develop in fidelity, consistency and responsibility," said Father Belsole, who has been at St. Vincent for 35 years as a student, a monk, a teacher and an administrator. He was named assistant rector last January.

"Once they get out of the seminary, they have to have a strong enough relationship with Christ and a deep enough love for ... the church, that they're able to get through the tough times," he said.

For those in formation, the rigors of the process are indeed daunting at times.

"They are not without problems, and they won't be priests without problems," Father Belsole conceded. "God never promised that to the church, and we've never had a period in church history when that was the case.

"But here we see that God is preparing outstanding priests for his church, and I have every confidence they are going to make great contributions."

Father Acklin and Sister Cecilia echoed similar sentiments, both noting that their greatest hope for seminarians is that they will be faithful men of God.

"What do I want for the men?" Father Acklin reiterated. "I want them to become men who are on fire for the Lord." ▼

Trading science for the church: Bill Clark

Bill Clark's vocation is a story of life changes, a process that began in a career of science, continued with a conversion experience and proceeds today in formation for the priesthood of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Clark, 38, is a native of Lancaster, Pa. He earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in biochemistry from the University of Maryland, and he enjoyed a 10-year career at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., working as a molecular biologist. Still, he has said, something was missing in his life.

He began attending Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington D.C.. Something moved him in a profound spiritual way, and entered the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 1992.

It would be another four years or so before Clark truly felt a calling to priestly life. Clark, who has family ties to Ashe County and the Triad in North Carolina, visited the Charlotte Diocese at the invitation of Bishop William G. Curlin.

For Clark, who had not been in the Tar Heel State since he was a youngster, the visit was fruitful — and one that would help him in his decision to enter seminary.

"Once I came down and looked around in North Carolina," he said, "I fell in love with the place and the people." ▼

Where to reach the seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte:

St. Vincent's Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690
Rev. Mr. David Brzoska, William Clark, Thomas Darcy, Ricardo De Silva, Tien Duong, J. Chapin Engler, Leo Fowler, Rev. Mr. Luis Osorio, Christopher Roux

CUA Theological Seminary
401 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 50017
Matthew Buettner, Duc Duong, Rev. Mr. Christopher Gober, Rev. Mr. Matthew Kauth, Rev. Mr. Frank Seabo

Pope John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Avenue, Weston, MA 02193
Robert Ferris, Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn

St. Mary's Seminary
5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210-1994
Michael Cabot Carney, Jonathan Hanic, Larry LoMonaco

St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
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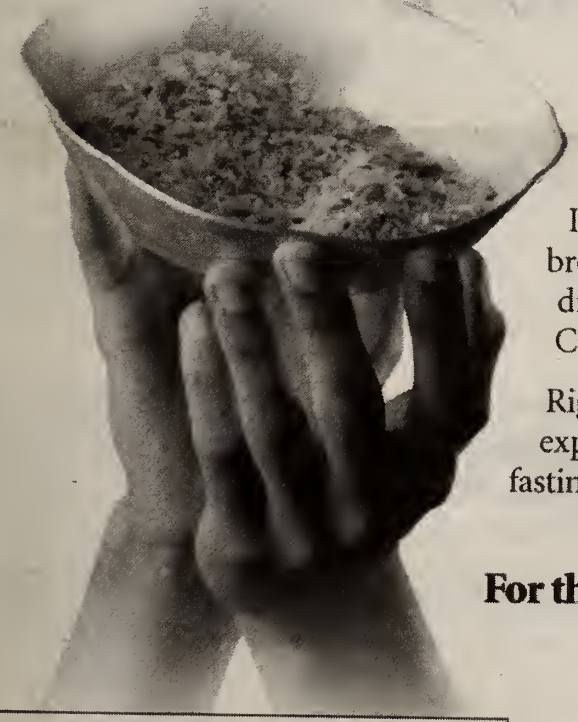

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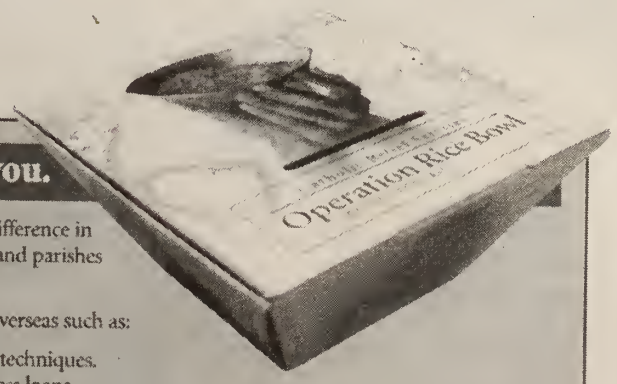

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So as Operation Rice Bowl marks its 25th anniversary – with a new look for the new millennium – celebrate what your contribution has done and how your participation can make all the difference in the world.

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Confederate flag, from page 3

included Msgr. Leigh Lehocky, pastor in Columbia, and Msgr. Christopher Lathem, pastor of a Summerville church, as well as such notables as Darius Rucker and other members of the rock group Hootie and the Blowfish; author Pat Conroy; and former Gov. David Beasley, who initially proposed relocation of the battle flag during his term in office.

When he arrived at the Statehouse, Riley was greeted by Gov. Jim Hodges and Columbia Mayor Bob Coble. Riley presented Hodges with the official South Carolina state flag, emblazoned with the palmetto tree and the crescent moon.

The Confederate battle flag has flown atop the Statehouse since 1962, when it was hoisted during the Civil War centennial celebration. South Carolina is the only state in the nation that continues to fly a Confederate flag over its Capitol.

The current controversy erupted last year after the NAACP called for economic sanctions against the state until the flag is removed.

"It's Lent; it's a new century, a new millennium, a new era," said Bishop Baker in his statement. "Let's lay down our hatchets and make a new initiative, all of us working together, all people of the great state of South Carolina!"

The Rev. Joe Darby, senior pastor of Morris Brown A.M.E. Church in Charleston, delivered the prayer at the end of the April 6 ceremonies.

"Since somebody will say that this was an insignificant event populated by outsiders, if you're from South Carolina, say amen," Rev. Darby said. "The crowd shouted back, "Amen."

Although about 300 pro-flag supporters were holding a concurrent rally on the north side of the Statehouse, there were no arrests or serious incidents. ▼

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Word to Life

April 23, Easter Sunday, Cycle B 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 JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

I will never forget that moment of clarity when I held the tiny, malnourished Haitian baby girl in my arms. She was so weak she could barely cry. Just as I began to wonder why she had to be so hungry, why she would probably only live a couple of years more and in such poverty, I felt a profound love and oneness with this child.

As her little arms clung to me, I recognized that for that moment she was there for me — for me to know the embrace of Jesus.

Since then I have experienced other instances in which someone else's brave suffering and trust in the Lord have brought me into his presence and have drawn me close to him in love. I can think of more than one occasion in my life when I realized and felt, with every fiber of my being, the shame of a specific sin I committed, only to be blessed with the pure exhilaration of knowing God's forgiveness and desire for me to be reconciled with him.

Such were the ways that, after many years of a superficial understanding of the existence of God and a studied indifference to him, he slowly and gently poured the gift of faith into my life. Somewhere in there I also became a Catholic.

I know this is how God works in revealing himself to his people. But sometimes I do wonder what it's all about.

The first of the readings for Easter Sunday offers a very huge clue. Peter says that when God raised Jesus from death to life, he granted that this action would be witnessed by those who already knew him, who would eat and drink with the risen Lord.

That's us, we who have experienced the life-giving embrace and mercy of Jesus, and who are so blessed to come to his table every week as he fills our lives with his own — and we are called to bear witness to that same love and forgiveness.

The second reading points out, "Your life is hidden now with Christ in God." Easter is the ultimate eucharistic message in which we who are given life in Christ bear his life to others. We are called to go forth at his resurrection, forgiving, ministering, reconciling and embracing all those he sends our way.

Questions:

When was the first time you remember that the risen Lord was clearly revealed to you? What is one concrete way you can bear Christ to someone this Easter season?

"They killed him, finally, ... only to have God raise him up on the third day and grant that he be seen ... by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead"
— Acts 10:40-41

Book Review

How-to book explains Catholicism

You know a lot about the Catholic Church, or maybe you are just learning, but there are things that confuse you — like what to do when you pray a novena, or how to "offer up" something, exactly what the Angelus is, or any of the dozens of other devotions that set Catholics apart from other Christians. But help is here!

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By Mike Aquilina and Regis Flaherty

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About the Author

Mike Aquilina is the editor of New Covenant magazine and has been widely published in the Catholic press. This is his sixth book for Our Sunday Visitor. Regis J. Flaherty was the executive director for the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Cemeteries. He has written many articles for the Catholic press. This is his second book.

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Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 23 - 29, 2000

Easter Sunday, Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Mark 16:1-8; **Easter Monday**, Acts 2:14, 22-32, Matthew 28:8-15; **Easter Tuesday**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Easter Wednesday**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Easter Thursday**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Easter Friday**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Easter Saturday**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

Readings for the week of April 30 - May 6, 2000

Second Sunday of Easter, Acts 4:32-35, 1 John 5:1-6, John 20:19-31; **Monday (St. Joseph the Worker)**, Genesis 1:26-2:3, Matthew 13:54-58; **Tuesday (St. Athanasius)**, Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday (Sts. Philip and James, Apostles)**, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Thursday**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday**, Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday**, Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21

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TV special showcases disastrous military campaign of Napoleon Bonaparte

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A pivotal year in Napoleon Bonaparte's extraordinary military career is examined in "Napoleon's Obsession: Quest for Egypt," airing Sunday, April 23, 10-11 p.m. EDT on cable's The Learning Channel.

Lively Egyptologist Bob Brier chronicles what was actually a disastrous military campaign, but which the cunning Napoleon reported as a glorious French expansion of power.

"Napoleon's Obsession: Quest for Egypt"
April 23, 10-11 p.m. EDT
The Learning Channel

Determined to conquer Egypt as the gateway to Indian trade routes, and to foil the British, Napoleon's fleet set sail in 1798. After easily capturing Alexandria, he ordered his wool-uniformed men to make the grueling three-week march through the desert to Cairo, leaving his vulnerable fleet of ships behind.

Although weakened by dysentery, the French did defeat the ferocious Mameluke army in Cairo in what Napoleon tagged "the Battle of the Pyramids" — despite its having been fought in a much less impressive-sounding melon patch miles away.

However, British Adm. Nelson soon attacked Napoleon's fleet, slipping behind the ships so that the French cannons were aimed in wrong direction. The decisively won naval Battle of the Nile left Napoleon stranded in Egypt.

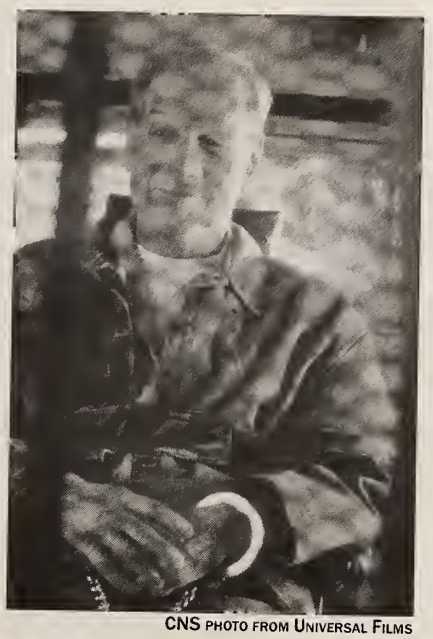
The program goes on to describe Napoleon's foray to defeat the Turks in Syria in 1799, where French troops rape and massacre civilians and General Bonaparte orders the slaughter of 3,000 Turkish prisoners of war — by bayonets, to save on the use of bullets. But Napoleon is defeated when the British join Turkish forces and he returns to Cairo, then flees Egypt, claiming victory abroad, and within months he is the virtual ruler of France.

As produced and directed by Peter Spry-Leverton, this lesser-known chapter in Napoleon's life comes alive as a character study of a charismatic leader who could always inspire his men under miserable conditions. Yet his dark side included ruthless deceptions, mass killings and adultery with the wife of one of his lieutenants.

During on-the-scene shooting in Egypt and Israel, Brier conveys a deep admiration of the general's military boldness as he never stopped looking for new worlds to conquer. The legacy of his Egyptian adventure was the scientists and artists he left behind; their discoveries in the Valley of the Kings and of the Rosetta Stone led to the translation of hieroglyphics and immense European interest in ancient Egypt.

The hour proves a quite interesting look at the future self-crowned emperor of France, who certainly knew how to turn the shame of defeat into a glorified portrait of triumph in the eyes of a public eager to embrace victory. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS PHOTO FROM UNIVERSAL FILMS

"Where the Money Is"
Paul Newman stars as bank robber Henry Manning in the movie "Where the Money Is." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"American Psycho"

Repelling tale of a late 1980s Wall-Street yuppie (Christian Bale) who despises his associates and is able to murder women, colleagues and cops with gleeful impunity. As directed by Mary Harron, attempts to satirize the greedy excesses of the me generation are overwhelmed by the remorseless main character's killing sprees and the film's core nihilism. Recurring violence with gore, including nudity and graphic sexual encounters, recreational drug abuse, some profanity and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"East Is East"

Droll British comedy-drama set in the early 1970s about a controlling Pakistani father who blindly tries to drag his seven British-born children back to traditional Muslim ways despite their resistance to saris, arranged marriages and religious instruction. Damien O'Donnell's deft directorial debut is an absorbing look at cross-cultural familial relationships with a well-written, credible plot and lively characters. Brief marital sexual encounter, some domestic violence, homosexual innuendo, flash of nudity and recurrent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Set Me Free"

Somewhat poignant coming-of-age story set in 1963 Montreal where a 13-year-old girl (Karine Vanasse) runs away from her selfish would-be poet dad (Miki Manojiovic) after her overworked mother (Pascale Bussieres) attempts suicide, but a caring teacher (Nancy Huston) guides the troubled teen away from life on the streets. Writer-director Lea Pool sluggishly explores a family torn by conflicts between the Jewish father and Catholic mother but is less insightful following the girl's friendship with another girl who is physically drawn to her as well as to her older brother. Subtitles. Brief violence, sexual situations and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says whole Trinity involved in salvation

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The essential role of the Trinity in bringing salvation to all men and women was revealed when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, Pope John Paul II said.

The voice of God the Father proclaiming his love for Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit set the seal of authenticity on the mission of Jesus, the pope said April 12 at his weekly general audience.

The mid-April audience marked the first time Italian police began using the 15 metal detectors they installed under the colonnade encircling St. Peter's Square.

With an estimated 30,000 people attending the audience, the screening appeared to go smoothly as visitors passed through the metal detectors and put their bags through X-ray machines.

Continuing a series of audience talks about the Trinity, Pope John Paul said the reality and the glory of the Trinity were revealed when Jesus was baptized.

The action of the Father and the Spirit as Jesus comes out of the Jordan were a clear sign that with Jesus "the history of salvation has entered its central and definitive phase," he said.

"He is the one who brings to completion the divine plan of salvation, humbly putting himself in solidarity with sinners," the pope said.

"Through baptism, we, too, enter into this mystery of salvation," Pope John Paul said. "Being reborn in the baptismal waters, we begin our journey of Christian life and witness."

Pope celebrates Palm Sunday Mass, urges youths to follow Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II opened Holy Week with a colorful Mass on Palm Sunday, leading a procession through St. Peter's Square in front of 100,000 Holy Year pilgrims. Preceded by lay people, bishops and cardinals dressed in bright red vestments, the pope rode on a white jeep through the packed square April 16 as faithful from all over the world waved palm fronds and olive branches, in remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem a week before his death. Among those at the head of the procession were groups of young people — including five from the United States — who squinted in the sunshine as the 79-year-old pontiff prayed at the start of the liturgy.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Shop till you turn green

With the arrival of spring, much of nature again turns green. God calls forth renewed growth, and we recognize our interdependence in the web of life.

Yet, a gruesome thought stalks us. We, the stewards of creation and the managers of the earth, have the power to pollute a river, destroy a mountain and ruin the countryside. No law of physics says we must, no formula from chemistry makes this inevitable.

The marketplace, that marvelous device for allocating resources in the economy, harbors an inherent flaw that pushes it towards destructive behavior. The market simply undercounts the social and resource costs of producing goods and services. By not cleaning up fully after production, a company lowers its production costs by shifting part of that cleanup cost to the entire society as pollution. The quest for profit maximization encourages this. By pursuing the cheapest way of extracting resources, corporations can devastate mountains and countrysides, leaving communities without good water or a healthy economic base. Globalization pits one part of the world against another in a race for the least cost.

For people of faith, the market represents a device, not a dogma. As a device, the market decides trillions of transactions daily without any problem. Yet, left to its own, it lacks a moral compass. There are limitations to the market's abilities. A cheap price for a good, the result of competition for the consumer, does not differentiate between a greater efficiency of production from the exploitation of people and creation.

As a result, many people of faith are intentionally supporting businesses with an environmental and social vision, enterprises called "green businesses." These companies practice a responsibility toward the environment and the world community. The National Green Pages (www.greenpages.org), for example, lists over 10,000 products and services for ordinary consumers. The Cloth Bag Company (www.clothbag.com) is dedicated to ending society's dependence on throw-away bags. The Fair Trade Federation (www.fairtradefederation.com) promotes economic self-sufficiency in developing countries by eliminating the middleman and returning the best price to the farmer growing the coffee or the craftsperson making the jewelry.

But, the most widely celebrated green business concerns the stock market. Socially responsible investing screens companies in regards to the environment, labor, human rights, diversity and many other topics. More than 150 socially screened mutual funds and hundreds of socially responsible financial advisors nationwide are supporting corporations with a social vision and keeping social and environmental issues on company agendas. The Social Investment Forum (www.socialinvest.org) offers practical advice and references for socially committed investors.

Market theory says that competition delivers the cheapest price for products, and people invest where they receive the highest returns. Yet, people of faith add additional filters. Informed by their responsibility toward creation and global workers, they assess the impact of their economic decisions. Since every purchase registers a vote for a particular product or service, people of faith are questioning profit at-any-cost and changing mindless consumption into intentional shopping.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

When the rule of teen secrecy must be broken

Every teen-ager knows certain rules — they're just assumed. One of the most basic is that you don't tell your friend's secrets.

If a friend is doing something foolish or dangerous, you may hope that he gets caught early so that the worst doesn't happen. But the rule is clear; you don't tell. It simply isn't done.

Sometimes that rule is wrong.

Recently, the New York Times published a study of multiple murders, looking at 100 "rampage killings" over the past 50 years.

What did the staff of the Times learn about these crimes? One significant fact stands out clearly: While adult killers act alone and in secrecy, many of the teens involved in rampage killings told people what they were planning. Certain friends and acquaintances knew about the murderous thoughts and schemes.

Mostly, people didn't believe them. They couldn't imagine that someone they knew — someone who went to their school — could ever do something so horrible.

The same is true of violence directed inward — toward the self. While most adults who kill themselves act in secrecy, teen-agers usually give signals. They tell their friends how badly they feel and often talk about thoughts of suicide long before they act.

Often people don't believe them. "People who talk about it don't do it," they tell themselves. "She's down, but it really isn't that serious. She'll snap out of it."

I work with a mental-health crisis service. Research shows that even one contact with a mental-health professional greatly reduces the chance that a teen-ager's depressed thought — "I feel like I'd be better off dead" — turns into a tragic reality.

Many times we have reached out to a teen because a friend told somebody — a parent or someone at school. In case after case, we have gotten the depressed teen the help that was needed.

With so much recent publicity about mass killings, we have started getting calls about teens threatening rampage killings. Here again we've been able to get those kids into treatment.

Mass murder is very, very rare. Who knows if we've really prevented anybody from marching into a high school with a loaded assault weapon? Far better, we believe, to talk to 100 kids who wouldn't really have done it than to miss the one kid who would.

Preventing teen violence — toward others and toward the self — depends on you. Teachers, counselors and psychologists simply don't have access to the critical information.

Confused, depressed and angry teens talk to their friends — not to grown-ups — and all those teachers, counselors and psychologists stand helplessly on the sidelines until somebody breaks the code of secrecy.

Every teen-ager knows that you don't tell on your friends. However, when a friend or acquaintance is talking about violence, that rule must be broken.

It seems wrong. It makes you feel like a snitch. You'll worry that your friend will be mad and may not ever talk to you again. "Probably," you tell yourself, "nothing is going to happen, and I'll be making trouble for nothing."

Still, imagine the possible consequences if you hear talk of suicide or threats of murder and do nothing.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Unconditional love is eternal

The older I get the more I understand that among all the ways we love, unconditional love is the noblest gift a human being can enjoy. Love that gives without measure is truly a gift of God.

Surely you have your own personal example of someone who embodies such selfless love. A parent, a friend, a spouse whose love demands nothing in return. Recently I met the aunt of a friend of mine, and, for me, she has become the most striking example of what I am talking about. Her name — Rose Marie Bergna, or as she prefers, Aunt Rowe.

As a young woman, Aunt Rowe went through a difficult marriage and then separation from her husband. Determined to remain loyal to her wedding vow, 'til death do you part, this devout Catholic steadfastly refused to even consider marrying again.

Then John Baker moved into town. He and Aunt Rowe met one snowy Christmas Eve. He promptly fell in love with her and proposed marriage. But try as he might to convince her otherwise, Aunt Rowe was determined as well. She recalls, "John became so discouraged that he quit his job as a business manager and moved as far away as he could from Mineola, Long Island — to Nogales, Arizona!"

Still, Aunt Rowe knew intuitively that they were meant to meet again. As he said his goodbyes, she softly pledged, "John, if ever you need me, I will be there for you."

Two years later, John built a home in a new development, but a freak fire changed everything. He was burning construction debris when a dry desert wind coiled around him, swallowing him up in a whirlpool of flames and searing heat. 85 percent of his body was irreparably charred. Amazingly, he survived through swift emergency action and a helicopter ride to the hospital burn clinic in Tucson.

Aunt Rowe was awakened in the middle of the night by a call from John's niece. That morning she was on a plane hopscotching across the country. That evening she stood at his bedside. "His body was all wrapped up like a mummy when I got there, but his mind was alert. He said, 'What are you doing here? You have a job!'" Her response: "John, I am here for you." Looking up at her, John said, "Rowe, I see two angels on either side of you." And then came his radiant smile. "It was a smile that changed my life forever," she said.

He flat lined twice but was resuscitated. His legs were so gangrenous both had to be amputated. The gnarled stumps that were his hands made it impossible to fend for himself. With the help of Aunt Rowe, John eventually settled into a nursing home, and for the next 23 years she dedicated herself to caring for him.

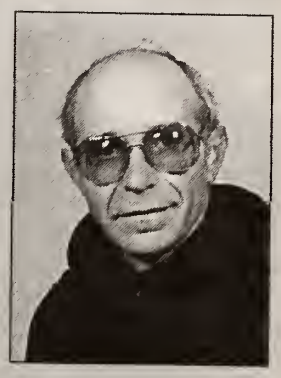
John Baker was a remarkable man. Through all the pain and loss, he created a new life for himself. The near-quadriplegic learned to dive and swim — when he was told he never could — and went on to win awards. His vitality and humor kept him going. Most of all, Rowe kept him going.

One friend reported: "Rowe was with him 16 hours a day, seven days a week. He couldn't scratch his nose; she did it. When he got angry, she absorbed it. When he was happy, she cheered him further. ...Rowe's life was John." This February, John died.

Aunt Rowe misses him terribly. But she told me, "We will be soul mates forever. Remember, we were meant to meet and we will meet again."

I believe they will because unconditional love is stronger than death, stronger even than life.

Easter 2000



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, O.F.M. Cap
Guest Columnist

Easter 2000: An old and ever-new story

Creation, death, and resurrection form the dynamic triangle of our existence. Let me explain this simple and profound truth with a story. A little boy made his way home from school one afternoon. As little boys do, he walked through alleys and vacant lots. Along the way he found a piece of wood. Not much more than a piece of a 2x4, but he took it home. Once home, he went into the garage. Using his father's tools, he hammered and sawed and fashioned a little toy boat.

Later that afternoon, he went to play with his little boat in the stream that ran near his house. For days, after he came home from school, he played with his boat in that creek. He greatly enjoyed those hours with his little toy. He loved his little boat, and even gave it a name. One afternoon, while pushing the boat about with a long stick, he accidentally let the boat slip away into a strong current. He ran along the creek trying to catch up with the little boat. Soon another creek spilled into the stream, and the current sped up carrying his boat faster than his little legs could keep up. Finally, he stopped running and watched his little craft sail out of sight. Tears came to his eyes as he realized that his boat was lost forever. For days, he mourned the loss of his wonderful toy.

Months passed, school ended, and his family went on summer vacation to the ocean. One day as the little boy played along the beach, he stopped to admire the things displayed at a beachcomber's shop. There were pieces of driftwood, fishing net floats, and old bottles. Then he saw it. He could hardly believe it. There on one of the shelves of ocean debris was his little boat. It was hanged up and its paint was scratched, but there was no doubt in his heart. "That's my boat," he told the shopkeeper. He begged him to hand it over. "Well," said the man, "it may have been yours once, but now it's mine, and if you want it, you'll have to pay for it."

As fast as he could, he raced to his father and explained the situation. The boy and his father returned to the shop. A price was agreed upon, and the little boy received back his little boat. As he and his dad walked toward home, the little fellow looked down at the boat held in his arms. With tears in his eyes, he said, "Little boat, I love you. You are now really mine. You are mine twice. I made you. I bought you."

The parallels are obvious: Creation, death, and resurrection. Don't despair if the currents of the world toss you around, you will eventually end up in the ocean of God's love.

I have created you, O Jacob,
I have formed you, O Israel.
I have called you by name,
I have redeemed you.
You are mine.
— Isaiah 43:1

Capuchin Father John Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Coping with the guilt of an abortion

Q. I hope you can help me. A close friend sent me one of your columns about excommunication because of an abortion. More than a year ago I too had an abortion, and I've never forgiven myself for it. Honestly, I don't think I can.

No one in my family knows, and my friends who do know have no idea what pain I feel every time I hear a baby cry. I haven't gone to confession and sometimes don't want to be forgiven because then I'll forget, and I won't let myself off that easily.

I wanted more than anything to have the baby, but I knew my mother would kick me out, and the baby's father would not be there physically or emotionally.

I'm now in a new relationship with someone I believe truly cares for me, but I find myself holding back. Maybe it's the anger I have toward myself. I know I want to be happy again, but I still want to remember that awful mistake I made.

A. I'm very sorry for you. A lot of painful healing will be needed in your heart as you move, as you say, toward happiness again. It will be helpful, I believe, to reflect prayerfully on a few truths as you move in that direction.

First, there is no way you will ever forget your experience, no matter what you do. It has had too great an impact on your feelings and memories. But that has little connection with forgiveness, either your forgiveness of yourself or God's forgiveness of you.

Genuine forgiveness, which can occur gradually, and which will be part of your returning happiness, happens at another level than remembering. Forgiveness means letting go, especially of anger and resentment, and of the desire for revenge. For you, this means the anger and resentment, and perhaps even the need for punishment you feel toward yourself.

You have done a serious wrong, we admit that. But it is past, part of history, and there's nothing you, or even God, can do to change that. The important present concern of God is where you go from here.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

God knows you (as all of us) are a long way from perfect. You are not the first to make a big-time mistake, and you will not be the last. What is needed now is the humility to acknowledge that, and to calmly and peacefully go home to God's love, and believe in his faith in you.

I realize this is a big order, but with prayer and patience, and the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist — and insofar as possible working through it with a friend you can trust — it can happen more peacefully and gracefully than you think. Don't be intimidated by how you feel at the moment. As the Bible says, God is bigger than our hearts; so don't be afraid to move on. Good luck!

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651 or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Cardinal George goes door-to-door in Chicago

CHICAGO (CNS) — The mission stamped on their T-shirts was to "make disciples of all the nations." So Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and St. Sabina's pastor and parishioners started block by neighborhood block. Dressed in "Army of the Lord" beige and green mock military fatigues, hundreds of parishioners joined the cardinal and their pastor, Father Michael Pfleger, in taking the Gospel to the snow-covered streets of a Chicago neighborhood April 8. "As a church, outreach has always been a part of what we do, but it's usually been through services like Catholic Charities, schools and hospitals. What we want to do is attach to that a clear invitation of evangelization," said Cardinal George, wrapped in a black winter cap and scarf.

Retired Bishop O'Keefe of Davenport dead at 82

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Retired Bishop Gerald F. O'Keefe died of a heart attack early April 12 in Davenport. He was 82. His funeral Mass was scheduled for 11 a.m. April 17 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport. His successor, Bishop William E. Franklin of Davenport, will be the principal celebrant. Bishop O'Keefe, a native of Wayzata, Minn., where he attended public schools, studied for the priesthood at St. Paul Seminary and was ordained for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis on Jan. 29, 1944.

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Secondary School

Charlotte Catholic High School, a 9th through 12th co-educational school, enrolls 900 plus students with a professional staff of 66. Charlotte Catholic is fully accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Students consistently score above state and national averages with 96% of graduates pursuing further education.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a master's degree in educational administration, supervision, education or a related field and be certified or eligible for certification as a secondary principal in North Carolina. Applicant must have teaching and administrative experience in the secondary grades. Candidates with multi-cultural experience preferred. Charlotte Catholic is located in Charlotte, NC and is part of a regional school system: Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 2000-2001 school year. Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references and salary expectations by May 12 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

PRINCIPAL

St. Pius X Catholic High School

Atlanta, Georgia

The Archdiocese of Atlanta, Catholic Education of North Georgia, Inc., is seeking a highly motivated experienced instructional leader in Catholic secondary education. St. Pius X Catholic High School has approximately 1000 students in grades 9-12. St. Pius X enjoys an exceptional reputation due to it 42-year history of providing a firm foundation for students in a college preparatory curriculum while fostering a strong Catholic emphasis. The school is located in Northeast Atlanta which is a vibrant and growing area with a wonderful climate and a comfortable standard of living.

The principal must have strong interpersonal and communication skills, enthusiasm and commitment to the development and implementation of an educational program of religious formation, academic excellence, and parental involvement. The position is available starting with the 2000-2001 school year. The salary is competitive and commensurate with credentials and experience.

Qualifications

- A master's degree in education administration and supervision (or equivalent) with adminstrative experience.
- Experience in the areas of administration, curriculum development, supervision and evaluation of instruction.
- Commitment to maintain the level of development of the Catholic faith within the school environment.
- Active member of the Catholic Church.

Submit a letter of intent, resume, three letters of reference (including a letter from your pastor), philosophy of education and university credentials by May 8, 2000 to:
The Search Committee, St. Pius X Catholic High School,
2674 Johnson Rd. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30345.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: St. Therese Catholic Church, Mooresville, NC is seeking a replacement vital to its ministry team in the role of Administrative Assistant to the Pastor. Our dynamic parish comprises 1100 families and continues to grow. Administrative Assistant is principally responsible for day-to-day administration of the parish and supervision of other staff. Applicant must have pastoral sensitivity and respect for a Catholic environment. Proficiency in Microsoft Office or comparable computer software systems is required. Prior experience in office management is desirable. We offer an attractive compensation package, including comprehensive benefits program. Interested applicants should submit their resumes with references and salary history to: Pastor, St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117.

Director of Life Teen Ministry: Vibrant, 4,000-family parish seeks a full-time Director for one of the largest Life Teen programs in the country, serving 200-300 high school teens weekly. Director works in collaboration with two other full-time staff members devoted to youth ministry and manages a wonderful team of 25-30 adult volunteers. Responsibilities include liturgical preparation for the Teen Mass, directing the "Life Night" program that provides teens with creative faith formation, and Confirmation preparation. Preferred candidates have education in ministry or theology, experience in youth ministry, and a heart for sharing Christ's love with young people. Contact Liz Riegel, St. Michael Catholic Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, NC 27513 (919) 468-6134; Fax: (919)468-6130, lizreigel@hotmail.com.

Director of Religious Education: St. Jude Parish, Radford, VA, is seeking a full-time director for its religious education program, involving development of catechetical programs Pre-K through 12, sacramental preparation, adult education, RCIA within both parish and campus, catechist formation, and other related areas. Qualifications include: committed Catholic lifestyle, master's or certificate in Religious Education or equivalent background, with strong interest in liturgical development. Available July 1. Application deadline: May 1. Contact: Pastor, St. Jude Church, 1740 Tyler Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073; phone (540)639-5341; e-mail: Rjudgerad@aol.com

Elementary School Positions: All Saints Catholic School has the following openings for the 2000-2001 school year: classroom teachers, computer teacher, teaching assistants (part-time), and administrative assistant (starting 6/12/00). Teachers must be NC certifiable. Please send resume by 4/30 to: Principal, All Saints Catholic School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277.

In-home or Skilled Nursing Care: Henderson/Transylvania/Polk Counties. All workers with Personal/Professional Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurances and FBI checks. Licensed through Raleigh, NC. Please call (828) 696-0946 - COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS, INC.

Maintenance/Custodial: St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, NC seeks a full-time 2nd shift maintenance/custodial employee. Must work independently performing various custodial and maintenance duties. Salaried; hours 2 - 10pm. Retirees welcomed. Reply to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax:(336) 273-0199.

Principal, Elementary: St. Peter's Catholic School, in southeastern NC university town near coast. The K-8 school is accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is fully enrolled with 530 students. Starting date: July 1, 2000. Ideal candidate must be a practicing Catholic with vision, proven leadership and administrative skills. Principal will work collaboratively and maintain educational excellence. Applicant must hold teaching certificate, hold or be eligible for NC Principal License, and have a minimum of five years administrative experience. Send resume with salary requirements, references and statement of educational philosophy to: Search Committee, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 2700 East Fourth St., Greenville, NC 27858-1712 by April 30, 2000.

Principal, Elementary: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. PreK - 8th grade serving 200-350 students in military/coastal/community of Jacksonville, NC. Competitive salary. Send resume by May 1 to: Search Committee, Infant of Prague Parish, 205 Chaney Ave., Jacksonville, NC 28540. mbpoole@hotmail.com

Teacher, Middle School: St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, NC seeks reading \language arts teacher; 8th-grade homeroom. Must be practicing Catholic with NC certification in the field. Experience preferred. Benefit package included. Send resume to: C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax (336)273-0199.

Teachers: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte has openings beginning in August for a Pre-School Teacher and a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher. Part-time positions. NC teacher certification required. Call (704)531-0067.

Teaching Assistants, Full-time: St. Pius Catholic School, Greensboro, NC. Middle school, technology, and grades 4 and 5. If interested in working in a faith-oriented environment, contact: School Office, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax (336)273-0199.

Youth Minister: A half-time position as a Youth Minister is available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in High Point, NC (1000 households). The parish has a Total Youth Ministry Program, which includes the Confirmation Program, for middle and high school youth. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and a member of a Catholic parish. Experience in Youth Ministry and Religious Education is desirable. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Fax (336)884-1849. For more information call (336)884-5212.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

Youth/Young Adult Minister: Prince of Peace, a growing community of 1800 families in beautiful Upstate SC, seeks practicing Catholic to develop: a middle school ministry (social and service); a comprehensive high school ministry of prayer, formation, and service; and a young adult program. Experience and/or related degree preferred. Position available July 1. Send resume and three references by May 5 to: Youth Ministry Search Committee, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 1209 Brushy Creek Road, Taylors, SC 29687. P(864)322-2233x216. Fax(864)322-2239.

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Church officials to assess need in drought areas of Ethiopia

By DECLAN WALSH
Catholic News Service

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (CNS) — A delegation of Catholic Church officials and aid workers was to travel to the drought-stricken Gode region of eastern Ethiopia to assess needs for a planned emergency aid program.

"This famine is what we have been trying to avert for years, but now our aim is to reach the needy. I think that it can be contained if all parties come together," said Abba Tsegaye Keneni, general secretary of the Ethiopian and Eritrean Episcopal Conference.

Abba Tsegaye was to travel with representatives of the U.S., Irish, English and Welsh bishops' international aid agencies and Caritas Internationalis, the church's international aid umbrella organization.

The delegation was to fly from the capital, Addis Ababa, to the eastern town of Dire Dawa, where they were to pick up local church representatives before continuing on to Gode, in the eastern Somali region.

The United Nations estimates that 8 million Ethiopians risk starvation due to the current crisis, caused by lack of seasonal rains for the fourth successive year. An estimated 12 million people are at risk in the Horn of Africa region.

Gode is the worst affected region in the current crisis. Tens of thousands of people have flooded into the main towns of Gode, Danan and Imi after losing their livestock to the drought. More than 90 percent of all cattle have died.

The displaced have settled in camps where there is little water, food or medicine. The most severe conditions are to be found at Danan, where more than 300 children died in March and the first two weeks of April.

The Catholic relief effort in the area will be organized by the Apostolic Vicariate of Harar, Abba Tsegaye said.

The vicariate will distribute food and medicine either directly or through the aid agencies already working on the ground. It is already supporting the emergency distribution of food in the neighboring Borena region, which is considered to be the next most serious after Gode.

Abba Tsegaye said airlifting emergency supplies to the crisis-stricken area would be considered during discussions with partner agencies.

The budget of the proposed intervention has not yet been approved pending the report from the assessment. Funding agencies such as Caritas are anxiously awaiting the delegation's report, he said.

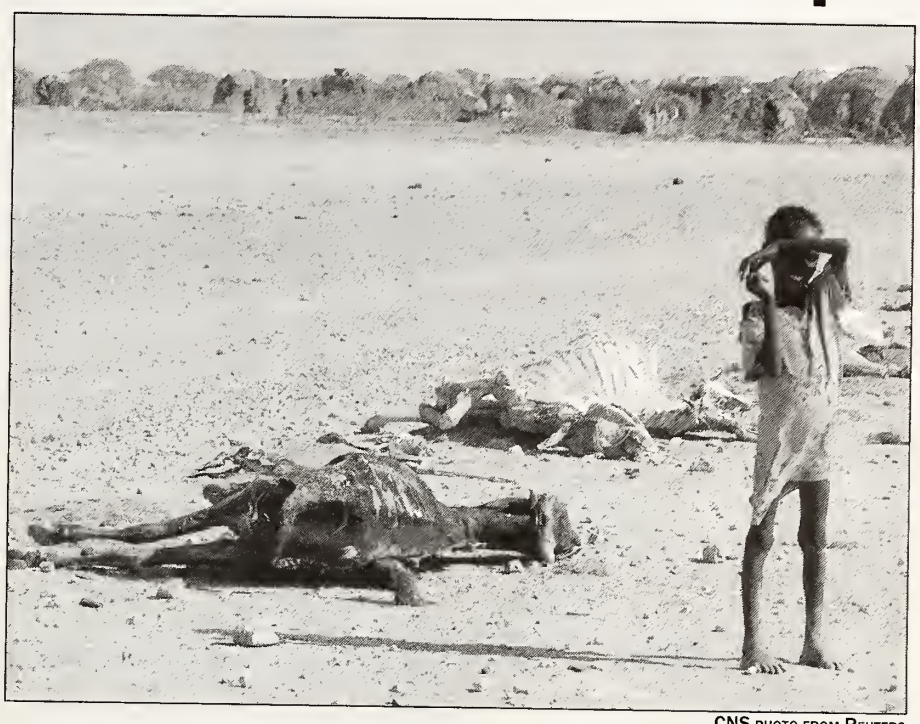
U.N. World Food Program Executive Director Catherine Bertini visited Gode and warned at a news conference in Addis Ababa April 14 that the current requirement of 800,000 tons of food to avert a crisis could rise before the summer.

Just over half of the current requirement has been pledged. The United States donated 400,000 tons of wheat while the European Union donated 50,000 tons.

The Ethiopian government has been criticized for continuing its border war with neighboring Eritrea while millions of its own citizens risk starvation. While the government will not say how much it is spending on the war, it is estimated at $1 million per day.

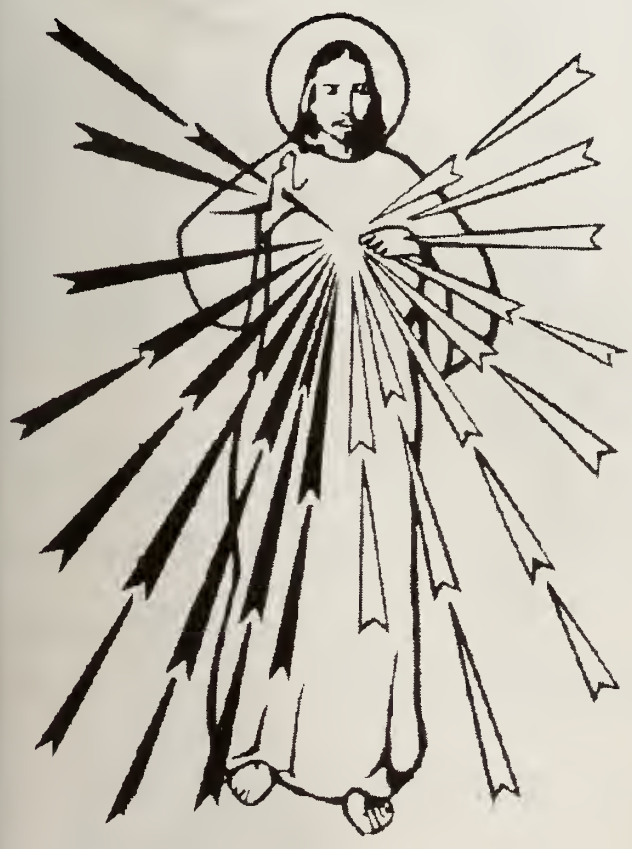
Abba Tsegaye said he did not think that the war would have any impact on the delivery of aid to Gode and other regions.

"There is no relationship between the two. One is due to the shortage of rainfall, and the other is a conflict between people, and they are in completely different regions." ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

An Ethiopian child stands next to decaying cattle carcasses south of the town of Danan in Ethiopia April 7. Relief agencies are struggling to get emergency food aid to the area where the threat of famine looms.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 30, 2000

Come and Share in God's Merciful Love.

"Loving mercy surrounds those who trust in the Lord."
— Ps. 32:10

2:00 pm	Rosary
2:30 pm	Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
3:00 pm	Concelebrated Mass
4:00 pm	Bookstore opens in library; Divine Mercy Film, Library

Our Lady of Grace Church

2205 West Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403

(336) 274-6520

Attendants witness blessing of oil and priestly pledge at chrism Mass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The chrism Mass, held at St. Patrick Cathedral on April 18, drew a large, collective congregation from all parts of the diocese, and approximately 100 of their priests concelebrated the sacred Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin.

In keeping with traditional Holy Week observances, the Mass' purpose is to bless three different oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices for all of the faithful. Moreover, the attending priests re-dedicate themselves to their mission in life as spiritual advisors and leaders within their parishes and the diocese.

During the renewal of commitment to priestly service, the bishop reminded the priests of their ordination vows and their pledge to serve their parishioners and lead them toward a deeper devotion to Jesus. He also asked the congregation to pray for their continued work as priests — their leaders in faith.

"My brother priests, this is a time when we must say, 'God, we would like to begin again,'" said Bishop Curlin. "This is a new century, a new millennium, and this Mass serves as a new beginning for us, when we must strive to deepen our love for Christ and our people."

"I ask God to give me the grace to be more faithful, generous and loving, and I ask God's forgiveness for all of my failings," he added.

In his homily, the bishop said, "this day we come to reclaim our love for Jesus Christ and to consecrate our lives to him. We ask that that God give us the grace to renew ourselves in faith and love."

During the Eucharistic prayer, the bishop first blessed the oil of the sick, used for the ill and dying. After Communion, the oil of catechumens for baptismal candidates was blessed next. Balsam, a naturally-derived aromatic essence, was mixed into the sacred chrism, or christ oil, and then consecrated.

Fourteen-year-old Ross Shingledecker, a student at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, traveled to the Mass with Danita McDonald, his eighth-grade teacher and school religion coordinator, Ruth Flemming, Our Lady of Grace Church youth minister, and his eighth-grade confirmation class on a religious field trip to witness the ceremonial traditions.

"The whole experience of watching then bless the oil that we will be confirmed with adds to the whole experience of the sacrament," he said. "It was really exciting to see that many priests up on the altar; it was the pinnacle of holiness for me."

Another student Jackie Assal, 13, added, "we are all making our confirmation this year, and we thought it would be special to see the chrism being blessed."

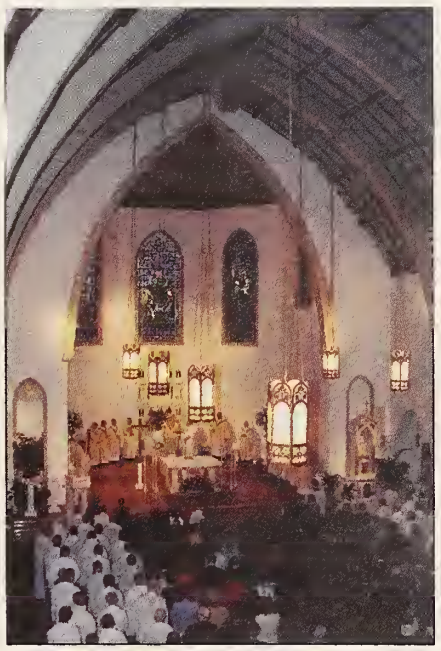
During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, all of the priests and deacons gathered on the altar with the bishop and the vicars of the diocese.

"As a priest, this is one of the most important Masses of the year because this being Holy Week, is a joyful time and the holiest of the year," said Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson. "It a time when all of the priests are together and when we can recommit our lives to serve the Lord and the body of Christ, the Church." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocee.org.

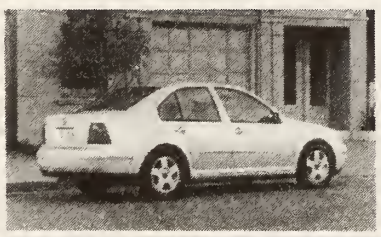
Photos by Joann S. Keane

Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero looks on as Bishop William G. Curlin pours into the chrism oil the fragrant balsam, a naturally-derived aromatic essence, which was then consecrated. The oil of consecration is used during the sacraments of confirmation and baptism, the ordaining of priests and bishops and the blessing of churches and altars.



At the chrism Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, the attending priests re-dedicate themselves to their mission in life as spiritual advisors and leaders within their parishes and the diocese.

The next issue of The Catholic News & Herald will be May 5, 2000. There is no issue for April 28.



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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 5, 2000
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• SPECIAL •

"Laying New Foundations for Faith and Learning"

Update on the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

A Pledge of Service

Maryann Grabasky of Court Greensboro lights a candle after her installation as state second vice regent during a Mass at the biennial North Carolina Catholic Daughters of the Americas convention in Hickory. Grabasky is one of five new officers who will serve two-year terms.

Catholic Daughters

Women celebrate at 23rd biennial convention

By Jimmy Rostar
Associate Editor

HICKORY — At the close of their 23rd biennial convention, North Carolina's Catholic Daughters of the Americas heard a message urging them to experience God's grace and to live their faith for the benefit of others.

"We are all called to a particular share in God's grace," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, who celebrated Mass on the last day of the April 28-30 convention at the Catholic Conference Center. "It does no good for us to talk about it. We have to put it into practice."

In his homily, Father West reminded the Catholic Daughters that an important responsibility, like that of all Christians, is finding ways to serve God and others.

"Jesus in no way limits his call," said Father West. "The divine invitation requires every one of us to embrace their responsibilities of discipleship, to put the words of Jesus Christ into action each and every day of our lives.

"Our challenge, our commitment, our motivation must be the living out of the Gospel, no matter how great the odds, no matter how bitter the disappointment or how discouraging or frustrating."

Father West's message came at the close of a weekend that celebrated the Catholic Daughters' commitment to church, country and neighbor. There are a dozen Catholic Daughters courts, or chapters, in North Carolina:

See Catholic Daughters, page 3

Cardinal O'Connor dies at 80

NEW YORK (CNS) — John Cardinal O'Connor, New York's archbishop for 16 years, died May 3, a little more than eight months after undergoing surgery last Aug. 31 for a brain tumor. He was 80 years old.

His funeral was scheduled for Monday, May 8, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Pope John Paul II mourned the death of U.S. John Cardinal O'Connor, praising his "many years of dedicated and courageous witness to the Gospel."

"As a deeply spiritual man, a warm and zealous pastor, and effective teacher of the faith and a vigorous defender of human life, Cardinal O'Connor modeled his own life and ministry on the figure of the Good Shepherd who, to the end, gives his life for the flock," the pope said.

The pope expressed his appreciation for the late cardinal's efforts toward "better ecumenical and interreligious relations" and his work on behalf of the poor, calling him "a source of inspiration in serving God in our

See Cardinal O'Connor, page 5

Senate committee approves Pain Relief Promotion Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic pro-life official said the Pain Relief Promotion Act approved April 27 by the Senate Judiciary Committee shows respect "for dying patients" and "compassion for their suffering." The bill, approved by a 10-7 vote, "can mark a new beginning in our government's commitment to the real needs of these patients" and means "a sad chapter in our nation's history may be nearing an end," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "The full Senate should take up and approve this bill at its earliest opportunity," he said in a statement. No date for a Senate vote has been set.

Msgr. McSweeney to step down as director of The Christophers

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — For the past four years, he has hosted scores of television programs, written a weekly newspaper column and used other media to earnestly promote the idea that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Now, Msgr. Thomas McSweeney, director of The Christophers in New York City, is preparing to bring the light of his experience and talents back home to the Diocese of Erie. "I really am eager to plug in whatever I've learned, contacts I have made, and the gifts (the diocese) has allowed me to accrue," said the priest, who was named a monsignor earlier this year.

Catholic educators urged to prepare for crisis situations

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic school administrators and school boards cannot be naive about the possibility of school violence, said a speaker at the annual National Catholic Educational Association convention in Baltimore. "Unfortunately, it's only a matter of time before it's one of us," said Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy during a standing-room-only workshop April 26 for more than 200 Catholic school educators. Sister Shaughnessy, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., and an education professor at Spalding University in Louisville, said the time to figure out what to do in a crisis situation is before something happens.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Sister Faustina Kowalska is first saint of new millennium
At a canonization Mass April 30 in St. Peter's Square, the pope said the humble life of the Polish Mercy sister, who died in 1938 at the age of 33 and whose diary account of visions and revelations inspired Divine Mercy devotion worldwide, "is tied to the history of the 20th century."

Religion coverage by major media grows over decades

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study has found that coverage of religion by major media outlets has grown over the past 30 years. The study showed a dip in the 1980s, but said it rebounded in the 1990s to levels surpassing that of the 1970s. The study also showed that the Catholic Church figured more prominently than any other religion in news coverage. It also found that while the number of stories about the Catholic Church stayed the same, the percentage of stories about it decreased because of an overall increase in all stories about religion. The study, issued in April by the Center for Media and Public Affairs and the Ethics and Public Policy Center, two Washington-based think tanks, examined news coverage in the ABC, NBC and CBS nightly newscasts; reports in The New York Times and The Washington Post; and articles in Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report magazines.

Bishop: Zimbabwe's land crisis is flag for South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The crisis in Zimbabwe, where white-owned farms have been invaded by blacks demanding land, raised concerns that a similar situation could arise in neighboring South Africa, where 80 percent of land is still controlled or owned by whites. "There is great expectation of land restitution, and we need to be careful that slowness in settlement does not lead to a situation like Zimbabwe," said Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg, who heads the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference justice and peace department. According to government statistics, less than 13 percent of land in South Africa is controlled by black people.

Salvadoran prelate asks pardon for U.S. churchwomen's killers

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador supported the request for a pardon from two ex-soldiers in jail for the 1980 killing of three U.S. nuns and a lay worker. "Let's show mercy and pity. They (the jailed soldiers) have shown repentance, and that's the correct conduct," Archbishop Saenz told reporters after Easter Mass April 23 in the capital. In March, former national guardsmen Carlos Palacios and Francisco Contreras petitioned Congress for a reconsideration of their cases.

Major abortion, First Amendment cases in court's final round

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two major cases in the final week of the Supreme Court's argument calendar raise significant questions about abortion law and about the competing issues of anti-discrimination law and an organization's right to define its own membership. On April 25, the court was to consider whether Nebraska's law prohibiting partial-birth abortion is constitutional. The next day, it was scheduled to hear arguments over a New Jersey Supreme Court ruling that said because of anti-discrimination laws the Boy Scouts may not reject participation by homosexuals.

Vatican releases collection of papal writings on social teaching

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To whet Catholics' appetite for the church's social teaching, the Vatican released a book of quotes from papal documents over the last hundred years. The book gathers quotes from Pope Leo XIII to the current pope, said Archbishop Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, at a press conference April 27. Titled "The Social Agenda: A Collection of Magisterial Texts," the 225-page book contains nearly 370 quotations, most a paragraph's length, from some 75 church documents.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 3 — 10
Annual pilgrimage with Knights of Malta to Lourdes
May 12 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Aloysius, Hickory
May 13 — 11 am
Diocesan Lay Ministry Graduation Mass
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
5 pm
Confirmation, St. Piux X and blessing of pro-life monument
May 14 — 9 am
Confirmation
St. Peter, Charlotte
4 pm
Groundbreaking
St. Joseph, Kannapolis

Diocesan planner

May

7 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is having its 48th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day at 3 p.m. this afternoon, with Legionaries of Christ Father Peter Devereux from Atlanta, Ga., as the speaker for the event. The day includes a procession, homily, the rosary, hymns and Benediction. For more information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127 or the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., invites everyone to participate in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the Forty Hours of Devotion Services today through May 9. Today's 12:15 p.m. Mass is being followed by Adoration from 1:30 p.m.-midnight. On May 8 and 9, Adoration lasts throughout the day with early morning sessions from 5-8 a.m., a second session from 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. with 7:30 p.m. Mass and a nighttime session from 8:30 p.m.-midnight on May 8 only. For more details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

TRYON — The Jubilee Parish Mission at St. John the Baptist Church, 600 Laurel Ave., continues through May 11 with services at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., conducted by Redemptorist Father Rudolph Papes from Grand Rapids, Mich. For more information, call the church office at (828) 859-9574.

10 CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Club is meeting this morning at 11 a.m. in the church hall, located at 8451 Idlewild Rd. The members are honoring those couples celebrating their 50th anniversaries this year. The regular meetings take place every second Wednesday of the month, and for details about this month's or upcoming meetings, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

11 CHARLOTTE — All Irish Catho-

Catholic Daughters, from page 1

six in the Diocese of Charlotte, and six in the Diocese of Raleigh. Each is involved in a variety of religious, charitable and educational efforts on the local, state and national levels.

Headquartered in New York, the national Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization has about 115,000 members in the United States, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, Saipan, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

The national organization was founded in 1903 by the Knights of Columbus in Utica, N.Y.

Since 1956, the state's Catholic Daughters have met every other year for a conference that is part business meeting, part spiritual retreat. Deceased members are memorialized, officers are elected and installed, committee members are appointed, reports are given, awards are bestowed.

It is a time to remember the past, celebrate the present and look forward to the future as an organization dedicated, as its motto states, to unity and charity.

"Each convention has the potential of becoming a great learning experience," said Dolly Peña, national director and national supervisor of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, in a letter to the state organization. "It is a time to renew acquaintances, visit with friends, reminisce over past achievements and concentrate on plans for future CDA accomplishments."

Maryann Grabasky, the state court's second vice regent, agreed that the convention is an opportunity to reflect on the work of the Catholic Daughters.

"I feel like I'm contributing to the church and to my country," added Grabasky, who is a member of Court Greensboro. She spoke of the diverse charitable and spiritual outreach the organization provides, from feeding the hungry to fund-raising for Alzheimer's and AIDS patients, from supporting vocations to promoting a strong spiritual life.

"We're living out the Gospel by doing these things," Grabasky said. "This is our role; this is what our organization does."

During the closing Mass, the new officers were installed into their two-year terms, promising their fidelity and service to God, the church, the organization and the nation.

The new state officers are: Doreen Warren of Court Children of Mary in Elizabeth City, state regent; Joyce Rachid of Court Msgr. Michael A. Irwin in New Bern, first vice regent; Maryann Grabasky of Court Greensboro, second vice regent; Sheila Storey of Court Durham, secretary; and Ruth Carlisle of Court Charlotte, treasurer.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Father Mauricio W. West shares a smile with present and past officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas following the closing Mass.

Just as the new officers affirmed their resolve, Father West urged all of the members to live out that commitment to faith, charity and evangelization.

"We who gather in this room this morning must commit ourselves to share in God's Word, relieving those who find themselves in need," he said during his homily. "We must strive to be authentic signs of the truth, the reality and the beauty of God's love.

"We know the path along which the Lord, Jesus, leads us is not always an easy one, but it is the one of loving service to humanity. ... Our commitment to him requires us to reach out in love, care and concern to all of our brothers and sisters whom we encounter on our journey." ▼

New Catholic Daughters Court continues tradition of charity, unity

By DIANNE RIGGS
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — The largest organization of Catholic women in the United States recently added its newest court in North Carolina.

On March 4 of this year, during a Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, Court St. Joan of Arc #2471 was officially instituted and officers installed. It is the sixth court, or local chapter, to be established in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"It is a blessing to be a Catholic Daughter," said Marjorie Thomas, Court St. Joan of Arc's regent, or president. "It has added to my self-esteem."

Thomas, a member of St. Joan of Arc, had been a part of the first CDA Court in North Carolina, at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, for "about 22 years." That original court, Court Asheville #412, was established in 1920, she said.

Court St. Joan of Arc, which currently has 29 members, held its first meeting on April 22. While the gathering was organizational in nature, the attending members began at once with what is most characteristic of the CDA: charity.

Members will begin making "fidget aprons" for the Alzheimer patients in the nursing home at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Asheville. The aprons contain sewn-in keys, zippers, fringe and such for the patients to "work their hands," said Thomas.

Thomas anticipates that the new court will be involved in many charitable projects, as well as doing things at the church "at the request of the priest."

According to Doreen Warren, state regent, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is basically a charitable organization, concentrating on the seven spokes of a program called "Circle of Love": quality of life, youth, spiritual enhancement, legislation promoting a Catholic perspective, education, national charitable projects and leadership.

Court St. Joan of Arc enters a rich legacy of service, both here in North Carolina and in the nation.

Among numerous projects, the national CDA has recently built five houses for Habitat for Humanity and given $3,000 to the Diocese of Raleigh for flood victims, Warren said.

Historically, the national organization's works included supporting the efforts of both World Wars at home and abroad, helping the poor, working with youth, assisting the blind, securing funds for seminarians, doing literacy work and spreading the faith. All this and much more was done in addition to raising funds for numerous charities.

The Catholic Daughters have also been active locally and legislatively in attempting to protect the sanctity of the home and the right to life.

Any Catholic woman age 18 or above is eligible to become a Daughter, said Marjorie Thomas, who with Court St. Joan of Arc Vice Regent Ginny Eldreth attended the CDA State Convention April 28-30 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Members do not need to be parishioners of the sponsoring parish.

In addition to the two courts in Asheville, the Charlotte Diocese has courts in Lenior, Salisbury, Greensboro and Charlotte. ▼

lic men are invited to join the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Mecklenburg County Division, for their May membership meeting and First Degree ceremony for new members and a social hour at St. Gabriel Church in the ministry building at 3016 Providence Rd. tonight at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Bill McDade at (704) 333-3371.

12 ASHEVILLE — The members of the Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Ave., are having their special "Book-Tique Sale and More" this weekend starting today from noon-8 p.m., May 13 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and May 14 from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Hardback and paperback books, cookbooks, children's greeting cards, CD's, videos, audiobooks and miscellaneous household items are on hand for all patrons. The sale is being held in the school building adjacent to the church. For donations and other information, call Mary Henderson at (828) 254-2773 or the church office at (828) 252-3151.

ASHEVILLE — There is a gay and lesbian retreat, "A Place at the Table: A Jubilee Retreat for Gays and Lesbians," taking place at St. Eugene Church, 1 Culvern St., tonight from 6-9 p.m., sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Commission of the Diocese of Charlotte. The evening includes prayer, fellowship and discussions. For May 9 registration details and other information, call Jerry Edwards at (828) 252-2652 or e-mail: PhubbyOne@aol.com.

13 LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 619 South Main St., is having their annual spaghetti dinner and fund-raiser tonight from 5-8 p.m. The food includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverages. Proceeds are to benefit the church renovation fund. For details, call the church office at (336) 248-2463.

15 HENDERSONVILLE — Natural family planning classes are beginning tonight from 7-9 p.m. For directions, registration and further information, call Ann Dowling at (704) 696-2357.

17 CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured environment for pregnant women, is holding their annual Roman Gabriel Sports Benefit and Raffle tonight from 7-9 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. The evening's festivities include a silent and live auction and a raffle for two PSL's (permanent seating licenses) to the Carolina Panthers' Stadium. All proceeds raised from the event will benefit the clients of Room at the Inn. For more information, contact Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

19 GREENSBORO — "Living the Jubilee Year" is the theme for the annual Catholic Renewal Conference being held at Greensboro College, 815 West Market St. All are invited to share in this jubilee year gathering filled with music, praise and worship, speakers and morning Mass. A dorm lodging and meal package are available along with a weekend bookstore. The opening session starts tonight at 7:30 p.m. with sessions all day May 20. For more information, call Bette Steinkamp at (336) 882-9717 or e-mail for return message at Rstienkamp@infoave.net.

Upcoming

MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Anthony M. Genovese is the facilitator of a retreat, "Take Courage and Be a Man," emphasizing male spirituality and how this experience has an influence on societal values, the pursuit of goals, dealing with failures and being open to God's call. For further information on the retreat being held from June 9-11, call the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters lane, at (828) 926-3833.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Thunderous spirit ignites Diocesan Youth Conference flame

By DEB HARTRUM
Correspondent

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. — Camp Thunderbird lived up to its name last weekend, when thunder from the sky joined with the thunder of 350 joyous voices as diocesan teens gathered for the 23rd Annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

The theme for this year's event was "Generation Christ: New Beginnings."

Paul Kotlowksi, the diocesan director of Youth Ministry, shared his expectations for this year's conference and noted the growth process that can occur even within the timeframe of a weekend.

"My hope is that the youth of the diocese gather in fellowship, coming to a greater appreciation of their participation of Christ's generation," said Kotlowski.

Friday evening began with prayer for a weekend of spirit and fun. Icebreakers that set the stage for fellowship were followed by a dynamic presentation from Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo.

With a reverent passion, Father DeAngelo, a campus minister in Winston-Salem, reminded the youth that it is not enough to say "I believe" and expect salvation. He said that one must live that faith every day with every choice that is made.

His talk made an impact on teens and adults alike.

"Father Jude emphasized our Catholic identity as a conversion experience that is present in everyday life," said Adriana Macciavello, a chaperone from St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

The evening moved from a visionary keynote presentation to a night of music with the Christian rock band Clear on the main stage.

"I really like the music," 15-year-old John Paul Dunning, a youth from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro who was attending the conference for the first time, said later. "In fact, I ended up going to the workshop the group presented the next day, and it was my favorite."

When the music stopped, a short prayer service sent the teens to their cabins, where keeping warm was a challenge.

Saturday morning, teens brimming with expectations began their quest for spiritual renewal and new friends.

"I love when the kids come to the conference and mingle with kids from other Catholic Churches," said Ruth Morrissey, youth minister from St. Eugene Church in Asheville. "I think this is a valuable experience." Morrissey accompanied 18 members of her youth ministry group this year.

"Please say to yourself, 'God is interested. God put me here in this world, and he allows me to be here ... to make it a better place.' Be there for others, and your life will have meaning.

— Bishop William G. Curlin

Among the highlights of the conference are the workshops that lift up the connection all youth have to each other as Catholics. One workshop, presented by religion teacher Tony O'Meara, gave new meaning for many to the suffering of the Lord.

"In the real world, one cannot expect to avoid suffering. Instead, they should learn to love others through suffering moments, just as Jesus did," said O'Meara, whose workshop was called "By His Stripes."

Diocesan Youth Council members, who are elected after interviews with former members, united to provide leadership and glean experience in the running of a large youth conference.

The conference had a tier effect for Caryn Raming of Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish in Albemarle. Raming, who is a new youth minister and came to DYC with two teens.

"Our youth program is in its growing stages," she said. "I hope the kids get pumped up and excited so they can go home and inspire others in the church to join youth ministry."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop William G. Curlin greets a participant in this year's Diocesan Youth Conference while Matthew Horvath, diocesan youth council chairman, looks on.

As the conference headed towards the anticipated Saturday night dance, thunderous showers finally made their presence known. The rain did not dampen the spirit of the conference, however, and the sun returned as the teens heard a special presentation by Bishop William G. Curlin.

His spirit-filled words focused on this year's theme, pointing out the responsibilities this young group of Catholics has in the world's future.

"You're young, and you can say 'the world is mine.' And it is yours," Bishop Curlin said. "Maybe you will cure AIDS or cancer. Maybe you will discover how to find peace on earth. Maybe one of you will be another Mother Teresa. Maybe one of you will be the bishop of Charlotte."

"Please say to yourself, 'God is interested. God put me here in this world, and he allows me to be here ... to make it a better place.' Be there for others, and your life will have meaning.

"This is what it means to be a Christian. We are people who believe that Jesus Christ is alive within us, and through us, he brings his love, his joy and his hope."

Saturday evening's dance illuminated the energy of teen-age identity seen everywhere on the camp's grounds, while Catholic singer-songwriter Anne Trufant's Sunday keynote address enlightened the teens about the challenges and the impact today's media make.

The closing Mass, celebrated by Capuchin Father Stan Kobel of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, was an emotional and profound moment bringing this year's DYC to a close. The sea of teens walked towards their cabins, arms linked with new and old friends, ready to take on the world.

Brian Fortune, a senior, has been attending the conference since his freshman year. The parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard is also youth council member this year.

"The conference is great fun, and the experience of helping out with the charities and people the conference benefits has been a wonderful experience," he said. "Each time I leave DYC, I come away with a renewed sense of faith." ▼

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar contributed to this story.

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Cardinal O'Connor, from page 1

less fortunate brothers and sisters."

"Through the years he has been of great support to me in the service of the universal church," said the pope.

"It is time of mourning for the Church," said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte. "We join the world and pause to remember the life of John Cardinal O'Connor."

"His articulation of Catholic doctrine and belief was exceedingly clear," said Father West. "His voice will be missed, but his message will continue."

A plain-speaking public figure, Cardinal O'Connor often addressed current controversies in his weekly newspaper column, in homilies at St. Patrick's Cathedral and in frequent contacts with news media.

A memorial Mass in honor of John Cardinal O'Connor will be celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

At the time of printing this newspaper, the date and times were still to be determined.

New Yorkers learned of the feisty side of his character within the first few months of his arrival in 1984 when he became embroiled in several controversies that made national headlines.

While uncompromising on church teachings, he reached out to the larger non-Catholic community. He developed strong relations with Jewish leaders and was noted for his efforts to bring healing and reconciliation to situations of racial or ethnic conflict.

A native of Philadelphia and priest of that archdiocese, he devoted 27 years to the military chaplaincy. He retired as Navy chief of chaplains with the rank of rear admiral in 1979, when he was made an auxiliary bishop of the U.S. Military Vicariate.

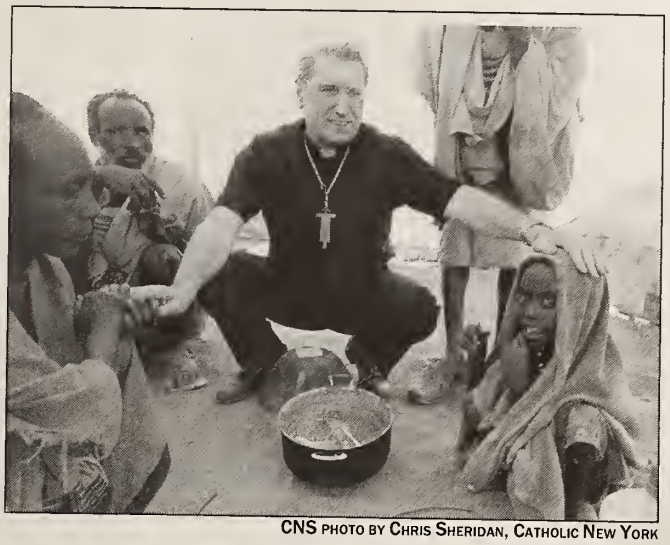
John Joseph O'Connor was born in Philadelphia Jan. 15, 1920. He attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Overbrook and was ordained a priest of the archdiocese Dec. 15, 1945.

He became a Navy chaplain during the Korean conflict in 1952 and served on vessels in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean, ashore in various U.S. posts, and overseas in Korea, Japan and Vietnam.

He was then named to the writing committee for the bishops' statement, headed by Cardinal (then Cincinnati Archbishop) Joseph L. Bernardin. The 1983 pastoral letter that resulted, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," was a carefully nuanced critique of U.S. defense policy. It drew wide international attention and provoked similar efforts by other religious bodies in the United States and Catholic bishops' conferences in several other countries.

During the special meeting in Chicago at which the bishops approved the pastoral letter, Bishop O'Connor, then 63, learned by telephone that Pope John Paul had chosen him to be bishop of Scranton, Pa.

His appointment was announced May 10, 1983, and he was installed in the Scranton Diocese June 29. He immediately set out to visit every parish in the diocese, began preparations for Scranton's first diocesan synod in more than a century and made several other changes.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN, CATHOLIC NEW YORK

New York John Cardinal O'Connor visited Ethiopia in 1985, where he saw feeding programs for the population starving in a famine. The cardinal died at his home in New York on May 3.

But less than a year later, on Jan. 31, 1984, he was named archbishop of New York. He was installed there March 19. On May 25, 1985, he became a member of the College of Cardinals.

Within his first few months in New York it became clear that he was not afraid of taking stands that would provoke controversy.

In June he and Cardinal Bernardin testified jointly before Congress, opposing the deployment of U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles in Western Europe, questioning the MX missile system and challenging Reagan administration proposals for massive new expenditures on nuclear weaponry and space-based defense systems.

Also that June, he said he did not see "how a Catholic in good conscience can vote for a candidate who explicitly supports abortion."

He also said, in a separate statement, that he has "absolutely no tolerance" for politicians who "try to sit on the fence" on abortion by saying they personally oppose it but will not impose their views on others.

In October Archbishop O'Connor, with Mother Teresa at his side, answered with a speech, "Human Lives, Human Rights," in which he called on politicians to commit themselves to changing the permissive abortion laws of the United States.

He also made a memorable pledge that any woman considering abortion could come to his archdiocese to receive whatever help she needed to bring her pregnancy to term.

For most of his 16 years in New York, Cardinal O'Connor enjoyed good health. But he never recovered fully after surgery to remove a brain tumor last August. He resumed celebrating Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's but cut back substantially on public appearances and began celebrating weekday Masses in his private chapel instead of at the cathedral.

In mid-October he was rehospitalized briefly for treatment of a blood clot in his leg and was unable to attend the annual Al Smith dinner, long one of the most notable annual events in the archdiocese.

In December, after weakness prevented him from celebrating Mass in the cathedral on two successive Sundays, plans for public Mass or other events were evaluated on a day-to-day basis.

He regained some strength at the beginning of the year and visited Pope John Paul and other officials at the Vatican Feb. 9-11. But he then became markedly weaker, and Zwilling told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview April 24 that Cardinal O'Connor was no longer involved in the work of the archdiocese.

In Washington, both the House and Senate approved legislation earlier this year to give the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress, to Cardinal O'Connor. ▼

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of May:

Rev. Edward C. Smith, 1983
Rev. Henri Blanc, 1972
Rev. James A. Stuber, 1985
Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe, 1994
Rev. Francis J. McCourt, 1982
Rev. William McShea, 1973
Rev. James E. Noonan, 1992

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Book Review

Word to Life

May 7, Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle B Readings:

1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
   Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9
2) 1 John 2:1-5a
3) Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

Peace. Terror. Doubt. Joy. Disbelief. Wonder. "Mixed feelings" hardly describes the dizzying roller coaster of emotion that rocketed the disciples in this week's Gospel from the stomach-churning descent into doubt to the neck-snapping curve around the edges of fear, to the awe-inspiring pinnacle of joy which was their encounter with the Easter Jesus.

I used to imagine, as a child, what I would do if the Lord appeared to me. I pictured myself happy, eager to display my virtuous deeds like some vain Boy Scout showing off a particularly impressive array of merit badges.

I imagined Jesus smiling kindly at me. And though I knew it wasn't likely — I'd never seen it in pious pictures or heard of it at home or church — I harbored the hope that, if I kept being a good boy, there might be a pony in my future soon. I did not imagine mixed feelings.

Now, with many more miles on my heart and soul, with flesh that's been bruised a time or two, and bones that sometimes creak and ache for no good reason, I find the picture of that emotionally volatile scene in the Upper Room compelling and real.

The fact is that when things have gone disastrously awry, when someone we love has been brutally hurt, and our hopes have been dashed and our shallowness and inconstancy mercilessly revealed, the unexpected arrival of the wounded loved one is bound to provoke a storm of emotion.

The good news is that, having failed our friend, our friend does not fail us. Patient, persistent forgiveness heals us of our fear and empowers us to be truer, more compassionate, more willing to risk our comfort and safety in the service of demonstrating not our brittle virtue, but the mercy of God.

Questions:

What part of the Gospel message do you occasionally hear with mixed emotions? What's one concrete way you can testify to the power of forgiveness?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 7 - 13, 2000

Third Sunday of Easter, Acts 3:13-15, 17-19, 1 John 2:1-5, Luke 24:35-48; **Monday**, Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday**, Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday**, Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday**, Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday (Sts. Nereus & Archilleus, St. Pancras)**, Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday**, Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69

Readings for the week of May 14 - 20, 2000

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18; **Monday (St. Isidore the Farmer)**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (St. John I, pope, martyr)**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday**, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Bernardine of Siena)**, Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

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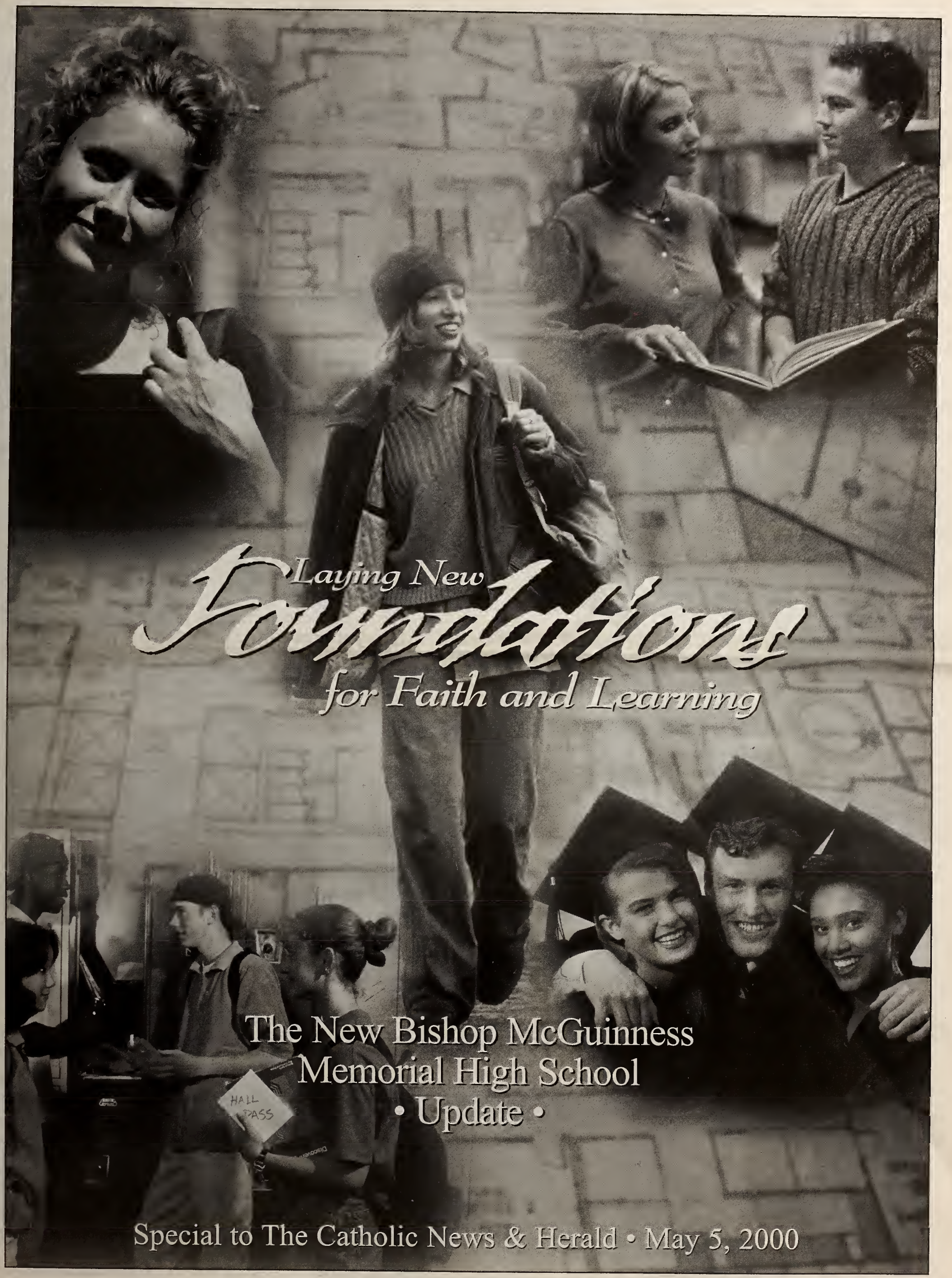

The New Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School

• Update •

Special to The Catholic News & Herald • May 5, 2000

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School Today

A Tradition of Achievement

"Bishop McGuinness prepared me well for the rigorous academic demands at Yale. My educational background has placed me on an equal footing with students from the best prep schools in the country."
Ime Archibong
Graduate af Bishap McGuinness Memarial High School, Class of 1999
Freshman, Yale University

"You don't spend four years in any one place without enjoying special memories. In addition to my favorite classes and teachers, I will always remember being part of the performances in the greatly improved drama program. This, along with the proud, exuberant school spirit, friends, parents, and brothers and sisters, make the Bishop community like a family."
Molly Flynn Peterson
Graduate of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, Class of 2000

"I am graduating from medical school and pursuing a career in emergency medicine. While attending Bishop McGuinness, my family went through a serious upheaval. The educators and staff supported me educationally, emotionally, financially, and spiritually through this most difficult period. I have no doubt that if I had not been fortunate enough to be at McGuinness, I would certainly not be where I am today."
Richard Jacobson
Graduate of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, Class of 1992
Graduate of the University of Georgia 1996 [B.S.]
Graduate of Wake Forest University School of Medicine 2000 [M.D.]

"Bishop has given me the courage, confidence and faith to be successful in my work and in my family life."
Sharon Hoeing Cunane
Graduate of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, Class of 1986
Graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro 1990 [B.S.]
Classified Sales Manager, News & Record

"As an alumnus and volunteer member of the coaching staff, I am extremely excited about what the new campus will have to offer students on all fronts. I am particularly pleased about the plans to provide first-class practice and playing facilities for our teams. They will be a wonderful match for the quality of programs we're trying to build - and the qualities in people that excellent athletic programs foster."
Tony Nitz
Graduate of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, Class of 1973
Graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 1977 [B.S.]
Graduate of Wake Forest University 1987 [M.B.A.]
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Excellence in Action

The primary mission of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School is to develop students spiritually, intellectually, socially and physically to serve as responsible Christian citizens and leaders. Toward that end, we offer:

• A dedicated faculty (student/faculty ratio of 14:1) conducting a college preparatory curriculum that gets results. Ninety-eight percent of our students pursue higher education ($1 million in scholarships awarded to 1998 graduating seniors). SAT scores consistently exceed local, state and national averages.

• Athletic and physical education programs that reinforce the values of teamwork and school spirit. Over 60% of students participate in team sports.

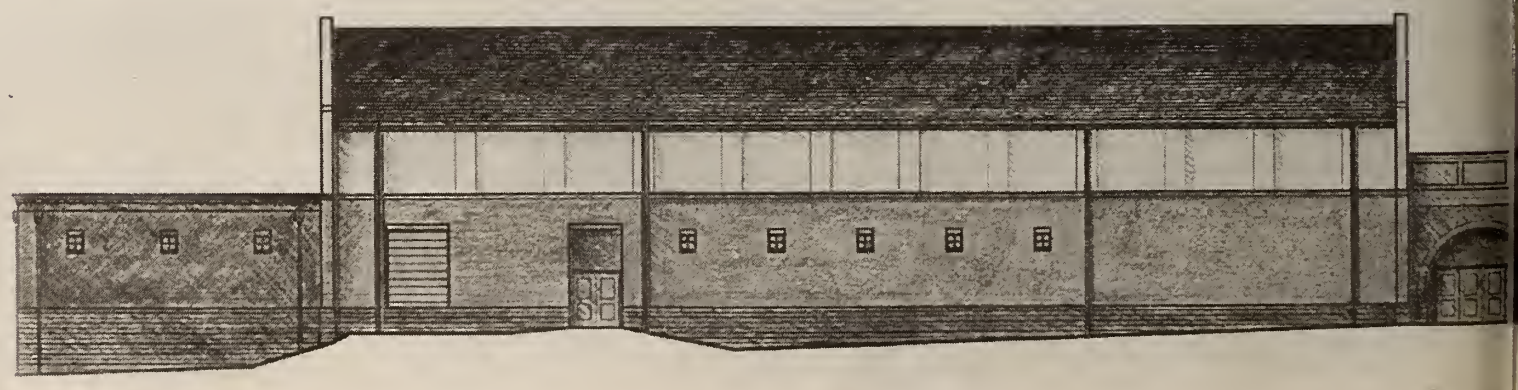
• An emphasis on service activities and clubs which help prepare students to be leaders in their Church and in the larger community.

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School strives to reinforce Catholic Christian values and to challenge students to reach their achievement potential.

A Growing Need for Faith-Centered Education

Since 1990, enrollment in Triad Catholic schools has grown by 33%, with enrollment in 6th through 8th grades up 44%. Demand for enrollment is expected to grow dramatically as the Catholic population in the Triad continues to soar.

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School currently serves 310 students in a 40-year-old facility that was designed to accommodate 250 students. Overcrowding and aging of our facility, along with the need for a more diverse curriculum and expanded technological support, severely limit the school's ability to meet the challenges of the future.



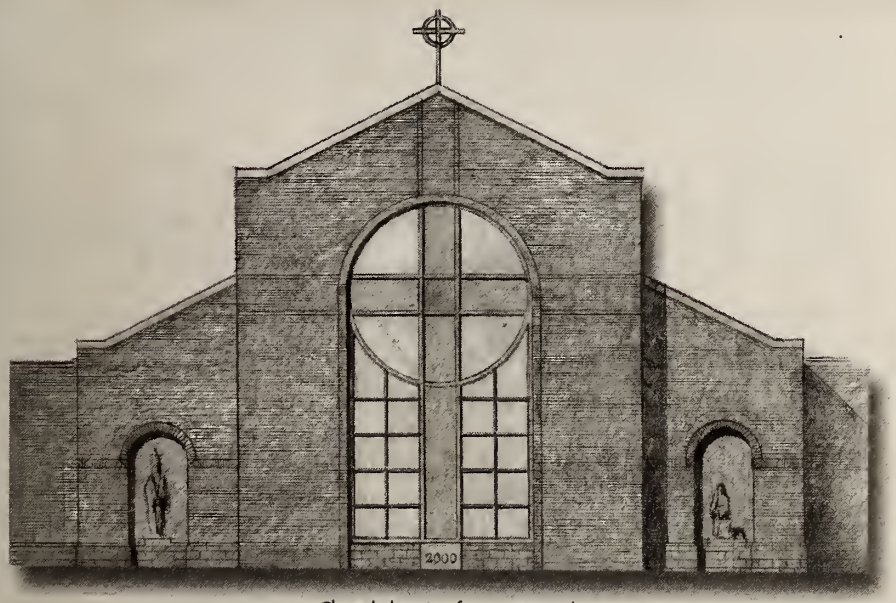
Laying New Foundations for Faith and Learning

Responding to the Need

Bishop Curlin at groundbreaking

On February 6, 2000, Bishop Curlin broke ground for the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School. Building a new, centrally located, state-of-the-art facility to serve over 800 students is the focus of Phase One of an expansion plan designed to meet the present and future needs of Triad families. Two new elementary schools are planned in a later phase. Site preparation is under way for this exciting project, with the new high school scheduled to open in August of 2001.

This carefully selected site is convenient to the entire Triad, with driving times of 15 minutes from Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem, and 10 minutes from the current campus location.



Chapel elevation from courtyard

Site and Building Facts

- Two-story school building, central courtyard and 225-seat chapel as focal point
- Athletic fields including soccer, track & field, baseball and softball
- Two full computer labs
- Science lecture/lab room combinations
- 900-seat gymnasium and stage
- Cafeteria with 320-seat capacity
- Instrumental music classroom and practice rooms
- Art classroom with dark room and supporting computer lab
- Student bookstore
- Large classrooms with superior technology support
- Teacher planning and conference rooms for each subject area

Main entrance elevation

Our Challenge to Continue the Tradition

A Message from Bishop William G. Curlin

Catholic education is an important part of our lives. I know that many of you, like me, have received the special benefits of a Catholic education. We owe much to those who provided that opportunity to us. Thea Bowman, FSPA, I think, puts it best:

"The active participation and cooperation of parents, teachers and concerned adults from a variety of cultural and religious traditions enable the Catholic school community to affirm and utilize the special giftedness of all its peoples as they work in love and harmony to create a better world."

Now it is our turn to provide the same opportunity for the generations yet to come.

Bishop William G. Curlin

Help Make the Dream a Reality

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School Capital Campaign

Interior of chapel

The rich history and past accomplishments of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School are but opening chapters to a far more exciting future. Relocation and expansion will allow the school to serve 800 students, more than double the current enrollment.

The benefits that Bishop McGuinness offers our young people, their families, the Catholic Church and our communities are well known. Those more familiar with the facilities of the present high school also know firsthand the serious shortage of space that limits enrollment and program expansion.

What could be more important than to guarantee that our children and grandchildren will be afforded the benefits of a Catholic education in a facility that has the resources to prepare them for a rapidly changing society?

We must act now to make this dream a reality. A Triad-wide capital campaign, "Laying New Foundations for Faith and Learning" will officially kick off in May 2000. We need your support. We invite you to make a generous investment of your time, talent and treasure to help accomplish this dream.

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Bob Davis
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For more information, please call Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School at (336) 725-4247, or the campaign office at (336) 722-8238.

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PBS special "Moms" re-run May 12 for Mother's Day

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Mothers of all ages and backgrounds have their say about the joys and terrors of being a parent in "Moms," to be rerun Friday, May 12, 9-10 p.m. EDT on PBS.

Filmmakers Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker talk with dozens of women across the country who relate — sometimes with unexpected candor — what pregnancy, childbirth and then the decadeslong adventure of raising children has meant to them. As one sums it up, "Nothing compares to having kids."

Most are upbeat, such as the mother of a retarded boy who originally envisioned her son graduating from Harvard, but has learned to enjoy his uniqueness without setting difficult goals for him.

Another mom of six runs her household with military efficiency and is proud of how Tyler, Taylor, Turner, Tanner, Tucker and T.K. are all subject to daily duties and discipline.

A bittersweet clip shows a recovering alcoholic who lost custody of her son when he was a toddler and is now steadily rebuilding the relationship on weekend visits.

Surprisingly, a few mothers mention how it wasn't love at first sight of their newborns, but over the course of a year or two the mother-child bonding rooted and blossomed.

"Moms"
May 12 9-10 p.m. EDT
on PBS

Different stages in the parenting process are covered, with special attention given to adolescence and the advice moms passed on about sex.

As might be expected in this patchwork-quilt format, the opinions of some moms prove interesting while others are overly familiar. One woman's conclusion that motherhood forces you to confront the best and worst in yourself is one of the more insightful remarks made, while another effuses, "There's no love like this; it's intense!"

Shots of adorable babies and moms singing lullabies seem, if not manipulative, then just padding to fill the documentary's hour length.

However, the end credits in which the crew members' actual mothers appear to announce their contributions, does make a fitting finale to this pleasant salute to the moms of America. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, tells faithful to contemplate Transfiguration

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Contemplation of the Lord's transfiguration represents an opportunity to live out Scripture in daily life, Pope John Paul II said.

"In Christ's resurrection, what was mysteriously concealed in the transfiguration on (Mount) Tabor becomes reality," the pope said April 26 at his weekly general audience.

Speaking to some 40,000 pilgrims on a warm spring morning in St. Peter's Square, he urged the faithful to ascend spiritually up Mount Tabor to immerse themselves in the light of God's mystery, "to listen to the word of Scripture and put it into practice."

Continuing a cycle of reflections on the Trinity at his weekly catechesis, the pope emphasized the threefold dimension of Jesus' transfiguration.

"The presence of the Father, with his revelatory voice, is explicit," he said. "Christian tradition also sees implicitly the presence of the Holy Spirit."

As the spirituality of the Eastern Church suggests, said the pope, "the liturgy of the Transfiguration presents, in the three apostles Peter, James and John, a human triad that contemplates the divine Trinity."

While the transfiguration foreshadows Christ's glorious coming, "it also reminds us that it is necessary to overcome many obstacles in order to enter into the Kingdom of God," he said.

Among those at the audience were prisoners on special leave from a jail in Palermo, Sicily.

In an April 24 press release, Palermo Mayor Leoluca Orlando said the unusual pilgrimage marked the first time prisoners would attend a papal audience.

"It seems to me a sign of civility and sensitivity on the part of the overseeing judge who granted authorization and the prison workers who will accompany (the prisoners) on this pilgrimage," he said.

Following the audience, the pope flew by helicopter to his holiday residence in Castel Gandolfo, where he had been resting since April 24. He was expected to return to Rome for the April 30 canonization of Blessed Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who inspired the Divine Mercy devotion.

Considering the source

You've probably noticed that a whole lot of people seem to have an interest in your life and your decisions. Everyone has an opinion about what you should do with your time, your money and your entire life.

Parents, teachers, religious figures, advertisers, magazine writers and even the people who dream up those motivational posters that paper the wall of your classroom: They all know, they all have the secret, they all will fill your ear with advice if you just let them. How do you know whose advice to listen to?

It's really not so difficult to figure out. Just remember this simple phrase and slip it into an easy-to-reach spot in your conscience: Consider the source. Think about who's talking and why.

For example, print, broadcast and billboard advertising don't come right out and order you to hand over your money for alcohol or cigarettes, but what they do is much more powerful. They employ experts in human behavior to figure out what combination of images and sounds will get you to associate their products with happiness.

From the time you could see, you've been surrounded by these images, and for some of you they've worked: You associate holding a stick of tobacco between your fingers with sophistication. Think of beer, and you think, in general terms, of good times, friends and relaxation.

It's the same with any product, even those less directly harmful than alcohol and tobacco: Product manufacturers who make everything from shoes to movies, from cars to soft drinks, work hard to get you into the habit of assuming that a part of your happiness and even more of your coolness depends on buying their stuff. Consider the source.

Next case: sex. You're surrounded by voices yelling, screaming and, of course, seductively whispering the message that sex is OK, no matter when or with whom. They tell you that sex isn't much more than one more casual pastime in this universe of fun things to do, and there's no harm that will come as long as you're "safe." Consider the source.

Think what would happen if, by some amazing miracle, every teen and young person decided to embrace chastity, not only in terms of their bodies, but in relation to their inner lives as well. What would happen if all of us chose to surround ourselves with sounds, images and words that help us shape our best selves rather than appeal to our basest instincts? Who'd lose?

The list of those who would lose is pretty long: condom companies; pharmaceutical corporations that manufacture birth-control pills; abortion clinics; Planned Parenthood; lots of record companies and movie studios; television networks, especially MTV, UPN and the WB; countless magazines.

Now, just for a moment, go over the messages from the other side: Be responsible, treasure sexuality as a sacred gift, treat your body with care and use your resources — talents, time and money — as if they're gifts. Who tells you all that stuff? Parents. Teachers. The church.

Do they have anything to gain if you buy it? Do they make any money or get rich? No.

So why are they so anxious for you to take it seriously? Maybe because they know it's true. Maybe because they want you to be the best person you can be. Maybe because they want you to find lasting, true happiness and peace. Maybe because they love you.

Like I said, consider the source.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail to jskeane@charlottediocese.org.We reserve the right edit all letters. Opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

"Keeping the Faith"

I am writing to express a concern about the review of the movie "Keeping the Faith" by Anne Navarro in your April 14 issue. To use the author's word, I find one of the paragraphs in her article rather "troubling."

I am the Catholic partner in a Jewish/Catholic interfaith marriage and my wife and I have had the opportunity to see (and thoroughly enjoy) the movie.

Overall, I think the movie is a fine celebration of the richness in life that comes with interfaith dialogue and relationships. While I understand the concerns raised by Anne Navarro about how a Catholic priest is portrayed, another concern she expressed stopped my reading in my tracks. At the bottom of the second column, Navarro writes that "[Anna's] willingness to leave behind her implied Christian roots is troubling even though it is clear that she has only become interested in her own spirituality through Jake's influence."

I assume that the source of her comment is the storyline that Anna is taking classes about Judaism at the synagogue. The desire to learn about another's faith does not necessarily imply a desire to convert, or even a dissatisfaction with one's own faith. Learning about the things that are important to a significant other can be a tremendous sign of respect that should be encouraged. It is also the first step toward meaningful dialogue about differences in belief, whatever those beliefs may be.

Even if that learning leads to a spritual awakening and a conversion to another faith, I have a very difficult time labelling that process as troubling, as Navarro claims. If Navarro is standing in judgment of this kind of personal conversion as a representative of the Catholic Church, I would even say that I am offended. While I place tremendous personal value in the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church, I find it disrespectful to assume that another person cannot lead an authentically good and spiritual life simply because they follow another, non-Christian faith tradition.

Jim Donnelly
Greensboro, NC

P.S. I was particularly struck by the contrast of Navarro's comment with the "Tikkun Olam: 'Repairing the World'" article on Page 7, same issue, which very much seems to celebrate the success of the interfaith housing blitz held recently in Greensboro.

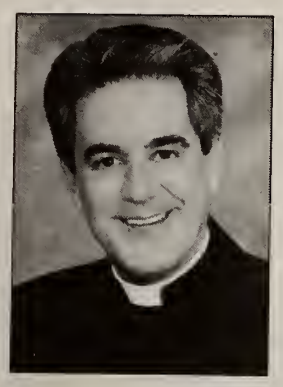
Picture of violence?

While it is necessary to report the religious war going on in Indonesia against Christians, I do not believe the picture you printed on (World Briefs — April 14) is very helpful.

The picture in question depicts a Muslim brandishing a daggar and seemingly full of rage. The picture may be accurate. However, in my opinion it lends to stereotyping, which in turn feeds prejudice, which in turn continues to feed the cycle of violence.

Our response must always be the gentle and humble Christ, who teaches us to love our enemies. Encouraging stereotypical thinking, whether intentional or not, should not be what we are about in our diocesan newspaper.

Rev. Joseph Zuschmidt, OSFS
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
High Point, NC



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Lessons from Mom School

Don't talk with your mouth full.

I don't care what they do at your friend's house. We don't do that here.

Be careful with that thing. You'll poke your eye out.

Go ahead. Have your own way. But don't blame me if you get hurt.

Let me kiss it and make it better.

I don't care what your brother/sister did/ said. You're older and should know better.

You probably recognize these as classic Mom lines. You have probably noticed that it makes no difference what cultural background or generation to which you belong. Some things just transcend personal differences. You could be in a grocery store or walking down the street and suddenly you hear a conversation between mother and youngster that transports you to your own childhood.

I don't quite understand it, but it's almost as though a new mother wakes up with a baby in her arms and sounding as though she just got an 'A' in Mom Talk 101. And, yes, dads often say the same things, and even have a few lines of their own. But there is still something about the way Mom says it ...

My favorite: I don't care if everybody's doing it. If everybody jumped off a cliff, would you do that, too?

Many mothers and fathers are legitimately concerned that peer pressure makes it too hard for their sons and daughters to resist going along with the crowd. After all, more than a few adults can't seem to help trying to keep up with those Joneses. Nobody ever said moms and dads have all the answers.

Speaking as a person who sees parenting only from a distance, it still strikes me that among the many things moms and dads have to worry about, encouraging youngsters to value their uniqueness and to think for themselves has to be high on the list. This is not to be confused with an "I've got to be me" attitude which can make individuality synonymous with insensitivity and selfishness. Unfortunately, some people in every generation feel that way, whatever they call it.

No. I am talking about two things: first, appreciating and using the God-given qualities that make us what we are; second, exercising our intellects to form critical judgments rather than merely accepting others' opinions. These things are not easy. Building a keen sense of self-worth that allows us to stand up for ourselves and our beliefs without trampling on the rights of others can be a challenge. Going that extra step in getting both reason and conscience to be our guides demands even more. It calls for character. And after parents have taken care of the basics of food, clothing and shelter, nothing is as necessary as developing a child's character.

Let me share a Chinese proverb that says a lot about the importance of what parents do: "If you are planning for one year, grow rice. If you are planning for twenty years, grow trees. If you are planning for centuries, grow individuals."

If you want to see the face of the future, you're looking at it every time you say: Don't forget your lunch. ...Pick up your clothes. Do I look like a maid? ...Because I say so, that's why. . . .

Happy Mother's Day!

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnist

Marriage and community

We've been ministering to the engaged for very long time, about eighteen years. Because our program is diocesan based, it's not common to reconnect with those we serve. Sometimes priests report to us that our program is well received. Rarely do we hear from the couples. However, when we do, they truly enrich us.

At a Lenten presentation Andrew gave at a parish a woman approached him and handed him a letter. In it she wrote that the PreCana she and her husband attend before their wedding, one that we facilitated, has positively affect their marriage. She thanked us for sharing our stories and inspiring them to seek adventure in their marriage. She said that we had been mentors for them.

That letter really made our day.

This got us thinking more about the relationship our marriage has with the community. Because of our work in marriage ministry, it's easy to see ourselves as mentors to the married and engaged we serve in the Church. But what about the other many marriages in our lives, in our families, our neighborhood, our parish, our workplaces? Does our light shine with them?

We thought about the many couples who have been mentors to us. Those that have touched us most deeply are those who resisted advice-giving, even when we asked for it. They were simply open and inviting. They opened their lives to us so that we could observe them; they invited us into their intimacy by sharing their faith, their trials and triumphs.

As we advance through the stages of family life, we find ourselves recalling notes from lessons learned from these mentors who allowed us to walk with them through their stages. It's like having a template ready for us to input our own unique story. We are better able to transition each phase with confidence, hope and faith because of what we have witnessed in them.

Thinking about how much we appreciated the woman's letter, we realized that we too have some letters to write, emails to send and phone calls to make.

None of us knows we are mentors until someone tells us. Mentors can neither volunteer nor be assigned. They are chosen.

Some questions to consider: Is your marriage open so others may see your light? Do you invite others into your intimacy to witness your broken-ness as well as your strengths? Do others have reason for confidence, hope and faith because of what they've witnessed in you?

Who are the marriage mentors in your life? Whose marriages have given you a template into which you have or will put your story? Think about them... then write or call them to say "Thank you."

You'll really make their day.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

How important was Pontius Pilate?

Q. Why is Pontius Pilate so singularly featured in the Apostles' Creed? He certainly has received more than his 15 minutes of fame.

He's not that important, is he? Why this personal identification, rather than a generic "governor" or "Roman authority?"

A. I used to be greatly puzzled by this; too. He was a relatively minor, though obviously influential, figure in the earthly life of Jesus. Yet, in the Nicene creed as well, apart from Jesus and Mary, he is the only human being referred to by name.

One reason may be to affix the earthly life and death of Jesus firmly in human history. He did not drop into the story of the human family in some vague time or place. He had a mother and family, he ate, walked and lived among fellow humans, and he died in the clear context of, and involved in, the political and religious and military chaos that characterizes so much of the human story.

In this we would have something similar to Luke's listing (Chapter 3) of specific civil authorities, including Pontius Pilate by the way, at the beginning of Jesus' public life. Though Luke's dates for these officials were not entirely accurate, he obviously wished to situate the public presence and preaching of Jesus in a specific time frame of Jewish and Roman history.

Perhaps something similar was in mind when the major Christian creeds were formed.

Interestingly, Pilate comes off in the Gospels with a much better reputation than in other more official Roman records. He had an unenviable reputation as one of the cruelest, obstinate and harsh Roman officials.

He seems to have had a particular antipathy toward Jews and Samaritans. Because of Jewish religious objections to images, Roman authorities generally did not bring images of Caesar into their territory.

Once, however, Pilate sneaked some of these images into Judaea during the night. After five days of protest by a large number of Jewish authorities at his residence in Caesaria, Pilate assembled them in the stadium and released his soldiers to slaughter them.

When something similar happened to a religious procession in Samaria, Pilate was called to Rome, and we never hear of him again.

The apparent budding concerns he had about justice and personal integrity which we read of in the passion stories of the Gospels seem to have been out of character, unless his reactions at that time grew out of his resentment against the body of Jewish leaders.

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.

India comes to diocese via women religious

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — Guests, diocesan officials and parishioners all squeezed into the quaint chapel in the newly renovated St. Vincent's Convent on the grounds of Christ the King Church on April 27. Those in attendance were able to catch a glimpse of the sisters in full habit who are now living in High Point. Bishop William G. Curlin traveled to celebrate Mass and bless the convent where women religious from the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul from Kerala, India, have come to serve the needs of the Catholic community and people of other denominations in the area.

The bishop addressed the sisters during his homily: "Sisters, we welcome you to the Diocese of Charlotte, and we want to show you our love and support. You have given up your own country to travel many miles to help alleviate the hunger for God in this world. You bring with you a rich history of traditions and customs from your native land. I know they will become blessings for all of us through your devoted ministry."

From the bishop's invitation, the five sisters, Sister Philo, assistant superior, Sister Molly Jose, Sister Liza, Sister Pushpa, Sister Archana and Sister Maria Celine, superior, have settled into their new home in High Point with Father Philip Kollithanath, pastor of Christ the King Church. The five sisters had flown from India with Sister Primosa, superior general, earlier in the month to join Sister Maria Celine who has been living in High Point since October to help with the establishment of the Hispanic center at Christ the King Church.

"We have felt very welcomed by the people here, and we have positive feelings about the work that needs to be done for the people in this area," said Sister Primosa.

"We have felt very welcomed by the people here, and we have positive feelings about the work that needs to be done for the people in this area," said Sister Primosa.

The sisters will be working with primarily with the church's Hispanic center and the growing Hispanic population at the church and throughout the city. They will branch off into their specific jobs after they have become more familiar with the community and the city. Their areas of specialization include education, math, social work, counseling and others.

"There is serious work to be done, and the sisters will experience community life before deciding what to do," said Father Kollithanath. "The parish is excited and happy to have them here."

Sister Maria Celine, who is also the director of the Hispanic center, said, "We will work wherever we are needed in the parish and also in the community — whoever needs our help. We want to do the best work we can and provide our resources to everyone." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Women religious from the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul from Kerala, India, are living in St. Vincent's Convent on the grounds of Christ the King Church in High Point and will be working within the community.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Teacher: K-8, for 2000-2001 at St. Leo Catholic School, 333 Springdale, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. NC certification required (or in process). Call (336) 748-8252 for application and information. Submit resume to Georgette Schraeder, principal.

Director of Life Teen Ministry: Vibrant, 4,000-family parish seeks a full-time Director for one of the largest Life Teen programs in the country, serving 200-300 high school teens weekly. Director works in collaboration with two other full-time staff members devoted to youth ministry and manages a wonderful team of 25-30 adult volunteers. Responsibilities include liturgical preparation for the Teen Mass, directing the "Life Night" program that provides teens with creative faith formation, and Confirmation preparation. Preferred candidates have education in ministry or theology, experience in youth ministry, and a heart for sharing Christ's love with young people. Contact Liz Riegel, St. Michael Catholic Church, 804 High House Road, Cary, NC 27513 (919) 468-6134; Fax: (919)468-6130, lizreigel@hotmail.com.

Teachers: Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School in Charlotte has openings beginning in August for a Pre-School Teacher and a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher. Part-time positions. NC teacher certification required. Call (704)531-0067.

Teachers, Campus Minister and Library/Media Director: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Math, Chemistry, English, Religion, Social Studies, Spanish, and Drama. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Also, part-time Library/Media Director and part-time Campus Minister are needed. Call (704)543-1127.

Youth Minister: Our growing parish community of 1900 families is seeking a full-time Youth Minister for our established Total Youth Ministry program for youth grades 6 through 12. Responsibilities include spiritual and program development while working together with a committed team of 50 adults. Candidate should be: faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Experienced with a B.A. in Theology or related field. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send a resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax to (336)294-6149.

Youth Minister: A half-time position as a Youth Minister is available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in High Point, NC (1000 households). The parish has a Total Youth Ministry Program, which includes the Confirmation Program, for middle and high school youth. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and a member of a Catholic parish. Experience in Youth Ministry and Religious Education is desirable. Send resume and references to Search Committee, IHM Church, 605 Barbee Ave., High Point, NC 27262. Fax (336)884-1849. For more information call (336)884-5212.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude, St. Joseph, and the Blessed Virgin Mary for prayers answered. B.F.

Catholic educators gather in Baltimore for annual NCEA convention

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — More than 12,000 Catholic educators spent four days of their spring break in Baltimore April 25-28 getting ideas on how they could do their jobs better.

At workshops and general sessions, participants in the 97th annual National Catholic Educational Association convention delved into the range of challenges they encounter now in their daily routines and those they will face in the future of Catholic education. Fifty-one administrators and teachers from 14 schools in the Diocese of Charlotte attended the convention.

They also received some recognition for their work.

"You do change lives, and I have no doubt you have saved lives," said the convention's opening speaker Tim Russert, Washington bureau chief of NBC News and moderator of the weekly program "Meet the Press."

"The secret of your success," he told the educators, "is that you believe in something — in your God, your values, yourselves, your students."

Russert said his father, who never finished high school, worked two jobs all his life so his four children could go to Catholic schools. And when Russert attended Canisius High School in Buffalo, N.Y., he said Sister Mary Lucille, founder of the school newspaper, appointed him as editor and had a major impact on his life.

Dr. Benjamin Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institution in Baltimore, also credited teachers, along with his mother, for enabling him to be where he was today.

During the April 27 general session, Carson praised the fifth-grade science teacher who took an interest in him and "made a huge difference."

"Sometimes God puts us in people's live to reach out to them," he told the Catholic educators, encouraging them to always help their students realize their academic talents and live up to their God-given potential.

The closing keynote address, given by Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity College in Washington, emphasized the need to bring Catholic social teaching alive in today's classrooms.

Saying "social justice is at the heart of who we are," McGuire urged the educators not to merely pass on church teachings, but to instruct their students to be effective advocates for the poor and vulnerable.

She said students particularly need to understand the church's teaching on solidarity, the very opposite of what was experienced by the two teen-agers who shot down their classmates and teacher last year at Columbine High School. Those two young men, she said, felt the extremes of isolation and alienation.

McGuire was not the only one to mention the Columbine shooting during the convention.

At least 10 workshops focused on school safety and violence prevention. Some offered suggestions for school safety plans and pointed out potential warning signs for violence or gang and cult involvement. Other workshops emphasized how to teach students conflict resolution and the urgent need for students to respect those who are different.

"Unfortunately, it's only a matter of time before it's one of us" who will have to handle an outbreak of violence in school, said workshop presenter Sister Mary Angela Shaughnessy.

Sister Shaughnessy, a Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Ky., and an education professor at Spalding University in Louisville, said the time to figure out what to do in a crisis situation is before something actually happens.

During her workshop, a majority of hands went up when participants were asked how many had a crisis plan. The number was a noticeable shift from the previous year, she said, when only about half the participants acknowledged having such a plan.

Another big topic at this year's convention was technology. At least 25 workshops featured some aspect of what's out there, such as how to build a school Web page; using the Internet, video cameras or laptops in the classroom; and training teachers to become proficient in all of this.

Delegates could also not avoid technology at the convention's exposition hall.

This year's NCEA convention drew its largest number of exhibitors — 2,684. At least 80 booths sold some kind of technological wares — everything from computer hardware and software to Internet providers, online fund raisers, every range of equipment for the classroom, and the ever-necessary programs for teacher training.

Other groups that met during the NCEA convention included the National Association of Catechetical Directors, or NACD, and the Catholic Library Association.

At a banquet sponsored by the NCEA Department of Elementary Schools, Lorraine Málphurs, a teacher at St. Pius X School in Greensboro, received the NCEA Distinguished Teacher Award. She is the representative of the South Atlantic States Region.

Religious educators were urged to seek out help of families, teachers, pastors and others in the community in their work of forming people in the faith.

"We have to stop thinking we can do this all by ourselves," said Thomas Groome, Boston College theology professor, in a keynote address to the NACD.

Although how to best train people in the faith was the topic of many a workshop, some more practical issues were also raised during the convention.

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, presented a session on "regional school boards and how they can be effective." Also, Joseph Marinello, diocesan school board member, attended workshops dealing with issues under discussion by the board.

NCEA officials released annual figures on Catholic school enrollment, showing a pattern of "slow and steady growth" in the 1999-2000 school year with an increase of 4,600 students over the previous year.

That increase came despite a net loss of 36 schools, with the closing or consolidation of 73 schools and the opening of 37 new schools. More than 3,700 of the nation's 8,144 Catholic schools currently have waiting lists for admission. ▼

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Bruce Springsteen dedicates song to PFADP, supports moratorium

RALEIGH — At two concerts in North Carolina over Easter weekend Bruce Springsteen encouraged, 44,000 fans to sign a petition for a moratorium on executions. At each concert he dedicated his song "Dead Man Walking" to People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, based in Chapel Hill.

During his acoustic set he encouraged the audience at Charlotte Coliseum Friday night to visit PFADP's table in the hall. "They have a petition for a moratorium on executions. No matter how you feel about the death penalty, this is your opportunity to be heard," Springsteen told his fans. "They can answer your questions.... This is for People of Faith Against the Death Penalty."

He repeated the dedication at Raleigh's Sports and Entertainment Complex on Saturday night. On both nights when he made the dedication, voices from the crowd cheered.

Volunteers with People of Faith Against the Death Penalty met members of the E Street Band backstage Saturday night. PFADP Executive Director Stephen Dear met with Springsteen backstage Saturday night and discussed the group's work and thanked him for his support. Dear gave Springsteen and his manager copies of the book "Unjust in the Much: The Death Penalty in North Carolina," PFADP t-shirts and other literature.

More than 500 people signed the petition. After Springsteen mentioned it each night people lined up to sign the petition.

"We are very grateful to Mr. Springsteen and his management for their support and hospitality this past weekend," Dear said. "He has helped to inform North Carolinians about this important issue."

Since 1984 Springsteen has plugged local food banks at all of his shows.

Although he reportedly does not like to tell his fans what to believe, he agreed to support PFADP after the group requested his help and familiarized him with its work to inform North Carolinians about problems with the death penalty.

PFADP is leading the NC Moratorium Now campaign to call for a moratorium on executions in recognition of widespread evidence of racial and class bias in the administration of the death penalty and the fact that so far 87 have been released from death row after being proven innocent.

PFADP is a statewide interfaith program of the N.C. Council of Churches and is supported by individual and congregation member dues and contributions. ▼

Song and Praise
Parishioners of Sacred Heart in Wadesboro believe, "a church without embrace is only a shadow of a church." This philosophy was part of an Afternoon of Song, Praise and Fellowship, a shared community celebration in Anson County. Teresa Yackley and Bonnie Stovall, choir members from St. James in Hamlet, raise their voices as participants in the April 30 celebration. The music feast included gospel music from Voices of Harmony, a family trio from Charlotte; and Notes of Praise, from Lilesville. Rounding out the afternoon was the children's choir from Sacred Heart.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?

Rev. Mr. Chris Gober
is a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Charlotte. He is completing formation at Theological College in Washington D.C. He will be ordained in June 2000.

"In high school, I never would have pictured myself preparing for the priesthood. Busy having fun with friends and sports, the future seemed too distant to be important.

After graduation, I starting wondering: 'What's life all about? What is my mission?'

As a child, I had been taught to pray: 'God help me to be what you want me to be.' Once again I prayed and God answered — and those deep, important questions, too. He led me to seek ordination to the priesthood!

I am here to tell you that seeking and doing God's will has given me more fulfillment and happiness than I could ever imagine! If we sincerely pray, 'God help me to be what you want me to be,' it works!

It's never to late to ask God what He wants you to be... just don't be shocked by His answer!"

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For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen,
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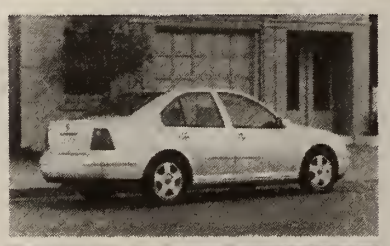

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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— excerpt from "Mature Attention" in "The Place Within: The Poetry of Pope John Paul II"

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Healing Mass offers glimpse of God's grace

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — Formerly thought of as a rite reserved for those near death, the sacrament of anointing of the sick is now looked upon by the Church as a gift from God to assist in the healing of body, mind and soul.

During a healing Mass at St. Aloysius Church on Thursday, May 4, Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of the church, pointed out that the ages of those in attendance ranged from the very young to the very old.

"We are all in need of this sacrament — spiritually and physically," he said. "The idea is to give spiritual consolation and strength as well as physical healing — body and soul."

"It gives us all an opportunity to look and see in the life we live that there is suffering, there is sickness," he said. "We don't have to have a physical sickness. Sometimes physical sickness is not as bad as some of the other sicknesses we could have.

"I think all of us need the grace of God in our lives."

Father Sheridan referred to the biblical passage of James 5: 13-16 as the scriptural basis for the sacrament.

SEE HEALING MASS, PAGE 4

Funeral recalls Cardinal O'Connor's pro-life witness

BY TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The pro-life witness of Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York continued to resound at his funeral, celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 8 by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state and personal representative of Pope John Paul II.

A dramatic demonstration arose spontaneously when the homilist, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, said Cardinal O'Connor's "great legacy" was "his constant reminder that the church must always be unambiguously pro-life."

Some in the cathedral began applauding, others joined them and, as the applause went on and on, growing in volume, it seemed evident much of the congregation wanted to send a message to public officials and candidates for office in the front pews.

They included President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, as well as the two main candidates for the presidency, Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

Also attending were former President Bush, who sat in a pew with Cardinal O'Connor's family, New York Gov. George E. Pataki, New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, and the state's two U.S. senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Charles E. Schumer.

Giuliani has been planning to run against Mrs. Clinton to succeed Moynihan, but the funeral of Cardinal O'Connor, who died of cancer May 3, may have brought more personal reflections for the mayor, whose father died of prostate cancer and who recently announced that he has it, too.

As the two-minute ovation continued, people began standing in a wave that began at the back and quickly filled the entire church, including the hundreds of priests in the congregation and the dozens of cardinals, archbishops and bishops around the altar.

Eventually the Clintons and Gores also rose to their feet, although they did not applaud.

Cardinal Law took the standing

SEE CARDINAL O'CONNOR, PAGE 7

Jubilee year event draws 20,000 young people to Fenway Park

BOSTON (CNS) — Thousands of young Catholics were encouraged to commit their lives to Jesus and consider priestly and religious vocations April 29 at what was billed as the first nonsporting event at Boston's Fenway Park in 50 years. Teenagers, young adults and adult leaders began the day on the Boston Common with games, music, eucharistic adoration and vocations information, then marched to the home of the Boston Red Sox for talks, music and a twilight Mass at which 11 people were baptized and confirmed at home plate.

Rector says Fatima shrine briefly owned Nazi gold

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) — The Marian shrine in Fatima, Portugal, briefly owned some gold bars bearing the Nazi insignia, but only 30 years after World War II ended, the rector of the shrine said. Father Luciano Guerra, the Fatima rector, said that in 1970 the shrine purchased gold as an investment and deposited it in a local bank. The bank, which has since failed, borrowed some of the shrine's deposit and repaid the loan in 1976 "with some bars which bore the mark of the Third Reich," Father Guerra said. Between 1982 and 1986, he said in a May 2 statement, the shrine "sold a considerable quantity" of its gold deposits to pay for construction projects. All the bars with Nazi markings were among those sold.

Tens of thousands in Mexico mark National Eucharistic Congress

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — With the sound of indigenous drums echoing loudly off walls, tens of thousands of Mexicans joined in the first religious procession in nearly 150 years through the historic center of their ancient city. The May 6 procession and an earlier Mass in the city's main plaza, the Zocalo, capped a weeklong National Eucharistic Congress. Mexico City, founded by the Aztecs in 1325, had not seen such events since before a series of "reform" laws beginning in 1855 restricted the role of the church: In 1857, marriage and divorce were removed from church jurisdiction; in 1873, outdoor religious ceremonies were prohibited; the country's 1917 constitution went still further by proclaiming that the Catholic Church did not exist.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Outdoor Mass in Mexico An estimated 50,000 worshippers attend an outdoor Mass in Mexico City's main square May 6. It was the largest outdoor Mass held in more than 70 years in the capital's main square.

CRS hopes to make social justice a basic subject in school

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Social justice shouldn't be a foreign subject in Catholic schools, according to Catholic Relief Service officials who gave presentations at the National Catholic Educational Association convention in Baltimore. That's why the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency has been recruiting teachers and parent-teacher organizations to become more familiar with the work of CRS around the globe. "We must bridge the gap. We must teach our students to care," said Patrice Harty, a teacher at Bishop Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio, who was among a group of presenters giving an NCEA workshop April 26.

Puerto Rican bishop sees continued peaceful protests over Vieques

CAGUAS, Puerto Rico (CNS) — Church-sponsored civil disobedience on Vieques will continue as long as the U.S. Navy uses the inhabited island as bombing range, said Puerto Rican Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio. "We are assessing the situation with the people of Vieques. We will return to areas where we can do civil disobedience," he said in a telephone interview several hours after federal agents removed scores of protesters from Vieques. Bishop Corrada is apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Caguas, which includes Vieques.

Colombian peace needs citizen effort, say activist, priest

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The proposed U.S. aid package for Colombia constitutes "a very high risk of escalating the war" in the country, and wider citizen involvement in peace efforts is greatly needed, said a Colombian peace activist. Meanwhile, a Colombian church official said the church aims to strengthen citizen participation in peace efforts, and, despite ongoing violence, people remain hopeful the war will end. President Clinton urged Congress May 2 to pass a $1.6 billion aid package, mostly military aid, to fight illegal drug trafficking in Colombia. He said the funding was to support Colombians in their fight to stop drug trade and drug-related violence.

Understanding Jewish roots key to reading Scripture, says priest

ROME (CNS) — When reading the New Testament, Catholics must remember that Jesus and his Apostles were believing and practicing Jews, said the secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Understanding the Jewish roots of the Christian faith is essential for an accurate interpretation of the New Testament and for a reading of the Scriptures that leaves no room for anti-Jewish or anti-Semitic sentiments, said Jesuit Father Albert Vanhoye. The Jesuit spoke to Catholic News Service May 3 during the annual meeting of the Pontifical Biblical Commission in Rome.

Survey finds pastors undercount Catholics with disabilities

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new survey of U.S. pastors indicates most substantially underestimate how many Catholics with disabilities are in their parishes, said Mary Jane Owen, executive director of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities. "I'm not surprised at all," Owen added. "I don't think most pastors have been trained in who's out there, who needs to be welcomed. There are many people with disabilities who need to be welcomed home." She said many Catholics with disabilities are no longer visible to the church because they have repeatedly experienced "rejection, disrespect, in some case outrageous insults, or simply disinterest," leading them eventually to quit trying to connect with the parish.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 15 — 7 pm
Confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem
May 16
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Pastoral Center
7 pm Confirmation
St. Dorothy, Lincolnton
May 17 — 9:30 am
Mass and May Procession
St. Ann, Charlotte
7:30 pm Confirmation
St. James, Concord
May 18
Foundation Board Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
7 pm Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
May 22 — 7 pm
Confirmation
St. Leo, Winston-Salem

Diocesan planner

May

16 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

17 CHARLOTTE — Jeff Cavins, Catholic apologist and host of the EWTN [illegible] and young adult program "Life on the Rock," is speaking about the Book of Revelation tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Call the church office at (704) 554-7088 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn, a Catholic-sponsored home for unwed mothers providing a structured environment for pregnant women, is holding their annual Roman Gabriel Sports Benefit and Raffle tonight from 7-9 p.m. at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. The evening's festivities include a silent and live auction and a raffle for two PSL's (permanent seating licenses) to the Carolina Panthers' Stadium. All proceeds raised from the event will benefit the clients of Room at the Inn. For more information, contact Christine Lively at (704) 521-2774.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is the facilitator of "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

18 CHARLOTTE — Spring Cursillo is an ongoing movement in the church for building a better Christian community. The men's weekend takes place through May 21 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., and the women's weekend happens June 8-11 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. For details, call Rosemary and Art Kingsley at (828) 274-0318.

19 GREENSBORO — "Living the

Perpetual adoration a key to eucharistic devotion, say participants

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Every late afternoon, Richard Cox of Charlotte makes his way to St. Gabriel Church to spend some quiet time in the presence of Jesus.

For several years, Cox has made the daily trek to the church as a participant in perpetual eucharistic adoration. In a chapel of the church, a consecrated host — the true, sacramental presence of Christ, in Catholic belief — is exposed in a vessel called a monstrance 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The graces he receives from this ministry are plenty, Cox says.

"It's very helpful for me to come here," said Cox, whose wife, Loraine, died last year. "You know, there's a real bad period you go through after the loss of a spouse. Now, I feel closest to her at Mass and at adoration."

Outside of the Mass, adoration is one of the primary forms of devotion to the Eucharist. Three sites in this diocese host adoration perpetually, while many parishes have holy hours with exposition, as well as scheduled periods of time each month for adoration.

In the perpetual adoration chapels, people are scheduled to be in the chapels at all times, 365 days a year. Organizers schedule volunteers to adore, usually in one-hour periods. The spirit of volunteerism is essential to the program, from the adorers themselves to the organizers who coordinate specific time frames and oversee the ministry in their parishes.

Adorers spend their holy hours in a variety of ways, from reading prayer books to praying the rosary, from quiet meditation to reading from Scripture.

St. Gabriel Church, the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point and a chapel on the grounds of Belmont Abbey in Belmont are three sites within the Diocese of Charlotte

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Adorers kneel in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

that host perpetual adoration. The ministry got its start in the diocese back in May 1989, when the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville opened a perpetual adoration chapel.

The Asheville basilica still hosts adoration, daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"Adoration has changed my life completely," said Jane Sorrells, an adorer and a coordinator of the adoration ministry at St. Lawrence. "It's made me so much more aware of what's going on around me. It has helped me to discern a lot of things."

Sorrells, who returned to the church in 1991 and has been a regular adorer since 1993, said eucharistic adoration helped her "absorb the truth" of the Catholic faith. She is now a daily communicant as well, a development in her faith life she owes to

See ADORATION, page 4

Catholic evangelist to headline tent revival

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — If the notion of a tent revival conjures images of days gone by, and you enjoy a gospel celebration, mark your calendar for the weekend of June 23. Tent preaching is coming to town, Catholic style.

"Revival of the Spirit 2000, from everlasting to everlasting, God is still God" is the theme for this millennial celebration. It is, what the African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte sees as a step towards breaking down misconceptions of Catholicism with their Protestant brothers and sisters.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affairs, hopes a public display will bring in the neighbors. Moreover, Rev. Mr. Todd hopes to make this first-time revival a true diocesan event, with participation from across the diocese. With preaching and singing throughout the weekend — as well as food vendors and merchants selling African art, clothing and books on Saturday — Rev. Mr. Todd envisions a festival of the senses, culminating with Sunday liturgy.

"There are many converts to Catholicism that belonged to Protestant denominations where tent revivals were fairly commonplace," says Rev. Mr. Todd. "The revival is a connection back with history, and our roots."

Under what Rev. Mr. Todd calls "the biggest tent we can get," northwest Charlotte will sway with Our Lady of Consolation's gospel choir, and the acclaimed Kabaka drummers and dancers. If that's not enough to get folks out of their seats, the Pinn Memorial Baptist Choir from Philadelphia, African storytellers and a gospel rapper join the playbill as headliners for the weekend.

The weekend's esteemed visitor is a Franciscan from New York: Franciscan Father James Goode, nationally known as a Catholic evangelist preacher. "He's a revivalist," says Rev. Mr. Todd. "He's a preacher, not a homilist. He's not fire and brimstone preaching, but he is fervent."

Father Goode is president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Last year, he was re-elected for a second term, becoming the first re-elected president in the three decades of the Caucus. He is president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life. His vitae also lists him as Guardian of St. Clare Friary, the spiritual Leader for Solid Ground Ministry, a member of the National Black Congress and a commissioner for black Catholics in the Archdiocese of New York.

Father Goode is considered the founder of the black Catholic revival movement, preaching his first revival in 1974. "He is in great demand," says Rev. Mr. Todd. "We started planning this with him three years ago because his schedule is so tight." The jubilee year was the perfect timing for such a celebration, says Rev. Mr. Todd.

"Revival of the Spirit 2000, from everlasting to everlasting, God is still God" is scheduled for June 23 - 35, at the corner of Statesville Ave. and Oaklawn Ave. in Charlotte. While it is a free event, donations will be accepted to offset expenses. Blocks of rooms are reserved at both McDonald Travel Lodge and the Downtown Sheraton. Mention Tent Revival while making reservations. Rooms are limited, and early booking is encouraged. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, (704) 370-3339. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Jubilee Year" is the theme for the annual Catholic Renewal Conference being held at Greensboro College, 815 West Market St. All are invited to share in this jubilee year gathering filled with music, praise and worship, speakers and morning Mass. A dorm lodging and meal package are available along with a weekend bookstore. The opening session starts tonight at 7:30 p.m. with sessions all day May 20. For more information, call Bette Steinkamp at (336) 882-9717 or e-mail for return message at Rstienkamp@infoave.net.

21 ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E.), Western North Carolina's Catholic home school support group, is hosting a moms' evening tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call Penny Tax at (828) 236-3216.

24 CHARLOTTE — There is a memorial Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. for all those who have passed away during the month of May. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they can be remembered at Mass.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having their annual May luncheon at Sedgefield Country Club, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a cash and spirits bar, fashion show featuring items from a local women's clothing store and raffle prizes. For May 18 deadline details and more information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

25 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to come to St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Ave., for a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will follow the Mass. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — A volleyball camp will be held for rising sixth- through ninth-graders from July 17-20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The coaches are going to be Tim Leary from CCHS and Bettie Berry, a former CCHS coach. For more information, call Bettie Berry at (704) 521-8721.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Anthony M. Genovese is the facilitator of a retreat, "Take Courage and Be a Man," emphasizing male spirituality and how this experience has an influence on societal values, the pursuit of goals, dealing with failures and being open to God's call. For further information on the retreat being held June 9-11, call the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters lane, at (828) 926-3833.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory: Center for Spirituality's annual conference on faith and doctrine is scheduled for June 11-14 at the Pope John Center at the Oratory. The conference, "Visions of Faith," is a yearly gathering for continuing education in doctrinal and moral faith for teachers and pastors involved in faith formation and parish, campus and social ministries. This year's speaker is Dr. Paul Wadell, theology professor at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wis., and author of several books. The seven sessions will be offered in the late afternoons from 4-5:30 p.m. and evenings from 7-9 p.m. For registration and other information, call Sarah Morgan at (803) 327-2097, weekday mornings.

ROCK HILL, S.C — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park during the weeks of July 9-15 and July 16-22. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., 29731-1586. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, and Father Bill Tanguay, pictured far left in background, administer the sacrament of anointing of the sick to parishioners during a healing Mass on May 4. Father Tanguay is in residence at St. Aloysius and is diocesan director of Hmong and Lahu ministries.

Healing Mass, from page 1

It reads, "Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."

Father Sheridan talked about how important the forgiveness of sins was in the healing of a person, and he discussed about how this forgiveness was part of the sacrament. He referred to a passage from the Gospel of Mark, the story of the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him through the roof on a pallet so that Jesus could heal him (Mark 2: 1-12). Before physically healing the man, Jesus forgave his sins.

"We see where the Lord took care of what was important," Father Sheridan said. "First things first — your sins are forgiven."

He also said that the rite was a powerful reminder to those who are suffering that they are not alone in their journey. "This sacrament gives us the grace to carry the cross," he added. "Suffering is a cross. The grace of God helps us to face it."

During the Mass, Father Sheridan and Father Bill Tanguay administered the sacrament to anyone who wished to receive it. They used oil to anoint the forehead and both palms of each person receiving the sacrament, and then held the person's hands together for a moment with their own. The oil they used during this Mass was among the oils blessed by Bishop William G. Curlin during the chrism Mass held at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte on Tuesday, April 18, during Holy Week.

Each parish in the diocese recently received some of the oil to use during the year.

Father Sheridan said that he hopes to celebrate more healing Masses in the future, but that parishioners could stop by his office any time they felt in need of the sacrament. He said that a person could receive the sacrament as often as once a month, and suggested that parishioners stop by the church on the way to the hospital for tests or elective surgery.

"Take advantage of the grace of God," he said. ▼

Perpetual Adoration, from page 3

adoration.

For many adorers, a deeper sense of appreciation for the Mass and the sacramental life goes hand in hand with eucharistic adoration. Theresa Hansen, a coordinator of perpetual adoration at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, said adoration increases her hunger to participate in the eucharistic celebration of Mass.

"Once you've been at eucharistic adoration and you're there in (Jesus') presence, you know how special it is to have that time, gazing at the Lord," she said. "But when you're able to receive him into your very being during Mass, it's awesome. It's the best time of the day."

Marie Siebers, a coordinator of perpetual adoration at Belmont Abbey, said adoration allows participants to experience the mystery of the eucharistic Christ in a profound and intimate way.

"It's just the most wonderful thing in the world to be headed for the chapel and seeing somebody come from the chapel all aglow," said Siebers. "They'll look at you and say, 'I don't know what happens in there; I can't explain it. It's so wonderful.'"

Siebers herself is a devoted adorer, too.

"It (adoration) has carried me through a lot of storms," she said, referring in part to a period in which her husband, Eugene, faced and survived heart surgery and cancer. "It has helped me to trust the Lord more, knowing that God is there for me and that Jesus is taking care of me."

That kind of trust has strengthened Richard Cox, too. Other than receiving the Eucharist at Mass, he said, praying before the exposed Blessed Sacrament is "the ultimate" union with Christ.

"The Holy Father, all our theologians and all the priests teach that the heart of our church is the eucharistic sacrifice," he said. "That's what we're all about. This is the heart of our faith. It is what we are."

For more information on perpetual adoration at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, call call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127; at Belmont Abbey in Belmont, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734; and at the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507. For information on daily adoration at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334. Adorers from any parish are welcome at any of the sites, and volunteers are always needed. ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Come One, Come All!

MACS Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
School Board Meeting

May 15, 7:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Middle School Gym
3100 Park Road, Charlotte

Meitler Consultants will present the Study of Expansion Needs of MACS

The presentation will include the results of the surveys completed by parents and parishioners; the demographics study; projected enrollments; and recommended future directions.

Retreat provides cultural and spiritual foundation for African-American teens

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — A mixture of nearly 100 participants, coordinators and volunteers gathered at the Johnston YMCA for a retreat filled with information, games and youth group performances from April 28-30. The Fourth Annual Sankofa African-American Heritage Weekend, coordinated by the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, drew approximately 65 teens away from their usual weekend activities to an Afro-centric experience of history and culture.

"This is a means by which our African-American children can learn about their culture, history and heritage, which they do not readily hear about in school," explained Sandy Murdock, co-founder of the Sankofa weekend and founder of the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers. "The intent of Sankofa is to have a positive effect on the lives of youth through exposure to educated adults close to their ages who own their own businesses and are working throughout the community and exposure to historical and cultural information they may not already know."

The word "sankofa," an Akan word, meaning "reaching backward in order to move forward," was reflected in this year's theme, "to know your roots is to know yourself." The Akan language is derived from the Kwa language of Southern Ghana.

The symbol of the sankofa bird with its head turned around to face those behind it was represented on the literature about the event, the t-shirts that each child and coordinator received and the advertisement posters. The idea is that knowing about one's background and history can have an effect on his or her present and future life, said Murdock.

The participants of various denominations from different areas of North and South Carolina were separated into small groups and led by two adult coordinators who guided them through introductory and closing presentations, a family tree activity, songs and talks from presenters, which included the Rev. Sheldon Shipman, pastor of Walls Memorial AME Zion Church in Charlotte, Ayaba Bey, owner and director of Sankofa Enterprises and Taharka, who combined poetry, rap and storytelling into his presentation.

The activities and talks were based on this year's featured movie "Roots," Alex Haley's multi-generational saga about his ancestral background from tribal Africa to slavery to modern times. From the showing of the first part of the mini-series, first shown on television in the 1970s, the guest speakers kept with the theme when presenting their supplemental historical facts about the black influence in all aspects of life.

"Events like these are important not only for African-American youth but for all youth because it serves as an informative and positive force in the larger community," said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor and the Sankofa steering committee chairman. "What the children learn at Sankofa is then spread to others, thereby enacting a positive chain of information."

The meals and other items were provided by a number of sponsor donations including Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), Urban Essentials, a local Afro-centric clothing store, House of Africa, a local store specializing in authentic African art, sculptures and clothing and national fast food chains. This is the third year that MACS has donated snacks, breakfast food and beverages to the event.

Joseph Willis, co-founder of Sankofa, said, "We want to plant a seed of curiousity in the minds of these youth, so somewhere along the way, even if they didn't necessarily absorb everything during the weekend, that seed will grow into a better apprecation of their history." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Tia Murdock from Our Lady of Consolation Church helps LaTayvia Moore with her family tree project at the Sankofa African-American Heritage Weekend from April 28-30 at the Johnston YMCA in Charlotte.

Jesuits welcome correction of U.S. report alleging terrorist ties

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Jesuit order welcomed the U.S. Department of State's prompt correction of a terrorism report which originally said Jesuit priests founded Colombia's largest terrorist group.

"We are very grateful that the State Department reacted so quickly," said Jesuit Father Jose de Vera, the Rome-based spokesman for the order worldwide.

In a statement May 5, the State Department said its annual terrorism report's allegation that Jesuit priests founded Colombia's National Liberation Army was "absolutely false."

"We sincerely regret the error," the statement said. "We offer our most sincere apologies to the Jesuit community and want to assure them that the Department of State had no intention of impugning the Society of Jesus or their pastoral work throughout the world."

The original report, "Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1999," released May 1, said that the guerrilla group, known by its Spanish acronym, ELN, was "formed in 1965 by Jesuit priests

See JESUITS, page 14

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Bridgeport's Bishop Egan named Cardinal O'Connor's successor

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop Edward M. Egan of Bridgeport, Conn., 68, as archbishop of New York, succeeding the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor, who died May 3.

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington May 11.

Archbishop Egan is a Chicago-area native and canon lawyer who served 12 years as a judge in the Roman Rota, the church's central appellate court.

He was a New York auxiliary bishop for three years under Cardinal O'Connor and was archdiocesan vicar of education there before he was named to head the Bridgeport Diocese in November 1988. He was installed the following month.

In Bridgeport, he oversaw a program to regionalize the diocese's elementary schools and helped raise millions of dollars to support education programs and to support religious and homes for retired clergy.

He also was part of the creation by the state's bishops of the Connecticut Federation of Catholic Schools in 1990 to lobby for legislative support and encourage enrollment.

The Catholic population of Bridgeport has grown during his tenure there, from 331,000 in 1988 to 361,000 now, according to the Official Catholic Directory. But at the same time, the number of active diocesan priests has shrunk, from 223 to 183, and the number of parishes has gone from 91 to 88.

Archbishop Egan will be moving to the second largest U.S. archdiocese, which has a Catholic population of about 2.4 million and has 413 parishes and 585 active diocesan priests.

The New York Archdiocese, which includes Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island and seven upstate counties, is home to 238 Catholic elementary schools, two diocesan seminaries, two seminaries run by religious orders and 12 Catholic colleges and universities. Archbishop Egan also will have the assistance of a half dozen auxiliary bishops in his new see.

Edward Michael Egan was born in Oak Park, Ill., on April 2, 1932. He studied at Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill., and the Gregorian University in Rome.

He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in December 1957 and, after an early assignment to Holy Name Cathedral parish, served as assistant chancellor and secretary to Cardinal Albert Meyer of Chicago until 1960. Then he was named assistant vice rector of the North American College in Rome. While there, he earned a doctorate in canon law from Gregorian University.

Upon his return to Chicago in 1964, he served as assistant chancellor until 1968 and then as co-chancellor for human relations and ecumenism from 1968 to 1972. He also was secretary to Cardinal John Cody. In 1972 he returned to Rome as a judge in the Roman Rota.

While assigned to the Rota, he also taught juridical practice at its postgraduate school for canon law.

He also served in 1983 as a member of the committee of six canonists who reviewed the final draft of the revised Code of Canon Law with Pope John Paul.

In 1978, while on the Rota, then-Msgr. Egan was one of three U.S. priests among 88 noncardinals authorized to be inside the conclave that elected Cardinal Karol Wojtyla as Pope John Paul II.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Bishop Edward M. Egan is seen in an undated file photo. Several news outlets were reporting that Bishop Egan of Bridgeport, Conn., was at the top of the list to take the place of Cardinal John O'Connor as archbishop of New York. Cardinal O'Connor died May 3 at age 80.

His assignment at the conclave that October was to check material sent into and out of the conclave area. Other Americans allowed in were Franciscan Father Emmanuel Klump, English-language confessor in St. Peter's Basilica, and then-Father Donald Wuerl, now bishop of Pittsburgh. Bishop Wuerl then was secretary to Cardinal John Wright, who was recovering from surgery.

Until this year, Archbishop Egan chaired the U.S. bishops' Committee on Science and Human Values, of which he remains a member. He also is a member of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Nomination of Conference Officers.

He is fluent in Latin, French and Italian and is said to be fond of swimming for exercise.

In 1994, Archbishop Egan was the homilist at the national Red Mass in Washington, held annually just before the Supreme Court term begins. He used the occasion to criticize what he said had become "politically correct" intolerance toward faith-based views on issues such as abortion and tax-funded support for religious schools.

He told the congregation of judges, lawyers, Cabinet members and others involved in the legal profession that lawyers should be "first and foremost" in insisting that minority and faith-based views be allowed "free and objective expression."

Archbishop Egan also received coverage of his 1997 decision to cancel a retreat in his diocese for Catholic parents of gays and lesbians that was to be led by Salvatorian Father Robert Nugent and Sister Jeannine Gramick, a School Sister of Notre Dame. Last July, after a lengthy investigation, the Vatican permanently barred the pair from continuing their ministry, citing "doctrinally unacceptable" positions regarding homosexuality.

A spokesman for then-Bishop Egan said at the time that the bishop thought it would be inappropriate for the pair to give a retreat in the Bridgeport Diocese in light of the ongoing investigation. ▼

People in brief

Priest urges action against 'campaign' to discredit Pius XII

ROME (CNS) — Catholics must react with clear and well-documented facts to "the campaign to denigrate" Pope Pius XII, said the Jesuit promoting his beatification. "The Holy See, and specifically the supreme pontiff Pius XII, made every possible effort to stop the crimes" of the Nazis and to help those whom the Nazis were persecuting, said Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel. The priest, the relator of Pope Pius' beatification cause, said communists, Masons and "some Jewish circles" had mounted a campaign against the pope, who reigned during World War II.

Church studies healing attributed to Blessed Padre Pio

SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, Italy (CNS) — Church authorities and doctors have begun studying a healing that might be the miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Padre Pio. Capuchin Father Gianmaria Cocomazzi, guardian of the church where Padre Pio is buried, said a 6-year-old boy was healed of severe meningitis in January after thousands of people prayed for Padre Pio to intercede with God to heal the boy. Father Cocomazzi told of the boy's healing May 2 during celebrations at the Church of St. Mary in San Giovanni Rotondo marking the first anniversary of Blessed Padre Pio's beatification.

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Cardinal O'Connor, from page 1

ovation as a sign of Cardinal O'Connor's continuing impact in the cathedral from which he became a national and international voice. As the applause finally died down he remarked: "I see he hasn't left the pulpit."

The message reached far beyond those in the cathedral, to crowds outside listening to loudspeakers and to far larger numbers across the city and nation who followed the two-hour service live on CNN or other broadcast media.

In the prepared text, Cardinal Law observed that Cardinal O'Connor "did not shy away from the task of preaching."

"He made this pulpit unique in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States," he said.

In a personal vein, Cardinal Law, one of Cardinal O'Connor's closest friends, told about joining family members and others in saying the prayers for the dying shortly before the cardinal's death.

"In the midst of those prayers, there was a moment of profound grief as each of us realized with a sudden clarity what was happening," he said. "Just as suddenly, we realized our tears were not for him, but for ourselves."

Cardinal Law said the Eucharist was "the source and summit" of Cardinal O'Connor's life, and told of concelebrating Mass with him in his private chapel "just a few weeks ago."

"It was clearly for him the highlight of that day, and for me it will remain a most precious memory," Cardinal Law said.

He said Cardinal O'Connor's illness had made it impossible for him to read by that point, but he recited the eucharistic prayer from memory. "So much was the Mass a part of his life that when some things began to fade, the Eucharist did not," he said.

If attendance at the Mass by a president and former president, neither Catholic, testified to the extraordinary place Cardinal O'Connor had gained in American life, his standing in Rome was confirmed by the decision of the pope to send the Vatican secretary of state to preside and serve as principal celebrant.

After a welcome from Auxiliary Bishop Robert A. Brucato, interim administrator of the archdiocese, Cardinal Sodano made introductory remarks expressing gratitude for "this great churchman who has done so much both for the Catholic community and for so many men and women of good will."

"His name will be forever etched on the annals of the history of the church," the secretary of state said.

Pope John Paul and Cardinal O'Connor were both born in 1920, the cardinal Jan. 15 and the pope May 18, and Pope John Paul ordained Cardinal O'Connor to the episcopacy in 1979 and made him a cardinal in 1985.

They developed a close working relationship and seemed to embody the same outlook on matters affecting the church, leading to a widespread impression that Cardinal O'Connor was the primary voice in the United States for the mind of the pope.

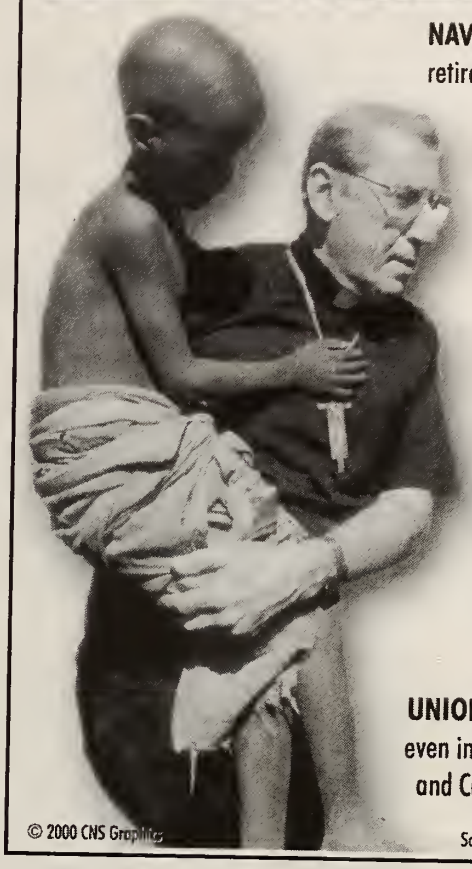
"As a sign of his profound esteem for the late Cardinal O'Connor, and to demonstrate concretely his spiritual union with the church in New York," Cardinal Sodano said, "the Holy Father sent me to represent him personally at this solemn liturgy."

Cardinal Sodano also expressed the pope's condolences to Cardinal O'Connor's two sisters, brother and other relatives present, as well as to "the entire archdiocesan family," and imparted an apostolic blessing at the conclusion of the service.

Cardinal William W. Baum, a Vatican official who was another of Cardinal O'Connor's close friends, spoke at the conclusion of the Mass. He cited Cardinal O'Connor's work for Christian unity, and called attention to retired Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos, who was present along with his successor, Archbishop Demetrios, and officials of other churches and other religions.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor 1920-2000

Some of his ardent interests:



NAVY: First Catholic Navy chief of chaplains; retired from Navy as a rear admiral.

AIDS MINISTRY: Started church-based AIDS ministries, including a hospital dental clinic, a residence for babies and an acute care unit for prisoners.

MIDDLE EAST: Instrumental in improving Catholic-Jewish relations and negotiating peace in the Middle East.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS: Helped create three religious communities, the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, and the Sisters of Life.

UNIONS: Supported workers' right to unionize, even in actions against an archdiocesan hospital and Catholic schools.

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Source: CNS reports; CNS photo by Chris Sheridan, Catholic New York

Cardinals Law and Baum both spoke of the Sisters of Life, an order established by Cardinal O'Connor to pray and work for the pro-life cause. Members of the order attended the many services held for Cardinal O'Connor over the weekend following his death, and at the funeral Mass their superior, Mother Agnes Donovan, read the first lesson from the Book of Wisdom, beginning, "The souls of the just are in the hand of God."

After Cardinal Baum spoke, the Book of the Gospels and the pall were removed from the coffin, made in upstate New York of red African mahogany from the Ivory Coast, and the cardinal was lifted onto the shoulders of six men for his final trip down the center aisle of his cathedral, and then back up another aisle to go down into the crypt.

There, under the high altar, with only family and a few church officials present, the coffin was deposited in the 13th of 21 vaults available.

The 12 previously placed there include seven former archbishops of New York; Coadjutor Archbishop John J. Maguire, who served under Cardinal Francis J. Spellman; Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who was identified with the cathedral in a special way through his preaching there; two former cathedral rectors; and Pierre Toussaint, whose remains were brought there after Cardinal O'Connor began his cause for canonization.

After the cardinal's body was deposited in its permanent resting place, Cardinal Sodano and the others returned for the end of the service.

After the final blessing, the organ and brass in the choir loft thundered forth with the introduction and accompaniment to one of Cardinal O'Connor's favorite hymns, one he had the congregation sing at his installation March 19, 1984:

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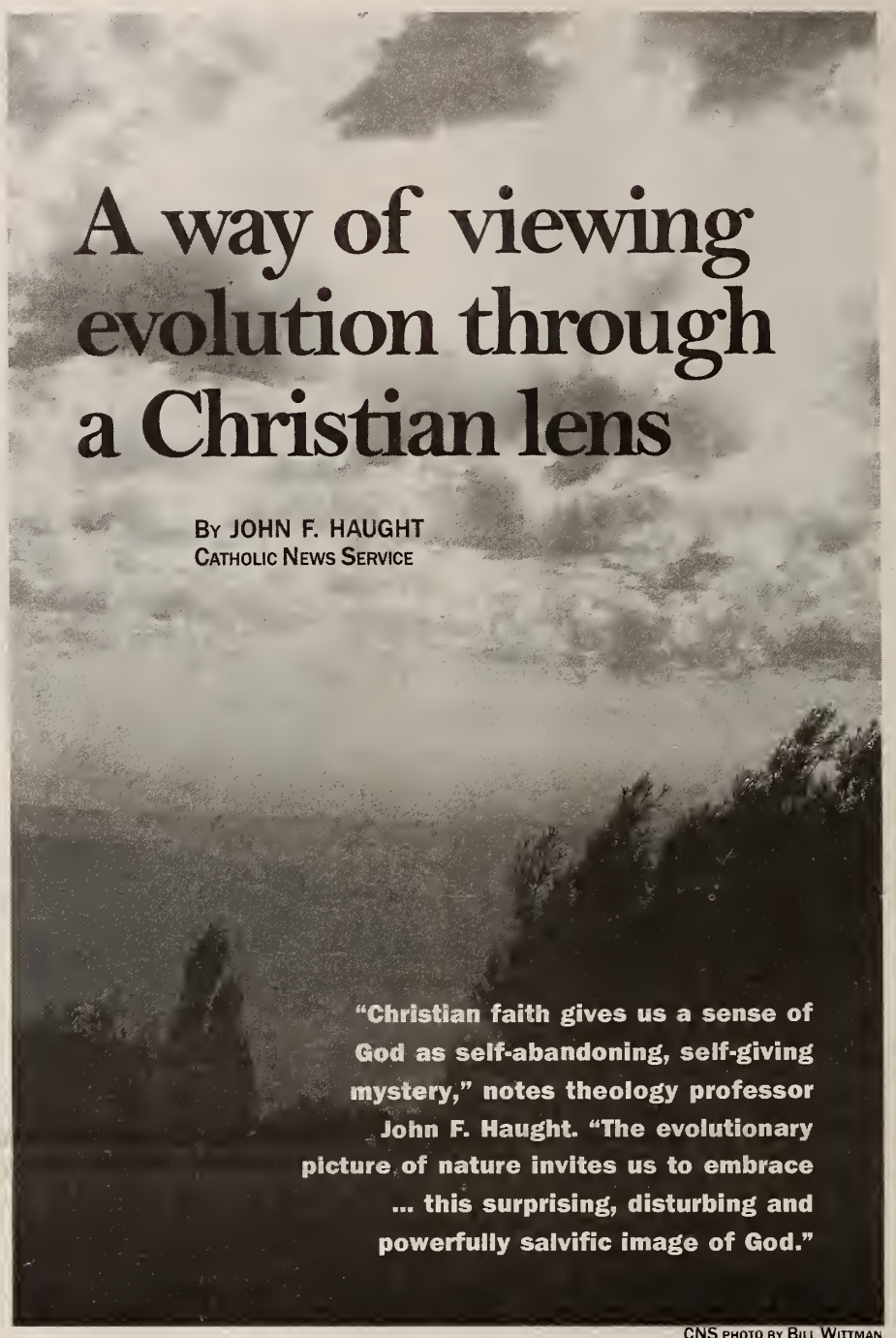
A way of viewing evolution through a Christian lens

By JOHN F. HAUGHT
Catholic News Service



"Christian faith gives us a sense of God as self-abandoning, self-giving mystery," notes theology professor John F. Haught. "The evolutionary picture of nature invites us to embrace ... this surprising, disturbing and powerfully salvific image of God."

CNS photo by Bill Wittman

Can science be reconciled with Christian faith in a loving, powerful, creative and redemptive God? Some would say no, others would be doubtful. But most of us have a hunch that science and religion can live together.

Still, it is not always clear how to make the science-faith connection, and much confusion comes from not doing it thoughtfully. Superficial liaisons are worse in the long run than an indefinite standoff. However, a standoff is hardly ideal either.

But won't exposure to new scientific information undermine my faith? Isn't it simpler to keep the timeless truths of faith carefully quarantined, sealed off from contact with the transitory views of scientists?

Can the most interesting scientific ideas, especially those having to do with evolution, ever be reconciled with religious belief? Finally, what does the evolution of life, or of the whole Big-Bang universe, possibly have to do with my trust in God?

Actually, when carefully separated from the materialist ideology in which some scientists package it, evolution may prove to be not so much a "danger" as a great gift to theology.

No matter how difficult the pursuit of truth is — and often it is difficult — believers can trust that it always will lead back to God. Embrace the truth, no matter how initially shocking it might be, and, as the French writer Simone Weil put it, you will fall into the arms of Christ.

In the past, prominent leaders in the church at times resisted genuine encounter with new scientific ideas. We need only recall the reactions by some to Copernicus, Galileo and Darwin. Even today many religious people turn away from the idea of evolution.

What fundamentally is at issue in the case of evolution is whether we any longer plausibly can think of the universe as a purposeful creation of God.

At first sight, the meandering, apparently blind and experimental character of life's lumbering terrestrial journey, along with the immensity of time it took for life and humans to emerge on this planet, might make us wonder what is going on in such a strange world.

Would an intelligent God have "fooled around" for 3.8 billion years after the first appearance of life before creating intelligent beings? Why so much cruelty and suffering, wasteful extinctions, discarding of the ill-adapted and survival of the reproductively "fit" along the way?

Evolution, we know today, is not unambiguously cruel and heartless. It also could be said to involve a wonderful cooperation of life with life; and Earth's life-story, viewed in its entirety, exhibits a breathtaking "grandeur" that enraptured Darwin himself.

Still, evolution is not always benign, and a sound Christian theology must face the harsh facts along with all the marvelous beauty nature has brought forth.

What I believe a theology of evolution will find is that the notion of God can be deepened and expanded by its encounter with biological evolution. The understanding of nature implied in Darwinian evolution demands that people abandon any view of God that ignores the self-giving and self-effacing character of the divine mystery.

This understanding affirms that all of the struggle and suffering in life's evolution is God's struggle and suffering too. Nature itself is cruciform.

According to this understanding, the God whose image radiates from the humble, self-giving, suffering love of Jesus is not one who overpowers the world, forcefully cramming it into a prefabricated frame. Instead the Creator wants a world that will flourish in a way that renders it distinct from God. Only such a world can enter into loving relationship with an infinite love.

Divine power, therefore, includes a measure of loving self-restraint in which the world is permitted to emerge over the course of time as something other than God. A world truly loved by God must have room to wander about, experimenting with various possibilities.

Love allows the universe to remain unfinished for now. If God had completed creation in such a way that the world was frozen into a deadness with no future, it would have been an extension of God's being rather than an independent creation.

Evolution, therefore, seems to me to be essential to a world truly loved by God. And this means that the life-story is permitted to be experimental. To be alive at all, life must have room to wander as it finds its way into God.

Christian faith gives us a sense of God as self-abandoning, self-giving mystery. The evolutionary picture of nature invites us to embrace, in a wider way than ever before, this surprising, disturbing and powerfully salvific image of God. ▼

Haught is chairman of the theology department at Georgetown University. His most recent book is "God After Darwin: A Theology of Evolution." Westview Press, 2000.

Discussion Point:

On the Jubilee Day for Scientists (May 25), what event is planned in your community?

"We list the jubilee intentions for the upcoming month in our parish bulletin and ask people to pray for them. Included in May are our prayers for the scientific community."

Dory Davis
Houston, Texas

"While we are not doing anything on May 25 per se, we are having a series of dialogues with community leaders. Our fourth such dialogue is scheduled with the scientific community for sometime in the fall. These talks are initiated by Bishop Carlos Sevilla, SJ, to build good will, to remind the secular leadership of their moral responsibility and to remind them that the church has an important contribution to make to their work."

Robert Fontana,
Director of Evangelization
Diocese of Yakima, Washington

"Besides including information about St. Albert the Great — our patron saint and the patron saint of scientists — on our Web site (www.albertusmagnus.org), we are sharing information about him with our students so that they might better appreciate the impact he has had on science."

Joseph Troy,
President
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May 25, 2000:

Jubilee Day for Scientists

By JOHN B. REYNOLDS
Catholic News Service

Two Catholic scientists recently shared their views on the relationship between faith and science. They are among a cadre of members of the scientific community who will be saluted on the church's Jubilee Day for Scientists May 25.

Francis Castellino is the dean of the College of Science at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He takes a pragmatic approach to the subject of the relationship between faith and science, explaining, "The church has always paid attention to science. Whether it always has supported it is another matter."

Castellino received his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Iowa and completed post-doctoral work at Duke University. He now spends nearly half of his working hours at Notre Dame involved in blood-coagulation, molecular-biology and gene-targeting research. Much of his work, especially his gene-targeting activity, is related to the field of medicine.

Castellino is a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in South Bend, Ind. He reflects that faith and science perhaps do go hand-in-hand, albeit not in the most conscious of ways. He believes it is incumbent upon all individuals to develop their Godly gifts. Just as musicians are obligated to develop their individual talents, so too are scientists obligated to do so.

Scientists are obligated, he says for example, to find cures for disease, and in so doing to enhance the quality of human life. "To better understand God, we must better understand God's world," Castellino adds.

Peter Reilly is a distinguished professor in chemical engineering at Iowa State University. He is also a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, the church ministering to the university community on the campus in Ames, Iowa.

Reilly received his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and was employed by DuPont and the University of Nebraska before arriving at Iowa State. His scientific duties there include instruction in chemical engineering along with his related research. Additionally, Reilly is a speakers' bureau member of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Reilly sees himself as both a scientist and a person of faith. When he speaks on his genetic-engineering and enzyme-structure research, such talks sometimes lead to inquiries about the existence of God. He is quick to respond that science cannot prove or disprove the question. "Science is science, while the existence of God is a matter of faith," he explains. ▼

Reynolds is a free-lance writer in Chicago, Ill.

The scientists in our midst

By DAVID M. BYERS
Catholic News Service

Pope John Paul II always has had the greatest respect for the scientific enterprise. In 1988, for example, he declared:

"Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish."

The pope's attitude is thoroughly refreshing, since modern Catholics have no choice but to live their faith in a world dominated by science and technology.

Despite sometimes contradictory conclusions — studies show that eggs are bad for the heart one day, good the next — we have an unbounded faith in scientific pronouncements.

Like everyone else, Catholics derive much of their knowledge of the world from science, and technology is changing this world with astonishing speed. This cultural perspective poses a serious challenge for pastoral ministers and catechists in the church: how to speak of faith in terms that people understand today.

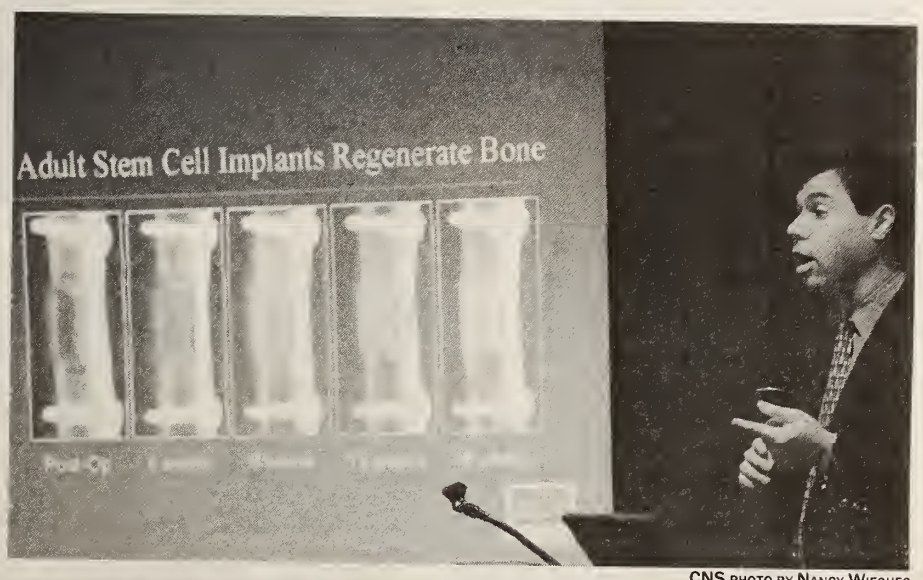
The number of babies born through various forms of assisted reproduction worldwide is approaching 1 million. Development of an artificial womb may make pregnancy obsolete for elite women in two or three generations. How will the church present its concerns so that the link between sex and reproduction will be understood?

Particular advances in technology present Catholics with new moral choices, because these advances often have unintended consequences. Splitting the atom produced new diagnostic tools for medical research, but also nuclear power plants, which some fear, and nuclear weapons, which all fear.

These days, the spotlight is on the biotechnologies. A few seem clearly unacceptable from a Catholic perspective.

Scientists have now succeeded in cloning five species of animals, and many consider human cloning inevitable. However, this technology involves the destruction of embryos, violating the right to life. Moreover, it raises issues of social justice. How shall we treat human clones? Would we be inclined to discriminate against them, as people now discriminate against others on racial grounds?

Some emerging biotechnologies promise benefits to humanity but at the same time pose serious moral questions.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

"Some emerging biotechnologies promise benefits to humanity but at the same time pose serious moral questions," writes David Byers.

Embryonic stem-cell research may allow science to probe the cellular origins of cancer, diabetes, spinal-cord injury, arthritis, and a host of other lethal or disabling illnesses and conditions. Yet the church must oppose such work because embryos are destroyed in the process of obtaining their cells.

A question in the future may go something like this: May a Catholic accept a lifesaving transplantation of embryonic stem cells, knowing their source?

Less controversial new technologies are likewise mixes of light and shadow. The church welcomes genetic testing when it functions as an extension of sound medical practice, giving physicians and patients the information they need to make sound treatment decisions. However, the information genetic testing reveals would be of great interest to insurance companies and potential employers; the potential for abuse is enormous.

The same is true of genetic screening, which scans large groups of people for defects. The principal medical justification for screening is as a tool for finding the incidence of disease in a population, opening the door to prevention or therapy. However, the same information can become the basis for selective abortion or even for eugenic policies aimed at "improving the human stock."

Faith and morality need to be fully aware of contemporary reality so that they do not gradually lose their power to guide Christians living in a scientific and technological world. ▼

Byers is the executive director of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Science and Human Values.

Food for Thought

Science and faith need each other, and each may suffer by "going it alone." The Jubilee Day for Scientists May 25 will accent that point.

Actually, this day now has become known as the Jubilee for Men and Women From the World of Learning because, as one Vatican official explained, by science is meant every exercise of human intellectual activity directed to the search for truth in a rational and methodical way.

Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, announced plans for this jubilee day, calling for "a new season of dialogue between science and faith."

The jubilee for science "will take place in a profoundly different climate" than existed at the time of Galileo in the 17th century, the cardinal said.

A Vatican scientist, Jesuit Father George Coyne, director of the Vatican Observatory, said in a 1996 speech that today's religious and scientific leaders ought to be able to appreciate each others' benefits.

And Pope John Paul II said — also in 1996 — that "the need for dialogue and cooperation between science and faith has become ever more urgent and promising." ▼

David Gibson
Editor, *Faith Alive!*

FAITH alive!

In a Nutshell

Can science and religion live together happily? Can the most interesting scientific ideas be reconciled with religious belief?

It is not always clear how to make the science-faith connection. Yet the pursuit of truth always leads back to God.

Science and religion each can "draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish," Pope John Paul II said.

Book Review

National Shrine 'a uniquely American expression,' says author

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic basilica that dominates northeast Washington is "a uniquely American expression," said the author of a new history.

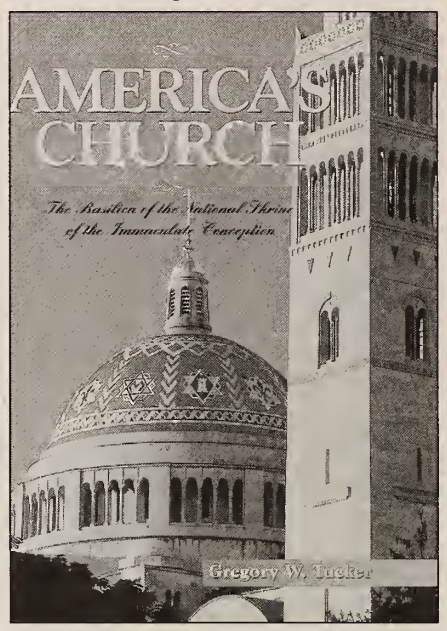
"Never before had American Catholics rallied for one such cause," said Gregory W. Tucker, who wrote "America's Church — The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception."

Early in the 20th century, the shrine became "a statement that Catholics had arrived in this country, and were in fact gaining acceptance and leaving an indelible imprint," he said.

The church's growth through immigration is reflected in the shrine's more than 65 chapels representing different cultures, pieties and devotions, and in the countless donor names inscribed in Memorial Hall, he said.

"Perhaps it's of a style of Catholicism that we'd roll our eyes at and say, 'Oh superstitious,'" he added, "but it all comes together under this great dome as a monumental expression of Catholicism in this country."

Tucker's pictorial narrative was published by Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Ind. A former shrine communications director, he currently directs public relations and community affairs for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.



Speaking with Catholic News Service by phone, Tucker said the initial plan was for a university chapel to accommodate growing needs at The Catholic University of America, begun in 1887.

As early as 1895, he said, the priest considered the shrine's founder, Father Thomas J. Shahan, "looked upon the sprawling campus and envisioned this monumental tribute to Mary." A church history professor, he

See BASILICA BOOK, page 14

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 14 - 20, 2000

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Acts 4:8-12, 1 John 3:1-2, John 10:11-18; **Monday (St. Isidore the Farmer)**, Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday**, Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday**, Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (St. John I, pope, martyr)**, Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; Friday, Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Bernardine of Siena)**, Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

Readings for the week of May 21 - 27, 2000

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8; **Monday**, Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday**, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday**, Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday**, Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Philip Neri)**, Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (St. Augustine of Canterbury)**, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

Word to Life

May 14, Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B Readings:
1) Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 29
2) 1 John 3:1-2
3) Gospel: John 10:11-18

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

One of the most familiar and comforting psalms in Scripture begins, "The Lord is my shepherd." Psalm 23 provides us with images of love and protection that extend beyond death into eternity.

The metaphor of the shepherd's tender care of his sheep frequently appears in Scripture. Jesus emphasizes in one of the Gospel stories the dedication of the shepherd who will search in the dead of night for the one lost sheep even though 99 are safely in the pen.

In this week's Gospel reading he again uses the figure of the shepherd. In his description of the "good shepherd," Jesus tells us that this is no ordinary person. The good shepherd is one who knows each animal; likewise, each animal knows the shepherd's voice. The shepherd Jesus describes would go so far as to sacrifice himself for the welfare of the sheep.

Though we can see through the eyes of Easter faith that Jesus is speaking about himself and his love and commitment to us, sometimes we ask ourselves what all these images about sheep and shepherds really mean to us.

Our knowledge about sheep may only come from movies centered on the conflict between sheep and cattle raisers. The agricultural images of the Bible often escape our life's experience. However, once in a while we have a graced moment when we make a discovery.

My moment of insight occurred last summer when my husband and I watched a man and his dog work as one to move his flock of sheep down a steep hillside in northern England. After working with his dog, the man explained the challenges of raising sheep in the modern world. He noted the harsh winters, declining prices and his responsibility for the flock.

While he talked about caring for his sheep, I could see the quiet pride he took in his flock when he told us he always knew exactly how many sheep he had. His years of hard work had left their mark on his face, but here was a man with the dignity of one who shares a bond with his animals, the earth and God.

I knew we had shared a conversation with a good shepherd.

Question:
Are you able to take comfort in an image of our relationship to God that emphasizes our total reliance on him for our safety, our comings and goings, our conduct through this world?

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.... For these sheep I will give my life"
— John 10:13, 14b

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"Cirque du Soleil Journey of Man" comes to IMAX in impressive 3-D

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The emotional development of man from birth to maturity is symbolically realized in the large-format Imax film, "Cirque du Soleil Journey of Man" (Sony Classics).

Performers in Cirque du Soleil, founded in Quebec, have engaged the imagination on a universal level since 1984 with their startling live dance and acrobatic numbers.

"Cirque du Soleil Journey of Man" (IMAX)
The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Captured on film with a 3-D process on the huge Imax screen, the effect is so magnified it's initially almost overwhelming. The film's three-dimensional aspect requires wearing a headset with glasses, which does feel increasingly heavy on the head once the half-hour mark has passed. Even at its 38-minute running time, the movie would have benefited with a little trimming as some shots are held too long, losing some of their magical effect.

However, the visuals, with their reach-out-and-touch-me dimensionality, are glorious. Opening after a "Big Bang" explosion in the universe, a primitive cave is the setting for Taiko Drummers, who practice an ancient Japanese style of drum playing, as a child appears among them in awe of their boldly pulsating sounds. Synchronized swimmers follow with graceful underwater routines which seem a cross between ballet and old Esther Williams movies.

Abruptly, the youngster finds himself in a dense redwood forest where a clown-like couple guide him to experience his instincts and emotions as he enjoys the beauty of nature and the joys of carefree childhood.

Other scenes as the boy changes to a youth and finally reaches adulthood include segments of the Cirque du Soleil company: yellow bird-like Bungees diving from treetops; a Cube Man spinning a fiery giant metallic form; and the acrobatic feats of the Banquine performers.

A standout scene illustrates the bond between man and woman as the boy observes a statue of an entwined man and woman on a lily pad come to life with extraordinary movements that underline their trust and indivisibility, not to mention the unbelievable muscle control and strength on display.

The final scene is set before Berlin's Brandenberg Gate, a hopeful symbol the future as a voice-over intones that with dreams, faith and love anything is possible.

Filmed in numerous locations under trying conditions and with daunting technical challenges, the film is quite a eyeful, especially for anyone who has not seen the Imax format, a contemporary 3-D film or the remarkable Cirque du Soleil performers. It's colorful and captivating without relying on dialogue to explain the joyful images. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM DREAMWORKS AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"Gladiator"

Actor Russell Crowe plays a former Roman general who was sold into slavery and trained as a gladiator in the Dreamworks action epic, "Gladiator." Set in 180 A.D., Rome's leading general (Russell Crowe) escapes the vicious new emperor's (Joaquin Phoenix) execution order but is enslaved as a gladiator and is determined to survive the bloodthirsty arena spectacles so he can wreak revenge by usurping the new ruler. As directed by Ridley Scott, gruesome mortal combat scenes suggest that might is right, but impassioned performances, an absorbing narrative and staggering visuals are nonetheless impressive in capturing the brutal era of human sacrifice as entertainment for the masses. Recurring stylized violence and a depiction of a character's incestuous longings. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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New at the Box Office

"I Dreamed of Africa"

Underwhelming drama about the remarkable real-life story of Kuki Gallmann (Kim Basinger), a wealthy wife and mother who leaves her comfortable life in Italy for the adventures of Africa. Director Hugh Hudson's visually grand but narratively weak film fails to convey what drove the real Gallmann to suddenly transplant to Africa, while feebly drawn supporting characters and a sluggish tempo also undermine the film. Implied sexual encounters with shadowy nudity and brief violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope praises Cardinal O'Connor's years of 'courageous witness'

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II mourned the death of U.S. Cardinal John J. O'Connor, praising his "many years of dedicated and courageous witness to the Gospel."

"As a deeply spiritual man, a warm and zealous pastor, and effective teacher of the faith and a vigorous defender of human life, Cardinal O'Connor modeled his own life and ministry on the figure of the Good Shepherd who, to the end, gives his life for the flock," the pope said in a May 4 telegram to Auxiliary Bishop Robert A. Brucato of New York.

The pope expressed his appreciation for the late cardinal's efforts toward "better ecumenical and interreligious relations" and his work on behalf of the poor, calling him "a source of inspiration in serving God in our less fortunate brothers and sisters."

"Through the years he has been of great support to me in the service of the universal church," said the pope.

In a statement released May 4 at the Vatican, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope was "deeply saddened by the news of Cardinal O'Connor's death."

"Cardinal O'Connor was an extraordinary figure in the Catholic Church in the United States," the statement said. "He was a truly faithful shepherd and an outstanding witness to faith and human dignity."

The pope was to send Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, as his envoy to the funeral, scheduled for May 8 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Vatican announced.

U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka told Catholic News Service he also planned to attend.

"He was a great churchman, an outstanding churchman, who gave his whole life to the service of the church as a priest, a bishop and a cardinal," said Cardinal Szoka.

"He was a man of great talents and touched the lives of countless people with own special charism," he said.

Cardinal Szoka said he admired Cardinal O'Connor for his communication skills and excellent work "as a proclaimer and defender of church teaching and church doctrine."

He said the late cardinal was "fearless in promoting and defending church teaching," even in the face of criticism.

A memorial Mass was being planned in Rome at the late cardinal's titular Church of Sts. John and Paul.

Msgr. Timothy Dolan, rector of the U.S. bishops' seminary in Rome, said the Mass was "for the benefit of the American community (in Rome), because so many people have expressed the desire to pray for the cardinal."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Tragedy leads family to help others

Carole Carrington never wanted to be in the public eye. But this California woman — mother of five and grandmother of nine — and her husband of nearly 50 years found their lives radically altered last year when tragedy made them the central survivors in a high profile murder case.

The story made the national news because it was so horrendous: A mother, a daughter and a friend from South America all were murdered during a visit to Yosemite National Park. They were the Carringtons' daughter Carole Sund, their granddaughter Julie Sund and a dear friend from Argentina, Silvino Pelosso.

I had the privilege of being a part of a two-day anti-violence conference in Connecticut where Carole Carrington was a keynote speaker. She said that having loved ones taken away "is the hardest thing that ever could have happened to me in my life."

I'm sure my readers remember this terrible story. Carole Sund had taken the two girls on a trip to show them the western United States. They expected to have a wonderful time visiting Yosemite National Park and then going for a grand finale at the Grand Canyon. Sund's husband would then join them with their other three children.

When the family couldn't contact Carole Sund, they knew something was wrong. It was more than a month before their rented car, burned beyond recognition, and their mutilated bodies were found. The family absolutely had to know what had happened to their loved ones. The Carringtons offered a reward for information. About five months later there was a break in the case; a man who had been the caretaker at Cedar Lodge where the women had stayed confessed.

From their pain, the Carringtons have reached out to help others. "We offer rewards for the safe return of missing people and to bring violent persons to justice. We also want to raise public awareness about missing persons and violent crime in this country. That's what I'm doing running around the country," talking to media and groups, something that would have been unheard of for her to do two years ago, she said.

Carole Carrington said she has learned there are some "very bad people" who should be "put away forever." But there are also "kind, generous people in this world," hundreds who have sent them cards and letters. She has also learned that she has "a whole lot more spirituality and faith than I thought I did." Speaking of the victims, she said, "I do believe they're all in a better place."

She spoke of receiving a poem saying that if a breeze came up as she was thinking of her loved ones, she would know they were there with her. They went back to Yosemite for a segment on the "Leeza Show," and when she mentioned this poem, there, on a still 95-degree day, "suddenly a breeze came up." There were other similar instances that all gave her "the overwhelming feeling that I was getting a message."

Working for the Sund/Carrington Memorial Reward Fund, she said, is showing them that helping other people is essential "for coping with this agony that will be with us for the rest of our lives — but we can go on."

Hispanic Ministry

FATHER VINCENT H. FINNERTY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Evaluating Hispanic Ministry

This month we want to examine "Lay participation and Leadership" in the 1998 study commissioned by the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The study offers the following:

On the plus side...

a) Hispanics already active in the church have increased their levels of participation. Seventy percent of the diocesan directors report that Hispanic men are more active in their parishes than in 1990.

Much of the credit is due to the expansion of the lay apostolic groups, particularly the cursillos and the charismatic renewal.

Seventy-seven percent of the directors also report that Hispanic women are in higher positions of diocesan and parish leadership than in 1990.

b) Forty-three percent of the dioceses administer a separate lay leadership institute or lay leadership program for Hispanics. Most of these new programs focus on the formation of leaders for parish ministry, though a few offer opportunities for advanced training and education. Some, and perhaps most, were established with assistance from regional training centers such as the Southeast Pastoral Institute, the Mexican-American Cultural Center, and Northeast Institute for Pastoral Formation, as well as smaller institutes such as Keno and Tepeyac.

On the down side...

a) The level of Hispanic leadership in the dioceses remains low. Sixty-three percent of the diocesan directors said their diocese was "not doing enough" to encourage Hispanics to become leaders; however, 60 percent also acknowledged that most Hispanics still lacked the leadership skills and experience to serve in diocesan administration.

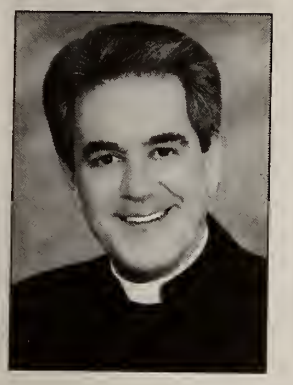
Sixty-three percent of the dioceses with Hispanic Ministry have no Hispanics in management positions in the central offices, and 73 percent have no Hispanics in the management of Catholic Charities.

b) Hispanic programs are most effective with Hispanic adults who speak Spanish. Only 18 percent of the diocesan directors said their diocese was not effectively reaching Spanish-speaking adults.

However, 37 percent of the dioceses are not reaching Spanish-speaking youth; 43 percent are not reaching English-speaking Hispanic adults; and 51 percent are not reaching English-speaking Hispanic youth.

We welcome your letters and comments.

Please send your Letters to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Runway rudeness and the man in 21B

Life's little lessons come in unexpected ways. Like in a TWA cabin packed with LaGuardia-bound New Yorkers itching to pull away from the West Palm Beach terminal.

I knew the majority of passengers had to be New Yorkers. Everyone — and I mean everyone — was talking at once about the holdup. We had been strapped in our seats for 15 minutes but were still moored to the boarding ramp. A lady provoked loud applause when she boomed: "What gives! Somebody gonna tell us why we're just sittin' here?"

And then the drama began. A flight attendant's voice came over the PA system: "Passenger Herbert Brown in seat 21B, please collect your belongings and come to the exit." Every head swiveled to the center of the cabin. Mr. Brown (No, that is not his real name), a middle-aged fellow in a business suit, wasn't budging.

A stewardess, followed by a very pregnant young woman, marched down the aisle and quite audibly confronted Mr. Brown: "You see this woman?" she snapped, "She has a ticket for this seat. You were issued a boarding pass on a standby basis. You must give up this seat now, or else things could become very embarrassing for you!"

Mr. Brown flatly refused, "I have a ticket for this seat, and I am not giving it up."

The expectant mother stood silently, while a chorus of boos and variations of "Yougottabekiddingme!" filled the cabin. "Don't say I didn't warn you," the stewardess advised, "because the next person you will deal with is Security." In disbelief we all watched the attendant help the passenger-without-a-seat make her way back up the aisle, as the unmoved Mr. Brown coolly perused his flight magazine. The minutes had now turned into a half-hour delay that was clearly ticking off the captive audience. "Ah, come on, you dummy, you're making us all pay for your rudeness!" The buzz was intensifying rapidly.

Enter the Law — a security officer straight out of Central Casting, a Brian Dennehy in uniform. "You, sir, are going to get up and leave the plane. Now."

And in a second Mr. Brown was moving up the aisle with his carry-on luggage in his arms. All the way, he yelled, "I'll pay 300 dollars to anyone who gives me a seat!" The response was deafening: "Forgedaboutit!" "Shame! Shame!" "Swim home, you idiot!"

But the drama wasn't over. No sooner had Mr. Brown been ejected, when another man jauntily glided down the aisle and took seat 21B. Non-plussed we all wondered aloud about the pregnant lady's whereabouts. As we taxied out to the runway, the flight attendant's voice announced: "You may all be wondering about the man now seated in 21B. Well, you'll be happy to know that while we were all dealing with the notorious Mr. Brown, this terrific fellow gave up his seat in First Class to the mother-to-be."

No fanfare, no gallant speech, no fuss. He simply and quietly went about doing the right thing — get up and give the woman a seat. While we were cursing the villain, he was looking after the leading lady. While we were finding fault, he provided a solution.

If you try, there usually is some way to make a bad situation a little better. If you try.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

All worked up over this hand-holding thing

One of the more traumatic aspects about attending Mass in the United States in this day and age is that it has become of paramount importance that you pay full attention to germs and your hands.

Actually, it is easier to monitor your hands because most germs are really, really tiny and hard to see with the naked eye, and most of us have eyes that are, to be candid and blunt, naked.

In the old days one could blithely saunter into a Mass (this was in a time before they were called eucharistic liturgies) and not worry about one's hands. You could pick up hymnals, touch the back of pews, touch the holy water font, open doors and even go "poink" on the nose of your or friends' children with the tip of your index finger.

However, if you "poink" your own or anyone else's children's noses now, the Hand Police will charge out of the corners of the church and scream at you: "Don't anyone touch this person during the Sign of Peace. He has 'poinked' the nose of a germ-laden child and wants to infect you. Cast him out."

And that's just at the Sign of Peace.

If you are in a parish where people form human chains during the Our Father, the hands/germs thing can get ugly. Much of this, of course, could be avoided if the U.S. Liturgy Gestapo would listen to my oft-repeated request that churches be cordoned off into "hand-holding" and "nonhand-holding" sections.

With decent signage and a couple of volunteers from the parish Scout troop equipped with cattle prods, parishes could easily funnel people into the appropriate pew areas.

I realize this would publicly acknowledge what we all know in our hearts is the truth. We are a church in schism. Some people like to shake hands, hold hands and use their hands to share the Communion cup. Others — you can tell who we are because we attend Mass with our hands in our pockets or behind our backs — do not.

The shake-hold-share crowd will argue that there is no more chance of spreading germs through such contact than, say, pushing open the church door where other folks have touched the door with the same hands that they will be shaking yours with.

But they totally forget the axiom that says, "But, duh, we were not thinking about it then."

I even had a friend claim that people who want to criticize shaking, holding and common-cupping will think nothing of going to a bowling alley and using a rental ball.

"Think about it," she said. "People go straight from eating pizza with their hands to sticking their fingers into those holes and then rolling that ball on the floor, and then back to eating pizza."

I could not help but think, as I was gagging, that it might be a nice thing if parishes started handing out latex gloves as we enter church, especially if there are any bowling alleys in the neighborhood.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Is it really possible to forgive?

Q. Through the years I have been very badly hurt by several people, especially when I was younger. I know there is a mandate from God that we are to forgive those who offend us, even those who do grave injustice against us. This is troubling me because I am finding it so difficult to forgive these people deep in my heart. What can someone like myself do?

A. The volume of mail I've been receiving in recent months on this subject surprises me. People, obviously very good people, find themselves spiritually frustrated and guilty because they, as you, feel they cannot forgive and don't know what to do about it.

From this mail, and from my own pastoral experience, it seems that a large part of the problem stems from the old admonition to forgive and forget. In most cases, especially when the hurt has been grievous, it is impossible to forget, even after many years.

The supposition then is that one has not forgiven the wrongdoer, and that is a mistake. We forgive others by letting go of resentment and the desire to take revenge, to inflict harm in return on those who have violated us.

Memory of what happened may remain. It is normal and healthy to be angry when someone does violence to us or to someone we love, and that anger may reappear when the memory of injuries recurs.

But again, that does not rule out forgiveness. Anger, just as the other normal human passions, is often necessary and proper. It's how we respond to it that is important. When we cease to harbor the desire for vengeance and give up our need to get even, to punish the other person for what he or she did, we are well on the road to forgiveness.

Two very ordinary actions can be signs that, however much we still hurt, we are in the process of forgiving.

— First, we can pray for the other person. When we do that we are also, even if we don't realize it, praying for our own healing.

— And second, we can be willing to treat the other person with civility and charity. We don't need to seek him or her out, and we don't need to be friends or buddies. But we should be open to simple Christian decency if the situation presents itself.

I know that many who say they cannot forgive have already reached this point. If not, it is something doable to aim at, much more sensible that attempting to suppress our memories.

Holy Days of obligation

Q. We have become totally confused about holy days of obligation, which ones apply and which do not. Now it seems Ascension Thursday is changed to Sunday in our area. What is the story?

A. Several years ago, the Vatican gave permission for five provinces (groups of dioceses) in the United States to transfer observance of the feast of the Ascension to the Sunday before Pentecost. Last year, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops authorized all ecclesiastical provinces to do the same. The purpose is to give more Catholics a greater opportunity to celebrate and reflect on this major feast of the church.

The bishops of your state are among many in this country who have implemented this change, beginning this year. Catholics in several other countries already follow this practice.

Basilica Book, from page 10

became university rector in 1909 and a bishop in 1914.

"He sent out the first appeal just to Catholic women in 1911," said Tucker. "He saw them as his soldiers in the task."

At a 1913 Vatican meeting, then-Msgr. Shahan got "all the approval he needed," Tucker continued. "Pius X was so taken with the notion that he enthusiastically endorsed it, and then reached into his desk drawer and presented Shahan what amounted to $400 in Italian lire as a down payment."

One architect proposed a French Gothic design, but Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore, university chancellor, favored the work of Charles Maginnis, a well-known architect of Catholic edifices.

Tucker said Maginnis preferred the Byzantine-Romanesque form as "truer to the earliest beginnings of Christianity" and "most harmonious and compatible with the architecture of Washington." Also, he didn't want to compete with Episcopalians who "were building a Gothic structure on the other side of town."

The crypt level — which once announced "National Shrine" in neon letters — was completed in 1924.

Then it sat until 1954, said Tucker, "looking more like an overgrown turn-of-the-century prison" than the largest Catholic church in the Western Hemisphere. "Bishops even talked about maybe demolishing it," he said.

The project had been slowed by Depression and war economies, as well as debts already incurred. Tucker said control of the project was "a constant issue" between university and shrine officials, until the shrine was separately incorporated in 1948.

Many prominent 20th-century Catholics are associated with the shrine story. But in Tucker's view, its greatest champion after Bishop Shahan was Bishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, Ind., founder of Our Sunday Visitor.

After World War II, Bishop Noll, chairman of the first episcopal committee for the shrine, took up its cause in the pages of his national newspaper and at annual bishops' meetings.

"You can almost see the bishops' eyes rolling back in their heads, saying, 'Here comes Noll again about the shrine,'" Tucker said.

The bishop appealed to all Catholics, even school children, and his fellow bishops eventually approved a plan of diocesan quotas to complete the building.

Construction resumed in 1954, and the shell of the Great Upper Church, plus the $1-million campanile from the Knights of Columbus, was finished in 1959.

Said Tucker: "It was completed in a very small window of opportunity in the '50s," as a response to atheistic communism, in gratitude for the end of war, and following the 1950 papal proclamation on Mary's Assumption.

The book details shrine construction, as well as the burst of ornamentation in marble, mosaics and stained glass that began in the '60s and ended in 1999 with installation of the "Universal Call to Holiness" sculpture.

It also tells the story of prominent visitors, from future popes and presidents to Dorothy Day, who said she found her vocation while praying in the Crypt Church on Dec. 8, 1930.

Tucker personally recalled unannounced visits by the wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "She loved to go into Memorial Hall and kneel down at Our Lady of Mankind and pray," he said.

The "Catholic piety and mindset that made the shrine possible" are absent on a large scale today, he said. But the fact that hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come annually shows "that the shrine has a place still and somehow does express the deeply held sentiments of Catholics." ▼

Jesuits, from page 5

inspired by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara."

Father de Vera told Catholic News Service May 8 that the report caught the Jesuits by surprise. The order's provincial in Colombia, Father Oracio Arango, immediately sent a letter of protest to the country's U.S. ambassador, he said.

The report's original wording "was rather obnoxious to say that we are inspired by Fidel Castro," Father de Vera said. "We have other sources of inspiration to put our lives on the line."

The Jesuit spokesman said that the mistaken information also potentially put Colombian Jesuits in physical danger, given the country's ongoing civil war.

"To point to the Jesuits as the inspiration or foundation of a terrorist group was really a blow in the present situation and could be very dangerous indeed," he said.

When he learned of the correction, Father de Vera sent a note of thanks to Lindy Boggs, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, he said.

In addition to issuing the statement, the State Department corrected its Internet version of the report to read instead that the ELN was "established in 1964 nominally as (a) military wing of (the) Colombian Communist Party." ▼

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Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Music Ministry for a well-established music program. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601.

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Teachers, Campus Minister, Library/Media Director: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Math, Chemistry, English, Religion, Social Studies, Spanish, and Drama. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Also, Library/Media Director and part-time Campus Minister are needed. Call (704)543-1127.

Youth Minister: Our growing parish community of 1900 families is seeking a full-time Youth Minister for our established Total Youth Ministry program for youth grades 6 through 12. Responsibilities include spiritual and program development while working together with a committed team of 50 adults. Candidate should be: faith-filled, enthusiastic, organized, creative and team-oriented. Experienced with a B.A. in Theology or related field. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send a resume and a statement of your vision of Youth Ministry to: Search Committee, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410 or fax to (336)294-6149.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

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Three priests care for infant left on their doorstep

By PATRICIA RUDY
Catholic News Service

VIENNA, Va. (CNS) — As the three priests at St. Mark Church in Vienna were getting ready to turn in for the night one evening in late April, the sound of a baby crying came from outside.

Father Stewart Culkin, pastor, heard it from his room and Fathers Francis deRosa and Christopher Pollard, parochial vicars, noticed it from the living room.

"We all converged at the front door at the same time," said Father de Rosa.

Alone on the doorstep was a 4-month-old girl, Sadgi Gill. The priests learned later that she had been abducted from an apartment building in nearby Manassas shortly before 9 p.m. Her mother had left her briefly in her second-floor apartment, strapped in her car seat, while she went to unload groceries from her vehicle in the parking lot. The infant arrived at St. Mark's unharmed.

"It was tragic, but obviously there were some comical aspects to it," Father deRosa told the Arlington Catholic Herald, diocesan newspaper.

"We felt like three priests and a baby," he told the Fairfax Journal newspaper. "At first we felt bad for her. Then we thought we just might have an addition to our family. We even thought about raising her as a nun."

"It was like a movie," said Father Pollard. "At first we were incredulous, and then we thought, hey, maybe someone should pick up the baby. We're not taught about this in the seminary."

The priests brought her in and called Fairfax County police. The parents are not parishioners at St. Mark's. Father deRosa said that there is no known connection of the incident to the church.

Father Pollard, who does not have nieces and nephews, held her most of the time, said Father deRosa. "He did very well with the baby."

"I was born to be an uncle," said Father Pollard. "It's my God-given innate natural ability. It was kind of an adventure to have her there."

Father Culkin, for his part, said Father deRosa, was relieved that he had his two associates with him. In his nearly 29 years as a priest, the pastor said, nothing like this had ever happened to him.

After the baby had been there a while, "she started getting cantankerous and needed changing," said Father deRosa. Since no diapers or formula are kept at the rectory, the priests called a pediatrician parishioner whose daughter had a newborn child, and the needed supplies were brought.

For her name, "I chose Arizona, from the movie 'Raising Arizona,'" said Father Pollard. "Father deRosa chose Clotilde and Father Culkin didn't choose a name."

"We had given thought to keeping her and even baptizing her, but three priests and a baby is not enough," said Father Pollard. "It was the subject for my homily this week. In addition to being baptized, the faith has to be taught; (one is) not to be baptized and then live life as though it had never happened."

The baby was at the rectory for slightly over four hours, until the parents came to retrieve her. Since the infant's abduction and abandonment occurred in different counties, said Father Pollard, he understood that jurisdictional problems caused some time delay.

"It was a very happy ending that her parents were able to come so quickly," said Father Pollard. "It was nice to go back to bed at 2:30 a.m. and not lose any more sleep over it."

"The mother was very relieved to see her baby," said Father deRosa. The parents, believing that it was God's hand that brought the baby to the church, said, "She was in the hands of God," he recalled. ▼

Scholars report progress in study of Vatican's WWII documents

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic and Jewish scholars reported "substantial progress" in examining published Vatican documents related to World War II and the Holocaust.

"Collaborating as Catholic and Jewish scholars on a difficult and controversial subject, we are confident that our work will contribute to a deeper understanding of this painful subject," the scholars said in a statement May 7 after a four-day meeting in London.

The commission, established in October, includes scholars appointed by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews and by the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultation.

"We hope that our combined effort will take the discussion beyond the realm of heated polemics," the scholars said.

The commission was formed to study one of the thorniest issues in Catholic-Jewish relations: the activity of the Catholic Church and, particularly, of Pope Pius XII during World War II and the Holocaust.

Prominent Jewish organizations have called on the Vatican to open its wartime archives in order to clarify allegations that church leaders knew the extent of the Holocaust yet failed to raise their voices in defense of European Jews.

The Vatican responded by saying all relevant documents had already been published in an 11-volume collection prepared by Jesuit researchers, but that scholars had not taken the time to study the material thoroughly. ▼

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Volunteer teacher absorbs culture and rediscovers roots

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Joe Tronco had traveled to Italy before on vacation but not to the less-explored Puglia region in Southern Italy and not to stand in front of a room of children for two weeks this past March.

Earlier this year, after reading about the work of supplemental English language instruction to children through Global Volunteers in Italy, Tronco wanted to be a part of that experience.

"It sounded like an interesting and creative way of giving service to a part of society I had never thought of," said Tronco, a St. Gabriel Church parishioner.

He had taught kids before, however, as a high school chemistry and biology teacher over 35 years ago. But, he said, "I felt comfortable with the idea because of that experience."

It is an alternative to a vacation of sitting on the beach and sipping flowery drinks in coconut shells. This "getaway" serves as a way to get more involved with different cultures and to experience life through others' eyes.

According to their website, Global Volunteers, based out of St. Paul, Minn., is a non-profit organization that arranges volunteer trips for more than 150 teams of volunteers in locations around the world like Africa, Asia, the United States and other places — a total of 20 countries.

The volunteer work is the actual vacation, tax-deductible in most cases and paid for by the volunteer, as expenses incurred if he or she were to travel elsewhere.

Tronco arrived in Italy to the predominantly Catholic town of Ostuni and was met with the sight of miles of olive and almond trees and the white homes and shops and the smell of the Adriatic Sea, approximately three miles from the small city where he lived for the duration. Ostuni is in the Puglia region located on the heel of the boot-shaped country.

Also upon his arrival, he met the rest of his team, a group that consisted of a Jewish person, a Serbian Catholic and those with no stated religion. Tronco said of the differences in religion of the volunteers and working in a traditional Catholic country, "We all embraced it in our own way. The Jewish person and the ones with no stated religion had done this work before. They were teachers by profession and had been on prior assignments."

The school provided a car for the group to travel the 25 miles from Ostuni to Martina Franca where the school was located. Tronco taught three junior high classes, some with and without his Italian language arts teacher and guide.

When not in class or doing extra volunteer English tutoring at the hotel, he and the other volunteers were invited on walking and bus tours in their honor to neighboring towns and cities to visit the massive cathedrals and other landmarks.

"When these fairly young children entered the cathedrals, their demeanors changed to one of reverence for their churches. They were proud of those cathedrals and wanted to show them off to us," added Tronco.

Global Volunteers gives their participants a teaching guideline, and the volunteers follow along with the textbook. The teaching consisted of exaggerated gestures and demonstrations to children who had already had between one and three years of English but have no one with which to practice. This is where the volunteers come in, as sounding boards and seemingly large vats of information for the American world with which the Italian children are acquainted.

Courtesy Photo

Joe Tronco is pictured with junior high school students in Martina Franca in the Puglia region of Italy. Tronco taught English to Italian students for two weeks in March as a part of the Global Volunteers program.

"The kids had practiced the questions they were asking. They wanted to know what types of sports I liked and other things about America and what I thought about certain topics," said Tronco.

The students were like any other students with the class clown, the best athlete, the one serious student. They embraced Tronco and, and he did the same. "It was such an exciting opportunity to be with people to learn more and broaden all of our lives," he said.

Tronco, whose family tree can be traced back to Southern Italy, not far from Puglia, is traveling back to visit some of the same areas and surrounding cities with his wife Katherine in July.

"When you spend those two weeks with them, you learn a lot more than you would as a tourist," he continued. "We all change as we become more aware. You go there to teach, but you realize that you have learned." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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The little sister that could

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Many people wish they had her spunk. She seems to go non-stop, and her co-workers, friends and the women religious in her sister community wonder where this 83-year-old gets her energy. She describes herself as a "little old nun doing the Lord's work," while the patients and workers at the hospital where she performs her ministry call her the "Mother Teresa of Baptist Hospital."

Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber laughs at the comparison. "I am old and wrinkled like her, but that is where the similarity ends," she humbly joked. "I can't even be mentioned in the same sentence with her."

Sister Dennis, a parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, hails from Pennsylvania, where she attended an all-girls' school. It was one of her teachers, a Sister of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Pa., who inspired her to join the order herself.

She began teaching and received her bachelor's of arts in mathematics from Chestnut Hill College in 1947. She also received her master's of arts in mathematics from Villanova University and studied physics and other subjects at Catholic University and Loyola University of New Orleans. She spent most of her life teaching high school, a profession she enjoyed immensely.

When she moved to Winston-Salem in 1975, a decision, she said, that did not sit well with her immediately, she continued to teach math at Bishop McGuinness High School and began her hospital ministry part time. "I had to get used to being away from home," she said with a smile. In 1985, she retired from teaching and began to work full time at Baptist Hospital.

"I loved teaching math, and when I went into this work, I thought I would miss it. But, this work is a direct gift from God," said Sister Dennis of her work as a pastoral minister at Baptist Hospital and Forsyth Hospital.

She visits the patients and prays, talks and sits with the many Catho-

See SISTER DENNIS, page 4

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber is presented with the Mother Teresa Memorial Award and a $500 check for AIDS Care Service from the Knights of Columbus State Council. Pictured left is Bob Singer, state deputy, and Father James Solari, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church.

Lay Ministry graduates complete personal faith journey

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Chris and Jo Gibbs have only recently learned what Catholicism is all about. Five years ago, Chris Gibbs came back to Catholicism after growing up Catholic but without a strong grounding in his faith. His wife, Jo, grew up Baptist and converted right before marrying. Both of them became involved with the diocesan lay ministry program to supplement the knowledge they already had.

"I wanted to learn more because I missed it growing up. I went to church only a couple of times I can remember," explained Mr. Gibbs. "The lay ministry program is an affirmation of what I believe already and has focused my faith and understanding of the church."

For Mrs. Gibbs, the coordinator of religious formation at St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa, her involvement with lay ministry is a way for her to better prepare her students. "I will use what I have learned with the faith formation classes, and for me, learning about the history and evolution of the church fascinates me. I simply wanted to learn more," she said.

The Gibbses were two of the 98 graduates, representing 32 parishes, of the Lay Ministry Training Program who received their certificates at a Mass and ceremony on May 13 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, one of the sites for the Saturday sessions.

"I commend the investment of their time and appreciate the generosity of family and friends in allowing them to participate because this is a two-year commitment," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, diocesan director of lay ministry and vicar for women religious. "This academic program helps them to develop communicative skills and to practice their religious roles in the marketplace."

Anyone, regardless of his or her affiliation with the church, can become involved with the program. Faith formation and religion teachers as well as those who wish to become permanent deacons are required to complete the program, explained Sister Mary Timothy.

"We need the strength, gifts and talents given to you by God who calls you to this ministry of the church," said Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant for the Mass. "You have been commissioned to bring the joy of Christ

See LAY MINISTRY, page 14

Vatican's U.N. nuncio applauds statement on Kissling group

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Vatican's U.N. nuncio said May 11 that a new statement from the U.S. bishops denouncing Catholics for a Free Choice for a campaign against the Vatican's U.N. permanent observer status will be useful in reminding leaders at the world body that the organization is not Catholic. The organization has consultative status as a nongovernmental organization at the United Nations, and its president, Frances Kissling, has been an active lobbyist at U.N. meetings. In a telephone interview, Archbishop Renato R. Martino commented on a May 10 statement issued by Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, as president of the bishops' conference, that said the group's campaign against the Vatican's U.N. status is reminiscent of "other episodes of anti-Catholic bigotry." Archbishop Martino said the group's campaign has not affected church relations with the world body and that not one of the U.N.'s 180 member nations has indicated any support for it.

Donations, prayers urged for victims of New Mexico fire

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (CNS) — Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe authorized a special collection to be taken up in parishes May 13-14 to aid residents who lost their homes and possessions when an intense fire surged through Los Alamos. The town, which is where the atomic bomb was built and is the site of Los Alamos National Laboratory, is 70 miles north of Albuquerque in the 61,000-square-mile Archdiocese of Santa Fe. The fire was started as a controlled burn May 4 to clear out brush in nearby Bandelier National Monument but dry, windy conditions caused it to quickly grow out of control. By May 12, it had raged through 28,000 acres and in Los Alamos destroyed 280 homes and forced 25,000 people to evacuate.

National Federation of Priests' Councils meets

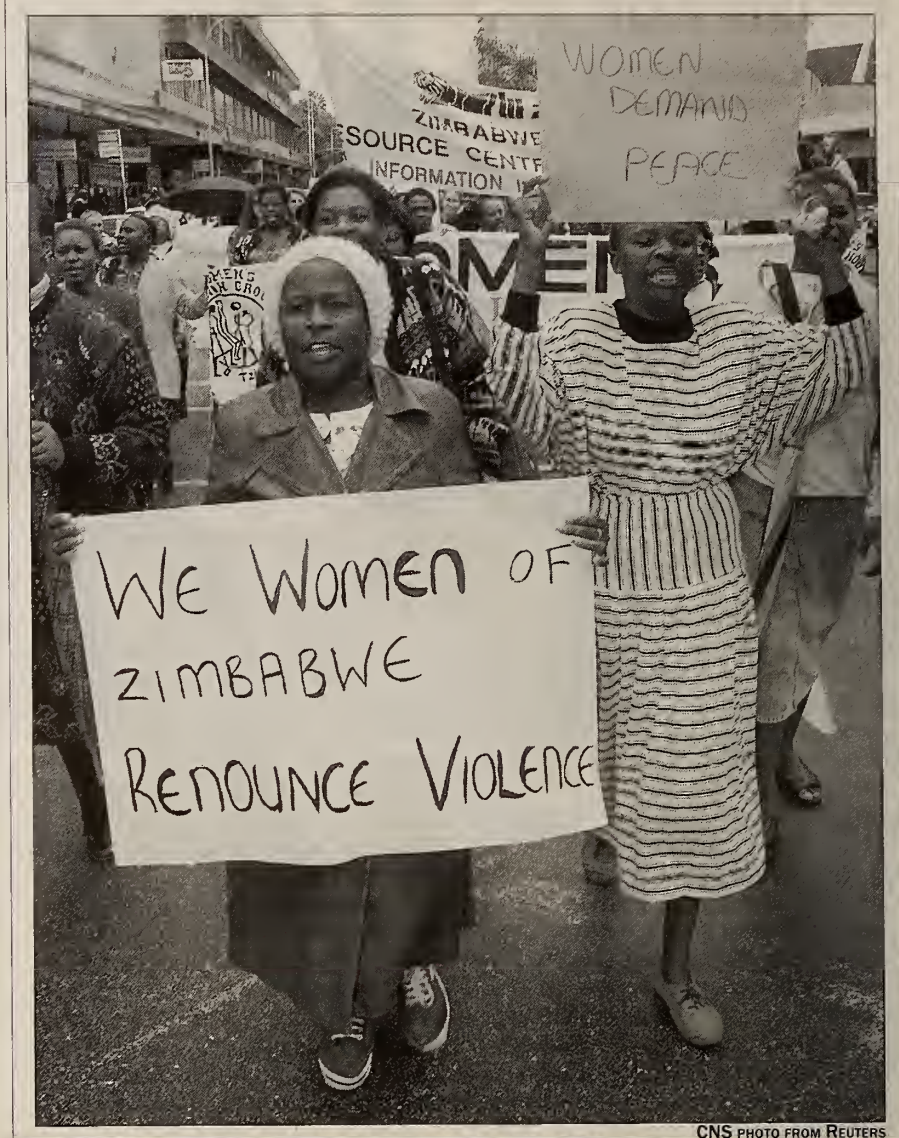
OAKLAND, Calif. (CNS) — The National Federation of Priests' Councils focused on the church's multicultural dimensions at its annual convention May 1-4 in Oakland. Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland highlighted the importance of that focus in a talk May 2. "If we as a church do not succeed in our vision for the unity of the human family, there is little hope for the world," he said. Some 270 priests and church leaders gathered at the Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel for the federation's 32nd annual convention. The 2000 theme, "Ministry in a Church of Many Cultures," continued the 1999 theme, "From the Many, One Church."

Child soldiers said to have escaped rebels in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — As fighting resumed in Sierra Leone between rebels of the Revolutionary United Front and progovernment forces, about 100 child soldiers cared for by Caritas, the church's charitable agency, escaped from rebels. The supervisor of Caritas projects in Sierra Leone, John Thorley, told Catholic News Service that the children had been in a rehabilitation camp at Lunsar, in northern Sierra Leone. When rebels drove U.N. troops from the North and fought with progovernment forces May 8, the rebels attempted to lure former child soldiers into rejoining the conflict, but the children escaped, he said. They had walked about 50 miles when they were spotted by a helicopter and were airlifted to Freetown, Thorley said.

Vatican, Poland issue stamps to mark pope's 80th birthday

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the Polish government have designed a commemoration of Pope John Paul II's 80th birthday that is expected to enter the homes of the humble and the offices of the mighty. Vatican City and Poland announced the joint issue of a series of three postage stamps honoring the Polish-born pope on his May 18 birthday. "It is with great pleasure and deep affection that Vatican City and Poland prepare to celebrate the pope's 80th birthday," said a statement from the Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Women march in Zimbabwe

Women in Harare march to the Zimbabwe capital calling for an end to recent violence in their country. Nineteen people have been killed recently in clashes between war veterans and white owners of farms and in election-related violence.

Lithuanian agreements formalize Catholic Church status

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Vatican has signed a series of agreements with Lithuania regulating the Catholic Church's position a decade after the collapse of communist rule. A church spokesman said the three texts, modeled on earlier accords with Croatia, signaled an end to the search for "complex, time-consuming concordats." "Most clauses confirm the existing situation here and should be seen as extending cooperation rather than providing protection," said Father Adolfas Gruzas, a spokesman for the Lithuanian bishops' conference.

The Catholic News & Herald

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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AWARD WINNER cpa 1998 CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 22 — 7 pm Confirmation
St. Leo, Winston-Salem

May 23 — 7 pm Confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption
Charlotte

May 24-25
Pre-Ordination retreat for seminarians

May 27 — 10 am Confirmation
St. Paul, Greensboro

May 28 — 11 am Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

6 pm Confirmation
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

May

22 CHARLOTTE — The Alzheimer's/dementia support group for caretakers of memory-impaired family members and friends meets today from 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in rooms D and E of the ministry center. Activities are available for the memory-impaired. For further details about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite program, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the canonization of St. Rita, Augustinian wife, mother and nun, known as "the saint of the impossible." All who have strife in their lives, need help in family relationships or feel they have an impossible situation are invited to the celebration and blessing of roses this morning for 9:15 a.m. Mass and tonight for 7:30 p.m. exposition, benediction and prayer. Call the church office at (704) 536-6520 or (704) 535-4197 with any questions.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having their annual May luncheon at Sedgefield Country Club, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a cash and spirits bar, fashion show featuring items from a local women's clothing store and raffle prizes. For more information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

25 ASHEVILLE — All are invited to come to St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Ave., for a healing Mass tonight at 7 p.m. Refreshments will follow the Mass. For more information, call the church office at (828) 252-3151.

28 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte area monthly Ultreya meets today at St. Matthew Church, 8015

Make world a better place for God's people, visiting priest says

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — Father Thomas Coughlin, the first deaf person in North America to be ordained as a Roman Catholic priest, came from New York to North Carolina on Friday, May 5 to be the homilist at Lenoir-Rhyne College's baccalaureate service that evening, and also to deliver the homily during Sunday morning Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Morganton.

In both places, the theme for his talk was Jesus as the good shepherd, which corresponded to the Gospel reading in Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches that weekend (John 10:11-18).

At Lenoir-Rhyne, Father Coughlin told the graduating class that "the more you wrestle with Christ's truth, the more you will prefer His truth to the so-called truth of this world.... Be not afraid to take up the challenges and struggles to make God's world a better place for His people. This world needs more good shepherds."

Father Coughlin has followed this advice himself for much of his life. Born deaf in 1947, he is the founder and director of the House of Studies for Deaf Seminarians in Yonkers, N.Y., and the founder of Camp Mark Seven, a camp for deaf children in upstate New York. Many times in his life his plans or ideas have been met with an answer of "no" because of his deafness, but he persisted anyway and found success.

In an interview after the Mass on Sunday, Father Coughlin talked about his life. He talked about the sisters who taught him at St. Joseph Catholic High School in Buffalo, N.Y. "Their values rubbed off well on me," he said.

He credited the nuns with helping him discern his vocation early on, depite the challenges he faced with his deafness. "I was 14, an age where I was very impressionable. I started reading other books and asking questions," he said.

After applying to several orders, he finally found a community to pursue his calling.

The Holy Trinity Fathers in Baltimore, Md., accepted him after a call from young Coughlin's school principal, but the student found it difficult to read lips in the classes. After a year, he left to attend Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

He kept in contact with Holy Trinity while working on his bachelor of arts degree in English at Gallaudet. He persevered in his studies, and finally he was ordained in 1977 after receiving his master's in religious studies from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He also spent some time studying at the Alliance Francais in Paris, and is fluent in French and English, even though he has never heard either language, as well as American Sign Language.

After 15 years of being associated with the Holy Trinity Fathers, Father Coughlin became a diocesan priest, working with deaf people all over the world. Nineteen years ago he founded Camp Mark Seven to help deaf children learn about their deafness and their faith. The camp, which is entirely staffed by deaf people, also offers some programs for elderly deaf people, and people with drug or alcohol problems. Father Coughlin said the camp is planning to expand its programs to include hearing children of deaf parents.

One summer, the New York Department of Public Health threatened to close the camp down because they did not have a registered nurse on staff. They advertised, but could not find a nurse who knew sign language. "I said, 'Oh well, I'll go to school and become a nurse myself.'"

He said that learning about the inner workings of the human body increased his faith. "That science helped me to understand about God so much more clearly," he said.

Another nurse has taken over those duties at the camp now. He serves as her assistant, as an assistant to the camp's current director, as chaplain and as executive director.

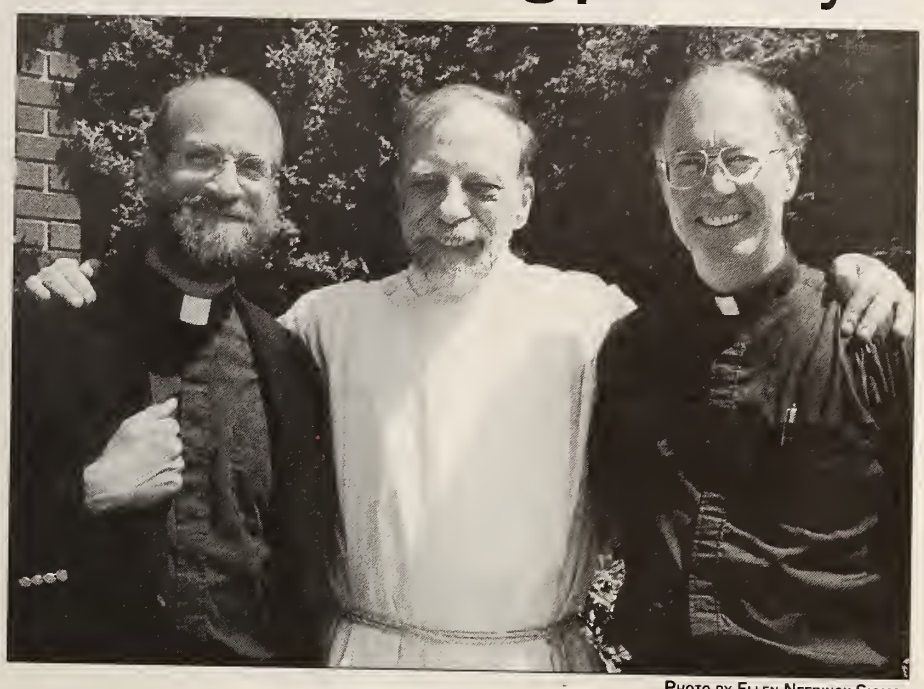


Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Lutheran Pastor Andrew Weisner of Lenior-Rhyne College, Father Ken Whittington of St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton and Father Thomas Coughlin following Mass on May 14.

The camp keeps him busy in the summer, but during the rest of the year he works with his group of seminarians.

In 1997, he began his own community and started looking for a bishop to help. After sending several letters without getting any positive responses, he received a telephone call from New York archbishop Cardinal John O'Connor.

"I don't know how he found out," said Father Coughlin. "He asked me about it, and I explained the difficulties (that deaf seminarians and priests encountered) — interpretation, support systems. He showed surprise that this had never been done before in the whole world."

Cardinal O'Connor met with Pope John Paul II that year, made a proposal, and received approval to form a deaf seminary. Father Coughlin moved to New York and set up the program through St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. They now have four seminarians and a nine-bedroom residence where sign language is the primary language. "Deaf people feel at ease there," said Father Coughlin.

Plans are in the works to form a religious community for deaf women as well.

Father Coughlin said that Cardinal O'Connor set up a $250,000 endowment so that the deaf seminarians there could get a free education. On May 21, 1999, Cardinal O'Connor came to bless the house and take a tour.

"He loved our deaf people, and he blessed us," said Father Coughlin, who attended the cardinal's funeral.

Father Coughlin is eager to continue his work of outreach.

"I want to be a producer, to make something," said Father Coughlin, who has been commended personally by Pope John Paul II for his outstanding ministry. "I have a certain drive inside of me. I'm very motivated to do many things before I die." ▼

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. Call Bill Gold at (704) 339-2121 for more information.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today at Immaculate Conception Church in the office wing on 6th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. Call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246 for more information.

June

2 ASHEVILLE — Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E), Western North Carolina's Catholic homeschool support group, is having an "end of the year" picnic and potluck at CP&L Park this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

4 CHARLOTTE — In recognition of National Cancer Survivors' Day, St. Gabriel Church, St. Matthew Church and St. Vincent de Paul Church members invite all cancer survivors, caregivers, family and friends to attend Mass and to participate in anointing of the sick at 5:30 p.m. today at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. For more information, call Bob Poffenbarger Sr. with the National Cancer Day Foundation at (704) 553-7000 or e-mail Rjpoffsr@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A special reception, sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization, is being held for Mercy Sister Paulette Williams who is leaving her job as principal of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) to begin a new ministry with the Sisters of Mercy. The reception takes place from 1-3 p.m. at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. For more information, call Vicki Britton at (704) 365-0312.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — A volleyball camp is being held for rising sixth- through ninth- graders July 17-20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The coaches are going to be Tim Leary from CCHS and Bettie Berry, a former CCHS coach. For more information, call Bettie Berry at (704) 521-8721.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Anthony M. Genovese is the facilitator of a retreat, "Take Courage and Be a Man," emphasizing male spirituality and how this experience has an influence on societal values, the pursuit of goals, dealing with failures and being open to God's call. For further information on the retreat being held June 9-11, call the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park during the weeks of July 9-15 and July 16-22. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., 29731-1586.

Ongoing

CLEMMONS — The time for the Spanish Mass, being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is being changed to 7 p.m. for the duration of the summer, starting in June and continuing through most of August. For details, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Sister Dennis, from page 1

lics and non-Catholics who request her presence. "There is a list of those who are Catholic that I see, and I know that many of the patients who appear on the list are not Catholic. I want to be able to minister to all I can," she said. "I feel their pain, and I am sensitive to their needs. I cry tears over what happened to some of them."

Sister Dennis touched one such non-Catholic patient so much so that she drives Sister Dennis wherever she needs to go when she can. She is one of several who volunteer to drive Sister Dennis to the hospitals and other destinations. "I used to walk everywhere before I had hip replacement surgery. I am still able to walk all over the hospital," she said.

In her "spare time," she works tirelessly with AIDS patients, especially those who are disadvantaged and in need of housing and food. She is on the board of trustees of AIDS Care Service in Winston-Salem, which helps low-income people afflicted with AIDS with shelter and care. She visits AIDS patients, conducts fund-raisers and wears the red ribbon symbol on her lapel as a sign of her dedication to AIDS awareness.

She is also the spiritual director of the St. Leo Church Christian Mothers' Group, where, as Ria Monteleone, the group's president, said, her presence is always needed and welcome.

"There is something very spiritual about her, and she has a quality of holiness that is profound. She comes every month to the meetings and opens with a prayer or reflective time. She is a remarkable woman who is more in touch with the topics related to us than many women I know," said Monteleone.

Because of her work with hospital and AIDS ministry, the Knights of Columbus State Council chose her as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award. She is one of two recipients this year, one in the Diocese of Charlotte and one in the Diocese of Raleigh. The Knights of Columbus wrote to Missionaries of Charity Sister Nirmala, superior general, for her approval of using Mother Teresa's name and image.

"We wanted to recognize people who do good works and follow in Mother Teresa's example of what we are called to do. We want to preserve her memory," said John Harrison, past grand deputy and chairman of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award program. "This has been a very good program, and the recipients have always been near tears when they have received the award."

Since 1998, the Knights of Columbus have sent letters to the pastors of both dioceses to nominate someone from their parish for the award. Father James Solari, pastor at St. Leo Church, thought that Sister Dennis was deserving of the award:

"From many points of view, she is person who needed to be recognized for her dedication to ministry. She is an outstanding person in our community and is a dynamo to be spending time with patients at her age," said Father Solari. He said he tries to get her to slow down to no avail. "She need to rest sometimes, and I am trying to hold her back for the long haul."

She was presented with the award and a check for $500 for AIDS Care Service, her choice of charity, during the Mass on Mother's Day, May 14, at St. Leo Church. Members of the congregation rose to their feet and applauded through tears as she said, "I am so humbled and overwhelmed with gratitude for my God. I owe it all to my Lord. The greatest gift God has ever given me is to be able to serve the sick at Baptist Hospital and the AIDS patients."

Does Sister Dennis show any signs of slowing down? "I feel like I am about 60, and I never think about how old I am. I am doing the Lord's work and loving every minute of it." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Belmont Abbey College hosts commencement ceremonies

BELMONT — Despite temperatures in the high 90s, spirits were high May 13 as 196 students received degrees from Belmont Abbey College. Commencement ceremonies, preceded by a Mass of the Holy Spirit, were held in front of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians on the historic campus.

More than 2,000 guests were in attendance, including families and friends of six Abbey staff members receiving degrees.

Bishop Robert Baker, S.T.D., bishop of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., was the principal homilist during the Mass. The audience was delighted when the bishop left the elevated stage and came to the level of students and guests to deliver his message with great drama and animation.

Bishop Baker was among three to receive honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees for his commitment to the Church and assistance to the needy. Also receiving honorary doctorates were Sister Charlotte Lange, O.S.B., principal of Saint Gertrude's High School in Richmond, Va., and Wallace Dalton of Lake Wylie, S.C. Mr. Dalton is a longtime supporter of Belmont Abbey, having served on numerous boards and committees. He established a scholarship honoring former college president Father John Bradley, for whom the college's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture is named.

During commencement, four retiring faculty members were recognized: Father John Oetgen, O.S.B., professor of English; Father Arthur Pendleton, O.S.B., professor of chemistry; Dr. Frank Murray, professor of history; and Stanley Dudko, associate professor of business and economics. ▼

Loyola Institute extension program to form new group

CHARLOTTE — The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program is forming a new learning group in the Charlotte area. The Diocese of Charlotte is the sponsoring agency for this program, which yields master's degrees and certificates in religious education and pastoral studies. The distance-learning program is for anyone involved in ministry, and consists of 12 courses, each lasting 12 weeks. An informational session on the new learning group is June 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, 3016 Providence Rd. For further information, call Connie Milligan at (704) 364-3344.

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or ____ parish, city) the sum of $____ (or____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

Remember God's Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Cindy Rice, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?

Rev. Mr. Shawn O'Neal
is a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Charlotte. He is completing formation at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana He will be ordained in June 2000.

"Soon the greatly anticipated day will arrive: I will be invited to join my brother priests at the altar to share in the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ. What an honor! I am thrilled to have the opportunity to do God's saving work in the place I have called "home" most of my life.

My family moved to Charlotte in early 1981 and we were welcomed warmly into the Church where, as a teenager, I became involved in puppet ministry. Soon, my first Mass of Thanksgiving will be held at that very same altar at St. John Neumann.

Thank you for your prayers which helped me open my heart to God who was calling me to serve. Please continue to pray for me and for all my brothers that our joy will lead others to join in spreading this witness of hope."

... Are you answering His call?

For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen,
The Office of Vocations, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
(704) 370-3353 • vocations@charlottediocese.org

Bishop McGuinness on the air in Piedmont Triad

By LARRY CHANCE
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — When you are the chief fund-raiser for a growing Catholic high school, and you have the pipes to work for the BBC, why not put that talent to good use? That's just what Eddie Mitchell, director of institutional activities at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem, had in mind when he began to produce and host a daily five-minute radio show about the activities of the school.

The program originates from the studios of WIST 98.3 FM in High Point, which targets adult listeners with an eclectic play list of pop favorites, ranging from Paul Anka to Louis Prima and Frank Sinatra.

Mitchell believes this audience takes an interest in the school, which recently broke ground for a new facility at a central location in the Piedmont Triad, and he programs the show to increase that interest.

He picked this station because many older BMHS alumni listen to the station, as do the parents of many alumni.

"The idea is to get the name Bishop McGuinness out ... it's about what makes the school different," said Mitchell. "I'm sure everyone in the Triad knows Bishop McGuinness; they don't know what goes on behind the doors." Mitchell feels that the radio show is an opportunity for people to get that message.

Photo by Larry Chance

Eddie Mitchell at the control board of WIST 98.3 FM.

The show covers topics such as upcoming special events like the recent auction, the new campus, interscholastic sports, fine arts and other Bishop McGuinness highlights. It begins at 9:02 a.m.

Mitchell said that the show gives the school a " ... chance to blow our own trumpet as far as the students are concerned."

A former professional soccer player in Great Britain, Mitchell began his broadcasting career for the BBC doing programs about the sport. "I used to do a program on Friday morning about the upcoming weekend soccer games," he said.

When he arrived in the United States, he worked for a radio station in Texas. Now, as the head fund-raiser for the rapidly growing school, he is able to apply his experience in a way that reaches far beyond the school community into the community at large.

With a distinctive British accent, the former Londoner feels he is blessed with a voice that people recognize. In the Western Piedmont, that usually means that once a day, someone comments about his accent. He believes that you cannot get enough publicity, so if his accent and the radio show combine to generate more interest in the school, he is happy.

The show is effective. One other hat that Mitchell wears is that of admissions, and he pointed out that one Kernersville parent who heard the first show called to register his child as a result of what he heard on the show.

Mitchell would like the show, which will resume production next September, to expand, so that he can keep spreading the word that Bishop McGuinness High School is what he believes to be an exciting place for students, abounding with opportunity. ▼

Father Vincent Donovan, C.S.Sp., of Our Lady of Lourdes dies suddenly

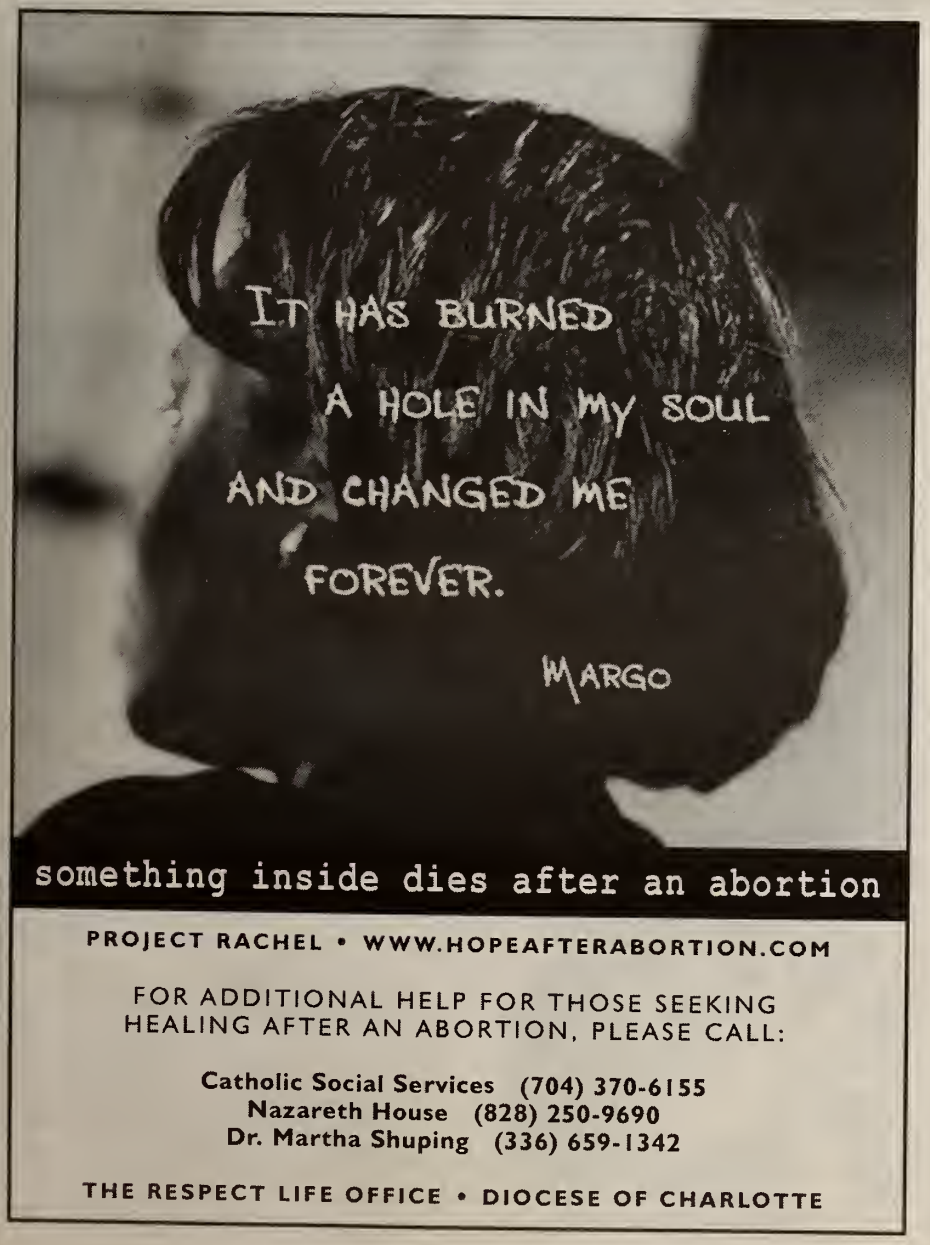
BETHEL PARK, Pa. — Father Vincent Donovan, C.S.Sp, died suddenly Saturday, May 13, 2000.

Father Donovan served as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe from April 1993 until February 2000.

Viewing was at Trinity Hall Chapel, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh on Wed., May 17. Mass of Christian Burial took place on Thurs., May 18 at 10 a.m. at Duquesne University Chapel with a luncheon following the service. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, O'Hara Township.

Father Donovan was preceded in death by his parents, William J. & Nora McCarthy Donovan and other siblings. He is survived by his sister Nora Koren and nephews and nieces.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Nora Koren at 1527 Fawcett Avenue, White Oak, Pa. 15131. ▼



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Member of St. Vincent's

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Pope John Paul II lays his hands on the head of a priest ordained in St. Peter's Square May 14. The pope ordained 26 new priests for the Diocese of Rome during the service held on World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Well-wishers to post birthday greetings to pope online

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Birthday well-wishers for Pope John Paul II won't have to garner tickets to a private papal audience to extend their congratulations: They can post them online.

A Web-based initiative, expected to be up and running by the pope's 80th birthday May 18, will allow Internet surfers to send their greetings via a special link, "Happy Birthday Pope John Paul II," available on popular portals like Yahoo! and msn.com.

Vatican officials said the link would be active for a minimum of a week but could be extended further, depending on how many people sign their names to the virtual birthday card.

The link, proposed by the Freiburg, Germany-based Ele Foundation and provided free of charge by the Web sites, will also include information on a Vatican charity fund for AIDS orphans in Africa.

According to the latest U.N. statistics, by the end of 2000, 13 million African children will have lost one or both parents to the AIDS pandemic.

The donations collected online by the Ele Foundation will then be delivered to the Vatican charity "Cor Unum."

Giovanni Bianchini, a "Cor Unum" official, said May 15 that the participation of major Web sites in the initiative represented a "small example of solidarity."

In a May 12 press release, "Cor Unum" called Africa's orphan problem a "unique and tragic crisis."

"Neither words nor statistics adequately capture this human tragedy," said the statement. ▼

French bishops express communion with Bishop Gaillot

LYONS, France (CNS) — In a sign of reconciliation with his fellow French bishops, controversial Bishop Jacques Gaillot expressed his thanks for an invitation to participate in an ecumenical meeting. In a May 10 letter to Archbishop Louis-Marie Bille of Lyons, president of the French bishops' conference, Bishop Gaillot said his colleagues' expression of brotherhood "touches me deeply and will bring joy to many." Archbishop Bille's letter of May 5, released by the French bishops' conference May 10, said the May 13 meeting in Lyons "could be an occasion to express the communion that we have felt for so long" and to heal the five-year-old wound caused by Bishop Gaillot's ouster from his diocese. The Vatican removed Bishop Gaillot from his post in Evreux in January 1995 after he publicly challenged church teaching on several issues.

Heyerdahl, with Vatican help, settles Ericson-Columbus debate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Acclaimed navigator Thor Heyerdahl said a document in storage in the Vatican's archives gives evidence for the contention that Leif Ericson , not Christopher Columbus, was the first European to travel by boat to the New World. But cherished elements of the Ericson saga will have to be abandoned, Heyerdahl said in a May 11 address at the National Press Club in Washington. Ericson was not a Viking, nor did he pilot a Viking ship, although "he may have seen one" during his travels, said Heyerdahl, author of dozens of books, including "Kon-Tiki" and "The Ra Expeditions." What's more, Ericson, an Icelander, was converted to Catholicism by King Olaf of Norway and sent to Greenland to convert the "pagan" people living there, Heyerdahl said. "He took one priest and two catechists with him" on his craft, a merchant vessel more humble than a Viking ship, he added.

Cuban baseball team's visit to Catholic college hurt by defection

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — The Cubans came to play baseball, meet new American friends and see the sights and landmarks of Minnesota. They didn't expect to make the national headlines they did, thanks to a team member who broke away from the group and flew to Miami to seek asylum in the United States. And they didn't expect to be followed nonstop by news reporters and photographers who wanted pictures and reactions to the unfolding story of their teammate, 20-year-old Mario Miguel Chaoui. "It's had an impact," said Doug Hennes, a spokesman for the University of St. Thomas, which hosted the visit. "If he hadn't left the team, there would be a different atmosphere."

Ohio priest stabbed, hospitalized after hearing confession

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio (CNS) — An Ohio priest who was stabbed while hearing his attacker's confession told police the seal of confession will prevent him from testifying against his assailant. According to a statement from Middletown police, Father Charles Mentrup, 41, an associate pastor at Incarnation Parish, was stabbed early May 5 at his residence while hearing his assailant's confession. The priest was transported to Middletown Regional Hospital, where he underwent surgery for a knife wound to the abdomen. He was in good condition May 9, a hospital official said. The priest was expected to be in the hospital for at least a week.

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Mission community grows with multi-cultural flair

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

KANNAPOLIS — Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann looked out across the congregation and smiled. Excitement lilted his voice. "It's been such a wonderful celebration today," he said.

Father Aschmann, administrator of St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis, noted the many reasons to celebrate on this May 14 afternoon. Bishop William G. Curlin had come to preside at a bilingual liturgy. It was a sunny Mother's Day, and the church's Hispanic first Communion class was seated front and center, dressed in Sunday best. A family-style picnic dinner awaited.

Best of all, a few shovels of dirt signified a new beginning for a church community whose complexion is changing with the times.

Bishop Curlin, Father Aschmann and a host of St. Joseph parishioners took turns at the shovels during a groundbreaking ceremony that kicked plans into overdrive for a new church building.

The symbolism of the ceremony was twofold, as the mission plans for a new worship center while continuing to break ground in its ministry to a growing Hispanic population working, living and worshipping in the area.

"You know, for one reason or another, God sent them here," said Father Aschmann of the Hispanics, whom he ministers to alongside the church's Anglo parishioners. "They are good workers, they do love God and they try to be good people here."

Hundreds — perhaps thousands, guesses Father Aschmann — of Hispanics flock to St. Joseph Church for Mass and ministerial support in a land far from home. They have come to the area primarily for work or to escape political strife. Today, they far outnumber the Anglo parishioners who worship at St. Joseph's, a mission of St. James Church in Concord.

Many Hispanics struggle with language and culture differences in this area. But Father Aschmann said the Hispanic parishioners have taken ownership of their adopted church community, nevertheless.

More than 500 Hispanic families worship regularly at St. Joseph's, while about 160 Anglo families are registered.

Explosive growth in the community prompted the need to make plans for a new, larger church building. The present church has been a staple of St. Joseph's six-acre site since 1949, but especially in the past few years, the congregation outgrew the smallish white building.

The parish hall now serves the parishioners as a temporary worship space. Still, parishioners spill out onto the lawn.

An architect's blueprints now show plans for a new, 700-seat church. Construction could start in September.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Joe Ordoyne, left, and Matt Marbois take turns at the shovels as Bishop William G. Curlin looks on during a groundbreaking ceremony at St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis. Ordoyne and Marbois are members of the church's building commission.

"There is just no more room for us," said Father Aschmann. "We will begin to build a church very quickly, and everybody is so excited that we can do something like this. We are not a rich area, but we are a place that is very much united."

Looking ahead

"You're celebrating a marvelous event," said Bishop Curlin during his homily. "You're committing yourselves to building a house of the Lord."

With those words, Bishop Curlin commissioned the people of St. Joseph Church to look ahead with a determined sense of bringing Christ to all they encounter — to truly build the church of God.

"We have to say to ourselves, 'The church is not a building. The church is God's holy people.' You are the church," he said. "You are the ones who take the love of Jesus and you show it in your daily life by the way that you treat one another, by the way you help the poor, by the way you visit the sick and comfort the dying.

"The house that we build is what we build with our hearts, not just our hands ... It's a wonderful gift that you give to Jesus, that you would build with your hands and your hearts a worthy place to celebrate his presence." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Find inspiring images in Bible, Vatican official tells filmmakers

CANNES, France (CNS) — Filmmakers looking for great ideas for images and stories need look no further than their Bibles, said the president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Celebrating the opening Mass at the 53rd Cannes Film Festival May 14, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley told festival participants that "images can inspire, guide, strengthen and console."

On a personal level, filmmakers should be able to grasp and be edified by "the beautiful images presented by Jesus," the archbishop said in his homily.

"But, in their creativity," they also should find ways to present the biblical images "to those seeking the way, the truth and the life and a vision which is truly and ultimately beatific," Archbishop Foley said at the Mass during the May 10-21 festival.

Filmmakers and others who deal with images daily should have a special appreciation for the Bible, especially the Gospel stories and parables, the archbishop said.

Action, controversy, the unexpected, joy and pain are all presented in the Bible's pages with images accessible to all, yet rich enough to challenge.

"While everything is not completely clear to us now and while we see only with the eyes of faith, everything will be perfectly clear to us, and we shall see God as he is," Archbishop Foley said.

"This vision, which we call 'beatific,'" points to the reality that God is "supremely beautiful," more beautiful than any created image can be, he said.

"We need the simplicity, the innocence and the faith of children to see a vision which is denied to those who have become blinded by sin," the archbishop said. ▼

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'Third secret' to be published; pope links it to assassination attempt

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, ordering the publication of the so-called "third secret of Fatima," believes part of it was a direct reference to the 1981 attempt on his life, said the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

Cardinal Sodano, the highest-ranking official of the Roman Curia, said May 13 that the almost 80-year-old pope asked him to make "the solemn announcement" of the secret's contents at the end of the pope's Mass in Fatima, 19 years to the day after the assassination attempt.

The message was written down in 1943 by Sister Lucia dos Santos, the only surviving Fatima visionary, and placed in a wax-sealed envelope. She gave it to her bishop who sent it, unopened, to the Vatican, where it remained secret except to the popes and a few close aides.

Cardinal Sodano told an estimated 600,000 people at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima that the third part of the message revealed to the three shepherd children in 1917 "concerns, above all, the war waged by atheist systems against the church and Christians."

But, it also includes reference to the ministry and suffering of a "bishop clothed in white," whom the children believed was the pope, Cardinal Sodano said.

The cardinal said the pope had directed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to prepare a commentary to help people understand the message, then to make the message and the commentary public.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters on the papal flight back to Rome May 13 that publication was expected "within days, perhaps a week."

In the message, Cardinal Sodano said, as the pope "makes his way with great effort toward the Cross amid the corpses of those who were martyred — bishops, priests, men and women religious and many lay persons — he, too, falls to the ground, apparently dead under a burst of gunfire."

Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, tried to assassinate the pope in St. Peter's Square May 13, 1981.

Cardinal Sodano said that after the shooting "it appeared evident to His Holiness that it was 'a motherly hand which guided the bullet's path,'" saving the pope's life.

In his homily during the beatification Mass at Fatima, Pope John Paul renewed his thanks to God and to Our Lady of Fatima for saving his life, and he hinted at what Cardinal Sodano would reveal an hour later.

Speaking about the world wars, Nazi concentration camps, Soviet gulags, abortion and other 20th century "horrors," the pope said, "here in Fatima ... these times of tribulation were foretold, and Our Lady asked for prayer and penance to abbreviate them."

Cardinal Sodano said that Sister Lucia — whom the pope met with privately before the Mass to beatify her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco — confirmed the Vatican's interpretation.

Navarro-Valls said that several weeks before the beatification, Sister Lucia was informed of the pope's decision to reveal the secret and was asked to review the Vatican's interpretation of the message.

The spokesman would not say whom the pope sent to see Sister Lucia at the Carmelite cloister in Coimbra.

Navarro-Valls also said the pope had several reasons for delegating the announcement to Cardinal Sodano in addition to the fact that the cardinal is his top aide.

First, he said, it is because the pope is a subject in the messages and, second, "because it concerns a private revelation, which is different from a biblical revelation."

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" explains that through Scripture and in Christ, in a full and exceptional way, God has revealed everything that is essential for faith.

However, it says, "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called private revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history."

Cardinal Sodano said the message would be published only with the commentary because "the text contains a prophetic vision similar to those found in Sacred Scripture, which do not describe with photographic clarity the details of future events," and, therefore, require an interpretation.

In announcing the planned publication, the cardinal told the crowd the pope came to Fatima to beatify the two children, but also to renew his thanks to Our Lady of Fatima "for her protection during these years of his papacy."

"This protection seems also to be linked to the so-called 'third part' of the secret of Fatima," he said.

In the late 1930s, Sister Lucia made public the first two parts of the messages from Mary, which the children kept secret.

The first two parts included the vision of hell shown to the children, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, including over Russia if the country were consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

In interviews after the announcement, Cardinal Sodano said the pope had been planning to reveal the secret "for some time. It was a matter of finding an opportune occasion. And that came with the beatification.

"But it is also a decision tied to the closing of the millennium, to the century just passed, a century full of suffering and tribulation," the cardinal told reporters.

In his public announcement, Cardinal Sodano said the pope wanted the message published because prayers for conversion and for divine assistance in responding to threats against the Christian faith are still necessary.

"The successive events of 1989 led, both in the Soviet Union and in a number of countries of Eastern Europe, to the fall of the communist regime which promoted atheism," he said.

"For this, too, His Holiness offers heartfelt thanks to the most holy Virgin," the cardinal said.

"Even if the events to which the third part of the Secret of Fatima refers now seem part of the past, Our Lady's call to conversion and penance, issued at the beginning of the 20th century, remains timely and urgent today," Cardinal Sodano said. ▼

CNS FILE PHOTO

Pope John Paul II is helped by aides after being shot in St. Peter's Square May 13, 1981. Following the beatification of two of the Fatima visionaries May 13, a Vatican official revealed the so-called third secret of Fatima. Cardinal Angelo Sodano said the pope believes it refers to the attempt on his life and the church's struggle against communism.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Children greet Pope John Paul II at the shrine at Fatima, Portugal, May 12 upon his arrival for the beatification of two young Fatima visionaries.

Cardinal Sodano told an estimated 600,000 people at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima that the third part of the message revealed to the three shepherd children in 1917 "concerns, above all, the war waged by atheist systems against the church and Christians." But, it also includes reference to the ministry and suffering of a "bishop clothed in white," whom the children believed was the pope, Cardinal Sodano said.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A nun assists pilgrims kneeling before the shrine at Fatima May 11, prior to the visit of Pope John Paul II. The pope was to beatify two of three visionaries visited six times by the Virgin Mary there in 1917.

Pope, in Fatima, beatifies children, has aide announce "Third Secret"

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) — On the 19th anniversary of the attempt to assassinate him, Pope John Paul II listened as his top aide announced the pope's decision to reveal the so-called "third secret of Fatima."

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, told an estimated 600,000 people gathered in Fatima May 13 that the pope believes the secret refers to the assassination attempt and to the church's struggle against communism.

Pope John Paul had just finished celebrating Mass for the beatification of Jacinta and Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917.

During his homily, he once again thanked Our Lady of Fatima for saving his life when he was shot May 13, 1981, and he spoke of the "horrors" of the 20th century, which he said were foretold by Mary in the Fatima messages.

In making the announcement about the secret, Cardinal Sodano said it "concerns, above all, the war waged by atheist systems against the church and Christians."

But it also refers to the ministry and suffering of a "bishop clothed in white," whom the children believed was the pope, Cardinal Sodano said.

The cardinal said that in the secret, as the pope "makes his way with great effort toward the Cross amid the corpses of those who were martyred — bishops, priests, men and women religious and many lay persons — he, too, falls to the ground, apparently dead under a burst of gunfire."

Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, tried to assassinate the pope in St. Peter's Square on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima in 1981.

Cardinal Sodano said that after the shooting "it appeared evident to His Holiness that it was 'a motherly hand which guided the bullet's path,'" saving the pope's life.

Pope John Paul has directed the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to prepare a commentary to help people understand the message, then to make the message and the commentary public, the cardinal said.

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, told reporters on the papal flight back to Rome May 13 that publication was expected "within days, perhaps a week."

In his Mass homily, Pope John Paul said the Fatima children demonstrated how "little ones" may be able to grasp important truths more quickly than their elders.

In the course of the 20th century, the pope said, thousands and thousands of people died in the struggle between good and evil.

"My thoughts go to the horrors of the two 'great wars' and those of other wars in many parts of the world, to the concentration and extermination camps, the gulags, ethnic cleansing and persecutions, terrorism, kidnapping, drugs, the attacks on the unborn and on the family," he said.

In Mary's message at Fatima, the pope said, "these times of tribulation were foretold, and Our Lady asked for prayers and penance to abbreviate them."

"Today I want to thank heaven for the strength of the testimony" given by Jacinta and Francisco, he said.

"And, once again, I want to celebrate the Lord's goodness to me, when, seriously struck that May 13, 1981, I was saved from death," Pope John Paul said.

"I express my recognition also to Blessed Jacinta for her sacrifices and prayers for the Holy Father, whom she had seen suffer much," the pope said, referring to part of the Fatima message.

As a sign of his gratitude to Mary, the pope sent one of the bullets used in the assassination attempt to Fatima. It is now embedded in the crown on the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the shrine.

Arriving in Fatima May 12, the pope knelt in prayer near the statue before leading a brief prayer service.

Approaching the statue, he left a small red box and an envelope at Mary's feet. The box contained the gold ring that the late Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski of Warsaw gave him shortly after his election as pope.

The cardinal had told the pope that he would lead the church into the third millennium.

Italian and Portuguese newspaper and television reports were filled with speculation that the letter the pope left spoke of his resignation now that he had led the church into the Holy Year 2000.

Navarro-Valls, the papal spokesman, said the reports were "150 percent" wrong; the letter simply explains the history of the ring and its personal significance to the pope.

The ring, he said, "is one of the most precious things the Holy Father owns. The pope was trying to think of what to give Our Lady, and he decided on this precious ring. Any other interpretation is without foundation."

But the pope also received a special gift at Fatima. Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, who along with her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco, saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, gave the pope 300 rosaries she had made.

The pope met privately with Sister Lucia in the basilica at the Fatima shrine before the beatification Mass.

Pope John Paul asked Sister Lucia how old she is, Navarro-Valls said. When the nun replied, "93," they both smiled.

As she sat by Francisco's tomb waiting for the pope, Sister Lucia responded briefly to reporters' questions. She said she was "very happy" that her cousins were being beatified.

Already informed of the pope's decision to reveal the secret, which she had written down in 1943 and placed in a wax-sealed envelope, Sister Lucia said, "It is a day of glory for God and for Our Lady."

She said the only thing she had to tell the world was: "Try to be faithful to God and thankful for his graces."

During the beatification Mass, the pope asked children to try to be like Jacinta and Francisco in listening to Mary and following her to Jesus.

Dozens of children in the crowd were dressed in costumes to look like the beatification photographs of Jacinta and Francisco — complete with dark scarves for the girls and floppy berets for the boys.

"Our Lady needs each of you to console Jesus, who is sad because of the injustices they do to him," he said. "She needs your prayers and your sacrifices for sinners."

Pope John Paul said that by listening to Mary, the newly beatified "reached the summit of perfection in a short time."

The pope said Francisco was preoccupied with Jesus being sad because of sinners. The boy's only desire was "to console Jesus and make him happy."

"Little Jacinta shared and lived this affliction of Our Lady," that is, Mary's worry for sinners who would end up in hell, the pope said. "All the mortifications and penances seemed a small price to her to save sinners."

The children prayed often, gave their lunches to poor children and wore rough ropes around their thighs in order to offer their sacrifices to Mary. And once people started hearing about the apparitions, the children endured harsh questioning at the hands of church and civil authorities, the doubts of their parents and the constant attention of the curious.

Francisco died in 1919 at the age of 10. Jacinta died shortly before her 10th birthday in 1920. With millions of Europeans, they were victims of the Spanish flu epidemic. ▼

CNS FILE PHOTO

Jacinta and Francisco Marto are pictured with their cousin Lucia dos Santos (right) in a file photo taken around the time of the 1917 apparitions of Mary at Fatima, Portugal. The Marto children died young. Lucia, a Carmelite nun, is still living.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, 93, smiles as she waits to meet with Pope John Paul II in Fatima, Portugal, May 13. She and her beatified cousins — Francisco and Jacinta Marto — witnessed six visions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 at Fatima.

Book Review

"Pope Fiction" answers myths and misconceptions about the papacy

REVIEWED BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

If playing Scripture-citation hockey with fundamentalists is your idea of a good time, "Pope Fiction" was written for you.

Patrick Madrid, editor-in-chief of the Catholic apologetics magazine Envoy, has compiled detailed "answers to 30 myths and misconceptions about the papacy," as the subtitle reads.

Many of the chapters provide highly specific rebuttals of Scripture-based claims put forth by those who insist the Catholic Church misinterpreted the Bible in establishing the papacy. For instance, one chapter devotes 13 pages to analyzing the origins and possible interpretations of the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew terms used in Matthew 16:18 with the phrase, "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

"Pope Fiction"
By Peter Madrid
Basilica Press (San Diego, 1999)
338 pp., $14.99.

Most American Catholics don't find themselves consumed by the quandary of whether the word Jesus used for "rock" was more accurately reported in Greek Scriptures as "petros," meaning "small rock," or "petras," meaning "large rock," and whether Matthew actually wrote in Greek or Aramaic.

Yet that's the kind of debate that Madrid relishes in these chapters, where he attempts to provide explanations nonscholars can use to answer some of the favorite Scripture-thumping arguments against the papacy.

There have been plenty of scholarly discussions on the scriptural foundations of the church. For quick reference, the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" explains this core teaching and refers to its theological basis. But for contemporary Catholics without the time or energy to read the work of theologians or who want a little more thorough explanation than the sections on church structure in the catechism, Madrid provides a middle ground.

For those who don't get involved in debates about the church with fundamentalists, these sections of "Pope Fiction" might provide interesting background that you missed while sleeping through ninth-grade religion classes. Others will find Madrid's dissection of anti-Catholic treatises — like the numerological argument that the pope's official Latin title adds up to the satanic number 666 — to be condescending and tiresome.

This particular chapter does include an interesting explanation of the truth behind an argument against the church used by some Seventh-day Adventists. But in getting there, Madrid resorts to a smirking, insulting tone that pervades his book.

"Alas, if only this gentleman's Latin were as good as his imagination," he says in countering one Adventist writer.

That's an unfortunate side-effect of Madrid's attempt to use a light, breezy tone to make his material appealing. Amid helpful discussions of topics like whether there was a "Pope Joan," and the origins of the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition, Madrid crosses the line between a light tone and condescending pompousness. His explanations may be accurate, but it's hard to believe many people will be convinced of that when he takes such glee in being insulting while debunking their beliefs.

Also, at times, Madrid is so intent on explaining some of the darker chapters of church history that he comes across as justifying horrific actions. He notes, for instance, that the executions carried out during the Inquisition were not at the hands of the church authorities themselves, but by the civil government, and that the actual number executions was arguably exaggerated — as if either explanation makes the events less dubious.

It does help to have someone provide an explanation of these parts of the church's history, but readers of "Pope Fiction" should be wary of Madrid's belittling approach. As his magazine, Envoy, is fond of pointing out, apologetics doesn't have to be dry and academic. But perhaps a book aimed at a general audience also should be more careful about using gloating as a tool for evangelization. ▼

Zapor covers federal government issues for Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

May 7, Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle B Readings:
1) Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-9
2) 1 John 2:1-5a
3) Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Peace. Terror. Doubt. Joy. Disbelief. Wonder. "Mixed feelings" hardly describes the dizzying roller coaster of emotion that rocketed the disciples in this week's Gospel from the stomach-churning descent into doubt to the neck-snapping curve around the edges of fear, to the awe-inspiring pinnacle of joy which was their encounter with the Easter Jesus.

I used to imagine, as a child, what I would do if the Lord appeared to me. I pictured myself happy, eager to display my virtuous deeds like some vain Boy Scout showing off a particularly impressive array of merit badges.

I imagined Jesus smiling kindly at me. And though I knew it wasn't likely — I'd never seen it in pious pictures or heard of it at home or church — I harbored the hope that, if I kept being a good boy, there might be a pony in my future soon. I did not imagine mixed feelings.

Now, with many more miles on my heart and soul, with flesh that's been bruised a time or two, and bones that sometimes creak and ache for no good reason, I find the picture of that emotionally volatile scene in the Upper Room compelling and real.

The fact is that when things have gone disastrously awry, when someone we love has been brutally hurt, and our hopes have been dashed and our shallowness and inconstancy mercilessly revealed, the unexpected arrival of the wounded loved one is bound to provoke a storm of emotion.

The good news is that, having failed our friend, our friend does not fail us. Patient, persistent forgiveness heals us of our fear and empowers us to be truer, more compassionate, more willing to risk our comfort and safety in the service of demonstrating not our brittle virtue, but the mercy of God.

Questions:
What part of the Gospel message do you occasionally hear with mixed emotions? What's one concrete way you can testify to the power of forgiveness?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 21 - 27, 2000

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Acts 9:26-31, 1 John 3:18-24, John 15:1-8; **Monday**, Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday**, Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday**, Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday**, Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (St. Philip Neri)**, Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (St. Augustine of Canterbury)**, Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

Readings for the week of May 28 - June 3, 2000

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17; **Monday**, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday**, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday (Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Thursday (Ascension of Our Lord)**, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Mark 16:15-20; **Friday (St. Marcellinus, St. Peter)**, Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)**, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

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Ethan Hawke and Diane Venora star in a modern adaptation of "Hamlet."

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Hamlet" (Miramax)

Pretentious adaptation of the Bard's masterpiece set in the greedy, consumerist world of 21st-century New York City in which the country of Denmark is replaced by the "Denmark Corp." and the story's hero (Ethan Hawke) is a mopey aspiring filmmaker. Director Michael Almereyda ambitiously fuses the contemporary world with classic Shakespearean dialogue and cuts the piece to a lean two hours, but the edgy feel of the modern world is lost in crowded staging and poor performances. Some violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Battlefield Earth" (Warner Bros.)

Chaotic post-apocalyptic tale set on Earth in 3000 A.D. pits enslaved cavemen-like humans (led by Barry Pepper) against an occupying alien race personified by their corrupt security head (John Travolta). Director Roger Christian's virtually unwatchable adaptation of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's 1982 sci-fi novel has no particular spiritual dimension in its silly jumble of one-dimensional characters in muddled action sequences. Much stylized violence, explosive mayhem and brief sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

"Held Up" (Trimark)

Pointless comedy in which a Chicago man (Jamie Foxx) who, after being dumped by his fiancee (Nia Long) while vacationing in the Grand Canyon, is stranded in a desert convenience store and gets caught in the middle of a stick-up. As directed by Steve Rash, the tedious film's few funny moments are overshadowed by an absurd plot and vapid, predictable gags. A few sexual references, brief violence and intermittent crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

Photographer Eastman profiled in PBS special

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The man who put cameras in the hands of the common man is profiled in "The Wizard of Photography," airing Monday, May 22, 9-10 p.m. EDT on PBS.

From age 3, George Eastman was fascinated with photography. But at 23, when he bought his first professional camera in 1877, he found it a bulky affair requiring fragile glass wet plates, a heavy tripod and cumbersome paraphernalia far from user-friendly.

Upon hearing British photographers were working on a dry-plate process, high-school dropout Eastman turned into an amateur chemist until he developed his own process and opened a dry plate factory in Rochester, N.Y. Not one to rest on his laurels, Eastman moved onto a bolder innovation: flexible, emulsion-coated paper film on a roll holder that he hoped would render the heavy glass plates obsolete.

When professional photographers found the film inferior, his invention was jeopardized, so Eastman decided his market should be ordinary folk who wouldn't be as picky — but would be delighted to take their own photos. The $25 Kodak camera with a 100-picture capacity debuted in 1888, although the cost was still too expensive for the average family.

Eastman's suspicious and demanding personality did not endear him to his factory employees, whose bathroom breaks he monitored. Devoted to his mother, he never married and was uncomfortable in social situations.

"The Wizard of Photography"
May 22, 9-10 p.m. EDT
on PBS

Setbacks and an economic depression nearly put him out of business, but in 1900 Eastman released the Kodak Brownie camera. At an affordable $1 purchase price, its success made him a millionaire and gave the country its most popular hobby.

As written, produced and directed by James A. DeVinney, Eastman proves much less fascinating than his innovations. Toward the end he began to give away some of his vast personal fortune before a painful illness prompted him to take his own life at age 72.

Eastman may have been an extraordinary entrepreneur but his legacy is really how his inventions enabled individuals to capture a moment in time in their own personal histories forever. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV programs of note — week of May 21

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of May 21:

Tuesday, May 23, 10-11 p.m. EDT (PBS) "The Battle Over School Choice." A "Frontline" documentary about the hot-button issue of school vouchers and whether public funds should be used to pay for private or parochial schools.

Wednesday, May 24, 8-9 p.m. EDT (CBS) "When Seconds Count: How to Survive a Disaster." Special shows clips of past catastrophes and offers tips on how to behave in a life-saving manner in the moments after such tragedies as a plane crash, a tornado or an inferno. Parental advice is also offered on what to tell children about potential child molesters.

Wednesday, May 24, 9-11 p.m. EDT (PBS) "Sahara." A look at the sun and sand, fiery heat and titanic windstorms of the 3,000-mile desert, and the wildlife that manages to live there.

Thursday, May 25, 8-9 p.m. EDT (PBS) "Love Letter to New York." Broadway stars Tommy Tune and Sandy Duncan, the New York Yankees' Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez and other celebrities talk about different aspects of living in the five boroughs of New York.

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Unite sports with spiritual values, pope tells cyclists

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Done well, sports become a significant expression of high human values, Pope John Paul II said.

Sporting activity "is a unique expression of the best interior energies of man and his capacity to overcome difficulties and to choose goals to be gained with sacrifice, generosity and perseverance in facing the challenges of competition," the pope said.

The pope made his remarks during a meeting with the 180 cyclists participating in the 2000 Giro d'Italia, a professional bicycle race that began May 13 in Rome and concludes June 4 in Milan. Race officials, sponsors, sports journalists and past winners of the race also attended the audience.

The jubilee year presents an important opportunity for reflection on and renewal of the necessary relationship between sports and spiritual values, the pope said. He highlighted the values of "rigor in preparation, perseverance in training, knowledge of the limits of the person's abilities, fairness in competition, acceptance of precise rules, respect for one's adversary, a sense of solidarity and altruism."

Though the pope praised technical advances designed to make sports more competitive, he warned that they must be placed at the service of the athlete, not the other way around.

In the audience's front row sat Marco Pantani, 1998 winner of the Giro and the Tour de France, who was disqualified from the 1999 Italian race on allegations of using illicit performance-enhancing drugs.

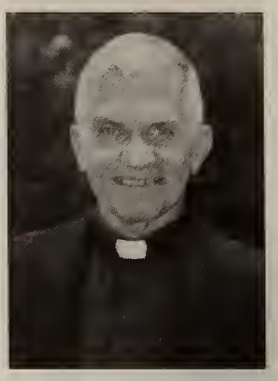
Pope offers moral support to Rwandan bishop facing death penalty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his moral support to a Rwandan bishop facing the death penalty in a trial on charges that he was an accomplice in genocide. Prosecutors in the trial of Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro, 57, asked a Rwandan court May 9 to sentence the bishop to death. Pope John Paul sent the bishop a telegram May 10 "in the face of the painful news which has reached me about your detention in prison, which has gone on already 13 months, and even more in the face of the request for capital punishment."

Pope asks young people to make time to listen to Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked young people to make time in their lives to listen to the voice of Christ and his plans for them. "I hope each one of you will know how to recognize, in the midst of the many voices of this world, that of Christ, who continues to address his call to the hearts of those who listen," the pope said May 10 during his weekly general audience. "Be generous in following him," Pope John Paul told young people at the end of the audience. "Do not be afraid of putting your energies and your enthusiasm at the service of the Gospel."

Priestly Life



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

The priest: A tool in the hand of Jesus Christ

The experience is etched deep in my memory. On Sunday, February 10, 1963, I was privileged to celebrate my first Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. It was in that parish that my faith had been nurtured and nourished over the years.

Since Cardinal Cushing, as the Ordinary of the Archdiocese, was the pastor of the Cathedral parish, he expressed a desire to preside and preach on that occasion. The words that His Eminence spoke during his homily have been with me throughout the 37 years that have unfolded since that memorable moment. I welcome this opportunity to share portions of his reflection with those to be ordained for service within this diocese as well as with each reader.

The Cardinal's initial remarks were a challenge to me as they would be to any priest. He said, "There are many ways in which spiritual writers describe a priest. Some call him an alter Christus, another Christ. My dear friends, every baptized Christian is another Christ. A baptized Christian is supposed to be a follower of Christ, a witness of Christ in the highways, by-ways and forums of the world. The priest is another Christ in the sense that he perpetuates the work of Christ. But he is not worthy of the title unless he strives to reproduce in his life, insofar as it is humanly possible to do so, the character, the image of Christ."

As Cardinal Cushing continued, he stated: "A priest is an instrument, a tool of Christ. You know what a tool is? Whether it's perfect or imperfect, new or old, stained and dark, sharp and bright, it cannot do a blessed thing of itself. But put it in the hand of a skilled craftsman, an artisan, and he can use that tool to reproduce, to create, as it were, a beautiful statue, a masterpiece or a simple table. The priest of himself can do nothing in the supernatural order unless he throws himself in the hands of the divine artisan, Jesus Christ."

The Cardinal then reminded me as well as all in the congregation, that each priest is unique. They are neither clones nor robots. He stated: "Now there are all kinds of priests. There are gifted orators, prolific writers, good administrators. There are priests who would probably be a success in many walks of life. There are priests who are very talented. There are priests who are fearless, who have tremendous courage. There are priests who are shy, aloof, quiet. You seldom, if ever, hear of them. There are priests of ordinary ability; priests who never seek the limelight, who do the best they can as living tools of Christ."

Before he concluded the homily, Cardinal Cushing stressed the importance and necessity of the priest having an active, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. He stated unhesitatingly that if the priest is to be fruitful in the fulfillment of his ministry he must strive not simply to know Christ, but to be intimate with Him. If the priest is to be a good tool in the hand of Christ, he must be converted to His Way, guided by His Truth and sustained by His Life.

As seven young men are ordained to the ministerial priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte, the message shared by Cardinal Cushing 37 years ago during the first Mass of a newly ordained are well-worth pondering.

Father James Hawker is vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

When a child suffers loss

For the past seven years, Jim Emswiler has conducted the National Conference on Loss and Transition. After his wife died more than a decade ago, he could find little help for himself and his two children in how to cope with the pain of this loss, and so he decided to do something about it. He founded the New England Center for Loss and Transition, and has worked ever since to bring professionals together to learn better how to help people, especially children, who are hurting.

This year, his keynote speaker was Ted Kennedy Jr., who lost his leg from cancer when he was 12 years old. He is the son of Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The younger Kennedy's story was riveting. He emphasized right off that his experience had been a "transforming event" that made him more compassionate. It also brought him to his life's work of promoting the disability rights movement to "enhance the dignity of all" who are in any way disabled.

He told us how back in 1973, when he was playing football, "everything that touched my leg would hurt abnormally." His pediatrician said the swelling that had developed below his knee was a calcium deposit. Before long, when the pain got excruciating, he was brought to the hospital for X-rays. The problem was cancer; his leg was removed the next day.

"When my dad told me, I was shocked and horrified. I couldn't imagine living without both my legs. I remember thinking I'd rather die. It was a tremendous loss of self-esteem. I was incredibly embarrassed about how I would look."

His family, trying to help, told him "Don't let it bother you," but it did. Kennedy, now a 38-year-old lawyer and father of two, said firmly, "Never say to a child, 'You shouldn't feel that way.' My feelings were never validated. People told me how brave I was, and paradoxically that isolated me. In the hospital my full-time job became to keep everybody cheered up.

"I was growing up in an Irish Catholic family, a culture where anger was unacceptable and sadness not allowed. The attitude was: Pull yourself up, and get over it. If I cried, I knew I'd be letting everybody down."

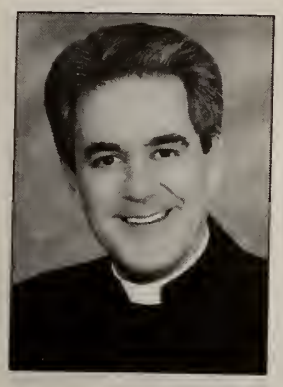
What a burden that was for a child! Kennedy says today that it took him years to "mourn his loss." Now he knows it's all right for a child to be angry over loss. "It's the weakling who keeps emotions in. They're scared. It takes incredible strength to process these feelings and emotions, and not be afraid of what others might think."

Now he works to promote "value and dignity in every life."

He also has learned the importance of acceptance. "The key to happiness is to live in the moment, to appreciate how wonderful life is, to be able to stay grateful, not to be afraid of emotions, not to intellectualize everything."

He speaks of how he "can use the Kennedy name to advance" his work for rights for the disabled, and for promoting value and dignity in every life.

"We help others by the power of example. Because of what happened to me, I became sensitized to a scope of issues. There's a tremendous amount of work to do around the world."



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Yes" — bit by bit

She lived unknown, until her murder thrust her into prominence. Cassie Bernall is the teenager many believe to be a martyr. Within a day of the Columbine High School tragedy, she was reported to have said "Yes" when asked by her killer if she believed in God.

More recently, police investigations have been published, pointing out a variety of discrepancies that suggest someone else may have actually uttered the celebrated "Yes." "Many of the kids were actually hiding under desks and hearing only bits and fragments of the conversation," one investigator explained. "It appears that exactly who they taunted, what questions were asked, and who replied what — may never be crystal clear."

Even so, Cassie's story, as recounted in her mother's best-selling book, "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," continues to inspire believers and energize Christian youth movements around the world. In her retelling, Misty Bernall courageously discloses the more radical, even darker side of Cassie's turbulent adolescence and her slow, daily struggle to get right with God.

I met Misty and her husband, Brad, at the annual Christopher Awards ceremony honoring her book. I was eager to let Misty know how much I learned from her painful account of a once deeply rebellious daughter. Misty was equally eager to make clear that Cassie's spiritual awakening was accomplished not in a single "Yes" but in the small, everyday decisions that restored her life and faith bit by bit.

Indeed, Misty Bernall knows her daughter was no saint in life — Satanism, suicide and murder threats, sneaking out at night, drugs, lies and more lies were her way of life for a time. Her parents were forced to go to extraordinary lengths to help and protect her. But after a weekend religious retreat, Cassie seemed to want to turn her whole life around.

It began with her struggle to disassociate from her old life style, while still caring for old friends. Then a cascade of choices about her attitudes and her actions — to transfer to Columbine where she could make new friends, to understand how much her parents really loved her, to resist sarcasm and meanness, to stop judging others, to relish someone else's joy and accomplishment, to get a grip on her temper and pride.

Misty explains: "Cassie died daily over the two years before her death. Her affirmation of faith in God did not come out of the blue, but out of every choice she made along the way. She answered 'Yes' many times, and with each day the 'Yes' came deeper and deeper from her heart and mind and soul. Then there was the day that she smiled - really smiled — with eyes that glinted hope and promise."

The night before she was murdered, Cassie wrote to a friend: "Honestly, I want to live completely for God. It's hard and scary, but totally worth it." That she should have learned and lived this at such a young age is, for me, the real inspiration of her story.

I believe Cassie Bernall dares us to sacrifice all for Love's sake — not as a hero or a martyr — but consistently and with conviction, in the small, everyday things that make up a life worth living.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
CNS COLUMNIST

Summer family time

It's only a matter of weeks before the kids are out of school, and the time crunch of summer begins. As the kids get older, their lives are more involved outside the family. This makes finding time for family more difficult than when they were toddlers. Nonetheless, we must put great effort in creating sacred space for our family formation in the summer.

Looking at our family calendar, ours is a formidable task. Andrew, no longer working at DePaul University, doesn't get the summer off to devote to planning family fun. Terri, now back in school, will have even less time this summer. Andréa, graduating from high school, will spend a couple of weeks in Europe before leaving for college. It looks like it will be Marty, who will be mowing lawns for a little mad money this summer, who will be the "fun-master" this summer.

Ours has been a summer family for generations. Living not far from 31st Street Beach, Andrew's family would gather there very often on summer days. They were literally beach bums who made the lakeshore their home during summer. With aunts and uncles, cousins and friends, family gatherings at the beach would sometimes extend from morning to night.

It was in the summer of 1970 that our friendship turned to romance and our love began to flower. In the summer of 1978, our Marriage Encounter experience transformed us and set us on a journey of ministry. On an open-ended camping trip in 1979, we discovered Mackinac Island, the venue of annual family summer flings ever since. In the summer of 1982 we settled into parenthood with awe and wonder. Our "Lykes on Bikes" excursions have taken us on bicycle trails, rest stops, B&Bs and camp sites that have supplied our memories with treasures that will last a lifetime. The "dog days" are magical for us. We trace the thread of grace through many summer experiences as a family.

Rarely, if ever, have we been able to plan the many awe-inspiring summer experiences. We only needed to be present, awake and cooperative. The Spirit has guided us to many wonderful family summer adventures.

So, the calendar challenge is undaunting to us. We will have to seek quality rather than quantity. The guys plan a couple of brief fishing trips. The girls will probably do some power shopping. The "Lykes on Bikes" will spend a few days on Mackinac Island. With a few evenings of burgers on the grill, our summer family time will be rich. The rest we leave to the Spirit for the experiences of awe and wonder. Our task is to be present, awake and cooperative.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of Marriage Ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Reincarnation

Q. I have a friend, a sincerely good person, who strongly believes in reincarnation. Can you suggest any arguments that would dissuade her from this belief?

A. I doubt that there are any such arguments for people who genuinely embrace this sort of belief, because it isn't one that is arrived at by logic or reasoning in our usual meaning of those words. It comes from a whole other approach to spirituality, a different perspective for viewing life, God, and such realities as death and eternity.

Reincarnation is an ancient idea, originating in Asia and integrated into Hindu thought around 600 B.C. According to this "doctrine," all living beings, from plants to human beings and even gods, go through a continuous cycle of deaths and rebirths.

By the law of "karma," which literally means action, the condition of life at each rebirth depends on the moral quality of actions in the previous life. The belief is predominant in Hinduism, Buddhism and other Eastern religions.

Today reincarnation is also a significant element in at least some major branches of the New Age movement in North America and Europe, which may be where your friend made contact with it.

As I said, since belief in reincarnation does not result from any systematic or structured theology, it is difficult to refute at that level. It is undoubtedly, however, entirely incompatible with traditional Christian and Catholic teaching.

For us Christians, death is a final, unrepeatable event, unique for every human being. As the letter to the Hebrews tells us, "It is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment" (9:27).

As we read in the Gospel story of the rich man and the poor Lazarus, between those on this earth and those who have died lies a great chasm, over which no one may cross from one side to the other (Lk 16:26).

This understanding of the conclusiveness of death has never been seriously questioned or challenged in Christianity.

Confession

Q. Is it still a law of the church that every Catholic should go to confession at least once a year, during the Easter time? I am 85 years young, and it seems to me many people do not do that.

A. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1457), all Catholics are obliged to "confess serious sins" at least once a year. In those words, the catechism repeats canon law (989) and the Introduction to the Rite of Penance (34).

In other words, the obligation for at least annual reception of the sacrament of penance, which goes back to the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, does not apply to those who are not aware of an unconfessed mortal sin.

In all these statements, the church is not imposing a new obligation for confession, but simply prescribes a time within which mortal sins should be confessed so that, if for no other reason, the Eucharist might be received.

Canon law requires Catholics to receive Communion at least once a year, during the Easter season unless a serious reason forces it to be done at another time.

Lay Ministry, from page 1

into people's lives."

He urged them to continue their studies in order to learn more about their faith and to spread that knowledge to others.

"I congratulate you on this day, and I ask God to empower you through Christ's love that you may use your gifts generously, prayerfully and joyfully for the benefit of us all," he continued.

Expressing the need for more lay ministers not only in the Diocese of Charlotte but in other dioceses across the country, the bishop referred to the recent findings from the National Catholic Parish Survey, released on May 4. The survey showed that the laity, deacons and religious with church staff positions outnumber priests by nearly two to one. Also, the number of parishes with at least one lay minister on staff has grown from 30 to 68 percent since 1982. Researchers predicted the number and importance of lay ministers in parish staffing and parish life will only continue to grow in the coming years.

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro parishioner Mary Shaw, 18, holds the record for the youngest person to have completed the lay ministry program. Shaw, who wants to become involved with campus ministry, talked about how her youth helped her while attending class.

"I was able to offer the insight of youth during class discussions. Older people are sometimes surprised by what younger people think and feel about what goes on in the church and in the world," said Shaw. "I learned a lot about church history, things I never knew, and it (the program) taught me to look inside myself and see how I fit within the whole universal church."

Elizabeth Devaney from St. Barnabas Church in Arden is a bereavement counselor who wanted to better understand herself and how her faith fits in with her own life and the lives of others.

"Lay ministry helped me to dig deeper within myself and to come to peace. It has focused me in on my belief system, and I want to use what I have learned to be of service to women and single parents," said Devaney. "I want to be of service to the church and community and to help people with their spiritual needs."

"I learned a lot about church history, things I never knew, and it (the program) taught me to look inside myself and see how I fit within the whole universal church."
— Mary Shaw

The decade-old program has graduated 510 people from all over the diocese. Participants attend all-day classes for two calendar school years on particular Saturdays during the month and can choose which classes they would like to take. The classes include: Introduction to Ministry, Introduction to Scripture, Christology, the Church and Church History, Social Ministry, Vatican II Documents, Liturgy and Sacraments and Christian Morality. These classes comprise about 100 hours of instruction. The other two church sites for the classes are St. Barnabas Church in Arden and Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

For more information about the Lay Ministry Training Program, call Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren at (704) 370-3213. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Jerry Filteau from Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Bishop William G. Curlin shakes the hand of Mary Shaw from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro as she receives her certificate of completion from the Lay Ministry Training Program at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte on May 13.

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Alumnus, wife give $1 million to Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Frank L. Johnson '71 and his wife, Linda, a 1972 graduate of Sacred Heart College, have made a $1 million unrestricted gift to Belmont Abbey College.

Citing the effect the Abbey has had on their lives and the part it has played in their success, Johnson said they are most happy to be able to make such a gift.

Johnson is president of JMS Southeast, Inc. of Statesville, NC, a company that makes thermocouples and temperature devices.

A member of the Abbey's Board of Trustees, Johnson has been very much involved with the college through the years. He has been a member of the Board of Advisors and has actively assisted the Abbey in its student recruitment efforts. Linda, as a Sacred Heart graduate, has likewise been active and supportive in Abbey affairs, from alumni gatherings to Bradley Institute functions.

"We always wanted to make a contribution to the Abbey, it's very important to us," said Johnson, who met Linda at a Greek Week event between Belmont Abbey and Sacred Heart College when she was a freshman.

Johnson majored in psychology at the Abbey and fondly remembers such teachers as Stanley Dudko, Fr. John Oetgen, O.S.B., the late Fr. Cuthbert Allen, and Jack Hanahan. His family is friends of Fr. John Bradley, a former president of Belmont Abbey College. Linda Johnson majored in primary education at Sacred Heart College and taught elementary school in Iredell County for 12 years.

The couple has two grown children: Mitch, an attorney in Charlotte; and Mary Catherine, a real estate professional in Gaston County.

Johnson was raised in Gaston County. His mother is buried in the cemetery on the Abbey grounds. "Belmont Abbey is more than a school," he said. "It's apart of our family."

Commenting on the gift, Robert Gallagher, chairman of the college's Board of Trustees, said, "I have known Frank Johnson all of my life. We grew up together. At an early age, Frank learned from his family the importance of honor, character, integrity, hard work and our Catholic faith. Linda shares those same virtues. This great gift is from their hearts. Everyone associated with our college benefits from who they are and what they do."

The gift will be used to support such initiatives as improving improving residence halls, athletic and academic facilities and the library, and other projects important to campus life. ▼

Catholic University surprises cardinal with honorary degree

By RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Students, faculty and the board of trustees of The Catholic University of America surprised Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington May 13 by presenting him with an honorary doctorate degree.

The honorary doctorate of humane letters was presented during the university's 111th annual commencement exercises. It was given to Cardinal Hickey, who as archbishop of Washington serves as university chancellor, in recognition of his "lifelong love of Catholic education."

Vincentian Father David M. O'Connell, Catholic University's president, said Cardinal Hickey was being honored in appreciation of his 54 years as a priest, his "great love for the church" and his devotion to Catholic education.

"His interest in and commitment to education (is) an enduring aspect of his life," Father O'Connell said.

Cardinal Hickey, who began studies at the university in 1942 and earned a licentiate in sacred theology there in 1946, said that he learned of the honor less than an hour before it was presented. "I guess they didn't want to give me time to prepare a long speech," he quipped.

"At my age, there are few surprises," the 79-year-old cardinal said after graduates, faculty and others at the ceremony gave him a sustained and prolonged standing ovation. "Yet, you managed to surprise me with this honorary doctorate, and you also brought me great joy."

Since 1980, when he was named archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Hickey has served as ex-officio chancellor of Catholic University and as chairman of the board of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He called his service to the university during his tenure as chancellor "a labor of love" and said he fondly recalls his time as a student there more than half a century ago.

"I treasure the memories of my professors, and I treasure the memories of the associations I made with other students," Cardinal Hickey said. "This was a good place to be. This is a good place to be, and I am proud of that."

Cardinal Hickey's "interest in and commitment to education" that Father O'Connell spoke of in presenting the award has benefited students throughout the Archdiocese of Washington.

In 1994, Cardinal Hickey established Mary of Nazareth School in Darnestown, Md., to serve the growing Catholic population of northern Montgomery County. It was the first parish elementary school built in the

See HICKEY, page 16

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Computer Teacher: K-8, for 2000-2001 at St. Leo Catholic School, 333 Springdale, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. NC certification required (or in process). Call (336) 748-8252 for application and information. Submit resume to Georgette Schraeder, principal.

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Elementary and Middle School Positions: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Assistant Principal/Teacher (Master's in Administration, practicing Catholic); Middle School teachers of Social Studies, Language Arts, Science and Math; Grades 4 and 5 teachers. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; or call (336)887-2613; or fax (336)884-1849.

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Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Music Ministry for a well-established music program. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601.

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Teachers, Campus Minister, Library/Media Director: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Math, Chemistry, English, Religion, Social Studies, Spanish, and Drama. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Also, Library/Media Director and part-time Campus Minister are needed. Call (704)543-1127.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: Computer, Music, PE, Spanish, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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In Italian film, knights embark on medieval quest for shroud

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

CAMPELLO SUL CLITUNNO, Italy (CNS) — Amid the verdant tranquillity of Italy's Umbrian hills, violent — albeit fictional — battle cries pierced the usual silence.

"Bravo, killer!" shouted the Italian film director Pupi Avati after calling a halt to the cameras.

He congratulated actor Marco Leonardi, clad in medieval chain mail and toting a sword, for a stabbing job well-done.

In "Knights of the Quest," Avati tells the story of five knights — three Italians, a Frenchman and an Englishman — who travel to Thebes, Greece, in 1271 to find the holy shroud.

With a $15 million budget, an English-speaking cast and a decidedly fast-moving, action-driven plot, the movie, due to be released in early 2001, is not typical Italian fare.

"I thought that this could be a chance to tell a story that wasn't just Italian, because this is a story that regards the West as a whole," Avati told Catholic News Service on the sidelines of the set May 11.

Produced by Antonio Avati, the director's brother, for DueA Films, and Tarak Ben Ammar and Mark Lombardo for Quinta Communications, "Knights of the Quest" continues shooting through the summer in Umbria, southern Italy and Tunisia and is expected to pick up a U.S. distributor.

With Holy Year 2000 in full swing, Avati's film seems well-timed, though the director says it was unintentional, as his idea sprang forth several years ago.

And while Pope John Paul II did not specifically mention the Crusades in his March 12 apology for sins committed by Christians through the ages, Avati said he wanted to take a critical look at the meaning of the bloody forays into the Holy Land.

"The story that I tell is set during a moment in the West in which the Crusades were becoming unpopular," he said.

"People understood that there were too many massacres," said Avati, a practicing Catholic.

Reflecting several years ago on what he terms the "dark moment" of the holy shroud's history, before accounts of its existence cropped up in the mid-1300s in France, Avati imagined the cloth's journey from the East.

"Many centuries ago, the West, in a certain way, saw in the relics of Christianity something that went beyond all else, and thus relics filled a life, an existence," the 61-year-old director said.

The shroud, commonly known today as the Shroud of Turin, is believed by many to have been Christ's burial cloth.

While in the Middle Ages, said Avati, people devoted entire lives to a quest, one single project or journey, "today our existence is filled by so many small things, not one big event."

Avati did his homework in addition to cultivating an already active imagination: He read more than 150 books on the period.

Starting with Jehan de Joinville, who chronicled the life of St. Louis IX, 13th-century king of France, and his ill-fated Crusade to the Holy Land, Avati tried to stick as close to historical truth as possible.

Costume designer Nana Cecchi, who has several medieval period films to her credit, said "Knights of the Quest" provided a fresh challenge.

"The way Pupi approaches the story is very realistic, very simple," she said after conferring with seamstresses diligently darning sackcloth tunics.

CNS PHOTO FROM DUEA FILMS

Italian director Pupi Avati, right, consults with actor Raoul Bova in the filming of "Knights of the Quest." The movie tells of a Medieval pursuit of the holy shroud, later known as the Shroud of Turin.

"There is a spiritual focus that I tried to render in the costumes, the five knights' search for their mission, which is manifested by the discovery of brotherhood among them," said Cecchi.

Though some of the knights are driven at first by commercial aims and hopes of political power, by the end of the voyage, Avati said, "they are touched by a sort of mysterious conviction that they are destined to fulfill this task."

"At a certain point, these knights discover that they are part of a design, and they ask themselves, 'Can it be possible that we have been chosen?'" he said. "It's very Gospel-like."

U.S. actor Edward Furlong, who plays a young Englishman eager for adventure, said he "got lost in the script" as soon as he picked it up.

"They're not making great epics like 'Excalibur' or 'Camelot' anymore," said Furlong, best known for his roles in "American History X" and the futuristic "Terminator 2."

"This asks questions about faith and being: being willing to die for your faith in God," he said. ▼

Hickey, from page 15

archdiocese in three decades.

In 1997, Cardinal Hickey Academy in Dunkirk was opened. Again, it was established to meet the needs of a growing Catholic population — this time in Southern Maryland's Calvert County.

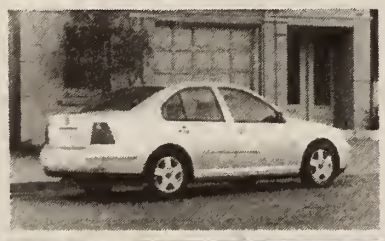
Also in 1997, the cardinal established the Center City School Consortium. An alignment of eight schools in the District of Columbia, the consortium was designed to revitalize the urban schools, providing them with upgraded school technology, expanded tuition assistance, affordable afternoon and evening programs for students and their parents, professional development for teachers, and school building improvements.

Earlier this spring, the Knights of Columbus, making a jubilee year pilgrimage to the national shrine, awarded Cardinal Hickey its highest honor, the "Gaudium et Spes" award, which included a $100,000 honorarium.

The cardinal said he would use that money to support Catholic schools in the city of Washington, especially those which are part of the Center City School Consortium. At the time, he said, it was his "determined effort" to make Catholic schools in the city be "centers of excellence and places of joy, and hope, serving as many young people as possible."

Father O'Connell, reading the honorary degree citation, praised Cardinal Hickey for being "well versed in theological disciplines," as well as "deeply committed" to the formation of priests.

After he was awarded the degree, Cardinal Hickey told the graduates, "You promise great things for the new century and for the new millennium. You have made me very happy today." ▼



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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 26, 2000
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Catholics join for Renewal Conference 2000

BY ANGELA CHANCE
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — In a spirit of praise and worship, Catholics from across the state joined May 19 and 20 to celebrate and experience the joy of the Jubilee Year 2000.

Greensboro College was the site of this year's Catholic Renewal Conference, an annual event made possible by the Catholic Renewal Service Team of the Diocese of Charlotte. The theme, befitting the year 2000, was "Living the Jubilee Year: Experiencing the Release and Fulfillment."

The conference proved to be a jubilant weekend designed to awaken and reaffirm a love for Jesus, and personified the message of this Jubilee Year, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ." Participants from all over North Carolina gathered to celebrate Mass and listen to the teachings of featured speakers, conduct prayer groups, enjoy live Christian music and pray together.

"When you come to one of these conferences, you'll leave with a spirit that is re-energized," said Father Ray Berg of Brevard, spiritual director of this year's Renewal Team and a retired diocesan priest. "They really help to get people more enthusiastic about our faith."

Father Berg presided at the Mass and Benediction on Saturday and delivered an inspiring homily that focused on the importance of being present in mind and heart while attending Mass, as well as in everyday life.

Featured conference speakers included Brent Heiser, president of Good

SEE RENEWAL, PAGE 5

PHOTO BY ANGELA CHANCE

Frank Dressel of Winston-Salem, pictured center, lifts his hands in worship and prayer during the Catholic Renewal Conference May 20 in Greensboro. The conference brought Catholics together to celebrate the joy of the jubilee year.

Opening up to Christ

Diocesan Support Appeal funds highest ever

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners across the diocese opened their hearts and spirits to offer their support of this year's Diocesan Support Appeal. This year's jubilee theme, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ," was, in part, a reminder to people to commit to stewardship. Because of that generosity, the goal has been surpassed by the highest margin of the last 13 years of the appeal.

As of May 1, the target goal of $3,140,000 was exceeded by over 25 percent with 66 parishes or missions over their own goals. The total as of May 23 was $3,938,450. Five parishes were within 5 percent of their goals, and overall, a total of 19,842 donors thus far have given to help fund the 35 ministries that are supported by the DSA.

The main areas of focus include Catholic Social Services, Multicultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and Vocations. The goal is based on the yearly budgets of these ministries, not on the goal from the year before.

Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development and director of the DSA, attributes the high numbers to three main factors: "Informal evaluations from some parishes indicate that this year's video spoke to more people about the mission of the DSA, and the growth of the diocese also had much to do with the higher numbers. Also, more people embracing stewardship as a part of their spiritual lives," explained Rohrman. "We are still experiencing a great deal of growth, and as a result, the appeal itself has more donors and churches going over assessed target goals."

Churches that surpass their

SEE DSA FUNDS, PAGE 5

Purgatory's pain is separation from God, says Jesuit magazine

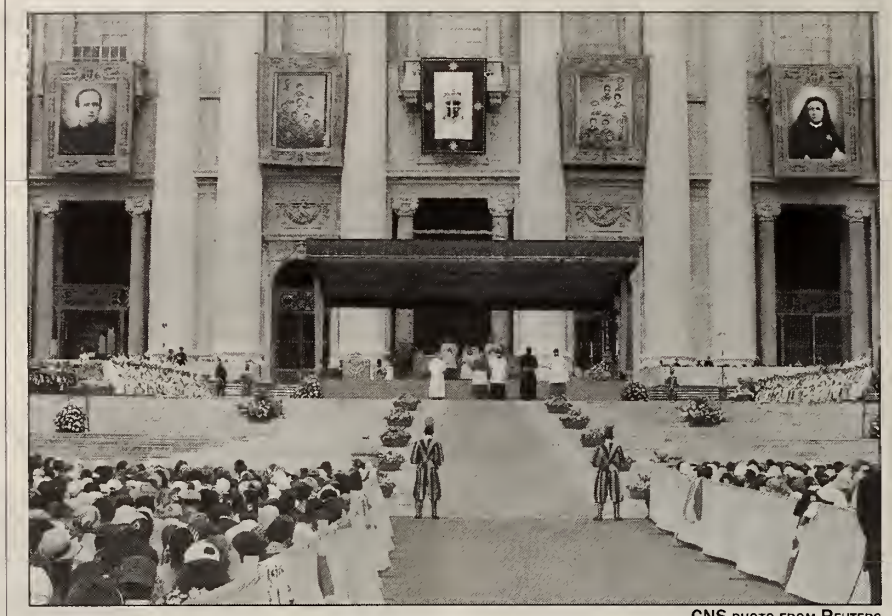
ROME (CNS) — Most Christians can expect to suffer in purgatory, but the pain will be more from separation than fiery flames, a Jesuit magazine said. In contrast with centuries of "grotesque" tales describing purgatory as a fetid underworld populated by demons, purgatory is not a place but a condition or state of being, the article said. And despite the recent attention on indulgences during the Holy Year, few Christians can expect to go straight to heaven without a period of purification in purgatory, it said. The article was published May 20 by La Civilta Cattolica (Catholic Civilization), a magazine whose contents are reviewed in advance by the Vatican.

SOA foes organize new efforts to fight plan to reorganize school

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After a narrow House vote to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas failed May 18, organizers planned new demonstrations and rallies over a Pentagon plan to rename and reorganize the training program for Latin American militaries. Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, who began the campaign to close the school a decade ago, said even if Congress approves the reorganization plan, SOA Watch would continue to go after the new program because he said the change is only a cosmetic one.

Bill to end Cuban food, medicine embargo advances

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An effort to lift the 40-year-old U.S. embargo prohibiting sales of food and medicine to Cuba has picked up strength and bipartisan support, say its congressional sponsors. The House and Senate appropriations committees have approved language in the agriculture budget bills that would require a congressional vote before restrictions could be imposed on the sales of food or medicine to other countries. Church leaders from Pope John Paul II to the bishops of the United States and Cuba have pressed to end the embargo, saying it only makes life worse for the poor people and has no apparent weakening effect on its communist government.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Images of Mexican saints hang from St. Peter's
Tapestries depicting 27 new Mexican saints hang from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica May 21 during their canonization ceremony. The tapestries in the center show 25 martyrs who died in Mexico's anti-Catholic persecution at the start of the 20th century. On the sides are images of Father Jose Maria de Yermo Parres and Sister Maria de Jesus Sacramentado Venegas, founders of religious orders.

Church leaders back forum on immigrant workers' rights

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles was among dozens of community leaders and labor union representatives gathered May 10 to support an upcoming AFL-CIO Immigrant Workers' Rights Forum. In February, the AFL-CIO Executive Council unanimously passed an initiative calling for reforms to strengthen workplace rights of immigrants through a repeal of employer sanctions, a new blanket amnesty program to legalize the immigration status of undocumented workers already in this country, and other similar modifications.

Freeze in U.S. aid to Haiti suspends funds for CRS, other agencies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Suspension of millions of dollars in U.S. government aid to Haiti has frozen funding for some Catholic Relief Services work in schools and has forced other U.S. aid agencies to close down projects, said the CRS country representative to Haiti. The money frozen is "part of about $4.75 million frozen for education," said Chris Hennemeyer, country representative for CRS, in a May 15 interview in Washington. In mid-March, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ordered more than $30 million in U.S. aid to Haiti suspended after the Haitian government fined the U.S.-owned Rice Corp. of Haiti $1.4 million for allegedly evading customs duties and smuggling rice into the country.

Catholic-Polish National Catholic dialogue held

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At their spring meeting members of the Polish National Catholic-Roman Catholic Dialogue discussed sacramental sharing and Petrine ministry and primacy. They also talked about reconciliation among divided Christians, developments in the Old Catholic churches regarding the ordination of women, and a recent German Catholic-Old Catholic agreement on the reception of clergy from one church into the service of the other. The meeting, hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Scranton, Pa., was held at the diocesan chancery May 10-11.

Encuentro to explore 'new vision' for multicultural church

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala, national chairman of Encuentro 2000, said part of the focus of the national jubilee event is to "create a new vision" for the future of the Catholic Church. Encuentro 2000 is set for July 6-9 in Los Angeles. "How do we, as a church, acknowledge the diversity and gifts offered by an increasingly diverse church?" Bishop Zavala said in an interview with The Tidings, Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. "One goal of Encuentro 2000 is to have different ethnic groups dialogue with one another and share stories, so each can get to know who the other is, otherwise we can never come together."

Church in western Timor reports ongoing refugee intimidation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Priests assisting people in western Timor's refugee camps say the "vast majority" want to return to East Timor, but intimidation by pro-Indonesia militias is keeping them there, said a U.S. human rights activist. Karen Orenstein of the Washington-based East Timor Action Network was co-leader of a delegation of congressional staffers, human rights activists, journalists and filmmaker John Sayles that made a weeklong fact-finding visit to Indonesia, western Timor and East Timor in late April. "In some areas, the refugee population outnumbers the indigenous community," said Orenstein. "The best solution to the refugee crisis, repeatedly voiced by humanitarian aid workers, is repatriation. The only way to increase the rate of repatriation is to remove militia intimidation and control of the camps."

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 30 — 7:30 pm
Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop
McGuinness Memorial High School
Holy Family, Clemmons
May 31 — 7 pm Confirmation
Holy Infant, Reidsville
June 1— 7:30 pm Mass
Ascension Thursday
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
June 3 — 11 am Ordination
St. Matthew, Charlotte
June 4 — 2 pm Confirmation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
June 6 — 7 pm Confirmation
Queen of the Apostles, Belmont
June 7 — 7 pm Confirmation
St. Joseph, Asheboro
June 8 — 7:30 pm
CCHS Baccalaureate Mass and graduation
St. Matthew, Charlotte
June 9 — 7 pm Confirmation
St. Barnabas, Arden

Diocesan planner

June

2 ASHEVILLE — Catholic Association of Family Educators (C.A.F.E), Western North Carolina's Catholic homeschool support group, is having an "end of the year" picnic and potluck at CP&L Park this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call Denise Vish at (828) 645-6990 or Sheryl Oligny at (828) 298-0336.

3 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is sponsoring a "Grand Garage Sale" today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Family Center. The proceeds of the sale are being donated to the Cristo Rey Building Fund. To donate or to find out more about the sale, call Anne Harrison, chairperson, at (336) 712-4445 from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or e-mail A2harrison@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — The Annual Right to Life Yard Sale, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Councils 939 and 11101, is being held at St. Pius X School at the corner of Cornwallis and Elm Streets. The sale begins at 8 p.m., and the proceeds are being used to fund Right to Life programs. For large item pick-ups, other information or to donate goods, call Marshal Perry at (336) 288-6091.

4 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church's Respect for Life rosary is being said in front of Our Lady's Grotto at 3016 Providence Rd. at 3 p.m. If rain should occur, then the rosary will be prayed in the daily chapel. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — In recognition of National Cancer Survivors' Day, St. Gabriel Church, St. Matthew Church and St. Vincent de Paul Church members invite all cancer survivors, caregivers, family and friends to attend Mass and to participate in anointing of the sick at 5:30 p.m. to-

Speaker discusses link between evangelization and catechesis

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Diocesan faith formation and religion teachers spent the day at the Catholic Conference Center May 18 listening to a discussion of the impact of evangelization on catechesis in the past few years. With the "General Directory for Catechesis" as a guide, Norbertine Father Alfred McBride, like a performer, interweaved song, prayer and humor into his presentation, "Evangelizing Catechesis."

The main idea of the meeting was for teachers to receive a better understanding of how they can spread the message of Jesus to their students and enable the children to share that knowledge with others through catechesis, said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of programs for the Office of Faith Formation.

"This is important because it brings us back to our roots," said Villapando. "The reason for our being here is to share the Good News, and presentations such as Father McBride's can allow us to recover the full meaning of catechesis."

Father McBride, professor of theology and homiletics at Pope John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass., and author of more than 30 books, introduced his seven "essential points of evangelizing" to the participants and explained that evangelization and catechesis are interrelated.

Father McBride defined "evangelization" as a "proclamation of the creative and providential work of the Father, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and the saving work of the Holy Spirit through the Church and the sacraments."

"Evangelizing is always an interpersonal relationship and involves saying 'yes' to Jesus Christ, his salvation, his kingdom, while catechesis is saying 'yes' to the meaning of Christ's deeds, message and the Church," explained Father McBride.

Father McBride used the "General Directory for Catechesis" as one of the reference documents for his presentation. The GDC comes from Rome and serves as a guide for pastors and bishops for catechetical ministry.

The focus of the new directory is evangelization because in order to catechize, evangelization has to take place at every stage of development and should be the framework for the passing on of faith to students, explained Marylin Kravatz, Southern Region coordinator for faith formation.

"Catechesis isn't just a process of memorizing and learning. The person being catechized must also be evangelized and guided toward a relationship with Jesus, which is a two-way street between head and heart," said Kravatz.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Norbertine Father Alfred McBride speaks with Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry, at a gathering of parish catechetical leaders at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory on May 18.

Father McBride said, "I would like for today's participants to gain a sense of hope that this is an exciting and beautiful new way to advance our faith to others. This serves as an example of how to combine evangelization with their work in religious education as catechists."

Elizabeth Girton, director of religious education at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, said that she and the other faith formation staff members at the basilica have already implemented some of Father McBride's methods into their program and that she gained further insight from the presenter.

"Father McBride helped me to see how I can incorporate some of his ideas into my ministry. Instead of trying to get people to understand my viewpoint, I have to see where they are first, and together we can have a dialogue about living out Christ's message to the fullest," said Girton.

Joanna Jackson is going to look into developing family catechesis at her parish using the seven essential points of evangelization as a guide. "Father McBride was very specific and had good applications. I liked the way he went from evangelization to catechesis and his stress on the building of community," said Jackson, director of religious education at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. "I also liked his sense of humor," she added with a smile.

"I'm so grateful to Father McBride for having been with us today," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education. "He is recognized nationally not only as a scholar but as a devoted disciple and witness of the Lord. The vision of the bond between catechesis and evangelization he shared with the parish catechetical leaders is a lived experience in his life." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Jubilee Days for June

June 4	Jubilee of Journalists/Media/Communications
June 11	Pentecost Sunday Day of Prayer for Collaboration Among Religions
June 18	Jubilee of Fathers
June 18-25	International Eucharistic Congress — Rome

day at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. For more information, call Bob Poffenbarger Sr. with the National Cancer Day Foundation at (704) 553-7000 or e-mail Rjpoffsr@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — A special reception, sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization, is being held for Mercy Sister Paulette Williams who is leaving her job as principal of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS) to begin a new ministry with the Sisters of Mercy. The reception takes place from 1-3 p.m. at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. For more information, call Vicki Britton at (704) 365-0312.

5 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is having its cancer support group meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the reception room of the activity center. All cancer survivors, families and friends are invited to attend. For more information or registration, call Bob Poffenbarger Sr. at (704) 553-7000.

CLEMMONS — There is a charismatic Mass being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

6 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is having its cancer support group meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building. All cancer survivors, families and friends are invited to attend. For more information or registration, call Bob Poffenbarger Sr. at (704) 553-7000.

7 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church's support group for those living with cancer and their families and friends is meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center on the 3rd floor at 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call Bob Poffenberger at (704) 553-7000 or Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

8 ARDEN — Spring Cursillo is an ongoing movement in the church for building a better Christian community. The women's weekend is taking place beginning today through June 11 at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr. For details, call Rosemary and Art Kingsley at (828) 274-0318.

11 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is having a charismatic Mass at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — A volleyball camp is being held for rising sixth- through ninth-graders July 17-20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The coaches are going to be Tim Leary from CCHS and Bettie Berry, a former CCHS coach. For more information, call Bettie Berry at (704) 521-8721.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej and the Diocese of Charlotte Renewal Team is sponsoring a weekend retreat July 7-9, entitled "You Will Receive Power." The goal and purpose of the weekend is to renew God's people by studying sacred scripture, sacraments and the teaching of the church with great emphasis on personal prayer and worship devoted to the Holy Spirit and the metanoia and spiritual fruits which flow from it. Space is limited, so for registration and further details, contact Augustinian Father Terry Hyland at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail: lwcrc@main.nc.us.

Ongoing

CLEMMONS — The time for the Spanish Mass, held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is being changed to 7 p.m. for the duration of the summer, starting in June and continuing through most of August. For details, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

World Wide Web brings world closer, just a click away

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Thanks to the World Wide Web, international pilgrimage travel for the Diocese of Charlotte now has a worldly connection.

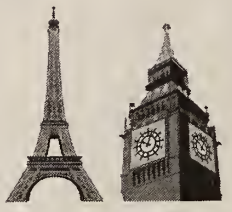
For three upcoming pilgrimages, the Internet is the first step for disseminating information. This gives the opportunity to reach out to every corner of the diocese — and the world — with greater detail of each of the upcoming destinations.

Holy Land

The long-awaited Holy Land Pilgrimage with Bishop William G. Curlin is planned for March 2001. This will be a Lenten journey, giving pilgrims a special time for reflection. This will be a return visit for Bishop Curlin, following a personal pilgrimage several years ago. His experience will add other dimensions to the trip as he shares reflections.

Italy

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs Ministry, will lead a pilgrimage to Italy Sept. 28 - Oct. 3, 2000. One of the highlights of this Italian experience will be the opportunity to be present when Pope John Paul II canonizes Blessed Katherine Drexel and Mother Josephine Bakhita on Oct. 1 in Saint Peter Square. Pilgrims will visit Assisi, Florence and Siena as well as the Eternal City. In Rome, visits to the four major basilicas will take on special significance during this holy year.



Paris-London

On Oct. 19, 2000, Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general will lead a group from Paris to London on another eight day tour that will focus on these two key cities. In Paris, Father West's group will visit Notre Dame Cathedral, Sainte Chappelle and the Church of the Miraculous Medal, where Mary's appearance to a young novice led to the striking of the Miraculous Medal as it is known today. In London, Westminister Abbey is among the sites scheduled.

It is the Internet that will bring depth to the pilgrimage plans via links to international websites with details, photographs and drawings. Mother Josephine Bakhita's story takes on more meaning via the web, as does Blessed Katherine Drexel. Various parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte are direct recipients of the benevolence of Katherine Drexel, who took a special interest in Native and African Americans in the South.

Italy, Paris-London and Israel pilgrimages are now showing at www.charlottediocese.org/travel. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Asheville deacon dies unexpectedly at age 66

ASHEVILLE — Rev. Mr. Jozef A. "Jos" Vandermeer, 66, of 15 Roberts Street, Weaverville, died unexpectedly Friday, May 19 at his home.

Rev. Mr. Vandermeer was born in Belgium and was a son of the late Henk and Barbara Peters Vandermeer. His family moved to Holland when he was five years old where he stayed until moving to Weaverville in 1960.

Reverend Mr. Jozef A. "Jos" Vandermeer

He was an art teacher at the Asheville School and retired as Professor Emeritus from UNC-A where he taught Fine Arts for 25 years.

In 1984, he was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Charlotte and served as deacon at St. Eugene Church in Asheville. He also served as a regional vicar in the diocese's permanent diaconate.

He also served as volunteer chaplain for Mountain Area Hospice for 14 years and at Mission/St. Joseph Hospital System and in prison ministry at Craggy. Jos had a very special gift in being able to minister to and comfort the ill and dying who received his gift of peace during their difficult times.

Along with his wife, he was a recipient of the Jefferson Award, which is presented annually by WYFF Television Station, Greenville, S.C., and they also received the Great American Family Award presented to them at the White House by Mrs. Nancy Reagan.

He is survived by his wife, Betsy Hoogma Vandermeer; eleven children, Miriam Harwood and her husband Larry of Leicester, Lydia Chiles and her husband Richard of Asheville, Magda O'Dell and her husband Michael of Greenville, S.C., Marie Myatt of Raleigh, Theresa Vandermeer of Barnardsville, Tevenia Vandermeer of Beaufort, S.C., and Sarah Williams, Chris Vandermeer, Scott Vandermeer, Kendra Vandermeer, and Latasha Vandermeer, all of Asheville; numerous foster children; eight grandchildren, Natasha Clabern, Anna Chiles, Jos O'Dell, Ariel Ramsey, Samantha Young, Michael Young, Jay Myatt and Tyquice Coddington; one sister, Magda Ficarra of Teaneck, NJ; and two brothers, Ad Vandermeer and Wim Vandermeer of the Netherlands.

A prayer service was held at 7 p.m. Monday, May 22 at St. Eugene Church after which his family received friends in the fellowship hall.

A celebration of Christian funeral memorial Mass was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 23, at St. Eugene Church with Father Frank Cancro officiating.

Memorials may be made to Mountain Area Hospice, P.O. Box 16, Asheville, NC 28802, or to St. Eugene's Catholic Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814. ▼

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Seven to be ordained during history-making Mass

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Less than a month after the Catholic Church's celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations and a jubilee day for clergy, Bishop William G. Curlin will ordain one of the single-largest groups of priests ever to serve the Diocese of Charlotte.

The June 3 ordination Mass, scheduled for 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, closes one chapter — and opens another — in the lives of the seminarians, who have completed their studies at three seminaries along the East Coast.

This year's class — Rev. Messrs. David Brzoska, Joseph Long Dinh, Christopher Gober, Matthew Kauth, Shawn O'Neal, Luis Osorio and Frank Seabo — is the among largest classes to be ordained at one liturgy for service in this diocese.

"This is a time for the whole diocese to come together and celebrate," Bishop Curlin said. "This is a great blessing for our church and a joyful moment for our diocese. We are truly thankful that the Lord has blessed us with this group of men."

This class is also among the largest of ordinands in the South this year, according to a recent survey by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Vocations. Only the Archdiocese of Atlanta has more — 12 men are to be ordained there, according to the report.

The ordinations come during the church's worldwide celebration of the jubilee year. Specially designated days earlier this month celebrated religious life, on May 14 with World Day of Prayer for Vocations and on May 18 with the Jubilee Day for Clergy.

This milestone is significant in a region where Catholics, though composing just three percent of the general population, are rapidly growing in number, Bishop Curlin said.

"The South is continuing to experience remarkable growth, and in order to serve the increasing population, we need an increasing number of priests," he said.

The diocesan class of ordinands reflects the ethnic variety found in the nationwide class of 2000.

The survey reported that 27 percent of the nation's class of 2000 identify themselves as members of racial or ethnic minorities. Two of Charlotte's seven men are immigrants to this country: Rev. Mr. Osorio, a native of Colombia, and Rev. Mr. Dinh, who hails from Vietnam.

"Our diocese is a mosaic of many cultures, and in order to properly serve our people, we must have priests who not only speak the languages, but understand the cultures and traditions," Bishop Curlin said. "Our diversity enhances and enriches our experience of being a universal church."

Nationwide, the average age of this year's newly ordained is 36. That holds true in this diocese, as the median age of this year's class — whose members range from 26 to 43 years old — is 35.

The seven men come from a variety of professional and educational backgrounds, and each comes with a unique and profound experience of faith leading them to priestly life, Bishop Curlin said.

"The ultimate relationship, whether you are a priest, religious or lay person, is the same: that deep relationship with God and the belief that God is with you," he added. "When one has faith in the presence of God in their life and truly understands this, they experience the peace and joy of the Spirit." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

DSA Funds, from page 1

original goal, assigned by the diocese, will receive that extra amount back from the diocese after all donations are sent in and tallied.

The official appeal was conducted from the first weekend in February through Appeal Sunday weekend March 18 and 19. For some churches, where many parishioners come back to the diocese for the summer and have congregations made up of many summer visitors, their Appeal Sunday will be conducted when the majority of these travelers have settled in for the season.

According to Rohrman, the numbers will go up, and a final count will be determined at the end of August after these churches receive all of their donations.

"I firmly believe that as more parishes promote stewardship as a way of living out discipleship, people will continue to see the DSA as a way of truly living the corporal works of mercy — the key to the appeal," she continued.

However, the appeal is not only about dollars and cents. "During this great jubilee year, I am pleased to see so many opening wide the doors to Christ by serving Him in others through the appeal," said Bishop Curlin. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Renewal, from page 1

News Ministries of North Carolina and co-founder of the Good News North Carolina School of Evangelization, and Hannah Hammer, parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Tracks were also offered on youth ministry, Spirit-filled prayer life and a variety of discussions on the experience of Jesus in the lives of the faithful. Presenters included Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry; and Catholic Renewal Service Team members Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp, Joyce Brown, Barbara Gardner, Joan Moran and Greg Smith.

Hammer, veteran teacher of Catholicism in the evangelical tradition, stepped in to speak in the place of an ailing Bill Wegner, president and founder of Good News International. She began by ecstatically proclaiming, "We've heard a lot of talk about Jubilee. Let me tell you something, I've been on a Jubilee all my life!" She went on to stress the value of forgiveness, humility and wonder in the face of God.

This and other inspirational messages were enhanced by the sound and presence of Redeemed, the Charlotte-based Christian music group which facilitated praise and worship sessions throughout the conference. Participants lifted their voices to songs like "Amazing Grace," "Let the Fire Fall" and "He Shall Reign." Redeemed is led by musicians Kathy Piontek and David Shoff.

With a thematic emphasis on the Jubilee Year, its meaning and significance, the Catholic Renewal Conference 2000 united evangelical Catholics from across the state to retreat in the revelry of worship, reflection and celebration.

In his speech, "Jesus, Leading us Back to the Father," Heiser ardently invited his audience to publicly share the Gospel, indicating that one may teach the Word by virtue of his or her baptism. He invoked a Vatican II document which states, "By our baptism, we are all called to be apostles."

"Every day, we have opportunities to enter into the message that Jesus came to bring us," he said. "He wants us to be more aware of God's presence on our lives, and more aware of where we are on the journey." ▼

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Eritrean bishops appeal for help to end conflict with Ethiopia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops of Eritrea have appealed to the international community to take urgent steps to halt the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict, warning that the lives of innocent people were at stake. "A single day of delay could mean the extermination of an entire population and the devastation of its territory," the bishops said in a statement made public at the Vatican May 20. The escalation of the conflict came when Ethiopia launched a major offensive against Eritrea May 12, following two years of border skirmishes.

Cardinal Ratzinger says third Fatima secret 'not essential'

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican's top doctrinal official, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, said the third secret of Fatima contains no dogma of faith and, as other private revelations, is "not essential" for Christians. While praising Pope John Paul II's courage in announcing the secret May 13 and ordering its publication, Cardinal Ratzinger said Fatima needs to be kept in perspective to avoid "sensationalism." The cardinal commented in an interview in the May 19 Rome newspaper La Repubblica. He said his doctrinal congregation was working on a commentary on the Fatima messages and expected to publish it and the full text of the third secret by mid-June.

Retired general among 3 sentenced in Acteal massacre

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A retired Mexican army general and two other security officials accused regarding the 1997 massacre of 45 indigenous people in Chiapas received prisons sentences of eight years, the federal attorney general's department said May 17. While the three men did not participate directly in the massacre, federal prosecutors charged them with "homicide by omission." The attorney general's office said they led a Chiapas state police detail posted on a highway near the hamlet of Acteal. It said the men admitted hearing shooting, but did not investigate the shots, calls from local leaders or from the Diocese of San Cristobal de las Casas.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Passion Play in Oberammergau

Actors rehearse a scene from the famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, prior to its May 21 opening. Based on the life of Jesus Christ, the play has been staged there every 10 years in a 350-year-old tradition. About a half million people are expected at performances, which run for five months.

Anglican, Catholic bishops meet in Canada to review dialogue

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario (CNS) — Thousands of miles from London or Rome, 35 bishops from the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches met May 15-19 to discuss how to get past a 466-year-old split started by a king of England who could not get an annulment. Anglican Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury, England, head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, led the meeting, which included bishops from around the English-speaking world. The bishops were to review 30 years of dialogue. Close observers said they were unlikely to focus on areas of contention such as women's ordination: Instead, they would explore how to get their previously released documents down to the grass roots of parish life.

Chinese bishops in communion with Rome ordain two more bishops

HONG KONG (CNS) — For the second time within two weeks, Chinese bishops in communion with Rome ordained new bishops in eastern China. A China-watcher at the Vatican said the ordinations were significant because they indicated a diminished influence of the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. The two new prelates of Ningbo Diocese were elected bishops by the diocese in December, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Bishop Michael He Jinmin, 83, and Auxiliary Bishop Matthew Hu Xiande, 65, were ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Ningbo, Zhejiang province. UCA News reported that a story on the ordinations appeared May 15 in the Ningbo Daily.

Christians in Pakistan sentenced to prison for blasphemy

LAHORE, Pakistan (CNS) — A judge sentenced two Christians to 35 years in prison and fined them $1,400 for insulting the prophet Mohammed, founder of Islam, and the Koran. Judge Rana Mohammad Yousaf, a sessions court judge in Pasroor, about 60 miles north of Lahore, sentenced Rashid Masih and his brother, Saleem Masih, to 35 years at hard labor May 12, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Police arrested Rashid and Saleem twice after Maqsood Ahmed, a street vendor with whom the brothers had a scuffle, filed charges against them in May last year.

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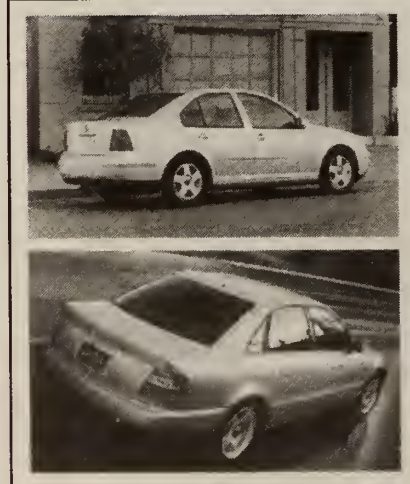

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Pope blends 80th birthday celebrations with Jubilee for Priests

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II blended celebrations of his 80th birthday with the Vatican's Jubilee for Priests, emphasizing the primacy of his priestly vocation in his life.

Though showered with greetings from political leaders and cultural icons from around the world, treated to a special London Philharmonia musical performance and feted with a sumptuous lunch, the pope seemed most pleased concelebrating a birthday Mass May 18 with some 8,000 priests.

During the liturgy in St. Peter's Square, which Vatican officials called the largest concelebrated Mass in history, the pope said that God "desired to link my existence to the grace of the priestly ministry, as bishop and successor of Peter, to be a witness of God's love for all humanity in these, our times, which are so fascinating."

He returned to his reflections on the priesthood at a birthday lunch with cardinals after the Mass, saying, "I am particularly happy to remember my birthday in this priestly dimension, which is the fundamental one of my life."

In his Mass homily, the pope praised God for the gift of priesthood, which he called a gift of love for all mankind. But he also acknowledged the struggles and weaknesses of ordinary priests and the growing threat of a priest shortage.

He asked for prayers for priests who have left the ministry and encouraged fallen-away priests to seek laicization, a Vatican dispensation officially releasing them from priestly duties.

Pope John Paul II is silhouetted against a sunny background in St. Peter's Square as he arrives for Mass on his 80th birthday May 18. The Mass was attended by some 8,000 priests from around the world.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

"I think also of those priests who, for different circumstances, no longer exercise the sacred ministry, though they continue to hold in themselves a special configuration to Christ through the indelible character of holy orders," the pope said.

Interrupted by applause, he said, "I also pray a great deal for them, and I invite everyone to remember them in prayer, so that, thanks also to a procedurally obtained dispensation," they remain committed Christians in communion with the church.

The pope said that priests must guide the church "not with force but with cheerfulness, not with the attitude of masters but by offering an exemplary witness."

Greeting priests during an evening prayer service May 17 in St. Peter's Square, the pope said the church in the 20th century was rich with the witness of saintly priests, some of whom even shed their blood exercising their ministry.

"Let us follow their footsteps, because the efficacy of our ministry depends on (saintliness)," he said.

During the May 14-18 Jubilee for Priests, two female saints were proposed as inspirations for priests seeking to faithfully live their vocations amid the challenges of the modern world.

In two different turbulent eras in the church, Sts. Catherine of Siena and Therese of Lisieux "knew how to speak to priests to stimulate them to live their vocations to the highest," said Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, at a Mass May 17 in St. Peter's Basilica.

The liturgy was followed by a two-hour meditation on the saints' interaction with priests.

Maria Antonietta Falchi Pellegrini, a professor at the University of Genoa, said St. Catherine's numerous letters to popes, cardinals, monks and priests manifest a deep love and reverence for the dignity of the sacrament administered by priests, "matched only by the strength of her reprimands for those who disfigured the face of the church."

She said St. Catherine's examples teaches that "God always requires respect and reverence for priests, his 'christs,' whatever their human weakness might be, because any offense against them is an offense against God himself."

Discalced Carmelite Father Antonio Sicari said St. Therese became a Carmelite nun specifically to pray for the holiness of priests.

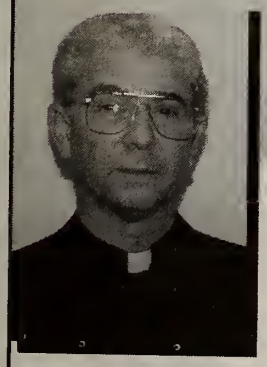
The saint lamented primarily "the fact that they might forget the exclusive love promised in their consecration, and that their purity not be that owed to the Eucharist which they hold between their hands."

The pope, ordaining 26 priests for the Diocese of Rome May 15, said the Eucharist was the mystery of divine love.

"Incessantly draw upon this mystery, above all in the celebration of the Mass, the spiritual energy to faithfully fulfill your mission," he told the new priests. ▼

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?



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Fiorenza: Campaign against Vatican's U.N. status anti-Catholic

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The campaign by Catholics for a Free Choice to end the Vatican's permanent observer status at the United Nations is reminiscent of "other episodes of anti-Catholic bigotry," the head of the U.S. bishops said May 10.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston said Catholics for a Free Choice, which supports legal abortion, claims to be an authentic Catholic voice. He said "that claim is false."

The bishop, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement criticizing the group for "its rejection and distortion of Catholic teaching about the respect and protection due to defenseless unborn human life."

Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, announced last year that her organization was launching a "See Change" campaign calling on the United Nations to end the Vatican's permanent observer status and put it on the same level as a nongovernmental organization — or NGO — such as the World Council of Churches.

In its current status, the Vatican does not have a vote at the United Nations but, after securing permission, it makes statements on issues the world body deals with, and uses other opportunities to influence delegates.

Kissling's group has a consultative status at the United Nations as an NGO and she has been an active lobbyist at U.N. meetings.

In mid-March a spokeswoman for the United Nations told Catholic News Service that the U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan cannot conduct the review of the Vatican's U.N. observer status called for by Catholics for a Free Choice.

Myriam Dessables, a staff member in the office of the spokesman for the secretary-general, said such a review could be conducted only if it was formally requested by the General Assembly and that, so far, no government has taken or proposed any action that could lead to a vote on such a request.

Bishop Fiorenza in his May 10 statement called the Catholics for a Free Choice campaign an effort to "silence the moral voice of the Holy See at the United Nations."

He pointed out that the NCCB has stated publicly a number of times that Catholics for Free Choice "is not a Catholic organization, does not speak for the Catholic Church, and in fact promotes positions contrary to the teaching of the church."

He said the group is primarily "an arm of the abortion lobby in the United States and throughout the world" funded by a number of powerful and wealthy private foundations to "promote abortion as a method of population control."

"The use of the name Catholic as a platform for promoting the taking of innocent human life and ridiculing the church is offensive not only to Catholics, but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse."
— Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza

"The use of the name Catholic as a platform for promoting the taking of innocent human life and ridiculing the church is offensive not only to Catholics," he said, "but to all who expect honesty and forthrightness in public discourse."

The Vatican released Bishop Fiorenza's statement in its daily press bulletin May 16.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., who has introduced legislation in the House to protect the Vatican's U.N. observer status, agreed in a separate statement with Bishop Fiorenza's remarks regarding Catholics for a Free Choice.

Smith said the group's current attempt to remove the Vatican from its position in the United Nations is a "flagrant anti-Catholic attempt by radical fringe groups to clear the way for their pro-abortion, anti-family agenda at the United Nations."

In his May 11 statement, Smith, who is Catholic, also said the Vatican is "under assault by those who desire to see the disintegration of the Catholic world view in our global governing body."

"We cannot allow this to happen," he said.

Kissling, responding in a May 12 statement to Bishop Fiorenza's comments, said Catholics for a Free Choice is not "motivated by anti-Catholicism" but by a "love of the church and a commitment to a vision of church that represents the conscience of every individual."

She described her group as "the voice of Catholics who disagree with the church on sexual and reproductive health and rights."

She also said she takes "small comfort" in the belief that her organization is criticized because it is "effective in presenting the views of many of the world's Catholics." ▼

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Book Review

Book offers look at the conclave which will elect the pope's successor

REVIEWED BY JAMES C. O'NEILL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"The Next Pope" is a handy guide to the players at the next conclave which will elect the successor to the present Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

This revised edition contains information and observations about most all of the cardinals who will be eligible to elect a new pope. Of course, if Pope John Paul names any new cardinals, as he is expected to do sometime this year, the book will need yet another update.

"The Next Pope"
By Peter Hebblethwaite, revised and updated by Margaret Hebblethwaite
Harper SanFrancisco
(San Francisco, 2000)
198 pp., $19.95.

Since most Catholics and others interested in Vatican/church affairs know little of these princes of the church who are spread around the world, there is a need for an informative volume such as this.

Its author, Peter Hebblethwaite, an English Catholic journalist who specialized on the Vatican, died in 1994, shortly after the book was first published. This revised edition was brought together by his widow, Margaret, the assistant editor of the British Catholic journal The Tablet.

Probably the most significant difference between the two editions is that in 1994 Peter Hebblethwaite was able to draw up a short list of "papabili." These are cardinals seen as having a strong chance of being elected because of their leadership qualities, such as Cardinal Carlo Martini of Milan. In 2000, these short-list candidates are six years older, and therefore less likely to attract the support they might have had in the past.

The result, according to Margaret Hebblethwaite, opens the election to a wider but less focused field of candidates. To handicap them, to use a racing metaphor, she applies criteria of age, nationality, and outlook.

In terms of age she all but rules out any cardinal over 75, although Pope John XXIII was elected at 76. Nationality brings up the often-debated question of an Italian or non-Italian successor to the Polish pope. The greatly diminished presence of Italian cardinals in the Sacred College of Cardinals makes the election of a "foreign pope" very possible.

As for cardinals from the United States, she thinks they are dead in their tracks.

"Unfortunately, the country suffers from the stigma of being a superpower" and is suspect of being "tainted with dangerous cultural values." The current cardinals from Poland are also out of luck simply because "as Poles (they) can be more decisively ruled out than anyone else."

The book claims that there are no great "liberals" of the past to be found in today's College of Cardinals, only what the book calls "moderate conservatives," "conservatives" and "ultra-conservatives."

While obviously a liberal herself, the editor/reviser lists the good qualities, leadership abilities, charm and spiritual strengths of each candidate.

Included in this volume is a history of past conclaves, a review of Pope John Paul's reform of the conclave rules, and an analysis of the current pope's legacy to the electors who will come together after his death. ▼

O'Neill covered the conclaves which elected Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI for CNS, formerly National Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

May 28, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B Readings:

1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 98:1-4
2) 1 John 4:7-10
3) Gospel: John 15:9-17

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When Jesus speaks to his disciples about the new commandment to love one another here in John 15, it is the evening before his darkest hour. Judas has just left to betray him. He will soon go out to the Garden of Gethsemane where the three with him will fall asleep, while Jesus sweats blood as he anticipates doing the Father's will.

Jesus will be arrested, beaten about and ridiculed by the Roman authorities, and his disciples will turn away from him in fear.

"Love one another as I have loved you," he tells them. "There is no greater love than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends."

It's all a pretty tall order. And if Jesus had focused on the short-term results of his admonition as we so often do, he would have been sorely disappointed.

But he was not.

What sin have you or I committed that right at this moment is keeping us from appreciating God's love for us, and passing it along to our sisters and brothers, our friends, our families, our coworkers? Is it greater than Peter's denial? Is it worse than those who ran away at the time of Jesus' arrest?

Ditch your sin. Toss it onto Jesus. Let him carry the load.

All of those who failed Jesus miserably now carry the title of "Saint" before their names, except for the one who could not believe that God could forgive him.

It's the season of Easter, the season of hope. Without the resurrection, those men would have died defeated by the power of evil, but the power of Jesus overcoming death is the victory that brings both them and us to freedom.

Celebrate the victory. Jesus is Lord! He will redeem us as he redeemed them. It's what Easter is all about.

Question:
If you haven't already done it, won't you confess any sins that are currently blocking your access to God's love so he can pour his grace of forgiveness onto you, preparing you to serve him and others in love?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 28 - June 3, 2000

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48, 1 John 4:7-10, John 15:9-17; **Monday**, Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday**, Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday (Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-56; **Thursday (Ascension of Our Lord)**, Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Mark 16:15-20; **Friday (St. Marcellinus, St. Peter)**, Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Charles Lwanga and Companions)**, Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

Readings for the week of June 4 - 10, 2000

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, 1 John 4:11-16, John 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Boniface)**, Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday (St. Norbert)**, Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday**, Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday**, Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday (St. Ephrem of Syria)**, Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday**, Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

Summer Publishing Schedule

The Catholic News & Herald begins its summer schedule with this issue. The next issue will be June 9, 2000.

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'Seventh Heaven' actress says New Age spirituality of Hollywood holds no attraction

By STEVE VIVONA
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — As a lifelong Catholic, actress Catherine Hicks says she has never been tempted to explore the New Age spirituality that seems to pervade Hollywood.

"I don't think people realize how spiritual the Catholic faith is," said Hicks, who plays Annie Camden, the wife of a Protestant minister, on the WB television series "Seventh Heaven."

She was interviewed in Hollywood before taping an appearance for "Personally Speaking," the Catholic Communication Campaign's interview program that airs on the Odyssey cable network.

Outsiders may perceive the Mass as boring, she observed, "but it's deeply contemplative if you're paying attention. Then there's the miracle of what happens on the altar."

Hicks inherited her powerful faith from her parents, who took the family to Mass regularly. She said today some Catholics claim they're too busy to go to Mass. "I think it's real important to go to God's house and get away from it all." Prayer, especially praying the rosary, was an integral part of her family life, Hicks said.

A native of Scottsdale, Ariz., Hicks attended Catholic grade school, "and I didn't have any horror stories." She said the sisters who taught her were real role models. "They were intellectual women who had careers and they encouraged us to develop our minds and our souls."

Hicks stressed that Catholics are not judgmental. "I don't like the feeling of fundamentalist (Christians) saying, 'We are better. We are saved. Jews are going to hell. (Catholics) aren't raised to say, 'We're saved and other people aren't.'"

"It's hard enough to work on just being good. Worry about charity to the homeless and hungry. Give some of your money away. Be their friend first and heal their wounds." Hicks said the Catholic Church is present wherever there is real poverty.

Worrying about who is saved and who isn't is not the issue, Hicks said. "It's hard enough to work on just being good. Worry about charity to the homeless and hungry. Give some of your money away. Be their friend first and heal their wounds." Hicks said the Catholic Church is present wherever there is real poverty.

Of her role in "Seventh Heaven," which premiered in 1996, Hicks said she constantly hears from parents who tell her that "for one hour a week they can sit down as a family on the sofa together and watch something and not worry about what they're going to see. (The series) promotes discussion and stimulates community."

Hicks is married to Kevin Yagher, a special-effects artist in Hollywood and they have an 8-year-old daughter, Catie.

An only child herself, Hicks tries to spend quality time with her mother as well as her daughter as often as possible. "I really care for my mother and worry and think about her as much as my daughter, although I don't shortchange my daughter."

Hicks said she makes breakfast for her daughter every morning "even if I have to make the batter at 5 o'clock."

Raising a child with the values her parents imparted to her is important, Hicks said. "If the parents stay together that's half the battle, that there is security in the home. She knows she's loved ... and we teach her along the way."

Sending her child to Catholic school was always a priority, Hicks said. "They pray at snack time. There's an awareness of something higher than video games."

Hicks started taking acting lessons while at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., where she majored in both English and theology. After winning an acting scholarship to Cornell University, she began her career on the New York stage acting in plays based on the work of Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams. Her first role on Broadway was opposite Jack Lemmon in the play "Tribute."

Her first TV role came in 1976 on the daytime series "Ryan's Hope." She portrayed Marilyn Monroe in the 1980 TV movie "Marilyn: The Untold Story." She was in the motion picture "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" in 1986 and has starred in films opposite Kathleen Turner, Dudley Moore and Ray Liotta.

During the lean years when acting jobs were sparse, Hicks said her faith and a confidence in her training helped keep hope alive that she would eventually succeed in the business. "It's a lonely path out there," she said.

"One thing that's great about being Catholic" is there is usually a church nearby, Hicks observed. "It's such a universal church and a global family. I really feel like I belong." ▼

CNS PHOTO BY DANNY FIELD FROM CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

"Seventh Heaven" actress Catherine Hicks, a lifelong Catholic, plays the wife of a Protestant minister on the WB television series.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says time is right to reveal third secret of Fatima

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the time was right to reveal the so-called third secret of Fatima, which can help illuminate the many tribulations of the 20th century.

"In light of the Fatima apparitions, the events of this rather troubled historical period take on a singular eloquence," the pope said at his weekly general audience May 17.

The audience marked the first time the pope commented publicly on the third part of the message, revealed to three shepherd children in 1917.

"Seeming that the time was ripe, I felt it opportune to make public the content of the so-called third part of the secret," he said.

During a May 12-13 papal trip to Fatima, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, announced that the pope had ordered the publication of the third secret.

Cardinal Sodano said it included a reference to a bishop clothed in white, who "falls to the ground, apparently dead under a burst of gunfire." The pope believes the reference applies directly to the 1981 attempt on his life, the cardinal said in his announcement May 13.

Speaking to 40,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square May 17, the pope said his pilgrimage to Fatima represented an "opportunity to thank the Blessed Virgin for the protection she has given me throughout my pontificate."

He said the ring he placed at the foot of Mary's statue in Fatima symbolized his thanksgiving. The late Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski of Warsaw gave Pope John Paul the ring shortly after his election as pope. The cardinal had told the pope that he would lead the church into the third millennium.

During his trip to Portugal, the pope beatified two of the children who witnessed the Marian apparitions.

Though Francisco and Jacinta Marto were not martyrs, the pope said at the audience, "they demonstrated a life of Christian virtues to a heroic degree, despite their tender age ... the heroism of children, but true heroism."

The pope emphasized that their beatification did not depend on their visions of Our Lady of Fatima, but on the "faithfulness and commitment with which they met the singular gift received from the Lord and from holiest Mary."

"They deserve not only to be recognized as credible witnesses of apparitions, but to become examples of life lived according to the Gospel," he said.

The third child visionary, Carmelite Sister Lucia Dos Santos, now 93, met with the pope during his trip. Sister Lucia placed the third part of the message in a sealed envelope in 1943 and delivered it to her bishop, who then sent it to the Vatican, where it remained secret except to the popes and a few close aides.

The third secret was expected to be published soon, along with commentary by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Jubilee — Year of forgiveness

Traditionally, a jubilee year is a time to make a fresh start, to throw off those chains that block one from God, to become free. It is a time of forgiveness for people carrying debts and burdens, resentments and hatreds. In a jubilee year the church offers an invitation to all to come, to ask for healing, and to be made whole and joyful.

Looking back over the past six months, I am inspired by the efforts to communicate this message of reconciliation, beginning with the marvelous example of Pope John Paul II in his writings, words and actions. Could we ever forget the photo of this pope, kneeling at the cross at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and his words: "Before Christ, who for love bore our sins, we are all invited to a deep examination of conscience. One of the characteristic elements of the great jubilee lies in what I have described as purification of memory. I ask that in this year of mercy, the church, strengthened by the holiness that she receives from her Lord, kneel before God and beg for forgiveness for past and present sins of her sons. We forgive, and we ask forgiveness."

In the spirit of this great jubilee year, a remarkable action took place in the Diocese of Rockville Center on Long Island, N.Y., during Holy Week. On that Monday, priests of all the diocese's 134 parishes were asked to be in the confessional from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. so that everyone could have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of penance. That may sound strange, considering the declining numbers of Catholics going to confession in recent years.

The diocese did a radio and newspaper publicity blitz, emphasizing that the sacrament is "not about judgment, let alone condemnation. It's about forgiveness." A handbook for the public emphasized that examining one's conscience does not mean coming up with "a grocery list of sins," but rather "a reflection on the rhythms of one's daily life and the relationship that one has with oneself, with others and with God."

The diocese offered this invitation, and it was a gamble. No one could predict how it would turn out.

The response? All the parishes reported that streams of people came into the confessionals, hundreds of them responding to this first-time-ever massive invitation.

A priest I spoke to said the turnout was absolutely remarkable, that people had long hungered for such a call, anxious and ready to free themselves of what had kept them from God, some because of mere indifference, some for past serious sins.

In the weeks before this unusual day, The Long Island Catholic, the diocesan paper, invited people to send in their comments about confession. Most of the responses were negative, with comments like, "I never received advice nor consolation in confession — just a feeling of being very uncomfortable." If the jubilee year continues as it has begun, such comments may be filed away forever.

I like the beautiful words of one of the diocese's pastors, Msgr. Frank Gaeta. He said that in the sacrament of reconciliation the challenge of the church is to get away from legalism and go to the heart and mind of Jesus. The life of the church, he said, is about "table fellowship," a concept that stresses that everybody is welcome in God's house — which sometimes looks like a confessional.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

The unscripted moments of parish life

Often the unscripted moments in parish life are truly memorable. For instance, we've just had the annual confirmation of our young people. Some 36 teens were ushered into adulthood in the church by the abbot of the local Benedictine monastery.

All was suitably solemn until the photo session afterward. The photographer struggled to get everyone lined up on the auditorium risers as the abbot and I looked on. Just in front us was one of our senior high students, who helps with our confirmation class — a lad of irrepressible joy.

Unaware that his pastor and the abbot were at his elbows, he called out to the confirmation class, "All right now girls, show us a little more cleavage." For a second everything went into slow motion. The photographer looked at him, open-mouthed, like a fish. Without due reflection, I batted the offending teen over the head with my program.

Suddenly aware of his inopportune instruction, the young man turned liturgical red, appropriate to a confirmation ceremony. The abbot, who has taught high school boys for more than 40 years, was more sanguine than I. He grabbed our young director by the nape of the neck.

One mother, who helps teach our confirmation class, flew across the stage of the auditorium and breathed in the young man's ear, "The abbot has just saved your life, since I was coming across this stage to kill you."

Perhaps the only thing I will remember about that confirmation is the photo shoot. Sometimes it is the mistakes that make for the nice memories.

Like the fancy, society wedding I had for two doctors at a big parish in Washington. All was super elegant. They had photographers, flowers and limos for days. After the post-wedding photos were taken, the bridal party ran out of the church, jumped in the limos and drove off in a shower of rice. Assuming everyone was gone, I locked up the church and left.

But the bride and groom were still around the side of the church in the garden, with the photographer. They emerged to find all the limos and their hordes of guests departed. So they hailed a cab. The cab driver, amused, played a tape of Irving Berlin's "I'll be loving you always."

It is the cab ride they'll remember.

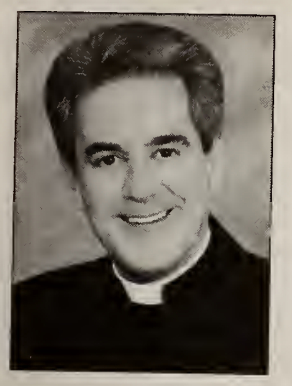
Sometimes the embarrassment becomes the show. Last year when our parish had a talent show, our preschoolers entertained us with a rendition of some song having to do with a frog and a lily pad.

One little girl, unaccustomed as she was to standing on a stage facing an auditorium full of clapping adults armed with cameras, decided that if she couldn't see us, we couldn't see her. In the middle of the song, she gabbed the hem of her party dress and lifted it over her head.

The other preschoolers, unfamiliar with these motions, paused momentarily in their gesturing to watch this little "cancan." Some thought it part of the play and joined in. Meanwhile their teachers, "Miss Karen" and "Miss Dot," tried bravely to get them to resume their aquatic fable. Some adults were gasping for breath between guffaws. No doubt about it, this was the showstopper.

That's life. The best memories are the things we do not plan. It's a lesson worth remembering as we go through this season of confirmations, first Communions, weddings, graduations, ordinations and anniversaries, when people are trying to get every detail just so.

It is the laughter we remember.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Marriage: Can we talk?

Until recently, my only image of Abigail Adams, the wife of this nation's second president, John Adams, came from the Broadway musical "1776" in which she appears as the only female character. She is the only person who could draw out the loving side of her husband's otherwise acerbic personality.

From time to time, the couple are seated at opposite ends of the stage writing letters that try to erase the distance forced upon them by the exigencies of the American Revolution. It's an evocative portrayal of marriage under extraordinary pressure in extraordinary times.

At the time I thought how enlightening the Adams correspondence would be for anyone interested in the institution's changes over time, even as it remains fundamentally the same.

So when I picked up Steve and Cokie Roberts' best-selling book "From This Day Forward" I was delighted to find not only the story of John and Abigail but also an assortment of other stories that illustrate the persistent issues of love and marriage, work and family, parents and children. What is particularly remarkable about the Roberts' treatment is their shared view that — despite all the hand-wringing and cynicism about the institution of marriage — there is every reason for hope.

For the Roberts, the Adams' letters reinforce a simple point: "Communication is to a marriage what sunlight is to a plant: a basic necessity." When the Adamses celebrated their golden anniversary, Abigail told the gathering that her only unhappiness with John came from that long separation during the Revolutionary years.

For instance, John and Abigail differed, sometimes heatedly, about the education of their daughters. Determined that girls not be deprived of an education, Abigail used every opening to argue the issue. In time John seems to acquiesce: "The education of our children is never out of my mind. Train them to virtue, habituate them to industry, activity and spirit... It is time, my dear, for you to teach them French."

But Abigail's concerns were not only domestic ones. Thinking ahead to the new laws of an Independent United States, Abigail wrote: "I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion."

John's response was less than tactful: "I cannot but laugh... in practice you know we [men] are the subjects. We have only the name of masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject us to the despotism of the petticoat, I hope General Washington... would fight."

Still, reading their letters, you get a sense of their ability to disagree without overstepping each other's bounds. You also learn that their love endured all things. Abigail wrote: "The age of romance has long ago past, but the affection of almost infant years has matured and strengthened." John signed off: "Yours, with more ardor than ever — The Happiest Man on Earth."

When a couple experiences the inevitable trials that come with decades of marriage, yet feel happiness and ardor, they are not lucky — they are committed. And that will be just as true in another two hundred years.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Growing on the outside — and the inside

It's always fascinating to watch kids grow.

When I was a high school theology teacher, I was always amazed by the sight of boys returning from summer break, especially between their freshman and sophomore years.

Most of the boys, it seemed, had grown a foot over the summer. They'd left the classroom, most of them just a little taller than I, but when they returned, their heads seemed almost to scrape the ceiling. Girls grow too, of course, but their spurts come earlier, usually in late middle school.

So yes, everyone wants to grow. If you're a boy, you want to grow taller and to fill out. You want your chest and your shoulders to broaden, and you want to start shaving. If you're a girl, you want to start looking like a woman and not like a little girl.

It's funny, too, because you can tell that everyone is always quite relieved at starting to really shoot up and develop. Adulthood is on the way. Because, you know, no one wants to stay a kid forever.

The question is, are you as anxious to grow in other ways as you are to grow physically? Being adult is about a lot more than how you look. There are lots of overgrown kids walking around in adult bodies. They grew physically, which is effortless, but they forgot that they have to grow internally as well in order to be taken seriously as adults. But that's not effortless, so sometimes we forget to take care of it.

Good for you! You're growing physically. And during this summer filled with sunshine and exercise, you'll grow a lot more, and you, too, will shock your teachers next fall. But what about the other parts of you?

— Are you growing emotionally? Are you leaving childhood selfishness behind and beginning to understand that the world doesn't revolve around you and your needs?

— Are you growing intellectually? Are you reaching beyond the child's tendency to unquestioningly absorb what she's told and really trying to analyze, critique and understand the world around you?

— Are you growing in terms of responsibility? Are you taking more responsibility for your own life and your own choices, realizing that it's time to stop expecting your parents to run along behind you picking up the messes that you make?

— Are you growing spiritually? Are you taking the time in your life to relate to God in a more intimate way? Are you continuing to grow in faith, or do you not know much more about your faith than you did when you were 10?

I once had an acquaintance who told me that her son had grown a foot in a year. Imagine that — growing an inch a month. She said it was a very difficult time, because her son's body was getting beyond him. It was a year filled with awkwardness and even accidents. And, as you might imagine, growing that fast actually does cause real growing pains.

So yes, growing can hurt. Growing can be confusing and frightening. But if you want to be an adult, you've got to grow. And not just on the outside, either.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Why some Christians believe the end is near

Q. All those predictions we heard about the end of the world as the new millennium was starting are amusing, but also confusing. Television preachers still talk as if the time — they call it the rapture — will come any day now.

Where did this religion come from? Two of our friends are totally taken up with the idea and tell us we are in for a great and terrible surprise.

A. The belief that the final coming of Christ is near does have a curious, if brief, history.

The idea is not totally new, of course. We know from the New Testament that believers in the first decades of Christianity seriously anticipated Christ's return in glory before the death of people then alive.

It didn't take long, however, for the realization to sink in that Christianity was in for the long haul. As Jesus said, no one knows the day or the hour.

During the following centuries a variety of sects appeared, each claiming that the final time was at hand, but they all died away.

The modern, and longest lasting, millenarianist movements began in the 1830s. William Miller, a New York farmer and preacher, predicted the world would end on March 21, 1843, a year he decided upon by counting the years between the prophet Daniel (Daniel 8) and the restoration of Jerusalem in 457 B.C.

When that and other predicted days passed uneventfully, he lost a large segment of his clergy and lay followers, who had begun calling themselves Adventists ("coming").

Some maintained, however, that Christ truly did arrive in 1844, but invisibly; and they devoted themselves to spreading the word, transferring their day of worship to Saturday instead of Sunday.

Seventh Day Adventists now have grown into the millions, but the theme of their mission remains that the Second Coming is imminent. They do not forecast a specific time.

Jehovah's Witnesses are another offshoot of the Millerites and Adventists. Among other distinctive beliefs, they hold that Jesus returned invisibly in 1914, and Satan is preparing for the great battle with Jesus, which could occur any day now.

Additional millions of fundamentalist Christians are convinced that the "end" will first bring the rapture (the "great snatch") when God will take up the good people to reign with him. Then, after seven years of earthquake, famine and other tragedies, the battle of Armageddon will destroy multitudes of lives. A millennium of peace will follow, and finally, sometime, the conclusive total victory over Satan.

Generally, the millenarianists base their theories on a complexity of highly unconventional interpretations of apocalyptic passages in the books of Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelation, and, in the case of the rapture, First Thessalonians 4 and 5.

A common scenario lists three conditions before all this can happen. A new Jewish state will be founded (already fulfilled). Jews will repossess the old city of Jerusalem (also supposedly accomplished in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war). And the Jewish temple will be rebuilt on its ancient site.

SEE DIETZEN, PAGE 14

House approves gold medal for pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House on May 23 voted 416-1 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II.

In statements on the House floor supporting the bill, several members of Congress cited the pope's battle against communism, his worldwide travels and ecumenical outreach as factors in the action.

"He is truly a world leader and an unparalleled champion of those who cannot speak for themselves: the poor, the unborn, those condemned to death and those whose basic rights as children of God are trampled upon by oppressive regimes," said Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J.

The Senate has yet to vote on its bill, which was introduced in April with 66 co-sponsors. The Senate Banking Committee was scheduled to take up the measure May 24.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. Earlier this year, Congress approved and President Clinton signed into law a bill granting the medal to New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor. He was given a copy of the legislation at an informal ceremony shortly before his May 3 death. It typically takes about six months to design and cast the medals.

Mother Teresa also received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1997.

Rep. James A. Leach, R-Iowa, chairman of the house Banking and Financial Services Committee, cited the pope's dedication to "the freedom and integrity if every individual human being, his use of moral authority to hasten the fall of totalitarian regimes, his effort to reconcile Christendom and reach out with respect to people of all faiths, and most of all, his commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ(as) a model of grace to all peoples of the world."

Leach said that although the pope has "begun to show the burdens of age" he has not lost the vigor that leads him to participate in lengthy liturgical celebrations and continue his global travels.

"In times singularly bereft of leaders of high moral stature, John Paul II stands out, a pontiff whose presence fills the great basilica of St. Peter and radiates out beyond," Leach said.

Rep. John LaFalce, D-N.Y., noted that when the pope speaks, people all over the world listen.

The single no vote by Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, has become typical. Paul has said he opposes spending the $30,000 it takes to commission and create the gold medal, no matter who the recipient. When the House voted on Cardinal O'Connor's gold medal, Paul instead invited his colleagues to each match his offer of a $100 personal donation to cover the cost. ▼

SPLUNGE 2000 registrations underway

CHARLOTTE — Registrations are being accepted for the Diocese of Charlotte Office for Youth Ministry's annual inner-city service project for youth ages 15 and up, which will take place in Charlotte July 21-26. SPLUNGE — Special People Living Uniquely Growthful Nourishing Experiences — offers spiritual reflection and learning opportunities to enhance the experience of service to the poor, hungry and those with special needs. The host site and lodging will be at St. Luke Church in Charlotte. For more details and to register, contact your parish youth minister or the diocesan Office for Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

Dietzen, from page 13

These conditions explain much of the fundamentalist opposition to such associations as the United Nations and the European Union, and the militant alliance of Christian evangelical bodies with Israel in the Middle East peace initiatives, all of which are thought to delay the final battle with Satan and thus the final coming of Christ.

The third condition is particularly frightening. Previous Jewish temples occupied the site on which now stands the Dome of the Rock, the Mosque of Omar, an impressive structure which dominates the skyline of old Jerusalem. It has been a sacred place for Muslims for more than 1,300 years and is the second most hallowed shrine of the world of Islam.

Obviously, the temple could not be rebuilt without destruction of this holy place, which from any perspective today would be cataclysmic for world peace. The fundamentalist groups we're speaking of, however, believe it can, in fact must, happen to fulfill the plan of God.

Catholics and most other mainstream Christians believe, as we say in the acclamation at Mass, that Christ will come again. But we don't get heated up about when, and we don't organize our entire spiritual life around supposedly frightening implications of that event.

As bizarre as they may appear to most of us, these ideas persist for a significant part of Christianity. Of the countless books on the topic, "The Late Great Planet Earth," by Hal Lindsey, former activist of the Campus Crusade for Christ, is an unofficial "bible" of the movement. Published in 1970, tens of millions of copies have been purchased, and it's still selling.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Elementary and Middle School Positions: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Assistant Principal/Teacher (Master's in Administration, practicing Catholic): Middle School teachers of Social Studies, Language Arts, Science and Math; Grades 4 and 5 teachers. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; or call (336)887-2613; or fax (336)884-1849.

Guidance Counselor: Part-time. Asheville Catholic School. Must be NC certified. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

Music Ministry Director: St. Aloysius Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Music Ministry for a well-established music program. Send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601.

Music Ministry Director: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is seeking an organist/music director. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgy. Salary negotiable. Benefits available. Send resume and references to Immaculate Conception Church, 208 - 7 Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC 28791-3602.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic grade 5 teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license; teach religion and all academic subjects. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teacher and Librarian: Our Lady of Mercy has the following positions available: 8th grade homeroom to teach Language Arts, Social Studies, and Religion (if Catholic); Librarian for K-8th. Please call (910)722-7204.

Teachers, Campus Minister, Library/Media Director: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following full-time teaching positions open for the 2000-2001 school year: Math, Chemistry, English, Religion, Social Studies, Spanish, and Drama. Must have NC Teaching Certification. Also, full-time Library/Media Director and part-time Campus Minister are needed. Call (704)543-1127.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: Computer, Music, PE, Spanish, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or related field and three years' experience in Youth Ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

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Raleigh Diocese receives, disperses almost $2 million in aid

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — After Hurricane Floyd faded into the northern Atlantic last fall, Russ Elmayan and Kathleen Walsh of the Raleigh Diocese were faced with a task that would make most people break out in a cold sweat.

Almost $2 million in disaster relief funds had poured into the diocese from all corners of the country.

The diocese and its Catholic Social Ministries office had to find a way to wisely and responsibly spend the $1,965,470 that parishes and individuals in the state and around the country, other dioceses, foundations, religious orders, and Catholic Charities USA had entrusted to them.

"It's a huge ethical responsibility," said Elmayan, chancellor of the Raleigh Diocese. "To some extent it was uncharted territory for us. We had to think on our feet."

By the beginning of May, the diocese had already dispersed just under $1.1 million in disaster relief and had committed the balance to other disaster relief initiatives.

"We generally know where it's going to be spent," Elmayan told the NC Catholic, Raleigh's diocesan newspaper.

What helped was a set of operating principles that he drew up and the bishop and his staff approved. The document basically set up a protocol for distributing disaster relief.

For example, the document sets forth that the diocese would "seek to provide disaster relief aid that government and other secular nonprofit agencies do not or cannot provide." Thus, funds would be used primarily to "address unmet needs, both immediately and over the longer haul."

At the same time, the document states, "we will err on the side of helping people now, as needs are identified, rather than purposefully saving resources until later. We will err on the side of being expeditious and liberal rather than conservative in how funds are disbursed for those in need."

Walsh, director of the Catholic Social Ministries office, said the operating principles gave them some guidelines to hold onto, especially in the early days of the relief efforts.

"The money came in quickly. And the needs came in quickly," she said. "It was our job to analyze whether the immediate needs and our responsibility for those needs were greater than our responsibility to be in it for the long haul. Because the church must always be there."

Even though the needs are initially overwhelming, she said, "we know from practical experience that the needs will be greater over a long time.... We want to help where we can, and where no one else is."

Elmayan said the diocese distributed much of the $1,084,000 in disaster relief through three major categories. Some $365,000 was sent to Hurricane Floyd Rebuilding Ministries, sponsored by Immaculate Conception in Durham.

In the second category, $471,000 was dispersed in grants to other parishes, deaneries and interfaith groups.

Walsh said that initially much of that money was spent on food and temporary shelter for hurricane victims. "It moved into some rebuilding efforts. And we've had some special grants, such as restoring contaminated wells in Tarboro," she told NC Catholic.

Most of the balance, Elmayan said, went to support disaster relief at the regional sites for Catholic Social Ministries.

Walsh said the distributions are a reflection of the diocese's operating principles, which state that parishes, local social ministries offices, and interfaith relief efforts are where most of the "action" will take place.

"There have been multiple examples of how parishes can reach out to other parishes," she said. "And we've learned from that. When parishes prepare for disasters now, it shouldn't be 'What if it hits us?' Now it should be, 'What if it hits anywhere in the diocese? How will we be prepared?'"

The diocese has also committed some $881,000 to another three or four major categories, Elmayan said. For example, $400,000 will be used for four separate community development projects.

Elmayan said the balance has been set aside for Catholic Social Ministries local offices to use in their work on unmet needs committees of the 26 counties most affected by the hurricane, disaster relief staff in three deaneries, and parish grants.

Walsh stressed that despite the fact that the disaster relief funds have been dispersed, the disaster relief work continues for the diocese and Catholic Social Ministries.

"We'll keep on developing new resources and working with what we have," she said. "And that's a message of hope. We don't necessarily know where the money for next December's family is going to come from, but we'll be around. We know we're in this for the long haul." ▼

N.C. dioceses sponsor leadership experience

SMITHFIELD, N.C. — The Catholic Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh co-sponsor "Faithful Servant: A Christ-Centered Leadership Experience" June 18-23 at the Short Journey Center in Smithfield. The goal of the program is to actualize the leadership potential of participants while heightening awareness of the dynamics and responsibilities of leadership roles in high school, parishes, youth ministry and beyond. It is designed for youth ages 15 and up. For further information and registration details, call the Diocese of Charlotte Office for Youth Ministry, (704) 370-3243.

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- Campus Ministry
- Youth Summer Camp
- Hospital Chaplaincy

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New Priest Assignments

Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral assignments:

Effective July 6, 2000:

Rev. John Allen	From: Administrator, Saint Michael, Gastonia To: Pastor, Saint Michael, Gastonia
Rev. Msgr. Richard Allen	From:Pastor, Saint Ann, Charlotte To: Retirement at his request.
Rev. Joseph Ayathupadam	From: Administrator, Holy Spirit, Denver To: Pastor, Holy Spirit, Denver
Rev. Herbert Burke	From: Parochial Vicar, Saint Matthew, Charlotte To: Parochial Vicar, Saint Leo, Winston-Salem
Very Rev. Francis Cintula, VF	From: Pastor, Saint John, North Wilkesboro Saint Stephen, Elkin To: Retirement at his request
Very Rev. Thomas Clements, VF	From: Pastor, Sacred Heart, Salisbury To: Retirement at his request
Rev. James Collins	From: Administrator, Saint Joseph, Newton To: Pastor, Saint Joseph, Newton
Rev. Francis Connolly	From: Pastor, Saint Pius X, Greensboro To: Retirement at his request
Rev. Christopher Davis	From: Parochial Vicar, Saint Lawrence, Asheville To: Administrator, Holy Infant, Reidsville, Sacramental Minister, Saint Joseph, Eden
Rev. Andrew Draper, T.O.R.	From: Administrator, Saint Francis, Mocksville To: Pastor, Saint Francis, Mocksville
Rev. Thomas Field, Glenmary	From: Pastor, Saint Joseph, Bryson City Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee To: Retirement at his request
Rev. John Hanic	From: Parochial Vicar, Saint Ann, Charlotte To: Parochial Vicar, Saint Gabriel, Charlotte
Rev. Conrad Hoover	From: Pastor, Saint Elizabeth, Boone Church of the Epiphany, Blowing Rock To: Pastor, Saint Ann, Charlotte
Very Rev. Peter Jugis, JV	From: In residence at Saint Mark, Huntersville To: In residence at the Bishop's house
Rev. Michael Kottar	From: Parochial Vicar, Saint Matthew, Charlotte To: Administrator, Saint John, North Wilkesboro Saint Stephen, Elkin
Rev. Mark Lawlor	From: Administrator, Saint Francis, Jefferson Saint Frances of Rome, Sparta To: Pastor, Saint Francis, Jefferson Saint Frances of Rome, Sparta
Rev. Anthony Marcaccio	From: Priest Secretary to Bishop Curlin To: Pastor, Saint Pius X, Greensboro
Rev. John Putnam	From: Administrator, Holy Infant, Reidsville Sacramental Minister, Eden To: Pastor, Sacred Heart, Salisbury
Rev. John Schneider	From: Sabbatical To: Pastor, Saint Elizabeth, Boone Church of the Epiphany, Blowing Rock
Very Rev. James Solari, VF	From: Pastor, Saint Leo, Winston-Salem To: Retirement at his request
Rev. Wilbur Thomas	From: Full time Vicar for Priests To: Pastor/Rector, Basilica of Saint Lawrence, Asheville and Vicar for Priests
Very Rev. Cecil Tice, VF	From: Pastor/Rector, Basilica of Saint Lawrence, Asheville To: Pastor, Saint Leo, Winston-Salem
Rev. John Tuller	From: Administrator, Our Lady of the Angels, Marion To: Retirement at his request
Rev. Ray Williams	From: Parochial Vicar, Saint Leo, Winston-Salem To: Administrator, Saint Joseph, Bryson City Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee

Come & bring your neighbors to an

Old Fashion Tent Revival!

"Revival of the Spirit 2000:
From Everlasting to Everlasting, God is still God"

with Rev. Jim Goode, O.F.M., Revivalist

Friday, June 23rd through Sunday, June 25th

Corner of Statesville Avenue and Oaklawn Avenue, Charlotte

FEATURING

Performances by
The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir
Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC
Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir
Philadelphia, PA

SCHEDULE

Friday, June 23rd
7:00 pm
Preaching by Fr. Jim Goode, O.F.M.
Music by The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir

Saturday, June 24th
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Special events all day!
African Storyteller, Kabaka Drummers and Dancers
Special for Youth: Gospel Rapper
Plus... vendors with food, clothing, books, artifacts and more!

5:00 p.m.
Concert by Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir

7:00 p.m.
Preaching by Fr. Jim Goode, O.F.M.
Music by Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir

Sunday, June 25th
11:00 a.m.
Liturgy and Closing Mass with Fr. Jim Goode, O.F.M.
Music by the combined Gospel choirs

For information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd
(704) 370-3339

For accomodations, mention "Tent Revival" for special group rates at:
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Record gift of $20 million goes to Catholic women's college

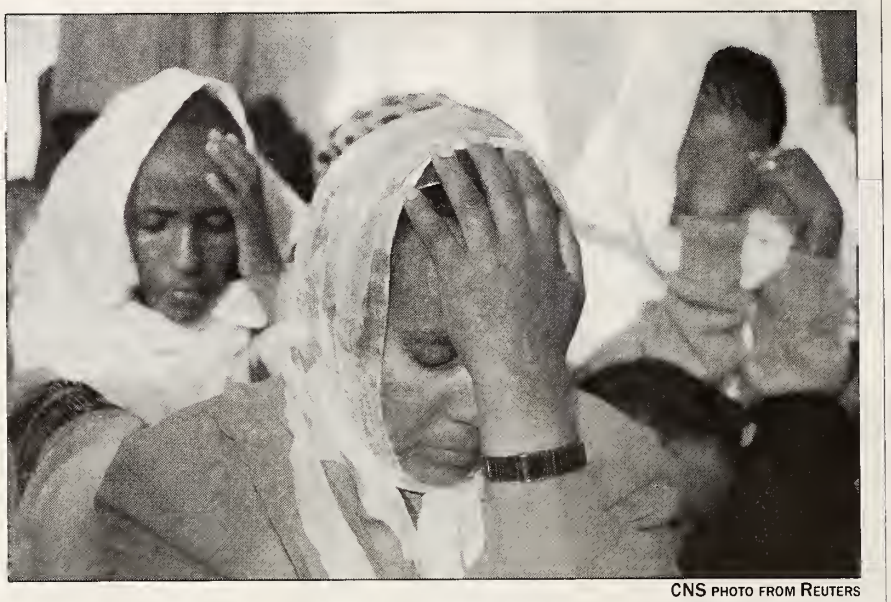
ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who founded the College of St. Catherine nearly a century ago, presented the college with an unrestricted gift of $20 million June 2. Believed to be the largest unrestricted contribution ever made to a Catholic women's college, the $20 million is intended to support the college's vision "to be the world's pre-eminent Catholic college educating women to lead and influence." The United States and Canada have 74 women's colleges, according to the Women's College Coalition in Washington; there are 150 in the world.

New Web site offers guidance on Catholic books

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CNS) — The founder of Domino's Pizza and the founder of Single Catholics Online have joined in a new Internet company that will evaluate, recommend and sell Catholic books judged faithful to the teaching authority of the church. The nonprofit company, called Tiber River, is based in Ann Arbor and a division of Ave Maria Communications. Tiber River and Ave Maria were founded by Thomas S. Monaghan, the former Domino's Pizza owner who also founded Legatus International, an organization of Catholic business leaders. Monaghan is chairman of Tiber River. President of the new company is Anthony Buono, who heads Single Catholics Online and formerly was general manager of Scepter Publishers in Princeton, N.J.

Indonesian Catholic official condemns church bombings

MEDAN, Indonesia (CNS) — A Catholic Church leader in North Sumatra, western Indonesia, strongly condemned bomb attacks on churches and asked Catholics to stay calm and keep alert. Capuchin Father Paulinus Simbolon, vicar general of Medan Archdiocese, said the local Catholic Church "strongly condemned all terrors, including the recent bomb terror and threats" that disturb religious practice, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. A homemade bomb blast rocked the Indonesian Protestant Christian Church May 28 at the start of Sunday liturgical service around 8:30 a.m. Forty-seven churchgoers were injured.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Praying for peace

Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox Christian women pray for peace in Eritrea's capital of Asmara. The special prayer service coincided with peace talks taking place in Algiers between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The countries have been locked in a border war for at least two years.

Diocese in Sierra Leone traces children lost during war

KENEMA, Sierra Leone (CNS) — The Diocese of Kenema in eastern Sierra Leone has begun tracing lost children. The sporadic and surprising attacks on villages by rebels frequently causes parents and children to be separated while fleeing for their lives. "We thought it necessary to trace those children and reunite them with their families," said Father Ambrose Turay, coordinator of the Kenema diocesan development office. He said more than 1,400 children had been traced, and "most of them had resorted to begging to get their living," he said. He added that 29 children have already been reunited with their families.

Southern African bishops welcome bill to curb gun use

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference welcomed a new bill that aims to curb gun use and that would allow tough sentences for the unlicensed possession of firearms and ammunition. South Africa's Firearms Control Bill would increase the maximum sentence for the illegal possession of firearms from five to 15 years. A sentence of 25 years could be imposed for the possession of prohibited firearms, such as automatic weapons. "Many of the points we made in our submissions to parliament have been incorporated into the bill," said Father Peter-John Pearson, who heads the bishops' parliamentary liaison office.

Rapid growth seen in religious order associates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are now more than 25,000 lay associates of U.S. Catholic religious orders, says a new study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The study found some 11,000 more associates than a similar study five years earlier. Respondents reported nearly 2,700 new associates currently in formation. Most formation programs are about one year. Those figures indicated that the American Catholics seeking to connect with the spirituality, life, prayer and mission of religious institutes form a significant and rapidly growing new presence in the U.S. church.

Vatican to publish document on world's prisons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Shortly before Pope John Paul II visits a Rome prison in July, the Vatican will publish a document examining the situation and needs of prisoners around the world. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said the document being prepared by the Holy Year coordinating committee should be released shortly before the July 9 celebration of the Jubilee for Prisoners. Navarro-Valls said the new document "will confront the theme of the condition of prisons around the world from the human, social and pastoral points of view, but above all it will provide some ideas about facing the problems and not only through the use of clemency."

Mexican cardinal calls for end to 'xenophobic attitudes' in U.S.

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City asked an end to "xenophobic attitudes" in the United States that have contributed to recent violence and deaths for Mexicans who have tried to cross the border illegally. Speaking to reporters following a Mass May 28, the cardinal was especially critical of ranchers in southern Arizona who have organized vigilante groups to capture undocumented workers. "A fundamental human right is the right to work ... and I believe that the laws of countries and concrete attitudes must leave behind those xenophobic feelings and attitudes," he said.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 12 — 15
Clergy Retreat
Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pa.

June 17 — 11 a.m.
Transitional Diaconate Ordination
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

June 18 — 5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Eugene, Asheville

June 19 - 23
Convocation of Priests
Asheville

June 25 — 3 p.m.
Corpus Christi
Mass and Procession
Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point

Diocesan planner

June

11 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is having a charismatic Mass at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

14 GREENSBORO — There is an Alzheimer's support group meeting this morning from 10 a.m.-noon at Guilford College Methodist Church. If anyone in your family has memory loss, this group can give you the support you need to help your loved one. St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church is working with the Methodist Church to obtain information on Alzheimer's/ dementia for those who need it. For location and other information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696.

19 MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Terry Hyland and Charity Sister Fran Grady are leading an art retreat entitled "Recreate in Us a New Spirit, Lord." This retreat is designed for those with artistic abilities to explore their talent and spirituality with the Smoky Mountains as a backdrop. It will serve as a time to reflect, pray, create and share unique creative and spiritual expression of the Divine Artist within. For more information on the retreat being held today through June 23, call Father Hyland at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail: lwcrc@main.nc.us.

20 WINSTON-SALEM — There is a natural family planning session being held at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

21 CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is the facilitator of

Web site offering online Mass-buying removed

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A site on the World Wide Web that offered to help people "buy" memorial Masses anywhere in the United States was dismantled June 7 after Catholic News Service informed the owner it violates church law.

Funeral home owner Peter Savage of Binghamton, N.Y., told CNS he was only trying to provide a service for people and did not intend to make any profit on the site.

He said the site had prompted a few inquiries, but he had not actually processed any orders for Masses.

A pop-up banner ad for eMasscard.com still comes up on the computer screen if someone uses "Catholic" as a search word on the America Online search engine.

But the former site — which offered to let people buy a memorial Mass anywhere in the United States for $20 by e-mail, online order form or toll-free telephone — has been replaced with a simple message in bold type: "Please contact your local church."

Before reaching Savage, CNS spoke with several church officials and a canon lawyer who found the original site's use of phrases like "buy a Mass" and "pay for the Mass" in violation of church law.

Church law makes clear that any offering made for a Mass intention must be treated strictly as an offering, not a payment or purchase. Many priests today refuse such offerings or apply them to charitable or apostolic works.

Franciscan Father Arthur Espelage, executive coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America, said he was "surprised and aghast that someone is selling Masses."

Upon viewing the original Web site, he said it clearly violated Canon 947 of the Code of Canon Law, which says, "Any appearance of trafficking or commerce is to be entirely excluded from Mass offerings."

Church law makes clear that any offering made for a Mass intention must be treated strictly as an offering, not a payment or purchase. Many priests today refuse such offerings or apply them to charitable or apostolic works.

Canon law permits priests to receive such offerings but devotes 14 canons to the topic, spelling out strict limits and obligations to prevent any abuse.

In a telephone interview late June 7, Savage said he first became aware of legal and theological problems posed by his site a short time earlier when he opened an e-mail from CNS asking him to comment on those issues.

He said he realized immediately that the site should be taken down. By the next morning it was gone. ▼

Youth promote parish pride, plan for Rome

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Young people from St. Eugene Church heading for World Youth Day in Rome this summer have come up with a unique way to raise funds for the trip. They are selling plastic license plates bearing the likeness of St. Eugene, according to Leksa and Katyn Chmielewski, two sisters who are among 10 from the church who plan to attend.

The license plates are for the front of a vehicle and will have a gray background with magenta writing and a picture of the church as it is going to look when the current building program is finished, said Katyn.

"We're glad we can inspire some pride in our church while we help ourselves go to Rome," said Leksa.

The St. Eugene youth are among 50 youth and adults from across the western half of North Carolina who plan to travel to Rome for World Youth Day, a part of the year long Jubilee 2000 celebration. The diocesan group will leave Aug. 11 and return on Aug. 23.

"We will get to see the Pope and also meet other Catholic youth from around the world," said Leksa.

"I think it is a neat idea to go on pilgrimage," said Kaytn. "A lot of people don't get that chance."

"It is exciting when youth get to participate in the Jubilee Year," said St. Eugene's pastor, Father Frank Cancro. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." He expects that for some it will be their first time to visit Europe, to get a sense of a different country and a different culture. Rome expects World Youth Day to draw some 800,000 young people, he said.

Father Cancro hopes to join the St. Eugene youth at some point in the trip and spend time in Assisi, helping them see some of the sights in the area. ▼

Newspaper takes honors in national CPA competition

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BALTIMORE — The Catholic News & Herald was recognized for excellence during the 2000 Catholic Press Association newspaper awards competition held May 26.

Julie Radcliffe, production associate, took top honors nationally in the category of best single ad in the black and white category, for an ad designed for Catholic Social Service's marriage preparation program. Radcliffe's work was judged in a category that included all Catholic newspapers, both diocesan, and publications with national circulation.

Judges described her work as, "comprehensive but not cluttered and praised her selection of graphics."

Staff Writer Alesha Price received an honorable mention for a personality profile of Pauline Leeper, a Belmont woman, who tirelessly worked to bridge race relations in North Carolina. In her story, Price captured the essence of this Rosa Parks-of-a-woman noted for her efforts in civil rights issues.

The Catholic News Herald, which serves 46 counties in western North Carolina has a circulation exceeding 45,000. The diocesan newspaper has collected more than a dozen CPA awards since establishment of the publication in 1990.

CPA membership includes nearly 200 diocesan newspapers in the United States and Canada with a combined circulation of nearly 30 million. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

"Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., at 7 p.m. tonight. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-5342.

25 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., is celebrating the jubilee year at the 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon Masses today with a blessing of the entrance doors, inspirational music and a gospel reading. For more information, call the church office at (704) 633-0591.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — UNC Charlotte's Office of International Programs is looking for volunteers to host visitors from Japan as they take part in an intensive study program. Volunteers are needed to host the following students for these upcoming dates: Japanese Bankers during the weekend of July 14-16 and Japanese English Teachers from Aug 4-19. If you have an interest in making international friends and would like to help the guests learn more about American culture and lifestyle, call Kathy Ballard, home stay coordinator, at (704) 663-5861 or Mark Beam at (704) 547-2597.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej and the Diocese of Charlotte Renewal Team are sponsoring a weekend retreat, entitled "You Will Receive Power," July 7-9 at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. The goal and purpose of the weekend is to renew God's people by studying sacred scripture, sacraments and the teaching of the church with great emphasis on personal prayer and worship devoted to the Holy Spirit and the metanoia and spiritual fruits which flow from it. Space is limited, so for registration and further details, contact Augustinian Father Terry Hyland at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail: lwcrc@main.nc.us.

ROCK HILL, S.C — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park during the weeks of July 9-15 and July 16-22. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586 or call (803) 327-2097.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., one of three jubilee year pilgrimage churches in the Diocese of Charlotte, hosts free tours of the historic church after each weekend Mass. The Masses are celebrated every Sat. at 5 p.m., and on Sun. at 9 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. For more information on scheduling guided tours, call Shirley Gregory at (828) 274-4592.

Why we're late...

Due to computer problems, this issue of The Catholic News & Herald was published several days behind schedule. We apologize to our readers for the delay.

BRYSON CITY — Beginning in July, the regular schedule for the St. Joseph Church thrift shop will resume every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For the month of June, the schedule is as follows: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the church office, located at 316 Main St., at (828) 488-2266.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Friends and family say farewell to CCHS principal

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Alumni, family and friends gathered on June 4 to offer their best wishes to a petite powerhouse of a principal.

Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, who has spent 27 years with Charlotte Catholic High School, as a teacher and as principal for the past 20 years, has been appointed as the director of Marian Center, a skilled care facility for the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont.

The class of 2000 is Sister Paulette's last class as she steps down from her position as principal of CCHS to begin a new chapter in her life.

At a farewell reception in the school that Sister Paulette helped to build, the Parent Teacher Organization, Alumni Association, Athletic Organization and the CCHS Foundation all co-sponsored the gathering and coordinated the event.

"We wanted everyone who has ever come in contact with Sister Paulette to attend the reception and feel welcome," explained Vickie Britton, president of the PTO, whose oldest daughter is a CCHS graduate and whose middle daughter is graduating this year. "We sent hundreds of invitations because we wanted to reach everyone, and we pooled our resources to have one big reception."

The co-sponsors and those in attendance also pooled their resources to present a check for $7,000 to Sister Paulette in honor of her years of dedication to the school and the students.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal of CCHS, accepts a check for $7,000 of funds collected from the support of the Alumni Association, Parent-Teacher Association, CCHS Foundation, Athletic Association and other supporters at a co-sponsored farewell reception on June 4. David Watson, treasurer of the PTO, presented the check.

A tearful Sister Paulette thanked everyone who had been a part of her life in academia: "I will always have strong ties to CCHS, and I will miss the family, friends and members of the community that have touched my life. I am most grateful to the diocese and the Sisters of Mercy, who many years ago, saved the school from closing. I wouldn't have been able to be a part of this if not for them. I feel that this ministry has been a real blessing in my life and that I have received more than I have given."

Mike Maher, president of the Athletic Association, whose son is a rising senior, said, "She did a terrific job when she was at the school, and we will miss her involvement in all aspects of the school."

Rob Keuten, a rising senior, is slowly growing accustomed to the fact that he will spend his last high school year without Sister Paulette.

"It will be hard for us because we are used to her system," he said. "Although I think that this is good for her to make this decision at this time in her life, I will miss her unbelievably. At first, she seems tough, but after a certain amount of time, you realize that everything she does is for you."

The faculty and staff party for Sister Paulette was held on May 4, complete with skits depicting the years, jeers and tears of "Sister Smallette," as the staff and students affectionately call their principal, and a gift of a computer and printer from the faculty.

Sister Paulette taught Debbie Stathakis math and religion when she attended CCHS and helped Stathakis obtain a job as a teacher at her alma mater.

"I will miss her wit, honesty and genuine concern for others," said Stathakis, sophomore and senior Spanish teacher. "Her dreams for the CCHS family came to life because she didn't view her role as principal as a job. To her, it helped to perpetuate a living ministry of faith and education started by the Sisters of Mercy."

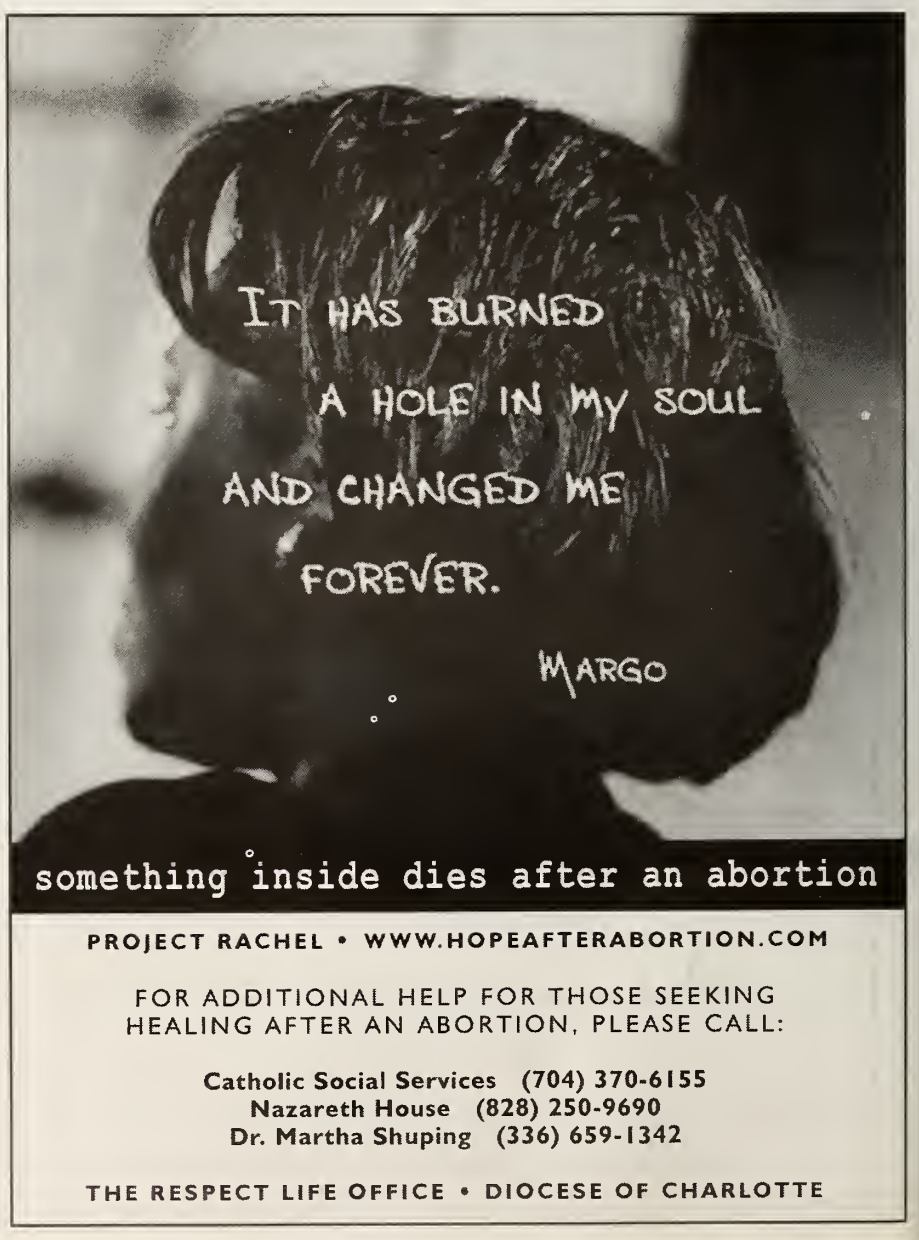
Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, commented on her skill and prowess as a principal: "Sister Paulette has contributed an enormous amount of leadership not only to CCHS but also for our entire diocese. She served 20 years as principal and seven years prior to that as a teacher and helped to build the school to the point where we are now. We certainly wish her well and we will be counting on her to help to smooth the transition."

Steve Carpenter, assistant principal, said, "She has been an amazing role model, and we are very grateful to have had her for as long as we did and are happy that she is moving on to her new ministry." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Oscar and Rina Goco, whose son Timothy is a student at CCHS, offer good luck to Mercy Sister Paulette Williams.



Catholic Social Services agency fosters family connections

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Photographs adorn the walls of Jean Davis' office: smiling babies with Santa Claus, toddlers at their first birthday parties, young men and women in formal family portraits. Years of history decorate this space — years of history and hundreds of stories.

They are stories interwoven with love: children in need of loving parents, parents who want to offer that love, and a human services agency that makes it all possible.

An adoption social worker for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, Jean Davis has spent more than 18 years helping make those connections a reality for children and parents alike. She said ensuring that family bond through the years is a number-one priority in the adoption program.

"We have a lot invested in our boards around here," Davis said, referring to the families pictured on bulletin boards in the CSS offices. "We feel it's very important that there is a family continuity."

Catholic Social Services' domestic adoption program is coordinated by social workers in Asheville, Winston-Salem and Charlotte. The program works with Catholic and non-Catholic adoptive families, and with birth parents of any faith.

Catholic Social Services also operates an international adoption program which has been featured in past issues of The Catholic News & Herald.

The CSS domestic adoption program serves couples wanting children but who face infertility. Prospective parents work with the agency through an extensive process ensuring that the right matches are made.

An adoption committee meets once a month to study new applications, and members decide how to best address those inquiries. Once initial approval is given, social workers begin the comprehensive interview and home assessment process with prospective parents.

CSS' domestic adoption program aims to nurture the family relationship from the parents' point of inquiry into the child's early adulthood and beyond.

"We try not to have too many families waiting," said Davis. "We *do* try to have a good number of families because we have children of all different needs. ... We have to keep a balanced pool of families as best we can — from the Winston area, from the Asheville area, from the Charlotte area."

The program hosts several gatherings each year to keep connections going, including a Christmas party and a springtime picnic. In addition, the agency facilitates a support group for prospective parents going through the process.

"I think both Lisa and I were a little apprehensive about coming in and wondering whether they are going to put you under a spotlight," said Brian Perry of the interview phase. He and his wife are near the end of the home assessment with CSS. "But they have made us feel very comfortable," he said. "It's just like talking to a friend, and it feels very natural."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Lisa and Brian Perry, who had been trying to start a family four years before contacting CSS, said the domestic program does indeed offer that sense of family Davis speaks so highly of.

"When you are a child coming into an adoptive situation, you're not only getting a new mom and dad, but you're getting an extended family," Brian said. "You meet them every year at the picnic, or here at Catholic Social Services."

Lisa added that the support system offered by CSS has calmed nerves and renewed hope for a future with children.

"We see that there has been — and is going to be — a lot of support through the whole process," she said. "It's very personalized. And I know that we can call here at any point after we are fortunate enough to adopt."

There are volumes upon volumes of paperwork chronicling the agency's work. Each case must be documented thoroughly; many aspects in the lives of the children, birth parents and adoptive families are extensively detailed and regularly updated. Every contact between the families and the agency is recorded.

And through it all, the program keeps that open-door policy to families, both new and old, who seek counseling, information and friendly chats for years after the children's placement.

"We stop in periodically, and send notes and pictures so they can see the progress," said Kate Jones, who with husband Ray adopted two children through CSS nearly two decades ago. "This agency is really concerned about the adoptive families. There really are caring and nurturing people who work there, who are concerned for the existing family and how it changes when a child is placed with them."

"We are still here for families," Davis said with a smile. "We work with families all the time. We laugh with our families and say, 'When you hooked up with us that first time, you didn't realize it was a lifetime commitment, did you?'

"But that's the way we choose to look at it. We are here forever for families if they need us." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

VOCATIONS

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In 1989, I was ordained a Permanent Deacon, serving at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte. One year after my wife's death from cancer I retired, and in 1996, I began studying for the priesthood at Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA.

Early in my journey I began to fall in love with the Church and to realize that Christ chose it to be his sacramental instrument. Through years of intense prayer, I have been drawn to Mary and the Eucharist, now the center of my life. I have found much joy, happiness and peace in the silent presence of the Blessed Sacrament and know that God intends our sanctification through an active living of the sacraments."

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Nation's oldest woman religious dies at age 111

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — Imagine seeing the Catholic Church in three different centuries. Franciscan Sister Martha Pellow did. At age 111, she was the oldest religious sister in the United States. She died June 2 at her motherhouse in Bay Settlement, just north of Green Bay. She entered her community, the Sisters of St. Francis, on June 10, 1908. "Sister was well prepared for her death. She was longing eagerly to meet her God face to face," Sister Sally Ann Brickner, community superior, told The Compass, Green Bay's diocesan newspaper.

Former Treasury Secretary Simon, prominent Catholic, dies

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (CNS) — Former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon, a prominent investment banker, philanthropist and activist in Catholic causes, died June 3 at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara. He was 72. He died of complications from pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic lung disease. His funeral was to be celebrated June 8 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Simon, who proudly described himself as "an outspoken conservative," was widely regarded as a leading spokesman for free enterprise and limited government. In the 1980s he was one of the most prominent critics of the U.S. bishops' 1986 pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All."

Montreal cardinal describes 'The Rocket' as man of passion

MONTREAL (CNS) — Montreal Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte described former hockey star Maurice Richard as a humble man of quiet passion who gave his all for his team, his family and his fans. The cardinal said "The Rocket," as Richard was known, kept the religious values transmitted to him in childhood all his life. "He wanted to be faithful to God. That is why his funeral is taking place in a church," the cardinal told more than 3,000 mourners, including Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, packed into Notre Dame Basilica May 31. Richard died May 27 at the age of 78 after a three-year battle with cancer.

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN WHITMAN, COURTESY BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

New oratory dedicated at National Shrine
Sisters of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence gather with Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Thad Jakubowski in the new oratory dedicated to the Mother of Divine Providence at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington June 5.

Bush blocks execution of inmate to allow new DNA use

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush approved a 30-day delay in the scheduled execution of convicted killer Ricky McGinn June 1 to allow a review of DNA evidence that the inmate and his lawyers say will exonerate him. Bush's action came about a week after he reiterated his strong support for the death penalty in remarks to Catholic journalists gathered in Baltimore, but also told them "if DNA helps to settle a case or raise any doubts, of course we ought to be using it." The reprieve for McGinn came less than 30 minutes before the death-row inmate was scheduled to die by lethal injection for the May 1993 rape and ax slaying of his 12-year-old stepdaughter.

Cardinal honored for efforts in Catholic-Jewish dialogue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Anti-Defamation League awarded Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington its second annual Jan Karski Award for his efforts to "strengthen relations between Catholics and Jews and for his fighting anti-Semitism." "The cardinal has seen the viciousness of hatred, and he has been a progressive leader against that hatred," said David Friedman, regional director of the ADL. The ADL was created to fight anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry. The ADL, in presenting the award May 23, singled out Cardinal Hickey's efforts to establish "Bearing Witness," a program that trains Catholic school educators in how to teach about the Holocaust.

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey dies at age 68

SCRANTON, Pa. (CNS) — Former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey, whose outspokenness against abortion cost him the chance to speak at the 1992 Democratic National Convention, died May 30 at Mercy Hospital in Scranton from what was described as an infection. He was 68. Casey had suffered from familial amyloidosis, which systematically destroys major organs. The condition led him to get a rare heart-liver transplant in 1993. News reports said he learned in 1997 he had prostate cancer and underwent radiation treatment for it and that he had been in and out of the hospital over the past year.

Archbishop celebrates Mass for former hostages

CALI, Colombia (CNS) — Archbishop Isaias Duarte Cancino of Cali celebrated Mass for 175 former hostages of the National Liberation Army, marking a year since their kidnapping at the Church of La Maria. Archbishop Duarte invited the 38 hostages held by the National Liberation Army for the longest time to sit in the front pews. The May 30 Mass was preceded by a minute of silence and prayer in memory of Yaslin Duran Cordoba, the bodyguard killed by the guerrillas when he tried to prevent his boss from being kidnapped.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is carved into old palm tree

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — Alfredo Gutierrez's philosophy is "You don't know what you can do until you try." And what he has tried to do recently has made people stop and take a closer look at the 6-foot-tall statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe carved from the stump of a palm tree next to a smaller Juan Diego statue kneeling before her. Gutierrez, who has no formal training in carving or sculpture, says, "I guess God gave me a little talent." He is carving the statues on a small mound of earth in the corner of a vacant lot next to his home near Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Sacramento.

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Immaculata community raises barn, spirits

By DIANNE RIGGS
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — There is nothing like an old-fashioned "barn raising" to draw folks together and build community. That is exactly what happened at Immaculata School in Hendersonville. In three short weeks, a beautiful 13-by-20 foot cedar barn-like outbuilding was built on the school grounds by parents, teachers and children, and by volunteers from Immaculate Conception Church.

In a last-minute revision of a grant proposal to the Henderson County Partnership for Children Quality Enhancement Project, what would have been just a standard, pre-fab structure built to house tricycles, was changed by lead Pre-K teacher and curriculum coordinator Trish Formichella into a teaching-learning event involving the whole school.

All of that would not have happened had Formichella not met Reid Tessler, general contractor and former shop teacher. "We talked for one and a half hours and the idea mushroomed," said Formichella. "He suggested involving the pre-school and the upper grades." And that is what began the project of which students took full ownership.

The grant, for almost $5,200, funded material for the shed, the tricycles and helmets for the Pre-K students. It funded part of Tessler's salary as well.

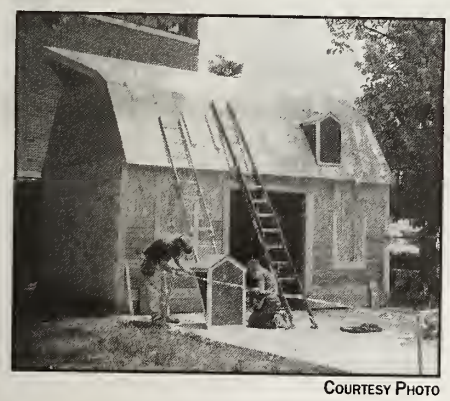
"It gave me and the other teachers the idea of 'what can we do next?'" said Formichella. "If you believe in abundance, you find abundance.

Tessler became contractor and carpenter for the structure. The first thing he did was have the school children draw a picture of a barn. Their ideals were incorporated into the design, he said. "The concept was to get the whole school involved, so it wasn't just hammers and carpentry," said Tessler.

The seventh-grade class took a field trip to the County Building to get the building permit pulled on Tessler's license and had a lesson on zoning and permit requirements for the city and county, said Tessler. The fifth- and seventh-grade classes had a lesson on loads common to buildings.

"They were smart," Tessler said of the students. "They realized there is not just a down load, but a wind load."

The children also compared the differences in stability between a rectangle and triangle — and then built the trusses, which are a series of triangles, he said.



Courtesy Photo

The new barn structure at Immaculata School will be used to house tricycles and helmets for the Pre-K students.

Photo by Dianne Riggs

Reid Tessler lifts Josh Horowitz of Immaculata School as he hammers at the new barn structure at the school. Tessler, a general contractor and former shop teacher, became contractor and carpenter for the building.

"The kids helped with everything except work on the high ladder, for safety reasons," said Tessler.

Remarkably, even the youngest children helped with the barn, said Formichella. Like the older ones, they were involved with clearing the ground, digging the foundation, hauling dirt, spreading gravel, pouring cement, hammering studs, siding, trusses and doors, and carrying materials, all done with age-appropriate tools, until the barn was complete.

Parents and other adults from the church were involved in all phases, said Formichella. Also, local community suppliers, who desired to remain anonymous, donated materials. Upper-grade children who helped on the physical structure mainly did so during the after-school program, and Pre-K kids came with a parent on Saturday mornings.

Some children kept journals of the event, and others took pictures, so there is a record of the process. "I think it helped the children involved, with their self-esteem," said Formichella.

The next phase of the project is the painting. Currently the art teacher, Lois Hansen, and children are working on a mural for one outside wall of St. Francis and animals. They are also going to do pictures on the two false windows.

"The biggest satisfaction for me was the process of the job," said Formichella. "Whatever I needed was brought to me instantly. Reid would say, 'We need plywood and shingles' and then he would call a little later and say, 'They're delivering this afternoon.' Or, 'We need someone to help put up the roof,' and at church that Sunday, there they were!"

"It gave me and the other teachers the idea of 'what can we do next?'" said Formichella. "If you believe in abundance, you find abundance." ▼

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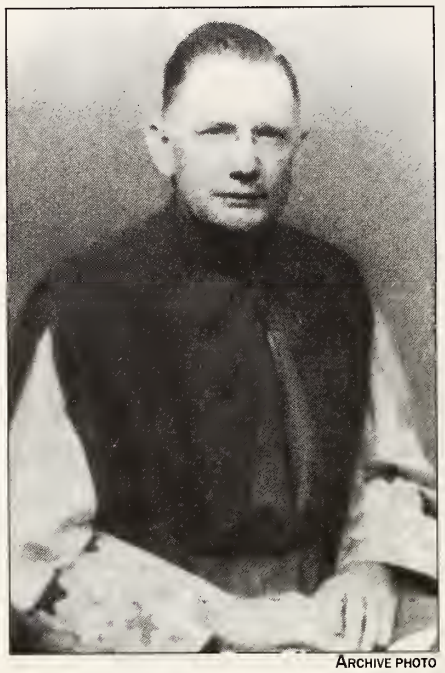
Msgr. John Francis Xavier Roueche, senior priest for the diocese, dies

HIGH POINT — Msgr. John Francis Xavier Roueche knew North Carolina as well as any priest who ever served in the state — and better than most. A native of Salisbury and a descendant of that city's first Catholic resident, he served in 11 parishes from New Bern to Asheville during his 42 years of active priesthood.

For several of those years, he also directed the Missionary Fathers Apostolate in North Carolina and was director of the Missionary Trailer Chapels, which served rural areas of the state where there were no Catholic churches.

Msgr. Roueche was born Nov. 7, 1906, in Salisbury, where his family long was active in Sacred Heart parish. After graduation from Belmont Abbey College, he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore under the sponsorship of Bishop William J. Hafey of the Diocese of Raleigh. He was ordained by Bishop Hafey at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury on June 11, 1933.

Father Roueche's first assignment was as an assistant at Holy Trinity parish in Kinston. After a year in Kinston, he was assigned to the Missionary Fathers Apostolate, then based at Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh. He was at Nazareth until January 1938, when he was assigned



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Msgr. John Francis Xavier Roueche
1906-2000

to Blessed Sacrament parish in Burlington with additional summer duties as a substitute chaplain at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

With America's involvement in World War II fast approaching, he entered the U.S. Army in March 1941, as a chaplain at Camp Lee, Virginia. In 1942, he was promoted to captain and became chaplain at an army hospital in Hawaii. Following the invasion of Normandy in 1944, he took part in campaigns in northern France and Germany.

Following his discharge early in 1946, Father Roueche served briefly as pastor of St. Joan of Arc in Asheville and then became pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Dunn where he served for three years.

From March 1949 to June 1952, he was director of the Apostolate residence at Wake Forest. He then became pastor of St. John's in North Wilkesboro as well as training director of the Apostolate and director of the Missionary Trailer Chapels. He also directed the Trailer Chapel serving western North Carolina.

In November of that year, the Apostolate headquarters was shifted to Newton Grove, and Father Roueche served as pastor there for a year. In November 1954, he was appointed pastor of St. Paul's in New Bern and dean of the New Bern Deanery. On May 5, 1955, he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of monsignor.

In January 1958, Msgr. Roueche became pastor of St. Lawrence in Asheville and dean of the Asheville Deanery. In September 1962, he was appointed rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, dean of the Raleigh Deanery and consultor to Bishop Vincent S. Waters.

He served as pastor of Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont from March 1967 until July 1971, when he became pastor of St. Vincent de Paul in Charlotte. He became a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte when the new diocese was established in January 1972.

From January 1973 until his retirement on May 9, 1975, Msgr. Roueche served as pastor of St. John the Baptist parish in Tryon. Following his retirement, he made his home in Southern Pines, prior to moving to Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the funeral Mass June 7 at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians [Belmont Abbey]. Burial was in the Abbey cemetery. ▼

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School Board Openings for MACS

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

The MACS School Board has four school board vacancies beginning 2000-01 school year. One vacancy is as representative of Our Lady of the Assumption School and three representatives are for atlarge positions. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:
1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a MACS parish. One exception shall be that, at most, one board position may be designated for a participating member of a parish outside of MACS. This would be an atlarge position.
3. Be a parent of children in a MACS school or have had a child in a MACS school. Parents who are enrolling a child in the school for the upcoming year are eligible. Atlarge members are exceptions to this qualification.
4. Be 25 years of age or older.
5. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
6. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.
7. Be able and willing to make necessary and substantial time commitments to attend meetings and related board activities including active participation on a board committee.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having MACS committee, PTO, Athletic Association, MACS Foundation or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 23 to:

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

MACS Board Nomination Committee
Catholic Schools Office
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Feel free to contact Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools, with questions or comments at 7043703271.

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Father Joseph Schaefer, O.S.F.S., served diocese, dies at 75

WILMINGTON, Del. — Father Joseph Schaefer, 75, died of heart failure at Annecy Hall, an assisted living care center for convalescent Oblates, at the De Sales Centre in Childs, Maryland at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2000.

Father Schaefer was born March 28, 1925 in Philadelphia, Pa. and was a son of the late Mr. John H. Schaefer and the late Mrs. Bridged Mellon Schaefer.

He graduated from Immaculate Conception Parochial School in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. in 1939.

He graduated from St. Joseph High School in Princeton, NJ in 1943. He received a BA in Philosophy from Niagara University in Niagara, N.Y., in 1949.

Following graduation from high school, Father Schaefer joined the Vincentians Fathers and studied with the Vincentians until he joined the Oblates in 1951.

The Vincentians Fathers administer Niagara University where Father probably encountered the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales who attended school there.

He completed his Theological Studies at the De Sales Hall School of Theology in Hyattsville, Md., in 1956.

He entered the Oblates in Aug. 1951, made his first profession of vows Sept.13, 1951, and perpetual profession of vows Sept. 14, 1954.

His ordination was June 9, 1956, in St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Delaware by Bishop Edmond J. FitzMaurice, Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington.

Among his pastoral assignments were Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Lexington from 1983-1995 and St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Lenoir from 1990-1995.

Viewing was Friday, June 9 from 3:00-4:30p.m. at Our Lady of Light Chapel at The De Sales Centre in Childs, Md. Mass of Christian Burial followed the viewing at 4:30p.m.

Interment took place in the Oblate Cemetery located on the grounds of The De Sales Centre in Childs, Md., following the Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Father Schaefer is survived by one sister, Mrs. Nancy Hill of Orange Park, Fla. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one sister and two brothers.

The Oblates request that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the Oblate Retirement Fund, 2200 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, Del. 19806.

In addition to his ministry in North Carolina, Father Schaefer's assignments included time in Maryland, Washington, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Virginia.

During much of this time, Father Schaefer ministered as a teacher of Latin and English.

From February of this year until his death, he resided at Annecy Hall in Childs, Md. ▼

Rev. Mr. Edward Morovich, retired deacon of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, dies at 79

LEXINGTON — Rev. Mr. Edward Morovich, 79, of Lexington, died June 1 at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

Rev. Mr. Morovich was a retired deacon at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington. He was born in Fayette County, Pa. on November 25, 1920, to John George Morovich and Mary Elizabeth Krupa Morovich.

He was retired and a member of Central Carolina Civitans, Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 8, VFW Post 3074. At Our Lady of the Rosary Church he was a member of the Deacons Organization and served on the Chaplaincy Board at the Davidson County Correctional Center. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served during WW II.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Rose Kobe Morovich and a brother, John Raymond Morovich.

He is survived by his sons John Morovich of Alexandria, Louisiana and Mark Em Morovich of Bensenville, Ill.; a daughter, Susan Decker of Elgin, Ill.; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren; and two sisters, Margaret Eleanor Popovich of Canonsburg, Pa., and Elizabeth Ann Hammer of Gibsonia, Pa.

The family received friends from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, June 3, with a Rosary Service at 7 p.m. at Davidson Funeral Home in Lexington.

A celebration of Christian funeral memorial Mass was held at 4 p.m. Sun., June 4, at Our Lady of the Rosary Church with Father Albert Gondek, O.S.F.S. officiating. Burial took place at National Cemetery in Salisbury with a graveside service at 2 p.m. Monday, June 5, with Military Graveside Rites by VFW Post 3074.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to the Morovich Family at 5414 E. US Highway 64, Lexington, N.C. 27292-8075. ▼

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Congratulations to the newly ordained priests!

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Rev. Luis Osorio
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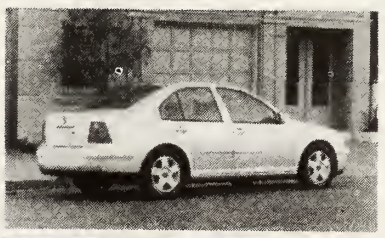

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Vatican clears U.S. Catholic higher education norms

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

Participants in the debate struggled to achieve a delicate balance of institutional autonomy for the university, academic freedom for its professors and the right and responsibility of the bishop to safeguard the faithful teaching of Catholic doctrine to the people of God in his diocese.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops announced June 7 that the Vatican has approved the U.S. bishops' particular norms for Catholic colleges and universities.

They will take effect May 3, 2001, one year from the date of the Vatican decree of "recognition" or approval.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, NCCB president, said the purpose of the U.S. norms "is, above all, to strengthen our Catholic colleges and universities, especially by helping them to maintain their Catholic identity."

The bishops approved the norms at their general meeting last November in a document titled "'Ex Corde Ecclesiae': An Application to the United States."

The Latin part of that title, which means "from the heart of the church," comes from the name of Pope John Paul II's 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic higher education.

The papal document set out a vision of the mission and role of Catholic institutes of higher learning and established general norms applicable to such institutions worldwide. It called on bishops' conferences to develop more specific applications of the papal text to the situation of Catholic colleges and universities in their own countries.

In a statement sent to bishops June 1 and released June 7, Bishop Fiorenza said the yearlong period before the U.S. application takes effect will be used to resolve questions and deal with "practical matters of implementation."

During that time, he said, "the issues behind many of these inquiries will be addressed in dialogue with college and university presidents, theologians and canonists."

The application discusses the theological and pastoral principles of the role of Catholic institutions of higher learning in the life of the church and the civic community.

It says what Catholic identity means for those institutions and spells out ways in which that Catholic identity and inspiration is to be nurtured in a university's foundational documents, board, administration, faculty and student body, in campus life, service to others and academics, research and interaction with culture.

It speaks of the collaboration, mutual trust and ongoing dialogue that must mark the relationship between the university and church authorities.

Throughout years of development of the U.S. application, one of the most vigorously debated issues was how to apply in the U.S. context the general church law that theology professors need a "mandatum," or mandate to teach, from the competent ecclesiastical authority, the diocesan bishop.

Participants in the debate struggled to achieve a delicate balance of institutional autonomy for the university, academic freedom for its professors and the right and responsibility of the bishop to safeguard the faithful teaching of Catholic doctrine to the people of God in his diocese.

The Vatican approved the principles the bishops adopted for the "mandatum" — including their theological and legal description of what it is and is not and their principle that ordinarily once a theologian has received a "mandatum" it goes with him, even if he takes up a new post in a different diocese.

The "mandatum," as described in the norms:

— "Is fundamentally an acknowledgment by church authority that a Catholic professor of a theological discipline is a teacher within the full communion of the Catholic Church."

— "Should not be construed as an appointment, authorization, delegation or approbation of one's teaching by church authorities. Those who have received a 'mandatum' teach in their own name in virtue of their baptism and their academic and professional competence, not in the name of the bishop or of the church's magisterium."

— "Recognizes the professor's commitment and responsibility to teach authentic Catholic doctrine and to refrain from putting forth as Catholic teaching anything contrary to the church's magisterium."

In a footnote to the norm on how the "mandatum" is to be construed, the document says that "it is not the responsibility of a Catholic university to seek the 'mandatum'; this is a personal obligation of each professor."

It adds, "If a particular professor lacks a 'mandatum' and continues to teach a theological discipline, the university must determine what further action may be taken in accordance with its own mission and statutes."

The norms also discuss the process by which a 'mandatum' is granted, denied or removed.

They say the bishop of the diocese where the institution is located is the competent authority to grant it, he may do so personally or through a delegate, and conferral, denial or revocation should be in writing.

The norms also say, "Without prejudice to the rights of the local bishop, a 'mandatum,' once granted, remains in effect wherever and as long as the professor teaches unless and until withdrawn by competent

See HIGHER EDUCATION, page 17

School Board Openings for the Diocesan School Board

The Diocesan School Board has two school board vacancies beginning 2000-01 school year. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May at various schools throughout the Diocese. The meetings take place during the week beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.
3. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
4. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having school committee, board, PTO, Athletic Association or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 30 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools
Catholic Schools Office
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Feel free to contact Dr. Michael Skube with questions or comments at (704) 370-3271.

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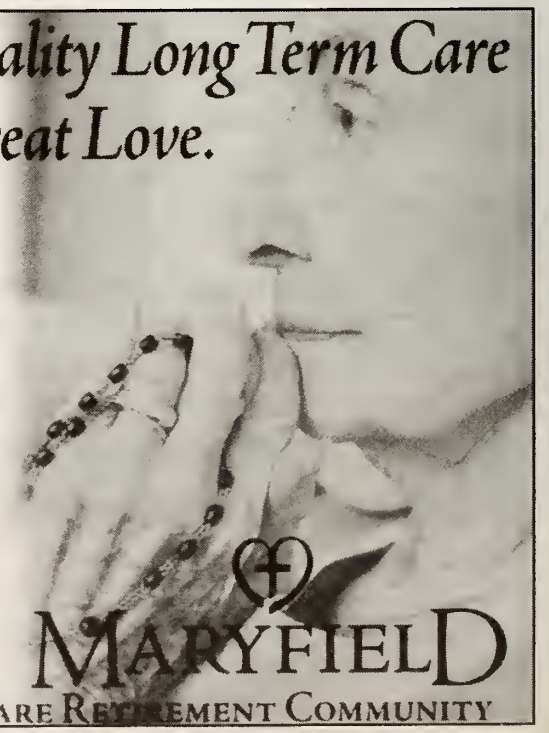

MARYFIELD
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SEVEN ORDAINED TO PRIESTHOOD IN DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In a spirited message to seven candidates for priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop William G. Curlin focused on the mystery of holy orders and the responsibility that comes with the sacrament.

Rev. Messrs. Frank Seabo, Luis Osorio, Shawn O'Neal, Matthew Kauth, Christopher Gober, Joseph Long Dinh and David Brzoska became the diocese's newest priests during a two-hour Mass June 3 at St. Matthew Church.

The ordination of the seven men was a historic occasion for a 28-year-old diocese that has never before had this many men ordained for priestly service at a single liturgy.

The ordination class was also among the largest in the South this year, second in size only to the Archdiocese of Atlanta, according a 2000 survey of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Vocations.

But Bishop Curlin said the true significance of the gathering was the entrance of seven men into priestly service, men who will leave behind the trappings of a worldly life to bring Christ to others.

"You stand before all these wonderful people of God, and you're willing to give all this up in loving someone you have never seen with your eyes or touched," the bishop told the candidates during his homily. "And you've recognized his voice calling you to this sacred ministry, which is the priesthood of Jesus Christ."

The bishop cited the inspiration of joyful priests and the influence of parents among the ways men consider answering that call to priesthood.

"To live this life, you have to realize, my brothers, you're living a mystery," the bishop said. "It is the mystery of Christ extending his ministry in you."

As priests, the seven must remember to lead and live by example while remembering their own faults and weaknesses, Bishop Curlin said.

"Never ask of God's people anything you would not do yourself — any sacrifice, any penance, any challenge, any new thrust of spirituality," he said. "We must preach what we live."

More than 1,100 lay people, candidates' parents, clergy, religious and seminarians gathered for the Mass, which was punctuated several times with rounds of applause. Members of the Knights of Columbus, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulcher — fraternal and chivalric organizations well-known for acts of charity and faith — joined in the procession.

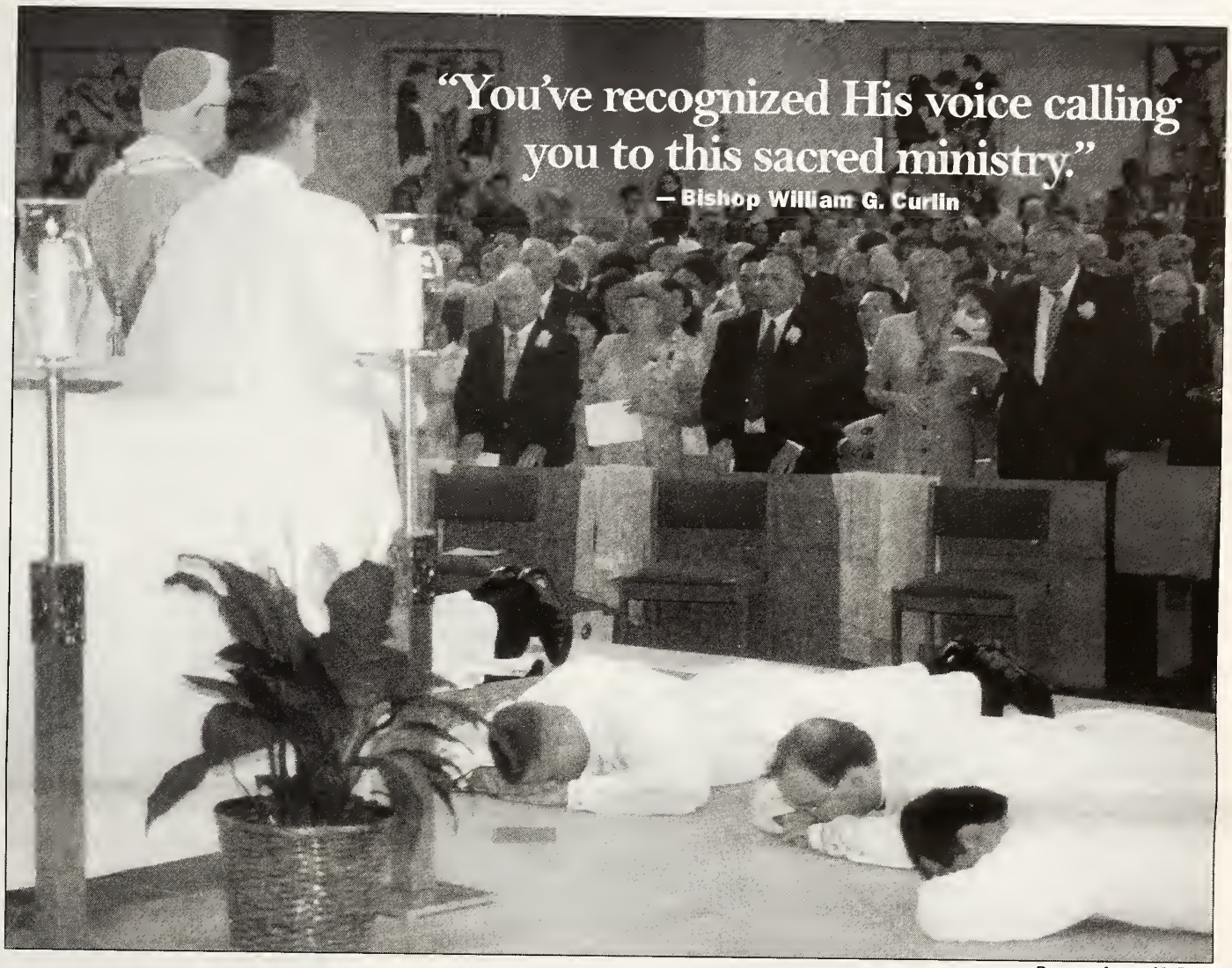

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Special guests also included the Friends of Seminarians, a group who financially supports vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte.

In addition to the seven ordinands and diocesan, religious and visiting priests, concelebrants included Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey and Father Mauricio West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor.

A multilingual liturgy, with readings, prayers and hymns in Spanish, Vietnamese, English and Latin, reflected both the ethnic variety in this year's ordination class and of a diocese whose multicultural makeup is becoming more varied.

Two of this year's ordinands, Fathers Osorio and Dinh, are immigrants to this country: Father Osorio is from Colombia, South America, while Father Dinh was born in Vietnam.

During the Rite of Ordination, the candidates affirmed their promise to fulfill the office of priesthood. Kneeling, each man placed his hands between Bishop Curlin's hands in a promise of obedience to him and his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the entire church and its people as the candidates lay prostrate during the singing of the Litany of the Saints.

During the rite's most solemn moment, the candidates knelt in silence before Bishop Curlin, 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, and was presented with a chalice signifying his role as a celebrant of the Eucharist.

The seven men joined their brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening new chapters in their lives — lives of service to a rapidly growing Catholic population in the western half of North Carolina.

For Father Frank O'Rourke, a veteran priest of the diocese and a former vocations director, the ordination liturgy was a special time of celebration.

"It's a wonderful experience to be at an ordination, and especially this one," said Father O'Rourke, pastor of Holy Family Church in Clemmons. "I know all of these men, and this certainly makes you have a great sense of hope the future. It touches at our own ordinations, and gives a great sense of oneness in the Lord and the awesomeness of that vocation." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

"TO LIVE THIS LIFE, YOU HAVE TO REALIZE, MY BROTHERS, YOU'RE LIVING A MYSTERY... IT IS THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST EXTENDING HIS MINISTRY IN YOU."

— Bishop William G. Curlin

SEVEN MEN

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — This is the story of seven men, chosen by God to lead His flock, in the Diocese of Charlotte.

On one historic day, seven men answered their call to God and were ordained as priests at the ordination liturgy on June 3 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

The events that led this "class of 2000" to the priesthood differ yet are similar in many ways.

Father David Brzoska

Father David Brzoska had spent nearly a decade in a career with a manufacturer of disposable hospital plastics in various positions as a technical coordinator, product manager and assistant to the company vice president before considering the priesthood as an alternate way of life.

Born and raised in Norristown, Pa., as the youngest of four children, he graduated from Penn State in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. After working in New Jersey for three years, the company transferred him to Newton, N.C., in 1987, which, unbeknownst to him at the time, was a life-changing decision.

Father Brzoska began attending St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, where Father Wilbur Thomas was pastor at the time.

He began to feel unfulfilled and dissatisfied with his profession; however, parish work with Bible study, adult education and AIDS ministry and talks with Father Thomas and Father Frank O'Rourke, then the director of vocations, helped to propel him in the direction of priesthood and to remain in the diocese.

He entered St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., in 1994 and completed his studies in May 2000. His new parish home is St. Mark Church in Huntersville, where he wants to share with the parishioners the love and support he received in his own life and the grace from his strong relationship with Jesus.

In his spare time, Father Brzoska, 37, has a special interest in art museums. He enjoys hiking, playing sports like tennis, golf and softball and attending movies.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Father Dave Brzoska offers Bishop Curlin a blessing prior to the recessional.

Father Joseph Long Dinh

Father Joseph Long Dinh, 40, felt the calling to the priesthood at an early age in his hometown of Hue in Central Vietnam at a time of political and social upheaval. Father Dinh, 11 years old at the time, entered minor seminary with his family's blessings.

As he grew up, he further explored his vocational choice and graduated from high school seminary in 1977, an event his father sadly missed. His father had died in a concentration camp a year earlier.

Young Dinh was sent to a forced labor camp for three years and had to postpone his seminary studies. With the seminary closed and his health in poor condition after the rigors of the camp, he struggled to leave Vietnam after several years and attempts and fled the country on a small boat to Thailand to refugee camps.

He arrived in California in 1989, sponsored by a Michigan priest, with his dream of becoming a priest still intact. He worked to send money to his family in Vietnam, and later entered Divine Word College Seminary in Epworth, Iowa, in 1990.

His family was able to immigrate to the United Stated to Charlotte after his graduation.

While helping his family to become acclimated to their new surroundings, he began to view the Diocese of Charlotte as a home. He believes that God with His divine providence has propelled him along his difficult journey and that putting his fate into God's hands ensured his survival and helped with his work in seminary.

He has also received his master's of divinity from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md.

Father Dinh wants to bring the gospel message of love to all and to share the Good News with the congregation at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Music and sports are of special interest to Father Dinh when he is able to catch a few extra moments.

Father Christopher Gober

Father Christopher Gober, a Kewanee, Ill., native, graduated fromhigh school with a couple of ideas for a major in mind, sports medicine or physical therapy. During that time, he traveled with his pastor and a group to Rome, where the thoughts of priesthood first entered into his mind.

After talking with several priests in Rome and discussion with his parish priest, he began to attend daily Mass, and his life path became clearer.

From left, Fathers Chris Gober, Luis Osorio, Shawn O'Neal, Frank Seabo, Joe

At the advice of priests in the Diocese of Peoria, Gober came to the Diocese of Charlotte and met Bishop William G. Curlin, who invited him to become a diocesan priest. Father Gober was interested in this area of the country because of the rapid growth of Catholics and the need for priests in the Diocese of Charlotte.

He says that prayer led him to make that decision, a difficult one, but fully rewarding to him. Father Gober entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy.

He attended the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C and completed his S.T.B., bachelor's degree of sacred theology.

Father Gober, 26, feels that his youth and vitality will be an asset to him as he serves members of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, as parochial vicar. Prayer and a steadfast belief in the need for daily Mass are two focal points in his life. He says that he looks forward to teaching the truth of the faith, helping others know Jesus and administering the sacraments, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

This middle child, flanked by an older brother and a younger sister, enjoys playing sports and reading during his free time hours.

Father Matthew Kauth

Father Matthew Kauth, now 26, was a high school senior, planning to go to college and have the life that he always thought he would, complete with a job and a family. However, he began to question if that life was what he truly wanted. He had first heard the call to priesthood as a young altar boy but ignored it and went on with his high school activities.

After high school graduation, prayer, soul-searching and talks with priests in his home diocese of Peoria led him to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where he earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy.

He earned his S.T.B., bachelor's degree of sacred theology, from the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

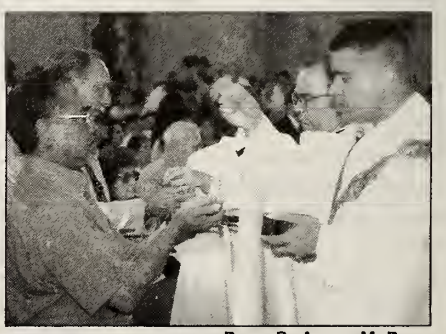

Photo By Alesha M. Price

Father Matt Kauth, foreground, and Father Shawn O'Neal distribute Communion during Mass.

ONE DREAM

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Dave Broszka, and Matt Kauth with Bishop Curlin following the ordination.

Meeting Bishop William G. Curlin and talking with him about missionary work was a significant occurrence in his life and compelled him to want to be a diocesan priest.

Father Kauth says that through prayer and dedication to God people can find inner peace and derive strength.

He will share what he has learned through his prayer life and deep devotion to God with members of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

His concern is that over the last 15 to 20 years, that truth is presented as over and against love, when the opposite was the case in years past.

He hopes that people will work to make truth and love a binding force in their spiritual lives in upcoming years.

Father Kauth reads and plays basketball and other sports in his down time.

Father Shawn O'Neal

Father Shawn O'Neal was born in Metairie, a suburb outside of New Orleans and made his way to the Diocese of Charlotte when he, his twin sister and his parents moved to Charlotte. He, like many other young men, decided to attend college and chose Appalachian State University in Boone and completed his history degree in 1991.

He decided to attend graduate school at UNCC to pursue a master's in education and had been working as

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Father Frank O'Rourke helps Father Shawn O'Neal with vestments during the ordination.

a journalist when he heard his calling. He entered St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., and completed his studies in May 2000.

He hopes to preach in a way that meets people where they are and helps people to view the church as not only God's house but their home as well. He is interested in youth ministry and helping to prepare young people be joyful witnesses to gospel living.

Father O'Neal wants to reiterate to parishioners at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, his new home parish, that the church is not only a refuge but is also a source of joyous living for all to see and share.

He hopes to be a sign of hope and peace for all, especially in the sacrament of reconciliation, and wants to contribute to the community as a visible servant and leader.

Father O'Neal, 30, is now learning more about classical music and also enjoys an occasional street hockey game. He also loves to read travel essays and Spanish and South American history.

Father Luis Osorio

Father Luis Osorio, 42, was born in Colombia, South America, where he spent most of his life with his three sisters and one brother, never considering life in the priesthood. His parents worked to send him to Libre of Perira University, and he graduated with a bachelor of science degree in political economics.

He lived his personal and professional life in South America working in the newspaper, government and factory fields.

After his sister moved to Statesville, N.C., he also immigrated to the area and became acquainted with Father Joseph Waters, who was pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville at the time.

Impressed with Father Waters' work with Hispanics in the diocese and his dedication to his congregation, he began to work with Hispanic ministry, assisting with retreats, workshops and lay ministry.

It was during this period when Father Osorio began to seriously consider the priesthood, and he entered St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

His main focus will be the Hispanic population with whom he will use his bilingualism to the fullest.

He states that his understanding of the Spanish language and culture will be of great benefit to him as he begins his life as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe.

Father Osorio says he will work to help the diocese in the areas of evangelization and inculturation.

Ministering to the Hispanic culture and other cultures, serving as a bridge between cultures through language and teaching people about others' needs is what he would like to do within the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Frank Seabo

Father Frank Seabo, 42, was born and raised in Vineland, N.J., with his two other siblings.

He earned bachelor's degree in finance and master's degree in business administration from Drexel University in Philidelphia, Pa. He moved to North Carolina and worked in law enforcement education and in other areas of business for 14 years.

He taught faith formation classes and became active with his parish and the Knights of Columbus, eventually becoming a Grand Knight in the Raleigh area.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Father Luis Osorio blesses one of the faithful who attended the ordination liturgy at St. Matthew Church.

He found that he enjoyed teaching and helping others in a parish setting. Friends noticed his dedication and love of working and serving in the church.

They suggested life in the priesthood, and he also began to ponder the idea.

Through their support and ardent prayer, he entered the Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., four years ago and completed his studies in May 2000.

His assignment, the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, will be the place where Father Seabo will be able to continue his work with faith formation, youth ministry and Hispanic ministry and share with the parishioners his devout prayer life. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Father Frank Seabo smiles as he processes from the church.

Parental praises for priests, pleased with professions

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Alice and Bernard Brzoska were surprised to the point of laughter when their youngest son announced that he was going to become a priest.

"I was waiting for the punchline," said Mrs. Brzoska. "Dave had been living in Hickory and working in Newton for about eight years and decided at the age of 32 that he, our youngest child, was going to try 'something else' in life. I was stunned."

That "something else" was the vocation of priesthood.

Father Dave Brzoska and six other men pledged their lives to God at the ordination liturgy on June 3. Their parents, family, friends and the diocesan Catholic community were on hand to witness the event.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Elizabeth and Thomas O'Neal participated in the presentation of the gifts for Mass.

"We are excited and so honored about his becoming a priest," continued Mrs. Brzoska. "I hope he will touch other people's lives through the priesthood the way he has touched the lives of his family members."

The Kauths, not unlike the Brzoskas, admitted they were really not aware of Father Matthew Kauth's desire to become a priest until he informed them of his decision.

"We were surprised but very happy that God would find us worthy enough to call Matt and that he would answer that call," said Rev. Mr. Richard Kauth, who credits the family's devotion to the Blessed Mother as their son's main inspiration. "I hope he will not be just a priest but also a holy man of God who can remember that he is called to serve the people."

"We have been waiting eight years for this, and now, today, everything is just overwhelming. We are both quite pleased," added Mrs. Kauth.

O'Neal that "something special" would be in store for their boy and girl twins. "Shawn weighed one pound and nine ounces and survived. I knew there was a special calling for him," explained Mr. O'Neal. "We want him to be truthful, honest and happy, which is all any of us can hope for."

Mrs. O'Neal said that Father Shawn O'Neal has a particularly special mission in his life as a priest. "We have been to other ordinations before, but to have your own son involved is special. As parents, we hope to continue supporting him in whatever way we can."

"I feel very blessed that he would choose this vocation in life," said Mary Gober about her son, Father Christopher Gober, being ordained to the priesthood.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Father Chris Gober shares a sign of peace with his parents, Craig and Mary Gober, during the ordination liturgy.

Craig Gober echoed the sentiments of many of the parents of the new priests.

"I pray that he remain humble and keep the Lord in his soul and mind every day," he said. "I hope that he can wake up saying 'how can I be of service to the Lord and my fellow man today?' I hope that he is the best priest that he can be and sets examples for humanity so other people might follow in his footsteps." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

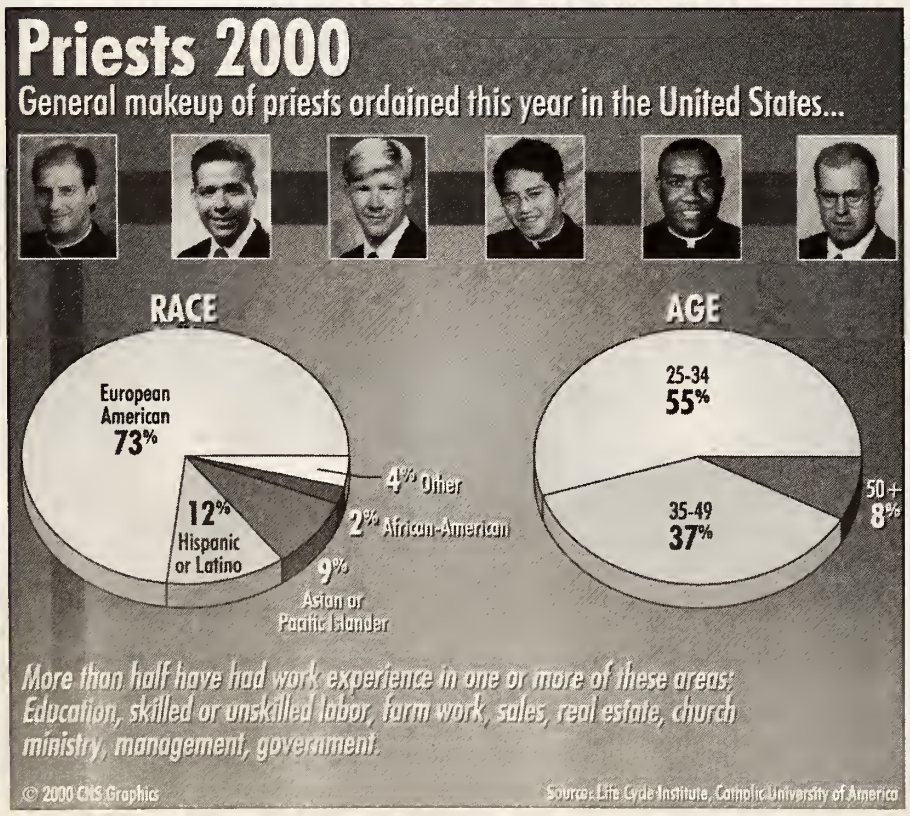

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Bay Cao Dinh carries vestments for her son, Father Joe Dinh, in the procession into St. Matthew Church for the ordination liturgy.

Bishops to vote on national plan for priests' formation

By JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops will vote on a National Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests when they meet in Milwaukee June 15-17.

The 138-page document explores specific formation needs at different stages of life as well as ongoing formation concerns regardless of a priest's age or office.

About half the text is devoted to key stages in priestly life, the specific issues accompanying each, and programmatic responses of formation to help the priest meet new challenges he faces and grow with them.

The five stages it identifies are:

— The first years of priesthood.

— Transition, when a priest receives a change of assignment.

— The first pastorate.

— Midlife, a period of re-examining one's identity, values and direction.

— The "third age" or senior years, when advancing age and retirement bring a realignment of activity and responsibility.

Bishop Richard C. Hanifen of Colorado Springs, Colo., chairman of the Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry, is to present the plan at the meeting. Passage requires approval by two-thirds of the nation's active bishops.

Father J. Cletus Kiley, the committee's staff director in Washington, said in an interview that in the past the bishops have addressed various aspects of continuing education of clergy, but "to date they have not done anything as comprehensive as this."

He said much of the inspiration for the national plan comes from "Pastores Dabo Vobis" ("I Will Give You Shepherds"), Pope John Paul II's 1992 apostolic exhortation on priestly formation, which addressed ongoing formation after ordination as well as seminary training.

He said the exhortation "gave us a fuller understanding of what formation involved" with its perspective that comprehensive formation should bring growth in one's human, spiritual and ministerial dimensions as well as intellectual.

What was once called "continuing education" has evolved into "ongoing formation" as bishops and priests became more aware of the multiple dimensions of growth that need to be addressed, Father Kiley said.

He said the plan presents guidelines for priests and bishops to discuss and to use in assessing strengths and weaknesses in their current ongoing formation policies and programs.

Part of the plan is a discussion of what it calls "10 significant contexts" underlying formation needs of U.S. priests at the start of the 21st century. It summarizes these as:

— An "incomplete shift in sacramental consciousness" since the Second Vatican Council: "As a church, we have not completed the shift from a narrow focus on the event of the sacrament to the process of living out the sacrament."

— "Divisions in presbyterates," with differences in age, background, theological perspective and formation requiring priests to work consciously for common ground and unity.

— "Diminishing numbers of priests."

— The "dramatic contrast" between priestly commitments and "current cultural sexual mores, values."

— "International priests and multiculturalism in the United States."

— "Social shifts and realignment of church resources," making new demands on priestly ministry with communities in transition.

— "Social engagement of the church in matters of justice, life and reconciliation" at a time when Americans tend "to privatize religion and to separate it, at least implicitly, from public life."

— "The new evangelization," challenging priests to re-evangelize Catholics who are only "weakly or loosely connected with faith and church."

— "Fluidity and polarization in the post-Vatican (II) church," in which renewal is not only an ongoing task but a source of division and contrasting interpretations.

— "Sharing many ministries," as the growth of lay ministry makes new demands on priestly leadership and challenges priests to a deeper understanding of their own identity.

Father Kiley said primary responsibility for ongoing formation lies with each priest personally, but the plan also highlights the role of the bishop and of the presbyterate as a whole.

He said the diminishing number of priests — which is also to be a separate topic of discussion during the Milwaukee meeting — has its impact on priests' ongoing formation in a number of ways.

When a diocese's ordination classes are smaller and more diverse in age and background, he said, one can no longer assume the kind of esprit de corps that once bonded priests.

He added that with ever more one- and two-priest parishes, the mentoring of younger priests by more experienced priests in a large rectory can no longer be presumed either, so dioceses are developing explicit mentoring programs. ▼

Gerald Costello named interim administrator of The Christophers

NEW YORK (CNS) — Gerald M. Costello, retired editor in chief of Catholic New York newspaper, has been appointed interim administrator of The Christophers.

Costello, whose new duties begin July 1, will also chair the search committee for a new director to replace Msgr. Thomas J. McSweeney, who has been recalled to his home diocese of Erie, Pa.

"I hope that this will be a brief period of interim service, and that our search for a new director will be short and successful," Costello said.

During the interim period, Msgr. McSweeney will continue writing The Christophers' "Light One Candle" column and serving as host of the "Christopher Closeup" television series.

Costello, founding editor of both Catholic New York and The Beacon, newspaper of the Diocese of Paterson, N.J., has been a member of the board of The Christophers since 1980.

The Christophers, founded in 1945 by Maryknoll Father James Keller, uses the media to spread a message of hope and understanding to people of all faiths and those of no particular faith. It also presents the annual Christopher Awards to honor films, TV programs and books that "affirm the highest values of the human spirit." ▼

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Pope thanks journalists for keeping world informed of his work

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked journalists who, for almost 22 years, have kept the world informed about what he says and what he does.

Waving his cane to acknowledge journalists' applause while showing them he is not quite as frail as they sometimes report him to be, the 80-year-old pope concluded the June 1-4 Jubilee for Journalists.

Pope John Paul said he owed "a personal debt of gratitude to the numerous professionals who, throughout the years of my pontificate, have worked to make known the words and facts of my ministry."

"For this commitment, for the objectivity and courtesy which have characterized the majority of this service, I am deeply grateful," he said.

The pope told an estimated 7,000 journalists and family members that with their "vast and direct influence on public opinion" comes an equally weighty responsibility to report the truth and to turn people's attention to the needs of the weak and poor.

Journalism, he said, cannot be guided only by profit, popularity or politics.

The means of communication must be used "for the good of all and particularly for the good of the weakest sectors of society: from children to the poor, from the sick to people who are on the margins and discriminated against," the pope said.

"It is possible to be authentic Christians and excellent journalists at the same time," he said.

Celebrating the jubilee Mass June 4, French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray said that to fulfill their responsibility as voices for their fellow citizens, journalists have a right and obligation to make ethical demands on media owners.

Journalists must fight against the tendency to make news judgments based on the results of owners' politics or of opinion polls, said the cardinal, president of the Vatican's jubilee committee.

They also must resist "the tendency toward conformity" which results when one newspaper or program plagiarizes another and they all end up using the same source and providing the same point of view, he said.

Cardinal Etchegaray asked the journalists to "struggle against the dictatorship of urgency, of instant news, which is by no means a guarantee of truth."

With their questions and their potential impact on public opinion, he said, journalists can break "the circles of collective shortsightedness" and draw the world's attention to the needs of the poor and the victims of war.

The cardinal also paid "homage to those journalists who with courage have obtained great victories against fear, injustice, violence, hunger (and) illiteracy."

Like the pope, Cardinal Etchegaray had special thanks for the journalists who cover the Vatican; "thanks to them, the jubilee is truly a religious event which counts for all humanity."

Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, and representatives of the World Council of Churches led a June 3 ecumenical prayer service for the journalists.

In his homily, the cardinal said journalists "are frequently called upon to report divisions and violence between members of a family, of opposing groups, of nations."

In reporting those kinds of events, Cardinal Cassidy said, journalists have a role in making reconciliation possible by providing information that can help people overcome prejudice and ignorance.

Journalism is a "powerful instrument for good or evil, for bringing opposed peoples together or confirming them in their divisions," he said.

The journalists' jubilee also included a June 2 evening press conference broadcast live to Washington, Mexico City, Manila, Philippines, and Johannesburg, South Africa. Technical difficulties prevented most participants outside the Vatican from asking questions.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, introduced the press conference with a brief explanation of the Vatican's role in promoting peace and justice in the world.

"There are those who would like public denunciations and those who would prefer the Holy See to dedicate itself to a profound and silent work with those who have the fate of people in their hands," the cardinal said.

"The methods vary in every case," he said. "But one thing is certain: I can assure you that the Holy See's commitment in favor of peace will never diminish. The fate of humanity is at stake."

Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told the journalists the Vatican had not given up hope that its efforts to convince rich countries to forgive the foreign debt of the world's poorest countries would bear fruit.

"There is almost a unanimous opinion that the reduction of the debt, or the elimination of the debt of the poorest countries of the world is a real necessity, a moral necessity and also an economic necessity," he said.

However, he said, the world's richest countries have not kept their promises to forgive or restructure the debt and provide development aid to the poorest nations.

"We cannot have a just international system if countries make promises they do not live up to," Bishop Martin said.

"My hope is that by the end of this jubilee year we will have gotten ourselves out of this current inertia, because there is a real danger that we will lose the gains we have made," he said. ▼

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Higher Education,
from page 10

ecclesiastical authority."

In one of the few changes made to the original text in the consultations preceding final Vatican approval, a new footnote was added at that point explaining the standard canonical phrase "without prejudice to the rights of the local bishop."

The footnote says, "Although the general principle is that, once granted, there is no need for the 'mandatum' to be granted again by another diocesan bishop, every diocesan bishop has the right to require otherwise in his own diocese."

The final text of the application includes a few minor editorial revisions, such as substituting "universal law of the church" for "canon law" in one place and adding "students" to a sentence that omitted them in listing the various groups that form the university community.

Most of the changes consisted of inserting additional references to church documents in some of the footnotes.

The Vatican decree of recognition came from the Congregation for Bishops, which oversees the work of bishops' conferences worldwide. It said it found the norms valid and in conformity with church law after consultation with the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of Legislative Texts. ▼

Vatican refutes claim to end support for women

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Charges by Amnesty International that the Vatican entered into an "unholy alliance" with some U.N. members to undermine support for women's rights are absolutely false, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio said.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino said in an interview June 7 that the Vatican was "always on the side of women" and supports the view that human rights applied to women and men alike.

Amnesty International made its allegations in a statement from its London headquarters June 5 regarding a special session of the U.N. General Assembly held to review implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Known as Beijing +5, the special session at U.N. headquarters in New York June 5-9 was arranged as one of a series to review results of recent international conferences after five years.

A review of the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development was held in New York last year, and a review of the 1995 Copenhagen Conference on Social Development is to be held in Geneva June 26-30.

"The unholy alliance formed by the Holy See, Iran, Algeria, Nicaragua, Syria, Libya, Morocco and Pakistan has attempted to hold ransom women's human rights," Amnesty International charged regarding preparations for Beijing +5.

Pierre Sane, a native of Senegal who is the organization's general secretary, made similar comments in a speech June 4 at a forum at Columbia University in New York.

He charged that the Vatican and its allies had played "a very obstructive role" in negotiations at the United Nations and tried to renegotiate agreements reached in Beijing.

Archbishop Martino said the accusations from a human rights agency showed lack of awareness of what actually happened in the preparatory process, and were surprising because the Vatican had always supported human rights "in every respect."

Differences arose when some countries tried to impose the concept that practices such as same-sex marriage or abortion were human rights, he said.

He added that pressure on those points generally came from the wealthier countries, and that in confrontations at the United Nations on economic questions such as sanctions and the right to development, the Vatican was characteristically supporting the rights of the poorer countries.

The General Assembly was expected to issue a statement at the end of the special session, but the proposed document was still under negotiation.

Archbishop Martino said Sane was operating with a predetermined idea of how the document should be written when he accused some delegates of being obstructive.

If a committee had difficulty reaching agreement on what was supposed to be a consensus document, it would be no more valid to accuse one side of "obstructive" tactics than the other, the archbishop said.

He also denied that the Vatican had entered into any special alliances. "Absolutely not," he said. "We walk on a path, and sometimes we find companions walking on the same path."

If these companions are governments subject to criticism on other points, it does not make the relationship "unholy," the nuncio said.

Archbishop Martino said that on issues as protection of life and defense of the family, the Vatican sometimes supported language proposed by other delegations and the others sometimes supported Vatican proposals.

"When governments take positions that uphold basic principles inscribed in human nature, these have to be appreciated," the Vatican representative said.

Archbishop Martino said charges by Amnesty International that the Vatican and governments in agreement with it were trying to renegotiate positions adopted at Beijing really applied to the other side.

At Beijing, professor Mary Ann Glendon of the Harvard Law School, who chaired the Vatican delegation, said the document adopted there was flawed by "exaggerated individualism" and by giving "disproportionate attention to sexual and reproductive health."

As a result, the Vatican could accept the consensus language only in a partial way and with reservations specified in a document submitted for inclusion with her statement, she said.

However, in responding to the charges by Amnesty International, Archbishop Martino said the Vatican was not now attempting "to change anything adopted in Beijing."

On the contrary, the other side was attempting to "go beyond Beijing" and get acceptance of language not used there, he said. And he said this violated the ruling, given by the General Assembly when it voted to have the special session, that there should be no attempt to reopen the issues debated at Beijing. ▼

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Book Review

Bishop offers hope for moral decline, contends other eras have been worse

By LOU JACQUET
Catholic News Service

As the year 2000 nears its halfway point, more than a few commentators have been heard to say that America is in a state of serious moral decline.

In such a climate, Bishop Thomas G. Doran of Rockford, Ill., brings a refreshing take on the problems of the day. Things have been much worse in previous eras, the bishop contends, and may be worse again in the future.

But the Catholic Church offers a time-tested prescription for the world's ills that works in every age and outlasts even the most overwhelming problems of the day. He urges Catholics to avoid despair and pessimism and take the longer view.

This volume, compiled and edited from the bishop's speeches and writings, seeks to counteract what the author calls the "religion of secularism and atheism" espoused by the nation's media.

Bishop Doran considers the many changes in our fast-paced modern world, noting that "not all change is for the better" and expressing concern that today's Americans have in some respects "left a declining quality of life for the next generation."

But there is hope, he stresses, because those who follow the direction set by the Ten Commandments cannot help but build a better society. The timeless truths found therein can make a genuine difference in the lives of individuals and American society at large if these truths were but better articulated and better understood, he believes.

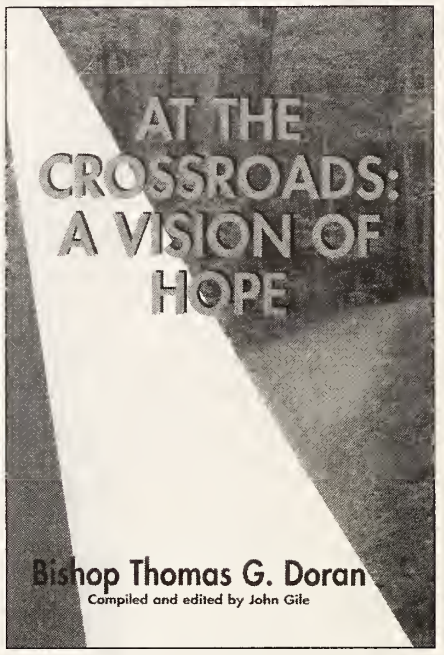
The book is full of common-sense thought articulated in direct and forceful fashion. "We accept things in con-

Bishop Doran clearly respects church teaching; perhaps one of his most important contributions here for those in the pews involves his ability to tackle complex issues in a readable and understandable manner with down-to-earth examples to illustrate his points.

temporary society that we know in the depths of our being are terribly, terribly wrong," Bishop Doran writes, "and we do not want to talk about them."

He draws an interesting distinction between law and faith, noting that law settles arguments but "is not for forging a people." He stresses the importance of the Judeo-Christian tradition in keeping human dignity at the forefront of discussion in the United States, though he acknowledges that the quality of life in the United States is now too often based on materialism, consumerism and individualism.

In the strongest section of the work, he asserts that "taking God out of the picture has sent us on a false quest, a mistaken trip, a journey to nowhere." His discussion on the failure of materialism, consumerism and individualism to satisfy would provide a good beginning for discussion on those topics in religious education classrooms or small faith-sharing groups.



"At the Crossroads: A Vision of Hope"
By Bishop Thomas G. Doran
JCG/United Publishing Corps (Rockford, Ill., 2000)
173 pp., $19.95.

Readers will find Bishop Doran's ruminations filled with interesting sidelights. Among them: that the United States has 50 million illiterate people; that the Nicene Creed, composed about 325 A.D., has articulated core Catholic truths down to our own day without need of updating; that the 1347-51 "Black Death" in Europe led to a later flowering of the catechetical movement because it wiped out many who knew the faith and could articulate it.

His cultural commentary is drop-dead accurate: "Adultery has become, on daytime TV, a major indoor sport."

Bishop Doran clearly respects church teaching; perhaps one of his most important contributions here for those in the pews involves his ability to tackle complex issues in a readable and understandable manner with down-to-earth examples to illustrate his points.

Finally, though not many Catholics seem to think of becoming a saint these days, Bishop Doran rightly suggests that "there is no one who cannot become a saint by using the helps available through the church."

He writes that it has been his intention to introduce a few of the "basic, vital treasures" of the church "with the intention of providing a solid base from which (the reader) may launch or continue (his or her) own exploration and "discover many more reasons for hope."

That is a worthwhile reason to compile a book, and this one has thought-provoking depth. Mission accomplished. ▼

Jacquet is editor/general manager of The Catholic Exponent, newspaper of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio.

Word to Life

June 11, Pentecost Sunday, Cycle B 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 BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

Several years ago a friend and I were driving past St. Michael's Catholic Community in Bedford. Out in front of the church, festive red banners and long red streamers were flying joyously in a snappy spring breeze. The mere sight of all that red said "celebration" and inspired an unexpected conversation between two friends of different faiths about the Pentecost events recorded in Acts that will be proclaimed this weekend.

The reading is filled with vivid images of a house filling with the noise of a great wind and tongues of fire hovering over the people gathered inside. Outside the house others express amazement and confusion when they hear about the "mighty acts of God" stated publicly to them by a group of unsophisticated but Spirit-filled Galileans.

The question that seems to occupy the passersby in Acts is the same question that my friend and I found fascinating: Who are these Galileans?

We agree that we are exceedingly grateful for the few verses that precede today's Acts reading. For us it always has been wonderful to know that Jesus' mother was there, along with the apostles, the women who had followed Jesus and a number of unnamed others who bring the total count up to about 120.

Some of the 120 we imagine have questionable backgrounds. Most probably none of the power elite are gathered there on this particular day. They are ordinary people who have been blessed with an extraordinary encounter with Jesus and have received his promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, who are these Galileans? They are ordinary people who open themselves completely to the Holy Spirit and change the world.

My friend and I remember the words in a book titled "Oh the Places You'll Go!" by Dr. Seuss. We often read it to our senior students a few days before graduation.

The opening words from this familiar children's book connect with the festive spirit of the red Pentecost banners we saw fluttering in the wind. Moreover, we agree that the words echo the message those seemingly unimportant Galileans received so long ago in the Upper Room: "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away!"

Question:
Have you sought the Holy Spirit's guidance to lead you into the service of God, of his word, of his people, of the poor?

"When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth"
— Psalm 104:30

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 11 - 17, 2000

Pentecost Sunday, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday**, 1 Kings 17:1-6, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Anthony of Padua)**, 1 Kings 17:7-16, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday**, 1 Kings 18:20-39, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday**, 1 Kings 18:41-46, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday**, 1 Kings 19:9, 11-16, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday**, 1 Kings 19:19-21, Matthew 5:33-37

Readings for the week of June 18 - 24, 2000

Trinity Sunday, Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20; **Monday (St. Romuald)**, 1 Kings 21:1-16, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday**, 1 Kings 21:17-29, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga)**, 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More)**, Sirach 48:1-14, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday**, 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday (Birth of St. John the Baptist)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, Luke 1:57-66, 80

Catholic Bestsellers List for June 2000

According to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Hardcover

1. **"Lamb's Supper."** Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
2. **"She Said Yes."** Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
3. **"Why Forgive."** Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough Publishing)
4. **"Francis of Assisi,"** Vol. 2: The Founder. Regis Armstrong (New City Press)
5. **"Catechism of the Catholic Church."** (Our Sunday Visitor)
6. **"Imitation of Christ."** Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
7. **"Life of the Beloved."** Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
8. **"St. Alphonsus & His Brothers."** Hamish Swanston (Liguori)
9. **"Lives of the Saints"** Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. **"Witness to Hope."** George Weigel (HarperCollins)

Video reviews

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"As Good as It Gets" (1997)

Acerbic comedy in which a misanthropic author (Jack Nicholson) tries to rejoin the human race after falling in love with a tolerant waitress (Helen Hunt) and befriending a broke homosexual artist (Greg Kinnear). Directed by James L. Brooks, the thin plot begins with the mean-spirited humor of Nicholson's nasty, self-centered sociopath, then turns mushy as he attempts to reform but the proceedings are overlong and only sporadically amusing. Stylized violence, sexual situations, recurring rough language and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Comfort and Joy" (1984)

The melancholy-comic chronicle of the worst Christmas week ever spent by an aging Scottish disc jockey (Bill Peterson) who, deserted by his mistress, throws himself into his work and becomes involved as mediator in a local ice cream war. Directed by Bill Forsyth, there's not much of interest here except for the Glasgow locale. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Crucible of Empire: The Spanish-American War" (1999)

Thoughtful documentary chronicles how the United States, encouraged in part by Hearst newspaper accounts of Spanish brutality in Cuba, entered the war with Spain in 1898 and became a colonial power as a result. The visually splendid and well-assembled documentary revisits the debate over American imperialism as historians provide provocative commentary from many perspectives. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Five Easy Pieces" (1970)

Jack Nicholson gives an outstanding performance as a young man who has lost his sense of identity and is wasting his life searching and unsatisfied. Directed with precision by Bob Rafelson, the movie's best scene is when Nicholson breaks down and confesses his loneliness to his stroke-victim father. The movie's moral ambiguity makes it more suitable for serious viewing rather than casual entertainment. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Little Shop of Horrors" (1986)

Low-budget comic chiller in which a dim florist's clerk (Jonathan Haze) nurtures a small carnivorous plant, then winds up killing people to feed its insatiable appetite as it grows to monstrous size. Directed by Roger Corman, the tongue-in-cheek proceedings range from the weird to the gruesome, including a masochist (Jack Nicholson) who enjoys visiting dentists and a plant that calls out, "Feed me," when it's hungry. Comic violence, menacing situations and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Man on the Moon" (1999)

Uninvolving biography about 1970s-80s comedian Andy Kaufman (Jim Carrey), whose peculiar sense of humor, elaborate charades and the abrasive style of his vulgar alter-ego character drew some ardent admirers but an increasingly indifferent public by the time of his death at age 35. As directed by Milos Forman, no insights emerge about the oddball entertainer and despite Carrey's uncanny performance viewers may wonder why this minor figure merited a major motion picture biography. Sexual situations with nudity, a live-in relationship, brief wrestling violence, occasional profanity and sporadic rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (1975)

Screen version of the Ken Kesey novel about an abortive rebellion in a mental institution led by a drifter (Jack Nicholson) feigning mental illness to avoid being sent to a prison farm. Director Milos Forman's smooth, low-keyed movie about life in an asylum is filled with colorful, often amusing incidents and characterizations, but the central confrontation between the sane drifter and the repressed and repressing nurse (Louise Fletcher) is too contrived to evoke a strong emotional response. Some violence, very rough dialogue and an incident presenting loveless sexual intercourse as therapeutic. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

PBS biopic covers last years of German minister who stood up to Nazi regime

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A German minister stands up to the Nazi regime at great personal cost in the fact-based "Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace," airing Wednesday, June 14, 9:30-11 p.m. EDT on PBS.

This well-crafted biopic covers the last six years of the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Ulrich Tukur), a highly respected Lutheran theologian who returned from the States to 1939 Berlin, where he spoke out against Hitler's policies, especially his virulent anti-Semitism.

Although watched closely by the Nazis, Bonhoeffer was recruited for the Abwehr, a German military agency, which gave him cover to be active in the Resistance. As a secret courier, he smuggled Jews out of Germany while continuing to write about his burning philosophical concern, ethics.

At the same time the 37-year-old Bonhoeffer fell in love with and became engaged to 18-year-old Maria von Wedemeyer (Johanna Klante).

The drama intelligently presents how Bonhoeffer was conflicted by the violence around him that he opposed, but reluctantly gave his blessing to, a Hitler assassination plot.

Despite his status within military intelligence, Bonhoeffer came under suspicion and was arrested in 1943. In prison he found a new sense of ministry and refused opportunities to escape, feeling he was needed by his fellow prisoners. Maria's visits sustained him emotionally as he steadfastly refused to divulge any information about the Resistance.

As his faith deepened in the appreciation of the sufferings of those around him united to Christ on the cross, he was transferred from the Gestapo prison in Berlin to Buchenwald, where he was hanged in April 1945.

"Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace"
June 14, 9:30-11 p.m. EDT
on PBS

Director Eric Till gives the philosophical issues a fine human dimension and a sense of urgency in this inspiring true story. The sole fault is that the cast often speaks at a whisper level, requiring viewers to listen carefully to understand their dialogue. That, added to their accents, can be daunting at times but the concentration is worth the effort. Bonhoeffer is seen facing several ethical quandaries that tax his beliefs as he struggles to be truly Christian and an example to his cell mates.

Tukur's bland face nonetheless manages to convey his desire to live and raise a family with his beloved Maria, but not at a cost of betraying anyone — not even his own conscience.

This is a quality picture that many should find worthwhile. ▼

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Rome is place for worldwide spiritual renewal

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The huge flow of pilgrims to Rome for the jubilee underscores the city's unique vocation as a spiritual reference point for Christians and the whole world, said Pope John Paul II.

"Numerous pilgrims from every part of the earth are coming to (Peter's) tomb to celebrate the jubilee of the Lord's incarnation and to profess Peter's same faith in Christ," he said.

"This demonstrates once again the particular vocation which Divine Providence reserved to Rome: that of being a reference point for the communion and unity of all the church, and of the spiritual renewal of all humanity," he said.

The pope made his remarks during a Mass May 28 in St. Peter's Square on the Jubilee for the Diocese of Rome, attended by some 70,000 Romans.

Christ's commandment to his followers to love one another as he loved them should strike Romans with particular force, he said.

"Does not the church of Rome have perhaps the specific duty to 'preside in charity' in the entire Christian communion? Yes, the commandment of love commits our church of Rome with a special force and urgency," he said.

He called Romans to express this love in their "joyful and kind" welcoming of pilgrims. More than 20 million people from around the world, seven times Rome's population, were expected to visit during the jubilee year.

In a greeting before the Mass, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, vicar of the Rome Diocese, announced the dedication of a new parish to St. Charles Borromeo, the pope's patron saint, as a "gesture of best wishes" for the pope's 80th birthday May 18. The new parish brought to the total number of Roman parishes to 330, of which the pope has visited 291.

Pope donates $50,000 to fight hunger, poverty in North Korea

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has made the first donation in response to an appeal from Catholic charities to fight hunger and poverty in North Korea.

The pope gave $50,000 to the campaign to raise $3.6 million to augment food supplies, assist farmers and provide health care and education, reported Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

The papal donation was made through the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican council that coordinates and encourages charitable giving, Fides said June 2.

Executive pay mirrors an ugly system

In 1998 Michael Eisner, CEO of Disney, commanded the highest compensation package of any CEO, $576 million. In comparison, just ten years before, he topped the highest paid list when his pay package hit $40 million.

Between 1990 and 1998, average CEO pay rose 443 percent, while workers' pay rose only 28 percent. Some other ugly comparisons: In 1999, Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett, and former Microsoft executive Paul Allen possessed a combined wealth of $156 billion more than the combined GNP's of the poorest 43 nations on earth.

The 475 people worldwide worth over a billion dollars in 1999 (totaling beyond $1.7 trillion) surpassed the combined incomes of the world's poorest half of humanity.

The unprecedented level of wealth and inequality of CEOs comes from the system of compensation. Stock options play a key role, since salary and bonuses now represent only 20 percent of top executives' pay. Because of the compensation structure, U.S. CEOs of major companies earned 419 times the pay of the average blue collar worker in 1998, whereas the ratio in Japan approached 20 to 1 and in Great Britain 35 to 1.

Critics of excessive executive pay recognize the power of money in the political process. The wealthy contribute to the candidates and get disproportional political access and influence. Other critics focus on the economic negatives. Excessive CEO pay hurts employee morale. It undermines the bottom line of corporate earnings. And it shifts the tax burden from the corporation to the taxpayer by allowing corporate deductions for executive salaries, benefits and perks as business expenses.

While respecting the arguments against excessive pay in regard to democracy and effective business practices, people of faith raise two additional considerations: Greed and community.

Paul reminds Timothy: "For the love of money is the root of all evils" (I Tim. 6:10.) Yet, the entire American culture shows a preoccupation with money. During the work day, the media hourly reports the movements of the stock market. TV and radio programming focuses on getting rich and personal money matters. Financial advisers counsel

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

middle class couples to amass a million dollars just for a modest retirement. A society based on rugged individualism will feed greed because few can feel truly financially secure.

Yet, community can alleviate excessive greed. Images like the vine and the branches, the body of Christ, and brothers and sisters in the Lord offer a security for those disregarded by the economic system.

John Paul II expresses this common bond: "On the basis of his work, each person is fully entitled to consider himself a part-owner of the great workbench at which he is working with everyone else." (*Laborem Exercens*, par. 14.6.)

Ron, not a CEO but an executive with a Fortune 500 company, watched his firm restructure and reduce his department by 25 percent a few years back. His personal secretary of ten years, a female minority worker struggling as a single parent to raise a teenage daughter, became support staff for seven people.

When Ron's department exceeded its production goals at year's end, he got a bonus. Support staff, although essential to helping bosses meet their goals, did not qualify for bonuses. Ron, however, recognized the hypocrisy, took out his checkbook and shared his bonus with his secretary.

Until shareholder campaigns prevail against excessive executive pay, or legislation limits the deductibility of executive compensation, people of faith will need the creativity of Ron to limit the greed of the system and promote the community of all workers.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Advice for grads

TOM SHERIDAN
Guest Columnist

This is graduation time; thousands of Catholic students — from public and parochial high schools and universities — are listening, perhaps endlessly, to commencement speeches. They are being encouraged to change the world, to make it better, to be successful, to maybe earn lots of money in the process.

Many, if we're to be honest about it, would rather the speeches just be over so they can get on with their lives. As one who's heard, and given, a commencement address or three, I understand that impatience. The world beckons.

What the graduates don't deserve, however, is a commencement-address view of the world that strips it from all things spiritual. And I don't just mean the feel-good-inside-no-matter-what-shows-outside kind of spirituality that sometimes passes for reality these days.

Oh, there will be plenty of that, sometimes wrapped in pleasing packages like the talk given by Oprah Winfrey at Roosevelt University. No knock on her talk; it said many of the right things. She told the grads that life is a "contract with the Creator." And, asking that "higher power," "What would you have me do?"

Of course, those are bits of good advice. It's a mantra that certainly has worked for Winfrey. But it's just a little incomplete.

Spirituality is a component of faith; without faith, mere spirituality could get lonely.

Too many commencement speakers appeal to the go-it-alone, shoulder-the-load, take-on-the-world sense of entrepreneurial individualism fostered in our culture these day, the "I can do it; if it's to be, it's gotta be me" attitude.

Faith is more complex — and perhaps more difficult — because it calls people to community, without surrendering their individuality.

Here's an unsolicited nugget for grads of the Class of 2000: Succeed? Certainly. Change the world? It sure can use changing. Earn a good living? At least enough to live. More important, though, find someone to hold hands with while you do all that. And then find a community of faith to support, and be supported by.

The world — and you — will be better for it.

Tom Sheridan is editor and general manager of The Catholic New World, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Send your Letter to the Editor to Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203 or e-mail: jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fatherhood means being there

I guess maybe it is because I have never had to balance my job with the responsibilities of being a parent, but I just don't get it! What does all this talk about having "quality" time with your kids mean?

My dad's idea of parenting was about "quantity" time. I cannot recall one event or moment in my childhood, or early adult life, when I felt, wished, or thought my father should be there and wasn't. From those frigid winter mornings helping me on my paper route to when I had my first car breakdown in the middle of the night, somehow my dad was always there for me, in every sense of the term.

Sadly, today's statistics on parenting reveal that everyone does not have the kind of father I did. Fewer and fewer men are living up to the honor and responsibilities of fatherhood. Between 1960 and 1990, the percentage of kids living apart from their biological fathers more than doubled from 17 to 36 percent. To me that means the image of any father, let alone a loving father, is becoming an abstract concept to many of our youngest generation. And many youngsters who do live with their dads do not experience the warm, close relationship that can mean so much to a child's well-being and character.

Even so, I am convinced that millions of men are doing a great job of being dads. And I believe that examples of fathers who take their roles seriously just might inspire other men to reassess their duties as dads.

That is exactly what John Ream was compelled to do when he asked one of his daughters to share some memory about him from when she was growing up. She replied bluntly: "To tell you the truth, Dad, you were gone a lot."

Ream, a former Marine and retired president of a large financial institution, owned up to the fact that he was gone a lot — both physically and emotionally. But his daughter's words motivated him to dedicate himself to his family and to help young fathers. He teaches lessons in parenting through his crash course, "The Effective Father Seminar," an informal gathering that gets men back on track with their children and their wives.

Some high profile dads have decided to scale back their careers to benefit their kids and themselves as family. Glenn McCleod, senior bank executive, was able to cut back his hours. He led his two sons' Boy Scout troop, volunteered for community activities and spent more time with his wife. He says he has gained a new self-confidence as a father and feels "a lot richer in life, and a tremendous increase in energy, to tackle whatever comes along." William Galston, a former presidential policy advisor, says, "I have never had a moment's regret" since resigning in order to join a university faculty. "I am indispensable in one place and only one place," he insists — "at home."

Not every father can, or should, change careers. But every father can make some choices about how and where he spends his time. Many parents try very hard to give their children "everything." But if everything does not include their time and presence, they do their youngsters and themselves an injustice.

So, Dads, I wish you a good time this Father's Day. Mostly, I just wish you time — with your family.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Planned Giving

JIM KELLEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Memorial gifts honor loves ones

Spring is a time our thoughts turn to cherished loved ones. Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations and Father's Day lead us to reflect on the impact those who are dearest to us have had on our lives and our communities.

Many people search for an appropriate means of remembering loved ones through a memorial gift in their honor. The church offers many opportunities for memorial giving of which you may not be aware.

One family combined their resources to establish an endowment in the diocesan Foundation to honor their father's life. The Robert F. Moeller endowment was established through his children's gifts to the Foundation and will make grants in his name to those seeking financial assistance for elder living arrangements.

Some families choose to make memorial gifts directly to a parish. Others may choose to make a gift to their favorite Catholic school to honor a retiring teacher or administrator. Charlotte Catholic High School recently established an endowment in the diocesan Foundation to honor Sister Paulette Williams for her many years as principal.

Gifts made in honor of a loved one are most often made in the form of a check. This is a convenient method for the giver, provides a tax deduction within allowable limits for those who itemize their deductions, and can readily be put to good use by the church.

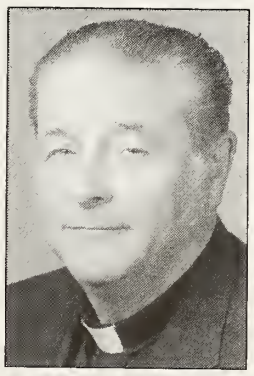
But, cash is only one of many funding sources for memorial gifts. Assets such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value can also be used to make gifts in honor of others. In addition, by using appreciated assets to create a memorial or honor gift, you can receive extra tax savings.

When you fund a memorial gift with an appreciated stock you have owned for more than one year, you can deduct the entire market value from your taxable income. Plus, you avoid any capital gains tax on the stock because you donated it for charitable use. These additional tax savings are why many people prefer to make memorial gifts using assets other than cash.

Another means of creating a memorial is to do so through a gift that is completed through your will or long-range estate plan. One couple who lost a daughter many years ago made a provision through their will to create an endowment in the diocesan Foundation as a means to memorialize her too brief life.

From having a Mass said in your loved one's honor to establishing a permanent endowment through the Foundation, there are several different ways to memorialize someone dear to you. If you are searching for a way to create a lasting memorial to a loved one in your life, or if you are looking for a meaningful gift for a graduation, Mother's Day or Father's Day, consider a gift that will tangibly benefit the entire Catholic community. Perhaps the right gift is a gift in memory or tribute to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation. Please contact me for additional information on memorial giving opportunities: Jim Kelley, Director of Development, (704) 370-3301, 1123 S Church St, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Notes about celiac disease

Dear Father Dietzen: It was good to read in a recent column your discussion of celiac disease, a problem we faced years ago in a vacuum. Good also to know we came to similar conclusions.

In the late '60s, our youngest son was diagnosed as probably having celiac/sprue disease, a malabsorption syndrome in which the small intestine cannot absorb food nutrients in the presence of gluten. This means they cannot tolerate wheat and several other grains.

As for receiving wine, in correspondence with some industry people in Canada I learned that only wine fermented by wild yeast is safe, since "domestic" yeast is grown with the forbidden grains.

I was advised to use foreign wines, because wine makers in Europe generally used wild yeast, at least at that time. Thank you for your help.

I am grateful to this mother and the dozens of other readers who responded with their experiences, diet suggestions, frustrations, and some disagreements with parts of my column.

From all this, I learned at least three lessons.

— First, there are far more people suffering from this complicated and often very dangerous disease than I imagined. Nearly 100,000 men, women and children are known to have it. It is thought the sickness remains unrecognized for many thousands of others. The complex of symptoms seems often not easy for physicians to identify and diagnose.

— Second, celiacs report amazingly diverse, sometimes contradictory, experiences of what they can and cannot bear. For example, a number easily tolerate part (some even all) of a Communion host; for others even a tiny piece excites the allergy.

Some can tolerate no wine, especially if it contains sulfates. Others say they can take only American, or only European, wine. And so on.

Obviously, each one's regimen needs to be worked out in consultation with a personal physician.

One thing all agree on. They feel there should be some way they could receive the Eucharist without endangering their health, if not their lives.

— Third, on a different plane, it is astonishing to me that some Catholics' eucharistic theology on this subject is, to put it at its kindest, so greatly confused. Several wrote reminding me quite firmly that after the consecration at Mass, bread is no longer present. It has become the body of Christ. Therefore, to speak of someone being affected by wheat in the bread is effectively to deny the Catholic faith.

The same argument is raised when I bring up the point that recovering alcoholics usually do not receive Communion from the cup. This group insists that the wine (alcohol) which was in the chalice is no longer there. It is now the blood of Christ and thus could have no alcoholic effect on a believer.

Most Catholics are aware, of course, that this notion contradicts Catholic teaching, that in the Eucharist the substance of the bread and wine is changed but the "accidents," the physical characteristics of bread and wine, remain.

Apart from this, however, it tends to lay an unjust guilt trip on celiac sufferers, implying that their problem is in fact nothing but a lack of faith.

Fortunately, good resources are available for celiac patients and their families, particularly from the Celiac Sprue Association, Omaha, Neb. 68131-0700. Their Web site (www.csaceliacs.org) is also loaded with helpful background and practical information.

Nun named head of National Religious Retirement Office

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Andree Fries, a member of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, Mo., has been named director of the National Religious Retirement Office.

Sister Fries, 58, had for the past 20 months served as the office's project director for retirement services.

She succeeds Sister Mary Leahy, a member of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary of the Woods, Ind., who had been director for the past three years.

Sister Fries also had served with the National Religious Retirement Office as associate director and director of allocations from 1987 to 1991, when the office was known as the Tri-Conference Retirement Project.

She was superior general of her order for two terms, 1980-86 and 1992-98, and vicar general and member of its administrative council, 1974-80. In additions, she was her order's director of financial planning, 1970-74.

Sister Fries, who entered religious life in 1959, is a past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, 1994-96.

In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, she served on its finance council and its strategic pastoral planning committee, both 1995-98, and as a trustee of the archdiocesan cemetery board, 1993-98.

From 1995 to 1998, Sister Fries was one of three elected U.S. representatives to the International Union of Superiors General in Rome.

Sister Fries co-founded the National Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes and served as on the national board, 1977-81, including as its vice president, 1979-81.

She holds a master's degree in business administration from southern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in business from Quincy College (now a university) in Illinois.

The National Religious Retirement Office is jointly sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of women Religious, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious.

The office is responsible for publicizing the annual Retirement Fund for Religious national collection, held the second weekend of December in most U.S. dioceses. ▼

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Part-time. Approximately 12-20 hours per week. Non-smoker with good communications, phone, computer skills. Prefer financial background. Resume and references to Hook Financial Group, 4801 E. Independence Blvd., Box 601, Charlotte NC 28212.

Assistant Secretary: Asheville Catholic School. Attendance/First Aid Office. M-F, full time. CPR and First Aid certification required. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

Campus Ministry Openings: Internship in Campus Ministry for Wingate University; $600/month stipend; Room/Board; $2,000 graduate school tuition grant. Send resume, three reference letters, cover letter to: Director of Campus Ministry, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003 by June 16th.

Clerk, Human Resources: Full-time position at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center. Hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Applicant must be well organized and detail-oriented, have strong verbal and interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office. Excellent benefits and work environment. Application should be made by June 23 to: Diocese of Charlotte, Human Resources Department, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203.

Cosmetologists/Barbers: Full-time and part-time. Charlotte area upscale salon seeking warm-hearted, skilled stylists and barbers. Convenient south Charlotte location. $12 per hour + tips. Please call (704) 341-4260.

Counselor: Part-time. St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro. Practicing Catholic with master's in counseling and guidance. NC certification required. Experience preferred. Benefits included. Send resume to: C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax (336)273-0199.

Custodian, Full-time: Begin work June 1, 2000. Asheville Catholic School. Call Randy Penland, Maintenance Supervisor at (828)252-7896. EOE.

Director: Retreat Center, rural southwest Virginia. Ecumenical spirit, experience in retreat ministry, administration. Bachelor's or master's. Catholic in good standing. Living on site. Richmond Diocese, full-time. Application, job description: (540)623-5285, e-mail jomart@naxs.com or Search Committee, 19188 Jonesboro Road, Abingdon, VA, 24211. Applications June 27, postion opens August 15th.

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Elementary and Middle School Positions: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Assistant Principal/Teacher (Master's in Administration, practicing Catholic): Middle School teachers of Social Studies, Language Arts, Science and Math; Grades 4 and 5 teachers. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; or call (336)887-2613; or fax (336)884-1849.

Faith Formation Coordinator: Our Lady of Assumption parish has an immediate opening for a full-time coordinator of its Faith Formation programs. Candidates with parish involvement in teaching and/or administration in FF ministry, and/or possessing a college background in theology/religious studies are eligible. The competitive candidate will possess a vision of FF that mainly focuses on grade schoolers through high schoolers, yet encompasses adults, evidences good administrative skills, exemplary written and oral communication skills, ability with Word Perfect software, and able to work as a diocesan and parish team player. Salary in high $20s commensurate with experience and good benefits under diocesan coverage. Send resume with names of references to FF Search Committee: c/o Father Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte NC 28215. (704)535-9965.

Guidance Counselor: Part-time. Asheville Catholic School. Must be NC certified. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

Music Ministry Director: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is seeking an organist/music director. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgy. Salary negotiable. Benefits available. Send resume and references to Immaculate Conception Church, 208 - 7 Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC 28791-3602.

Music Ministry Director: Full-time position for a growing 1100-family parish near Charlotte. Responsible for 4 weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings and funerals. Adult and children's choirs, cantors, instrumentalists, new contemporary choir, and handbell choir. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is practicing Catholic with music degree, experience, music performance skills (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic liturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send/fax resume to Music Search, Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone (704)664-3992; Fax: (704)660-6321.

Music Ministry Director: St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA seeks professional with bachelor's degree (or above) in music; in-depth knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy; and vocal, piano, organ skills. Should be pastoral individual with appreciation of broad range of music styles. Full-time position with benefits; salary dependent upon experience. Complete job description posted at www.bedeva.org. Application deadline: July 15. Send resume, references, salary history to: Attn: DMM Search Committee, St. Bede Catholic Church, 10 Harrison Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185. stboffice@bedeva.org

Organist(s): Needed for weekend Masses. Saint Jude Catholic Church in Sapphire Valley and Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Highlands are seeking an organist(s) for weekend Masses. During summer, Masses at St. Jude are 4pm Sat. and 9am Sunday; at Our Lady of the Mountains, 6pm Sat. and 11am Sun. (November thru May, St. Jude is at 4pm Sat. only; Our Lady of the Mountains is at 11am only.) Please call Diane at (828)526-2418.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic grade 5 teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license; teach religion and all academic subjects. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teacher and Librarian: Our Lady of Mercy has the following positions available: 8th grade homeroom to teach Language Arts, Social Studies, and Religion (if Catholic); Librarian for K-8th. Please call (910)722-7204.

Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following openings beginning August, 2000: full-time teaching positions for Chemistry, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: Computer, Music, PE, Spanish, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

Teachers: Full-time. St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, has openings for 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, Middle School Religion, Middle School Language Arts. Must be practicing Catholic with NC certification in field. Experience preferred. Benefits included. Send resume to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or fax: (336)273-0199.

Teachers: St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is currently seeking dynamic teachers for the following positions: Full-time Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies; Full-time Kindergarten; and part-time Art teacher. NC Certification required. Please call Joseph Puceta at (704)865-4382 for more information.

Youth Coordinator: St. John Neumann Church seeks part-time Coordinator of Youth Programs to work with parent/youth teams to plan, implement, oversee youth programs; grades 9-12. Call (704)535-4197. Send resume to St. John Neumann Church, Connie Milligan, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227 or fax(704)536-3147.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or related field and three years' experience in Youth Ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A triparish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

Youth Ministry Director: Saint James Catholic Church, 1700 families located in Savannah, Georgia, is seeking a full-time salaried director of youth ministry. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a youth ministry program is essential. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training or equivalent. Please submit resume to Father John Kenneally, 8412 Whitfield Ave., Savannah, GA 31406.

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Jesuit tells catechists to teach students how to understand, they're children of God

By PATRICK JOYCE
Catholic News Service

STOCKTON, Calif. (CNS) — When he was growing up in Philadelphia and preparing to go to a Jesuit high school, Jesuit Father J-Glenn Murray was worried about how he would introduce himself to his new classmates.

His grandmother knew what to say. Decades later he still relies on her words and tells others to rely on them: "If anybody asks who you are, tell them you're a child of God."

Speaking a group of Stockton catechists, the priest, who is director of worship for the Cleveland Diocese, burst into song as he recalled his grandmother's advice: "If anybody asks me who I am ... I tell them I'm a child of God."

"We who believe in God ... our responsibility is to hold fast to that belief, especially in our culture," Father Murray said at an annual dinner hosted by the Stockton Diocese to honor the people who bring the word of God to youngsters.

Their mission is particularly important today, he said, in an era of "riots in streets, violence in the home, corruption in high places, justice for sale, children slaughtering one another, dying in their mother's womb. The homeless, the poor, people of color treated as enemies of society. The comfortable abandoning the poor in their misery. We do not make a pretty picture.

"Yet we who are gathered here this evening recognize that we do indeed believe in a God who sits high but looks low. This is what we believe," he added.

Father Murray noted that as Pope John Paul II came of age in the shadow of the Holocaust, the conviction grew in him that "to be human is to be a moral agent. ... The great struggle of any life is to surrender the person I am to the person I ought to be."

"Evil has made itself manifest in the world in such distinctly modern enterprise as the Holocaust and the Gulag," Father Murray said. "But we believe that evil did not have the final word because at the center of the human problem is Christ who entered into human existence."

Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II, believed that Christ-centered hope should be at the center of our lives, he said, "or as my grandmother said, 'There must be a God somewhere.'"

"We believe that this God came down from heaven and pitched his tent among us or, as some African-American teen-agers would say, took up residence in the 'hood,'" Father Murray continued.

"Jesus Christ was born in hellish conditions. ... He was rejected by religious leaders, misunderstood by his family. betrayed by a friend, abandoned by his followers," he said. "But the story did not end there.

"On Sunday morning he rose from the grave. All of us in this room know that no matter how burdensome life gets ... he says to us, 'Come. Bring your anguished hearts. Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.'"

All Christians are commissioned, Father Murray said, "to go out into the world and tell everyone what we know to be true, and you as catechists are asked to do what every Christian is asked to do and more. ... We try to get people to know about Christ but we try desperately to get people to know Christ."

He asked the catechists to lead their people to the Eucharist because it is in the Eucharist that they come to know Jesus.

"We can talk about Christ Jesus but unless we celebrate Christ Jesus and encounter Christ Jesus in the Eucharist, it is sound and fury signifying nothing," he said. "In the Eucharist we tell the world who we are and who we hope to become."

Then, for one last time, Father Murray sang out his message: "If I can tell somebody as I travel on. I can cheer one body with a word. ... If I can keep one body from going wrong, then my living shall not be in vain." ▼

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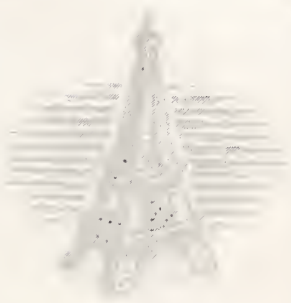
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For more information, please call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd (704) 370-3339

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

June 23, 2000
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The Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is July 1

COURTESY PHOTO BY WENDY MURRAY

Father John Pagel of St. Joan of Arc parish in Asheville blesses the crowd during a community-wide Pentecost celebration.

The Spirit is a-movin'

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

ASHEVILLE — "When the day of the Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting ... ." (Acts 2:1-2.)

Nearly 1,500 Catholics overtook downtown Asheville as area churches cancelled Masses, and parishioners gathered en mass at the Asheville Civic Center on June 11 for Pentecost Sunday — the day the Church celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and his people.

St. Joan of Arc Church, the Basilica of St. Lawrence and St. Eugene Church, all in Asheville, and St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa assembled for a jointly held Mass in honor of the Church's birthday. Members of the Asheville Vicariate joined in song and prayer for the first time to celebrate Mass and engage in fellowship in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Father Cecil Tice, rector of the basilica, presided over the Mass, and Father Frank Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene, Father Andy Latsko, pastor of St. Margaret Mary, Father John Pagel, pastor of St. Joan of Arc, Father John Schneider, Father Chris Davis, parochial vicar for the basilica, and Father Wilbur Thomas, vicar for priests, all concelebrated the Mass in

SEE PENTECOST, PAGE 3

Bishop ordains three to transitional diaconate

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The road to the priesthood is marked by a series of milestones: Lector, acolyte, transitional deacon, priestly ordination. Three men stepped forward June 16, shifting into the last year of their journey to the priesthood, ordained transitional diaconate.

This year's class and anticipated priests in 2001 — Rev. Messrs. Duc Duong, Tien Duong and Robert Ferris — were welcomed to holy orders, "the first deacons in this great jubilee year," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

St. Vincent de Paul parish hosted the bilingual celebration, intertwining English with the native Vietnamese of two of the transitional deacons. Brothers Duc and Tien Duong, now the Rev. Messrs. Duong, became the first brothers ordained in a joint celebration. Moreover, the two Vietnamese refugees join the swell of multiculturalism embraced by the diocese.

Rev. Mr. Robert Ferris, a widower, father of six and grandfather to three, represents another growing

SEE TRANSITIONAL, PAGE 7

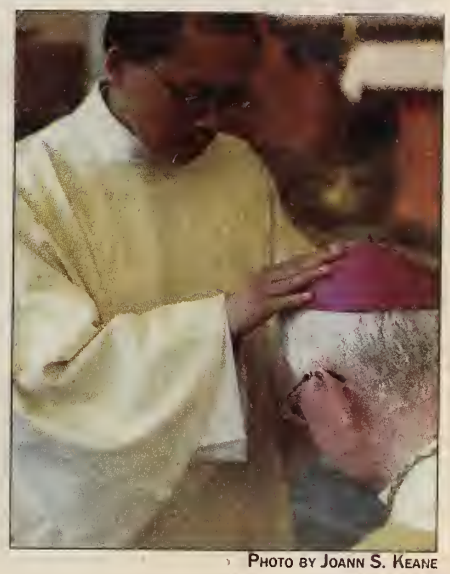

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Rev. Mr. Tien Duong bestows a blessing on Bishop William G. Curlin following the transitional diaconate ordination.

Prayer before public school football games overruled

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In rejecting a Texas school district's plan for allowing student-led prayers at high school football games, the Supreme Court June 19 added to case law limiting organized prayer in school settings. The court's 6-3 ruling found that the Santa Fe Independent School District policy established "an improper majoritarian election on religion, and unquestionably has the purpose and creates the perception of encouraging the delivery of prayer at a series of important school events." The policy created a system in which students would vote on whether to elect a student to deliver a pre-game inspirational message before each home game, replacing a previous system that involved a student council chaplain. It was never actually instituted because of ongoing litigation.

Suspect arrested in murder of Washington archdiocesan pastor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A 25-year-old Maryland man has been charged with first-degree murder in the June 8 stabbing death of a popular Washington archdiocesan pastor. Robert Paul Lucas of Clarksburg, Md., was arrested June 17 and charged with the murder of Msgr. Thomas Wells, who was pastor of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, Md., a Washington suburb. He was being held without bail in the Montgomery County (Md.) Detention Center. Police say Lucas, who is homeless, has confessed to the crime.

Mexican bishops say voting best way to prevent electoral fraud

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexicans head to the polls July 2 amid fears that the country will see a repeat of the electoral fraud that has marred earlier efforts for democratic change and guaranteed victory for a party that has held power since 1929. Mexican church leaders insist that the best way to beat those who would perpetrate fraud is to participate in the voting process. With other Mexican bishops, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City has repeatedly encouraged Mexicans to vote. The head of the archdiocesan justice and peace commission, Father Francisco Javier Acuna, said June 13 that to abstain from voting is "social sin."

CNS PHOTO FROM POOL

Installation of Archbishop Egan in New York

New York Archbishop Edward M. Egan greets people outside St. Patrick's Cathedral following his Mass of installation June 19. He became the ninth archbishop of New York and successor to the late Cardinal John O'Connor.

Vatican official calls for solutions to unemployment problems

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Criticizing the negative effects of globalization on poor countries, the Vatican's envoy to the International Labor Organization called for solutions to persistent problems affecting employment. Addressing the organization at its Geneva headquarters June 12, Archbishop Giuseppe Bertello highlighted issues of unemployment, child labor and the dangerous consequences of globalization and new technologies. Technological advances, he said, create a gap "between rich and poor countries and, within each country individually, between a minority capable of making a profit from globalization and the others, in large part the least qualified workers, who are left at the margins of economic processes.

Catholic official hails AMA vote as protecting conscience rights

CHICAGO (CNS) — The American Medical Association's rejection of a resolution aimed at forcing Catholic hospitals to provide sterilizations and contraception was a vote in support of freedom of conscience, said the head of the Catholic Health Association. Father Michael D. Place, president and CEO of the Catholic group, said the June 15 vote by the AMA's House of Delegates on a substitute resolution "is also a victory for women" because the proposed Resolution 218 could have caused Catholic hospitals to end all obstetric services or even to close their doors.

Annan says Vatican having U.N. status not unfair to other groups

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said June 14 that he does not think the Vatican's permanent observer status at the United Nations gives it an unfair advantage over other religious groups. Other religious bodies do not have that status, but all are "free to come and go" at the world body, he said. Annan, recipient of this year's Path to Peace Award, said that while the church uses "prayers and education and social morality," the United Nations works through negotiations and diplomacy. "But in the end, we both try to improve the conditions of people and understand the human condition," he said following a special session of the U.N. General Assembly reviewing results of the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Study questions effectiveness of death penalty system

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A nationwide study of how the American capital punishment system has worked over the last 23 years found a pattern of errors resulting in the reversal of nearly 70 percent of capital convictions. The study by Columbia Law School professor James S. Liebman looked at all of the nearly 5,500 capital convictions and appeals between 1973 and 1995. One finding concluded that nearly every state with the death penalty had such serious mistakes in capital convictions that more than half their death sentences were overturned. When cases with errors were retried, 82 percent resulted in a sentence less than death. Seven percent of cases that were retried ended with verdicts of innocence.

CHA award honors Mercy nun

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A Mercy nun whose work has improved health care for migrants, the poor and uninsured, the people of Australia and thousands of others has received the Catholic Health Association's lifetime achievement award. Mercy Sister Mary Maurita Sengelaub, who has been involved in Catholic health for nearly 60 years, received the honor June 11 at the CHA assembly in San Francisco. The award is presented annually to recognize a lifetime of service to the Catholic health ministry.

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Publisher: Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 25 — 3 p.m.
Feast of Corpus Christi
Mass and procession
Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point
July 8 — 5:30 p.m.
Mass and groundbreaking ceremony
St. Therese Church, Mooresville
July 10-14
Meeting of provincial bishops in the Carolinas and Georgia, Region IV
Asheville
July 16
Parish 50th Anniversary Mass
Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands
July 17-21
Seminarian retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

June

25 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., is celebrating the jubilee year at the 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon Masses today with a blessing of the entrance doors, inspirational music and a gospel reading. For more information, call the church office at (704) 633-0591.

26 CHARLOTTE — There is an Alzheimer's/dementia caretakers' support group meeting today from 2-3:30 p.m. in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities are being provided for the memory-impaired. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

28 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, invites all families who have suffered a loss to a monthly memorial Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they can be remembered at Mass.

29 GREENSBORO — The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., is hosting Franciscan Father David Hyman, pastor of St. Mary of the Angels in Anderson, S.C., and director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of the Creation Committee of the Holy Name Province. Father Hyman is presenting "Exploring Church Leadership with Fewer Clergy" today from 12:10-1 p.m. at the downtown center. Lunch is included along with an offering from the attendants, and for more information or pre-registration, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

July

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting the Newmann Singers, 30 performers of Christian music, from the University of Iowa, at all Masses on July 1 and 2. The singers are also giving a free concert this evening at 5 p.m. with a love offering taken

Pentecost celebration, from page 1

their red liturgical vestments.

"This was the first time we have come together as Catholics to celebrate who we are, rich in our diversity," said Father Cancro of St. Eugene. "Unlike in the Charlotte and Triad areas, there is a small percentage of Catholics here, so anytime we can make ourselves visible shows our empowerment, which is what Pentecost is all about."

Jerry Bergeron, a St. Eugene parishioner, helped with the planning of the area event. "The whole purpose for the Mass was unification, to bring people together so we could worship as one," he explained. "This showed a visible and strong Catholic presence, one that is a witness of people praying and worshipping the same God together."

All of the churches contributed to make the Mass a community effort. Rita Pisano, music director of the vicariate choir and director of youth and children's music plus at St. Eugene and Chuck Taft, director of liturgy and music at St. Eugene, handled the musical aspect of the Mass, Dave Hazinski, a member of St. Eugene, created the collapsible altar, and many others contributed their time and effort to the structure of the Mass. There was an 80-member choir including people from the four churches and members of the local Hispanic choir.

"This was a special celebration because of the jubilee year, and anytime we can come together as Catholics and worship, we all benefit," said Taft. "It is great for us to stand together, no matter the differences, we can all worship as one."

The Mass did celebrate the various cultures found in Asheville and surrounding areas with bilingual readings in recognition of the growing Hispanic population.

Father Cancro's homily touched upon love that fosters communication and bridges gaps among people. He began with a song, an old blues tune from 1936, Billy Hill's "That's the Story of Love." Father Cancro interweaved the song's message of "giving and taking love" into his words after the gospel reading.

"We must understand that love gives us insight into the love of God, where the Spirit dwells. Love of ourselves and sharing that love with others is a sign of God's love. Love entails the kinds of extremes that the song speaks on; love, although complicated is still an important value, which deepens us in the Holy Spirit ... . We must see and seek the face of God in others and be the face of Christ for others ... ," said Father Cancro.

Dr. Bob McGrattan and his son Michael, parishioners at St. Eugene Church, helped with setting up the arena to turn it into a place of worship.

"I believe this event strengthened the vicariate, and it is important for all of us to come together to start some cooperation among the parishes," he said. "It is good to have the Catholic community since we are such a minority in this section of the country.

"Seeing my parishioners there was important to me as a pastor," said Father Latsko of St. Margaret Mary. "This was a good witness to the church in Asheville and was exciting to see all of the people. It was a special moment, and we must not let the spirit die down; we must continue that feeling of community and spirit." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Diocesan schools to benefit from tax-exempt bonds

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — As the Diocese of Charlotte proceeds with plans to build one new high school and refinance its debt on another, financial help through tax-exempt bonds could save the diocese nearly $3 million.

Through the North Carolina Educational Facilities Finance Agency, the Diocese of Charlotte was issued $19.7 million in tax-exempt bonds this month for use in projects at the diocese's two high schools. The bulk of the funding will go to the new Bishop McGuinness High School, currently under construction in the Triad. A smaller amount will help refinance the existing debt on Charlotte Catholic High School.

Bonds are certificates of debt, issued by a government or corporation that guarantee payment of the initial amount, plus interest by a specified future date. The interest rate on tax-exempt bonds is significantly lower than through other means of borrowing.

"Tax-exempt bonds will allow us to borrow funds at one-third below market interest rates," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. "Investors are willing to accept a lower interest rate because the interest they earn on the bonds is exempt from income tax."

The estimated savings, in today's dollars, is projected to be $2.8 million, according to Weldon. The interest saved will directly benefit the schools, he said.

The bonds will be repaid over 17 years, having a due date of June 1, 2017.

Once the bonds have been issued by the state agency, an underwriter purchases them and resells them, primarily to institutional investors and typically in amounts ranging in the millions. A trustee then takes responsibility for the funds and invests them on behalf of the borrower until the funds are needed for the project.

"This is an exciting development," said Weldon. "We are able to borrow the needed funds with an interest rate that is so much lower than conventional financing. Ultimately, we will be saving millions of dollars in interest."

Funding is generated through this sale of bonds to the public, and neither state nor federal money is involved.

The North Carolina Educational Facilities Finance Agency has been issuing tax-exempt bonds to finance non-profit North Carolina schools below the collegiate level since July 14, 1998. Prior to the passage of a bill that added these schools, only institutions for higher education were allowed the issuance of these bonds.

Because of the curriculum structure of the diocese's 14 elementary schools, funding was not a possibility for projects in those schools. But after carefully separating inherently religious facilities from the educational ones that will be financed in the two high schools, the agency issued the bonds for the diocese.

"The only restriction is that we cannot use the parts of the schools that have been financed with these bonds for religious purposes," Weldon said. "We cannot teach religion in a math classroom, for instance."

See SCHOOLS-BONDS, page 8

during the event. For further details, call the church office at (704) 545-1224.

3 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

7 HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., is celebrating the following Masses today and tomorrow: a Latin Mass at 7 p.m. tonight followed by adoration of the blessed Sacrament and benediction and a holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite in Malayalam at 6:30 p.m. on July 8. For more information, call the church office at (336) 884-0244.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej and the Diocese of Charlotte Renewal Team are sponsoring a weekend retreat, entitled "You Will Receive Power," at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. The goal and purpose of the weekend is to renew God's people by studying sacred scripture, sacraments and the teaching of the church with great emphasis on personal prayer and worship devoted to the Holy Spirit and the metanoia and spiritual fruits which flow from it. Space is limited, so for registration and further details, contact Augustinian Father Terry Hyland at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail: lwcrc@main.nc.us.

9 ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp is holding two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park starting this week through July 15 and continuing July 16-22. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. Those wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. For more information and application, write to: The Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731-1586 or call (803) 327-2097.

10 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their July cancer support group meetings on the following days because of the Independence Day holiday weekend: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., tonight at 7 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 8012 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on July 11 at 7 p.m. and St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on July 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call these contacts: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

14 CHARLOTTE — UNC Charlotte's Office of International Programs is looking for volunteers to host visitors from Japan as they take part in an intensive study program. Volunteers are needed to host the following students for these dates: Japanese Bankers for this weekend and Japanese English Teachers from Aug 4-19. If you have an interest in making international friends and would like to help the guests learn more about American culture and lifestyle, call Kathy Ballard, home stay coordinator, at (704) 663-5861 or Mark Beam at (704) 547-2597.

Upcoming

CONYERS, Ga. — A Cistercian (Trappist) vocation awareness retreat for prayerful single men of all ages is taking place Aug. 7-11 at Holy Spirit Monastery. The retreat is free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 752-1332.

Ongoing

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., celebrates two Masses in other languages every Sunday. The Spanish Mass is held at 12:30 p.m., and the Korean Mass is held at 6 p.m. For further details, call Susie Romanowski at (336) 885-8435.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 before publication date.

CCHS graduates step into new world, new lives

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It is a time of beginnings and endings, smiles through tears — the solemn but celebratory end of high school days. The night sky was dotted with 187 mortarboards flying through the air as Charlotte Catholic High School students ceremoniously tossed their high school days into the wind after the Mass recessional, signaling the beginning of the next phase of their lives.

"I hope that you see this not as an ending but as a beginning; this is the start of your journey in life," said Bishop William G. Curlin, the celebrant at the baccalaureate Mass held at St. Matthew Church on June 8.

During his homily, the bishop told the students to take the knowledge they have learned and share it in society.

"God has blessed each of you with wonderful talents and unique gifts. Use those gifts and enrich our world," he said. "Young people like yourselves must use your education to help make people's lives better, and remember that you possess the presence of the living God — the greatest gift you will ever receive."

The church was filled to capacity with family and friends to watch the students as they accepted their diplomas and participated in the Mass as lector and commentator, choir members and gift bearers.

The navy gowns were donned with small purple ribbons as a reminder of a special graduate not able to attend the evening's festivities.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

A CCHS graduate waits as his fellow classmates process into St. Matthew Church for the baccalaureate Mass on June 8.

In a gesture of solidarity and support for a fellow graduate, the students silently rose out of their seats as Angela "Angie" Machovec's name was called in absentia. Machovec was hit by a car while jogging on the evening of May 30, and at press time, her condition was listed as serious but improving, according to Mary Jayne Dawson, campus minister.

At the awards ceremony held at the school the evening before, William "Cullen" Conly, this year's valedictorian, talked about Machovec in his speech: "Angie Machovec's recent accident has shown me more about this class than anything in the past four years. Many of those who didn't even really know her rallied behind her and her family in support ... . All of this showed just how easily we come together as a caring body, and I know we will continue to do so long after we receive our diplomas."

As the students stepped up to the altar to receive their diplomas from the bishop, Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal, and Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools, many of them gave their final hugs to their principal, who is also bidding a fond farewell this year to CCHS.

"This year's class has shown exceptional leadership abilities and have contributed tremendous amounts of time and talent to building the CCHS community, especially outside of the school setting," said Sister Paulette. "Their positive leadership ability is the hallmark of this class."

Julia Emery, salutatorian for the class of 2000, said she and her classmates' experiences at CCHS have prepared them for their lives in college and in the workforce.

"As we reflect on the bittersweet memories, we should remember that, in closing this chapter of our lives, we must reflect upon our priorities in life. Hopefully, we have emerged not only smarter but wiser, academic endeavors balanced with lasting friendships, a better understanding of family and a deeper appreciation of faith ... ."

"I am confident that our class can and will overcome all obstacles that may lie ahead," continued Emery.

Recent graduate Joseph "Joe" Falencki is ready for the next four years of his life and appreciates the

CCHS GRADUATION, PAGE 8

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Bishop McGuinness graduates told they're the light of the world

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — During commencement exercises for Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, 90 graduating students gathered Friday, June 2 at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem to receive their diplomas and hear final words of wisdom from peers and others close to the school community.

During the evening, those gathered heard messages of praise for the people who have made the Bishop McGuinness experience special for the students and messages of hope for a happy future.

"In receiving your diploma, you are accepting the challenge to contend to move ahead, to claim all the possibility and prize that life holds for you," said Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, who offered welcoming remarks. 'You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world. Your light must shine before all.'"

The president of the class of 2000, John Thompson, made a special presentation in honor of Father West, who was recognized by the senior class as an outstanding teacher who offered valued guidance at their senior retreat.

The evening provided speakers with a chance to share throughts on growth and learning at the Triad-area school.

In her salutatory speech, Christine Davis reflected upon her four years at Bishop McGuinness. She began by recalling how small she felt in the halls of the school as a "frosh," and added, "It is all the differences we possess that have enabled us to help each other grow."

Davis also spoke about the class' senior retreat, a two-day event at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. She said of the retreat, "It was perhaps the first time we realized the impact we've had on each other." She said the retreat also "gave us . . . the understanding that we are moving on but not leaving behind the things we have gained."

In his valedictory speech, Daniel Riesser concentrated on the future. Despite what has seemed to be an increase in violence in schools and among youth and a strong sense of urgency about it by officials and the media, Riesser painted a different picture of youth.

"When you look at the news, you get discouraged," he said. "When you look at Bishop McGuinness, you get a different picture about the youth of today."

Riesser spoke about the positive role models his parents have been to him and also praised his teachers for offering guidance, noting he learned far more from them than just the subjects that they taught.

In an effort to expand Bishop McGuinness' resources in the arts, the school has been working to cultivate a relationship with the North Carolina School of the Arts. For this reason and because of his extensive and successful background, Dale Pollock was asked to deliver the commencement address.

Pollock has been a successful and prolific film producer with 13 feature films (including "The Beast," "Mighty Quinn," "Mrs. Winterborne," and one filmed in High Point nine years ago, "House of Cards.") Prior to his film career, Pollock was an award-winning journalist and worked for the Los Angeles Times. He now serves as dean of the School of Filmmaking at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

PHOTO BY SUSAN deGUZMAN

Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, conferred diplomas during commencement exercises the graduating class of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem.

Pollock's message to the graduates was to be aware of how they interact with technology. While having prepared his speech with the help of his "palm pilot" and "iMac," Pollock shared a warning about the effects of technology as seen in the example of Theodore Kaczynski, better known as the Unabomber.

Pollock also offered a view that advertising today is promoting a self-centered ideology in our society. While he admitted that it is inherently natural and important for children to grow up thinking they are the center of the world, Pollock said, "We're supposed to abandon this

BMHS GRADUATION, PAGE 8

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Enigma of Agca: Papal assailant leaves trail of confusion

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When would-be papal assassin Mehmet Ali Agca was released from an Italian prison and flown back to his native Turkey in mid-June, he left behind a trail of mystery and mystification.

On a human level, most people — including Pope John Paul II, who long ago forgave his assailant — were pleased for the 42-year-old Agca, whose white hair, gaunt frame and downcast demeanor have made him a pathetic figure in the eyes of many Italians.

But for those who spent years investigating the stories Agca spun, the presidential pardon was bittersweet.

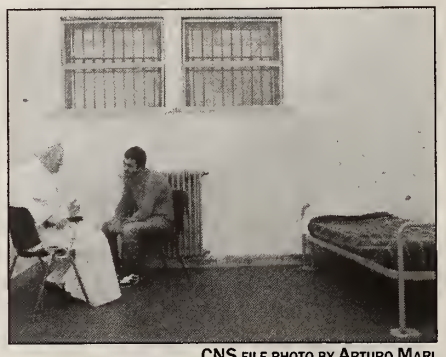
"The truth about the attack on the pope is flying away with him," one-time Agca prosecutor Antonio Marini said wistfully.

Inside a Vatican apartment, meanwhile, a retired papal usher and his family sat by the telephone with new, fragile hope that their daughter, Emanuela Orlandi, might turn up after 17 years. After the girl disappeared one summer day in Rome, Agca claimed she had been abducted by his terrorist accomplices and would be freed when he was allowed to leave prison.

"Agca has been pardoned, and maybe this will bring some good news for us, too," said Ercole Orlandi, the father of the missing girl.

Arrested immediately after he shot and wounded the pope in St. Peter's Square May 13, 1981, Agca was tried and sentenced to life in prison. A few years later, he began tantalizing magistrates with tales of plots, Soviet-bloc agents and a network of accomplices.

Heavily spotlighted by U.S. media, the "Bulgarian connection" theory alleged that the papal assassination attempt was carried out by Agca on the orders of Bulgarian intelligence officials, with the direct support of Bulgarian diplomats in Rome and a handful of Turkish terrorists.



CNS FILE PHOTO BY ARTURO MARI

Pope John Paul II talks with his would-be assassin Mehmet Ali Agca in a Rome prison in 1983, two years following the attempt on the pontiff's life. Italy granted Agca clemency June 13 after he served 19 years for the assassination attempt.

Prosecutor Marini was driven to exasperation during the famous "Bulgarian connection" trial of 1985-1986. Agca at first seemed to relish the limelight in the packed bunker-courtroom, adding new details about alleged contacts with a Soviet agent. But he began spicing his testimony with outrageous statements delivered in a weird monotone, alternately claiming to be Jesus Christ, an angel or God's prophet. Then he backed off the Bulgarian story altogether, saying he had made it up.

Prosecutor Marini accused Agca of feigning insanity; others were not so sure, as they listened to the Turk ramble incoherently about World War III and the dogma of the Assumption.

The defendants were acquitted for lack of evidence and Agca returned to prison, where he later said Italian intelligence agents had fed him information about the "Bulgarian connection." But the investigation and trial still left a dominant impression at the Vatican, echoed time and again by high church officials: Agca could not have acted alone.

"A mystery remains, which Agca himself has nurtured," Italian Cardinal Achille Silvestrini commented after the Turk left Italy.

As the years went by, Agca grew more and more interested in the story of the Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal. He was impressed with the pope's own belief that Mary had saved his life during the papal shooting, which occurred on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

Soon Agca was proclaiming himself an agent in a divine plan. He read about Fatima and discovered that in 1960, the year in which the third secret of Fatima was to have been divulged by Pope John XXIII, his own sister was born. Her name was Fatma (Fatima), a Muslim name which now took on new significance.

"A mystery remains, which Agca himself has nurtured."
— Italian Cardinal Achille Silvestrini

Agca's newfound religious role did not impress Italian investigators, however, who considered it yet another mask. They were convinced the Turk was continuing to hide the truth about the papal shooting; when the presidential pardon came, in fact, investigators were still pursuing the case, adding new documentation to the tens of thousands of pages already sitting in storage.

In the Vatican, the Orlandi family was suddenly hopeful about their daughter. Their optimism was fueled June 14 when a one-time Agca investigator, Judge Ferdinando Imposimato, told Italian media he was sure that Emanuela — who today would be 32 years old — was still alive. He said she had indeed been kidnapped by Agca's right-wing "Gray Wolves" organization, and that she had been reliably reported to have been in France and Turkey at various times.

Those remarks provoked a storm of criticism from people who believe the Orlandi family's hopes were once again being exploited. The investigator who declared the Orlandi case closed a few years ago, Adele Rando, said there has never been any real evidence to link Agca to the girl's disappearance.

Agca has said for years that there was no basis to his story about Emanuela Orlandi. But as always with Agca, there are many versions from which to choose.

As he landed in his native Turkey to face a 10-year sentence for the 1979 murder of a newspaper editor and a possible trial for an armed robbery, Turkish authorities voiced the hope that Agca would be able to shed light on some of the country's past crimes and political intrigues.

One chief question was how Agca managed to walk out of a maximum security prison in Istanbul in 1979, and whether he had the cooperation of prison or police officials.

But if Turkey is looking for answers from this man, it is likely to be disappointed. Agca once remarked that he has told so many variations of his story that he doesn't know which is real anymore. In a caveat to investigators, he also voiced his personal philosophy: "I never said there existed an absolute truth." ▼

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The Brazilians are coming...
566-1009

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Bishop William G. Curlin offers a blessing to the three men ordained to the transitional diaconate during the liturgy at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte on June 17.

The harvest is rich

Transitional diaconate, from page 1

segment to the priesthood: those entering the ministry as a second career.

"The rich experiences of these three men bring marvelous history to this holy grace," said Bishop Curlin in his homiletic address.

"You are being ordained to serve others," said the bishop. "You're asking God to take your life and use it in service, and you ask nothing in return."

When the transitional deacons return to their respective seminaries this fall for their final year of instruction, they will have the opportunity to add a practical dimension to their priestly studies. These men will apply themselves in parish-based ministry.

Rev. Mr. Duc Duong is in seminary at the Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., brother Tien attends St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., and Rev. Mr. Ferris is in formation at St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

As deacons, they can 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.

The priestly class of 2001 includes a permanent deacon, ordained in 1989. Rev. Mr. Kurt Fohn, a seminarian with Rev. Mr. Ferris at St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., Rev. Mr. Fohn participated in the liturgy, reading the Gospel. "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few," read Rev. Mr. Fohn from the teaching Gospel of Luke.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the laborers are on the increase. Earlier this month, Bishop Curlin ordained a record seven to the priesthood. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

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National Encuentro 2000

School Board Openings for the Diocesan School Board

The Diocesan School Board has two school board vacancies beginning 2000-01 school year. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May at various schools throughout the Diocese. The meetings take place during the week beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.
3. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
4. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having school committee, board, PTO, Athletic Association or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 30 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
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CCHS graduation, from page 4

sense of community that he said CCHS provided and made him the person he is today.

The former football team captain and founder of BRIGHTf - By Reading Imaginations Grow and Have a Future, a children's reading program, said, "I am ready to get my life started but I am also a little nervous, even scared about losing old friendships and making new friends when I am at college. What I liked about CCHS is that I was around others who had the same faith as I did, which contributed to my faith even more."

Falencki will be attending Princeton University in the fall where he will major in physics or political science.

Kristine Johanson, who will begin classes at Georgetown University as an international politics major, agreed, "Being able to talk about God in the classroom and having discussions about religion and Catholicism made CCHS special for me."

Johanson, who was editor in chief of the school's newspaper, retreat coordinator for peer ministry and a theater enthusiast, said that she will take the sense of pride and the memories that CCHS instilled in her to college.

"I am looking forward to college being exciting and challenging but also scary because I don't know what to expect," she continued. "I hope to be successful, and I hope not to lose track of the values and confidence that CCHS gave me." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

BMHS graduation, from page 5

when we grow up and become responsible, productive members of society, contributing to the greater good, as well as to personal self-enrichment."

Pollock encouraged the students by saying, "If you were to live up to the potential that exists in each of you, it won't be thanks to the computer, . . . or a website. It will come from what's inside your brain, in your heart and the moral choices you make about how to live your real and electronic lives."

The invocation was given by Rev. Mr. Thomas O'Connell, a permanent deacon of the diocese and a retiring religion teacher at the school. Principal George L. Repass offered welcoming remarks along with Father West. Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, introduced the speaker.

Bishop William G. Curlin had earlier celebrated a baccalaureate Mass for the graduates, on May 30 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. ▼

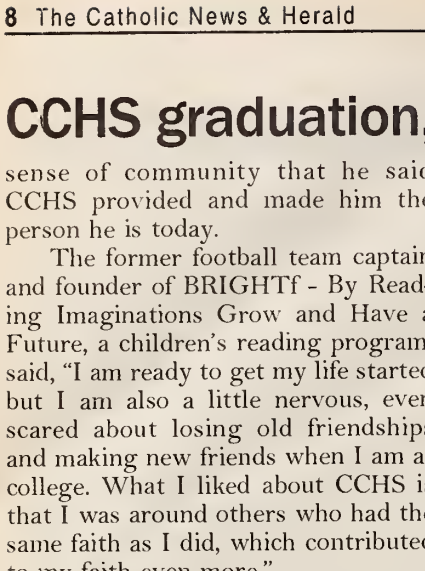
Schools-Bonds, from page 3

However, the school communities need not worry that the use of the funding will in any way alter the Catholicity of the schools in terms of their function, appearance or purpose, said Weldon.

Other Catholic educational institutions in the region have used tax-exempt bonds in capital projects during the past couple of years. In 1998, Belmont Abbey College was issued bonds for a variety of projects, and last year the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Dioceses of Raleigh and Charleston each received bonds for high school-related projects.

"This is an exciting development," said Weldon. "We are able to borrow the needed funds with an interest rate that is so much lower than conventional financing. Ultimately, we will be saving millions of dollars in interest." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.



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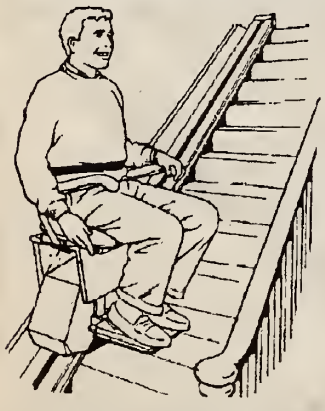

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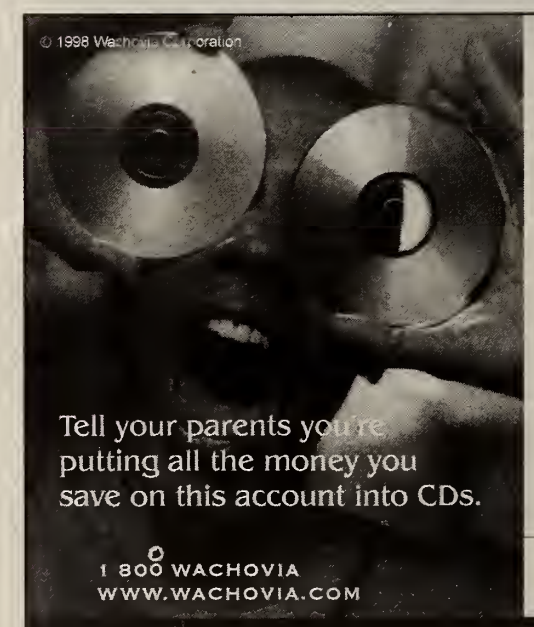

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Father Guy Morse, veteran priest of Charlotte Diocese, dies at age 83

ALBANY, N.Y. — Father Guy E. Morse, a veteran priest of the Diocese of Charlotte and a resident of the Teresian House in Albany, N.Y., died June 10, 2000, at the age of 83. Born on Jan. 11, 1917, in Harford, N.Y., he was the son of the late Bert S. and Anna G. Morse.

His early experiences on the family dairy farm in Harford and his employment as a bookkeeper for a Cortland, N.Y., veterinarian piqued Father Morse's interest in veterinary medicine. Subsequently, he enrolled at Cornell University's School of Veterinary Medicine and was awarded his doctor of veterinary (DVM) degree in 1942.

While practicing veterinary medicine in Windsor, N.Y., he met and married Anne Suflita of Johnson City, N.Y. After 12 years of practice, he became a professor and researcher in large animal medicine at Cornell University. In 1961, he accepted a teaching and research position at the University of Pennsylvania's large animal facility in Kennett Square, Pa.

Following the death of his wife in 1973, and after undergoing coronary bypass surgery three years later, Father Morse's career took another path. His strong faith, the encouragement of Father William Wright and the support of the Catholic community of St. Patrick Church in Kennett Square prompted him to explore opportunities for religious vocations. At the age of 60, he entered Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis., to pursue a master's of divinity degree. After completion of his studies, he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1981 by Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley of the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C.

He served as deacon and associate pastor at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte, N.C.; pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, N.C.; and pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, N.C. He retired from active ministry following a stroke in 1990.

Father Morse is survived by his brother, Roger S. Morse, of Auburn, N.Y.; his sister, Ruth Goodale, of Cortland, N.Y.; his three children: Nadine M. Noble, of Dover, Del.; Alan G. Morse, of San Diego, Calif.; and Adele O'Connell, of Albany, N.Y.; his five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Albany on Wednesday, June 14. Interment was June 15 following a memorial Mass at St. Patrick Church in Kennett Square, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, Father Morse's family suggests that donations be made to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 600 Laurel Ave., Tryon, N.C. 28782, or to the Teresian House, 200 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany, N.Y. 12203. ▼

FILE PHOTO

Father Guy Morse

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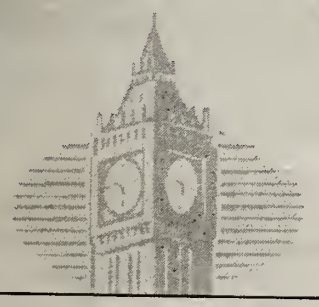

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Book Review

Comprehensive book examines Mary as revealed in apparitions

Reviewed by DIMITRA C. BOLGER
Catholic News Service

In a remarkably succinct, clear and comprehensive new book, journalist and author Roy Abraham Varghese examines Mary, the mother of Jesus, specifically as she reveals herself through the medium of apparitions.

Varghese provides an in-depth examination of 2,000 years of Marian apparitions. "God-Sent: A History of the Recorded Apparitions of Mary" narrows its scope from the onset by examining only 34 apparitions — 30 of which are fully church approved and four which are still undergoing investigation.

"God-sent: A History of The Accredited Apparitions of Mary"
By Roy Abraham Varghese
Crossroads Publishing Company (New York, 2000). 228 pp., $39.95.

The book begins with a laudable overview of Mariology, briefly outlining who Mary is in Catholic teaching, an explanation of dogmas concerning Mary, and a study of her according to Scripture and the early church fathers.

Varghese then examines in detail the 34 apparitions, highlighting the messages, phenomena and fruits of each.

In a third and final part of the book, he studies the teachings and messages of Mary, delving into the content of the messages to discover why she has appeared so many times and in so many places to spread her messages.

I would definitely recommend the book to anyone who wants a lucid, comprehensive and intelligent approach to Marian apparitions. The book possesses several strengths.

First, Varghese has the remarkable ability to explore more than 2,000 years of developed Catholic teachings on Mary and present the information in a cogent and easily understandable manner without marring critical distinctions. His explanation of the five Marian dogmas would earn the respect of any respectable Mariologist.

Second, Varghese's book stands apart from others because he searches all parts of the world to report on their experiences of Mary. Most readers would expect that he would examine the big four: Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima and Medjugorje. But many well-educated Catholics might find themselves surprised to learn of some other approved apparitions. Ever hear of Our Lady of Vailankanni, in India in the 16th and 17th centuries? Or how about Our Lady of LaVang, in Vietnam in 1798?

Third, Varghese takes a rigorously academic approach throughout the book, avoiding the oversentimentalism to which so many Marian books fall prey.

And finally, he follows with four appendices (I wish they would be developed into books or larger chapters) which give solid philosophical responses to some of the most difficult questions in theology on subjects such as the existence of God and the historical reality of Jesus.

Not explaining the criteria by which the church decides the validity of an apparition is a major flaw because the book proposes to be a defense and explanation of Marian apparitions for all people — Catholics, Protestants, atheists, and any other interested person. Does the church use varying criteria in different centuries? Among different populations? Under different circumstances? It would have been helpful if he at least addressed these questions.

And yet, despite this criticism, Varghese is able to retain the inextricable beauty and mystery of Mary the Mother of Jesus, not reducing her to a mere object of a philosophical and theological analysis. ▼

Bolger recently received a bachelor's degree in theology, philosophy and Great Books from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is a staff assistant at the U.S. Catholic Conference and continues her studies of Mariology.

Word to Life

June 25, Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle B Readings:

1) Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18
2) Hebrews 9:11-15
3) Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

When my wife and I were VISTA volunteers, working in rural Arkansas many years ago, I was coming to the end of my "quest for the major truths of life" induced agnosticism.

It had started during my senior year of high school, when the God Is Dead movement had begun making headlines in the major news magazines, but ended in large part in response to the stars; finding an answer to the question: "What things are of eternal importance, and what institution is encouraging attention to those things?"; and a searching of the Scriptures.

All of which is to beg the question of God's invitation to my heart to receive his love, the underlying, but as always, motive force.

Even so, lying back on a redwood picnic bench on the gravel drive in front of my rural rent house, staring up at billions upon billions of stars had a huge role in my conversion, or rather re-conversion, back to the faith of my childhood.

I was in total awe before this evidence of the majesty of God. And in that awe, in that sense of my smallness before all of this grandness, I found comfort in the message of Scripture: God is love, and he who created all of this has given all that he is to prove my significance and my worth.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 25 - July 1, 2000

Corpus Christi Sunday, Exodus 24:3-8, Hebrews 9:11-15, Mark 14:12-16, 22-26; **Monday**, 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15, 18, Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday (St. Cyril of Alexandria)**, 2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday (St. Irenaeus)**, 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (Sts. Peter and Paul)**, Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus)**, Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9, Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19, John 19:31-37; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary)**, Lamentations 2:10-14, 18-19, Luke 2:41-51

Readings for the week of July 2 - 8, 2000

Sunday, Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24, 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15, Mark 5:21-43; **Monday (St. Thomas the Apostle)**, Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; **Tuesday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal)**, Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12, Matthew 8:23-27; **Wednesday**, Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday (St. Maria Goretti)**, Amos 7:10-17, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday**, Amos 8:4-6, 9-12, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday**, Amos 9:11-15, Matthew 9:14-17

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"Chicken Run"

Delightful clay animation feature about a plucky chicken (voice of Julia Sawalha) and her hen pals cooped up in a British egg farm who, with the help of a flying Yankee rooster (voice of Mel Gibson), must escape the cruel clutches of the egg farmer (voice of Miranda Richardson) before she turns them into chicken pies. Though the story lags in parts and some jokes may go over children's heads, fantastic anthropomorphized features and the narrative's witty details make directors Peter Lord and Nick Park's first full-length feature both visually pleasing and cleverly amusing despite a few intense moments. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Jackson reinvents dynamic police detective in "Shaft"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Shaft is back. Can you dig it?

The dynamic figure of John Shaft is reinvented in the slick action drama "Shaft" (Paramount).

In the 21st century, John Shaft (Samuel L. Jackson) is a New York City police detective and nephew to his namesake, the infamous John Shaft (Richard Roundtree reprising his role). This time around, the younger Shaft is out to get Walter Wade (Christian Bale), the arrogant son of a real estate mogul who skips bail and spends two years skiing in the Alps after being caught for the racially motivated murder of a young black man.

When Wade tries to sneak back into the country, Shaft is there to haul him back into custody. But the judge grants bail — and Wade's rich daddy once again posts it — and he's out on the streets within hours. Feeling betrayed by the system, Shaft decides to turn in his badge and use his street smarts to bring Wade to justice.

The only witness to Wade's brutal crime was bartender Diane Palmieri (Toni Collette), whose bird's-eye view of the murder has forced her into hiding. Without her, Shaft had no hope of a conviction, but he must find her before Wade does.

Through an interesting turn of events, Wade teams up with Peoples Hernandez (Jeffrey Wright), a feisty Dominican drug lord who rules his corner of the New York City streets with a Machiavellian hand. Peoples is all too willing to help the preppy rich kid since he is interested in exacting revenge after Shaft humiliated him in front of his posse.

Yet despite magnetic performances and an absorbing narrative that keeps surprising the viewer, "Shaft" is marred by repeated brutality. Guns seem to be drawn — and used — constantly. Nevertheless, the movie does walk a fine line in depicting violence in an exciting manner without actually glamorizing it.

Jackson plays Shaft with all the coolness, attitude and seething anger one would expect. Yet the real surprise performance comes from Wright, who gives his ambitious mambo-king thug vitality and believability. His bad-boy swagger and thick Dominican accent (which makes the golf pro's name sound like Tiga Woo) give his character authenticity, making him seem right at home in his surroundings.

Disappointingly, women are given little to do. Vanessa L. Williams as the narcotic cop who helps out Shaft is little more than the token woman in the business. And although her character is pivotal to the plot, Collette's Diane is given minimal screen time.

The film realistically portrays the

See "SHAFT," page 14

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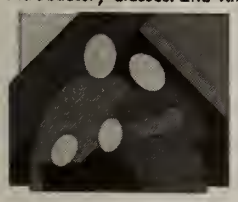
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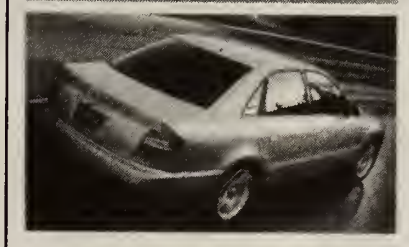
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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope hopes summit will help reunite North, South Korea

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he hoped the historic summit between North and South Korea would open the way to reconciliation and help reunite long-separated families on the peninsula.

The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing June 11, said that if the three-day summit were successful, it would offer cause for "joyous hope" for all humanity.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung were scheduled to meet in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

"I join all people of good will in thanking the leaders of the two countries for this initiative, in the hope that dialogue and exchange of views can contribute to the reconciliation of the two populations, to the reunion of families separated for half a century and to the renewed stability and prosperity of the entire Korean peninsula," the pope said.

"Only through a generous commitment in favor of the common good will it be possible to overcome the problems and reach a positive result," he added.

Western leaders were hopeful that the summit marked an attempt by North Korea to reach out from its international isolation and bring a lasting peace to the peninsula, where a 1950-53 war ended without a treaty.

Catholic leaders in South Korea have welcomed the summit, particularly because it could open the way to reuniting the thousands of separated families. South Korean officials say that after the Korean War began in 1950, some 690,000 people fled to the South, leaving families in the North.

South Korean church leaders have also said the summit could help lead to more accurate outside monitoring of humanitarian aid distribution in the North, where famine has recurred in recent years.

South Korean Archbishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul, apostolic administrator of Pyongyang, said that although political reunification may be an unrealistic goal for the immediate future, economic and cultural exchanges could begin between North and South.

"Thank God the summit is taking place," he told Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency.

South Korean Cardinal Stephen Kim Souhwan, retired archbishop of Seoul, said North-South unification will be possible only if it happens in a peaceful manner.

"The success of the summit depends on a prior commitment of reconciliation and cooperation. But what is necessary above all is the consensus of the entire population, both in the North and in the South," Cardinal Kim told Fides.

Vatican officials have made four visits to North Korea in recent years, to follow the work of humanitarian assistance programs. In June the pope donated $50,000 to a Catholic charities campaign to raise $3.6 million to fight hunger and poverty in North Korea.

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

A modern seminarian

This summer I have a seminarian living in the rectory. His name is George. He is helping out in our parish as part of his "deacon's summer," which is part of most seminary training these days. Next spring George will be ordained to the priesthood.

While his summer training is rather typical, his profile would have been unusual 20 years ago. George is 67. He is the father of 12 children and grandfather of 17. George's wife, Mary Ann, died eight years ago at the age of 59 from cancer. Their youngest child had just finished college at the time his wife died.

George is a former lawyer. He practiced law for nearly 35 years in suburban Washington. He is studying at Pope John XXIII seminary just outside Boston. It is a seminary designed for men over 50.

At a time in life when most people are slowing down, George is speeding up. Soon he will take on the stresses and strains of being a parish priest. In this era that often sees men half his age burn out, we certainly need his wisdom and his help.

George is remarkable. He is unattached to material things, which the world associates with a lifetime of accomplishment. He sold the big house where he and his wife raised their family to one of their children. Now he accommodates himself well to the simplicity of a dorm room or the impersonal quality of rectory life.

It requires humility to begin again. It is humbling to be a student and hard to be an "apprentice" again, so late in life, particularly when your "pastor" is not much older than one of your children.

George prepared for life as a priest through a life of devotion as a layman. He and his wife were daily communicants throughout their marriage. Entering the priesthood is a way of continuing and deepening the spirituality he shared with his wife.

The spiritual journey of our summer seminarian tells a little something about what is happening to the priesthood in 21st-century America. While once it was rare to find a seminarian over 30, now it is the norm.

Today about 60 percent of seminarians are over age 30, according to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington. About 18 percent are over the age of 40.

A recent issue of Washingtonian magazine did a profile of recently ordained area priests. It is an exceptional bunch, including former dentists, engineers, contractors, civil servants, military officers, doctors, policemen, professors, lawyers and even a stockbroker. Several had raised families.

In some ways, what is happening in the 21st century is a reversion to the first-century pattern of priestly vocations. Our word "priest" derives from presbyter, which means "elder." In the church's early days, the men who presided at the liturgy and had care of the local church were literally the "elders" of the community.

They had proven by a life a holiness that they were ready to assume the role of pastor. Their gray heads gave them respect in the community of believers. Their lives as sober, stable husbands and fathers were seen as a sign of spiritual maturity, as Paul writes in his first letter to Timothy.

While it is true that the long training required of priests today is different from ancient days and may discourage many men in later life, I think this new pattern of vocations presents the church with a real opportunity. Perhaps it is the work of the Holy Spirit finding elders of our community among the "fathers" in our flock.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

The roots of road rage

I was driving home, slowing down, signaling that I was about to turn left into my driveway. A car was very close behind me, with the driver obviously annoyed that I had slowed down. Suddenly, as I was about to turn, he zoomed to pass me, gesturing with his finger as he did so. But for the grace of God, I was able to jam on my brakes, avoiding a deadly collision.

I have seen anger on the road many times. Now we have a name for it: "road rage." Incidents are reported in the news where a driver, enraged at another driver, smashes in the rear window, bangs in the back of the car, even takes out a gun and shoots.

A recent story told of a woman driving on a rainy night in bumper-to-bumper traffic, who hit the car ahead of her. The driver got out, infuriated. She pulled down her window, and as she did so her little dog jumped into her lap. The man grabbed the dog and threw it into heavy traffic. It was hit and killed, and the man got back into his car and drove away.

What is this phenomenon of road rage anyway? Recently I met the Rev. Richard Kirby at an anti-violence conference put on by Connecticut's Survivors of Homicide. He has studied what he calls "this pathological form of releasing anger."

Rage, he says, is leaking out over all sectors of society. You read about people even on airlines who yell out because the person in the next row puts his seat back or the coffee is too hot. There's a "hemorrhaging of good will that is revealing a change in cultural law." This change, Kirby said, is the result of a "cheapening ... of the worth of human life."

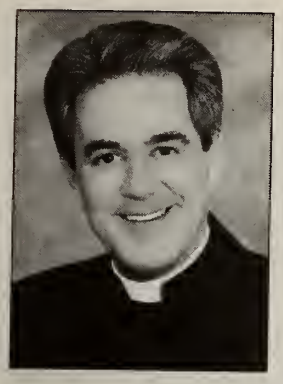
Kirby said that "road rage is a form of violence. As a nation we're becoming, for some reason, more and more angry" and choosing to lash out.

Road rage accounts now for some 200 homicides and 300,000 injuries. We have the perfect formula for aggressive driving: more cars in less space and new cultural norms that treat people as objects, not persons. We "have to say stop" to this, said Kirby, a minister who is executive director of the Stuart C. Dodd Institute for Social Innovation based in Seattle, Wash.

With Leon James, a professor in Hawaii, Kirby in 1995 launched a program called Youth Against Road Rage. It begins with an incredible approach. "We tell them, 'Get into your car, turn your key and now begin a journey to love.'" That's the only solution, says this very spiritual man. "The antidote to rage is love."

The youth record their reactions to what they encounter on the road, be it aggressive driving, hateful gesturing, cutting off, blocking, chasing. If they react in an "I'm not going to stand for that" mode, they are shown how this stems from false pride, adds to anger and makes things worse. Instead, "they could make a 'de-escalating' decision," which is a response of love.

If we could get 1 million young people to join Youth Against Road Rage, it would be a youth "power engine to initiate safe driving," Kirby said. This, he said, is his mission. "I'm a wandering minstrel, going from place to place singing a song of a better society."



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Encore!"

"The show must go on!" is one of those theatrical clichés to which every actor who has ever performed on stage can relate. When something goes wrong — and invariably something does — you screw up your courage and keep going. The trick is to keep the audience from noticing the gaffe.

But there was no way to disguise the disaster visited on Manoel Feliciano, the understudy who got his first chance to strut his stuff as Judas in the new Broadway production of Jesus Christ Superstar. The actor who regularly plays the role took ill, and Manoel donned his costume and headed for the footlights with the energy of a star itching to be born.

Some five minutes into the show, Manoel launched into his first big solo number with stunning bravado and conviction. His vocal authority stirred the audience immediately. But he lost sight of where he was standing, and took one giant step toward the audience, plunging head first into the orchestra pit.

The music came to a crashing halt, the audience held its collective breath, while the follow-spot flit about the stage for the actor who seemed to have evaporated into thin air. Within a heartbeat, Manoel reappeared, catapulted back onstage by several musicians; the conductor signaled a downbeat and everyone picked up at precisely the point where Judas lost his footing.

The show must go on!

We could see Manoel was injured and in pain. A bruised lump over his left eye was growing to the size of a grapefruit with each measure, and his left arm moved stiffly. Yet his magnificent voice was unaffected and confident. At the end of the number, the grateful spectators awarded him with thunderous applause. Bravos for this debut performance — from the ground up!

Beaming back at us, Manoel did a remarkable thing. He blessed himself with the sign of the cross. He may have gestured unintentionally, but in his heart he was clearly thanking God for seeing him through what had to be one of the most startling accidental exits any actor ever made.

His love for his craft did not go unnoticed: the applause swelled even louder.

David Matthews, artistic director at the Erie Community Theatre back in my hometown in Pennsylvania, tells the actors on each opening night: "Remember, if you love your audience, they will love you back." And it's true.

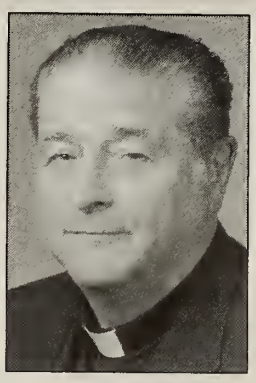
But I believe that audience was also showing its genuine appreciation for the actor's acknowledgement of God's role in seeing him through a tough moment. Manoel's awesome recovery proves that even when things don't go quite as you plan or rehearse them that there is still the opportunity for personal grace.

It is precisely at those critical moments when your love for others, your faith in yourself and, above all, your reliance on God can make all the difference.

And deep within, you just may hear His voice saying, "Encore! Encore!"

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What do we say about Mary and sin?

Q. We profess that Mary was conceived, and lived, free of sin. Yet, the Easter Sunday Sequence says Christ was the only person completely sinless. I'm confused.

A. The prayer you refer to, which includes the words "Christ, who only is sinless," is an optional part of the Liturgy of the Word at Easter. This English translation is a poetic one, however, and is not entirely accurate.

In the official Latin text of this majestic sequence, which goes back to the 11th century, the line reads, "Christus innocens Patri reconciliavit peccatores," literally "the innocent Christ has reconciled sinners with the Father."

Dealing with abortion

Q. I'm responding to your recent answer to a woman dealing with guilt after an abortion. It would have been helpful also to let her know there are many other ways out there of being helped.

Project Rachel is experiencing a tremendous increase of women in need of healing. A women's center offers the "blanket of love," allowing women to name their children (many women have a sense of the sex of their child) and embroider a quilt square in their honor.

A Protestant organization offers a bronze plaque with a name, date and inscription. All these programs allow women to claim "ownership" of their child, their grief, their guilt and their forgiveness.

I had to bury two babies, one year apart, who did not survive birth. They are buried side by side, and each one has played a powerful part in my emotional healing. These sons of mine continue to live because their short lives are still saving others from despair.

Not so for the mothers of aborted babies, until they can claim their babies' lives in some fashion. One woman told me she has confessed her sin so many times the priest told her not to mention it again as she is forgiven. Yes, she is forgiven, but she is not healed. For women in this situation it is not enough to talk with a friend. Fortunately, we are trying to put programs in place to receive them.

A. I am grateful to this reader and to the dozens of others who wrote in the same vein urging that women who have had an abortion be informed of the assistance and support that is available. I have mentioned a number of these, including Project Rachel, often in the past. They are increasingly well and professionally developed, and at least some of them are available in every state.

One excellent program I recently learned of from another reader is the Rachel's Vineyard retreat. This Catholic weekend offers opportunity for the sacraments and spiritual reflection for mothers and/or fathers of aborted children, and also for other parents who have lost a child through miscarriage or an accident.

It began in Pennsylvania, but is already available in several states and is growing. Much information, including locations and dates, is available from their Website (www.rachelsvineyard.org), or by phone (877-467-3463).

The national number for Project Rachel is 800-593-2273. Information on available post-abortion assistance can also be obtained, of course, from the chancery office of each diocese.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP
GUEST COLUMNIST

The politics of Jesus

We all know that Jesus is God and Savior, but we may stretch the humanity of Jesus to the point of calling him "political philosopher and thinker." Some may even say that this is impossible because Jesus explicitly says: "My kingdom is not of this world." (Jn. 18:36). Jesus was right when he stated that his kingdom was totally different from our government, and yet, Jesus *does have* a policy and a theory, which makes sense even on our planet earth.

Jean Jacques Rousseau in his "Social Contract" (bk. 2, ch.7) writes: "in the march of time, to look forward to a distant glory, and, working in one century, to be able to enjoy in the next, it would take gods to give men laws." Sorry, Mr. Rousseau, that would be an imperfect chaos because your "gods" are more imperfect than we are.

The prophet Isaiah (9:6) had a better idea a few thousand years before us. He said: "the government will rest on his shoulder... there will be no end to the increase of his government."

St. Paul goes even further when he says that Christ was relevant to Athens because He is the God of all nations. The Acts of the Apostles have what we may call a mission statement of Jesus' political relevance: "He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God ... because He has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof for all people by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:26-27, 30-31)

The political arena of Jesus revolves around social issues in the simplest terms ever written and lived throughout the history of the world "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt. 2 5:3 5) Then social injustice came along to feed the rich and to starve the poor, then racism came along to identify human beings by the color of their skin. All this was not included in Jesus' mission statement.

Jesus is indeed present in our political arena today, but in a reverse cycle. If Jesus returned today, he would be wanted and relentlessly pursued by:

— The IRS for not reporting his annual income.

— The FDA for turning water into wine without a license.

— The EPA for not filling out the appropriate forms revealing the precise location where some people are burning in hell.

— The Occupational Safety and Health Administration for walking on water without a life jacket.

— The ANIA for practicing medicine wihtout a license.

— SACS for teaching without a proper degree and a teacher's certification.

SEE POLITICS OF JESUS, PAGE 14

Politics of Jesus, from page 13

— The American Psychiatric Association for healing depressed and psychotic people without a state license.

— The ACLU for praying in public places.

— The Sheriff's department for opening graves and raising people from the dead.

— The County Health Department for feeding 5,000 people in the wilderness without a permit.

— The Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals for driving pigs into the sea.

— The fast-food industry for telling people to fast.

— End-Times Prophets of doom for telling people to "be of good cheer" and not to be anxious about tomorrow.

— Psychoanalysts for telling people not to look backwards.

And the list may go on and on. Yes, Jesus' politics makes sense today as it made sense 2,000 years ago. Today we would find Jesus on the hills of Edneville, N.C., where Mexicans pick up apples and strawberries for $40 a week under the scorching sun.

Father John C. Aurilia, OFM Cap., is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

"Shaft," from page 11

racial tensions both among the officers on the police force and out on the streets. But it also takes a swipe at New York City cops, presenting some as dirty, looking the other way or doing jobs for the same hoodlums they are supposedly trying to put behind bars.

It is good to hear the original version of Isaac Hayes' funky theme song intact with the renowned singer's sultry voice crooning away. The rest of the score is in sync with both the story line and Hayes' style, and together with sleek dissolves between scenes and taut editing, the film's streetwise attitude is enhanced.

Due to recurring violence, constant rough language and fleeting shadowy nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Accounting Clerk: Payroll/General Ledger. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a full-time accounting clerk. Responsibilities primarily include processing and entering payroll and general ledger transactions for the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have two years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 4, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Administrative Assistant: Part-time. Approximately 12-20 hours per week. Non-smoker with good communications, phone, computer skills. Prefer financial background. Resume and references to Hook Financial Group, 4801 E. Independence Blvd., Box 601, Charlotte NC 28212.

Assistant Secretary: Asheville Catholic School. Attendance/First Aid Office. M-F, full time. CPR and First Aid certification required. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

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Counselor: Part-time. St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro. Practicing Catholic with master's in counseling and guidance. NC certification required. Experience preferred. Benefits included. Send resume to: C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or Fax (336)273-0199.

Custodian, Full-time: Begin work immediately. Asheville Catholic School. Call Randy Penland, Maintenance Supervisor at (828)252-7896. EOE.

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Faith Formation Coordinator: Our Lady of Assumption parish has an immediate opening for a full-time coordinator of its Faith Formation programs. Candidates with parish involvement in teaching and/or administration in FF ministry, and/or possessing a college background in theology/religious studies are eligible. The competitive candidate will possess a vision of FF that mainly focuses on grade schoolers through high schoolers, yet encompasses adults, evidences good administrative skills, exemplary written and oral communication skills, ability with Word Perfect software, and able to work as a diocesan and parish team player. Salary in high $20s commensurate with experience and good benefits under diocesan coverage. Send resume with names of references to FF Search Committee: c/o Father Gillespie, SJ, 4207 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte NC 28215. (704)535-9965.

Junior Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a junior accountant. This position is primarily responsible for the monthly general journal entries, cash receipts, and month-end reporting for Catholic Social Services. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have an associate's degree with a concentration in Accounting or 5 years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 4, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

Music Ministry Director: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is seeking an organist/music director. Must be familiar with Catholic liturgy. Salary negotiable. Benefits available. Send resume and references to Immaculate Conception Church, 208 - 7 Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC 28791-3602.

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Music Ministry Director: St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA seeks professional with bachelor's degree (or above) in music; in-depth knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy; and vocal, piano, organ skills. Should be pastoral individual with appreciation of broad range of music styles. Full-time position with benefits; salary dependent upon experience. Complete job description posted at www.bedeva.org. Application deadline: July 15. Send resume, references, salary history to: Attn: DMM Search Committee, St. Bede Catholic Church, 10 Harrison Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185. stboffice@bedeva.org

Principal, Elementary: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. PreK-8th grade serving 200-350 students in military/coastal/community of Jacksonville, NC. Competitive salary. Send resume by July 15th to: Search Committee, Infant of Prague Parish, 205 Chaney Ave., Jacksonville, NC 28540. mbpoole@hotmail.com

Regional Consultant: The Diocese Office of Faith Formation seeks an interim part-time Regional Consultant for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate for FY 2000-2001. We seek an individual with 3-5 years' experience of coordinating parish programs and great ability to work with people. The part-time salary for this person is $12,000-$14,000. Preference will be given to persons with some background in the field of Catechetics and Adult Faith Formation. Please send two letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, Office of Faith Formation, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. For more information call (704) 370-3246.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic pre-K teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following openings beginning August, 2000: full-time teaching positions for Chemistry, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: Computer, Music, PE, Spanish, 3rd Grade, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

Teachers: Full-time. St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, has openings for 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, Middle School Religion, Middle School Language Arts. Must be practicing Catholic with NC certification in field. Experience preferred. Benefits included. Send resume to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or fax: (336)273-0199.

Teachers: St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is currently seeking dynamic teachers for the following positions: Full-time Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies; Full-time Kindergarten; and part-time Art teacher. NC Certification required. Please call Joseph Puceta at (704)865-4382 for more information.

Teachers: Computer, Math, P.E. for 2000-2001 at St. Leo School, 333 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104. NC Certification required (or in process). Call 336-748-8252 for application and information. Submit resume to Georgette Schraeder, Principal.

Teachers: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Middle School teachers of Social Studies, Science and Math; Grade 5 Teacher. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, at 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; call 336-887-2613; or fax 336-884-1849.

Youth Coordinator: St. John Neumann Church seeks part-time Coordinator of Youth Programs to work with parent/youth teams to plan, implement, oversee youth programs; grades 9-12. Call (704)535-4197. Send resume to St. John Neumann Church, Connie Milligan, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227 or fax(704)536-3147.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or related field and three years' experience in Youth Ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Director: A tri-parish (including one Hispanic) Catholic community of 1800 families in a university setting is seeking a full-time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to implement comprehensive youth ministry as described in "Renewing the Vision." Candidate should have prior ministry experience, and be able to work collaboratively with staff and members of parish community. Background in Theology, Christian Formation, and/or certification in youth ministry desired. Please contact Rev. Bernard Campbell, CSP, P.O. Box 112, Clemson, SC 29633 or (864)654-1757.

Youth Minister: 25 hours per week; salaried. Located 45 minutes north of Charlotte. Practicing Catholic, experienced with youth. Responsible for 9th-12th graders; coordinate social and service activities, and recruit and train other young adults to work with teens. Must be willing to accommodate flexible week including nights and weekends. Submit resume by July 31st: Martha Drennan, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville NC 28117. Information: (704)664-7762.

Youth Ministry Director: Saint James Catholic Church, 1700 families located in Savannah, Georgia, is seeking a full-time salaried director of youth ministry. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a youth ministry program is essential. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training or equivalent. Please submit resume to Father John Kenneally, 8412 Whitfield Ave., Savannah, GA 31406.

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Highlights of U.S. bishops' meeting include ongoing formation, media

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Here are some highlights of the U.S. bishops' June 15-17 meeting in Milwaukee.

— Ongoing formation of the ordained: They approved a directory for the formation, life and ministry of permanent deacons, a national plan for ongoing formation of priests and guidelines for sabbaticals by bishops.

— Fewer priests: They discussed changes in parishes and how to plan pastorally for coming years with fewer priests but flourishing lay ministries and more permanent deacons.

— Media: They adopted statements on families in cyberspace and on civility in the media, a pledge for Catholics to encourage morality in the media, and a voluntary protocol for media which wish to present themselves or some of their programs as Catholic.

— Catechetics: They decided to develop a national adult catechism, issued a statement of support for those in catechetical ministry and agreed to a basic timeline for producing a National Directory for Catechesis.

— Conference restructuring: They approved new bylaws and a revised Committee Handbook for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which will soon replace the current National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference.

— Liturgy: They discussed proposed changes in the constitution of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy to give bishops more hands-on involvement in liturgy translations.

— Criminal justice: They reviewed a first draft of a statement, to come back for a vote this fall, which sharply criticizes the current U.S. criminal justice system and calls for major changes in structures and attitudes.

— Higher education: Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati was named head of a committee to develop the process for bishops to give or withdraw the ecclesiastical "mandatum," or mandate for theologians to teach.

— Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States, spoke to the bishops on the life and witness of Pope John Paul II, who recently turned 80. ▼

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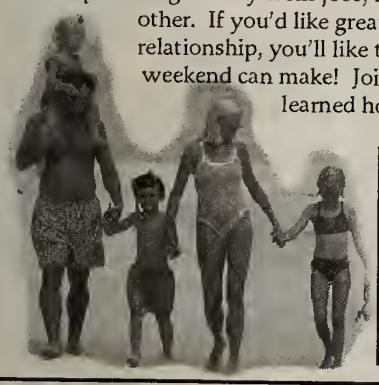

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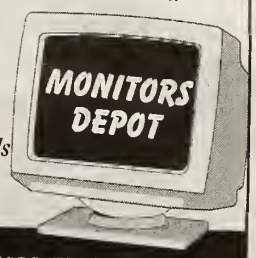

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Mountain parish makes community strides

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BRYSON CITY — Father Tom Field and St. Joseph Church are willing to do whatever it takes to make the community better.

Parishioners are involved with other Bryson City residents in completing the first of three Habitat for Humanity houses they hope to build this summer. They realized the need when a building near the church was converted into a bed and breakfast. The people living in the 13 low-rent apartments in the building had to find other accommodations. Although the parishioners weren't able to help those people, they decided to do what they could to make sure others had adequate and affordable housing.

"We realized we weren't going to solve the whole thing," Father Field said. He talked the matter over with the ministerial group he meets with. Out of that came the Swain/Qualla Habitat for Humanity.

Some 219 people recently paid tribute to Father Field, a Glenmary priest, and his community involvement at a farewell dinner in his honor. He's leaving the Charlotte Diocese and will move to Madisonville, Tenn., where he'll serve as sacramental minister at a storefront church a lay Glenmary couple are starting.

About 115 of the attendees were Father Field's parishioners. The rest were from other churches and from the community in general. Rev. John Tagliarini, pastor of Bryson City First Baptist Church, said the blessing before the dinner. Bruce Finn, Rotary president, presented Father Field with a plaque in honor of his community service. The testimonials would have gone on far into the night, but after several people had spoken, Father Field called a halt to the accolades. Parkinson's disease tires him easily.

The parish is involved with Meals on Wheels, works with the local Hispanic community and collects food for the Bryson City Food Pantry. This last, the parish has been doing for 17 years. They also transport people to doctors' appointments or minister to people right where they are.

Anyway, he prefers to focus on what his parish has done, rather than his own involvement.

"We are part of the founders of SAFE, which is a center for victims of domestic violence," he said. The parish is involved with Meals on Wheels, works with the local Hispanic community and collects food for the Bryson City Food Pantry. This last, the parish has been doing for 17 years. They also transport people to doctors' appointments or minister to people right where they are.

"A man who had been exposed to Agent Orange and had cancer needed to be able to be with people more," Father Field said. "We found out he liked double-deck pinochle. So, we started the ministry of double-deck pinochle. Sometimes we start a game with a Communion service. One day he was going to the hospital, so we anointed him at a restaurant. It was easier than driving 17 miles (to his house)."

For the past several years, the youth group from St. Raphael Church in Raleigh has spent a week in the parish each summer conducting vacation Bible school and participating in community projects Father Field lines up for them. They raise their own money to make the trip and one year took some of that money to make a garden for an elderly local resident.

St. Joseph Church was established in 1941. The Glenmarys have been raising money to help pay parish expenses. The parish also has a mission church, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cherokee.

"We're into a little bit of everything," Father Field said of the Bryson City parish.

"When you make something happen, it's fun," he said.

Father Field, a former electrician, was ordained 23 years ago in his late 30s. He considered joining a cloistered order, but "Glenmary appealed to me because I was looking for something where I could use my hands. I was looking for a small community. Glenmary is definitely that. I've said Mass in tellers' cages."

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Kyle Norcross, a parishioner at St. Joseph Church, kids Father Tom Field during his farewell dinner.

But his community involvement hasn't always been looked on favorably.

"When I was in Fayette, Ala., I had a note from the Klan saying they were going to shoot me. I backed off for a couple days, but then I said, 'I'm not going to let them scare me.' What had happened was, I'd intervened to stop a Klansman who was beating his wife.

"About a year later I got another note saying they'd been observing me, and they thought I was doing OK. I said, 'Gee, if the Klan likes me, I must be doing something wrong.'" ▼

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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

Pope John Paul II

Conakry, Guinea — As if they were answering the prayers of devotees around the world, the Post Office has released a new Limited Edition set of 9 Official Postage Stamps honoring His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the most admired and revered man of the 20th century. Collectors and admirers of the Pontiff all around the world are suddenly scrambling to obtain one of the few remaining sets from this awe-inspiring tribute.

"Collector demand for these John Paul II stamps has been unbelievable," said George Hubbard of ICS, distributor of the stamps and national clearinghouse for rare Limited Edition stamp issues. "Ever since that historic day in 1978 when he became the 264th head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has symbolized peace, wisdom, devotion, and love. Now his fans everywhere are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to express their love for him."

Collectors are already predicting that in the very near future these Pope John Paul II stamps will be far more sought after and more difficult to come by than even the most popular commemorative postage stamps of all time.

"Over 500 million United States stamps were issued in 1964 to honor President John F. Kennedy. When you compare that to these Pope John Paul II stamps, which are issued in a strictly Limited Edition of just thousands worldwide, you can see the irresistible appeal these stamps have both to collectors and to the Pope's many admirers," said Hubbard.

See it in color at: www.icsNOW.com

Each of the nine colorful stamps is about four times the size of a regular U. S. stamp. They're legal for postage in the nation of Guinea and they're recognized by every postal authority around the world.

They're available for a short time at $9.95 (plus $3 p&h) for the complete set of nine different stamps, accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity attesting to their Limited Edition status. The most you can buy is six sets. Send your check or money order to ICS. 10045 Red Run Blvd., Suite 350CJWVT, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Credit card holders may call toll free 1-800-506-0070.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

July 7, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 40

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"Tomorrow's adults are the children of today. To overlook this elementary fact not only compromises the future of the child, but that of society as such."

— Pope John Paul II, 1993

Revival of the Spirit

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Photo by Alesha M. Price

Crown Jewels

Sisters celebrate diamond and golden anniversaries

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — In 1950, it is said, there were more Catholics in China than in the entire state of North Carolina. With the Catholic population of one-third of one percent constituting the entire Catholic population of the Tarheel state, that story might just be true.

For six local women to join a community of women religious at that point in time in the South is nothing short of a miracle. A miracle of mercy.

On June 24, these Sisters of Mercy celebrated 50 years as women religious. Further enhancing the celebration, a diamond jubilarian shone in their midst. Seven women — members of the Regional Mercy Community of North Carolina — celebrated anniversaries in the year of the great jubilee.

"Today, this community of the Sisters of Mercy celebrates our sisters who have declared by their lives that they belong only to God," said Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, regional president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. One by one, Sister Rosalind called the sisters forward to renew

See SISTERS, page 3

Moral cautions greet human genome mapping

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The mapping of the human genome is an enormous advance in knowledge that carries "potential for good, but also enormous potential for harm," said Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, professor of medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University in Washington.

James J. Walter, professor of bioethics at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, said he was "cautiously optimistic about this enterprise," but it poses "a number of very serious ethical questions."

A White House press briefing was called June 26 to announce completion of what is being termed a "rough draft" — a 97-percent-completed map — of the entire human genome, all the DNA strands in the 46 chromosomes found in human cells. The genome-mapping project, begun in 1990, involves sequencing some 3.15 billion "letters," or chemical bases, of the DNA code.

Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, announces the completion of initial sequencing on the human genome at the White House. Decoding the 3 billion chemical "letters" in human DNA is seen as a great scientific milestone.

In telephone interviews Pellegrino and Walter discussed some of the ethical concerns raised by the near-completion of the massive Human Genome Project.

Both advised caution in deciding how to apply the world's new knowledge about the human genetic make-up.

Walter noted that some people have compared the mapping of the human genome to landing on the moon. He said it is far bigger than that — "This is the Holy Grail of the human person."

CNS photo from Reuters

The genome mapping exemplifies "the kinds of problems we'll be facing continuously in the future," Pellegrino said. He said the basic

See HUMAN GENOME, page 3

Ruling on gay Scout leaders seen as victory for private groups

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court's June 28 ruling upholding the right of the Boy Scouts not to accept a homosexual Scout leader was hailed as affirming the rights of private organizations to decide their internal business. The court ruled 5-4 that the Boy Scouts are not required under New Jersey law to permit a homosexual man to serve as a Scout leader. New Jersey's Supreme Court had found that the Scouts were a "place" of public accommodation and therefore subject to its anti-discrimination requirement. Chief Justice William Rehnquist said although homosexuality has become more socially accepted, that "is scarcely an argument for denying First Amendment protection to those who refuse to accept these views.""The fact that an idea may be embraced and advocated by increasing numbers of people is all the more reason to protect the First Amendment rights of those who wish to voice a different view," Rehnquist wrote.

Supreme Court upholds library, computer aid to parochial schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what was quickly hailed as a landmark ruling for school choice, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld use of federal funds to supply computer hardware and software and library and media materials to religiously affiliated schools. By a 6-3 decision June 28 the court reversed the judgment of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which had said it was unconstitutional to include religious schools among the private schools receiving such aid in Jefferson Parish, La. The case is titled Mitchell vs. Helms. Four of the six-justice majority proposed what in effect would be a new, simpler neutrality test for the constitutionality of public aid to private schools. Two justices agreed that the Louisiana aid was constitutional but sharply opposed the other four's view of how the court should test such cases. The three dissenters also opposed revising the neutrality test.

CNS PHOTO BY DAVID KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

"Field of Faith"

Dance troupe Horizontes Mexicanos leads the opening procession at the Chicago Archdiocesan "Field of Faith" Mass June 24. The celebration drew an estimated 30,000 people to Chicago's Soldier Field.

Nebraska abortion ruling called frightening, barbaric

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court's June 28 ruling striking down Nebraska's ban on partial-birth is "a frightening development," according to the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler said it is "inconceivable that the highest court in our land could find that our Constitution protects the brutal destruction of innocents almost fully delivered."

A sharply divided court ruled 5-4 that Nebraska's law infringes unconstitutionally on a woman's right to abortion. The ruling said the state law failed to pass constitutional muster by inadequately defining which procedure was being outlawed and by not including an exception to the ban for cases of medical necessity.

Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops Pro-Life Secretariat, found little comfort in the suggestion by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor that laws banning partial birth abortion might be upheld if they are more specific and include health exceptions. O'Connor's concurring opinion specifically cited laws of Kansas, Utah and Montana as avoiding "a principal defect of the Nebraska law" by including the health exception.

But Alvare told Catholic News Service that O'Connor's suggestion would eviscerate the effectiveness of laws.

"Justice (Anthony) Kennedy said it brilliantly in his dissent," Alvare said. "Health exceptions can be interpreted to mean any kind of abortion you want."

On the other hand, Alvare predicted some state legislatures would take O'Connor's comments and her previous opinions on what states may do to regulate abortion as guidelines for how to craft laws that might meet her standards for constitutionality, reversing the 5-4 balance on the court.

Cardinal Keeler's statement said the court showed "utter disdain for the moral judgment of Americans who, through their elected representatives, have voted by wide margins to stop this practice in 30 states and at the federal level."

He said the ruling should be a wake-up call to Americans that "Roe vs. Wade continues to operate as nothing less than a license to destroy innocent human life."

Bishop James T. McHugh of Rockville Centre, N.Y., said in a statement that the court's opinion in Stenberg vs. Carhart addresses only Nebraska's law and that therefore the debate will continue.

"But the atmosphere is clouded by the confusion regarding the procedures and by the strength of the pro-abortion forces in this nation, which deny any recognition of the humanity of the unborn child," said Bishop McHugh, who is a member of the Pro-Life Activities Committee.

In Chicago, Cardinal Francis E. George said the ruling "is a victory for barbarism. It pits the court and the Constitution itself against the legal protection of children who are not wanted."

Virgil C. Dechant, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus said in a statement that the court majority "has moved beyond Roe vs. Wade and has overridden the reasonable and democratically expressed judgment of ordinary American citizens." ▼

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Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
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1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 10-14
Meeting of provincial bishops in the Carolinas and Georgia Region IV
Asheville
July 16
Parish 50th Anniversary Mass
Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Highlands
July 17-21
Seminarian retreat
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
July 18
Catholic Social Services board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
July 23 — 11 am Confirmation
St. John, Waynesville
July 29 — 12:30 pm Cofirmation
Cristo Rey, Yadkinville

Diocesan planner

July

9 CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, is celebrating a charismatic Mass today at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. For more information, call Josie at (704) 527-4676.

10 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their July cancer support group meetings on the following days because of the Independence Day holiday weekend: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., tonight at 7 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 8012 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on July 11 at 7 p.m. and St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on July 12 at 7 p.m. For more information, call these contacts: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

12 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is meeting this morning at 11 a.m. in the parish center. Bingo is featured today with a small love offering required for those wanting lunch. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is offering free classes for the public on various topics throughout the summer. Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar, is facilitating the following classes in July, all held from 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the parish ministry center: "The Spirit of John" - July 12, "Unity in the Holy Spirit" - July 19 and "Fruit in the Spirit" - July 26. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

Human genome, from page 1

question it poses is, "How do we use our knowledge wisely and within ethical constraints?"

Walter raised the "slippery slope" argument, saying that someone preparing to ski down a slippery slope needs to make sure there is some plateau ahead to stop on.

"The scientists will always convince us to get on the slope, saying 'We're going to use this for humane ends, we're going to cure disease.' But the same technology we use to cure disease is the technology we will use to engineer ourselves," he said. "How do we stop at curing and not move on to engineering?"

He said those who think the genome project goes too far would argue that "there are no logical plateaus here that will stop society from moving from therapy to engineering."

When asked if he would hold that view, he said, "I think we should go forward, but we are going to have to show that there are an awful lot of unethical roads here. This is not all a bed of roses."

Pellegrino said because of the global availability of the human genome data on the Internet, "there needs to be some concerted effort by the human species to see that there are ethical constraints" on the use of that knowledge.

He confessed that he did not know how that would be done, however. Within the United States, he said, he suspected that at present there would be little or no consensus on what the ethical constraints should be.

"The American impulse is, if you can do it, do it. That has to be restrained," he said.

"Another thing to be very concerned about is commercialization," he said, noting that there are ethical questions about ownership and patenting of genetic information.

Walter warned that while the genome map may greatly accelerate discovery of the genetic factors of a disease, it does not mean that a cure will be found right away, or even in 50 or 100 years.

He said he would support genetic therapy in principle "as long as it is safe and effective," but he warned that any such procedures are likely to be "enormously expensive, at least in our lifetime."

That raises questions of accessibility and social justice — compounded by the fact that already some 75 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured medically, he said.

Walter also warned that there is a major difference ethically between somatic gene therapy and germ line therapy, in which the egg or sperm is genetically altered to prevent transmission of a genetic defect to the offspring.

He asked how one corrects a mistake "if you mess up at the germ line."

In addition, he said, "our ability to change genes is moving us into an arena that will blur the line between therapy and enhancement."

He noted that some parents are already using growth hormones on teen-age children because being short is regarded as a defect.

He said when Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, was born in 1978, he and other ethicists immediately questioned whether the procedure's use for heterosexual married couples with fertility problems would be extended to other areas such as lesbian couples having children, or use of surrogate wombs for women who did not want a pregnancy to interrupt their career, or using frozen sperm of a dead family member to produce a child.

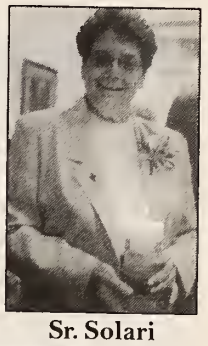
Just as those things happened with in vitro fertilization, he predicted that "very quickly" the use of genetic knowledge will cross moral boundaries.

"Because we cannot negotiate our moral differences, we turn (the decision) over to every person, saying it's your choice," he said. ▼

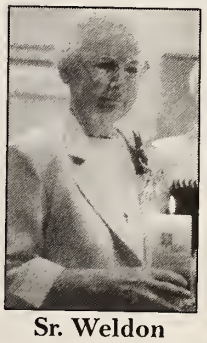
Sr. Donovan

Sr. McNally

Sr. Godurn


Sr. Solari

Sr. Boulus


Sr. Weldon

Sr. Martinez

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Mercy Sisters, from page 1

their vows: Sister Mary Gertrude Weldon, celebrating 60 years; and Sisters Mary Michel Boulus, Mary Gerard Donovan, Mary Julia Godwin, Mary Mark Martinez, Jeanne-Margaret McNally and Mary Agnes Solari, marking 50 years as Sisters of Mercy.

A moment was taken to pay tribute to two sisters, who were planning to be here but called away unexpectedly, said Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew parish. Sister Veronica Shumacher died in December leaving us with a legacy in health care ministry, especially in Western North Carolina. The second, Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan died in February. Known for her outstanding educational leadership, [Sister] Barbara expanded her concerns to the elderly for affordable housing and for younger women with children who were homeless. "We know those women are with us today," said Sister Jeanne Marie.

Close to 750 — friends, family members and sisters in community — came to St. Gabriel Church for a late-morning Mass in honor of the jubilarians. The celebration was moved from their Belmont motherhouse chapel to accommodate all those wishing to pay tribute to the women who have touched so many lives in so many different ways.

Roots of the Sisters of Mercy are deep in North Carolina; their contributions dot the diocesan landscape. It is virtually impossible to find a community within the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte not counted as recipient of at least one of their ministries.

"Over the past 50 years, this particular class has contributed to the growth and vitality of the church, particularly to the quality of Catholic education both here in North Carolina and on the island of Guam," said Sister Jeanne Marie. "The roll call of these women could easily read as a who's who in education, social work or health care."

"In the wisdom of God, we have been blessed with amazingly gifted women," said Sister Jeanne Marie. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

14 CHARLOTTE — UNC Charlotte's Office of International Programs is looking for volunteers to host visitors from Japan as they take part in an intensive study program. Volunteers are needed to host the following students for these dates: Japanese bankers for this weekend and Japanese English teachers from Aug 4-19. If you have an interest in making international friends and would like to help the guests learn more about American culture and lifestyle, call Kathy Ballard, home stay coordinator, at (704) 663-5861 or Mark Beam at (704) 547-2597.

15 CHARLOTTE — "Christians in Career Transition" is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crises. The group meets every first and third Monday from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of St. Matthew Church parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. There are two Saturday sessions taking place today and July 22 on "interview skills to get the job." For further information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

18 GREENSBORO — Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center, is presenting "We All Have Unique Personalities: Discover the Form of Prayer Best Suited to You" at the Franciscan Center for the noontime dinner and discussion session today from 12:10-1 p.m. at 233 North Greene St. For details about the love offering needed for lunch and other information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

23 ARDEN — All cursillistas in the Western part of the diocese are invited to take part in an ultreya at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., at 2 p.m. For more information, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or e-mail tbarnhar@bellsouth.net.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — Diocesan Lay Ministry Training classes are beginning in August. These classes are designed for men and women who desire to grow in competence and confidence in their faith journey and for those pursuing the permanent deaconate and those who wish to enhance their catechetical and religious teaching training. For more information, call Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren at (704) 370-3213.

CHARLOTTE — The Worldwide Marriage Encounter is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 8-10 and will be held at a local Holiday Inn. The marriage encounter consists of 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids and other issues to focus on each other for growth and enrichment in a married relationship. For details, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Ongoing

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., celebrates two Masses in other languages every Sunday. The Spanish Mass is held at 12:30 p.m., and the Korean Mass is held at 6 p.m. For further details, call Susie Romanowski at (336) 885-8435.

WAYNESVILLE — St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., offers English as a Second Language Class every Sunday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

WINSTON-SALEM — Natural family planning classes have been cancelled for the summer and will resume in the fall. For further details, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (336) 922-0479.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

St. Paul the Apostle Church breaks ground for addition

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — It was on Pentecost Sunday, June 10, that St. Paul the Apostle parishioners in Greensboro broke ground for their new Family Life Center. Father Jim O'Neill, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales and pastor of the parish, remarked, "It is appropriate that the birth of this new building coincides with Pentecost, the birth of the church."

The new structure will be two stories, with 22,800 square feet. Father O'Neill explained that, "The building will bring us together for prayer, education, faith formation and socializing." Tom Valentino, a parishioner who has been involved with the building plans, said that growth in the parish has really boomed in the past 10 years, doubling to the current approximate 2,000 families currently registered. Each year, Valentino added, a couple hundred additional families have been joining.

The ceremony took place following the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

Kenneth Shahbaz, who was involved in the past two building projects for the church, elaborated that the structure will consist of about 10,000 square feet for a gymnasium, and the rest will be for rooms for classes, meetings and offices. The gymnasium will be designed to serve as a multipurpose room with a drop ceiling, acoustics and special flooring to accommodate Mass, other religious activities and social events.

The classroom portion of the building was originally designed as a one-story structure. However, in light of the growth rate of the parish, the idea was proposed of making this portion two-story, matching the roof to that of the gymnasium, and "roughing-in" the second floor at a future date. In the long run, such a plan would cost less than to rebuild for an addition later on.

As previous pastoral council chairperson and architect for the building, Joe Anatrella explained that this addition was part of the master plan designed 25 years ago when the church was first built. The sanctuary had been added in 1993. Current construction should be complete by the fall of 2001, he said.

Some of the activities for which the building will be used include more options for adult education, boys and girls basketball teams and open play, adult leagues for basketball and volleyball and Boy and Girl Scouting.

Following the introductions of key individuals who worked on the building committee, the group processed out of the church through a celebratory arch to the building site. Father O'Neill prayed, "Bless all those who have worked or contributed to provide all that we need to prepare for this. ... Today may we rejoice in a work just begun and may you, oh God, through your Holy Spirit, the giver of life, give success to all of our efforts. ..."

The pastor then lifted his shovel and commenced digging the first bit of earth. About 20 people with shovels — large, small, metal and plastic — also took turns participating in this symbolic ceremony. ▼

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Father Jim O'Neill, OSFS, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro. The parish broke ground on Pentecost Sunday for a new family life center.

Catholic youth gather to learn lessons in Christian leadership skills

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic

SMITHFIELD — The 60 or so young people were urged to "step forward to create a lifestyle of holiness and grace." They came from the Dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte to spend a week together at Short Journey Center. They wanted to improve their leadership skills in a Christian environment. On June 22 they were sorting through what they had learned in the program called "Faithful Servant."

> **"We have lived like holy people. We are God's Church."**
>
> *— Paul Kotlowski, Charlotte's director of youth ministry*

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director for youth ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, cajoled, coaxed and led the young people to reflect on what they had experienced together. His ultimate goal was to make them realize their week together was all part of learning to be Jesus to one another and to the world.

They had gathered because they were either already in leadership roles or had been identified as possessing leadership qualities. The training was to hone the skills and give them a Christian perspective.

They were strangers who grew close in a week. In group discussion several noted how they had met for the first time, yet they immediately felt welcomed and accepted. They expressed the great freedom they found in knowing they were not being judged.

For Colleen Lindstrand of St. James Church in Hamlet, the gathering went deeper. Because she lives in a small, rural community, she often feels alone in her faith, particularly in her high school.

"I feel blessed," she said, "to be with a group of Catholic youth." She said they shared the same values and that eased her concern of feeling like "an outsider."

Christelle Geisler of St. Aloysisus Church in Hickory said she has always been strong in her faith, but the week had been good for her. "It excites me to know there are others (Catholic youth) out there."

Kotlowski told them they were "identifying the gracious presence of God." Now he suggested it was time to understand what it meant to be holy.

Holy, he said, was to feel and recognize the person of Jesus in their lives. Kotlowski suggested that the good qualities they identifying in one another and in the group as a whole was in fact the young people being "Jesus for each other."

"We have lived like holy people," he told them. "We are God's Church."

More is needed, however, than just to recognize their own goodness. Kotlowski told them they must now take that into the world.

See FAITHFUL SERVANT, page 14

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Priests celebrate ministry at convocation

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

ASHEVILE — For Father Wilbur Thomas, a veteran priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, a sense of fellowship with his brother priests continues to be vital in his ministry.

At a convocation in Asheville, Father Thomas joined with priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte to celebrate their call to priestly ministry while learning more about each other.

The gathering was the first such meeting of priests in this diocese since 1985. For the more than 140 priests who now minister in these 46 counties, the event gave an opportunity to affirm the gifts they bring to the spirituality and ministry in this diocese, and to develop a deeper sense of the brotherhood that exists in priestly life.

"Isolation can easily creep in if you don't feel part of something bigger," said Father Thomas, diocesan vicar for priests, who was instrumental in planning the gathering. "We can say that we are a fraternity of priests, but we need to actually be in the presence of each other. Then, we appreciate more who we are."

As vicar for priests, Father Thomas strives to keep his finger on the pulse of the priesthood here. And as is the case in his own experience, he said his brother priests yearn for that same feeling of fraternity.

"One of the major needs in the presbyterate of this diocese is a strong sense of community," said Father Thomas. "Many of us are in parishes by ourselves, so having this opportunity to be together and share ideas helps us to get to know one another."

Priests ordained to serve in the Charlotte Diocese and those of religious orders who minister here attended the convocation in Asheville from June 19-23. Prayer, presentations, discussions and Mass highlighted each day.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at several Masses during the priests' convocation in Asheville June 19-23. The theme of the gathering was "Celebrating the Priesthood in Our Diocese."

Participants ranged from the newly ordained preparing for their first assignments to retired priests who traveled from other states to attend.

Conventual Franciscan Father Canice Connors, a priest of a religious community serving in the diocese who has been a pastor in Winston-Salem, led sessions on important issues in priestly life. The issues dealt with a range of topics, from collaboration in ministry to the priest's relationship with the bishop.

Father Connors now serves as superior of the Immaculate Province of the Conventual Franciscans, based in Rensselaer, N.Y. He is a popular retreat leader and priests' convocations facilitator.

Members of the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee, a subcommittee of the diocesan presbyteral council, also facilitated. And Chuck Taft, director of music and liturgy at St. Eugene Church in Asheville, assisted with the Masses and music of the week.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at a liturgy that honored priests celebrating 25 years or more of service this year. A half-dozen retiring or senior priests were also recognized.

During his homily at the closing liturgy June 23, Bishop Curlin shared stories from his four-decades-plus of priesthood and urged his audience to recommit themselves to one another as brothers in Christ.

"I pray that if one thing comes out of this (convocation), it would be a new beginning in our relationship with one another, and that we would build upon it," he said. "Look at each other — not past each other, or around each other — and realize that, in God's divine providence, we were all brought here into the priesthood in this church of the Lord to work together in building the body of Christ.

"Let us be light for each other."

Almost 70 men currently serve in active parish ministry as diocesan priests, while another 15 or so are retired, on leave or in the military.

Since the Diocese of Charlotte was established in 1972, a number of priests from religious orders have also played key roles in the building up of a missionary territory. Today, 13 congregations of religious priests are represented at parishes and missions throughout the diocese.

For Father George Kloster, who is pastor of the diocese's westernmost churches, the gathering was valuable on a number of levels.

"This was a very good experience, and it certainly did help us to appreciate the common priesthood that we share," said Father Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville. He also chairs the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee.

"This convocation focused both on the priesthood as an institution and on the priest as a person," he said. "This is a far-flung diocese, and having everybody in the same place to discuss the issues we're facing certainly does help to do some bonding." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Editor Joann Keane contributed to this story.

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Cuban-Americans react to Elian's return to Cuba

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Cuban-Americans across Florida reacted to Elian Gonzalez's return to Cuba with disappointment but said they also hope that they will eventually understand God's hand in the seven-month ordeal. The 6-year-old Cuban refugee, along with his father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, returned to Cuba June 28 after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider his Miami relatives' appeal to keep the child here. "I am very depressed right now, and I have cried a lot today," said Laura Santos, a vice president and general manager at four Telemundo media outlets in central Florida and a member of St. James Cathedral in Orlando. "I see this as a victory for a very evil dictator, and a defeat for democracy. ... If this was (God's) will, then I accept that, even though it is breaking my heart," she told The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper.

Indian archbishop dies in car accident in Poland

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Archbishop Alan de Lastic of Delhi, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, died in a car crash in Poland June 20. He was 70 years old. According to a statement from the Indian bishops' conference, the archbishop died instantly when the car he was in swerved off the road to avoid a cyclist. He was traveling to Warsaw from Krakow, where he had visited the shrine of the Black Madonna. The conference's vice president, Archbishop Mar Basileos of Trivandrum, said in the statement, "We have lost an extraordinary leader in him who gave leadership not only to the Catholic community in India but to all the Christians in the country." Cardinal Jozef Tomko, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, told Catholic News Service that "for India, (the archbishop's death) is a very heavy loss."

Winner of U.S. Catholic Award calls 2000 'year of the Latino'

CHICAGO (CNS) — Calling 2000 "the year of the Latino," theologian Jeanette Rodriguez-Holguin applauded efforts to recognize the gifts and talents of Latinos, but challenged church leaders to hear and honor the often unheard voices of Latina women and to invest in Hispanic youths. "I believe in this community," Rodriguez-Holguin said June 19, accepting this year's U.S. Catholic Award in Chicago. "I believe this community has a contribution to make, both to church and to society. I believe it is a community that really reflects 'el rostro de Dios,' the face of God." Rodriguez-Holguin was honored with the annual award from the editors of U.S. Catholic magazine for groundbreaking work focusing on the grass-roots theology of Latina women. She has collected their stories and retold them in her two books, "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Faith and Empowerment Among Mexican-American Women" and "Stories We Live/Cuentos Que Vivimos."

N.Y. Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan dies

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Auxiliary Bishop Austin B. Vaughan died June 25 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers after a series of illnesses and after suffering a severe heart attack 10 days earlier. Bishop Vaughan, 72, was widely known for his frequent arrests while protesting abortion since the late 1980s. He also was the focus of national attention in 1988 after he told New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, a Catholic, that he "seriously risks going to hell" for his position on legal abortion. That same year, Bishop Vaughan made a public announcement of his intention to drop out of the Democratic party because of its stance on abortion.

Archbishop Flores freed; alleged captor surrenders

CNS FILE PHOTO

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio was freed before dusk June 28 after being held hostage for nine hours in his own chancery building. Archbishop Flores, 70, walked out under his own power from the chancery building at about 7 p.m. CDT, about nine hours after he was allegedly accosted by Nelson Escolero. About 20 minutes after the archbishop appeared, Escolero, 40, surrendered to police without incident. Escolero was charged with two counts of aggravated kidnapping, with a $1 million bond set for each count. Archbishop Flores' secretary, Myrtle Sanchez, had also been held hostage for about two hours. Much of the tension centered on the hostage-taker's claim that he had a grenade. The device was later determined to be a fake. According to police, Escolero, a native of El Salvador who is a legal resident of the United States, was upset over his possible deportation for driving with a suspended license.

Gorbachev hails late Vatican official's dialogue with communists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev praised the late Cardinal Agostino Casaroli for his role in drawing back the Iron Curtain and called the former Vatican diplomat a "man of dialogue." Speaking through an interpreter June 27 at a news conference marking the release of Cardinal Casaroli's memoirs, "The Martyrdom of Patience: The Holy See and Communist Countries (1963-89)," Gorbachev said he was struck by the Vatican diplomat's "great vision and great openness." Gorbachev, whose own policy of "perestroika" during his 1985-1991 term as president of the Soviet Union helped bring an end to the Cold War, said, "Cardinal Casaroli made the first steps toward a new Europe."

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Vatican underlines theological distinctions on private revelation

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the publication of the third secret of Fatima, the Vatican's doctrinal officials took care to explain that such private revelations can be a spiritual help to Catholics, but are in no way matters of faith.

Unlike its statements on dogma, the church does not have an "official definition or official interpretation" of the Fatima visions, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said at a Vatican press conference June 26.

Cardinal Ratzinger's 12-page commentary on "The Message of Fatima" applied several theological distinctions to a subject that has prompted decades of popular conjecture.

He said the text of the third secret of Fatima "will probably prove disappointing or surprising after all the speculation it has stirred."

"No great mystery is revealed; nor is the future unveiled," he wrote.

That is as it should be, he went on to explain, because the church believes that God's "public" revelation was completed in the Old and New Testament, fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Cardinal Ratzinger said there was need for some "basic clarification" about how events like the Fatima visions are to be included in the life of the church. One key point, he said, is that such private revelations are not supposed to complete the Gospel, but help people live it.

"The authority of private revelations is essentially different from that of the definitive public revelation. The latter demands faith," he said.

He quoted Pope Benedict XIV's classic statement on private revelations: "An assent of Catholic faith is not due to revelations approved in this way; it is not even possible."

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger talks to journalists about the so-called third secret of Fatima during a press conference at the Vatican June 26. The prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith said the secret is a symbolic prophecy of the church's 20th-century struggles with evil political systems and its ultimate triumph.

Instead, Cardinal Ratzinger said, a private revelation considered genuine by the church may be accepted by the faithful with prudence. Because it can help them understand the Gospel, it should "not be discarded."

"It is a help which is offered, but which one is not obliged to use," he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger said that prophetic elements in visions such as those at Fatima should be understood in the biblical sense of prophecy, not of predicting the future but of explaining "the will of God for the present," in order to show the right path for the future.

He listed three basic forms of perception or vision in such private revelations: sensory experience, interior perception and spiritual vision. At Fatima, he said, the visions were

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

clearly of the second type, an inner vision that for the visionary "has the force of a presence."

"Interior vision does not mean fantasy. ... It means rather that the soul is touched by something real, even if beyond the senses," the cardinal said. He said children are perhaps more open to such visions because "their interior powers of perception are still not impaired."

Cardinal Ratzinger said it was a misconception to think that the Fatima visions, including that of hell, were like a "film preview" of events to come. That would be a limitation of human freedom, he said, and "the whole point of the vision is to bring freedom onto the scene and to steer freedom in a positive direction."

The importance of these visions was in their symbolic meaning as a whole, he said.

In offering his own comments on the Fatima visions, Cardinal Ratzinger was not as specific as other Vatican officials have been in interpreting the vision of a bishop in white struggling up a hill amid corpses of slain martyrs, who then falls dead after being shot by soldiers.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said it was believed the vision referred to Pope John Paul II, who fell wounded in an assassination attempt in 1981, and to a "war" waged by atheistic systems against the church.

In his commentary, Cardinal Ratzinger connected the third secret with the suffering of the church in various wars and persecutions of the 20th century, and suggested that the figure of the "bishop in white" might represent a "convergence" of several 20th-century pontiffs who helped the church ward off the dangers.

In any case, Cardinal Ratzinger told reporters, the church has no intention of imposing an official interpretation of the Fatima vision. ▼

Mass Times phone number, Web site report jump in usage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A toll-free number and a Web site giving information on Sunday Mass times at churches across the United States reported a jump in usage from 1998 to 1999.

The toll-free number, (800) 627-7846, received 100,000 phone calls, up from 66,000 in 1998. In addition, 120,000 "hits" were recorded on the www.masstimes.org Web site.

Close to 22,500 U.S. parishes, missions and other Mass sites are included in the Mass Times database, an increase over the past year from 80 percent of the country to 99 percent.

An announcement from the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Communications credited a Catholic News Service article and promotion of the toll-free number to diocesan directors of information with the upsurge in phone calls.

The phone number and the Web site are a joint effort of the Catholic Communication Campaign and the 1-800 Mass Times Trust.

The recorded information on the toll-free number, which began in 1994, is now supplemented by a live-operator option reachable by calling (305) 382-5758. Callers who have difficulty with touch-tone phone options or are not hooked up to the Internet can talk to an operator in either English or Spanish.

The Web site now includes information about Masses by city, Mass in languages other than English, various religious devotions and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as wheelchair accessibility. It also highlights Masses in or near places such as campgrounds, national and state parks, retreat houses, and air, bus or train terminals. ▼

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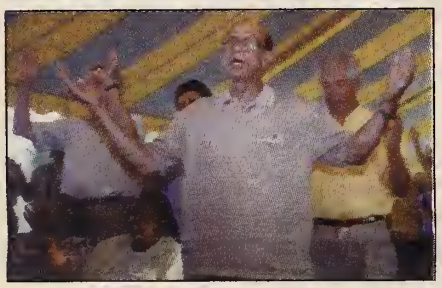
Photos by Alesha M. Price

Pictured left, Obakunle Akinlana and Rita Colón make music for the Saturday crowd. Above, Willis Joseph calls the Sunday congregation to worship on the djembe drum, which originated in Guinea, West Africa.



Clockwise from left, Charles Knight and the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir raise their hands in praise. The Pinn Memorial Baptist Choir, below, lend their voices in song. Left, Nanette Lide anoints the crowd with a cow tail used all over Africa in religious ceremonies dipped in holy water.

Excerpts

Father James E. Goode, OFM

— "Through our communion with Christ, the head of the Mystical Body, we enter into a living communion with all believers ... the Eucharist — the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation — is the living and lasting center around which the entire community of the Church gathers. ..."

— "... How blessed are we that God dispatched his Son, put him down on earth to walk up a hill called Calvary, to hang on a cross and shed some blood for you and me, so that we might have a right to the Tree of Life and be free from our burdens of sin. ..."

— "Jesus calls on us as descendants of slaves, Africans and African-Americans and people of all colors and creeds to begin to be disciples anew ... and to create a world without prejudice and discrimination, to see everyone created in the image and likeness of God."

— "At the end of the jubilee year, let us keep the doors of our churches open so that freedom, justice and liberation; healing and mercy; the motherless, fatherless and abandoned; the left-out and leftover; heavy-burdened and weary; and people of every color and creed might come in ... and find peace and happiness in the body and blood of Christ."

— "You need to do more than just come to church on Sunday, but ... go out everyday and proclaim 'Jesus is the Bread of Life, come to the table of the Lord and have your spirit revived.'"

— "We gather today to celebrate our faith, to celebrate our belief in a loving, living and life-nourishing God and our gift in being black, Catholic and Christian. ... We celebrate being Eucharistic people, for we are proud of our heritage and are proud to be a people of the Word of God, and we boldly stand to say 'we love the Lord.'"

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Spirits revived at weekend gathering

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — From under the large, yellow and white-striped tent on the edge of uptown Charlotte, one could watch the cars slow to a crawl as they looked at the massive structure sitting in the middle of a usually empty field. People rolled down their car windows to hear the preaching and singing coming from the direction of the tent, and from a distance, watch the crowd stand in praise with arms raised and palms outstretched.

Some passers-by joined in, while some remained in the background of the lively event, sponsored by the African-American Affairs Ministry of Charlotte and Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte. The tent revival, "Revival of the Spirit 2000: From Everlasting to Everlasting, God is Still God," was three years in the making and finally came to fruition the weekend of June 23.

"The purpose of the revival was to breakdown some of the misconceptions that black non-Catholic brothers and sisters have about black Catholic worship and Catholicism in general," explained Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry, who served as weekend master of ceremonies. "As the theme suggests, we wanted to truly have a 'revival of the spirit' because we believe, with the state that society is in at this time, especially in the African-American community, we certainly need to go back to our tradition of spiritually based healing and spirituality of the mind and body."

Approximately 1,200 people, with a nearly full attendance of 500 people for the liturgy on Sunday, gathered under the tent for a weekend of preaching, praise, worship and fellowship.

Franciscan Father James E. Goode, Ph.D., served as the weekend revivalist and preacher, as he charmed the crowd with his stirring words of inspiration and hope.

Father Goode is president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, president of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life and the Guardian of St. Claire Friary. He founded the National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family and preached at the first revival 25 years ago.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Franciscan Father James E. Goode prays the Eucharistic prayer with Father Mauricio W. West, Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd and Capuchin Father Jude Duffy at the tent revival on June 23-25.

Attendants braved the soaring weekend temperatures and listened as Father Goode, a nationally known Black Catholic evangelist, belted out his favorite hymn "Blessed Assurance" with his rich baritone voice. He led the crowd in song throughout the weekend.

On Friday evening, Father Goode opened the revival with crowd interaction and the laying on of hands at the end of his sermon.

As he led the people in singing "Jesus Lifted Me," a much-needed breeze, stirred by the giant fans placed around the perimeter, blew through the tent, ruffling his brown Franciscan robe and the kente cloth stole draped around his neck.

"If we allow the spirit of God to move us and use us as he used our ancestors, then the Diocese of Charlotte is in for great blessings," said Father Goode. "The spirit of the Lord has brought us together tonight that everyone of every race, creed and color can gather under the big tent to worship the Lord."

Father Goode reminded the crowd that if they have a dedication and commitment to Jesus that their lives will remain on the right path.

"We can't stay in low places if we are connected to God because we are forever reaching up to him. I know somebody that hears our cries, heals our hurts, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and his name is Jesus, our Savior, our all, our Lord. ... I invite you all to become acquainted with this great Savior that brings us peace and joy. ..."

The same spirit drifted throughout the weekend into Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, vendors with religious goods and Afro-centric clothing and foods prepared and sold by Our Lady of Consolation Church members, young and old. People feasted on chicken wings, croaker plates, grilled corn and snowballs while they listened to Sister Ayaba Bey tell stories and sing songs, watched the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers perform and listened to Obakunle Akinlana tell African folktales.

"Father Goode is very spiritually motivated and is definitely a chosen person whose spirit is moving a lot of people," said Andre K. Andrews, a tenor in the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Choir of Philadelphia, special guests of the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church. "I have never heard a Catholic priest like him. He reminded us that even though we are of different denominations, we are all going for the same goal of being in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

On Sunday, Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, presided over the Mass, with Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church, and Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, concelebrating and Rev. Mr. Todd serving as deacon.

Father Goode ended the weekend on Sunday with another rousing sermon centered on the feast day of the Body and Blood of Christ.

"Today, we gather as Eucharistic people around the table of the Lord at the table of the Eucharist to celebrate our communion and union with God," said Father Goode. "We are here to proclaim with joy and a firm faith that God is Communion — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and he calls us to share in that same Communion."

"I would like to see this become an annual event that will grow with people attending from all over the diocese of all nationalities and various faiths," commented Rev. Mr. Todd on the possibility of future revivals. "People came in from off the street who we reached, and we had people stop by to ask what was going on and if they could participate. I recognized their faces during the weekend. One of our goals was to reach out to the community, and I believe we achieved that goal." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Word to Life

July 9, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Ezekiel 2:2-5
   Psalm 123:1-4
2) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
3) Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

All three readings this Sunday deal with some of the consequences in store for one who is chosen to proclaim "Thus says the Lord God!" Embedded somewhere within his message, Ezekiel tells us that it was only the "spirit" entering him that gave him the strength to get on his feet and receive the message he was to deliver.

After begging three times to have his "thorn in the flesh" removed, which is seemingly ignored by the Lord, St. Paul writes to the community at Corinth that his weaknesses and persecutions have, paradoxically, become his strengths through Christ.

The Gospel reading presents us with the jarring truth that many of the people who probably had known Jesus the longest were astonished by his message and began to take "offense at him."

The picture is a human one. We can imagine someone saying, "Isn't this the guy that built cabinets for my wife two summers ago?" Moreover, Jesus himself is "amazed at their lack of faith" and utters one of the most familiar quotes in the Bible: "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and his own house."

Who are the prophets who move in and out of our lives each day? I am not talking about people who are distanced from us like Dr. King and Mother Teresa. I am talking about someone each of us knows who is really a truth-teller whether we want to admit it or not.

Who are the prophets we have ridiculed — people we now realize were speaking the truth all along? Whom do we ourselves scorn, not because they are wrong, but because deep down we know they are right?

On the other hand, we might be the people chosen to be the prophets or the truth-tellers in our own villages. Ironies exist where prophets are concerned. Some of us don't want to deliver the message, some of us don't want to hear the message, but in the words of Ezekiel, "I am sending you.... Whether they heed or resist — for they are a rebellious house — they shall know that a prophet has been among them."

Question:
What is the message that the Lord has entrusted each of us to deliver?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 9 - 15, 2000

Sunday, Ezekiel 2:2-5, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Mark 6:1-6; **Monday**, Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday (St. Benedict)**, Proverbs 2:1-9, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday**, Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday (St. Henry)**, Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9, Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday**, Hosea 14:2-10, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday (St. Bonaventure)**, Isaiah 6:1-8, Matthew 10:24-33

Readings for the week of July 16 - 22, 2000

Sunday, Amos 7;12-15, Ephesians 1:3-14, Matthew 6:7-13; **Monday**, Isaiah 1:10-17, Matthew 10:34-11:1; **Tuesday (St. Camillus de Lellis)**, Isaiah 7:1-9, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday**, Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi)**, Isaiah 38:1-8, 21-22, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday (St. Mary Magdalene)**, Micah 2:1-5, John 20:1-2, 11-18

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CNS PHOTO BY MIKE NELSON, THE TIDINGS

Franzak's "Saints"

Catholic musician Tom Franzak performs at the Los Angeles Archdiocese's religious education conference in April. His latest CD "Saints"' is a musical look at the lives of nine saints plus Dorothy Day and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

CD of pope's personal prayers to include famous musicians

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) — Commuters weary of listening to the radio on the way to work will soon be able to pop in a CD of Pope John Paul II's prayers instead.

But the soon-to-be-released CD collection of the pope's personal prayers also will include names from many Top 40 stations' playlists.

Among those lending their voices to the recordings, produced by Maxx International, Inc. and expected in stores in September on Columbia Records, are teenage crooner Britney Spears, "boy band" 'N Sync, Canadian hitmeister Celine Dion and country music star Vince Gill.

Also scheduled to appear are actors Jennifer Love Hewitt, Brooke Shields and Dennis Franz, while Spanish and Italian versions of the CDs will boast native talent like Latin pop sensation Enrique Iglesias and Spanish tenor Placido Domingo.

R&B singer-songwriter Robert Kelly, better known as R. Kelly, will serve as the album's producer in addition to providing musical backing to the prayers and a full-length song titled "World Voices."

Maxx International founder Rick Garson said his original plan was to publish the prayers in book form in several languages, but he then decided to "take it a step further and make it into a spoken-word CD."

"Everybody thought I was a little crazy," he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview June 23.

Garson obtained the rights to the prayers and the pope's voice from the Vatican with the help of Father Nunzio Spinelli of the Rogationists' Rome-based publishing house.

Still at the negotiations stage are a two-hour TV special, a Hallmark-licensed greeting card collection and a "pope phone line" in Latin America, where callers can hear recordings of either the pope's voice or a celebrity's reciting the prayers.

"As we all know, this pope loves the arts and music and children. And what better way to get the message out, and to introduce Catholicism and spirituality to young people and to, let's say, a new audience, (than) through entertainers — not the traditional way, but a very effective way," said Garson. ▼

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges earthly purification in preparation for heaven

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged the faithful to purify themselves on earth in preparation for heaven and the full glory of the Trinity.

"Even now, weighed down as we are at times by sin and suffering, we still catch glimpses of the splendor that awaits us in heaven," the pope said June 28 at his weekly general audience, continuing a series of teachings on the Trinity.

"But if we are to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, we have to be purified on our earthly journey," he told an estimated 30,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The liturgy, he said, offers a "taste of that light, that contemplation of perfect love."

Comparing the church to a "pilgrim in a foreign land," the pope said earthly lives were a journey "to our true home, the heavenly Jerusalem."

"Beyond the frontier of history," he said, "the luminous and full epiphany of the Trinity awaits us."

In heaven, while above all we will meet the Father, he said, "in the center of that city will also rise up the Lamb, Christ, to whom the church is tied with a nuptial bond."

"The Holy Spirit pushes us toward that city," said the pope.

"It is the Holy Spirit who sustains the chosen people's dialogue of love with Christ," he said.

In the heavenly Jerusalem, said the pope, "we shall finally see the full glory of the Trinity, when every tear will be wiped away."

Pope urges end to anti-Christian violence in India, Indonesia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Appealing for an end to anti-Christian violence in Indonesia and India, Pope John Paul II called on people to strive for interreligious harmony. "I dare to hope that those who enact (violence) or instigate it understand that we cannot kill and destroy in the name of religion, nor manipulate religion to serve personal interests," the pope said June 28 following his weekly general audience. "I ask those in power to take firm action so that the situation improves; I ask all people to lay down hatred and to work tirelessly for the re-establishment of religious harmony, in reciprocal respect and love," he said to some 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Send Letters to the Editor to:
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The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Selling the family home

The day my father, had he lived, would have been 98 years old — June 1, 2000 — we had to close the deal on selling our family home. My sister Rosemary and I, the oldest siblings in our family of eight, found ourselves sharing memories of this home that our Dad bought nearly 60 years ago, feeling a bit depressed even as we knew we had no choice but to sell.

It happens to a lot of families. A parent dies, and the remaining parent, aging, needs full-time care. The major asset, the family home, must be sold to pay for medical care and a nursing home. Our mom, nearly 92, unable to care for herself, is well cared for in a home literally a block from our family house. She says she's happy we found a buyer.

On the surface, all is well. But deeper down, in the heart, all is not so blissful. Rosemary and I keep remembering how excited Dad was the day we moved into our two-family city house, across the street from Lincoln Park in Albany, N.Y.

Almost in unison we said, "Do you remember how his eyes were shining, and how he walked from room to room, so excited that he had finally achieved his dream of having his very own house for his family?"

We were budding teen-agers, not old enough, perhaps, to really understand what owning a house meant to someone who had come to America from Italy at age 16 without a penny, all alone.

We shared a room when we were kids, but Rosemary and I have shared so much more. I think the expression "soul sisters" was created to describe our relationship.

This house was our father's dream, and he always wanted to share those dreams with us. I think the one that affected us most was his love of music. He recognized Rosemary's great talent for music and right away found a teacher for her, who to this day remains her friend. Rosemary shared her gift with me, teaching me the joy of opera, symphonies, concertos. And as we thought of Dad's birthday and the pending closing on the house, we felt the happy/sad paradox we all encounter at times in our life: remembering how happy we made Dad with our music in our house, a house that would now belong to others.

It took several months to find a buyer. But the man buying it is a father. He wants the house for his son, who will be attending a pharmacy college about a half mile away. They have told our family that they love the house and plan to do some major, beautifying work on it.

When we heard this, Rosemary and I felt our depression somewhat subsided. Could it be just a coincidence that it is another father buying this house that our Dad so loved? Could it also be a coincidence that the transfer of the house occurred on our Dad's birthday? We don't think so.

We think Dad had a hand in this. We think he had something to do with seeing to it that his house would not be trashed in any way, that it would be occupied by people who care for it, as he did.

It's the end of an era when the family house is no longer there. But that's life, a journey, where we're always moving on, but carrying our memories with us.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

The secrets of the "Survivor"

I have been mulling and stewing and snacking over the phenomenon of the "Survivor" television series and how its ratings are probably going to eclipse "I Love Lucy" reruns over time. Everyone is talking about this thing.

I think we can all agree that — other than perhaps the last episodes of "Cheers" and "Seinfeld" — this is one of the greatest marketing successes in pop-culture history. OK, the O.J. Simpson trial is in there too, but you know what I mean.

We all know the winner is ultimately going to run for governor of California and win. This will be preceded, however, by books by and about him or her; Nike endorsements; appearances on "Tonight" and "Letterman," and, of course, making the cover of Time.

For the three of you who might not have seen or heard of "Survivor," it is a series based on 16 total strangers — who become two teams (called tribes) of eight each — being dropped on a deserted island and forced to survive on their own (with the help of plane drops of supplies like garlic and hunting knives) at the same time they are pitted against the other team and, of course, one another, because one person is eliminated by vote each week until only one person "survives," and he or she will win $1 million.

Simple, eh?

How do they think up this stuff? I can only imagine a table of Hollywood wannabees sitting around sharing adult beverages, and one of them says, "What do you think of making a show that is a cross between 'Lord of the Flies' and 'Gilligan's Island'?"

"Not enough sex," slurs one of them.

"You're right. Let's add in 'Days of Our Lives' and infocommercials for the 'Ab Tightener.'"

I have written the producers and asked if the winner, or even the runner-up, might make a guest appearance at our parish men's club fund-raiser. So far I have not heard back despite the fact I did promise all the grub (or grubs if they prefer) the person could gobble and slurp.

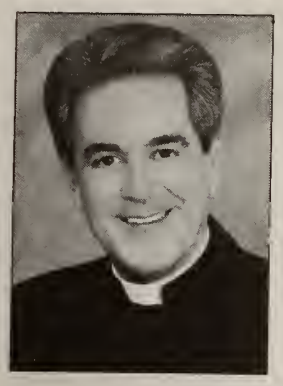
You know the question that really haunts me is, "Why can't my parish fund-raising committee find marketing geniuses like this?"

Actually, that's the back-up question. What I am really curious about is what the next table of Hollywood wannabees is going to think up. We have already bellied-up big time to the spectacle of a total knucklehead, fake millionaire choosing a bride from a giggling bevy of intellect-challenged young women.

The heroes who sit for hours behind a camera to film beautiful animals for us to marvel at on the Discovery Channel must be shaking their heads. Maybe they should let a few of them loose on "Survivor's" island. Talk about yet another ratings boost.

I wonder if the producers would be willing to pay the Discovery Channel folks the $1 million if only a mamma lion was left at the end. She'd get my vote.

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 441 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Cardinal Rule

Many of us in New York and elsewhere have our personal Cardinal John O'Connor stories which we have treasured since his death.

I had been in my new job as the head of The Christophers just two days when I looked out the window of my office in Manhattan, and there he was walking unhurriedly along East 48th Street. He smiled broadly as two passers-by reached out to him and struck up a conversation. The Archbishop of New York was doing what he liked most — being out and about the neighborhood of his beloved Saint Patrick's.

As the pair moved on, the Cardinal stood facing Christopher headquarters, took a quick look at his watch, and seemed to be considering an impromptu visit. As soon as he started to navigate the traffic, I sprinted down three flights in time to greet him at the door. "So, you must be the new guy, McSweeney is it? Welcome to the center of the universe!"

His greeting was warm and generous. Before I could speak, he arched his eyebrow and began looking at me intently. "Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! This will never do!" he intoned. "Excuse me, your Eminence, is something wrong?" I started checking for whatever might be askew.

"Well," he declared, "Father Keller, the distinguished founder of The Christophers, always struck us poor kids from Philadelphia as the definitive clerical dandy because he had a starched hankie planted in the breast pocket of his immaculately pressed suit coat — very impressive! Where's yours?!" Then, without losing a beat, his broad smile reappeared with a hearty guffaw.

If you never heard the Cardinal laugh, you were denied one of his most winning qualities. But as easily as he had just 'broken the ice,' his demeanor became serious.

He stepped closer and touched my arm. Lowering his voice, he spoke in those deliberate, measured phrases. "Tom, in truth, I envy you. You get to do something publicly as a Christopher that I don't get to do in the pulpit of the cathedral. You get to speak in the trenches, in the marketplace! And like the true missionary that Keller was, you don't start by arguing dogma or doctrine, but rather with the good you see in people no matter what their religious background. At Saint Pat's I must carve out and teach the Catholic position. The Christopher mandate is to get into the thick of things and mix it up. I envy you!"

I was speechless. When I started to mumble something erudite about the difference between the pre-evangelistic work of missionaries versus the evangelization of the baptized, the Cardinal interrupted me, "By the way, where are you saying Mass?"

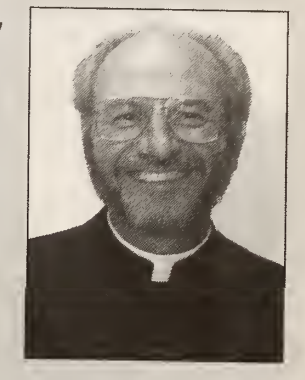
"Well, your Eminence, I've contacted the pastor up at St..."

"Oh, that won't work," he broke in, "you'll be joining us at Saint Patrick's. I'm sure Monsignor Dalla Villa, the rector, will be in touch with you soon." And with that, he shook my hand, turned toward the curb and shot back, "And forget the hankie!"

Cardinal O'Connor did indeed have a particular pulpit from which to speak. Yet, he always treated each person he met as a unique, valued individual. I have no doubt that Father Keller himself would have recognized the Cardinal as another "Christopher," a true Christ-bearer.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMN

Rising gas prices raise awareness

As gas prices rise from $1.50 closer to $2.00 a gallon, consumers with large fuel tanks reel from the shock of a $50 fill-up. No matter that gas at $1.50 a gallon equals half the price Europeans pay, and today's price adjusted for inflation rivals that of the early 1970s, the unexpected jump sparks a rethinking in consumers on a tight budget. Owners of sports utility vehicles and light trucks exempt from certain fuel-efficiency standards wonder if they need all that power or utility when their vehicle gets only ten to 15 miles per gallon. From market theory the price hike should nudge consumers to more fuel-efficient vehicles. Yet, from a theological perspective, the spiraling cost offers people of faith an opportunity to assess their responsibility toward the environment and their stewardship of the world's resources.

Burning oil produces greenhouse gases, and scientists paint a grim picture from our current patterns of consumption. During most of the Twentieth Century, the earth was warming at a rate of one degree Fahrenheit per century, but since 1980, that rate accelerated to four degrees per century. With a hotter atmosphere comes more violent weather. El Ninos become more severe, while the earth's glaciers retreat at accelerated rates. Last year two uninhabited western Pacific islands were submerged beneath rising sea levels.

Reactions to these findings range from denial to urgency. The Global Climate Coalition composed of major oil and energy companies dismiss global warming as a threat. To them the science proves inconclusive. Yet, last December the chief meteorologist of the United Kingdom and the head of the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration declared jointly the climate situation to be critical. They urged immediate reduction in the use of coal and oil throughout the world.

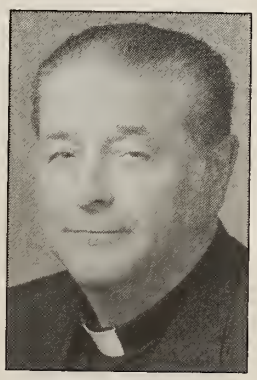
Some environmentalists believe a switch away from oil and coal to renewable and high-efficiency energy sources will require little decline in our standard of living. An economy based on hydrogen, fuel cells, natural gas, solar and wind could supply our energy needs and gradually become competitive to oil and coal through mass markets and mass production. The federal government which subsidizes fossil fuels by $20 billion annually could begin favoring clean energy sources, and thus, provide incentives for energy companies to develop climate-friendly technologies. While any switch in an energy source requires capital investment up front, long-term renewable energy will cost less for the future.

In December 1995 a fire destroyed the main plant at Malden Mills in Lawrence, Massachusetts. CEO Aaron Feuerstein attracted national attention when he declared he would rebuild the plant on the old site, promising his 1,400 workers future employment. He gave workers idled by the fire a $275 holiday bonus, extended their health benefits for 90 days plus met their payroll for over a month.

When Feuerstein rebuilt, he installed a high-efficiency natural gas turbine to provide low-cost electricity and steam to the new plant.

RISING GAS PRICES, PAGE 14

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

How is the Bible normative for Catholics?

Q. Your column some time ago said that the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, are "normative" for Christian belief. What does that mean?

Catholics, and I think other Christians also, accept certain truths or doctrines that are not found stated in the Bible, for example the assumption and the immaculate conception. If that is true, how can you say the Bible is the "norm" for our religion?

A. The Constitution on Divine Revelation, promulgated at Vatican Council II, affirmed that the church has always, and will always, regard the Scriptures, along with sacred tradition, as the supreme rule of faith.

"All the preaching of the church," it continues, "must be nourished and ruled by sacred Scripture." The Bible, in other words, is a controlling presence in our understanding and reception of God's revelation, what God wished to teach in these writings for our salvation ("Dei Verbum," 21).

This is what is meant by the Scriptures being normative for Christian belief. Putting it in a somewhat shorthand way, it means that no truly Christian teaching can contradict the Bible, which is not the same, however, as saying that every authentic Christian belief must be found in the Bible.

If the Scriptures are, as we believe them to be, the word of God transmitted to us in human language under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then those Scriptures are without error. Properly interpreted then, there can be no contradiction between these Scriptures and any authoritative teaching of the church, which by definition we believe would be inspired by that same Spirit.

Since the holy Scriptures are written under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we believe that they must also be read and interpreted under the Spirit's guidance. Three criteria generally are indicated to guarantee that kind of interpretation.

First, the interpretation must reflect the unity and content of the whole of the Bible.

Second, it must be in accord, in harmony, with the living tradition of the whole church, as the Holy Spirit inspires and supports it down through the centuries.

And third, the interpretation must respect what is called the "analogy of faith," the coherence and harmony that must exist between the different teachings of the faith. Again, one Christian teaching cannot contradict another teaching, or one of them, at least, must be wrong.

Something the same can be said for other truths about which someone may object, "Where do you find that in the Bible?" If it does not contradict what is in the Bible, and if it generally fulfills those criteria for interpretation — In other words, if it is coherent with other teachings of faith, consistent with the living tradition of Christianity and does not conflict with the content and unity of the Bible — a particular teaching may be accepted without violating the normative function sacred Scripture holds in the Christian religion.

As you must be aware, this has happened frequently in the history of Christianity. The explanation of the place of Scripture in the church may be found a bit more fully in the Vatican II constitution mentioned above (especially Sections 12 and 21) and in the article on sacred Scripture in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Rising gas prices, from page 13

By using occupancy sensors and more efficient lighting in the warehouse, he reduced energy consumption for lighting by 96 percent. Malden Mills' $350,000 energy bill shrank to under $35,000. On balance, the company cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by 30,000 tons.

Catholic social teachings emphasize the rights and responsibilities of each person. Everyone has a right to a decent environment and a responsibility to protect it.

Aaron Feuerstein, a businessman, creatively saw his responsibility to his workers and the environment. Today people of faith, urged by market forces, can also hear their call to responsibility every time they fill up at the pump.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Faithful Servant, from page 4

He reminded them of their responsibility to continue to learn about such things as Catholic social teaching that offers guidelines for implementing the Gospel in everyday life. Kotlowski said that Christian leadership — such as they learned in Faithful Servant — coupled with Catholic social teaching equaled world transformation.

The world, he said, was filled with both scary events and wondrous opportunities. Christian leadership means "we are part of the solution. It is our calling."

Jeanie Campbell traveled five hours from her home parish at St. Barnabas in Arden. She said she discovered there was "more than one kind of leader; a leader needed to be well-rounded." Closer to home, Cory McManus of Immaculate Conception Church in Durham, said he had attended to meeting to "learn how to serve my community as a leader."

While learning to be an effective leader is vital, there is also the need for humility. That fact was emphasized in the motto of Bishop Joseph Gossman of Raleigh: "To serve not be served." ▼

Matt Doyle is assistant editor of NC Catholic, newspaper for the Diocese of Raleigh.

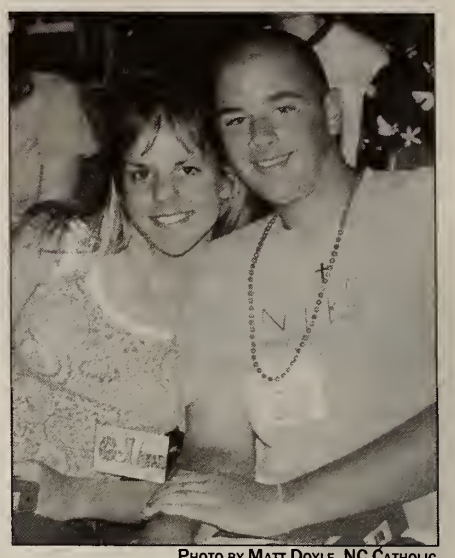


PHOTO BY MATT DOYLE, NC CATHOLIC

"I feel blessed to be with a group of Catholic youth," said Colleen Lindstrand, left, of St. James Church in Hamlet.

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Accounting Assistant, Part-time: Catholic High School seeks person with accounting experience who works well with others to work part-time in the Business Office. Responsibilities include processing tuition receivables and vendor payables. Provides assistance to Business Manager in reconciling and managing monthly accounts. Good organizational and analytical skills required. Mon-Fri, 8 am - 12 pm. Send letter of application and resume by 7/28 to: BMHS Employee Search, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. EOE.

Accounting Clerk: Payroll/General Ledger. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a full-time accounting clerk. Responsibilities primarily include processing and entering payroll and general ledger transactions for the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have two years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 14, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Administrative Assistant: Part-time. Approximately 12-20 hours per week. Non-smoker with good communications, phone, computer skills. Prefer financial background. Resume and references to Hook Financial Group, 4801 E. Independence Blvd., Box 601, Charlotte NC 28212.

Administrative Support Person: The Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace has an opening for a part-time administrative support person (4 hours, 3 days/week). Functions include: clerical, database management, excel spreadsheets, internet research and related skills, coordinating meeting arrangements, and bulk mailing. Must be proficient in Windows 98 and Office 97 and possess organizational and communications skills. Submit a one-page resume by July 26th to: Office of Justice and Peace, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203.

Assistant Secretary: Asheville Catholic School. Attendance/First Aid Office. M-F, full time. CPR and First Aid certification required. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

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Custodian, Full-time: Begin work immediatcly. Asheville Catholic School. Call Randy Penland, Maintenance Supervisor at (828)252-7896. EOE.

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Theresa Johnson, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director, Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte: Director to supervise staff and administer program areas including: CCHD, CRS/ORB, Office of Economic Opportunity, social justice formation and education, and public policy activities. The director serves on the CSS management team while maintaining working relationships with other diocesan offices and with parishes. Knowledge of Catholic social teaching, as well as the ability to articulate and apply it, is essential. Experience at diocesan level as well as a graduate degree in related field preferred. Send resumes by July 26th to: Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Junior Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a junior accountant. This position is primarily responsible for the monthly general journal entries, cash receipts, and month-end reporting for Catholic Social Services. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have an associate's degree with a concentration in Accounting or 5 years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 14, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

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Music Ministry Director: St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA seeks professional with bachelor's degree (or above) in music; in-depth knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy; and vocal, piano, organ skills. Should be pastoral individual with appreciation of broad range of music styles. Full-time position with benefits; salary dependent upon experience. Complete job description posted at www.bedeva.org. Application deadline: July 15. Send resume, references, salary history to: Attn: DMM Search Committee, St. Bede Catholic Church, 10 Harrison Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185. stboffice@bedeva.org

Parish Secretary/Receptionist: St. John Neumann. 9am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Secretarial skills and experience, computer-literate, personable. Salary negotiable. Benefits. Contact Fr. Thom Meehan, (704)536-6520 or send resume and references: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28277. Fax: (704)536-3147.

Regional Consultant: The Diocese Office of Faith Formation seeks an interim part-time Regional Consultant for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate for FY 2000-2001. We seek an individual with 3-5 years' experience of coordinating parish programs and great ability to work with people. The part-time salary for this person is $12,000-$14,000. Preference will be given to persons with some background in the field of Catechetics and Adult Faith Formation. Please send two letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, Office of Faith Formation, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. For more information call (704) 370-3246.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic pre-K teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following openings beginning August 2000: full-time teaching positions for Religion, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: PE, Spanish, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

Teachers: Full-time. St. Pius X Catholic School, Greensboro, has openings for 2000-2001 school year: Spanish, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, Middle School Religion, Middle School Language Arts. Must be practicing Catholic with NC certification in field. Experience preferred. Benefits included. Send resume to C. Usischon, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or fax: (336)273-0199.

Teachers: St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is currently seeking dynamic teachers for the following positions: Full-time Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies; Full-time Kindergarten; and part-time Art teacher. NC Certification required. Please call Joseph Puceta at (704)865-4382 for more information.

Teachers: Math, P.E. for 2000-2001 at St. Leo School, 333 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27104. NC Certification required (or in process). Call 336-748-8252 for application and information. Submit resume to Georgette Schraeder, Principal.

Teachers and Guidance Counselor: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Part-time Guidance Counselor; Middle School Science Teacher; and Grade 5 Teacher. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, at 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; call 336-887-2613; or fax 336-884-1849.

Youth Coordinator: St. John Neumann Church seeks part-time Coordinator of Youth Programs to work with parent/youth teams to plan, implement, oversee youth programs, grades 9-12. Call (704)535-4197. Send resume to St. John Neumann Church, Connie Milligan, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227 or fax(704)536-3147.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or related field and three years' experience in Youth Ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.

Youth Minister: 25 hours per week, salaried. Located 45 minutes north of Charlotte. Practicing Catholic, experienced with youth. Responsible for 9th-12th graders; coordinate social and service activities, and recruit and train other young adults to work with teens. Must be willing to accommodate flexible week including nights and weekends. Submit resume by July 31st: Martha Drennan, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville NC 28117. Information: (704)664-7762.

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OLC youth head south for regional conference

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action group from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte traveled to Cajun Country to spice up their spiritual lives.

New Orleans, an area of the country with a large concentration of African-American Catholics, was this year's host site for Unity Explosion 2000 held from June 15-18, sponsored by the Office for Black Catholics and the Office of Religious Education of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

"...It (the conference) has given me a different perspective and strengthened my beliefs as a black Catholic."
— Jermaine Dennis

Twenty young adults and nine chaperones joined approximately 1,200 youth and adults from Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Texas and other states for a conference geared toward African-American Catholics.

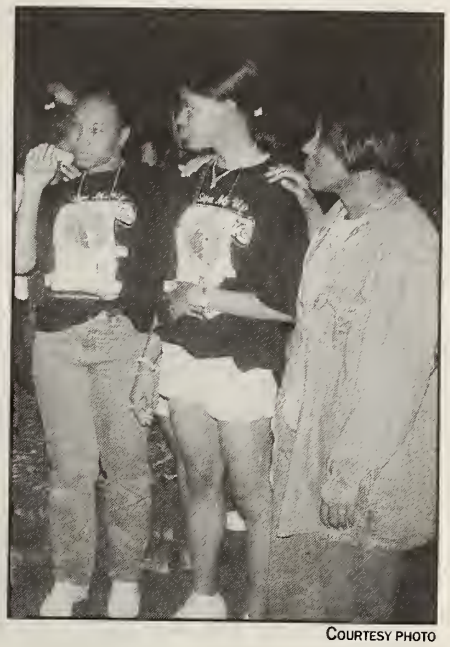
The conference was established in 1989 and was originally created by African-American Catholic lay people in Dallas, Texas, who wanted to have a conference in the Southern region that would be accessible and wholly enriching for their spiritual lives, said Richard Cheri, the New Orleans Unity Explosion chair and the associate director for parish youth catechesis in the archdiocese.

This year's theme reflected the jubilee spirit of the new millennium — "Sign Me Up for the Christian Jubilee" — a song popular among various African-American denominations.

"Our name has been put on the role, and we are preparing ourselves for when Jesus comes," said Nanette Lide, Youth in Action youth minister, reciting the song's words.

"Because there are so few black Catholics in this area, and the kids have so few opportunities to share their faith with other young black Catholics, this served as a way for them to rejoice in who they are and to take part in the workshops which were about leadership and pulled from our history," continued Lide. "The workshops were enlightening and informational, and we are planning our Youth Mass in September to be inclusive of the spirit we received at this retreat."

Adults, teens and children attended sessions designed with their age group in mind. The youth were able to take part in African and liturgical dance and drumming workshops, youth mass choir and other sessions such as "YM2K — Youth Ministry in the Year 2000" and "Get Some R & R: Relevance in Religion." The young men and women had their own separate breakout sessions and were exposed to gender-specific, spiritually based training and instruction.



COURTESY PHOTO

Leslie Johnson, youth minister, and Jalilah James lay hands on Cirsten Nimmons, center, during the Youth Plenary Session at the Unity Explosion 2000 Conference in New Orleans.

Cirsten Nimmons, 16, said she enjoyed the conference, which was a life-altering experience for her. "I learned the truth about being Catholic and what it really means to be a black Catholic. It changed my whole attitude and was a wake-up call for me; even though I am young, I am the future for the upcoming youth. I need to 'get ready and get right for God.'"

The conference was also inspiring for eighteen-year-old Jermaine Dennis who said he felt the spirit of Jesus all around him. "I feel as if a burden has been lifted off me and as if I can understand the point of the whole conference. It has given me a different perspective and strengthened my beliefs as a black Catholic. With the help of the Lord, I can overcome any obstacles and be stronger for him."

Several African-American Catholic speakers from New Orleans and around the country and local students served as facilitators and session leaders, including Dr. Diana L. Hayes, associate professor of theology at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and the first African-American woman to receive an S.T.D. degree, doctor of sacred theology, and Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis, professor of church history at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana and author of "The History of Black Catholics in the United States." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) This has become my motto in pursuing my vocation. Raised Catholic in upstate New York, I graduated from college in industrial engineering and became an Air Force officer. There the seeds of my vocation were first planted when, purely "by chance," I spent a week on Guam with a priest who shared valuable insights with me.

After the service, the Holy Spirit led me to Charlotte's St. Vincent de Paul Church where I was guided along my vocational path. Although my calling remains a mystery to me, I realize I've been blessed with God's abundance along the way as answered prayers have overcome every obstacle. I know of no greater joy than serving God through my ministry to his people. I truly appreciate what it means to walk by faith because God knows the way, and the benefits of faithful service are out of this world.

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Banquet teaches lessons about world hunger

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BREVARD — The lucky few got a complete dinner, a few others ate less and most had nearly nothing. No, this wasn't the scene in some third-world country. This was a hunger banquet at Sacred Heart Church.

Tiffany Gallozzi, parish director of music and youth, came up with the idea after reading materials that accompanied the church's Operation Rice Bowl materials for Lent this year. She wanted to make a point: that most of the world's population subsists on starvation rations and that even in America, people go hungry every night.

Operation Rice Bowl is a Lenten sacrificial giving program sponsored by Catholic Relief Services, the overseas aid and development agency of U.S. Catholics.

Gallozzi had done some research and learned from UNICEF that one in four families in the United States skips meals because they can't afford food. She also learned that the five richest people in the world have assets totaling $1 trillion, the amount of assets of the five poorest countries in the world.

"I was originally going to do a refugee camp and the Community Life Committee agreed to help me," Gallozzi said, "but then they ... thought a hunger banquet would be better."

The committee cooked and served the food and cleaned up after the event, which was held in the church hall.

Some 35 youth-group members and their families participated. As they arrived at the church hall, each person drew a colored ticket from a bag. Gallozzi wanted to emphasize that food is not evenly allocated among the world's population.

Five people, symbolizing 10 percent of the world's population, drew white tickets, which represented the first world. Gallozzi welcomed each of these five warmly and escorted them to a table set with a tablecloth, china, glassware, silver and a candle. The first-world people were served first. They could have as much as they wanted of a dinner of meat loaf, green beans, steamed carrots, rice, rolls, juice and fresh fruit.

Another 13 people, 30 percent of the attendees, drew yellow tickets, representing the second world. No one escorted them to their tables. Gallozzi simply told them, "It's nice to see you. Sit over there." They had to go to the kitchen service window to get one small serving (no seconds) of meatloaf, rice, green beans and water. They ate from paper plates and used plastic utensils.

The other 17 attendees, the 60 percent who represented the third world, drew pink tickets. "I turned a cup over in a (Styrofoam) bowl, put a paper towel on top of that, and said, 'Here. Sit over there,'" Gallozzi said. "Over there" was the floor in a corner of the room. These people had to serve themselves from a pot; their fingers were their only utensils.

Gallozzi had done some research and learned from UNICEF that one in four families in the United States skips meals because they can't afford food. She also learned that the five richest people in the world have assets totaling $1 trillion, the amount of assets of the five poorest countries in the world.

Gallozzi had her hunger statistics distributed to each table, and the diners had to read them aloud during the meal. "I didn't want them to socialize," she said. "I wanted them to focus on what we were doing."

Another aspect was that six of the white and yellow tickets had chalice-and-host stickers on their backs. These tickets allowed the holders to give food to help those in need. Four of the pink tickets also had stickers; two of them could automatically get help, while the other two had to beg if they wanted more food than they had originally dished up from the pot.

Two of the third-world people who had received extra food did share what they had with their companions.

"The reason I used the Eucharist symbol was to connect to the fact that we are the Body of Christ and that that's what Eucharist is for, and that if we believe that's what it's for, we need to reach out," Gallozzi said.

Gallozzi said that while her youth-group members are involved as lectors, ushers and greeters, she wanted the hunger banquet to make a connection to the world community.

"I wanted them to learn, first, that no matter how bad off they think they are, they're not in a portion of the world that's scrapping for existence," she said.

The message did get across, to children and their parents. Mary Sweat and her three sons were at the banquet. Mary sat on the floor; her son Elliot was one of the fortunate five who sat at the first-world table.

"Being in a room where others had and you had none — it really makes you think," Mary said. "You don't think about it when you're at your own table."

Elliot gave his mother a strawberry, and she wanted to share it with those in her third-world group, but, she said, "I didn't know what to do with it. I didn't have anything to cut it up with." After the dinner, she gave it to one of the children in her group.

Gallozzi statistics had included information about the number of people fed at the soup kitchen in Brevard. Mary had known about the kitchen but said she hadn't realized that so many people in her own community were hungry.

"It made me more aware," Mary said of the banquet. "You see people on TV who are starving, but that's far away." ▼

Cardinal links deacon's service of charity, Word

MORAGA, Calif. (CNS) — The service of charity and ministry of the Word are intimately linked in "the unique and inestimably valuable ministry of the deacon in today's church," Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles told a record national gathering of 920 deacons and wives."It is in the service of the deacon that the whole church's service in charity is sacramentalized," said Cardinal Mahony, one of the keynoters at the June 21-25 Third Tri-Annual National Catholic Diaconate Conference in Moraga. Cardinal Mahony challenged deacons to serve the whole local church and not let their ministry be tied too much to one parish.

He also suggested that the ministry of married deacons may call for "greater attention to the ways in which the grace of the sacrament of marriage might affect and enrich our understanding of holy orders."

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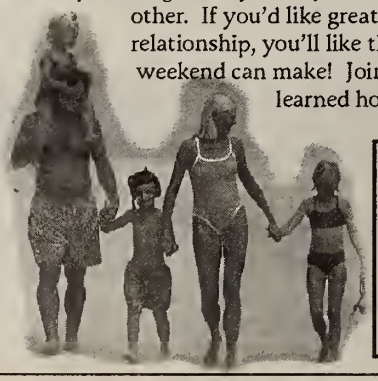

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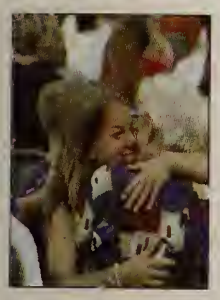

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Iron rusts from disuse, stagnant water loses its purity, and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigors of the mind.
— Leonardo da Vinci

Mountain church celebrates 50 years

Photos by Jimmy Rostar

Above, Father C. Morris Boyd reads the text of a commemorative plaque honoring the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands July 16, as Bishop William G. Curlin prepares to bless it. Bishop Curlin also confirmed this year's confirmation class.

By Jimmy Rostar
Associate Editor

HIGHLANDS — During a gathering to celebrate a faith community's golden anniversary, the diocese's spiritual leader told the congregation that the true reason for celebration is the bringing of Christ's presence into the world.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at a Mass honoring the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of the Mountains Church July 16. The congregation packed into the mountain church for the anniversary liturgy, during which five youth were confirmed and the spirit of Catholic life was pondered.

"What does it mean to be a Catholic?" Bishop Curlin posed to the congregation. "It means that Christ walks the earth in us. It is through our words, our deeds, our lifestyle that people begin to realize that God is alive in us." For 50 years, the Catholic community of Highlands has brought Christ to this corner of the world.

A half-century after the building of its church, the community of

See Highlands, page 4

"Encuentro 2000" celebrates diversity

By Agostino Bono

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — "Encuentro 2000" opened with Native American drums calling the participants from across the nation to gather in assembly.

At the end of its final liturgy, 5,000 worshippers tied ribbons to one another's wrists, a traditional Hmong sign of sending forth.

In between, the different languages and styles of dress, music, art and worship celebrated the many-textured, many-hued richness of Catholic life in the United States.

The Eucharist brings unity to that diversity, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles said at the final Mass. "It is here that we take up the gift and task of being a people whose lives are committed to reconciliation, peace and unity," he said.

Five-thousand Catholics from 150 dioceses converged on the Los Angeles Convention Center July 6-9 for "Encuentro 2000: Many Faces in God's House," the only national event of the jubilee year sponsored by the U.S. bishops. More than 150 countries of origin were represented.

"The idea of Encuentro is after seeing all of the beauty, pageantry and traditions that make up the American Church, that the participants would take those ideas back to their individual dioceses and make that diocese a reflection of all cultures and traditions," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte, in attendance at the conference. "The key was having many different cultures represented in order to enact active, open and willing acceptance of the presence of many traditions and contributions of various groups of people."

"'Encuentro 2000' marks the first national gathering to lift up the riches of the church's racial, ethnic and cultural diversity in the United States," Cardinal Mahony said. Encuentro is the Spanish word for encounter or meeting.

Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, chairman of the Encuentro organizing committee, told reporters, "We will see that the music of the Latinos makes the Anglos' feet move, the incense of the Asians reminds Europeans of the transcendence of God and the drumbeat of the Native Americans pulsates in the hearts of all."

Sprinkled through the meeting were liturgical ceremonies indigenous to various groups of U.S. Catholics.

Among participants at the four-day meeting were 82 U.S. bishops and several from Latin America.

"It was truly a God-experience of being in the presence of the bishops and thousands of members of the church from different nations and races," said Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation of schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. "We became unified and truly

See ENCUENTRO, page 4

African leaders urge churches to welcome HIV/AIDS patients

DURBAN, South Africa (CNS) — Church leaders in Kwazulu-Natal province urged churches to become a "welcoming home" for those infected with HIV/AIDS. The statement on the role churches should be playing in response to the pandemic was issued to coincide with the international AIDS conference in Durban July 9-14. Kwazulu-Natal province includes Durban and is the South African province with the highest rate of HIV/AIDS. Paddy Kearney, who heads the ecumenical organization Diakonia in Durban, said the statement was drawn up partly in response to the problem that many people infected with HIV/AIDS experience churches as hostile.

Chiapas bishop says trust must be rebuilt with government

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Although Mexican President-elect Vicente Fox Quezada said during his campaign he would meet as soon as possible with leaders of a rebel group in Mexico's southern Chiapas state, a local bishop said more time is needed. Bishop Felipe Arizmendi Esquivel of San Cristobal de las Casas said trust must be rebuilt between the federal government and leaders of the mostly indigenous Zapatista National Liberation Army before they can meet. "We all understand that we are in a hurry to resolve this problem, but we cannot march against history. We have to go bit by bit and, above all, recovering trust that was lost, that was so fundamental," he said in an impromptu news conference after Mass July 9 in San Cristobal's Cathedral of Peace.

Berlin Archdiocese to investigate WWII slave labor

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Berlin plans to set up a commission to investigate the extent to which the church employed slave labor under the Nazi regime. A spokesman for the archdiocese said the new commission would ask to see the papers discovered by the Protestant Church. Catholic documentation was probably not available because the archives were destroyed by bombing during World War II. The archdiocesan commission also will examine the files of the Nazi state security service, the SS, which criticized Catholic priests for standing up for slave laborers.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Israelites Demonstrate in Tel Aviv Rally

Tens of thousands of Israelis take part in a demonstration against Prime Minister Ehud Barak's participation in the Camp David summit July 16. The rally in Tel Aviv was held under the slogan, "Uprooting settlements tears the people apart."

Debt relief funding vote in House called 'amazing victory'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A House vote to more than triple the amount of debt relief for poor countries that had been recommended by its appropriations committee was "an amazing victory," said the head of the U.S. bishops' Department of Social Justice and World Peace. The official, John Carr, said the 216-211 vote July 13 to increase debt relief funding in the Foreign Operations bill for fiscal 2001 from $69 million to $225 million "surprised the House leadership" and others who considered efforts to boost the funding "a fool's errand."

Catholics in Laos struggle to keep faith alive, bishop says

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Bishop Jean Khamse Vithavong of Vientiane, Laos, feels the grip of the communist regimes that have held his country since 1973. "We cannot run (Catholic) schools anymore. No social work, no hospitals, nothing," he said in an interview with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper. "Just pastoral work with our people." Besides himself, there are only four other priests to minister to about 12,000 Catholics in Laos, many of them living in remote rural areas. Foreign missionaries are sometimes let into the country on tourist visas, but the bishop said they would be deported if their identities as priests were discovered by the government. During a July visit to Milwaukee, Bishop Vithavong was at St. Michael Parish to participate in a national gathering of four cultures — Laotian, Hmong, Lahu, and Khmu — hosted by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

New U.S. Book of the Gospels approved

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Book of the Gospels can be used liturgically in U.S. dioceses beginning Sept. 30, according to a decree by Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. When the Book of the Gospels is used at Mass, it is carried in the opening procession and placed on the altar. In a decree dated June 29 and made public in July, Bishop Fiorenza said the new book can be used as of Sept. 30 and must replace any other version as of Dec. 3, the first Sunday of Advent. The bishops approved an original introduction to the Book of the Gospels at their meeting last November and sent it to the Holy See for confirmation, as is required for all liturgical texts. The Vatican confirmation was dated May 23.

Belfast bishop says Northern Ireland risks sliding into anarchy

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Northern Ireland is in danger of sliding into anarchy, a Belfast bishop warned as protests about the banned Protestant march in Drumcree continued. "What is happening across the whole of Northern Ireland is intolerable," said Bishop Patrick Walsh, whose Down and Connor Diocese includes Belfast. "We are in danger of sliding into anarchy. Entire communities are being harassed and intimidated, and many families are living in dread. Once more, dark clouds envelop our streets." In a comment directed at Portadown district Orangemen who called for loyalist protests against the banned march, Bishop Walsh said: "Those who are orchestrating violence and fomenting passions and hatred by bitter speeches bear an awesome responsibility. What they are doing cannot be justified. What they are doing is morally wrong."

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Editor: Joann S. Keane
Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 23 — 11:30 a.m.
Mass and picnic
St. John, Waynesville
July 29 — 12:30 p.m.
Confirmation Mass
Cristo Rey, Yadkinville
July 30 — 11:30 a.m.
Mass / Installation of Father Anthony Marcaccio as pastor
St. Pius X, Greensboro
July 31- Aug. 3
National Knights of Columbus Convention
Boston
Aug. 5
Permanent diaconate ministry of acolyte installation
St. Joseph, Newton

Diocesan planner

July

23 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 4-7 p.m. in the Immaculata School Gym, 711 Buncombe St., with a covered dish dinner following the meeting. Next month's meeting on Aug. 27 will be held at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing, at the regularly scheduled time from 3-5 p.m. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

26 CHARLOTTE — The 5th Annual St. Ignatius Day Welcome Mass for Gays and Lesbians is taking place tonight at 7 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., with Monsignor Richard Allen as homilist. For more information, call Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh at (704) 332-5342.

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., is hosting Michael O'Brien as he presents the "Sounds of Medjugorje," songs inspired by his pilgrimages to the city and his faith journey, tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Jean Berry at (336) 282-1853.

28 BELMONT — The Royal School of Church Music is presenting a concert at 7 p.m. at the Basilica at Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call Beth Bargar at (704) 825-6890.

30 ROCK HILL, S.C. — Dominican Sister Mary Margaret Pazdan, professor of biblical studies at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Mo., and Jesuit Father Antony Campbell from the Jesuit Theological College in Parkville, Australia, are the guest faculty for the 19th Summer Bible Institute at the Oratory begin-

Summer in the city

Teens find inner joy in spirit of service to those in need

By Joann S. Keane
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Picture this: A couple hundred teens working in soup kitchens, doing yardwork, sorting clothes at a shelter, and helping a group of nuns with a neighborhood summer camp.

Think about this: These teens are giving up part of their precious summer vacation to sleep on the floor of Holy Trinity Middle School. Rising at the crack of dawn, the teens work through the mid-afternoon, returning to the concrete-and-tile flooring of classrooms-turned-dorms.

The clincher: They aII paid to take part in this servitude for those in need. And, they're loving every minute of the seven-day experience.

The National Catholic HEART [Helping Everyone Attain Relief Today] Workcamp came to Charlotte July 9-15, bringing nearly 300 teens from across the country together for a week of community service under a sweltering Carolina sun.

Mark Disney's mother signed him up for the Catholic HEART experience. "I didn't really know what I was getting into," says Mark. The 15-year-old from St. Paul the Apostle parish in Greensboro spent his days trimming trees, mowing lawns, painting and assisting with various odd jobs to help elderly in need. "Our group worked pretty hard, and we got the job done." In return, Mark says it was good to know "we were giving back to the community and helping out."

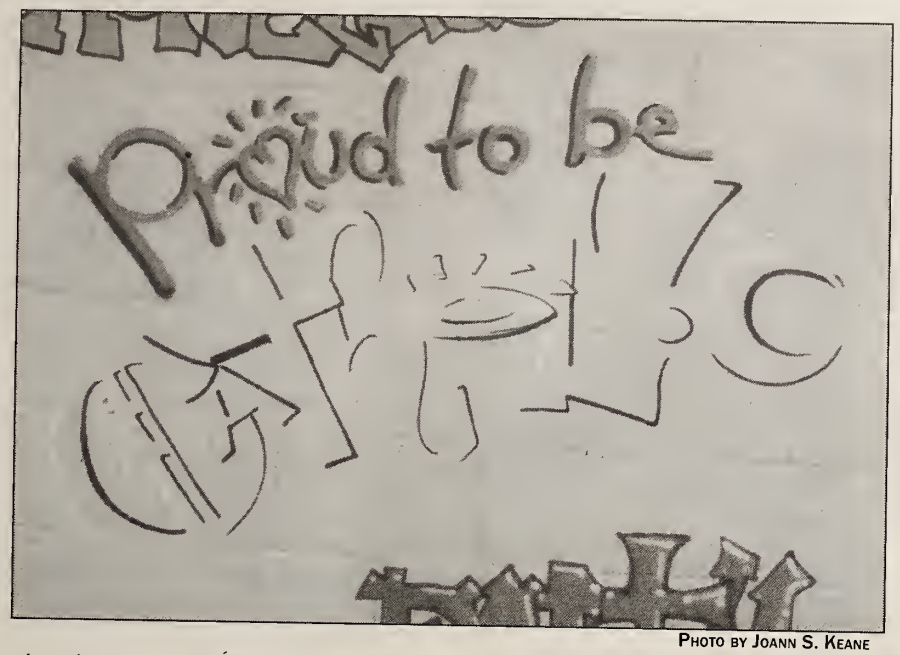

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Community service is nothing new to 16-year-old Marlies Kruetzberger. She's lent a helping hand to the mission trips to Jamaica and Kentucky her mother coordinates for St. Ann parish in Charlotte for a number of years. However, she found a new perspective as she spent her days working side by side with her peers. For a week, Marlies helped out at a local boys and girls club. She was probably less than half an hour away from the comforts of her own home, but a world away as she discovered community needs — not on impoverished Caribbean Islands, but right in her own backyard.

Emily Schaeffer came prepared to expend energy outside. "I brought all my tools," she says. Instead, Emily and her group were assigned to a food bank. Not exactly what the 15-year-old from St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte had in mind, but she found it to be a rewarding experience. Perhaps most inspiring was her time with the other teens coming from the likes of Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Michigan and Louisiana, and the evening festivities that permeate each and every participant.

Evenings are the heart of the workcamp. Following a day of community service, evenings bring up the volume before slowing to a prayerful mode that ends each day. "After serving people, then you serve yourself," says Emily.

As the sun goes down, multi-media interactive adolescent fun takes over, and seems to be right on target. "These are year 2000 kids," says Lisa Walker, co-founder of the Catholic HEART workcamp. They are used to an entertainment culture. Not that HEART sets out to appease the senses; it does set a tone conducive to reach this savvy generation.

Lisa and her husband Steve established the workcamp in 1993 with one underlying goal in mind: Never bore a kid. As an outreach to their then-parish youth ministry in Florida, the Walkers regularly took teens to summer workcamps. "Our parish is very social justice oriented, and we were challenged to serve the poor in everything we did," says Lisa. What the Walkers found was fulfilling yet frustrating. "We went to help others, but there was that element of not being able to receive Eucharist, to celebrate together, as Catholics, as the body of Christ." Quite simply, there were no Catholic camps.

What started with 100 teens in its first year has grown to 16 camps nationwide with close to 5,000 participants giving of themselves to help others.

"When we give teens something that is worth their while, it builds their self esteem and they literally see what it means to be Jesus to people, and their faith sticks," says Lisa. "They leave with an unbelievable feeling of God's love for them."

"We plant seeds and challenge them," says Lisa. "Then we hope and pray they go to the next level and learn about Catholic social teachings."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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ning tonight through Aug. 4. The summer course serves as a way for people to learn more about scripture study and enrichment, an introduction for newcomers to scripture and a spiritual renewal for all participants. For reservations and other information, call (803) 327-2097 or write The Oratory: Center for Spirituality, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., 29731-1586.

August

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is offering free classes for the public on various topics throughout the summer. Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar, is facilitating the following classes in Aug., all held from 7:30-8:45 p.m. in the parish ministry center: "The Spirit of Luke," being held tonight, "The Gifts of the Spirit" - Aug. 9 and "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit" - Aug. 23. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

4 HOT SPRINGS — Mercy Sister Margaret Verstege, director of the Jesuit House of Prayer, and Jenni Violi, campus minister from the University of Ohio at Dayton, are leading an overnight retreat entitled "Jonah: An Unlikely Candidate for Reconciliation." Also, there is a six-day Ignatian-directed retreat scheduled from Aug. 6-12 with Jesuit Father George Hohman and Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern. For more information, call Sister Margaret at (828) 622-7366. The House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is open most of the year and offers private and Ignatian-directed retreats.

7 CONYERS, Ga. — A Cistercian (Trappist) vocation awareness retreat for prayerful single men of all ages takes place today through Aug. 11 at Holy Spirit Monastery. The retreat is free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 752-1332, write to 6311 NW 47 Ct., Coral Springs, Fla., 33067 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

Upcoming

CROZET, Va. — A Cistercian (Trappist) vocation awareness retreat for prayerful single women of all ages is taking place Sept. 1-5 over Labor Day Weekend at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. The retreat is free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 752-1332, write to 6311 NW 47 Ct., Coral Springs, Fla., 33067 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in a chapel located on the grounds. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. Upcoming dates are as follows: Aug. 5 and Sept. 2. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Encuentro, from page 1

walked the bridge to the new millennium through liturgy, prayer and song."

Numerous workshops and breakout sessions each day gave participants a chance to interact in smaller groups and focus on areas of special interest to them.

CNS PHOTO BY NEIL JACOBS

Young people of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles join the Los Campos de Nati Mariachi Band during the opening service of ``Encuentro 2000'' in Los Angeles June 6.

Father James Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, said there is a constant wrestling between unity and diversity as people seek to incorporate different cultural and ethnic traditions in the liturgy while respecting universal church norms.

At a reconciliation service ending the second day of the meeting, several representatives of minority groups spoke movingly of their faith despite their experiences of discrimination in the church.

Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., the country's first Native American bishop, spoke of growing up in "dire poverty, dilapidated housing. ..."

"Many of our native people were baptized, but in the process vast numbers were robbed of their cultural identity," he said.

Oblate of Providence Sister Mary Paul Lee, granddaughter of a slave owned by Jesuits, told of having to leave her native Philadelphia to become a nun because at that time no women's order in the archdiocese would accept an African-American.

K. LaVerne Redden, an African-American and president of the National Council of Catholic Women, sobbed as she described the embarrassment of knowing she could not drink from the Communion cup in many parishes because if she did "nobody else would touch it."

Sister of St. Francis Linda Scheckelhoff, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Boone Vicariate in the Diocese of Charlotte, attended the gathering along with several others involved with Hispanic Ministry from across the diocese. She cited the reconciliation service as being one of the most powerful for her.

"It made me aware of how I sometimes participate in injustices and how there is a need for reconciliation. We are not aware of how we sometimes take part in racism and sexism, and we need to ask forgiveness," said Sister Linda. "This makes me want to work further with Hispanics, Anglos and those of other races in the areas of common worship and learning to appreciate diversity."

Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story.

Highlands, from page 1

Our Lady of the Mountains paused to think back and celebrate the present. "A 50th anniversary is a very special event in the life of a faith community," said Father C. Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church. That parish, located in nearby Franklin, has had a fruitful relationship with the Highlands church for years.

"In this great year of Jubilee, it is a special (time) for us here in the mountains," said Father Boyd, who concelebrated the Mass with Father William Evans, sacramental minister at Our Lady of the Mountains.

In 1950, the few Catholics who formed the Our Lady of the Mountains community opened the doors to its new church for the first time, adding a new chapter in the life of that mission, established five years earlier. Over the decades, a slow but steady influx of new parishioners — especially those who settled in North Carolina's southwestern mountains during summers — boosted the congregation size into the hundreds during the hotter months of the year.

About 100 parishioners now make up the church community year-round. In summer, the number can quadruple.

George and Marie Schmitt came from Long Island, N.Y., to Highlands in 1965 to help start a family homebuilding company. They quickly found a parish home at Our Lady of the Mountains. George said to be a part of this vibrant faith family has been "quite an experience."

"When we came here in April of 1965, we doubled the parish," he recalled with a smile. "It's always been a wonderful thing here. It is a very, very beautiful family atmosphere, both with the church members and with the priests here."

Diane Small, pastoral associate for the past five years, agreed the church community is special. "The people are wonderful," she said after the Mass. "It's family, and through the years we've built more family."

Today, she said, Our Lady of the Mountains blossoms with both young families and those who have been here for several of the five decades the church has stood here. Nearby on the church grounds, families lined up under a massive tent for a reception organized by the church's St. Elizabeth's Guild. At the entrance of the church, a commemorative plaque just blessed by Bishop Curlin glistened in the summer sun.

And the community continued its celebration.

The church's presence has been appreciated in ecumenical circles as well, as testified to in statements from local faith communities read at the closing of the Mass.

"May God grant you his richest blessings as you face the wonderful future of another 50 years of spreading, in word and deed, the good news of God's redeeming love," went one statement, from the First Presbyterian Church in town. "We ... are blessed to be part of the fellowship of believers that truly exhibits a spirit of unity."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or E-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Prayer experience centers the faithful, says visiting priest

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

MARS HILL — The path to God through prayer is an intimate and varied experience, a Trappist priest explained to an ecumenical group gathered at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church July 14.

Father Thomas Keating, co-founder of the practice called centering prayer, told those gathered at the church that contemplating God's presence in their lives involves a deeply personal relationship with him.

"Prayer is not a 'single' thing," said Father Keating. "There are myriad expressions of prayer, and the essence of prayer is not the particular method that you use but the relationship with God that you express."

Centering prayer is a modern form of contemplative prayer, an ages-old tradition practiced across the world and by some of religious history's best-known visionaries.

Rather than a replacement for certain kinds of prayer, centering prayer is designed to add new perspective on how people pray. It involves a process toward divine union, say its practitioners — an internalizing of the mystery of God's presence.

Father Keating explained the practice of centering prayer to his audience, noting the importance of becoming aware of God in a way that defies explanation and consciousness.

The steps involved, he explained, are:

— Choose a "sacred word" — for example, God, Jesus, Mary, mercy, faith or trust — as the symbol of intention to accept God's internal presence and action.

— In silence and sitting comfortably with eyes shut, introduce the sacred word internally as a symbol of consent to God's presence.

— Once aware of thoughts or sensory perceptions, gently go back to the sacred word.

— At the end of the prayer period, which should last at least 20 minutes, remain in silence with eyes closed for several more minutes.

Father Keating suggests trying centering prayer twice a day — once in the morning after waking up, and again later in the day or evening.

"It appeals to what is common and perhaps most profound in everybody's tradition, which is the experience of God — not just the concept of God," Father Keating said in an interview. "It expresses the values of the Christian contemplative heritage, which is common to all of the traditions. It belongs to everybody."

Father Keating said that periods of contemplative prayer focus on the move from conversation with God to communion with him.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Father Thomas Keating, seen here chatting with an audience member July 14, was in Mars Hill and Asheville for two speaking engagments.

A Trappist monk who entered monastic life more than a half-century ago, Father Keating developed an interest in approaching contemplative prayer from a simple, Christian perspective.

With two brother priests, Father Keating thus co-developed a way to present the teaching of an earlier form and apply to it a certain order and regularity.

"Contemplative prayer is not new, in monasteries especially," said a smiling Father Keating, who served as abbot at St. Joseph Abbey in Spencer, Mass., and now resides at St. Benedict Monastery in Snowmass, Colo. "I was brought up on it. We just put it into a form to make it accessible to lay people.

"We saw how the Eastern religions were successful in making their wisdom available, and we saw people going to the East in great numbers. Many didn't know that the contemplative vision was right at home."

The ecumenical gathering at St. Andrew the Apostle was one of two speaking engagements by Father Keating in the North Carolina mountains July 14-15. His visit was sponsored by St. Eugene Catholic Church and First Baptist Church in Asheville, Grace Episcopal Church in Mars Hill and the Advent Center for Spirituality at Mars Hill College.

Popular in ecumenical circles across the nation, Father Keating has spoken to diverse audiences about centering prayer in locales ranging from parishes to prisons.

"Contemplative prayer happens to be the most fundamental and most accessible (form) to everyone," he said. "Different forms of method may have a certain appeal to one temperament more than another, or because of inculturation.

"But what is common to everybody is the place of silence, which is totally receptive to the divine presence. We become capable of extraordinary development and growth."

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Man who attacked Buffalo, N.Y., priest sentenced to 42 months

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — A man who severely beat and stabbed a Buffalo priest last February pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and was given a 42-month sentence. By entering the plea, Frank Ciamarra, 27, avoided prosecution on a charge of attempted murder in the second degree and on other assault and weapons charges for attacking Father Arthur J. Mattulke, 30, of St. Margaret's Church. Msgr. David Lee, director of communications for the Buffalo Diocese, said that since the Feb. 14 attack, church officials have been concerned about justice and mercy. "The diocese feels the plea bargain meets all of those concerns," he said.

Pro-life spokeswoman resigning, heads to CUA

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If the fight against abortion were seen as a war, many would consider Helen Alvare a war hero. But her own admiration goes to the foot soldiers in the pro-life movement. Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities since 1990, is preparing to hand over the role of chief Catholic pro-life spokeswoman to someone else. The Philadelphia-born attorney recently announced that she will become a law professor at The Catholic University of America in the fall.

Vatican confirms pope intervened for Agca's release

LES COMBES, Italy (CNS) — One month after the extradition to Turkey of Pope John Paul II's would-be assassin, the Vatican confirmed that the pope personally intervened in the gunman's release from Italian prison. Speaking to reporters July 16 at the pope's vacation spot in the Italian Alps, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pontiff had written a letter in May to Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. Ciampi signed a clemency order for Mehmet Ali Agca June 13, immediately after which Italian justice ministry officials issued the extradition decree. Agca flew to Turkey that evening and entered a prison there in the early hours of June 14.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Bolivia Procession

Women carry statues of the Virgin of Carmen following Mass at the San Francisco Cathedral in La Paz, Bolivia, July 16. The Mass was marked by a special observance of the 193rd anniversary of the country's first bid for freedom from Spanish colonizers.

Father Hesburgh awarded Congressional Gold Medal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Honored for 35 years as president of the University of Notre Dame and a career of public service, Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh accepted the Congressional Gold Medal July 13 with the comment, "I have much to be humble about." In a ceremony in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, Father Hesburgh, 83, was showered with praise for public service that has included serving as a charter member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, involvement in the Middle East peace process and participating in a United Nations fact-finding mission on refugees in Kosovo.

San Diego nun to direct Catholic evangelization council

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — San Diego bids goodbye to Sister Priscilla Lemire at the end of July as she ends 23 years of service to the diocese. Sister Lemire, a Religious of Jesus and Mary, is relocating to Washington to be executive director of the National Council for Catholic Evangelization. While she is excited by her new post, Sister Lemire said it will be difficult to leave behind the diocese as well as friends and acquaintances. During her time in the diocese, she spent 16 years as a parish director of catechetical ministry. She was a pioneer in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program in the diocese, working with it for 22 years. She also worked at the pastoral center as director for evangelization.

End Cuba embargo, Cardinal Law says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. embargo against Cuba should be ended now, said Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee. In a statement released July 13 he called the 40-year-old economic embargo "outmoded and unjustified" and said it has "long exhausted the moral legitimacy it may once have had." "At present, the only significant beneficiaries of this embargo are the leaders of the Cuban government for whom it provides an endlessly invoked excuse for the devastating failure of its economic system," he said. He added that the embargo "harms mostly the poorest."

Armed checkpoints, desperate people fill border pastor's days

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Like missionaries in war-torn parts of the world, Father Robert Carney's day-to-day life includes celebrating Mass, stopping at checkpoints staffed by armed men, hearing parishioners' confessions, and trying to help needy people on the run. But Father Carney faces those circumstances in Douglas, Ariz., not in some far-off mission territory. With his parishioners at St. Luke's Catholic Church feeling like their town on the Mexican border is "under occupation," Father Carney joined a delegation to Washington in late June, seeking changes in federal immigration and economic policies that have effectively squeezed three states' worth of illegal border crossing into their area.

Senate committee approves gold medal for pope

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate Banking Committee on July 13 approved a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II. The bill, which has 66 cosponsors, now goes to the full Senate. As of July 14, a parallel bill had not been introduced in the House. The Senate legislation cites the pope for "having transcended the bounds of religion, race and political thought" as a champion, "uniter" and defender in the world's struggle for peace and basic human rights.

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Prison ministry leads to six confirmations by Raleigh bishop

By Matt Doyle
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — North Carolina's death row was the scene of a joyful celebration this summer.

Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman confirmed six death-row inmates in late June in a celebration that has reached beyond the walls of Raleigh's Central Prison.

Franciscan Father Dan Kenna said celebrating the sacrament "affirmed (the inmates) as human beings."

Father Kenna, along with Fathers James Nero and Mark Reamer, all friars at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, visit the prisoners once a week for Mass and catechesis.

Some of the 228 men on North Carolina's death row have established a faith community that Father Kenna said includes the friars.

The friars say that sense of community is important, because the men have little or no contact with the outside world, except for the priests. Nevertheless, the men have established an identity as church.

"What we share with them is an opportunity to reflect on our faith together," Father Reamer told the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese. He compared their existence to a monastic setting, where the men, their own choosing, have unlimited time for prayer, reflection and introspection.

That often results in a profound understanding of Scripture, according to the priests. From that context, six of the inmates sought confirmation in the Catholic Church. After eight months of catechesis, Bishop Gossman came to celebrate that sacrament with them.

One inmate, Lyle May, became unofficial spokesman for the group. He thanked the bishop "for reaching out to us with open arms, so that we too may have open arms and open hearts to fully receive the Holy Spirit."

After his visit to death row, Bishop Gossman embraced a recent call by retired South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu for the United States to reject capital punishment, as his country has.

May went on to tell the bishop, "it is not common for us to (have) fellowship with men of your stature, though we understand that God knows our needs."

The six candidates for confirmation — May, Terry Bell, Angel Guiverra, Henry Lee Hunt, Eric Murillo and Elias Syriani — were presented by Franciscan Sister Claudia Bronsing, Bell's sponsor and a parish pastoral administrator, and Jeff Meyer, another death-row inmate, who served as sponsor for the other five. death row, he said.

"Their life story is important and cannot be banished into anonymity," said Father Kenna.

Father Reamer said the confirmation liturgy was uplifting, with the men practicing their songs for several weeks.

"It was a source of hope and faith for me," he said. "Music really does lift the heart."

The men also thanked Bishop Gossman for his strong stand against the death penalty, in public statements, pastoral letters and requests for clemency for death-row inmates.

"We are so very grateful for your opposition to capital punishment," May told the bishop. "It means a lot to all of the death-row inmates to know that the Catholic Church and your diocese turn away from and denounce such killing."

After his visit to death row, Bishop Gossman embraced a recent call by retired South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu for the United States to reject capital punishment, as his country has.

Bishop Gossman said he agreed with Archbishop Tutu that a country that has stood firmly for human rights around the world should abandon the death penalty.

Father Reamer said he finds it discouraging that Catholics differ little from the general public in their majority support for capital punishment. That means they have not been greatly influenced by the church's social teaching, he said.

But for now, church leaders continue to seek a change on the death penalty and the inmates at the confirmation service sang words of optimism: "The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures."

Bishops thank Clinton for execution delay

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops thanked President Clinton for postponing the first scheduled federal execution in 37 years and encouraged him to "take the next step" by commuting the sentence to life imprisonment.

Clinton on July 7 agreed to postpone the Aug. 5 execution of Juan Raul Garza pending a Justice Department update of clemency guidelines in the federal sentencing system.

"We hope that this action will lead to a further reconsideration of the use of the death penalty in our modern society," read a letter to Clinton from Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"In our view, the next appropriate action would be to impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty at the federal level," he continued.

The last execution by the federal government was in 1963. Garza is one of 21 prisoners who have been sentenced to death under federal statutes since the Supreme Court ruled in the late 1970s that some death penalty statutes could be constitutional.

"We want Mr. Garza to have an opportunity to submit a request for clemency," White House spokesman Jake Siewert told reporters. "We want to make sure that there are firm guidelines in place."

Clinton has long supported the death penalty, although he said at a recent press conference that he is concerned about the "disturbing racial composition of those who've been convicted ... and the fact that almost all of the convictions are coming out of just a handful of states."

The letter encouraged the president to impose a moratorium on federal executions "not only because it will spare the lives of the condemned, but because of what it will symbolize to everyone in our nation and beyond — that all human life is of inestimable value."

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At age 100, priest has witnessed dramatic changes

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — In his 65 years as a priest of the Lincoln Diocese, Msgr. Denis Barry has witnessed some dramatic changes in the church and in society.

He is the first priest in the diocese's 113-year history to reach his 100th birthday, which he celebrated July 12 at Lincoln's Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, where he lives.

The event was marked with a Mass celebrated by Lincoln Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz.

Family and friends gathered later for cake and ice cream and to hear the memories of a priest who has known all eight bishops of the diocese.

Msgr. Barry grew up in Agnew, one of six children. From an early age, young Denis had firsthand experience with hard work.

He inherited the job of running the family farm when he was only 13, five years after his father died.

In those years, he points out, "everything was done by horses or by hand."

When he was 18, he was eligible for the draft for World War I. "I was called to the local draft board four days after the armistice was signed," he told the Southern Nebraska Register, Lincoln's diocesan newspaper.

With the war over and the United States withdrawing its troops, he was not called up for service.

After he finished school, he was undecided about what to do with his life. He credits his mother's influence for him eventually recognizing his calling to the priesthood.

"My mother was always encouraging me to consider the vocation to the priesthood," Msgr. Barry said. "She prayed for me a lot."

CNS PHOTO FROM SOUTHERN NEBRASKA REGISTER

Msgr. Denis Barry of the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., catches up on some letter-writing in this photo from 1996. The priest was the first in the diocese's history to celebrate his centennial year, turning 100 on July 12.

He studied for the priesthood at Kenrick Seminary near St. Louis and was ordained for the Diocese of Lincoln in 1935.

In 58 years of active ministry, Msgr. Barry has served the people of southern Nebraska in a variety of ways, including as a pastor and head of a deanery.

But there were a "couple of times I almost didn't make it," he said, referring to a fall from a 12-foot-high ladder and to his bout with abdominal cancer.

He has met every one of Lincoln's eight bishops, beginning with Bishop Thomas Bonacum, who headed the diocese from 1887-1911.

"Bishop Bonacum came to Agnew for the sacrament of confirmation in 1910, and he came to our house for dinner," Msgr. Barry said. "It was something to have the bishop come to our house."

Msgr. Barry met Bishops J. Henry Tihen and Charles O'Reilly during parish activities and Bishop Francis Beckman while he was studying for the priesthood.

He would later work closely with Bishops Louis Kucera, James Casey and Glennon Flavin during his years as a parish priest.

Bishop Bruskewitz, the current head of the diocese, was installed in Lincoln in March 1992.

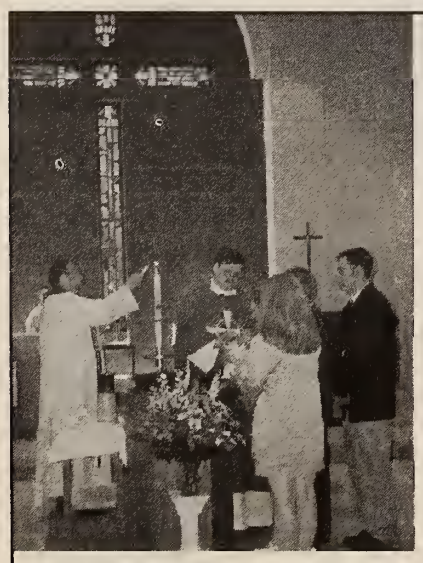
Msgr. Barry said perhaps the two biggest changes in his lifetime in the church and in the world was the Second Vatican Council and the automobile.

"Vatican II was a milestone in the church — for priests and the laity," Msgr. Barry said. "Many of the laws, which governed different practices, were modified and the laity assumed a larger role in the participation of the church."

The automobile, because of the mobility it provided, Msgr. Barry said, might have had the greatest impact on society in the 20th century.

"When I was taking care of our farm I walked behind a single row plow and a single row cultivator," Msgr. Barry said. "We never traveled far from home.

His home town of Agnew had only 60 residents, "but it had a general store, two grain elevators, a blacksmith shop and a doctor," he recalled.



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Mooresville parish center becomes a reality

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MOORESVILLE — The afternoon sun greeted St. Therese Church parishioners as they gathered to recognize their growth as a parish. Members filled their church to capacit,y while the overflow sat in the narthex for their parish life center groundbreaking Mass, ceremony and picnic on June 8.

Lewis Mack, a founding member of the church, has grown along with his church and remembered the parish in its various stages. From its beginnings in a parishioner's home to the cement stone building dedicated in 1950 on the main thoroughfare in the expanding town of Mooresville to the present day structure dedicated in 1988, St. Therese has gone through many changes. The parish's newest endeavor is the life center, expected to be completed next summer.

Bishop Curlin and others were on hand to cast the symbolic gold and silver shovels into the ground to start the construction process on its way. "We are not simply blessing a building," said the bishop. "We are here to continue to build our relationships with Jesus. ... Remember that you are gathered here to build a place where you can be strengthened in the presence of Christ."

Bishop William G. Curlin served as celebrant with Jesuit Father James McAndrews, pastor, concelebrating, and Rev. Mr. John Sims serving at the Mass.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Bishop William G. Curlin, center, Jesuit Father James McAndrews, right center, church members and others cast shovels at the St. Therese Church family life center groundbreaking on July 8 in Mooresville.

"The parish is very vibrant, and I am especially gratified that we have so many young people interacting with the older members, which gives a sense of continuity to the ideas about how we should build into the future," said Father McAndrews.

The two-story, 25,000 square feet life center will consist of 14 faith formation classrooms; offices for the faith formation director, youth minister and secretary; a library; break room; choir room and kitchen. The large gathering area is designed for multi-purpose functions such as liturgies, dances, meals and meetings, described Greg Pollak, current chair of the parish building committee and church member since 1988.

Marlene Stowe, chair of the capital campaign committee, Father McAndrews, members of the capital campaign committee and 180 volunteers joined for a group effort in raising thus far two-thirds of the $3.2 million needed for completion of the building through personal visits with the parishioners.

"As a parish, we like to gather and have community functions," said Stowe. "I am enthused and excited about the upcoming center. Many of our activities have been hampered because of a lack of space. We have planning this for many years, and it has been a long time coming."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedioces.org.

Archbishop Flores' secretary called 'hero for all of us'

By MAURA CIARROCCHI
Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Myrtle Sanchez, secretary to San Antonio Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, is "a hero for all of us," says Msgr. Lawrence Stuebben, vicar general and moderator of the curia for the San Antonio Archdiocese.

Usually, words like "quiet," "loyal," "unassuming," and "cheerful" would be used to describe Sanchez, but her composure during a hostage situation involving her and her boss has earned her the title "angel."

Sanchez was held hostage for about two hours of a nine-hour hostage ordeal involving Archbishop Flores June 28 at the archdiocesan chancery.

Today's Catholic, newspaper of the San Antonio Archdiocese, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul were to give Sanchez a Guardian Angel Award July 19 in a ceremony airing on the archdiocesan-run TV station.

Nelson Escolero, a 40-year-old Salvadoran immigrant, was charged with aggravated kidnapping for holding Archbishop Flores and Sanchez. Escolero, a native of El Salvador who is a legal resident of the United States, apparently had approached the archbishop June 27 outside the chancery for help with a passport problem. The next day, he retunred to the archbishop's office.

Once inside the archbishop's office, he demanded the archbishop and later Sanchez make calls on his behalf. During the nine-hour ordeal, much of the tension centered on Escolero's claim that he had a grenade. The device was later determined to be a fake.

Throughout the two-hour ordeal, Sanchez said, she prayed to St. Anthonyand also quietly diverted the captor's attention at times.

Archbishop Flores has remarked that by putting up with him all these years, Sanchez is on her way to being a saint.

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Book Review

Priest explores morality and spirituality in new book

What is the good life? In "The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge," Sulpician Father Richard M. Gula defines it as "a life of friendship with God."

Father Gula says that we "become friends with God and with one another to the extent that we develop character and virtues." He writes this book to discuss biblical themes that offer guidance in becoming more moral and spiritual.

The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirtuality Converge,
By Father Richard M. Gula
SS. Paulist Press
(Mahwah, N.J., 1999).
132 pp.$9.95

The author, a moral theology professor at the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., begins by saying that morality and spirituality are related and must be practiced. "The greatest predictor of how we will behave when moments of special choice come along is to be found in how we behave every day because daily behavior shapes character," he says.

Father Gula first addresses the biblical theme of being created in God's image, which he calls "not only a gift but also a responsibility." Referring to the parable of the talents, he says, "Living the good life involves taking a risk on the gifts that have been entrusted to us."

Then he addresses the biblical theme of being called to a covenant with God. He focuses on the worth of our relationship with God, the unconditional love of God, and the value of self-esteem.

The author emphasizes, too, the importance of solidarity in a covenant relationship. He identifies three principles of Catholic justice: the dignity of individuals, concern for the common good, and concern for the poor. He suggests we imitate God in his love for "the lost, the least, and the last."

Faithfulness to the covenant also remains essential, Father Gula says. He cites God's call to "faithfulness, not sacrifice." When we are not faithful, he says, we not only do something that is not good but we become people who are not good.

GOOD LIFE, PAGE 14

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 23 - 29, 2000

Sunday, Jeremiah 23:1-6, Ephesians 2:13-18, Mark 6:30-34; **Monday,** Micah 6:1-4, 6-8, Matthew 12:38-42; **Tuesday (St. James),** 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28; **Wednesday (St. Joachim and Anne),** Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10, Matthew 13:16-17; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13, Matthew 13:10-17; **Friday,** Jeremiah 3:14-17, Matthew 13:18-23; Saturday **(St. Martha),** Jeremiah 7:1-11, Luke 10:38-42

Readings for the week of July 30 - Aug. 5, 2000

Sunday, 2 Kings 4:42-44, Ephesians 4:1-6, John 6:1-15; **Monday (St. Ignatius of Loyola),** Jeremiah 13:1-11, Matthew 13:31-35; **Tuesday (St. Alphonsus Liguori),** Jeremiah 14:17-22, Matthew 13:36-43; **Wednesday,** Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 18:1-6, Matthew 13:47-53; **Friday (St. John Mary Vianney),** Jeremiah 26:1-9, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (Dedication of St. Mary Basilica in Rome),** Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24, Matthew 14:1-12

Word to Life

July 23, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:
1) Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23:1-6
2) Ephesians 2:13-18
3) Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

"Word to Life" is listed on the CNS Web site according to the date of the Sunday to which it is geared. This week's "Word to Life" is geared to the readings for Sunday, July 23.

This column is offered, in cooperation with the North Texas Catholic of Fort Worth, Texas, as a bonus to CNS subscribers during the Jubilee of the Year 2000.

This material is located on the CNS Web site under "Columns." Three files are found for each week under "Word to Life": an image file, containing the art; a PDF file, showing the complete layout; and the text file.

In addition, the "Word to Life" logo can be downloaded by clicking on the logo in the CNS Web site.

Scattering and gathering, scattering and gathering — but what God is spreading broadly and pulling into sheaves in this week's readings is people, not seeds and grain.

The readings speak of good shepherds who gather their sheep to care for them and, at least in the Jeremiah reading, of evil shepherds who scatter God's sheep and drive them away.

But the image that is repeated is of the shepherd who gathers and tends his own. Jesus teaches the 5,000 on the shore of the lake because "he pitied them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them at great length."

The familiar and always comforting Psalm 23 gives us an image of the shepherd continuing his care, even as the sheep face danger from their enemies, need oil to heal them, and must rely on his rod and staff to deliver them from fear.

A friend in Birmingham, Ala., recently sent an e-mail describing a Pentecost event in her area in a large arena that brought Catholics and Protestants together to worship and celebrate their unity in Christ. Patsy's message brimmed with joy as she told about this celebration.

Jubilee 2000, she wrote, had been organized by the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham and was coordinated by a Benedictine nun. Protestant churches, she said, had responded to the Catholic invitation to plan it, participate in it and worship together.

Although she doesn't close her account with the feeding of the many thousands gathered, I have to believe that the Father in heaven, who sends forth shepherds to gather his people into one, was fed a heavenly meal of unity on the birthday of his church.

QUESTIONS:

When you have contact with Protestants, are you able to focus on the things that unite us without fear? Are you able to pray with those who will pray with you and for those who resist being joined by our mutual faith in Christ?

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X-Men surprisingly absorbing, entertaining sci-fi thriller

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Outcast human beings whose genetic mutations give them superpowers are pitted against evil mutants intent on ruling over humanity in the entertaining sci-fi thriller "X-Men" (20th Century Fox).

Director Bryan Singer's long-awaited live-action film is surprisingly absorbing. Based on the comic book series published by Marvel Comics, "X-Men" sets up the premise that in the not-too-distant future, human beings will genetically mutate to form a new race with superpowers, which will coexist with the other "normal" humans.

Early on, the viewer understands that humans already fear and hate the race of mutants. U.S. Sen. Robert Kelly (Bruce Davison) has introduced legislation designed to expose the possible "dangers" these scientific oddities can cause. And it is this legislation — and the prevailing prejudicial attitude — that forces Magneto (Ian McKellen), one of the world's most powerful mutants and master of magnetism, to turn his back on society. Together with his evil brotherhood, he seeks to rule over all of humanity before they wipe out the mutant race.

On the other end of the spectrum of these superhuman creatures is Magneto's one-time friend, Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), who has unparalleled telepathic abilities. Under his tutelage are a group of students whom he calls his X-Men. Unlike Magneto and his rebel mutants, the X-Men use their powers to serve humanity. When Magneto attempts world domination, the two opposing groups square off in a battle of good vs. evil.

Several issues run through the film's multilayered narrative, including prejudice, intolerance and fear. The film also leans heavily on the outcasts-of-society theme, trying to establish common ground between the viewer and the mutants by asking, "Hasn't everyone felt like an outcast at one point or another?"

It is interesting to note that there is also a Christian message of compassion and mercy in the film. Xavier has established a school to teach mutants how to control and direct their powers for the greater good of mankind. The school is a safe haven for those the world considers deviants and misfits. And he and his X-Men fight to protect a world that ridicules and even hates them.

The film largely concentrates on the characters of Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), a loner with regenerative powers whose retractable steel claws come out whenever his short, mean fuse is lit, and Rogue (Anna Paquin), who is able to absorb the powers and memories of anyone she touches. Both actors acquit themselves well, especially Jackman.

The other X-Men characters are weakly developed, particularly Storm (Halle Berry), and even less attention is given to members of Magneto's evil brotherhood such as Toad (Ray Park) and Mystique (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos) who together only have a few scant lines.

Stewart and McKellen are formidable. As a survivor of World War II, Magneto believes he is preventing another Holocaust. McKellen gives the character the depth to be both malicious and childlike. Stewart's commanding presence on screen, not to mention his bald head which makes him look like the comic book character, brings to Xavier a sophistication and worldliness.

Although the film treats its subject quite seriously, it also manages to laugh at itself with some self-deprecating humor. Fans of the comic book will chuckle at a joke about Wolverine's yellow tights. And while the ending is predictable, getting there is certainly fun. The last scenes also leave the door wide open for one or more sequels.

While sci-fi violence is part of the package, sharp editing and imaginative special effects and stunts suggest that it should not be taken literally. In fact, the action is well-paced and therefore does not overcome the story but complements it.

Compelling enough to intrigue newcomers as well as fans of the Marvel comic book series, "X-Men" is a diverting outing to the movies. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Halle Berry stars in the science-fiction thriller "X-Men." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rate is PG-13.

TV programs of note

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of July 30:

Thursday, Aug. 3, 10-11 p.m. EDT (A&E) "Danger — Fallout." An "Investigative Reports" examines the threat from radioactive fallout from the Cold War years of nuclear testing in the Nevada desert that went into the atmosphere and drifted across the country.

Friday, Aug. 4, 9-11 p.m. EDT (PBS) "Vaudeville." A rebroadcast of an "American Masters" special exploring the popular entertainment form that preceded movies, TV and even radio, and dominated American culture for four decades, crossing racial and class boundaries in the process.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says immigrants need welcome from people like Cabrini

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like the poor who immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s, many of today's immigrants arrive in a new country looking for a better life but find only poverty and discrimination, Pope John Paul II said.

New immigrants need people like St. Frances Cabrini to welcome them, educate them and help them spiritually, the pope said in a letter to the religious order Mother Cabrini founded.

The letter, released at the Vatican July 15, marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mother Cabrini and the 50th anniversary of her being proclaimed patron of immigrants.

Mother Cabrini, an Italian who became a U.S. citizen, ministered to Italians and other European immigrants all over the United States, as well as in Nicaragua, Brazil and Argentina.

Canonized in 1946, just 21 years after her death, she was the first U.S. citizen to be proclaimed a saint.

The pope's letter to the Sacred Heart missionaries said today's immigrants have needs similar to those of immigrants 100 years ago: assistance getting residence permits, language lessons, help fitting into a new society and special care for illegal immigrants being held in detention centers.

Modern migration patterns have led the sisters to adapt "with creativity and generosity the spirit of Mother Cabrini," the pope said.

"Armed with unique boldness she started schools, hospitals and orphanages from nothing for the masses of poor who set off for the new world in search of work, lacking knowledge of the language and the means to insert themselves in a dignified way into American society, often becoming the victims of people without scruples," Pope John Paul said.

Mother Cabrini was not afraid, he said, and because of her courage and "maternal heart" she is still the object of "a surprisingly lively devotion" in the United States.

The pope asked the Missionaries Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the lay people who work with them "to learn to listen to the cry of the poor in order to give adequate responses to their material and spiritual problems."

Listening the way Mother Cabrini did, he said, will help them "at the beginning of a new millennium rich in expectations and hopes, but also marked by wounds which have stained the living body of humanity with blood, especially in the poorest countries of the world."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

A New Dimension of Mother Love

Some stories hit you right in the heart. That was my reaction when I met Ann Stone, who told of the tragedy that struck her family when Ralph, one of her five sons, was murdered in his condominium in Washington, D.C. But then she went on to talk of what she did in his memory.

Ralph Stone, 37, was the director of training for the Center for Development and Population Activities in Washington and had been working on his doctorate at Georgetown University. He had finished all his academic requirements and completed most of the interviews needed for his dissertation on the important and unusual subject of "Women Leaders in Kenya: A Description of Women in Practical Leadership in Non-Government Organizations."

"When I realized that his dissertation wasn't going to be finished, I said to his director that maybe I could finish it," his mother told me. She wanted her son to have his degree, even though it would be posthumous.

A grandmother of four, who holds a master's degree in Hospital Administration, Stone was willing to take on this heavy task, explaining, "I had some experience in analyzing and writing because I work for the state of Connecticut reviewing certificates of need for hospitals when they want to expand."

He often went overseas to do pioneering work to "establish the empowerment of women" in Third World countries. In his research he looked for common backgrounds of successful women, identified barriers to women's advancement and determined what further research was needed to help women achieve professional goals.

Ann Stone's task was enormous. Her son had left a microtape with interviews he had done with women in Kenya in nongovernmental jobs, "but they all had to be transcribed," she said. Ann Stone found a woman who had done some transcribing for her son, but on many of the tapes the African accents were heavy and she couldn't understand them.

But, coincidentally, this woman had an acquaintance from Ghana. "It turned out she grew up in Kenya and knew all the tribal accents," Stone said.

With the tapes transcribed, she was able to complete the manuscript. She then had to meet with the Georgetown faculty to defend it. "They said it should be published," she said, adding that the Center for Development and Population Activities will use her son's research to further their work.

Stone and her husband Fred also felt honored that the university established the Ralph Upson Stone Achievement Award in their son's honor to recognize people who work selflessly for human resources development.The Stones say that witnessing the honor given to their son brings them some joy.

Their son's killer still is unidentified, though the police have a strong suspect. Ralph Stone's brothers, his twin Dave, along with Doug, Brad and Rick, are a great support to their parents.

I've seen mother love, but Ann Stone truly took this to a new dimension in the honor she gave her son by completing the work he had begun.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

Teens and Their Friends' Parents

As a teen-ager, your freedom often depends on adults — and not just your mother or father. Can you spend the night at a friend's? Sure you need your parent's permission, but it also depends on whether or not your friend's folks are comfortable having you around.

You're attracted to a "certain someone" at school, and you meet each other at the mall once or twice. Will you become a long-term item? Even if you like each other, much will depend on how your potential partner's parents feel about you.

It's in your best interest for your friend's parents to like you. Good relationships increase your freedom to do what you want. Maybe it seems like a no-brainer, but lots of teens somehow miss this basic point.

There are some things in your life that you simply can't control. This isn't one of them. Surprisingly, you're almost completely in charge of whether or not adults like you.

What's the key? Your attitude! It may seem amazing, but simply maintaining a positive attitude toward adults and treating them with courtesy virtually guarantees that grown-ups will like you.

As a child and adolescent psychologist, I also have talked with literally thousands of parents about their teens, and their teens' friends. Their comments reflect my own impressions.

The key is having short conversations on a regular basis. For example, you might spend two or three minutes talking with a friend's mother whenever you hang out at their house. If you're dating somebody, have a brief conversation whenever you run into his or her parents.

Stand up when you're talking to an adult. The identical conversation while slouching on the couch doesn't communicate the same air of respect.

Shake hands when you first meet an adult. That's a very important action. Grown-ups associate it with maturity and trustworthiness. It shows respect, and it accentuates your adult side.

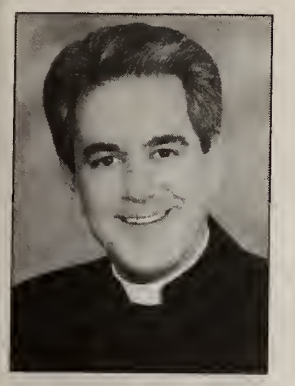
Smile. You can't imagine how many teens simply scowl at grown-ups or act as if the grown-ups weren't even there. Studies show that smiling makes you much more socially attractive. People like people who smile at them.

Ask at least one question during each brief conversation. You aren't conducting an interview here, but are showing your interest in the adult as a person. The questions can be as simple as, "How's your back yard coming?" or "Did you see the baseball game last night?"

Pay attention to the answers because they'll contain clues for your next conversation. For example, if you learn that your friend's father is restoring an old car, asking about progress on the project now and then makes you golden.

Finally, don't ever swear around an adult. That's verbal poison. When you use poor language, you are seen as less intelligent, less sophisticated and less reliable.

Good manners are the lubricant that makes social wheels turn. Your goal isn't making friends with these grown-ups, but you want them to like and respect you.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

When I'm 65...

A well-meaning friend sent me a copy of John Jerome's new book about aging, "On Turning Sixty-Five," with the "Sixty" crossed out and replaced by a "Fifty."

A taunting note was attached: "Monsignor, it's never too early to start respecting gray hairs, especially your own! Happy Fifty-Fifth!"

My first impulse was to phone and disinvite my friend from my birthday party, but instead I peeked inside and spotted Jerome's incentive for writing his book. He explains that during a slow recovery from neck surgery he began to see his 65th year as "a kind of forced matriculation in Old Man's School."

He goes on: "Sixty-five happens to be, in society's definition, the moment when geezerhood kicks in. A certain amount of despair, even panic, can be expected to follow — not to mention hair transplants, convertibles, trophy wives. We don't deal well with 65 in this culture."

Old Man's School?! Geezerhood? Despair?! Wait a minute, I thought, this doesn't square with my personal experience of my older relatives and friends who may complain of an occasional stiffness or sleepless night but generally seem in high spirits and are unquestionably happy and productive. I think of Pope John Paul II who, despite his own age-related limitations, proclaimed recently, "I continue to enjoy life!"

He said: "Arriving at an older age is to be considered a privilege: not simply because not everyone has the good fortune to reach this stage of life, but also, and above all, because this period provides real possibilities for better evaluating the past, for knowing and living more deeply the Paschal Mystery, for becoming an example for the whole people of God."

What an example this Pope has been. He lives his old age with the greatest openness. Far from concealing it, he places it before everyone's eyes. With extreme simplicity, he says of himself, "I'm an elderly priest." He lives his old age in faith, as he has his whole life, acknowledging changes but not letting himself be overwhelmed by them.

Indeed, having spiritual faith appears to be the singular, vital factor in the way many people successfully navigate old age. Much of what I have learned about my faith derives from my own grandparents when I was young and from older friends now. For me they have been a point of stability, a steadfast example of faith deepened by the joys and heartaches of life. It is not decline that their age reveals to me, but rather the first days of immortality. Or as St. Simon puts it: "The Golden Age is not behind us, but before us."

What younger person, fortunate to witness the grace-filled final days of a parent or grandparent, cannot be attracted to that same faith? Today one person in eight — a total of 33.2 million Americans — is at least 65. A person who reaches 65 can expect to live for seventeen more years, and many live well beyond that. Some will have good health and financial comfort. Some will not. There is no denying their importance, though we can never completely control them. Still, each one of us does get to choose our beliefs and attitudes.

My friend was right. It's never too early to consider: "Just what kind of person do I want to be when I turn 65?"

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Covenant-Like Marriages

Earlier this week I (Andrew) spoke before a group of inner-city youths at a summer education program. I was asked to speak about relationships and sexuality. However, I chose to make the central theme of my presentation the "'M' Word"-marriage.

My reasoning for making marriage the center of discussion is that too often marriage education begins at engagement. By then the individuals' concepts of marriage have been formed. This was an opportunity to plant some seeds in their minds that may harvest a different crop of married persons years from now.

I began my presentation to the group of seventeen male high school sophomores by explaining the difference between a contractual relationship and a covenant relationship. Most of them saw marriage as contractual. A young man explained it this way, "When the marriage isn't happy, you don't have to stay in it. You should get a divorce."

I described for them the covenant relationship we have with God, and suggested that when a marriage strives for that kind of relationship, it becomes a manifestation of God's love. Sex was described as a gift from God that makes promises that only marriage can keep. I told the young men that the greatest gift parents give their children is their love for each other.

I asked them to think about the people they knew who had covenant-like marriages. When I asked them to tell me about those people, no one responded.

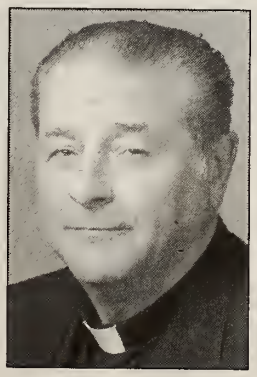
From all indications, it seemed that these young men had no reasons in their lives to believe anything I had said to them. For them covenant marriage was all fantasy and not applicable to the real world or real relationships.

In the deafening silence I saw in my right periphery a young man hesitantly raising his hand. I asked him if he had a question. He said in a very soft voice, "My parent-my mother and father have that kind of relationship." His assertion was almost sheepish, as though he was at risk for saying it. I insisted he stand up and repeat what he said clearly and boldly. He stood and repeated, "My mother and father have a covenant marriage."

That evening the two of us discussed this after dinner. We both surmised that the young man's hesitance to identify his family as a "matrimonial family" is the very same reason so many covenant marriages are so quiet. Covenant marriage is countercultural in a society that is hostile to it. Not only is God-centered marriage under siege, the children of such relationships are, as well.

I thanked the young man for standing in the face of disbelief to bear witness to a truth that was evident in his life. I encouraged him to continue to challenge others with the truth. We offer the same challenge to all members of matrimonial families. When our young people seek out covenant marriages, those marriages must be visible. So, stand up! A whole generation needs you.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Custom of Circumcision

Q. *Why is circumcision mentioned so often in the Bible, and why was it so important for the Jews? Jewish men had to be circumcised, and the Gospels say that even Jesus was. How did this practice get started?*

A. Not long ago I would have had to say no one knows the answer. Perhaps this is still true, but some archeological discoveries in recent decades point to a possible explanation.

Circumcision, it seems, may be closely related to human sacrifice, which was widespread in some ancient Mideast cultures (including, at certain periods, the Jews) as a way of placating and supplicating the gods.

Several years ago archeologists in the Near East discovered an interesting document apparently written by a Phoenician priest.

The text tells how a god named El, to prevent destruction of his city, sacrificed his son to his father, a god named Heaven. El then circumcised himself, and commanded all his followers to be circumcised, thus saving their home.

In this tradition, at least, circumcision seems to take the place of human sacrifice. A part of the body is substituted for the whole. Since an intimate relationship was seen between individuals and the entire community or tribe, circumcision, involving part of the male organ of procreation, proclaimed that the whole nation, the whole clan, present and future, was consecrated to the god it worshipped.

In this context, it is easier to see why the descendants of Abraham came to view circumcision as a fitting and necessary expression of their covenant with the God of Israel.

Q. *Someone in our parish has been distributing a leaflet that tells us receiving Communion in our hands is wrong and against God's will. Most of the ideas I have no trouble dealing with, but one statement puzzles me.*

She claims Mother Teresa once stated that one of the greatest harms to the church was the start of Communion in the hand, and that she believed it is wrong and should never be done. When did Mother Teresa say that?

A. That rumor has been in circulation for at least 15 years that I know of. I have no idea how it started, but as with all such rumors, the people who spread it do not hesitate to keep it going.

For years I was deluged with letters urging me to tell people how Mother Teresa felt. I had strong suspicions about the claim. But at last, not long before her death, I contacted the officials of her community in India about it, describing what she was quoted as saying.

Their response informed me that Mother Teresa never said anything like that. In fact, they added, receiving Communion in the hand is not forbidden even for her own sisters.

As I indicated, it isn't likely, from my experience, that this fact will hinder those who are determined to keep the rumor circulating.

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.

Good Life, from page 10

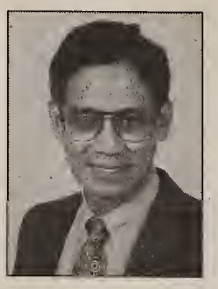
The author next addresses the call to discipleship. He says, "The question that ought to guide authentic discipleship today, then, is not 'What would Jesus do?' but 'How can I be as faithful to God in my life as Jesus was in his?'" He advises renouncing "surrogate loves" — conformity, fear, materialism, money, position, power, prestige, and pride.

Finally, he focuses on the call to community. He says that "to become good we need to be surrounded by goodness, to witness it, and then to imitate it." We do this through friends who "sustain us by their example, wisdom, encouragement, support, and challenge." He reflects on the beatitudes and on love, forgiveness and hospitality.

"The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge" is a practical guidebook for individuals and groups. The author offers sound advice and includes interesting anecdotes and allusions to the Bible, theology, literature, and film. His end-of-chapter questions can help readers apply what they have learned.

Diocesan faith formation official named to the United States Catholic Conference Committee on Catechesis

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Cris V. Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Charlotte Diocese, recently was appointed to the United States Catholic Conference Committee on Catechesis.



Bishop Donald W. Wuerl, the Chairman on the Committee on Education, asked Villapando to serve for three years, citing his "background, experience, and expertise." The purpose of this committee is "to review and make recommendations on the objectives, plans, programs and policies" for the Department of Education for final approval by the Administrative Board of the Conference. The Committee is composed of an episcopal chair, three bishops, and other experts in the field of catechesis.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Accounting Assistant, Part-time: Catholic High School seeks person with accounting experience who works well with others to work part-time in the Business Office. Responsibilities include processing tuition receivables and vendor payables. Provides assistance to Business Manager in reconciling and managing monthly accounts. Good organizational and analytical skills required. Mon-Fri, 8 am - 12 pm. Send letter of application and resume by 7/28 to: BMHS Employee Search, 1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. EOE.

Accounting Clerk: Payroll/General Ledger. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a full-time accounting clerk. Responsibilities primarily include processing and entering payroll and general ledger transactions for the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have two years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 28, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Administrative Assistant: Part-time. Approximately 12-20 hours per week. Non-smoker with good communications, phone, computer skills. Prefer financial background. Resume and references to Hook Financial Group, 4801 E. Independence Blvd., Box 601, Charlotte NC 28212.

Administrative Support Person: The Dioccsan Office of Justice and Peace has an opening for a part-time administrative support person (4 hours, 3 days/week). Functions include: clerical, database management, excel spreadsheets; internet research and related skills; coordinating meeting arrangements; and bulk mailing. Must be proficient in Windows 98 and Office 97 and possess organizational and communications skills. Submit a one-page resume by July 26th to: Office of Justice and Peace, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203.

Assistant Secretary: Asheville Catholic School. Attendance/First Aid Office. M-F, full time. CPR and First Aid certification required. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

Cosmetologists/Barbers: Full-time and part-time. Charlotte area upscale salon seeking warm-hearted, skilled stylists and barbers. Convenient south Charlotte location. $12 per hour + tips. Please call (704) 341-4260.

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Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Planned Giving: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a part-time director of planned giving. Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, business administration, or related field; and 3 years specific experience in planned giving or related experience. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communications skills and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include organizing and directing efforts to assist parishioners in developing and implementing long-range financial plans for their benefit, the benefit of their family, their parish and/or the diocese. Part-time position for 21 hours per week; beginning August. Please submit resume to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must he practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director, Office of Justice and Peace, Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Charlotte: Director to supervise staff and administer program areas including: CCHD, CRS/ORB, Office of Economic Opportunity, social justice formation and education, and public policy activities. The director serves on the CSS management team while maintaining working relationships with other diocesan offices and with parishes. Knowledge of Catholic social teaching, as well as the ability to articulate and apply it, is essential. Experience at diocesan level as well as a graduate degree in related field preferred. Send resumes by July 26th to: Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Junior Accountant: The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a junior accountant. This position is primarily responsible for the monthly general journal entries, cash receipts, and month-end reporting for Catholic Social Seryices. Applicants must be proficient with Excel and have an associate's degree with a concentration in Accounting or 5 years of relevant experience. EOE. Please forward resume and salary history by July 28, 2000 to: Controller, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203-4003.

Music Ministry Director: Full-time position for a growing 1100-family parish near Charlotte. Responsihle for 4 weekend liturgies plus holy days, weddings and funerals. Adult and children's choirs, cantors, instrumentalists, new contemporary choir, and handbell choir. Rogers electronic organ, Yamaha upright piano, two-octave set of Malmark handbells. Ideal candidate is practicing Catholic with music degree, experience, music performance skills (organ/piano/voice), choral and cantor skills, knowledge of Catholic hturgical music. Salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits. Send/fax resume to Music Search, Saint Therese Parish, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone (704)664-3992; Fax: (704)660-6321.

Music Ministry Director: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Parish Secretary/Receptionist: St. John Neumann. 9am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Secretarial skills and experience, computer-literate, personable. Salary negotiable. Benefits. Contact Fr. Thom Meehan, (704)536-6520 or send resume and references: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28277. Fax: (704)536-3147.

Principal, Elementary: Blessed Sacrament School, located in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning as soon as possible. Candidates must be Catholic and be able to enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates must have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary is commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31404. Phone (912)238-2344 or Fax(912)238-2339.

Regional Consultant: The Diocese Office of Faith Formation seeks an interim part-time Regional Consultant for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate for FY 2000-2001. We seek an individual with 3-5 years' experience of coordinating parish programs and great ability to work with people. The part-time salary for this person is $12,000-$14,000. Preference will he given to persons with some background in the field of Catechetics and Adult Faith Formation. Please send two letters of recommendation to: Dr. Cris Villapando, Office of Faith Formation, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. For more information call (704) 370-3246.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic pre-K teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following openings beginning August 2000: full-time teaching positions for Religion, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: PE, Spanish, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

Teachers: St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is currently seeking dynamic teachers for the following positions: Full-time Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies; Full-time Kindergarten; and part-time Art teacher. NC Certification required. Please call Joseph Puceta at (704)865-4382 for more information.

Teachers and Guidance Counselor: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2000-2001 school year: Part-time Guidance Counselor; Middle School Science Teacher; and Grade 5 Teacher. Interested certified teachers may contact Margene Wilkins, principal, at 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; call 336-887-2613; or fax 336-884-1849.

Youth Coordinator: St. John Neumann Church seeks part-time Coordinator of Youth Programs to work with parent/youth teams to plan, implement, oversee youth programs; grades 9-12. Call (704)535-4197. Send resume to St. John Neumann Church, Connie Milligan, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28227 or fax(704)536-3147.

Youth Minister: Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, NC is seeking a full-time Youth Minister to coordinate all youth activities and programs. Applicants should have a degree in Religious Education or related field and three years' experience in Youth Ministry. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Send resume to Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403.

Youth Minister: 25 hours per week; salaried. Located 45 minutes north of Charlotte. Practicing Catholic, experienced with youth. Responsible for 9th-12th graders; coordinate social and service activities, and recruit and train other young adults to work with teens. Must be willing to accommodate flexible week including nights and weekends. Submit resume by July 31st: Martha Drennan, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville NC 28117. Information: (704)664-7762.

Youth Minister, Part-time: St. Patrick Cathedral is in great need of a part-time Youth Minister to plan, implement, and oversee weekly activities for parish youth. Undergraduate degree in a youth related field and experience preferred. Please send resume and cover letter to St. Patrick Cathedral, Attn: Joanna Catabui, 1621 Dilworth Road E., Charlotte NC 28203 or Fax: (704) 377-6403.

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COURTESY PHOTO

A learning group from the Diocese of Charlotte was among this year's graduates of the Loyola Institute for Ministry program, a graduate distance learning program offered by Loyola University in New Orleans, La., that awards master's degrees in pastoral studies and religious education. Pictured in front from left are Carl Ross, Peg Ruble, Monica Friedman, Ann Rowe and Julie Platte; second row, from left, are Don Allen, Elena Ziegler, Gretchen Gantzer, Stephanie Nealy, Jan Blodgett and Clarence Fox. Not pictured are Brother John Kummer and group facilitators Joanna Case and Connie Milligan.

Knights help fund LIMEX

The North Carolina State Council of the Knights of Columbus recently presented a check to Bishop William G. Curlin for $2,000 to help the Diocese of Charlotte fund scholarships for participants in the LIMEX program.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

In Brief ...

Charlotte student ambassador visits Great Britain

CHARLOTTE — Timothy M. Ellis, a student at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, was selected by the People to People Student Ambassador Program to visit Great Britain this summer for two weeks, learning about the government, economy and culture of England, Wales and Scotland. The delegation of 11 middle school students from North Carolina was to participate in briefings at embassies and ministries, discussions with industry and trade officials, visits to the headquarters of international organizations and meetings with youth clubs. The Student Ambassador Program is operated under People to People International, a nonpolitical, private-sector organization founded by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956 to further international goodwill and understanding. Participants are chosen based on recommendations, including school references and personal interviews. Ellis is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Ellis, parishioners of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Holy Angels official receives community spirit award

BELMONT — Regina Moody, president and chief executive officer of Holy Angels, recently received the Myrtle School Community Spirit Distinguished Woman of the Year Award. Vicky Clinton, president and founder of the grassroots community-based program, presented the award to Moody and two other recipients. The program, which focuses on youths and targets drug prevention and crime, has been in existence for 11 years in a northwest Gastonia neighborhood. Moody, a former school principal, has served in her current position at Holy Angels since 1998. Her history with the private, nonprofit corporation began 17 years ago, when she came aboard as executive director. In addition to her work at Holy Angels on behalf of children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities, Moody serves on several boards of directors and committees in Gaston County which make decisions or recommend policies that affect the services and programs available to children and families.

Group to discuss Life Chain plans

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Area Right to Life chapter is holding its monthly meeting today at 7 p.m. at the University City Regional Library, 301 East W.T. Harris Blvd. Today's meeting will focus on the organization of this year's Life Chain. For details, call Irene Manning at (704) 598-8877.

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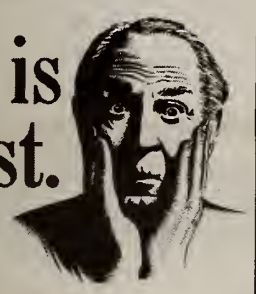

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Legal background helps volunteer with social work

By Alesha M. Price
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Imagine yourself as a child who has been placed into a maze of lawyers, police, social workers and judges because of a less than desirable home environment, marred by drug, sexual or physical abuse or neglect. Then, place yourself into those small shoes, and think of the relief you would feel if someone would be on your side. That is the sole purpose of the volunteers of the Guardian ad Litem or GAL program — to serve as a voice for the represented children.

One of those voices is John Pastryk, a GAL for nearly a decade. Pastryk has an inside track on his duties as a GAL. He is senior counsel for a commercial and private equipment production company, and his knowledge of the law helps him with his cases.

"I have worked with 11 cases consisting of about 14 boys, who have been either abandoned or neglected by alcoholic parents. Many have suffered physical abuse, and a small number of my cases have involved sexual abuse," explained Pastryk. "Regrettably, because most of my cases involve pre-teens and teens, few of the children are eventually adopted. I try to assist the boys until they reach the age of 18."

Because of his dedication, Pastryk was recognized as the 2000 GAL Volunteer of the Year for Mecklenburg County.

"The one overriding ingredient for a volunteer is to have some degree of caring for the children," said Pastryk.

The term "ad litem" means "this litigation or for this case," and in other states, the GAL is known as a "Court Appointed Special Advocate or CASA." The GAL accompanies the young clients into court and has access to all accompanying files and reports. They conduct interviews with the child, family members and others to derive a better understanding of the child's life. Although prior legal or social work experience is not a prerequisite, the volunteers must go through approximately 30 hours of training to help them with speaking in court on the child's behalf and writing reports.

"John is extremely level-headed and can go into any situation and be very objective," said Lisa Hughes, Charlotte GAL program supervisor, who nominated Pastryk for his honor. "He thoroughly follows his cases until they close."

Judi Strause, corporate resource development specialist for the GAL program, said, "John has the ability to work effectively with teenage boys, a hard group to work with, and he has been very capable of advocating what is best for these young people. He is a committed and effective volunteer who has been willing to take cases."

Pastryk said that spending time with the kids provides insight into lives that are vastly different from one's own experience. "You get to know them very well, and this program gives them someone who will listen. At least I can be a common denominator in their lives," he said.

Working for the GAL program is only part of Pastryk's volunteer efforts. He and his wife Linda work with marriage preparation through their parish, St. Gabriel Church.

"There are times as a GAL when you see some ugly things," he admitted, "but my Catholic faith helps me to find God in other people," said Pastryk, a recent convert to Catholicism.

Pastryk said that intervention is the key. "If we can get to the children early in their lives, then a whole manifest group of problems can be prevented. They are the most innocent of our society, and early involvement can affect their lives profoundly."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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"There are times as a (guardian ad litem) when you see some ugly things," he admitted, "but my Catholic faith helps me to find God in other people," said Pastryk....

K OF C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of August:

Rev. Msgr. Felix R. Kelaher	*1998*
Rev. Henry J. Becker	*1992*
Rev. John F. Parsons	*1993*

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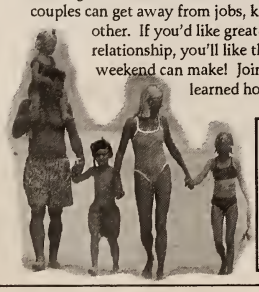

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November Weekend: 17th-19th

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?

J.Chapin Engler, Jr. Will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte in 2002.

Many people I meet today are not happy and are searching for peace in the craziest ways. As the secular world constantly bombards us with anti-Gospel messages, many see the Church as unapproachable. They completely miss the fact that God has so many blessings He wants to give us if only we would let Him.

I want to become a priest to communicate the joy of Christ to a world that doesn't know Him and I feel the best way to do this is to live a life exemplary of the Gospel. I hope to exude Christ's joy and serve as His light for a dark world, a beacon who makes people ask, "What makes that guy so happy?" Then I'll be able to share about all the blessings God has given me, and more importantly, about all the incredible graces He wishes to bestow on them if only they would let Him.

There is so much work to be done and I'm very excited to serve the rapidly expanding Charlotte Diocese.

... Are you answering His call?

For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen,
The Office of Vocations, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte,
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
(704) 370-3353 • vocations@charlottediocese.org

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 4, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 42

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The Transfiguration of Jesus: August 6

"And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them."
— *Mark 9: 3*

New Roman Missal instruction brings minor changes

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican's new General Instruction of the Roman Missal, replacing the one issued in 1975, will not make big changes in the way churches are set up or Mass is celebrated in most places, but it will bring a number of small changes.

"These changes will bring us to a greater awareness of the sacredness of God's presence in the Mass," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "Jesus is our liturgy, and these rules are to make us more fully conscious of that reality."

Some of these are new rules, some are clarifications or greater emphasis in areas where some rules were sometimes ignored or subject to various interpretations.

Here are highlights of some of the areas where the 22,400-word Latin document, released July 28, gives new or clearer direction on the arrangement of the church and conduct during Mass:

— In the entrance procession, a deacon or reader may carry the Book of the Gospels, "slightly elevated." "The Lectionary is never carried in procession." No book is carried in the closing procession.

— Both the processional cross and, if there is one, the fixed cross on

See MISSAL, page 9

CNS photo courtesy Museo Vittoriano

An eighth-century mosaic titled "Ecclesia Romana" portrays a woman. The work is among the items in the exhibit "Women in the Times of the Jubilee" on display at Rome's Museo Vittoriano through Oct. 1. See page 9 for a related story.

Mass opens doors to gay and lesbian faithful

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — During a year the Catholic Church is urging its faithful to be fully open to the experience of Christ, a Mass for lesbian and gay Catholics and those of other faith traditions reaffirmed their right to participate in church life in an atmosphere of welcome.

"A Celebration of Unity in the Spirit" was the theme of the July 26 Mass, celebrated at St. Peter Church by a half-dozen diocesan and religious priests serving the Diocese of Charlotte. The annual Mass for gays, lesbians, parents and supporters was sponsored by the diocese's Commission for Gay and Lesbian Ministry.

Among the commission's purposes is to foster a sense of welcome to those who often feel ostracized in church and societal settings. Especially in the past quarter-century, the Catholic Church has increased outreach to gays and lesbians while incorporating church teachings and pastoral concern.

"You are heroes for me," Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh, St. Peter Church parochial vicar and a committee member, told the ecumenical group during the Mass at which he presided. "This decade has been a beautiful one for me in my meeting you folks and seeing you staying there, believing and hoping...."

Father McCreesh's reference to heroes continued a theme set by Msgr. Richard Allen in his homily.

"Our world is built upon heroes," said Msgr. Allen, a retiring diocesan priest who would later receive a standing ovation for his ministry to gay and lesbian people. "They are made because of talents. They are made because of how they present themselves to people, to one another."

Msgr. Allen spoke of the heroic struggle people endure in the face of prejudice, injustice and controversy. That challenge, he added, can sometimes be better addressed by turning inward — and always by asking God's help as people of faith.

"This is a jubilee year, and although there is a lot of celebration

See WELCOME, page 9

Catholic health executives lobby on Medicare cuts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 100 officials of Catholic health systems nationwide went to Congress July 18 to ask for help in staying afloat in the face of severe Medicare cuts. Their message was grim: The cuts in Medicare funding mandated by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 for the years 1997-2002 have already left more than a third of U.S. hospitals struggling to maintain services and forced some home health agencies and nursing homes to cut services or close. The health care executives, all members of the Catholic Health Association, argued that the effects of the Balanced Budget Act have been unexpectedly and unintentionally harsh on those who receive funds from the Medicare program for the nation's elderly and the Medicaid program that pays for health care for low-income or disabled Americans.

Argentine bishop says illegal immigrants need amnesty

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — Bishop Ruben Frassia, head of the Argentine bishops' migration and tourism commission, said tens of thousand of illegal immigrants should be included in a jubilee amnesty. "The bishops expect from the government a wide and generous amnesty for those undocumented immigrants who have come to Argentina looking for a better life," said Bishop Frassia at the end of a July 17-19 meeting on migration in the Andean city of Bariloche.

Altar honors U.S. missionary women killed in El Salvador

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — An altar honoring the four missionary women killed in El Salvador has been donated to the Maryknoll Sisters. Ursuline Sister Diane Therese Pinchot, who made the altar, told Catholic News Service she did not envision it for celebration of the Mass, but as a symbol of the sacrifice of life that had been offered up. It commemorates the four women killed by the El Salvador military on Dec. 2, 1980: Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clark and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and a lay woman, Jean Donovan. The altar was on exhibit at the headquarters of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers from July 9. A service July 20 marked the presentation of the altar to the Maryknoll Sisters.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

South American mural

Residents of Macuto, Venezuela, pass a mural of Christ painted on a building destroyed by flooding and mudslides late last year. Despite record unemployment and crime in the South American country, President Hugo Chavez was re-elected in the July 31 presidential election. He has been in office since Febrary 1999.

Catholic agencies enlist foster care for former child soldiers

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — Two Catholic agencies in Sierra Leone have placed hundreds of former child soldiers in foster homes to help them readjust to society. Antisocial habits and violent tendencies of the former child soldiers, as well as the ongoing war in Sierra Leone, have made it difficult to reunite them with their families. Often the families are displaced, or they reject their children, said spokesmen for the two agencies, Caritas and the Family Homes Movement. "We decided to put them under foster parents so that they will be able to adjust in society," said Sunkari Koroma, project manager for Caritas.

Papal nuncio asks Ugandan youths to ignore advice on condom use

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) — The papal representative to Uganda has asked youths to ignore people who urge them to use condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS. Archbishop Christoph Pierre, apostolic nuncio to Uganda, made the appeal just two weeks after Ugandan Vice President Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe criticized religious leaders who oppose the use of condoms. Archbishop Pierre, celebrating Mass for Uganda Martyrs High School day July 29, said condoms are not a solution to AIDS.

Study finds teens benefit from religious, social justice programs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A report funded by the Ford Foundation gives high marks to a program directing teens toward service, social justice and spiritual values. The program, E Pluribus Unum, brings together about 60 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish high school graduates for an intense three-week seminar about putting their faith into action. The program's name comes from the Latin phrase on U.S. coins which means, "Out of the many, one." It is sponsored by the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, based in Rockville, Md., in cooperation with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and the National Council of Churches. The program is funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Ford Foundation and the Righteous Persons Foundation.

Anchorage Archdiocese helps young Russians get to World Youth Day

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — At the request of Bishop Jerzy Mazur, eastern Siberia's apostolic administrator, the Anchorage Archdiocese will provide monetary assistance to send 45 young Russians to World Youth Day in Rome. The archdiocese's Russian Desk will contribute $20,000 in air and ground transportation costs for the Russians, according to director Brian Kuzel. He is preparing an appeal to area Catholics to help support the mission. The young Russians will join 60 youths from the archdiocese and hundreds of thousands from around the world at the Aug. 15-20 World Youth Day.

Middle East church leaders regret failure of peace talks

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Members of the Middle East Council of Churches said they "regret (the) painful failure" of U.S. brokered peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. In a statement issues July 26, the council members said they felt saddened "by the inability of the national leaders of Israel and Palestine — with the deft facilitation of the USA — to reach a just and long-lasting accord that will pave the way for a true resolution of this conflict." "We applaud the ... efforts of all leaders. We also remain convinced that peacemaking requires courage," said the statement.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

Aug. 5
Permanent diaconate candidates installation to ministry of acolyte
St. Joseph, Newton

Aug. 13 — 4 p.m.
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 17 — 10 a.m.
Foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Aug. 19-20
Homilist for the 300th anniversary of St. Peter Church, Waldorf, Md.
Cardinal James Hickey, celebrant

Aug. 21 — 5:30 p.m. Mass
Farewell celebration for Sister of Charity Loretto John Meehan
Hayesville

Diocesan planner

August

5 HAYESVILLE — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Women's Club is holding its annual White Elephant Sale today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. in the church commons, located on Hwy. 64, approximately one mile west of the traffic light. Furniture, small appliances, tools, household goods and books will be on sale, as well as sweets, coffee, homemade preserves, fresh vegetables and baked goods for the attendants. For further details, call Jerrie Kearney at (828) 389-1019.

7 CONYERS, Ga. — A Cistercian (Trappist) vocation awareness retreat for prayerful single men of all ages takes place today through Aug. 11 at Holy Spirit Monastery. The retreat is free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 752-1332, write to 6311 NW 47 Ct., Coral Springs, Fla., 33067 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

9 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting today at 11 a.m. in the parish center with speaker Ruth Silverman. Lunch is being served, and a love offering is being taken during the meeting. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343 or Louise Brewer at (704) 566-1200.

10 GREENSBORO — Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, diocesan coordinator for Northern Region faith formation, is presenting "To Be a Mirror of Christ Was St. Claire's Way of Preaching the Gospel" at the Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene St., during the noontime session today from 12:10-1 p.m. Lunch is being served, and a love offering is being taken. For more information, call the center at (704) 273-2554.

12 HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., is celebrating a Mass in the Syro-Malabar

Smoky Mountain Vicariate to commemorate jubilee year

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE — In a gesture of fellowship and solidarity in celebration of the jubilee year, the diocese's westernmost parishes are gathering for an outdoor jubilee Mass and picnic with Bishop William G. Curlin on Labor Day, Sept. 4, at the Swain County Recreation Park in Bryson City.

After the morning Mass, beginning at 11 a.m., where area candidates will receive the sacrament of confirmation, the community will gather for a covered dish feast in the park.

The vicariate invites the diocese to join them for a celebration of faith during the new millennium.

The Smoky Mountain Vicariate consists of the following churches: Holy Redeemer in Andrews, Immaculate Conception in Canton, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cherokee, St. Francis of Assisi in Franklin, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville, Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands, St. Margaret in Maggie Valley, St. William in Murphy, Prince of Peace in Robbinsville, St. Mary in Sylva, St. John in Waynesville and Catholic campus ministry from Western Carolina University in Cullowee.

For more information, call the St. Francis of Assisi Church office at (828) 524-2289.

Pastoral Assignments

Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral assignments:

Effective July 25, 2000:

New Vicars

Asheville Vicariate:	Very Rev. John Aurilia, OFM Cap., VF
Boone Vicariate:	Very Rev. John Schneider, VF
Gastonia Vicariate:	Very Rev. Eric Houseknecht, VF
Salisbury Vicariate:	Very Rev. John Smyth, CSSR, VF
Winston-SalemVicariate:	Very Rev. Francis O'Rourke, VF

Effective Sept. 1, 2000:

Rev. Edward Vilkauskas, CSSp	From: Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe To: Reassignment by religious community
Rev. Carlo Tarasi	From: Ministry outside diocese To: Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe

Tourism is means to greater global solidarity, pope says

PHOTO BY JOANN S.KEANE

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Tourists open to encountering new people and situations play an important role in advancing a culture of global solidarity necessary for the 21st century, Pope John Paul II said.

In a message for the World Day of Tourism 2000, he noted that increased mobility brought on by technological advances has made tourism a more effective tool in breaking down cultural barriers.

"Tourism, which now takes on international dimensions, can thus become a precious contribution for the culture of solidarity and can promote that international cooperation which the jubilee encourages," he said.

The pope's message, addressed to Archbishop Stephen Fumio Hamoa, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, was released at the Vatican Aug. 1 only in Italian.

The annual U.N.-sponsored World Tourism Day will be celebrated Sept. 27. This year's theme is "Technology and Nature: Two Challenges for Tourism at the Dawn of the 21st Century."

The pope said the jubilee's call to reconciliation with others invites all people to work for social justice and mutual understanding.

"In this way, the jubilee message pushes pilgrims and tourists to have eyes capable of 'seeing' the reality," he said, "especially when one has the opportunity to visit places and situations in which the people live in precarious human conditions or where the aspiration for fair development is seriously undermined by factors of environmental unbalance or structural injustice."

Bishop William G. Curlin will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March of 2001. The 10-day pilgrimage will depart Charlotte March 12, returning on the 21st. For registration information, send your name, address and phone number to: Editor Joann Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Rite in Malayalam at 6:30 p.m. tonight. For further details, call the church office at (336) 884-0244.

13 CHARLOTTE — Bishop Curlin is the celebrant at a charismatic Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner after the Mass in the school cafeteria. For more information, call Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

16 CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Gene McCreesh is facilitating "Spiritual Direction for Gays and Lesbians" at 7 p.m. tonight at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St. For details, call Father Gene at (704) 332-5342.

18 HOT SPRINGS — There is a women's AA retreat being held at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy 25/70, this weekend. For all those in need of spiritual guidance and healing from the effects of alcoholism, write the Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C., 28743, or call (828) 622-7366.

19 MORGANTON — There is a Grand Ultreya for all cursillistas in the diocese, beginning with Mass at 10 a.m. this morning at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., and followed by fellowship and potluck lunch with church community-donated dishes and beverages. More fellowship follows at Steele Creek Park after the event. For more information, call Tommy Barnhart at (336) 766-0377 or e-mail tbarnhar@bellsouth.net.

21 MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, director of the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, and Charity Sister Fran Grady, are hosting "Nature Retreat: Drink the Living Water" beginning today through Aug. 27. The purpose of the retreat is to hear the voices of infinity in the silence of the woods and to reacquaint one's self with the God of creation. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

25 WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is having its semi-annual fall and winter children's clothing sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. this morning and 8 a.m.-noon tomorrow in the activity center. The proceeds from this sale will benefit church and outreach programs. To donate or for more information, call Linda Hutchinson at (336) 748-8277 or Liz Matthews at (336) 768-6641.

Upcoming

CROZET, Va. — A Cistercian (Trappist) vocation awareness retreat for prayerful single women of all ages is taking place Sept. 1-5 over Labor Day Weekend at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery. The retreat is free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 752-1332, write to 6311 NW 47 Ct., Coral Springs, Fla., 33067 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

Ongoing

GLOVERVILLE, S.C. — The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul invites single Catholic women between the ages of 19-55 to partner with them to aid the poor or needy, for one week, anytime throughout the year. This live-in program includes communal prayer, volunteer ministry to needy people and time for reflection on the Vincentian spirit of love. Opportunities to serve are in the following states: Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and northern Florida. For further information, call Daughter of Charity Sister Maureen Houlihan at (803) 593-5158 or write P.O. Box 358, Gloverville, S.C., 29828.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to publication date.

Ex-missionary eager to work with students at Charlotte Catholic

By STEVE LYTTLE
The Charlotte Observer

CHARLOTTE — The Rev. James Cassidy's resume includes time served as a missionary in Nicaragua during the Contra war two decades ago.

The latest addition to that resume is principal at Charlotte Catholic High School.

Cassidy, 54, was named to the position earlier this month by Bishop William Curlin of the Charlotte Diocese.

Curlin said Cassidy "was among several candidates considered" by a selection committee.

> **"I have the utmost respect for young Christians, because of the challenges and temptations they face."**

Cassidy, a native of Manhattan, N.Y., is an Augustinian priest who frequently wears his order's robe as he works.

He said he enjoys working with youths and respects their special set of problems.

"I have the utmost respect for young Christians, because of the challenges and temptations they face," he said.

And the example set by adults is key in the growth of children, he said. "What we do tells our young people what we are about."

Cassidy follows Sister Paulette Williams, who was principal at Catholic High for 20 years and oversaw the move of the school from cramped quarters on Park Road to a new facility on N.C. 51 near Carmel Road.

Sister Paulette retired as an educator in June to take over an outreach ministry with the Sisters of Mercy.

Cassidy has considerable experience as an educator, most recently as dean of students and director of the guidance department at St. Augustine Prep in Richland, N.J., outside Philadelphia. He also was an administrator at Catholic schools in Washington and Miami.

From May 1986 to September 1987, he served as a missionary in Peru and then in Nicaragua. "I saw the Contra war up close," he said.

The Catholic Diocese also has announced that Reverend Stephen Hoyt, who was popular among students as chaplain at Catholic High several years ago, is returning to that post.

Reprinted with permission of The Charlotte Observer. Steve Lyttle is a staff writer with The Charlotte Observer and parishioner at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Charlotte.

Catherine's House receives award honoring sister

BELMONT — The first Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan Award was presented recently to Catherine's House in the Legislative Building of State Congress in Raleigh by the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition.

The honor is bestowed for commitment to the needs of very low-income individuals in the state. In the spirit of the award's namesake, this achievement marks an organization's exemplary efforts in the field.

Catherine's House, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, provides transitional housing for women and children who are homeless.

As the first official award recipient, Catherine's House was honored at a formal press conference at the State Capitol that also included recognition of two state legislators who have worked diligently for the causes of the North Carolina Low Income Housing Coalition over the past year. Sister Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, accepted the award along with Sister Maureen Dees, a long-time volunteer and supporter of Catherine's House.

Father John Murphy, OSFS, dies at age 69

HIGH POINT — Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father John S. Murphy, who ministered and lived in the Triad area of North Carolina for more than 20 years, died Monday, July 24, 2000, at High Point Regional Hospital. He was 69 years old.

An educator, pastor and chaplain during his ordained life, Father Murphy served as pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville and chaplain of Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point from 1977-97. From 1997-99, he continued his role as chaplain at Maryfield, where he was a resident until his death.

Prior pastoral and educational assignments took him to Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

Oblate assignments included a postulate novitiate from July 1947 to September 1947; a novice noviate from September 1947 to September 1948; study from 1948-52 at De Chantal Hall in Lewiston, N.Y.; a teacher of mathematics and chemistry at Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia from 1952-54; theology study at De Sales Hall School of Theology in Washington from 1954-58; teacher of mathematics at Father Judge High School in Philadelphia from 1958-64; a teacher of mathematics at the Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales in Center Valley, Pa., from 1964-72; and parish work in Wernersville, Pa., and in Thomasville, N.C.

The son of the late John B. Murphy Sr. and the late Jeanne D. Murphy of Philadelphia, Pa., Father Murphy was born Nov. 30, 1930, in Philadelphia. He received a bachelor's degree in Latin from Niagara University in Niagara, N.Y., in 1952, and a master's in mathematics from the Catholic University of America in Washington in 1956. He then pursued graduate studies at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa., and at the University of Philadelphia.

He entered the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in July 1947, made his first profession a year later and made his perpetual profession Nov. 20, 1951. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1957, at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Del.

Always an avid golfer, Father Murphy qualified to compete in many amateur tournaments, including the 1972 National Amateur Championship Tournament at the Charlotte Country Club in Charlotte.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at a memorial Mass at Maryfield Nursing Home July 26 following a viewing there. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated July 28, following a viewing, at Our Lady of Light Chapel at the De Sales Center in Childs, Md. Interment was in the Oblate cemetery on the De Sales Center grounds.

Father Murphy is survived by a sister, Madeline Magee; two brothers, John Rent and Frank Murphy; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the Oblates request that memorial contributions be sent to Oblate Retirement Fund, 2200 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806.

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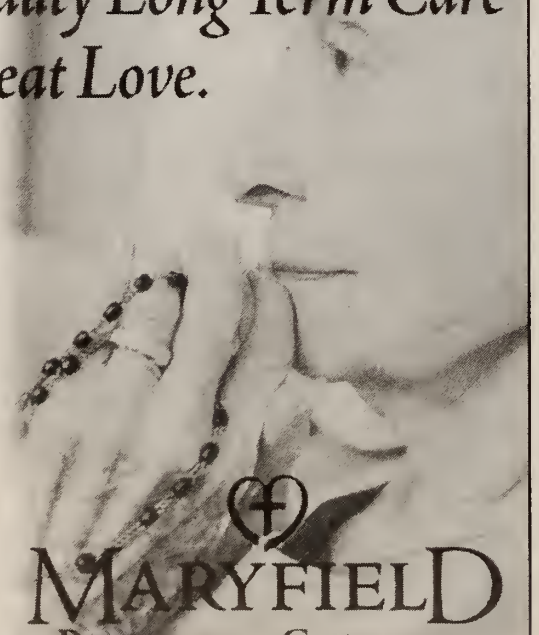

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Representatives gather to address young adult needs

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry, was one of 50 invited participants to the "futuring symposium" entitled "Meeting the Challenges of Ministry with Young Adults in a New Millennium."

The conference, held July 17-20 in Omaha, Nebraska, was sponsored by the Center for Ministry Development, the National Association of Campus Ministry and the National Association of Young Adult Ministry and underwritten by the Louisville Institute. The conference results will help shape the direction of diocesan young adult ministry for the next decade.

"The idea was to look at the research about Catholic young adults, their experiences, education level and their knowledge about their religion and develop a plan for the next 10 years," explained McDermott, a board member of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry. "The point was to, in a focused way, bring people together from around the country to look at the findings and get them published in order to assist those involved with young adult ministry."

Colleen McDermott

Young adult, parish and campus ministers, military chaplains, ecumenical leaders, affiliates from Catholic organizations from around the country and Bishop Kevin Britt, chairman of the Subcommittee on Youth and Young Adults of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, met to study and discuss materials collected over a six-year span about the needs of young adults in the Catholic Church. The result was a guideline, depicting the "ideal church" of the next decade, to assist campus and young adult ministers, national Catholic organizations and other groups to better understand the younger generation.

"The ideal church, open to young adults, would be justice-oriented and diverse by design. It would reach out to others and be made up of evangelizing, intergenerational and authentic communities," explained McDermott.

Over the course of the six years, "Ministry with Young Adults - A National Catholic Initiative," a research project of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association and the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, consisted of conferences, development of writing resources geared for young adults, ages 18 to 39, and individual diocesan in-service workshops. Funded by the Raskob Foundation, the findings were compiled by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate or CARA from Georgetown University. The purpose of last month's symposium, a culmination of the six-year endeavor, was to figure out what is next, a "where-do-we-go-from-here" approach.

One of the general findings was many young adults do not have the religious vocabulary that the previous generation had and that many do not have the faith experience of earlier generations, said McDermott.

"The young adults of this postmodern culture, ages 39 and under, were raised differently in terms of cultural changes and education," she said. "There is a hunger for spirituality, but it is not being recognized.

SEE MCDERMOTT, PAGE 8

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Lutheran layman channels millions to Catholic education

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — When Warne Nunn looks out his office window at St. Mary's Academy, he sees two things that make him smile. One is the Portland all-girls' Catholic high school where his Lutheran-raised granddaughter received a "great education." The other is that the venerable red-brick academy looks especially good these days, in part because two years ago he helped funnel $1 million of Meyer Memorial Trust money to remodel it. Nunn is past board chairman of the trust, which has $535 million in assets and is one of Oregon's largest foundations aiding not-for-profit organizations. "I'm hooked on Catholic schools," he told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Portland and Diocese of Baker.

German Archbishop Dyba dies of heart failure at age 70

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Archbishop Johannes Dyba of Fulda, whose outspokenness sometimes put him at odds with fellow bishops, died of heart failure July 23. He was 70. Bishop Karl Lehmann of Mainz, chairman of the German bishops' conference, said Archbishop Dyba's death early the morning of July 23 "left a big gap" in the conference. Archbishop Dyba had always "spoken passionately for a decisive way of being a Christian, and an unambiguous position for the church. Although we often argued with him, his humanity and humor often helped us," said Bishop Lehmann.

Nebraska coach hands off signed football to archbishop

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Football players with the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers had a gift for retired Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan of Omaha that he couldn't pass up: a signed football. Head coach Frank Solich handed off the ball — bearing the signatures of players on the preseason team — to the archbishop at the Alegent Health Mercy Care Center in Omaha July 15. The 83-year-old prelate is staying at the center while being treated for a malignant brain tumor. "I've been reading some football magazines and you're rated No. 1 by some of them," said Archbishop Sheehan, wearing a red polo shirt with the word "Huskers" on the pocket. "So I've heard, but I don't read those magazines," the Nebraska coach said with a smile. "We've got a long season ahead of us and that's what I'm concentrating on."

CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Volunteer makes quilts for newborns

Roman Friendshuh prepares quilt material for sewing at his home in St. Michael, Minn. The 86-year-old retiree and his wife have sewn more than 6,000 quilts for newborns along the Texas-Mexico border.

In Jerusalem, U.S. Catholic educators study Holocaust

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Thirteen Catholic educators from throughout the United States spent an intensive month at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. It is the 12th year groups of Catholic educators have participated in the program through the Seton Hill Catholic Institute for Holocaust Studies, founded in 1987 by Sister Gemma del Duca, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, and Seton Hill President JoAnne Boyle. Sister del Duca, originally from Greensburg, Pa., is a former associate professor of history and chair of the history department at Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., and has lived in Israel since 1975.

Hong Kong Cardinal Wu celebrates 25th anniversary as bishop

HONG KONG (CNS) — Cardinal John Baptist Wu Cheng-chung of Hong Kong, joined by 106 concelebrants, celebrated Mass marking his 25th anniversary as a bishop. About 1,000 local and expatriate clergy, religious and laity packed the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception July 25 for the anniversary Mass. The cardinal, who turned 75 in March, prayed for God's blessing so that Catholics in the diocese be "united in communion to share our faith and proclaim Christ, to serve the community and work together to make Hong Kong a better place in which to live — free, just and more humane."

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Witnesses back bill to protect infants who survive abortions

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An abortion survivor, a Princeton professor and a nurse who has comforted infants born after botched abortions testified before a House subcommittee July 20 about a bill that would entitle those infants to medical care.

The testimony on H.R. 4292, the proposed Born Alive Infants Protection Act of 2000, came before the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution, chaired by Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., chief sponsor of the legislation.

"If a child born alive after a botched abortion does not receive the protection of the law, what is to prevent an abortionist from simply delivering a child and killing it?" Canady asked at the hearing.

The bill was approved by the House Judiciary Committee by a 22-1 vote July 26.

Witnesses included Gianna Jessen, a 23-year-old survivor of a late-term saline abortion; Robert P. George, a professor of jurisprudence in the department of politics at Princeton; and Jill L. Stanek, a registered nurse who works in the labor and delivery department at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Ill.

All three spoke in favor of the legislation, but the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said in a statement at the hearing that the bill "attempts to inject Congress into what should be personal and private decisions about medical treatment."

Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the NARAL comment demonstrated a "frightening opinion" that "the decision to kill a fully born infant, at any stage of development, is a personal and private medical decision."

"Nothing could prove more persuasively the need for Congress to reaffirm the obvious fact that live-born infants are persons," Alvare said. "If our lawmakers do not take a stand now, whose life will be next?"

The Born Alive Infants Protection Act states that any infant "who is completely expelled or extracted from her mother and who is alive" is a person under federal law, regardless of the child's lung development, his or her expected chances of survival or whether the baby survived an abortion.

"When the freedoms of one group of helpless citizens are infringed upon, such as the unborn, the newborn, the disabled and so-called 'imperfect,' what we do not realize is that our freedoms as a nation and individuals are in great peril."
— Gianna Gessen

"We as people of faith must educate ourselves about the facts, and the facts are frightening," said Maggie Nadol, program director for Respect Life Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte. "NARAL is arguing that Congress is infringing on personal and medical issues with the Born Alive Infants Protection Act. Obviously, their agenda goes beyond abortion rights. It is appalling that we are even at the point where we need a bill to recognize a newborn as a fully-formed human being."

Jessen's testimony recounted the details of her birth in a California abortion clinic after 18 hours in a saline solution.

"When the freedoms of one group of helpless citizens are infringed upon, such as the unborn, the newborn, the disabled and so-called 'imperfect,' what we do not realize is that our freedoms as a nation and individuals are in great peril," she added.

Born with cerebral palsy because of a lack of oxygen to the brain, Jessen said she now has only "a slight limp" after using a walker or leg braces for years.

George spoke about the views of fellow Princeton professor Peter Singer, who he said has recognized "a class of human beings, including newborn infants, who are, in effect, nonpersons" and thus could be killed.

"The legitimization of infanticide constitutes a grave threat to the principle of human equality at the heart of American civil rights ideals," George added.

Stanek, who has worked for five years at Christ Hospital, said a procedure called "live-birth abortion" is used there and "it is not uncommon" for live aborted babies to survive "for an hour or two or even longer."

Aborted children born alive receive "no medical assessments or care" but get only the "comfort care" of being wrapped in a blanket, Stanek said.

She recalled one night when a nursing colleague was taking a Down syndrome baby who was born alive to the hospital's soiled utility room "because his parents did not want to hold him, and she did not have time to hold him."

"I could not bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone in a soiled utility room, so I cradled and rocked him for the 45 minutes that he lived," she said.

"Something is very wrong with a legal system that says doctors are mandated to pronounce babies dead but are not mandated to assess babies for life and chances of survival," Stanek said. "No other children in America are medically abandoned like this."

In a July 25 letter to members of Congress, Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops' pro-life secretariat, urged swift enactment of the legislation to deter moves by abortion advocates to expand abortion "rights" to encompass killing after birth.

The Supreme Court's majority opinion on Nebraska's partial-birth abortion law "has made it clear that until the court's own thinking changes or a constitutional amendment can be passed, no child in the womb (or even partly in the womb) will have meaningful legal protection," Quinn wrote.

"Our immediate task, as this Congress nears its end, is to ensure that the lethal mentality of Roe (vs. Wade) does not claim new victims — vulnerable human beings struggling for their lives outside the womb," she added.

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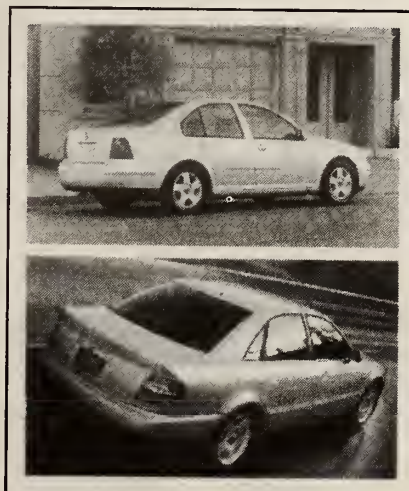

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Leadership training program to be launched in Charlotte Diocese

CHARLOTTE — A pilot leadership program geared for lay ministers in the Diocese of Charlotte will launch this fall, the diocese's Education Vicariate announced recently.

The new program will feature three tracks focusing on leadership skills, law issues and ministerial skills for people primarily in educational ministry, said Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education.

The program is sponsored by the Education Vicariate and will differ from the diocesan lay ministry program currently in operation.

"This program is designed to assist those in leadership in parishes to be more effective in their roles and responsibilities," said Father Hawker.

"We are inviting people who are involved in a variety of education ministry — youth ministers, parish catechetical leaders, campus ministers, school principals and so forth," he added.

A panel of diocesan and professional leaders has been assembled to lead the workshops, scheduled for Nov. 3-5 at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, 1123 S. Church St. in Charlotte.

The program is also scheduled for March 2001.

Presenters include a diverse team of business leaders from the area who will facilitate workshops on leadership skills, including leadership models, organizational and listening skills, conflict management, and volunteer recruitment and management.

Diocesan officials include Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor, who will discuss employment issues; Richard Lucey, diocesan attorney, who will lead a workshop on civil law; and Father Peter Jugis, judicial vicar, who will address canon law. A range of legal concerns will be addressed in this track.

In another track, issues of catechetical ministry will be discussed. Joanna Case, an educator, will discuss facilitating the faith experience. Terry Aiken will discuss developing skills for multicultural sensitivities. A third workshop will focus on advocacy skills for marginalized people.

Workshops will run from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 3; 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 4; and 1 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 4.

Brochures and registration information will be available Sept. 15.

For more information, contact the Diocese of Charlotte Education Office, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, (704) 370-3244.

COURTESY PHOTO

Abbot Placid Solari, abbot of Belmont Abbey, recently presided at his first celebration of the sacrament of confirmation since his election, at St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. Pictured with Abbot Placid and the confirmation class is Father Gregg Littleton, far left, administrator of St. John the Baptist Church.

McDermott, from page 5

Young adults are asking for more spiritual education but are not receiving it."

Also, the tendency of these young adults to move from place to place has an effect on their parish and diocesan affiliations, she continued. "Many young adults tend to not register in the churches they attend because of their mobility. I have been trying to make sure we are reaching out to all colleges in the diocese; however, I think we are missing many young adults who have graduated and those in the workforce."

One way that McDermott hopes to reach these young adults is through diocesan and regional gatherings where people can discuss issues that affect them and to become acquainted with other Catholics in their age range. Moreover, she would like for vocation directors from religious communities to be in attendance at the gatherings.

"I would like for that background of faith formation and religious education, of which many young adults are not aware, to be present at the gatherings, and for the attendants to be exposed to priests, deacons and women religious," she said.

McDermott hopes that through diocesan endeavors, a yearly conference, retreats and the sustained involvement of vocational directors, young adult ministry will continue to develop and grow in the near future.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Last Call: Italy pilgrimage

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — The unique opportunity of being witness to canonization ceremonies in St. Peter Square is still within reach.

When Blessed Katherine Drexel and Mother Josephine Bakhita are canonized on Oct. 1, pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte will be present as Pope John Paul II conducts the canonization in St. Peter Square.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs will lead the group who will first visit Assisi and Florence before spending several days in Rome.

Blessed Katherine Drexel, who walked among the African-American and Native American people of her time, heard the cries of injustice, listened to hopes for unity and dreams of peace.

While a young woman, Katherine became aware of the desperate plight of African-Americans and Native Americans for whom she built 14 boarding schools in nine different states, including North Carolina.

Blessed Josephine Bakhita was born in Sudan in 1869 and died in Vicenza, Italy in 1947.

This African flower who knew the anguish of kidnapping and of slavery, bloomed marvelously in Italy, in response to God's grace, close to the Daughters of Charity. In Vicenza, where she spent many years of her life, everyone still calls her "our Black Mother."

She was guided from her Sudanese slavery through innumerable and unspeakable suffering to human freedom and to the freedom of faith, and finally to the consecration of her whole life to God.

A few slots on this pilgrimage are still available. This eight-day trip is $2,190 per person, based on double occupancy, and includes hotel, air, breakfast and dinner daily as well as admission fees and local travel.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Welcome, from page 1

to it ... there is a time for introspection," Msgr. Allen said. "We must also come to terms with places that we have failed, the times that we have not lived up to our hero status."

The congregation he addressed is blessed, he said, because they gather with "a knowledge and an appreciation of who God is." Opportunities like this, he added, are not merely for socializing, but rather for feeling "a real sense of holiness in this place" and "to experience how that is lived out" in daily life.

Msgr. Allen also took time to acknowledge the families, friends and supporters of people who are gay. "It is a wonderful thing to know that you seek God's blessing in a special way in what it is that you do for those who are your own flesh and blood," he added to family members.

The Mass of welcome is one of several events and services the diocesan commission is involved in each year. The commission's primary goal is to advise the bishop on matters of pastoral care of gay and lesbian people, ensuring their welcome in the church community.

At the recommendation of the diocese's presbyteral council, Bishop William G. Curlin established the commission as a board of consulters and advisers in the fall of 1996. The ministry, say commission members, is based on the Gospel message, church teachings and pastoral care, and is attentive to the insights of the current human sciences.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or E-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Missal, from page 1

or near the altar are to have the figure of the crucified Christ on them.

— One way the people express their unity is by "uniformity in their gestures and postures"; they "are to shun any appearance of individualism or division."

— The tabernacle may be either in a chapel of reservation or in the sanctuary, but it is not to be on the altar where Mass is celebrated.

— There is to be one free-standing altar for celebrating Mass, and the priest celebrates facing the people "whenever possible."

— If the Eucharist is reserved in the sanctuary, the priest and all ministers involved in the celebration genuflect toward it only at the beginning and end of Mass, never during the celebration. Cross and candle bearers bow their heads instead of genuflecting at those times. If the Eucharist is not reserved in the sanctuary, priest and ministers bow their body toward the altar.

— Instead of standing at the prayer over the gifts before the preface, the people stand when the priest invites them, "Pray that our sacrifice...."

— During the eucharistic prayer, "as a general rule" the deacon assisting at the altar kneels from the epiclesis, or invocation of the Spirit, until the elevation of the chalice.

— The priest may exchange the sign of peace with the ministers around the altar and "for a good reason" with a few of the faithful, but he should not leave the sanctuary.

— The breaking of the bread before Communion "is reserved to the priest and the deacon."

— Lay eucharistic ministers do not approach the altar until the priest has received Communion.

— Whether after Communion or after Mass, only a priest, deacon or formally instituted acolyte is to cleanse the sacred vessels.

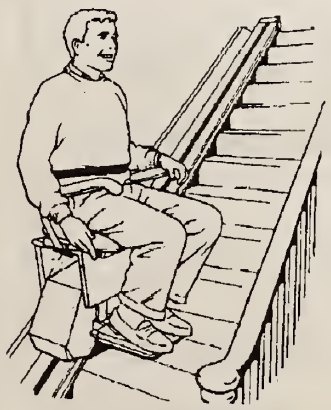
— A genuflection "signifies adoration" and is made only to the Blessed Sacrament and, on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, in solemn adoration of the cross.

The U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy prepared the English study translation of the text and devoted the June-July issue of its newsletter to a commentary on it.

By agreement with the Holy See, the committee planned to post the official Latin text of the instruction on the Internet as soon as it was released, for viewing or downloading free. It can be found under the liturgy deppartment section of the Web site www.nccbuscc.org.

The instruction is meant to accompany the third edition of the Roman Missal and will take effect with the promulgation of that missal, which is expected to be published later this year.

In general the new text gives increased emphasis to the proper blessing and care of those things intended for use in the liturgy.



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Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Aug. 6 - 12, 2000

Sunday (Transfiguration of the Lord), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Mark 9:2-10; **Monday (Sts. Sixtus II & Companions)**, Jeremiah 28:1-17, Matthew 14:13-21; **Tuesday (St. Dominic)**, Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22, Matthew 14:22-36; **Wednesday**, Jeremiah 31:1-7, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday (St. Lawrence)**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Friday (St. Clare)**, Nahum 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7, Matthew 16:24-28; **Saturday**, Habakkuk 1:12-2:4, Matthew 17:14-20

Readings for the week of Aug. 13 - 19, 2000

Sunday, 1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4:30-5:2, John 6:41-51; **Monday (St. Maximilian Kolbe)**, Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday (The Assumption of Mary)**, Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; **Wednesday (St. Stephen of Hungary)**, Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22, Matthew 18:15-20; **Thursday**, Ezekiel 12:1-2, Matthew 18:21-19:1; **Friday (St. Jane Frances de Chantal)**, Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday (St. John Eudes)**, Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13, 30-32, Matthew 19:13-15

Best Sellers

Here is the hardcover Catholic Bestsellers List for August 2000, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association.

1. "Lamb's Supper." Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
2. "Life of the Beloved." Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
3. "Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Our Sunday Visitor)
4. "She Said Yes." Misty Bernall (Plough Publishing)
5. "Imitation of Christ." Thomas a Kempis (Catholic Book Publishing)
6. "Butler's Lives of the Saints," December. Kathleen Jones (Liturgical Press)
7. "Witness to Hope." George Weigel (HarperCollins)
8. "Why Forgive." Johann Christoph Arnold (Plough Publishing)
9. "Lives of the Saints" Vol. 1. Hugo Hoever (Catholic Book Publishing)
10. "Expositions of the Psalms, 1-32." Augustine of Hippo (New City Press)

Word to Life

August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord,

Cycle B Readings:

1) Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
2) 2 Peter 1:16-19
3) Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Years ago in West Texas when oil caused whole towns to rise from the mesquite-covered landscape, stories of instant wealth, diamonds, long sumptuous limousines and fabulous shopping sprees in far-off Dallas flourished.

One of my favorite stories from this era comes from a friend who worked in a bank during those boom days, now long past.

The lull in the day's business had arrived. Outside her window the furious spring wind sent pedestrians scurrying for cover as a time-worn green station wagon rolled to a stop some few feet from the bank's double front doors.

She watched a pudgy woman struggle to free herself from the driver's seat and from the wind's unseen hand that made opening the vehicle door an act of monumental strength.

My friend recalled, "I wondered what this poor woman was doing out on a day like this. Surely she was not coming into the bank, but in she came.

She headed straight toward my desk, frizzled gray hair standing on end, old run-over brown shoes and a faded blue dress that had seen better days, with about an inch and a half of white slip flapping down behind, but with the kindest twinkling eyes."

Slowly, my friend realized that sitting in front of her was a woman of immense wealth who was having the time of her life giving it away to colleges, churches and people in need.

When they finished their business, the woman said with a smile: "Honey, the Lord put those old dinosaurs under my worthless dry land so I could help folks out. You didn't imagine I had a dime, did you? Now, let's not tell anyone," she said, smiling. "I'll be back soon so we can move some more money!"

Her encounter with the unexpected over, my friend vowed to give up making snap judgments as she watched the woman pass through the double doors and begin her struggle with wind and machine once more.

Generally, most of us love tales of the unexpected. The Gospel today is one such story. Peter, James and John learn on the mountain that their close friend and teacher is someone far beyond their comprehension.

They will spend the rest of their lives making sense of who he really is — making sense of the unexpected.

QUESTIONS:

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Has God ever surprised you with his ways of "making things happen"?

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Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

"The Eyes of Tammy Faye" (Lions Gate)

Strangely appealing documentary about the chaotic, campy life of former televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker. Frequently melodramatic, directors Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's shamelessly flattering film ignores objectivity while presenting the human side of Tammy Faye, who was often ridiculed for her exaggerated makeup and hair. Shadowy nudity and references to adultery. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

"The In Crowd" (Warner Bros.)

Dreadfully dull thriller about a young woman (Lori Heuring) working at a country club who is brought into the exclusive social circle of upper-crust college students by a charismatic socialite (Susan Ward) who is harboring dark secrets. Director Mary Lambert's glossy film bores with a skimpy narrative, one-dimensional characters and laughable suspense-builders that lead to an obvious conclusion. Some violence, a few sexually implied encounters and lesbian innuendo, frequent substance abuse and some crass language with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

"Loser" (Columbia)

Lame romance in which a sweetly nerdy college student (Jason Biggs) pines over a classmate (Mena Suvari) who is foolishly involved with their snooty literature professor (Greg Kinnear). Writer-director Amy Heckerling's bland blend of teen angst tinged with a few frail comic moments is instantly forgettable. An implied affair, fleeting violence, crass expressions and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

"Thomas and the Magic Railroad" (Destination)

Disappointing children's movie adapted from the television series in which Thomas the Tank Engine (voice of Eddie Glen) and his engine friends on the magic railroad fear destruction by a surly diesel engine (voice of Neil Crone). Not even is Mr. Conductor (Alec Baldwin) able to help since he has run out of his powerful sparkle dust. Combining live action, digital effects and traditional animation, writer-director Britt Allcroft's whimsical film works best when the animated engines are the focus, but human performances are weak and the plot runs out of steam. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"What Lies Beneath" (DreamWorks)

Plodding ghost story in which a wife (Michelle Pfeiffer) feels haunted by a menacing spirit who turns out to have been involved with her geneticist husband (Harrison Ford). Director Robert Zemeckis attempts to generate Hitchcock-like suspense but falls far short with glaring plot holes and an abundance of thriller cliches. Some violence, sexual situations with implied adultery, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS. PICTURES

"Pokemon the Movie 2000"

Silly Japanese animated film based on the television cartoon series in which a human teen trainer of Pokemons is the only hope for a doomed world when the peaceful co-existence of three powerful Pokemon birds, who keep in balance the elements of fire, lightning and ice, is disturbed. With colorful but unexceptional animation, director Michael Haigney's film has a nonsensical plot, which will likely not matter to the hordes of child fans, but is a snore for adults accompanying the tykes. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Girl on the Bridge" (Paramount Classics)

Enchanting French romantic comedy about a young woman (Vanessa Paradis) contemplating suicide on the railing of a Paris bridge when an itinerant professional knife thrower (Daniel Auteuil) recruits her to be his new human target. The black and white film has exciting thriller elements with stylish camera work and an eclectic score, but the intriguing premise disappoints with an anti-climactic conclusion. Subtitles. Some sexual encounters, mild violence and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Nutty Professor II: The Klumps" (Universal)

Sluggish comedy sequel in which the upcoming marriage of a gentle, overweight professor (Eddie Murphy) to a beautiful colleague (Janet Jackson) is threatened by his obnoxious alter ego, "Buddy Love," who is also after the professor's miraculous youth serum. Few laughs are garnered as Murphy reprises his roles as the whole Klump clan in director Peter Segal's flat film filled with unnecessary subplots, tasteless body-function jokes and ho-hum special effects. Frequent sexual references, crude toilet humor, mild fleeting violence, and several instances of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Experiencing God requires patience, pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To see how God works in the world and to experience his love, people must be patient, watchful and willing to be surprised, Pope John Paul II said.

"God does not disappoint the deep longing for him which exists in all of us," the pope said at his weekly general audience July 26 in St. Peter's Square.

"He does not leave us to wander far from his ways, nor does he let our hearts harden forever," the pope told an estimated 20,000 visitors.

At the same time, he said, God may remain hidden if one is not interested in finding him.

The pope said people must be attentive, awake and watching for God.

The necessary attitudes are "the opposite of the distraction which, unfortunately, is our almost habitual condition, especially in a rushed and superficial society like ours," he said.

People also must avoid the temptation to rush their relationship with God, he said.

"Nine months are needed for the birth of a human creature," Pope John Paul said. "To compose a book or music of value often requires years of patient searching. This is also the law of the spirit."

In addition, he said, experiencing God's presence requires an ability to stand before creation in "awe and marvel."

But, Pope John Paul said, technology and materialism make it hard for people to look beyond what they see and discover God at work.

"We must be pure and simple like children, capable of admiration, surprise, wonder and being enchanted by the divine gestures of love and of closeness to us," the pope said.

At the end of the audience, which took place on the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary, the pope offered special prayers for elderly couples.

He prayed that the saints would strengthen older couples "in their mission of supporting their families, comfort them in their pain and, together with Mary, intercede to obtain special grace for them at the moment of their passage to eternal life."

Pope to leaders: Be mindful of Jerusalem's spiritual meaning

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — As Israeli and Palestinian leaders meeting in the United States tried to agree on the status of Jerusalem, Pope John Paul II encouraged them to keep the spiritual meaning of the city in mind. Speaking to visitors at his summer residence July 23, the pope said he knew the negotiations between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak were not easy, but he asked "the leaders to continue their efforts." U.S.-mediated negotiations began two weeks earlier at Camp David in Thurmont, Md., and seemed to be mired in the details of an agreement on Jerusalem, which Israelis and Palestinians have claimed as their capital.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Slim Pickins on That Summer Job?

Ah, the pleasures of the summer job.

My first real summer job was at a large store the name of which I'll keep anonymous except for the last part: "-mart." There. That gives you at least two choices to keep you guessing.

I worked in the "deli" — the small little box in the front of the store where customers could buy popcorn, slushees and their choice of three kinds of sandwiches.

Most days I had to work something like 11:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with a few breaks to make it come out to eight hours. The trouble was that I quickly lost any semblance of a life. If you're on your feet all day, the most you can do when you get home, even if you're a teen-ager, is collapse, sleep and then get up just in time to go back to work.

I hated it, except for the money. Just like my oldest son hates his summer job right now stocking in a grocery store. The hours are getting to him. He usually works from around 3 p.m. to 10 at night, and his work involves a lot of physical labor. Unfortunately, it also involves a lot of boredom.

And since he's not yet 18, either union or government rules restrict him from using certain kinds of equipment, even the box cutter! So there are lots of things he can't do, and he gets bored.

Now my younger son, who's just turned 15, is trying to get a job. Unfortunately, he's presently infected with the same disease my oldest son had for a while, before necessity stepped in and cured him: He has to get a job that is, for lack of a better word, at what he conceives is the exalted level of his own existence.

So his first choice would be working at a golf course. Fast food, except for maybe a sub shop, is absolutely not on his list. Bagging groceries? Nope.

I don't exactly know what that leaves. I do believe that if he had his way, he'd find a law firm to take him on for the summer.

But that's not the way it is. For most of us, the summer job involves long hours, hard, repetitive work, not the greatest pay in the world, and the lessons that come with all of that:

First, you're not as fabulous and above it all as you think you are. Sure, you think you're too good for this job, but how can that be when this "demeaning" job is the only job you can get?

The truth is, there's nothing wrong with any of those jobs. They're necessary and just as important as any "profession," and the people who spend their lives depending on that kind of work for a living have just as much dignity, strength and character as anyone who goes to work in a suit. (Maybe more).

Second, this is what life is. All teens have the hope and fantasy that they'll spend the rest of their lives in the perfect job, doing exactly what they want.

For most of us, that just doesn't happen. Even if you find a job you like, there are aspects of it that will frustrate you.

So good luck with that summer job. Instead of complaining, say a prayer of thanks for the opportunity you have — and take comfort in a fact that you never thought would ever give you comfort:

School's just around the corner. Now. Don't you feel better?

Planned Giving

JIM KELLEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

What to do with "obsolete" insurance

Do you have a life insurance policy you purchased years ago to provide financial protection — and no longer need it? If so, it may be a great asset to give your parish, Catholic school, agency, the Diocese of Charlotte or the diocesan Foundation.

Consider the benefits when you irrevocably name the church as both the owner and the beneficiary of the policy:

You can receive an income tax deduction.

When you fill out your itemized tax return, you can claim a charitable deduction for the cost basis of the policy or an amount approximately equal to the cash surrender value. For deduction purposes, the gift is treated as though it were cash.

This means you can deduct the gift up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. And if you can't use the full deduction in the first year, you can carry the unused portion up to five additional years.

You reduce the size of your estate.

At death, the face value of most life insurance policies is includable in the taxable estate of the deceased. For some estates, this can mean a significant increase in estate taxes.

However, transferring the policy during life will remove this "hidden" asset and reduce the size of your estate and any applicable taxes.

You leave your current home undisturbed.

Many people desire to give more to Catholic entities, but are concerned about their own cash flow and any unforeseen emergencies. They are reluctant to reduce investment assets.

We do not want any of our parishioners to jeopardize their security in making charitable gifts. At the same time, it's quite possible that you have either forgotten about an "obsolete" life insurance policy or consider it an unneeded asset.

In any case, the beauty of giving such a policy is that it doesn't affect your current income stream.

You make a gift that is immediate.

The proceeds are paid in cash immediately at death. Life insurance gifts generally are not subject to possible shrinkage from probate costs, nor do delays in settlement usually occur unless the death proceeds are payable to the estate.

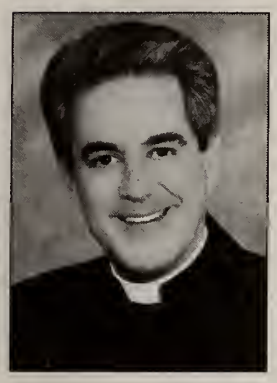
Also, you make a gift that is private. A life insurance policy is not a matter of public record; thus, your total privacy in giving may be assured.

Finally, you make a gift that is convenient. You probably already have policies that have served their original purposes and are now available to give. Changing beneficiaries may be simpler than creating a trust, making a will or arranging other forms of giving.

Making a gift of life insurance is easier than you might think. Your life insurance professional can help you obtain a transfer form from the insurance company or you can contact the company directly.

Of course, we are ready to assist you as well.

Please contact me for additional information on life insurance: Jim Kelley, director of development, (704) 370-3301, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

One Public Christian

Is there a question you hope you will never be asked?

Most people have something that we would prefer not to reveal. For most Germans who were adults during the Second World War, it might be "Where were you and what did you do?" Chances are you won't find many who admit they fought on the Western Front or knew what was happening to the Jews.

Shame does not begin or end with a single group. Gary Wills's recent book "Papal Sin" excoriates the bishops and priests who were supportive of the Nazis. Controversy still rages over the alleged "silence" of Pope Pius XII. Not long ago Pope John Paul II begged forgiveness for those Christians who "were not strong enough to raise their voices in protest."

While there were countless acts of private heroism by people of every background, few spoke out. But there can be no disputing where Franz Jaegerstaetter stood. An Austrian farmer, devoted husband and father, he not only saw the evil of Nazism but also publicly refused to cooperate with that evil in any way.

Jaegerstaetter had been a rough and tumble youth who found work in the Steiermark iron mines. Then, in the late 1930s, he experienced a religious re-conversion, if you will, to the Catholic faith of his childhood. He married a devout young woman and settled down in his village of St. Radegund where he tended his parent's little farm. From his meager subsistence, he regularly gave generously to the poor.

According to historian Rev. Boniface Hanley, OFM, Jaegerstaetter became open about his hatred of all things Nazi when he voted against the German annexation of Austria. His village priest warned Franz that he was courting serious danger, since Nazis brooked no opposition, and advised him that he risked putting his family in harm's way by not voting "yes." The farmer answered, "Father, I believe that God asks me to live by my conscience. If I do what I think He wants me to do, then I know He will take care of my wife and family."

When he refused military service after being drafted, the local police chief offered to try to get him a noncombatant post. "Please don't put me in the terrible position of having to arrest such a good man as you!" the chief pleaded. Again Franz Jaegerstaetter was determined: "I cannot believe that just because one has a wife and children, he is free to offend God. Did not Christ himself say 'He who loves father, mother or children more than me is not deserving of my kingdom'?"

One witness recalls how the clergy and guards wept openly at his steadfast spirit. "To the end, his eyes shined with joy and confidence, his face was full of peace."

On Aug. 9, 1943, Franz Jaegerstaetter was beheaded by guillotine, with no blindfold, his face upwards toward the blade. His family was left unharmed.

As a child of the light, his conscience would not let him serve the powers of evil. At the end, he knew exactly what he had done with his life: God's will.

Campus Ministry

FATHER JUDE DeANGELO, OFM Conv.
GUEST COLUMNIST

Packing for school

The art of packing for college is not a gift. It is a skill that is usually earned by discussion, modeling and, well, trial and error. Many times parents take an active role in teaching the art and guiding the process of the "packing for college" experience.

The sight of son and daughter preparing today may resurrect ancient memories of late summer nights with clothes, mementos and appliances being stuffed into boxes, suitcases and trunks — some of which are gathering dust in attics or basements.

For some parents, assisting a child with their college packing brings closure to an important phase of family life. They know in their hearts that when their child goes off to school, nothing will be the same again.

Parents use the art of packing to have long discussions about remembrances of yesterdays that they thought would always be present.

Mothers tend to speak in coded messages of concern — reminding their children of past lessons learned. Fathers give warnings about possible dangers of college life and impart caution to their son or daughter about the great big world out there.

As sound systems find their way into hollowed tabernacles of plastic bubble wrap and cardboard, as arguments ensue about the need for four sweaters instead of three, and talks wear on about the need for cold remedies "just in case," don't forget to remind your son or daughter to pack all the tools of character and virtue in with the latest CD's and sportswear.

Remind them to carry with them the love of God and respect for neighbor. Work into those "packing talks" reminders about connecting with God and the Catholic community through Mass and social interactions.

Between the roller blades and the khakis might be a good place to place the Scriptures and the small crucifix or medal of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And, don't forget to place a small mirror in the essentials for campus life. Attached to the mirror might be a note which states that as this object is used each day, let the reflection that is revealed be an image filled with dignity and self-respect, acceptance of failures and realizations that each day is a new beginning filled with hope and promise.

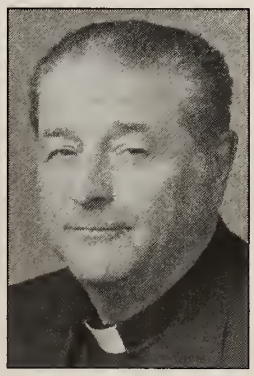
More simply phrased, the note on the mirror might read, "A son or daughter of a loving God."

Packing for college? Parents may never feel that they've packed enough.

It's the student's greatest challenge to unpack all the gifts they've been given.

Father DeAngelo is the Catholic campus minister for Wake Forest University, Salem College and North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Church's Position on Indulgences

Q. *My question concerns indulgences. As a convert to the Catholic faith 10 years ago, I don't remember hearing any discussion about them.*

I understand that during this jubilee year we have several indulgences available, but I'm still not sure what they mean. What is an indulgence? Even now we don't hear much about them.

A. It's true that the church is extremely careful in speaking of indulgences today, partly because this aspect of our faith has been so badly misunderstood in the past.

Catholic tradition on the subject is founded on the fact that every sin is not only a disobedience of God's law; it also violates the harmony of creation established by God and is, at least to some degree, a rejection of his love.

Forgiveness then requires not only conversion, but a reintegration of that divine order, which itself normally involves some sort of pain and cleansing (purgation) before entering the eternal presence of God.

In 1967, Pope Paul VI called for a reform and better understanding of the whole indulgence structure. In light of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints, he said, the church "undertook various ways of applying the fruits of our Lord's redemption to the individual faithful and of leading them to cooperate in the salvation of their brothers so the entire body of the church might be prepared" for the fullness of God's kingdom (Doctrine of Indulgences, No. 6).

Remission of temporal (as distinct from eternal) punishment for sins has been called "indulgence" for hundreds of years. Indulgences were formally attached by the church to certain prayers and actions, and could be applied to oneself or to one who has died.

A few important points should answer most of your questions. First, The number of permanent indulgenced prayers and works has been drastically reduced. Why was this?

Pope Paul VI explained the reason. "The main concern," he wrote, "has been to attach greater importance to a Christian way of life and lead souls to cultivate a spirit of prayer and penance, and to practice the theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) rather than merely repeat certain formulas and acts" (Enchiridion of Indulgences, 1968).

Second, partial indulgences, as distinct from plenary, are granted using only those words, with no determination of days or years as was common previously.

This avoids confusion, among other things. Contrary to what many Catholics believed, an indulgence of one year, for example, did not mean "one year off of purgatory."

It meant, rather, whatever alleviation of purgation or punishment might be achieved by one year of fasting or other penance. Thus it did not directly address the subject of time in purgatory.

Great pains are taken in recent years, by Pope John Paul II and other leaders, to keep the understanding of indulgences in harmony with the Gospel and with other Catholic teachings.

Remember that in all its devotional practices, including indulgences, the church desires that we, the faithful, "will be more effectively moved to live holier and more useful lives, thus healing the division between the faith which many profess and their daily lives" (Enchiridion, observations 4).

Diocese to co-sponsor RCIA workshop

BROWN SUMMIT — The Diocese of Charlotte's RCIA Commission recently announced a workshop for all who are actively ministering in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which men and women fully enter the Catholic Church.

The Diocese of Charlotte and the North American Forum on the Catechumenate will co-sponsor the workshop at The Summit — An Episcopal Center, in Brown Summit Sept. 14-16. The workshop, called "The Initiating Community: Developing the Ministries," will offer parish ministers the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, to implement and strengthen the initiation process in their parishes, to celebrate the liturgical rites well, to provide formation for ministry teams, and to grow in understanding of the assembly's ministry. The gathering will explore the foundations of initiation ministry as the ministry of all the baptized, and ways to invite others to share their gifts for the life of the community.

General sessions will be offered as well as four ministry tracks exploring specific areas of the RCIA process: catechesis for adults, children of catechetical age, liturgists and musicians, and priests and parish coordinators.

The North American forum on the Catechumenate is an international network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians who share their knowledge of the Rite and their experience of the RCIA process with those who minister at the parish level.

The members of the workshop team are among the nation's most experienced pastoral minsters, liturgists, catechists and theologians:

— Steve Janco, an editorial staff member of World Library Publications, composer and music staff member of the Chicago Office for Divine Worship;

— Eliot Kapitan, director of worship for the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., and a teacher, writer and workshop presenter on liturgy and catechumenal ministry;

— Jeannette Lucino, associate professor of religious education, director of the master of arts program in pastoral studies, and director of field education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago;

— Mickey Main, an active RCIA minister at the parish, diocesan and national level for 20 years, and a North American Forum member.

For registration information and other details, call Linda Licata at (336) 294-4696, ext. 27, E-mail llicata@sprynet.com, or call the diocesan Office of Faith Formation at (704) 370-3244.

In Brief...

GREENSBORO — The charismatic Mass, held in the chapel of Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., needs volunteers before the monthly services can be scheduled for the fall and winter months. Call Rev. Mr. Ron or Bette Steinkamp at (336) 882-9717 for more information or to be a volunteer.

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Father Paul Lininger, Ph.D., is facilitating three all-day sessions based on Stephen R. Covey's "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" from Oct. 17-19 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 S. Main St. The goal of the program is to assist participants in personal development and the strengthening of ministerial effectiveness. Call the church office at (336) 722-7001 to reserve a space and for more information.

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Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Applications are being accepted for administrative assistant at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center/MACS. Responsibilities include PC data entry, maintenance of cash receipts files, processing financial reports, maintaining records log. Minimum of high school degree required. Detail-oriented with Microsoft Excel experience. Send resume and salary history to: Business Office Administrator, PO Box 36776, Charlotte, NC 28236

Assistant Secretary: Asheville Catholic School. Attendance/First Aid Office. M-F, full time. CPR and First Aid certification required. Call (828)252-7896 for information. EOE.

Custodian, Full-time: Begin work immediately. Asheville Catholic School. Call Randy Penland, Maintenance Supervisor at (828)252-7896. EOE.

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Planned Giving: The Diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a part-time director of planned giving. Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, business administration, or related field; and 3 years specific experience in planned giving or related experience. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communications skills and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include organizing and directing efforts to assist parishioners in developing and implementing long-range financial plans for their benefit, the benefit of their family, their parish and/or the diocese. Part-time position for 21 hours per week; beginning August. Please submit resume to: Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770)973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Music Ministry Director: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Parish Secretary/Receptionist: St. John Neumann. 9am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Secretarial skills and experience, computer-literate, personable. Salary negotiable. Benefits. Contact Fr. Thom Meehan, (704)536-6520 or send resume and references: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28277. Fax: (704)536-3147.

Principal, Elementary: Blessed Sacrament School, located in historic Savannah, Georgia and nearby Atlantic Ocean beaches, is seeking a principal beginning as soon as possible. Candidates must be Catholic and be able to enhance this family-oriented school with strong communication, leadership and financial management skills. Candidates must have a master's degree in education and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary is commensurate with experience and credentials. Request application, and mail or fax resume to: Blessed Sacrament Search Committee, Diocese of Savannah, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31404. Phone (912)238-2344 or Fax(912)238-2339.

Teacher: Asheville Catholic School seeks dynamic pre-K teacher. Must hold or be eligible for NC license. Call (828) 252-7896. EOE.

Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catbolic High School has the following openings beginning August 2000: full-time teaching positions for Religion, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: PE, Spanish, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

Teachers: St. Michael's School in Gastonia, NC is currently seeking dynamic teachers for the following positions: Full-time Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies; and part-time Art teacher. NC Certification required. Please call Joseph Puceta at (704)865-4382 for more information.

Youth Minister, Part-time: St. Patrick Cathedral is in great need of a part-time Youth Minister to plan, implement, and oversee weekly activities for parish youth. Undergraduate degree in a youth related field and experience preferred. Please send resume and cover letter to St. Patrick Cathedral, Attn: Joanna Catabui, 1621 Dilworth Road E., Charlotte NC 28203 or Fax: (704) 377-6403.

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COURTESY PHOTO

St. Gabriel group extends hearts to Florida

CHARLOTTE — A group of 27 youth and adults from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte traveled to Winter Park, Fla., last month to take part in a national Catholic HEART (Helping Everyone Attain Relief Today) Workcamp.

The mission trip put the group, along with 130 other teens from across the country, in touch with the needy in the form of home-renewal projects, crisis center ministry and other outreach work in the Orlando vicinity.

The workcamps are hosted annually throughout the nation.

The campers turned a local middle school into home base for the week, participating in group prayer, Mass and a variety of spiritual and social programs.

The program helps low-income people attain a dignified standard of living while participants help build the kingdom of God, said Alex Barraza, parish youth minister.

"I am very thankful for our young people's receptiveness to God throughout this week," said Barraza. "Our young parishioners became poor to serve the poor; in a way, they learned how Jesus became poor to serve the poor."

Priest known for healing ministry coming to diocese

CHARLOTTE — Servite Father Peter Rookey, a priest who travels extensively to bring his healing ministry to large audiences, will visit North Carolina this month.

Father Rookey will preside at Masses and healing services Aug. 21-23 at three locations in the diocese:

— St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte, on Aug. 21;

— St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. in Charlotte, on Aug. 22;

— Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West in Hendersonville, on Aug. 23.

A rosary focusing on the seven sorrows of Mary will be prayed each day at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass, a healing service and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7:30.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1941, Father Rookey had known the power of prayer since being blinded at age 8 by a firecracker. He credits God with restoring his sight, a process filled with family prayer led by his mother.

"She led the family in prayer every evening, saying that if we prayed for a miracle the Lord would provide one," Father Rookey said. "I asked theLord to heal me and I promised him that if he gave me back my sight I would become a priest.

"And gradually, despite the doctors' warnings that we were hoping in vain, my sight began to return until it was finally restored."

As director of Benburb College in Northern Ireland, Father Rookey became well-known for his healing ministry.

After leaving Northern Ireland in the 1950s, he has served in various Servite missions and ministries through the years.

He has been involved in healing ministry full-time since 1986. At age 84, the priest continues an extensive schedule.

"The Spirit of God flows where it will, but in many cases I believe it's a great grace to have a gradual healing rather than an instantaneous one, in the sense that as I pray for my healing ... I am enriched by my continual prayer and I am becoming holier that way," he has said.

"They're all seeking peace and healing," he said of those who attend his services. "We are all looking for that, especially peace.

"Actually, that's the greatest gift, to have the peace of Christ. You can face anything, even serious sickness and pain."

For more information on Father Rookey's visit to the Diocese of Charlotte, call Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

VOCATIONS

Is God calling you?

Matthew Buettner
Will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte in 2002.

In today's post-modern society, few vocations are as counter-cultural as the priesthood; few vocations are as misunderstood as the priesthood; few vocations are as needed as the priesthood.

Often I am humbled by the awesome mystery of God in light of the gift of His priesthood to the Church. During these times, I also am made uniquely aware of my unworthiness of such a noble calling. However, I receive much joy and consolation through my friendship with Christ and His Church in prayer and the sacraments.

Although I am originally from Peoria, Illinois, I have spent the last two summers in Charlotte parishes where I have enjoyed getting to know the wonderful people whom I will serve in the future. I am very grateful for the opportunity that God has given me to share my gifts with His people in the Charlotte Diocese. At the beginning of this new millennium, I look forward with great expectation to serving Christ and His Church for the salvation of souls.

... Are you answering His call?

For more information about serving God as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, please contact Father John Allen,
The Office of Vocations, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
(704) 370-3353 • vocations@charlottediocese.org

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FIRE TRIED GOLD

A Docudrama about the Catholic Church in South Carolina from 1820 to the beginning of the new millennium.

FIRE TRIED GOLD, a one-hour docudrama about Catholics in South Carolina, will air August 13, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on various stations in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte share a common heritage with the faithful in South Carolina since originally South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia were one Catholic diocese with Bishop John England as its first leader. Produced by Visual Edge Productions in Bethesda, Maryland, FIRE TRIED GOLD presents the story of Bishop John England's vision of a free church in a free society, follows the ravages of the Civil War and its aftermath as blacks and whites struggled to learn about equality and social justice, and concludes with a look at Catholics today as they enter a new millennium. Though small in number, Catholics in South Carolina were forged together by dedicated leaders. They have contributed to the state's growth and history in a significant way and are as much a part of the land as the fabled Carolina live oak tree. FIRE TRIED GOLD is their story.

FIRE TRIED GOLD will air in North Carolina on:

Sunday, August 13
1:00 to 2:00 pm
on
WCNC-TV Charlotte (NBC)

FIRE TRIED GOLD was produced by Paulist Father John Geaney, co-producer of the television documentary *Trappist* with WTVI-TV in Charlotte, N.C. It features interviews with S.C. Supreme Court Justice Jean Toal, Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley, College of Charleston President Alex Sanders, renowned Lutheran theologian Martin Marty, *Slaves in the Family* author Edward Ball, Rt. Rev. Francis Kline, Abbot of Mepkin Abbey, and others.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - JOHN GEANEY, CSP; PRODUCER - GONZALO ACCAME; MUSIC BY MICHAEL WHALEN; WRITTEN BY: JOHN GEANEY, CSP AND JOHN LANDERS;
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: BRUCE LIFFITON; NARRATOR: JOEL KRAGER.

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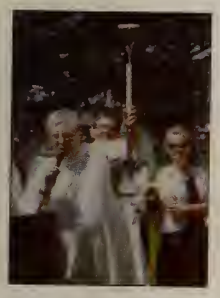

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"Our society must ... combat discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, or age. Such discrimination constitutes a grave injustice and an affront to human dignity."
-- U.S. Catholic Bishops' Administrative Board, "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," p. 22

Costa Rican feast celebrated in Lincolnton

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Dancers added to the festivities at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolton during a Costa Rican celebration.

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

LINCOLNTON — Angels led the procession into St. Dorothy parish. From the tiniest babe adorned with feathery wings, to prepubescent cherubs with halos, the heavenly band of angels left a trail of fragrant flower petals in their wake.

For this largely Costa Rican community, it was the feast celebration to honor the patroness of their homeland. In the Central American country, the second of August would be a national holiday. Hundreds of thousands trek a pilgrim route to the basilica of Our Lady of Los Angeles — the home of La Negrita, a small black statue, a likeness of this Costa Rican patron saint.

But today, on the Aug. 6 liturgical feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, Our Lady of Los Angeles was included in the celebration. It was a little bit of Central America in the heart of Lincoln County.

"Lincolnton is an area where all the Costa Ricans have gathered," said Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina, permanent deacon for St. Dorothy parish. "This is a Costa Rican niche."

Celebrating culture "gives the people a sense of belonging," said Rev. Mr. Medina. "They belong to the church, the parish in Lincolnton, St. Dorothy's. This is their parish, and Catholicity is very well expressed by the people."

Roughly translated as "the little black one," La Negrita — as the Costa Ricans reverently call her —was solemnly crowned in the 1920s, nearly 300 years from the date she revealed herself in the community of Cartago. Stories of her appearance vary, but it's generally accepted the Holy Virgin became visible to a young peasant girl in 1635.

A shrine, a Byzantine-style

SEE LINCOLNTON, PAGE 8

Charlotte City Council to discuss moratorium issue

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — In a move praised by death penalty moratorium proponents as progress toward a teaching moment, Charlotte's City Council on July 24 voted to discuss the moratorium issue at its next meeting.

The council voted 9-2 in favor of the discussion, slated for its next meeting on Aug. 28. At hand will be whether the city should adopt a resolution that supports a moratorium, a period during which the death penalty is suspended to allow time for study of capital punishment, its implementation and its possible faults.

Five city councils in North Carolina, including the town of Davidson's within the Charlotte Diocese, have already adopted resolutions.

Members of local faith communities and others supporting a moratorium in this state lauded the Charlotte City Council's vote as an opportunity to take a hard look at what continues to be a controversial topic in the United States.

"Our challenge has been to get faith congregations to sign a resolution on a moratorium," said Ted Frazer, a parishioner of St. Peter Catholic Church and a member of the Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now (CCMN), a grassroots advocacy group spearheading local moratorium efforts.

"Our challenge now is to offer good, articulate reasons why the council ought to be concerned about and vote unanimously on this issue," he added. "Our hope is that by bringing the dialogue to the Charlotte City Council, that other people will become interested in the issue."

He voiced hope that supporters of a moratorium will attend the meeting in droves. "We encourage people to come down to the meeting and show support," he said.

Critics of the vote said a city council is not the proper vehicle for a discussion on the moratorium

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY JOE BENTON

Msgr. Lawrence McInerny (left), pastor of Stella Maris Church, and the Rev. James A. Holmes (right) of Washington United Methodist Church joined clergy from the Lutheran and Episcopal churches. See story, page 9.

Missionaries scarce in northern Vietnam, says church official

SON TAY, Vietnam (CNS) — A church official in northern Vietnam said many non-Christians in his diocese have expressed their wish to become Catholics, but there are not enough missionaries to help them. While compiling a book called "One Hundred Years of Hung Hoa Diocese, 1895-1995," Father Joseph Nguyen Van Dinh, coordinator of parish councils for Hung Hoa Diocese, estimated that some 40,000 people have expressed their desire to become Catholics, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "However, the problem is that there are not enough qualified church workers to teach catechism," he told UCA News recently. He added that the local church currently relies on catechists to do the evangelization work.

Friars, U.S. park service meet over Appalachian Trail dispute

NEW YORK (CNS) — The head of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement said that a productive meeting with National Park Service representatives should help the two parties reach agreement on a property dispute involving the Appalachian Trail. The hiking trail, which stretches for more than 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine, goes across the property of the Atonement Friars in New York. The meeting was about the park service's efforts to take about 20 acres of the friars' property by the power of eminent domain to increase protection for the trail area. Father Arthur M. Johnson, the friars' minister general, said that, pending efforts to work out a solution, the park service would suspend its earlier move to have the Justice Department pursue the case legally.

Church leaders welcome Nigerian Senate leader's removal

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS) — Nigerian church officials welcomed the removal of the president of the Senate after a parliamentary inquiry into corruption. The vice president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, Archbishop Felix Job of Ibadan; Archbishop Peter Jatau of Kaduna; and Msgr. Festus Okafor all described the removal of Senate President Chuba Okadigbo as a means by which God is purifying and purging Nigeria. Archbishop Job said Aug. 9 the removal of Okadigbo is a development that bodes well for the country's nascent democracy and that "God is really at work in Nigeria."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Iraqi boy joins call for end of sanctions

An Iraqi boy puts up a poster outside the U.N. office in Baghdad Aug. 6 demanding a stop in bombing and end to U.N. sanctions. Sanctions were imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Fides reports Chinese Catholic protest at defiance against Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Chinese Catholics protested the ordination of four priests without Vatican approval in early August, highlighting a growing dissatisfaction among the faithful toward church leaders who defy Rome, said Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency. Four priests — three for the Diocese of Beijing and one for the Diocese of Nanjing — were ordained Aug. 6 in an early morning liturgy at Beijing's "official" Nantang cathedral. During the service's entrance procession, "part of the faithful abandoned the church" in protest, said Fides in an Aug. 7 report. Out of a usual Mass attendance of 1,500 parishioners, only 700 turned out for the ordination, the news agency said.

Knights gather in Boston for 118th international meeting

BOSTON (CNS) — Following a golden crucifix into the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston and dozens of other members of the Catholic hierarchy celebrated a special liturgy for some 2,000 Knights of Columbus and their family members. The Knight's Aug. 1-3 gathering in Boston for their 118th annual international meeting drew a rare assemblage of 75 cardinals, archbishops and bishops from the United States, Canada and places as far away as Rome and Guam. "My brother Knights, how appropriate it is in this jubilee year that your supreme convention should lift high the cross," Cardinal Law said in his homily to a packed cathedral during the Aug. 1 Mass.

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Associate Editor: Jimmy Rostar
Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
Advertising Representative: Cindi Feerick
Secretary: Jane Glodowski
Freelance Production Associate: Fred Stewart Jr.
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 27 - 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte
1:30 p.m.
Address to LIMEX students
St. John Neumann, Charlotte
August 28 - 10 a.m.
Mass
Bishop McGuinness, Winston-Salem
September 4 - 11 a.m.
Smoky Mountain Vicariate Celebration Mass
and Confirmation
St. Joseph, Bryson City
September 6 - 7 p.m.
Mass and installation of Father John T. Putnam as pastor of Holy Infant, Reidsville

Diocesan planner

August

21 CHARLOTTE — Servite Father Peter Mary Rookey, known as the "healing priest," is celebrating Mass at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., beginning tonight at 6:30 p.m. with a Servite rosary service. Father Rookey will also be the celebrant at Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., in Charlotte on Aug. 22, and at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in Hendersonville on Aug. 23. For more information, call Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6050.

23 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, for a memorial Mass in honor of those who have passed away during the month. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 for more information and with the name(s) of loved ones so that they may be remembered at Mass.

25 WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is having its semi-annual fall and winter children's clothing sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. this morning and from 8 a.m.-noon tomorrow in the activity center. The proceeds from this sale will benefit church and outreach programs. To donate or for more information, call Linda Hutchinson at (336) 748-8277 or Liz Matthews at (336) 768-6641.

27 CHARLOTTE — The Youth in Action group from Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is sponsoring a dedication and blessing of the newly renovated cultural center today after 11 a.m. Mass. Refreshments are being served after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. For more information, contact Nanette Lide, youth minister, at (704) 536-

Monroe Catholic community breaks ground for new church

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

MONROE — Within a painted outline of a church yet to be built, the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes celebrated both its history and a new beginning.

In the next couple of years, parishioners will move into a new church in the shadows of the current worship space. The parish broke ground Aug. 12 during a bilingual ceremony that reflected the community's faithful optimism and its multi-cultural heritage.

Anglo and Latino parishioners prayed and sang as parish and diocesan officials presided at the ceremony. Spiritan Father Ed Vilkauskas, the pastor of the Monroe church, called the occasion a sacred moment.

"Both soil and souls are being turned upward," said Father Vilkauskas. "With shovels in hand, scores of families ... have come from throughout the parish in Union County as a community of faith."

The new 450-seat church will serve the needs of a parish whose roots are embedded in the time of World War II. It was in 1942 that priests of the Fathers of Mercy from Brooklyn, N.Y., arrived in Monroe to start a church here. Nearby Camp Sutton had previously been established, and at that camp,— hundreds of soldiers — Catholics among them — trained.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish was established May 10, 1942. The community, still mostly composed of soldiers and their spouses, gathered at local venues for Mass until a church was built on the current property on Franklin and Deese streets. Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the church April 24, 1946.

The parish grew over the years, despite the departure of the soldiers after the war. The Spiritan Fathers, with Father Vilkauskas as pastor, have staffed the parish since 1988. At the end of this month, Father Vilkauskas enters a new assignment at the direction of his community, and the parish will be staffed with diocesan personnel. Father Luis Osorio-Salazar, one of the diocese's newly ordained, has already assumed his role as parochial vicar here.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe were invited to bring soil from their own property to add to the groundbreaking ceremony.

Especially in recent years, the parish has seen an influx of Latino parishioners who bring a different culture but the same sense of being a faith community that has existed here for more than a half-century.

It is that sense of community that Father Vilkauskas called special attention to during the ceremony.

"The work we're beginning today, then, should enliven our faith and make us grateful," said Father Vilkauskas. "We know the familiar words of the psalm: 'If the Lord does not build a house, in vain do the laborers labor.'"

"Whenever we look to the interests of our neighbors, the community, and serve them, then we are in a sense God's own co-workers," he added.

The pastor urged the congregation to seek God's grace during this special time in the history of the parish.

"This will be a privileged place where God can dwell with his people for years and years to come," he said. "This will be a place of music. This will be a place of poetry. This will be a place of prayer ... wherein God draws all the human corners to center, into a unity — many people, many gifts, but one in Christ Jesus, around his table."

In addition to their own shovels to overturn soil at the groundbreaking, parishioners were invited to bring soil from their property to pour into an opening in the ground over which the altar will someday reside in the new church. The gesture, said Father Vilkauskas, added to the sense of community and ownership all communities of faith share.

Latino parishioners led a special procession in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, to whom a shrine will be dedicated in the new church. Carrying a statue of Mary and jars of earth brought from the original Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine in Tepeyac, Mexico, the Latino parishioners offered their prayers for a faith-filled future in the Monroe parish as well.

"This event ends a few years and many months of planning, prayer, dreaming and hard work on the part of many people," said Father Vilkauskas, giving special thanks to the pastoral council, church planning committee, the capital campaign committee, architects John and Anna Lewandowski, builders John S. Clark Construction, and diocesan officials including Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor.

The pastor also took time to thank the parish, whose faithfulness and dedication has inspired the pastor in his more than a decade of service in Monroe.

In this jubilee year, he said, the parish has a special reason to be thankful — and to continue being that strong family devoted to God.

"This year is a time of grace for all Christians and certainly for this community of faith, this parish," he said. "(It is) a celebration of the rebirth of Christ among us, in the holy temple of glory made not by human hands but by hearts in love with Christ and connected to his service."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Elder Ministry schedules "Fall Days"

Catholic Social Services' Elder Minstry has announced three regional Fall Days of Reflection for seniors at the following locations: Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, Oct. 12; St. Mark Church in Huntersville on Oct. 19; and St. Elizabeth Church in Boone on Oct. 26.

All times are 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and registration is $8 per person. Advance registration is required by Sept. 26 for Hickory, Oct. 4 for Huntersville and Oct. 18 for Boone. Space is limited at the Hickory and Boone locations.

For further information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 370-3220 or Meg Smith at (828) 464-8442.

2340.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte area monthly ultreya meets today from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., in the parish center. For more information, contact Dan Hines at (704) 339-2076.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the recently added office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

28 CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the meeting or about the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

September

1 HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., is holding a Latin Mass at 7 p.m. tonight followed by benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend, and for more information, call the church office at (336) 884-0244.

2 SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place today at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464 or Linda Knauer at (828) 631-3561.

4 CLEMMONS — There is a charismatic Mass being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

8 HOT SPRINGS — "A Spiritual Retreat for a Creative Mind" is a women's retreat being led by Mercy Sister Soledad Aguilo, artist and educator, and being held at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, today through Sept. 10. For more information, call Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, director, at (828) 622-7366.

10 CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., cancer support group invites all to attend a special Mass at 5:30 p.m. for the sick and their families and friends with the sacrament of anointing of the sick being administered after Mass. For more details, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 or Bob Poffenbarger Sr. at (704) 553-7000.

11 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their September cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days because of the Labor Day weekend: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center, St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. in the activity center in classroom 5. For more information, call these contacts: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

BMHS capital campaign exceeds goal as plans continue

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — As returning students start anew in their familiar surroundings at Bishop McGuinness High School for the year, plans for a new high school in the Triad area are well underway. In the summer of 2001, the school will be completed, thanks in large part, to the generosity of individuals and businesses.

The capital campaign goal of $2 million has been exceeded by nearly a million dollars, to place the total at $2.9 million as of Aug. 14, stated Warren Corgan, general BMHS capital campaign committee chairman. "All pledges were solicited by a three-city team, headed up by Bob Davis in Greensboro, Ken Hughes in High Point and Bill Lawler in Winston-Salem, which included approximately 150 volunteers from throughout the Triad area, and promotional work by John Ceneviva, communications chairman."

Corgan added that one of the keys to the success of the campaign was the donations from corporations and other organizations.

"One of the things I am most gratified about is the level of support from businesses and foundations who played a major role in guaranteeing the success of the campaign and seeing them step forward in support of this effort," agreed George Repass, principal of BMHS. "We feel richly blessed to have this kind of response from businesses and foundations, which is a testimony of the faith in the future of BMHS's unique contribution to education in the Triad."

The new school, now in its steel frame and cement phase, will also contribute to the growing Catholic population in the Piedmont-Triad area. Located on Highway 66, south of Interstate 40, the two-story building will be able to accommodate 800 students at its capacity, with a chapel seating 225 and a cafeteria seating 320. Amenities include a media center, music and art classrooms, computer labs, bookstore and athletic fields for baseball, soccer, track and field and softball.

"The new high school will be in centralized location and will provide a vehicle that will allow families to send their children to a school that fosters a faith-based education," said Corgan.

The present 40-year-old structure, which was designed to hold about 250 students, has been expanded as much as the building will allow by dividing large classrooms and adding temporary classrooms. With 310 students enrolled for this new school year and more teens waiting to become a part of the Catholic education system, the new building could not be coming at a better time.

"One of the earliest requests I received when installed as bishop in April 1994 was a petition to build a new high school in the Triad area," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "I take this opportunity to express my prayerful and heartfelt gratitude to all who devoted their time, energy and talents in making this possible."

"I am especially mindful of the leadership of Warren Corgan, the three city chairmen, George Repass and the effort of the committees," said Bishop Curlin. "I look forward to the joyful occasion when we will formally bless the new BMHS building."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Council, from page 1

matter, but rather the issue is one to take up at the state and federal levels.

Frazer emphasized that a key goal for moratorium proponents who attend the council meeting will be to point out why this is a matter that should be of concern at the city government level. At a recent meeting of CCMN, members discussed that challenge and noted that the moratorium issue is a city issue on several counts:

— Suggesting that the city council discuss a moratorium on — rather than abolition of — the death penalty, members pointed out that Charlotte takes pride in a history of deliberate and civil dialogue on public policy. As a logical first step in approaching the state government, they said, the city council can encourage the General Assembly to begin a comprehensive study of the death penalty allowed within a moratorium.

— The death penalty, they said, is the only government program that calls for a citizen's life to be deliberately taken by the state. The execution of the condemned is the ultimate form of direct government action, they added.

— Members pointed out that the United States is the only western democracy still employing capital punishment, and even within this country, only a subset of the states that do authorize it actually use the death penalty.

— Members also say that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department plays a key role involved in the administration of death penalty cases in the city. City employees, they said, are thus directly involved in the death penalty policy's enforcement.

Internationally to locally, the Catholic Church is among those making headlines in the moratorium debate, which has been heightened of late with growing scrutiny by those on all sides of the issue.

Pope John Paul II has endorsed an international moratorium on and the end of capital punishment, calling the death penalty during a 1999 visit to the United States "both cruel and unnecessary."

On Good Friday of this year, North Carolina Catholic Bishops William G. Curlin of Charlotte and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh joined a growing number of U.S. bishops who are releasing official statements calling for a moratorium, and ultimately, an end to the death penalty.

"This is not an easy issue," the N.C. bishops wrote in their letter. "All of us need to consider how we will stand up for life for all human beings, how we will stand with the victims of crime and how we can work for a society that imposes justice without violence."

Want to go?

The Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now urges those in favor of a moratorium to attend the Charlotte City Council Meeting Aug. 28 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Government Center, 600 E. 4th St. Parking is available in the deck at 232 Davidson St. At press time, the agenda for the meeting was not available.

Jim Cooney, an attorney and member of CCMN, and Peter Gilchrist, Mecklenburg County district attorney, will lead an open discussion on whether North Carolina needs a moratorium Aug. 27 from 4–5:30 p.m. at Providence United Methodist Church, 2810 Providence Rd. in Charlotte.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Diocesan priest "retires" to Alaskan mission circuit

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — It's common for priests to celebrate three or four Masses on any given Sunday. But when they travel several hundred miles by plane, car or snowmobile to celebrate those Masses, the term *ordinary time* takes on a new meaning.

Msgr. Richard Allen, a retiring priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, leaves the swelter of the Queen City this month for Anchorage, Alaska, where he has become the newest "circuit priest" in an archdiocese that covers nearly 140,000 square miles. Long-known for his devotion to missionary work and a spirit of adventure, Msgr. Allen said this new opportunity takes him back a half-century.

"When I first came to North Carolina in the early '50s, the thing that attracted me to this place was small parishes, the small number of Catholics in relation to the population and the religious atmosphere of North Carolina," said Msgr. Allen, a native of upper New York State. "It was a very inviting thing."

With an invitation from Anchorage Archbishop Francis Hurley, Msgr. Allen felt a tug toward Alaska, which he has visited several times. In his encounters there, he drew connections to his southern home.

"They truly have a sense of church," he said of the people within the archdiocese's territory, adding that about 10 percent of the population in that region is Catholic. "It's like it was here in North Carolina years ago — most of the churches that we say Mass in are shared with another denomination, or we borrow from them.

"You make do with what you have, and it's wonderful to be able to do that. There's a great openness."

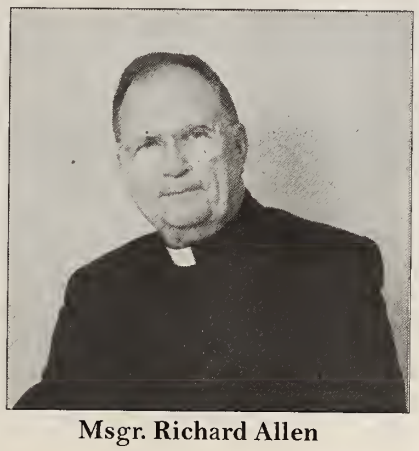
Msgr. Allen, 70, joins eight priests from other dioceses who compose the circuit mission in the Anchorage Archdjocese. While they might assist at the archdiocese's 20 parishes when needed, most of the circuit priests' work is done in mission outposts scattered through some of the region's most rural locales.

"We get there however we can — by car, by snowmobile, by dogsled, by airplane. You name it. Even snowshoes. I've got to learn how to use those," Msgr. Allen said with a chuckle.

He recalled one weekend visit last October when he celebrated Mass on a Saturday afternoon, spent the evening with a homesteader's family, flew to two sites the next morning for Mass, visited a hospital, said another afternoon Mass and returned to Anchorage Sunday evening.

The priests rotate through the missions, and Msgr. Allen noted that one priest seldom visits the same place each week.

The mission farthest from Anchorage is 900 miles away. The archdiocese, which covers the south-central section of the state, also has a mission in Magadan, Russia.



Msgr. Richard Allen

"The whole nature of the new frontier is something I've always liked, and I really like the people who are part of that and the church that's part of it."

—Msgr. Richard Allen

Although a licensed pilot himself, Msgr. Allen said he hopes to let others take the controls of the small planes over the Alaskan landscape. "I could use my flying skills, but I am a fair-weather flyer, and there's not much fair weather on a consistent basis in Alaska," he said.

Lay people or religious usually serve as administrators of the missions, taking care of running the churches during the week. The circuit priests offer sacramental and pastoral ministry when they arrive: celebrating Mass, visiting hospitals, marrying couples, conversing with parishioners.

On weekdays, the priests help however they can in the city of Anchorage, where Msgr. Allen said the Catholic Church's presence is growing. The church owns the medical center there, and has an archdiocesan grade school and high school in town, too. The church also has a hand in the local homeless shelter, as well as Covenant House, a shelter for runaway youth.

Ordained in 1956 by Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh, Msgr. Allen said an early pastoral stint at St. Ann Church in Smithfield, N.C., fostered his appreciation for connection with people and places.

"Those folks taught me an awful lot about church, and they taught me an awful lot about the importance of being in touch with people and being involved in the community," he said of his former parish, then composed of about 60 families.

He'd later spend summers on the road, as part of a "motor mission" that brought the church to then-rural spots like Mooresville, Statesville and Mocksville. Today, parishes bustle in all three of those places.

Through the years, Msgr. Allen's pastoral assignments included moves into larger parishes like St. Patrick Cathedral and St. Ann Church in Charlotte, but he never lost that missionary spirit. It is the same spirit that draws him to Alaska.

"The whole nature of the new frontier is something I've always liked," he said. "And I really like the people who are part of that and the church that's part of it."

He will dearly miss the friends and associations he has made in western North Carolina, he said. But Msgr. Allen, who has never taken a sabbatical in his 44 years as a priest, said the opportunity to learn something new summons him.

"I look forward to being patient enough, to taking the time to let the people and the mountains talk to me for a little bit, and tell me where I need to be," he said. "I don't go up there with a lot of agenda, and I'm sure I'll make mistakes. But nonetheless, I think it'll probably be like starting over — like when I first came to North Carolina."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Pope tells youths to open their hearts to missionary spirit

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — With the stage set for a week of World Youth Day activities in Rome, a smiling Pope John Paul II welcomed the first of an expected 1.2 million young people and told them to open their hearts to the missionary spirit. "Christ needs souls who know how to witness to the world the radical newness of the Gospel," he told thousands of young jubilee volunteers Aug. 12. "I ask you to open your hearts to him with generosity, so that after your stay in Rome you can return to your homes even more filled with an apostolic spirit, to be courageous missionaries of the new evangelization," he said.

Bishops to head U.S. church delegation to African countries

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three U.S. bishops will lead a fact-finding delegation to five African nations in late August to assess the situation of displaced people and discuss ways to improve global assistance to the countries. The delegation will travel Aug. 18-30 to Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, the Republic of Congo and Kenya. Bishop Phillip F. Straling of Reno, Nev., and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, representing the bishop's Committee on Migration, will head the delegation with Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., representing Catholic Relief Services, the bishops' international relief and development agency.

Priest sees church changed by growing number of Latinos

FRANKLIN, Wis. (CNS) — The growing number of Latino Catholics is transforming the Catholic Church in the United States, a Hispanic theologian told participants at a summer theology institute in the Milwaukee Archdiocese. But the North American church needs to treat Latinos pastorally and not "run roughshod" over their sensitivities and popular religiosity in a drive for theological consistency, he said. Jesuit Father Allan Figueroa Deck, executive director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, Calif., and theology professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, spoke Aug. 3 at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Franklin.

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Solo pilgrim walks, prays along Indiana road

Sue Korlan of South Bend, Ind., makes her way down state route 41 near Lowell, Ind., in late July. A member of the Pilgrim Cross Ministries, she walks over 15 miles a day in an attempt to visit all jubilee churches and shrines in the state.

Noted labor priest gets Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. George G. Higgins, since the 1940s one of America's most noted labor priests, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in White House ceremonies Aug. 9. "For more than 60 years now, he has organized, marched, prayed and bled for the social and economic justice of working Americans," President Clinton said in conferring the award. "His faith and his courage have strengthened not only our nation's labor unions, but our American union," Clinton added. The award citation focused mainly on Msgr. Higgins' work in the labor movement, but it also highlighted his pioneering efforts in Catholic-Jewish relations and his leadership in civil rights and religious tolerance.

CUA vice president struck and killed by vehicle

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A memorial Mass was celebrated Aug. 4 for Vincent P. Walter, 62, vice president and general secretary of The Catholic University of America, who was killed Aug. 3 when a van went out of control and struck him as he walked along a sidewalk. Witnesses reported the van swerved to avoid a car that was leaving a parking spot on a busy Washington street. It clipped the car, hit a second car, and then jumped the curb and struck Walter, who was pinned underneath the vehicle. Walter died not long after being struck. Bystanders pulled him from underneath the van and tried to revive him.

Bishop Kaniecki of Fairbanks, 65, dies of heart attack

EMMONAK, Alaska (CNS) — Bishop Michael J. Kaniecki of Fairbanks, 65, died of an apparent heart attack Aug. 6 while in the western Alaska village of Emmonak to celebrate a confirmation Mass. Father Patrick Bergquist, a member of the diocesan Presbyteral Council, told the Anchorage Daily News that shortly before the Mass, Bishop Kaniecki "had complained of a headache, took some aspirin and went for a short walk outside the church." Parishioners said they saw the bishop collapse outside Sacred Heart Church. Local health aides tried cardiopulmonary resuscitation for a time but with no success, and the bishop was pronounced dead at 11:45 a.m. local time in consultation with a physician from a regional hospital.

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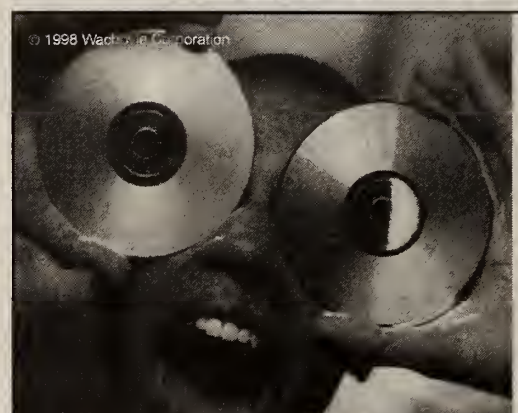

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Catholic Magsaysay awardee inspired by Jesus' birth

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, India (CNS) — Jockin Arputham, winner of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award for international understanding, attributes the inspiration for his work among slum dwellers in Mumbai to Jesus' humble birth.

"A poor woman without a house reminds me of Mary, who had no place to give birth to Jesus, and I feel like doing something to help her own her own home," Arputham, 53, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

The Catholic social worker, who lives in a slum in the western Indian city of Mumbai, sees his "little humble work" as "a manifestation of Jesus reaching out to the poor."

Arputham said providing houses to slum women is rewarding work, as it helps them realize their dream of owning a house they can turn into a home.

He describes the Magsaysay award as a recognition "of the existence of the poor and the squalid squatter settlements" that dot the pavements and railway tracks of Mumbai, formerly Bombay.

The Manila-based Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation cited Arputham for "extending the lessons of community building in India to Southeast Asia and Africa and helping the urban poor of the two continents improve their lives by learning from one another."

The Catholic social worker, who lives in a slum in the western Indian city of Mumbai, sees his "little humble work" as "a manifestation of Jesus reaching out to the poor."

Other awardees are Aruna Roy of India for community leadership; Jesse Robredo of the Philippines for government service; Liang Congjie, who founded China's first environmental group, for public service; and Atmakusumah Astraatmadja of Indonesia for journalism.

Arputham, a native of Bangalore, recalled that he came to work as a carpenter in Mumbai, India's commercial capital, in 1963 and lived in its first legal slum, Mankhurd Janata (People's) Colony.

He said the filth and garbage that filled the colony of mostly displaced people made him want to do something about it.

Since the civic council did not come to clear the rubbish, Arputham gathered some youths and dumped it before the council office at 7 a.m. every day. After a few days, the council sent a van to collect the garbage.

Arputham said he set up the National Slum Dwellers Federation in 1975 to liaise with government and volunteer agencies. He has provided more than 5,000 homes for migrant workers and slum and pavement dwellers in Mumbai since then.

"Slum dwellers are treated like dogs, as they have no place in society," Arputham said, adding that the federation now has 600 "slum pockets" and that it has united several slum groups to cover 230,000 families in the city.

In 1985 he formed the Mahila Milan (Women's Union) in slums because "women alone can change a family's life for the better." The women's union now encourages people to save money daily to buy their houses. Families build the tenements or buy them mainly from their savings, Arputham said.

"Owning a house has given them self-respect and dignity," said Arputham, who lives in a two-room unit in a slum with his wife Rita and daughter Gloria, 21.

Arputham said he will donate the $50,000 award money to the Mahila Milan to build houses for the poor in Mumbai.

The awardee said he took social work seriously in 1964 when authorities evicted him from his slum.

"I realized the need for unity and formed a front to fight for our rights," he recalled.

He now encourages women to fight for drinking water, toilets and electricity because he is convinced that "qualitative change in slums" is impossible without women's initiative.

"I began my life living in a slum and one must be close to one's cause," Arputham said.

The Magsaysay Awards, often referred to as the "Asian Nobel Prizes," were established in honor of former Philippine president Ramon Magsaysay, who died in a 1957 plane crash.

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Lincolnton, from page 1

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

The Costa Rican community of St. Dorothy Church brings a multi-cultural flair to the Lincoln County parish. Pictured is the parish planning committee.

basilica, was erected and its interior is literally covered with demure likenesses of body parts; little metallic images left in thanks for cures and miracles attributed to Our Lady of Los Angeles. Pope Pius XI named the site as the shrine of Queen of the Angels in 1935.

Back in Lincolnton, an overflow gathering filled the 350-seat parish. People spilled into the narthex and further into the parish hall for the celebration of Mass. From the closing procession, parish members, their families and friends squeezed into the parish hall for a secondary celebratory feast: native cuisine.

A line quickly formed, and piles of rice, beans and chicken scooped onto disposable plates disappeared as quickly as it was served.

Young women danced to the Latin beat as their colorful costumes swirled into a blend of kaleidoscopic tones and hues. The little angels donned their wings as they joined their friends caught up in the festive pace.

It took a month of planning for this culinary feast, with a committee comprised of: Yolira and Luis Pochet, Luis Angel Ugalde, Alvaro Rodriguez, Blanca Vargas, Alexandra Sibaja, Juan Vega, Maria Elena, Alexis Rosales, Victor Quesada Lopez, Ligia Jara Mora, Eduardo Casbro, Lrian Sanchez, and Edwin Araya. This group coordinated the fiesta, as they, and other parish members took responsibility for the lavish layout of traditional Costa Rican food and drink.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Ty Mashburn, age 1 1/2, played one of the angels at the celebration.

For many, it was an opportunity to celebrate and perhaps visit with friends not seen for some time. Moreover, Rev. Mr. Medina says, it is a richness of faith not just localized, but universal and expressed among, and shared with the community.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Operation Rice Bowl Mini-Grants Awarded

CHARLOTTE — Like ripples in a pond each year the Operation Rice Bowl mini-grant awards spread Catholic social teachings to broader areas of the diocese. This year 13 recipients will use the grants for strengthening relationships with communities in Nicaragua, El Salvador and with immigrant and migrant populations right here in western North Carolina.

The seven-member Catholic Relief Services Diocesan Committee awards the grants from the 25 percent of the annual Operation Rice Bowl contributions that remains in the diocese. The remaining 75 percent of each year's collection is forwarded to national CRS for its worldwide programs. During this ORB 25th anniversary year Catholics in the Charlotte diocese contributed $52,053.06.

Promoting solidarity between local church and school communities and global communities is the focus of the mini-grant program, established in 1997 by the CRS Diocesan Committee. Recipients this year include:

St. Joseph Vietnamese parish, Charlotte, for text books and supplies to be used in the faith formation program; **St. Aloysius parish**, Hickory, for materials used in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program for the Lahu Adult Literacy Program; **St. Andrew parish**, Mars Hill, for materials to train immigrant leaders to more fully participate in sacraments, liturgy and faith formation; **Holy Angels parish**, Mt. Airy, to purchase materials to enhance a rapidly increasing Hispanic population; **St. Joseph parish**, Bryson City, for materials in Spanish to promote parish activities and involvement among Hispanics; **St. Elizabeth parish**, Boone, to provide materials for ESL classes for migrant workers; **St. Francis of Assisi parish**, Jefferson, for materials to nurture the spiritual growth and just working conditions for the Hispanic population; **All Saints Catholic School**, Charlotte, to assist with shipment of school supplies they will collect for children in Nicaragua; **St. Luke parish**, Mint Hill, to support a parish-wide, intergenerational program to foster greater interaction with other cultural groups, particularly **Centro Hispanico**; **Sacred Heart parish**, Salisbury, to encourage service by confirmation candidates to immigrants who are poor in the local community; **St. James parish** in Hamlet and **Sacred Heart parish** in Wadesboro, to provide materials for nurturing involvement of the Hispanic community in the local parishes; **St. Peter parish**, Charlotte, to strengthen the relationship between St. Peter parishioners and residents of Ciudad Segundo Montes in El Salvador.

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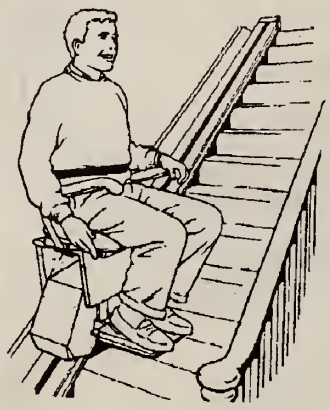

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Charleston hosts interreligious homecoming for Hunley crew

By JORDAN MCMORROUGH
New Catholic Miscellany

NORTH CHARLESTON — When the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley rose to the surface from its resting place at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean near Charleston Harbor the morning of Aug. 8, it was completing a journey begun more than 130 years ago.

And, after arriving at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center at the former Charleston Naval Base to begin perhaps a decade of restoration work, an ecumenical service provided the final ceremony to honor the nine members of the Hunley crew, whose remains are inside the submarine.

Taking part in the ceremony was Msgr. Lawrence McInerny, pastor of Stella Maris Church; the Rev. Edward Counts of St. John's Lutheran Church; the Rev. Alvin F. Kimel Jr., Church of the Holy Communion; and the Rev. James A. Holmes of Washington United Methodist Church.

The event consisted of Scriptures, specifically Psalm 130, a lesson from St. John, a prayer of consecration, a litany for the departed and a sprinkling rite or aspersion used in funeral services.

"It's an honor to be here," said Msgr. McInerny before the ceremony. "This is a reminder that this (the Hunley) is not an artifact. It is a tomb and has been a tomb for more than 130 years. It is a solemn occasion."

The monsignor added that the tale of the Hunley "is a beautiful story of history, valor, and solemnity. It appeals to everyone."

At Stella Maris Parish, bell ringers were the harbinger of the news that the recovery barge carrying the Confederate submarine was entering Charleston Harbor, as crowds lined the beaches at Fort Moultrie to witness a part of history.

Deacon Michael Osbourne of Stella Maris coordinated the bell ringing of churches on Sullivan's Island for the occasion. "We were the lookout," said Msgr. McInerny. "The sentiment expressed by everyone was one of gratitude."

A formal funeral service for the sailors whose remains are still aboard the Hunley will be conducted at a later date, perhaps a year. Currently, interment is planned at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

Republican State Sen. Glenn McConnell spoke briefly prior to the religious service. "We are committed to dealing with the remains with the deepest respect," he said. "This ceremony has no precedent, this blessing of the Hunley."

At the close of the 15-minute reception, a bugler, a Confederate reenactor in a white period naval uniform, blew taps.

Catholic Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte

Here is a list of the Catholic Campus Ministers in the Diocese of Charlotte:

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Colleen McDermott
1123 South Church Street
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Director of Development for Campus Ministry
Reverend Dr. Frederick Dobens
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-370-3371
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Appalachian State University, Boone
Campus Minister: Dr. Sal Inglese
828-265-9698

Belmont Abbey College, Belmont
Campus Minister: Katy Volponi
704-829-7196
kponitale@juno.com

Bennett College, Greensboro
Campus Minister: Alberta Hairston
336-272-5868
theahouse1@juno.com

Brevard College, Brevard
Campus Minister: James Gensch
828-883-9572
gallivant@citcom.net

Catawba College, Salisbury
Local Parish Contact: Lynda Cody
704-633-0591

Davidson College, Davidson
Campus Minister: Barbara Bagnall
704-892-2917
BB195@aol.com

Greensboro College: See UNCG
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704-536-2340

Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory
Campus Contact: Rosalie Richards
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Livingstone College:
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Mars Hill College, Mars Hill
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Salem College: See Wake Forest

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem
Camp Minister: Father Jude DeAngelo, OFM Conv.
Associate CM: Julie Ostergaard
336-758-5018
jdeang8015@aol.com

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee
Campus Minister: Gloria Schwiezer
828-293-9374
cath_stu@wcu.edu

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Book Review

Part of ethics series, new book offers reflections on dying

Reviewed by DIMITRA C. BOLGER
Catholic News Service

A book on death is not exactly the kind one likes to mention at parties. Neither is it likely to become the subject of an afternoon book-discussion group.

Although death is not the usual topic of discussion among friends, "The Eternal Pity: Reflection on Dying" still stands out as a recommended book — particularly for discussion in classrooms or book groups.

Edited by Father Richard John Neuhaus, who was named by U.S. News and World Report as one of the 32 "most influential intellectuals in America," the book consists of 26 selections on various aspects of death — our own death and the death of loved ones.

"The Eternal Pity: Reflections on Dying"

edited by Father Richard John Neuhaus. University of Notre Dame Press (Notre Dame, Ind., 2000).

208 pp., $15.00.

The work is commendable for two key reasons: first because of the qualities of the selections themselves, and second because the work fulfills what it endeavors to do — namely, to invite the reader to look at the morality and ethics involved with death.

The book begins with a thought-provoking and insightful introduction in which Father Neuhaus relates his own experiences with life-threatening cancer and chemotherapy. From there, Father Neuhaus invites the reader to explore 26 thought-provoking reflections.

He divides the selections into three parts: "Thinking About Death: Twelve Classic Visions," "When We Die," and "When Others Die."

The readings themselves come in various forms — poetry, literature, essays, and philosophical discourses.

They represent thinkers from many religious and philosophical backgrounds.

As an editor, Father Neuhaus stays true to his role and does not attempt to instruct or convince the reader of any specific viewpoint or argument.

Rather, he merely presents excerpts from a diverse group of thinkers and allows readers to then reach their own conclusions.

More important however is the significance of this book as a learning tool. "The Eternal Pity" is part of a series entitled "Ethics of Everyday Life," edited by members of the Institute on Religion and Public Life in New York.

The series aims to take everyday subjects — such as leadership, work, teaching, and romance — and provides anthologies of reflections on each.

Are these works the best of what prose and poetry have to offer on these subjects? One could always make an argument for adding or removing a reading.

But on a whole, the readings stand out as excellent. Contributions by C.S. Lewis, Pieter de Vries, and Milton Himmelfarb are especially exemplary.

"The Eternal Pity" succeeds because it is a good selection of easy-to-read, diverse and thought-provoking essays.

More important however, the book stands out as an invitation to true intellectualism, as readers are encouraged to think for themselves and to enter into the dialogue which has been ignited by means of these essays and reflections.

Death may never be a favorite topic at parties, but if people read books such as this, death is definitely going to be talked of much more.

Bolger recently received a bachelor's degree in theology, philosophy and Great Books from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is a staff assistant at the U.S. Catholic Conference and continues her studies of Mariology.

Word to Life

Aug. 20, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cycle B Readings:

1) Proverbs 9:1-6
   Psalm 34:2-7
2) Ephesians 5:15-20
3) Gospel: John 6:51-58

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

This week's Scriptures remind me of my own adult conversion to the Christian faith. Or perhaps, I should say my appropriation of the faith as my own, not simply what I was handed as a child.

When the Proverbs reading admonishes the simple who lack understanding to "come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live," I am there.

When I first read these and similar invitations to wisdom when I was in my early 20s and an agnostic, they spoke to my hunger to find that which was solid, that which would lead me to a spiritual maturity I could only long for with the soft-edged longing of the seeker who knows there is something more in life than yet has been grasped.

As I turned to Scripture and prayer, even in my nascent belief, I found that I could say with the psalmist in Psalm 34:5, "I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears," and I came to be able to join with him in the next phrase, as I came to faith: "Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame."

And in time, as the road to full union with the church became possible for me as my interior barriers fell, I came to understand something of what Jesus meant when he uttered the mysteries in the John reading: "Just as the Father who has life sent me, and I have life because of the Father, so the man who feeds on me will have life because of me."

Despite my weakness and foolishness, I came to understand that the fullness of being in God consists in continuing the eucharistic act of offering to God what we are that we may become the bread and wine that we consume — for others.

Question:
Have you taken time lately to remember the first blush of adult faith when you no longer took for granted the goodness of God and the abundance of his mercy toward you?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Aug. 20 - 26, 2000

Sunday, Proverbs 9:1-6, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58; **Monday (St. Pius X),** Ezekiel 24:15-24, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday (The Queenship of Mary),** Ezekiel 28:1-10, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (St. Rose of Lima),** Ezekiel 34:1-11, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (St. Bartholomew),** Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Friday (St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz),** Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 22:34-40; **Saturday,** Ezekiel 43:1-7, Matthew 23:1-12

Readings for the week of Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 2000

Sunday, Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18, Ephesians 5:21-32, John 6:60-69; **Monday (St. Augustine),** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday (Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist),** 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17, Mark 6:17-29; **Wednesday,** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18, Matthew 23:27-32; **Thursday,** 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday,** 1 Corinthians 1:17-25, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday,** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Matthew 25:14-30

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Video Reviews

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

This column looks at the films of Alec Guinness, a Catholic convert, who died Aug. 5 in London at age 86.

"The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957)

Epic World War II adventure based on Pierre Boulle's novel about British POWs in Burma who build a military supply bridge for their Japanese captors while British commandos make their way through the jungle to blow it up. Though the anti-war ending is more hollow than ironic, director David Lean excels in depicting the rigors of prison camp life, the military discipline that sustains the prisoners and, at the story's center, the battle of wills between the British commander (Alec Guinness) and his Japanese counterpart (Sessue Hayakawa) over who will command the work details. Some wartime violence and harrowing camp punishments. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Columbia TriStar)

"The Horse's Mouth" (1958)

Wacky satire from the Joyce Cary novel in which a cantankerous artist (Alec Guinness) moves into the empty residence of an art collector (Robert Coote) and gradually turns it to rubble as he pursues his obsession of painting a giant mural, despite the best efforts of his caring friends (notably Renee Houston). Scripted by Guinness and directed by Ronald Neame, the story is subsidiary to the portrait of the artist as slightly mad, entirely egocentric and yet, for all his nastiness, an endearing old reprobate touched with genius — a challenging role not for all tastes. Some sexual innuendo and disdain for property rights and people in general. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (New Line)

"Kind Hearts and Coronets" (1949)

Stylish black comedy set in Edwardian England where eight members of an aristocratic family (all played by Alec Guinness) die in fatal accidents arranged by a distant relative (Dennis Price) in order to attain the dukedom he believes is rightfully his. Robert Hamer directs the proceedings with wit, elegance and much irony as related in flashbacks by the smoothly caustic perpetrator on the eve of his execution, though Guinness steals the show with his satirical parade of stuffy, doomed aristocrats. Cynical attitude toward murder. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Facets, (800) 331-6197)

"The Lavender Hill Mob" (1951)

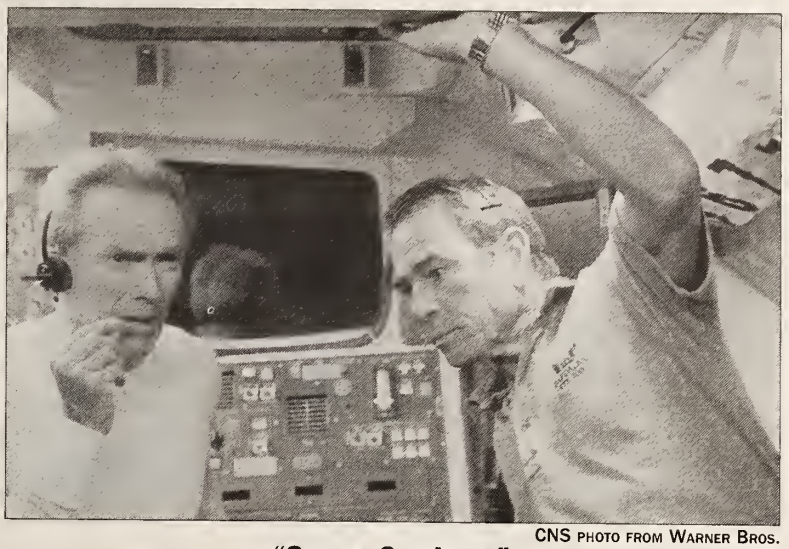
British comedy classic in which a timid bank employee (Alec Guinness) concocts a scheme to hijack a shipment of gold bullion with the aid of professional crooks (Sidney James and Alfie Bass), then melt it down in the foundry of an accommodating sculptor (Stanley Holloway) and recast it as Eiffel Tower souvenirs for export to Paris. Scripted by T.E.B. Clarke and directed by Charles Crichton, it's a tongue-in-cheek depiction of a perfect crime that has one hilarious flaw after another, culminating in a wild police chase through London and a neat twist ending in South America. Comic crime caper and mild menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Facets (800) 331-6197)

"Lawrence of Arabia" (1963)

Set within the frame of a grand adventure is this interesting study of British hero-author T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole), whose World War I exploits in leading the Arabs against the Turks made his literary works popular in the 1920s. Director David Lean focuses on the diverse aspects of the man with an ambiguity suitable to the mystery still surrounding this mythic figure. Bloody wartime battles and implications of a homosexual incident. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar)

"Scrooge" (1970)

British musical version of the Christmas classic concentrates on poor old misanthropic (Albert Finney), a thoroughly craven humbug whose is never believable and hence all the more fun to watch. Directed by Ronald Neame, it's light and amusing fun, using song and dance sparingly but well. The ghosts (Alec Guinness, Edith Evans and Kenneth Moore) are especially imaginative and the mood of the piece is caught by Ronald Searle's delightful caricatures appearing with the credits. For all who still have enough of the child within them to enjoy an old-fashioned bit of make-believe. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Fox Video)



CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.

"Space Cowboys"

Enjoyable action-adventure flick about four retired Air Force pilots (Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland) sent into space 40 years past their prime because only their technical knowledge can stop a malfunctioning Russian satellite from smashing into Earth. While the narrative's plausibility is questionable, director Eastwood's casually paced film maintains interest with colorful characters, impressive visual effects and slight intrigue as well as an unexpected conclusion. Brief menace with intermittent crass language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference 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.

"Star Wars" (1977)

Set in a galaxy other than our own, a desperate struggle takes place between evil usurpers of empire and a dedicated band of rebels (Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Alec Guinness). Written and directed by George Lucas, the outcome never is in doubt because the movie's conventions are as old-fashioned as its story of good triumphing over evil. The special effects are stunning, the characters imaginative and the narrative intriguing. Much stylized violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. — (Fox Video)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope condemns violence in Russia, Spain, Indonesia

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned separate terrorist acts in Russia and Spain and appealed for an end to Christian-Muslim violence in Indonesia.

"I hope with all my heart that every form of violence, the source of mourning and suffering, ceases and that hearts turn toward thoughts of intense and peaceful coexistence," he said Aug. 9 at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Referring to a bomb attack in central Moscow Aug. 8 which killed at least eight people, the pope expressed "my strongest condemnation for this serious attack, while I assure my solidarity, which I accompany with prayer."

Russian police blamed Chechen rebels for the rush-hour blast that struck commuters in a pedestrian underpass. The rebels, waging a guerrilla war against Russian troops in the Caucasus region, were also blamed for last year's wave of Russian apartment bombings that killed hundreds of people.

The pope also condemned a fresh series of bomb blasts across Spain attributed to the Basque separatist group ETA.

He said he extended his prayers "to the victims of the attacks which, unfortunately, continue in Spain."

Three bomb explosions rocked the country in a 24-hour period, leaving five people dead and at least 10 injured. An Aug. 8 blast in a northern residential district of the capital, Madrid, wounded 10 people, including two children. The same day, a car bomb in the northern Spanish town of Zumaya killed a leading businessman, Jose Maria Korta. On Aug. 7, a suspected ETA commander and three accomplices were killed as explosives they were transporting by car detonated in the northern city of Bilbao.

In late July, the pope vigorously condemned ETA's murder of a Spanish politician and emphasized that "no idea or political or social project can be imposed with violence."

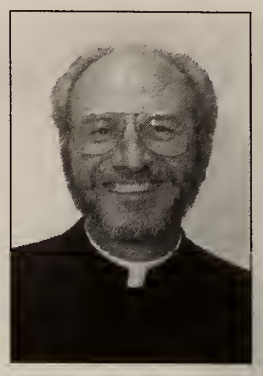
During his Aug. 9 audience, the pope also asked prayers for an end to continuing violence in the Indonesian Molucca Islands. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands have been forced from their homes. In the fighting between Christians and Muslims, dozens of churches and mosques have been burned.

"We want to send thoughts of intense spiritual closeness to those suffering from the death of their loved ones, the loss of the goods necessary for existence and the destruction of their places of worship," he said.

Many inhabitants had been forced to flee the islands, "where they have a right to live in dignity and security," he said.

Pope John Paul prayed that order would be established in the Moluccas, that "the harmony of former days be found again soon, and that Christians and Muslims succeed at coexisting in peace."

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

Transforming the marketplace

For two years I attended a Tuesday Night Group with a dozen business people. We read the Sunday's Scriptures and reflected about the office, factory and marketplace. The group told stories and focused on making the Gospel concrete in everyday life.

Stuart, one of the members, said he worked for an accounting firm in Atlanta. Every year his firm threw a lavish Christmas party in a swank hotel. Inspired by the group, he told his boss he would skip the party because he saw a conflict. On Wednesday nights he and his wife worked at the homeless shelter in downtown Atlanta, and he could not reconcile his Wednesday ministry among Atlanta's poorest with the Christmas party and its elegance. In fact, he challenged the firm to donate his portion of the expenses to the shelter. At first his boss resisted, saying the request would set a precedent, but Stuart prevailed. The amount the firm would have spent on one couple fed 35 people at the shelter.

The challenge for believers today comes frequently as creative opportunities to transform the marketplace. The economic system promotes frivolous consumption, while advertisements further products based on vanity, power, prestige and greed. The market lacks a moral compass and cannot differentiate between profits from authentic creation of wealth, or from the exploitation of workers, the environment or communities. But, people of faith can make a difference.

One need not be a Christian to be honest, fair or respectful. And, reasons for virtue may cover the spectrum from "it's just good business" to a personal conviction about human dignity and the common good. To the casual observer, both a Christian in business and a highly ethical person may act the same.

However, the difference lies in a vision. The person of faith sees God's power at work in the world and believes that power can transform society. God's forgiveness can heal violence, God's generosity can share wealth and God's love can insure a dignified life for every human person. Believers act like the hands and feet of God in the marketplace. But, the hands and feet of the Body of Christ need one another.

There is a follow-up to Stuart's story. When he returned to the office the Monday after the Christmas party, he felt like a pariah. Folks avoided the company conscience. Gradually, on an individual basis, co-workers approached him with their own stories. One told how he supported a boys home for nearly 20 years, another how his spouse volunteers half-time with the Red Cross. Slowly Stuart realized the overtures did not focus on Carribean vacations or new red sports cars.

By his action, Stuart had transformed the level of awareness at the office from self-indulgence to service of others. Believers need their own Tuesday Night Group. Meeting weekly, believers will find time for prayer and reflection. They will maintain their personal values and challenge one another to live a spirituality that will ultimately transform the marketplace.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Saintly tattoos

As you know, the problem with having a large tattoo of St. Francis of Assisi ensconced on your left shoulder is that you might change your mind later and decide that St. Therese of Lisieux is actually your favorite saint. Then where would you be?

Naturally you would have to have a tattoo of the Little Flower memorialized on your right shoulder. This is only fair.

Yet, as fickle as some of us can be, what if you next developed an incredibly deep devotion to St. Anthony? Put him on your shoulder blade?

A person could run the risk of becoming the record book's entry for "most tattoos of saints on his or her body."

I am not aware of this being addressed in either canon law or the catechism, so we Catholics fascinated by the current tattoo craze are kind of on our own on this.

It does make one think of those young World War II sailors who had the names of their girlfriends tattooed on their forearms. More than a couple of those men had those relationships fall through, and they were faced with some sticky options: Tell the new girlfriend that "Bettylu" was hs mother's name; date only girls named "Bettylu"; have "just kidding" tattooed alongside "Bettylu"; change his named to "Bettylu"; always wear long-sleeve shirts.

Truthfully, it would be nice to think some of the young folks taking part in the tattoo fad would have asked these men's advice prior to securing their own skin art, things like, "Do you think having barbed wire tattooed around my neck will present fashion accessorizing challenges in the future?". Or, "To anticipate my body changing a little in a decade or three, do you think a frog, lizard or iguana would warp least and look least like a map of South America on my biceps?"

Of course there is a presumption here: that a tattoo was an informed decision rather than something done after consuming enough "adult" beverage to significantly alter one's vision and ability to snap one's fingers.

Actually, the problem with saint tattoos, according to my friend Winston who knows these things, is finding any at all. And if you have one done, people would probably think St. Francis was Darth Vader. It is definitely a challenge for folks interested in religious art tattoos.

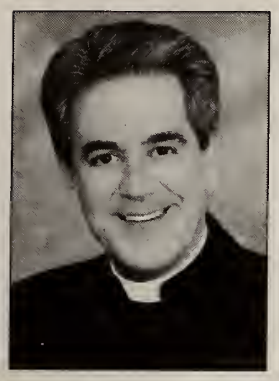
On the positive side, I suspect it will not be long before you will be able to find lick-and-stick temporary tattoos of saints and other religious art in Christian bookstores. This just makes sense.

As a matter of fact, if I were a development or vocations director for the Franciscans or the Carmelites (St. Therese, remember?), I would be hopping on this one.

Can you imagine how popular temporary tattoos of things Catholic could become in Catholic schools and religious education programs across the country? Talk about fund-raising potential.

The Jesuits should be careful, though, if they were thinking about St. Ignatius of Loyola tattoos given the fact that images of their founder do, I am sorry to say, look a lot like Vincent Van Gough or a character from an Ann Rice novel.

Clearly this is an area in need of much more theological reflection and spiritual discernment.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Bon Voyage

About halfway through the blockbuster movie "The Perfect Storm," I broke out in a cold sweat that sent "shivers up me timbers." Instinctively my heart and stomach bonded with the screen characters being helplessly thrashed by the unforgiving sea. In effect, each waterlogged scene stirred up a flashback to my own terror-filled memories of sailing Lake Erie.

From time to time, most of us are bitten by the "travel bug," and usually the bite is not without its pain, especially for those who put out to sea. For sailors and boaters, it is a rare trip on which nothing goes wrong. They understand why the English word "travel" comes from the French word meaning "to suffer."

My hometown is Pennsylvania's port city to the Great Lake of the same name — Erie. During the summers, we natives get the chance to give in to the travel bug by sailing across the lake's borderless wide expanse to visit the shores of Canada. It can be both exhilarating and hazardous.

Exhilarating because on a day when the wind direction and speed are just right, you can trim your sails to reach Long Point, Ontario, within 5 hours of shoving off from Erie's shores. It's just another 20 miles to the always friendly and inviting port of Dover where Canadians really express the Good Neighbor Policy.

Lake Erie is hazardous because it is the most shallow of all the Great Lakes. You might recall Herman Melville's mention of Erie in Moby Dick as an example of how the highest waves are produced by the shallowest waters. In a few seconds, the wind can stir up a nearly placid lake into 12-foot swells.

I recall vividly a cloudless afternoon when the lake was absolute glass. Just as I disconnected the halyard, a line attached to the mainsail, a sudden gust of wind churned up frothy whitecaps that hurled the boat into roller coaster bobs. The halyard snapped from my hand whiplike and flew perpendicular to the mast like a taut clothesline.

My sailing mate, reaching for the line with a pole, lost his balance, slid to the side of the boat, flipped over the lifeline, and plunged headfirst overboard. If it weren't for the pole he took with him, I don't know how I would have retrieved him. Holding it high enough for me to grab as he bodysurfed back to the boat, I was able to hoist him to the side.

Such are the days when everything seems to conspire against you: fog so thick you can't read the compass, an atmospheric charge that electrifies the mast so that a green spark ("St. Elmo's fire") shoots clean down to the keel, water spouts that threaten to rip your sails into tatters. A journey can be difficult, even life-threatening, yet it is part of our nature to believe that risks are ultimately outweighed by potential benefits.

There are many times in life when we keep going purely out of faith and hope. But we have good reason. We proceed, not on our own, but as followers of Jesus who has both laid out the course and followed it. Our ability to recover from setbacks, our power to make the right choices, our stamina to travel through rough weather — all derive from Him. If Jesus could calm a storm at sea with the words, "Peace! Be still!" (Mark 4:30), surely He can calm our troubled souls and guide us home.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Insights from a fisherman on the spirituality of work

I've heard many a fish story in my day, but few caught my attention the way one did recently. I was at one of those nice, big family get-togethers and happened to get in on a discussion about a relatively new way fishermen can now have their fish and eat them too.

A soft-spoken young man named Joe Grieco was showing photos of truly artistically mounted fish, only these weren't real fish bodies preserved by a taxidermist. They were fish reproductions, put together so perfectly that the eye-catching completed product looked absolutely lifelike.

I asked Grieco what I suppose was a poor question to ask a fisherman: What's the allure of fishing for you? He gave me an unexpected answer. "Jesus was a fisherman, and so were most of his disciples. There has to be something very special about fish. At least that's how I feel."

I looked at the photos again, and this time the mounted fish, all Grieco's work, seemed even more alive than before. I was reminded of a conversation I'd had recently with a priest who told me our work should be less about making money and more about finding how we can subtly serve the Lord through our work.

Grieco told me that his father had been a taxidermist and had taught him the skill of preserving animals in a lifelike mode. After his father died, Grieco had carried on the work part time as Joe's Taxidermy, but found himself always choosing to work with fish.

He feels there's something almost spiritual about fish, he says. "The fish was so important in the early church. It was the sign of belonging to Christ."

I remembered that well, because the nuns often told us that the early Christians identified themselves secretly to one another by drawing a fish, frequently using their toes, in the sand of the roads.

When he learned that new processes had been developed for replicating fish, Grieco said he felt this was the direction his work should take.

Another positive side of fish reproductions, Grieco pointed out, is that a taxidermist can do a mounting from a photo.

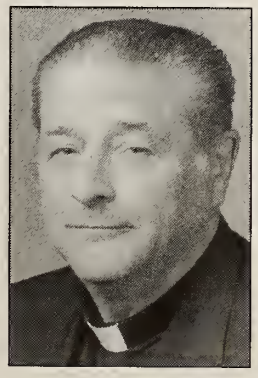
As we talked, I felt this young man was a gentle teacher. He had studied to be a Franciscan brother for a while after high school, and his Catholic faith has remained his great source of strength ever since.

"The best part was learning that we were there in the monastery to help, to uplift one another," he said, "which is what we must also do in the world."

A devoted husband and father of two, he emphasized how Christ became and has remained his trusted companion and refuge. "I feel Christ holds me, and then I, in turn, must hold others."

Recently I have been reading a lot about the spirituality of work. I felt talking with Joe Grieco about what he does with fish, and why, was a textbook on the subject.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

How is justice related to forgiveness?

Q. *Your answer to "Is Forgiveness Really Possible?" was very enlightening. It's not surprising you receive so much mail because this is a very common problem.*

To take this one step further, what about justice? My brother committed various crimes against me and my parents, which ultimately caused my father's death. I forgive him for what he did to me, but that he caused our father's death is something I cannot accept.

I feel I must get justice for my parents. Saying God will punish him is a cop-out. I want to turn to the district attorney, but I keep asking myself whether I am really seeking revenge in disguise.

If we sit and "forgive" everyone's crimes, we may as well abolish the police, courts and jails. Should we not attempt to stop the evil in this world? Revenge seeks to harm. Justice seeks restitution. Can you help me figure this out?

A. First of all, I'm going to assume that when you say crime you mean crime. Crime is an activity, usually quite serious, punishable by law. So not every injustice, even a grave one, is a crime.

Did your brother directly cause your father's death? Or did he bring about a family situation that, as you see it, occasioned the death? These kinds of facts will be significant.

Since you speak of approaching the district attorney, it seems you consider what your brother did as carrying legal sanctions.

If you're not positive, it would be good to find out for sure before beginning a move to the courts. For all this, of course, you will need the advice of an attorney.

You omit in your letter some morally critical information, but a few prudential questions will be essential in any case.

To begin with, you need to identify clearly what you wish to accomplish. You say you do not want revenge or punishment, but restitution. Is this money or something else? How much?

Then, is what you plan to do likely to be successful? For example, is the money, or whatever else, there to be returned?

Is what you want to do likely to accomplish more good than harm for you? Your mother? The rest of the family? Will it bring some closure or just reopen old wounds? Are other avenues possible to achieve your purpose?

This may seem a rather cold approach to an emotional situation. But these are basic, common sense questions to ask if you hope to arrive at prudent and otherwise virtuous decisions that will accomplish something positive for everyone concerned.

After we have reflected and done the best we can, leaving the rest to God is no cop-out. All life on this earth is imperfect, which means that, even morally, everything is not balanced or, if you wish, fair.

That full truth is, and can be, revealed only in eternity is still part of our faith and hope.

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

Shroud of Turin unveiled in Italy for Holy Year showing

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — The Shroud of Turin, the controversial cloth believed by many to have wrapped the body of the crucified Christ, was unveiled in northern Italy for a special two-month showing during the Holy Year.

About 6,000 young people from around the globe, on their way to World Youth Day celebrations in Rome, were on hand for the unveiling Aug. 12 at the Turin cathedral. Hundreds of thousands were expected to view the shroud before the display ends Oct. 22.

Pope John Paul II, speaking from his summer residence outside Rome Aug. 13, said the linen was a "singular witness of Christ."

"Whenever there is an opportunity to contemplate it, one remains deeply moved. This has happened to me, too," he said, recalling his visit to see the shroud in 1998, during its last public showing.

The 17-foot-long cloth, venerated by Christians for centuries, bears the faint imprint of a man and the apparent signs of wound marks that correspond to the crucifixion.

Kept permanently in a special case in the Turin cathedral, it has been shown publicly only four times in the last 100 years.

Carbon-14 testing in 1988 dated the cloth to the Middle Ages, suggesting that the image on the linen was a fake.

But several experts have since questioned the reliability of the 1988 tests, pointing to the possibility of chemical or biological contamination. Meanwhile, church officials have not ruled out future dating attempts.

"The church is not afraid of science," said Turin Archbishop Severino Poletto, who favors additional research on the cloth.

Bruno Barberis, president of a shroud study institute in Turin, told Vatican Radio that he thought additional tests would be carried out on the shroud.

But he doubted that the question of the shroud's authenticity would ever be settled.

In his opinion, he said, there is already enough evidence to identify the image on the shroud with that of Christ.

The church has not pronounced on the authenticity of the shroud, but the pope has asked scientists to keep an open mind as they investigate its properties and origins.

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Parish Secretary/Receptionist: St. John Neumann. 9am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Secretarial skills and experience, computer-literate, personable. Salary negotiable. Benefits. Contact Fr. Thom Meehan, (704) 536-6520 or send resume and references: St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Road, Charlotte, NC 28277. Fax: (704) 536-3147.

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Teachers, Library/Media Specialist: Charlotte Catholic High School has the following openings beginning August 2000: full-time teaching positions for Religion, Drama, English, Math, Spanish, and full-time Library/Media Specialist. Must have NC Certification. Also, part-time Guidance Secretary is needed. Call (704)543-1127 for application.

Teachers: Our Lady of Grace Catholic School in Greensboro, NC (Grades K-8) has openings for a full-time Second Grade teacher, a full-time Middle School Social Studies/Religion teacher, a part-time Middle School Spanish teacher, and a part-time Middle School Computer teacher. lf interested, please contact Ms. Roberta Hutchcraft, Principal, at (336) 275-1522. Applications are available in the school office (2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403) between the hours of 9:00-3:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

Teachers: Sacred Heart School (PreK-8) in Salisbury has the following teacher openings beginning in August: PE, Spanish, 5th Grade, and Middle School Language Arts. NC certification required. Call Kathleen Miller at (704)633-2841.

Teachers: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time Music teacher and part-time Spanish teacher. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview. NC certification required.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. L.A.B.

Youngsters experience faith through arts and music

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Parents and family friends beamed with pride as they clapped for their little ones, and cameras flashed as the young group performed with stars, rainbows and band-aids painted on their faces with their eyes shielded with sunglasses.

It was the final day of the "Gifts of Spirit Here" or GOSH! Arts and Music Camp at St. Luke Church, which lasted from July 31 through Aug. 4, and the young participants were taking part in a play in culmination the week's activities.

This was the first year for the camp, which included about 58 parish children ages 5-10, separated into groups according to age. The youngest children were called the "Smiling Spirit" group, while the other groups were called "Happy Spirits" and "Glad Spirits."

Gail Hunt Violette, the camp coordinator, was inspired with the idea for the camp while sitting in Mass and listening to a homily by Father Joe Mulligan, pastor, about sharing talents with others.

"I wanted to involve St. Luke parishioners and thought about who could work with children to help them to bring out their talents," she said. "Our children are gifts from God, and everyone has special gifts to share.

Violette enlisted the help of Marti Dushak, parish director of music, to offer her ideas and begin each day with a group song. Dushak said she decided to focus on songs that the children were familiar with from Mass and other church events.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M.PRICE

Volunteers Maureen Baisley, 17, and Brian DuBois, 17, lead the Smiling Spirits, five- and six-year-olds, in a song with hand motions at the GOSH! Arts and Music Camp at St. Luke Church in Charlotte.

"I wanted to keep the music upbeat so that the kids could move and dance. I knew that they would be sharing their gifts with everyone at the ending performance," explained Dushak.

Each day began with a daily scripture, and the first quote from Psalm 127:3 was a direct reflection of the idea of the camp: "Children are a gift from God, they are His reward ..."

The children participated in two classes per day based around the day's Scripture, including pencil drawing and sketching, a visit from and elderly residents and Kelly Gibson, director of activities, dressed as a clown, from the Little Flower Assisted Living Community, watercolor and oil pastel painting, photography and videography.

The final day was filled with singing, liturgical dancing and a theatrical performance led by the five- and six-year-old children, explained Violette.

"I liked the singing the most," said Magdlena Rabiipour, 8. "It made me think about the love of Jesus and how great he is."

Violette also had the aid of several parent and teen volunteers who helped to keep the children going in the right direction from class to class and to lead the singing and activities.

"This ties arts and music to our religion," said Michele Raskob, who helped with the younger children and face painting.

"Our children need validation because they are oftentimes ignored as far as their spirituality is concerned. This is one way that the children can feel good about their religion and their church."

Mary-Brigid Spence, a parent volunteer who discovered she possessed artistic talent she did not realize she had, agreed, "The kids had the opportunity to get to know other kids in the church, which helps them want be a part of the community, and knowing that they are part of the community helps them to develop their spirituality by sharing and showing how much God means to them and one another."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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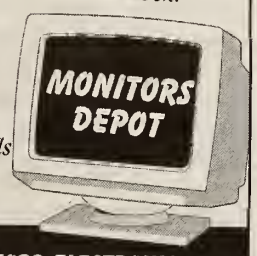

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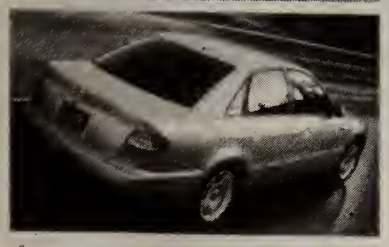
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Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of September:

Rev. Edward F. O'Doherty	1998
Rev. James King	1978
Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan	1981
Rev. John J. Murray	1997

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Quilting query quickens quite a quest

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER MOUNTAIN — The night sky shines with a blanket of stars, and with the North Star as a guide, African-Americans held in bondage on Southern plantations and farms travel via the Underground Railroad to the North. Along the way, homemade quilts draped over porch railings with particular patterns help to serve as secret signposts for their freedom journey.

Certain quilts that mirror the nighttime star pattern act as a celestial map, and other quilts depict disguised signs. "A bear's paw trail" patch, a square with four triangles, signals to follow the northern trail of a bear, while the "flying geese pattern," a series of eight triangles, shows which direction the slave had to travel with two darkened triangles.

Most of these original freedom quilts have not lasted throughout the years because of heavy use, just as the need for the Underground Railroad has dissipated.

In the quiet recesses of a small mountain town, parishioners from St. Helen Church are creating quilts, inspired by the past and a trip to an area museum, that symbolize family and faith. Under the direction of Ann Gardin, a seamstress by profession, women are making smaller versions of the quilts used by their ancestors for warmth, and for some, as part of an escape route.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M.PRICE

Photos of Ann Gardin's grandparents adorn this quilt, crafted in memory of her caretakers.

Prompted by a church outing to the Mint Museum of Craft + Design in Charlotte in April, Gardin and several others visited the exhibition "Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary Quilts by African-American Artists." Fifty quilts created by 30 members of the Women of Color Quilter's Network, a national organization of over 1,000 male and female quilters, were on display at the museum with explanations of the origins and themes of the cloth creations.

"We wanted to get a feel of the spirits of the people who made those quilts," said Gardin.

The tradition of African-American quilting has its roots in the production of textiles among various African tribes in Central and West Africa, where the male members of the community used colors and patterns distinct to their region in their weaving to distinguish themselves from other tribes. After Africans were brought to America on slave ships, the African weaving traditions were passed onto the women and were intermingled with the quilting being done by slave owners' wives and mothers.

African-American women had to make their own family quilts with leftover material scraps, as their daughters and granddaughters watched and helped. Those skills have filtered down the generations through the years.

Musetta Glenn, a St. Helen member, who stressed that she does not have "much sewing experience," is working on a family quilt with her daughter Dabney Wilson and her granddaughters Deshawna Wilson and Alexandria Wilson after Sunday Masses. Their navy- and melon-colored and flowered quilt includes biblical quotes and family pictures.

"I wanted my children to know who they were and to know Jesus," explained Glenn. "This quilt is about faith, and if I can implant in them the roots of their heritage as African-American Christians, then they can handle anything. The quilt tells where we have been and where we continue to go, and I can pass this down from generation to generation."

Glenn's daughter, Dabney, agreed, "I can keep up with this better than a scrapbook or a photo album. After my mother hands it down to me, I can pass this to my daughter Deshawna, and she can pass it on to her child."

Three-year-old Deshawna cries, "I want to make my own quilt." So, Gardin cuts a piece a fabric onto which she can glue pieces of pipe cleaner. While Deshawna is occupied, Gardin explains the group of quilts that she has created.

One of the nearly completed quilts entitled "Homegoing: Celebrating the Lilies in the Valley" has miniaturized, laminated versions of the obituaries of St. Helen Church members and other family members with colored beads representing the number of children they left behind attached onto the pastel patches. One quilt dedicated to her grandparents includes pictures of fruit representing her grandfather, who sold fruit from a truck, and another red-flowered quilt reminds people to "stop, meditate and pray."

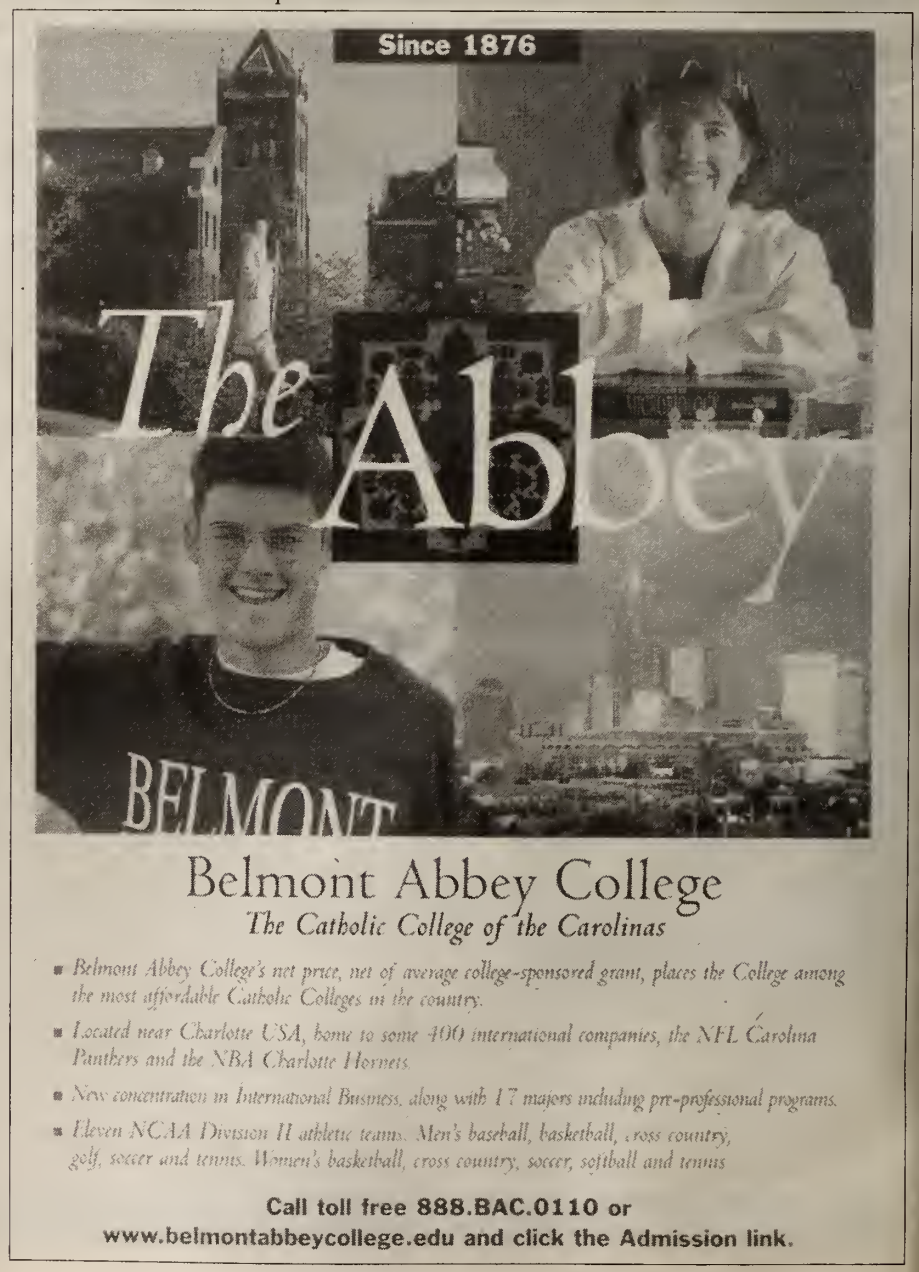
Even though she has no daughters to which she can pass along the skill of quilting, her niece Renata Gardin, 14, joined the after Mass sessions. Moreover, a quilt dedicated to Gardin's son Taurus now resides with him at his home on a wall on display, explained Gardin, smiling with pride.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Three generations work on their family quilt. Dabney Wilson holds her daughter Deshawna, while Dabney's mother Musetta Glenn pastes a picture of her granddaughter onto the fabric.

The first quilts will be completed by October to be hung on display in the church and during an upcoming fund-raiser. Gardin hopes that more church members will become involved with the quilting. "Our church is made up of family, and quilting is something that we can do as a project to further strengthen our family ties."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 1, 2000
Volume 9 ▾ Number 44

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"Human work proceeds directly from persons created in the image of God and called to prolong the work of creation by subduing the earth, both with and for one another."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church

Labor Day statement focuses on globalization, immigrants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Today's good times of economic prosperity "can mask the growing gap between rich and poor," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee warned in a message for Labor Day 2000.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles said the jubilee year observance of the U.S. holiday, celebrated Sept. 4 this year, "is a good time to reflect on the progress and problems of the American economy and how it can serve all of God's children."

Among the issues raised in his two-page message were:

— The need for a "Catholic conversation on economic globalization," especially about "who it lifts up and who it leaves behind."

— The responsibility of Catholic voters to "raise the ethical and moral questions surrounding the dignity of work and the rights of workers" during the 2000 campaign.

— The obligation to seriously consider "a general amnesty for those workers who come to the U.S. fleeing oppression and destitution and who make significant contributions to our society."

The cardinal said immigrant workers deserve "the dignity and honor afforded all people."

"Many of these workers, regardless of their immigration status, have contributed greatly to the

SEE LABOR DAY, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY FRANK BRADLEY

In celebration of giving

A family-style celebration honoring Sister Loretto John Meehan included naming a bridge in her honor. The Catholic sister, pictured at left, served for three decades in the western mountains. See stories, pages 8-9.

Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection thanks those giving the best years of their lives

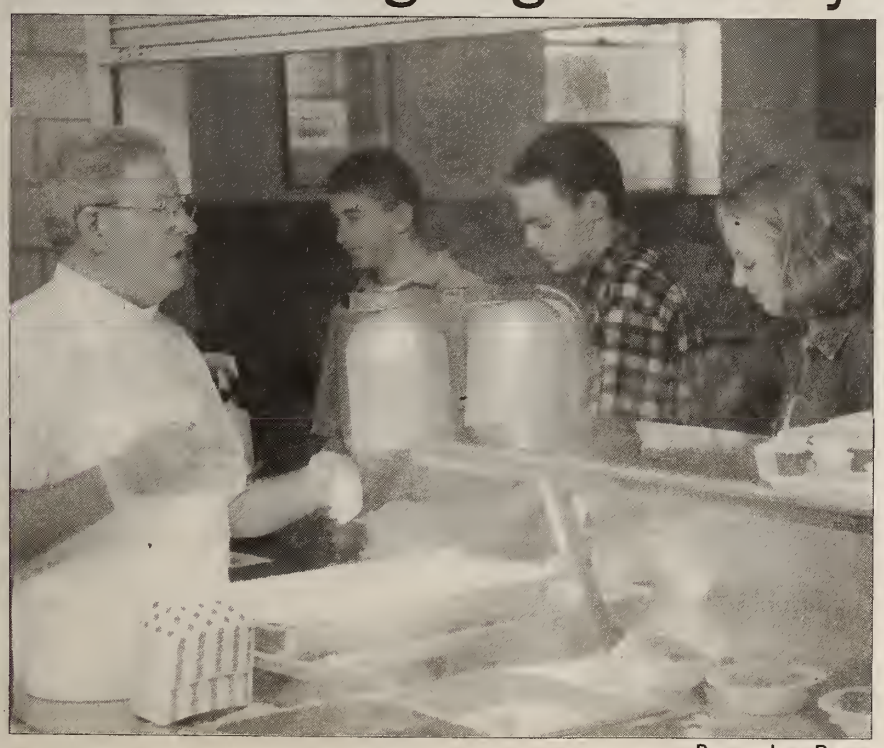

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Decades apart in age and years of priestly service, Fathers Joseph Kelleher and Christopher Davis nonetheless share a common bond — as servants of God who bring Christ to the faithful of western North Carolina.

Priests of the Diocese of Charlotte, the two have chosen paths that bridge a sacred union between Christ and his people through innumerable ways: the sacraments, the celebration of Mass, pastoral outreach, a helping hand.

For the priests who serve in

SEE RETIREMENT, PAGE 11

Father Joseph Kelleher serves up some fries at Bishop McGuinness High School. The diocesan priest firmly believes in what he calls a ministry of presence.

California to honor Cesar Chavez with paid holiday

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — California has become the first state to honor the late Cesar Chavez of the United Farm Workers with an official state holiday. "Cesar Chavez brought hope and inspiration to tens of thousands of farmworkers, some of the hardest working people on the planet earth," said California Gov. Gray Davis. He made the comments Aug. 18 in Los Angeles as he signed a bill establishing March 31 as an annual holiday to honor Chavez, a lifelong Catholic who was a legendary labor leader and human rights advocate.

Manifold issues make wars hard to resolve, says Vatican official

MAPUTO, Mozambique (CNS) — Some current conflicts are more difficult to resolve than past wars because they involve economic, not just political issues, said Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. Bishop Martin was among more than 60 participants at a Vatican-organized meeting in Mozambique where church leaders from Africa, Latin America and the Vatican discussed ways to end the dozens of civil conflicts around the world. Talks at the Aug. 22-28 conference in Maputo, Mozambique's capital, noted that illegal drug trafficking and interests in national resources play a role in some conflicts that may appear to be ideological, he said in an Aug. 22 telephone interview.

Ugandan VP warns against taking religion classes out of schools

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) — Ugandan Vice President Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, who as a girl attended Catholic schools, criticized an Education Ministry proposal to remove religious education from classrooms. "I have heard that they want to scrap the teaching of religious studies in schools. But as a staunch Catholic, I cannot allow this to happen. We should give religion priority," she said Aug. 20 at the opening of St. Mary's Chapel at a leading Ugandan girls' school, Mount St. Mary's College, Namagunga. Kazibwe is a former student of the school. The ceremony — attended by Ugandan officials, members of the diplomatic corps and the papal nuncio to Uganda, Archbishop Pierre Christophe — began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthias Ssekamaanya of Lugazi.

CNS PHOTO BY VALERIE O'SULLIVAN

Monks hold texts from early monastery
In County Kerry, Ireland, monks hold up old texts on Innisfallen Island, where ruins of a sixth-century abbey are found. Early Celtic Christian spirituality is engaging modern believers in the United States.

Military archbishop asks prayers for Kursk crew, families

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services has requested prayers for the crew of the sunken Russian submarine, the Kursk, and for their families. Archbishop Edwin A. O'Brien asked Catholic military personnel and families around the world to offer their weekend Mass Aug. 19-20 for the 118 Russian sailors presumed lost aboard the Kursk and for their loved ones in Russia. According to Auxiliary Bishop John J. Glynn of the Military Archdiocese, the archbishop's message to Catholic chaplains was appended to an e-mail from the office of the Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon to U.S. military chaplains worldwide. The e-mail also sought prayers for victims of the Kursk disaster.

South Korean official says North willing to invite cardinal

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Seoul's retired Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan and Archbishop Nicholas Cheong Jin-suk of Seoul "can soon visit" North Korea, a South Korean government official said upon returning from Pyongyang. Culture and Tourism Minister Park Jie-won told media Aug. 14 in Seoul that North Korean government officials responded positively to the possibility of a visit by the two South Korean Catholic prelates, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Park, a Catholic, and 46 heads of South Korean news media visited North Korea Aug. 5-12, upon the invitation of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

Union honors Cardinal O'Connor's commitment to workers

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York's largest union of health care workers has produced a 12-page booklet to honor the memory of the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York and his commitment to workers. The booklet, which hails the cardinal as the "patron saint of working people," was produced by New York's Health and Human Service Union, which is Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union. It notes that Cardinal O'Connor, who died in May of cancer, stressed his "bone-deep" commitment to working people, the labor movement and the poor in his annual Labor Day Masses at St. Patrick's Cathedral and in many of his speeches and writings.

Vatican document stresses Catholic Church's unique identity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing what it called common misuses of the phrase "sister churches" in ecumenical dialogue, the Vatican's doctrinal congregation issued a document stressing the Catholic Church's unique identity as "mother" of all local churches. The document said clarification was necessary because an ambiguous use of the phrase, putting the Catholic Church on equal footing with other churches, had become "prevalent in contemporary writings on ecumenism." The four-page document, accompanied by a letter from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was signed June 30 and distributed to the heads of bishops' conferences. Catholic News Service obtained a copy of the letter and the document Aug. 23. The document said the expression "sister churches" could only be properly used as a way of describing the relationship between local Catholic churches, like "the church of Rome," and non-Catholic churches.

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Staff Writer: Alesha M. Price
Production Associate: Julie Radcliffe
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Freelance Production Associate: Fred Stewart Jr.
1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Mail: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
Phone: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-mail: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 6 - 7 p.m.
Mass and installation of Father John T. Putnam as pastor of Sacred Heart, Salisbury
September 10 - 6 p.m.
Mass and listening session with laborers in poultry industry
St. John, North Wilkesboro
September 12
Priests' meeting, Introduction to Hispanic culture and language
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
September 18 - 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
September 19 - 10 a.m.
Presbyteral council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

September

4 CLEMMONS — There is a charismatic Mass being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600.

8 HOT SPRINGS — "A Spiritual Retreat for a Creative Mind" is a women's retreat being led by Mercy Sister Soledad Aguilo, artist and educator, and being held at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, today through Sept. 10. For more information, call Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, director, at (828) 622-7366.

10 CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., cancer support group invites all to attend a special Mass at 5:30 p.m. for the sick and their families and friends with the sacrament of anointing of the sick being administered after Mass. For more details, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 or Bob Poffenbarger Sr. at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — There is a charismatic Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, at 4 p.m. with prayer teams available at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the St. Patrick School cafeteria. Also, a series of teachings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is being offered beginning today before the charismatic Mass at 3 p.m. For more information about the Mass or the classes, call Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

11 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their September cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days because of the Labor Day weekend: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the confcrence room of the ministry center, St. Matthew

Balancing act: Popes to be beatified were very different

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A new chapter in saint-making history will be written Sept. 3 when Popes John XXIII and Pius IX are beatified in a single ceremony.

The joint beatification marks an intersection in the lives of two very different figures, and the contrast was apparent as Rome prepared to host hundreds of thousands for the outdoor liturgy.

At religious shops near the Vatican, photos and prayer cards of John XXIII were being snapped up, and bookstores filled whole display tables with new volumes and videos on "Papa Giovanni," the pontiff who convened the Second Vatican Council and set in motion a series of modern church reforms.

"Everybody asks for him. He's the most popular pope of all," said Amelia Astrologo, who runs a religious souvenir store in the shadow of St. Peter's Square.

Two Italian TV specials were being prepared to honor Pope John, highlighting his humble beginnings, his sense of humor and his social conscience.

Pius IX, on the other hand, remained uncelebrated in Italy, despite his impending step toward sainthood. Best known for trying to hold on to temporal power, for overseeing the proclamation of papal infallibility and for castigating modern thinking with his "Syllabus of Errors," he has not enjoyed widespread popular devotion.

Several shop owners said they've never carried prayer cards of him and that no one's ever asked for one, either.

The joint beatification marks an intersection in the lives of two very different figures, and the contrast was apparent as Rome prepared to host hundreds of thousands for the outdoor liturgy.

At the tomb of John XXIII on the lower level of St. Peter's Basilica, a crowd of about 40 people waited in line to kneel and pray. Flowers had been laid before his tomb, a practice that has been going on since his death in 1963.

On the other side of Rome, at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, the tomb of Pius IX was under lock and key in August, as workmen tried to solve a mildew problem.

The common wisdom about the pairing of these two "blesseds" is that it's a balancing act, an effort by the Vatican to move forward two sainthood causes that individually might provoke political opposition in the church.

For many, John XXIII is still seen as the guiding light and Pius IX is remembered as a holdout against modernity.

Ironically, however, Pope John favored Pope Pius' sainthood cause and considered him a truly holy man, according to Pope John's former secretary, Archbishop Loris Capovilla. In 1961, in fact, Pope John spoke at a general audience about the possibility of seeing Pope Pius canonized one day.

If Pius IX was known in some circles as the last "pope king" of the 19th century, John XXIII is still remembered by many as the most human of pontiffs to reign in the 20th century. During the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, he seemed to be the voice of the people when he pleaded for superpower peace. When Time magazine named him "Man of the Year" at the end of that year, it said his "warmth, simplicity and charm" had won the hearts of Catholics and non-Catholics around the world.

Pope Pius reigned for almost 32 years, the longest pontificate since the days of St. Peter, spanning a period of intense church-state tension in Italy.

Pope John, elected at age 77, ruled for less than five years. He was chosen as a transitional pope, yet he ended up recasting the church's relationship with the modern world. It wasn't just Vatican II, but the way Pope John exercised his authority — as he put it, he wanted to be known as a "good shepherd" defending truth and goodness.

He was the first to break free of the Vatican city-state in a systematic way, making more than 140 trips to jails, orphanages, churches and schools. He wrote groundbreaking encyclicals, including "Mater et Magistra" on Christianity and social progress and "Pacem in Terris" on the need for global peace and justice.

He let it be known that the church was not afraid of science or its discoveries, and he sparked an ecumenical revival by reaching out to separated Christian churches.

After Pope John died during Vatican II, some participants wanted to proclaim him a saint by acclamation, thus giving the world a sign that the church did not consider him a "dreamer." That idea was shot down by the Roman Curia, and Pope John's sainthood cause slipped into the Vatican's painstakingly slow process of verification and documentation.

In linking the beatification of the two popes, Pope John Paul may want to highlight a certain continuity between the First Vatican Council, which was called by Pope Pius, and Vatican II.

But that risked being overshadowed by yet another contrast between the two papacies. Jewish organizations have recently criticized the Vatican for promoting the cause of Pius IX, who, in what is viewed as a supreme act of religious intolerance, in 1858 approved the seizure of a baptized Italian Jewish boy from his parents and arranged for his forced education in the church.

A century later, John XXIII met with U.S. Jews at the Vatican and told them: "I am your brother. ... We are all sons of the same Father."

For the church, sainthood goes beyond personality traits and papal policies. When these two popes are beatified Sept. 3, perhaps Pope John Paul II will offer some insight into how such different figures can both be deemed universal models of holiness.

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Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. in the activity center in classroom 5. For more information, call these contacts: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a LIMEX Information Session tonight at 7 p.m. for anyone interested in the program. The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program or LIMEX in New Orleans offers a master's of religious education or a master's of pastoral studies to students in partnership with a sponsoring diocese. For more information, call Julie Platte at (704) 847-8047 or Connie Milligan at (704) 535-4197.

13 CHARLOTTE — For those in bereavement ministry or those who are experiencing grief in their own lives, Janice Olive from Hospice of Charlotte is presenting "Bereavement Education: Stages and Tasks of Grief" tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having its monthly meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch and a program presented by the members. A love offering is also being taken from the attendants. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

14 GREENSBORO — Rev. Timothy J. Patterson, rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and founder of the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro, is presenting "Servant Leadership: Christian Vision for the Third Millennium" at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. A love offering is being taken at this lunchtime session held from 12:10-1 p.m., and for further information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division, is having its annual "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" party to raise funds in support of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The party begins at 5 p.m. this evening and lasts until 10 p.m. at the St. Matthew Church Ministry Center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with dinner and music provided by the Celtic Folkers and entertainment by area Irish dancers. For ticket and other information, call Mike Callinan at (704) 841-9195, Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or Gene McCarthy at (803) 831-8381.

FOREST CITY — The Health Council of Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St, is sponsoring its "Unity Fiesta" today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The event includes health screenings, Polish and Mexican foods, homemade ice cream and games and prizes for children. Proceeds will benefit the church fund. For more information, call Claire Feldmeth, parish nurse coordinator, at (828) 245-4017.

21 BELMONT — Catherine's House, 402 Mercy Dr., hosts its First Millennium Open House today at 2 p.m. The open house will showcase many of the new programs, offer tours of the facility and present the Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan Volunteer of the Year Award to Mercy Sister Maureen Dees. Catherine's House provides transitional housing for women and children who are homeless. For further details, call (704) 825-9599.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Charlotte City Council votes in favor of moratorium resolution

CHARLOTTE — In front of an emotional crowd of hundreds, the Charlotte City Council on Aug. 28 voted 8-3 in favor of endorsing a moratorium on capital punishment in North Carolina.

Charlotte became the seventh town in North Carolina to approve a resolution asking the state government for a moratorium, or suspension, of the death penalty to allow for intense study of the issue and time to address alleged injustices therein.

More than 200 people flooded the council chamber to attend the meeting, at which people on both sides of the issue spoke about or applauded their stance. Speakers included clergy, concerned citizens and family members of murder victims.

"Innocent people have been sentenced to die in North Carolina," said James Ferguson, a member of the Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now (CCMN) and president of the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers. "We know that race is a factor in the death penalty. ... No one who believes in fairness could allow such a system to go on."

Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, who has steadfastly opposed the city council's involvement in a debate he says has no place within the city council's jurisdiction, vetoed the council's decision. Because of the veto, the council will vote on the issue again — at its next meeting Sept. 5. Seven votes will be needed to override the veto.

"With all respect to all those involved, I think this is a poorly written resolution," McCrory said. "I do not think it belongs on the Charlotte City Council's agenda. I believe if you want to deal with this issue, ask the two gubernatorial candidates where they stand, ask your state legislators where they stand, make this an issue in the November election — because those are the decision makers in this process, and you have every right to do just that."

Among the arguments voiced by those in favor of the moratorium resolution, however, was that a city council is a first step in reaching lawmakers at the state level on an issue that affects local citizens.

In an Aug. 25 letter to McCrory, Bishop William G. Curlin urged the mayor and city council to support the moratorium resolution.

"I have served in ministry for over forty-three years and have been witness to many tragedies in human life," Bishop Curlin wrote. "I have comforted many families who have borne the tragic killing of a loved one. However, I have also witnessed the tragedy of those who have been put to death though innocent of a crime. One such death alone calls for a careful study of the penal system that can lead to executions of possible innocent people."

Like the death penalty itself, the moratorium issue is making headlines nationwide as scrutiny of capital punishment grows. Ted Frazer, chair of CCMN, voiced hope that the city council debate will help shed light on an imperfect institution and that the government will allow time to study such a vital issue.

"This issue is trying to create fewer victims, not more victims," Frazer said. "We're talking about human life in this state, and we're talking about shaping a society in a positive way that is more fair than what we have now."

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar and Stephen Dear of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty contributed to this story.

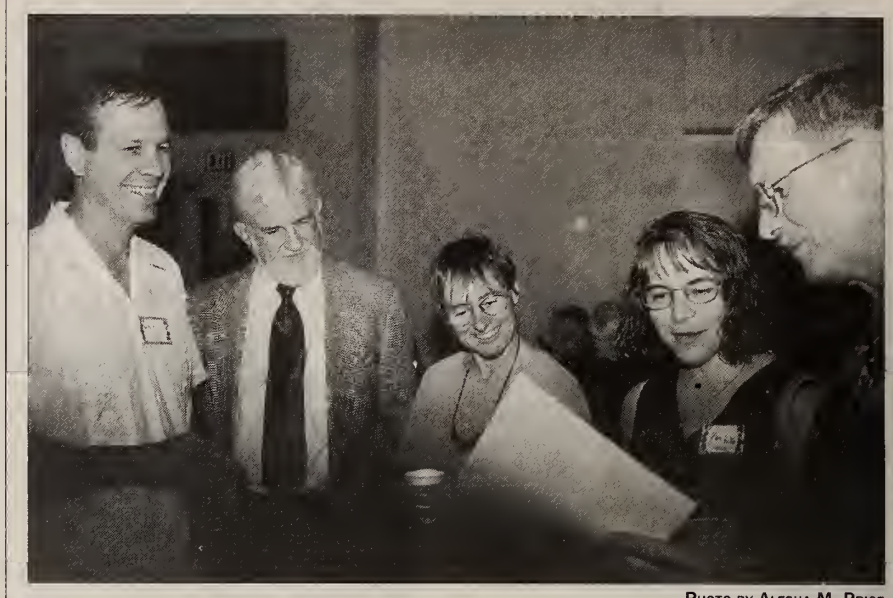

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

LIMEX participants discuss program

At a LIMEX gathering session at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, from left to right, Jay Mazaleski, a member of the North Wilkesboro learning group; Marianist Father Bernard Lee, Ph.D., professor of theology at Loyola University in New Orleans; Linda Schlensker, a facilitator for the Asheville area group; Peg Ruble, diocesan Central Regional Coordinator of Faith Formation and a facilitator for the North Wilkesboro group; and Clarence Fox, a facilitator for the North Wilkesboro group, look at a recent LIMEX graduation picture. Father Lee, former director of the LIMEX program, was the featured speaker, along with Bishop William G. Curlin, at the gathering session on Aug. 27. The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program, or LIMEX, offers a master's of religious education or a master's of pastoral studies to students in partnership with a sponsoring diocese. In the Diocese of Charlotte, there are currently five learning groups with certified facilitators, with Joanna Case and Connie Milligan serving as the diocesan LIMEX liaisons.

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Papal Mass, vigil mark culmination of World Youth Day

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Joining 2 million young people on the outskirts of Rome, Pope John Paul II closed a week of World Youth Day festivities with a call to change the world by embracing the Gospel.

Buoyed by an enthusiastic crowd that was far bigger than expected, the 80-year-old pontiff joked, laughed, shed a few tears and even sang an impromptu prayer as he presided over a celebratory vigil Aug. 19 and the concluding Mass Aug. 20.

The young people suffered through heat that at times reached above 100 degrees but, like the pope, seemed to enjoy every minute.

The two events on an 800-acre tract of university hillside marked the culmination of Holy Year 2000's biggest and longest encounter. Young people from 160 nations made pilgrimages through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, confessed their sins in the dust of an ancient Roman racetrack, attended religious talks by dozens of bishops, and marched in a Way of the Cross down the streets of the Eternal City.

"From what I witnessed, it was a positive experience for everyone. For our kids to gather with kids from 160 countries, to interact, share faith and show love for the Holy Father, was a source of inspiration and revitalization," said Paul Kotlowski, director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. Kotlowski and a diocesan group of 19 teens traveled to Rome, along with several parish groups. "Ultimately, it was important for us to come together and recognize our power as a united young Church and to experience church that is bigger than our own diocese and our country."

The pope played host, welcoming the youths in rousing ceremonies Aug. 15 and sending them home at the end of the week with an invitation to accept Christ and change their societies with his spirit of sacrifice.

"Our society desperately needs this sign, and young people need it even more so, tempted as they often are by the illusion of an easy and comfortable life, by drugs and pleasure-seeking, only to find themselves in a spiral of despair, meaninglessness and violence. It is urgent to change direction and to turn to Christ," he said in his closing sermon.

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

As confetti falls around him, Pope John Paul II rides into St. Peter's Square Aug. 15 to begin World Youth Day celebrations. A Swiss Guard keeps an eye on the young people reaching out for the pope.

In a speech that he jokingly described as "too long," the pope spoke about the faith and feelings of doubt that all people experience, especially in a society marked by injustice, war and attacks on life.

To long cheers from his audience, the pope praised their resolve to build a better world, one in which "you will not let yourselves be made into tools of violence and destruction."

"You will not resign yourself to a world where other human beings die of hunger, remain illiterate and have no work. You will defend life at every moment of its development," he said.

In opening ceremonies Aug. 15, split between the basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Peter, the pope said the journey of faith is "part of everything that happens in our lives," and he pointed to his own youth and his priestly vocation as an example.

Outstripping all predictions, more than 700,000 people turned out for the opening events, including 400,000 people at St. Peter's — the largest assemblage ever at the Vatican.

From the front of St. Peter's Basilica, lines stretched for nearly a mile as Vatican officials desperately tried to move 8,000 people an hour through the Holy Door, a highlight of the jubilee pilgrimage. The rush prompted church officials to designate a second, temporary "holy door" in the basilica.

"To walk where the early martyrs and Paul and Peter walked, to go through the holy doors, was powerful. Every day was full of profound grace," said Kotlowski.

Participants waited hours to pass through the doors at St. Peter's. A pilgrimage to St. Peter's is one way to earn a jubilee indulgence — a remission of the temporal punishment for sin that has been forgiven in confession.

Rome's Circus Maximus, a racetrack during the early Christian era, was transformed into a giant open-air confessional for hundreds of thousands of youths. Priests conversant in 30 languages worked nonstop in two-hour shifts and said they were surprised at the heavy turnout.

On Aug. 18, some 300 youths from strife-torn nations led 500,000 others in a torch lit Way of the Cross through the streets of ancient Rome to the Colosseum, where prayers were offered for victims of violence — including those killed in World War II, criminals put to death by capital punishment and pastors slain in service to the church, like the late Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero.

"It was powerful to hear witnesses from countries torn by internal war, conflict or poverty and to experience Catholic Christian solidarity because of our one baptism with people who are so much more challenged by life," said Kotlowski.

Canada's young participants were spotlighted in two ways: when the pope invited some of them to stay at his summer residence with him, and when he announced that the next World Youth Day would take place in Toronto in 2002.

Contributing to this story were Benedicta Cipolla and John Norton in Rome.

Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story

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Rev. Dr. Frederick Dobens, deacon at St. Gabriel Church, dies at age 65

CHARLOTTE — The Rev. Dr. Frederick Dobens, 65, of Charlotte died Thursday evening, August 24, 2000, at the Carolinas Medical Center.

Born in Manchester, N.H., he was the son of the late Eleanor Holt and Frank Dobens. After graduating from Pinkerton Academy, he earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana State University.

Rev. Dr. Frederick Dobens

He received his doctorate of theology from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He served with the U.S. Army's 2nd Armor Division from 1954-1955.

Rev. Dr. Dobens had dedicated his life to education, spending more than 30 years in a variety of administrative and educational roles at Rutgers University, Colgate University, Siena Heights College, St. Joseph's University and Belmont Abbey College.

He remained active in the national fraternity, Pi Lambda Phi, holding several offices over the years.

In 1978, Dr. Dobens was ordained a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church and had served in St. Gabriel Church since 1993, after relocating here with his wife, Muchie, of 38 years.

He served as principal of St. Gabriel Catholic School from 1994 to 1999, when he retired.

Since then, he had been working for the Diocese of Charlotte as a director of development for campus ministry.

Rev. Dr. Dobens is survived by his wife, Muchie, of the home; son Max, his wife Jacky and their two sons, Aiden and Sean; and son Christopher, all of New York City; and a sister, Judy Andrews of Springfield, Mass.

Funeral services took place on Monday, August 28, 2000, at 11 a.m. at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Road, with the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, D.D., Bishop of Charlotte, presiding the Mass of Christian Burial.

The family received friends on Sunday, August 27, at the church.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers you honor the Rev. Dr. Dobens with a donation to the American Heart Association, 1229 Greenwood Cliff, Suite 109, Charlotte, NC 28204, or to the American Cancer Society, 500 East Morehead St., Suite 211, Charlotte, NC 28202.

Sister Mary Carmel Fitzpatrick dies at age 91

BELMONT — Sister Mary Carmel Fitzpatrick, RSM, 91, died Sunday, Aug. 20, 2000, at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on February 2, 1930, and was in her 61st year as a Sister of Mercy.

The wake service was held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2000, in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont. Visitation followed the wake. A Mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2000, at the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel, with burial at the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Carmel Fitzpatrick, RSM

Sister Mary Carmel was born Sept. 22, 1908, in Rochester, N.Y. Her birth name was Mary Elizabeth Fitzpatrick; she took the name Sister Mary Carmel upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on February 12, 1938.

Sister Mary Carmel is a graduate of Sacred Heart Junior College and continued her studies at Mercy School of Nursing, Pittsburgh. Later, she attended the Catholic University of America, earning her bachelor's degree in nursing education in 1947.

From 1947 through 1966, her ministry assignments included posts as a nursing arts instructor at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in the nutrition, diet therapy and pharmacology departments. Additionally, she served as a supervisor in the medical/surgical department of Mercy Hospital. From 1966-67, she was in charge of the girls' dormitory at Nazareth Orphanage, Raleigh. She returned to hospital health care in 1967 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Asheville, where she served as a Sister visitor and as a pre-admission nurse. In 1975, Sister Carmel took over as an infirmarian in Marian Hall, Belmont.

Sister Carmel was quite well known by the nursing students she supervised for her strict interpretation of "hospital corners," her commitment to perfection in delivering medications properly and her kindness to the indigent and poor who were ill. Her efforts at organization were paramount and her penchant for note writing and labeling was both highly developed and appreciated.

In spite of her physical infirmity of recent years, Sister Carmel's incredible memory ranks close to legendary status. Until recently, she was capable of recalling the most obscure dates with ease.

Jeanne-Margaret McNally, RSM, homilist at Sister Carmel's Diamond Jubilee on Aug. 8, 1999, described the essence of Sister Carmel through a quote from Teilhard de Chardin: "that the value and interest of life is not so much to do conspicuous things ... as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value."

Sister Mary Carmel was the daughter of the late John S. Fitzpatrick and Catherine Strobert Fitzpatrick.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012.

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Test of party platforms is how they touch the person, advance common good, say U.S. bishops

WASHINGTON — Party platforms "should be measured by how they touch the human person," according to testimony submitted this summer to the Democratic and Republican party platform committees by the nations' Catholic bishops.

The testimony is the text of "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," the bishops' quadrennial political responsibility statement, which summarizes the church's moral teachings on important policy issues. "Faithful Citizenship" was issued last October.

"The bishops seek the support of people of good will of every religious or political persuasion for our policy positions, since we firmly believe that they advance the common good of all," said Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, in his letter of transmittal. "In addition, it has been our experience that our moral framework does not easily fit the categories of any political party."

The USCC is the public policy agency of the nation's Catholic bishops. Like other national organizations, the conference presents its public policy positions every four years to the platform committees of the two major political parties.

Msgr. Schnurr urged the members of both parties' platform committees to study "Faithful Citizenship" carefully as they prepared for their conventions.

The bishops use their political responsibility statement to highlight themes of Catholic social teaching that shape Catholic thinking about public policy issues.

"We believe that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death; that people are more important than things; and that the measure of every institution is whether or not it enhances the life and dignity of the human person," they said.

The bishops explore how this teaching has been applied to specific issues under the headings of Protecting Human Life, Promoting Family Life, Pursuing Social Justice and Practicing Global Solidarity.

Faithful Citizenship

The statement also exhorts Catholics to take their civic responsibilities seriously:

"Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active, and responsible participant in the political process," they note.

"As Catholics, we are not free to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient; to turn our backs on immigrants because they lack the proper documents; to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power," they said. "Nor can we neglect international responsibilities because the Cold War is over. ... No polls or focus groups can release us from the responsibility to speak up for the voiceless, to act in accord with our moral convictions."

The bishops' testimony was directed to the chairmen of each party's platform committee: U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and Mayor Sales Belton of the Democratic Party, and Governor Thomas Thompson of the Republican Party.

A "Faithful Citizenship" packet was distributed by the USCC last fall to more than 19,000 U.S. parishes and dioceses across the country. Since then, an additional 65,000 printed copies have been distributed.

In western North Carolina, ongoing educational efforts sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte continue. Joan Rosenhauer, special projects coordinator for the U.S. bishops' social development office, visited the diocese in March to speak to parishioners, priests, permanent deacons and Catholic Social Services personnel about the document.

The statement is being widely used as a guide to an authentically Catholic and non-partisan exercise of political responsibility. Without endorsing candidates or parties, the bishops pressed Catholics to be active participants in the political process.

"The next millennium requires a new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests," they state.

This story was submitted by the United States Catholics Conference.

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Sister John Meehan recognized for 30 years of service

By FRANK BRADLEY
Smoky Mountain Sentinel

HAYESVILLE — "What I (first) noticed about Sister John was she never talked about herself, she talked about other people," Bishop William Curlin said Monday during a celebration honoring the Glenmary nun who has spent almost 30 years serving the people in Clay and Cherokee counties.

"Your life is your sermon," Curlin, who is bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, said. "Thirty years of tremendous love and service you have given to people. We can only try to express our gratitude. You are the Mother Teresa of the mountains."

"You are carved on all our souls, all our minds. We see you as the presence of Jesus. God spoke to you, and you said, 'Here I am, Lord.'"

"You visited the sick, were concerned about the poor and cared about people nobody wants," the bishop continued. "You put in our heart your heart."

The occasion was a Mass and farewell celebration in honor of Sister Loretto John Meehan, held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville. The celebration and dinner that followed lasted almost three hours with many in the church and in the community paying tribute to Sister John.

Today, Sister John is scheduled to make her departure from these mountains and return to her native New York.

"When I came to this area, I had no idea where I was going," she said last week during a ceremony naming a bridge in her honor. "When asked 'how did you get down here?' I said blame it on the Holy Spirit," she said.

Sister John's parents were born in Ireland and immigrated to New York. Sister John was one of four children. She became a Glenmary nun and came to Hayesville in 1971 to work with two other nuns as part of Glenmary Nursing Service.

"She provided competent and kindly care to our patients for years and years," Dr. Brian Mitchel said at the bridge dedication. "She has done much to bridge the gap between health care in the hospital and in the home, and to bridge the gap between generations."

Photo by Mary Carol Campbell

Sister Loretto John Meehan has always been known for her hearty laugh. Here she shares laughs and memories with good friends.

Judy Wilson, a nurse who worked with Sister John for 15 years, said John's "biggest gift was her personal interaction with the patient. Her natural caring enabled her to do anything for anybody," Wilson said. "She set an example we should all strive for in the care for others."

During the bridge ceremony, N.C. Secretary of Transportation David McCoy said in dedicating the bridge on U.S. Highway 64 crossing over the Hiwassie River in her honor, "She has given her all as a home health nurse, as a spiritual advisor and as a friend."

Sister John was also awarded the governor's "Order of the Long Leaf Pine," which was presented by Senator Bob Carpenter; she received a special blessing from Pope John Paul, which was presented by her roommate, Sister Terry, who joked, "The pope was sorry he couldn't make it (the ceremony) but his popemobile couldn't travel the mountains."

She also received a letter from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York City welcoming her return. Then Gwen Kincaid, a CNA with Good Shepherd, paid tribute to Sister John with a musical tribute to her with an emotional rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

During the church service on Monday, several hundred friends turned out to bid Sister John farewell. Most stayed for a dinner in the parish hall. Sister John was attired in a "Carolina blue suit," one she had worn earlier for the bridge dedication. And at both celebrations, she exuded the warmth and care for others that has so endeared this New York Yankee to the hearts of the people in these parts.

This story, which originally ran in the Smoky Mountain Sentinel & Business Report on Aug. 23, is reprinted with permission.

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Monday, Oct. 23rd *Senior Sensitivity*	*Bernadette Ford Gerontologist*
Monday, Oct. 30th *Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency*	*Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M. Pastoral Associate*

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In celebration of giving: Sister Loretto John Meehan

By JO ANN ALBERTS
Smoky Mountain Sentinel

HAYESVILLE — In August Sister Loretto John Meehan will be completing a circle as she returns to Mount St. Vincent, New York, to begin a new assignment.

Anna Josephine, called Jo at home, was born in Harlem, New York, to Irish immigrants. After high school in the late '40s, Jo entered the Sisters of Charity of New York at Mount St. Vincent, went to college there, and then on to St. Joseph School of Nursing. Upon becoming a sister, she was given the name Sister Loretto John Meehan. Her first nursing assignment was among the retired sisters of the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers, N.Y.

Sister John was interested in Appalachia, did her own research for a particular place in which to serve, and reported her findings to her authority. Like her parents who had left family and familiar surroundings to move into a foreign environment and culture, Sister John left the big city and moved into rural Appalachia. She arrived in Asheville, N.C., in 1971 en route to the town of Hayesville. She resided with the Glenmary Sisters in a building across from Clay Farmer's Exchange.

In 1954, Bishop Vincent Waters had set up a parish to serve Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties, and had invited the Glenmary Home Missioners to staff it. Rev. Joseph Dean, a Glenmary priest, had become the first pastor. In 1958 Bishop Waters had asked the Glenmary Sisters of Cincinnati, Ohio, to come live and work in Hayesville. He purchased a motel where the sisters lived. A chapel was set up and the small number of local Catholics could attend Mass. In the third wing of the motel, the sisters established the Glenmary Sisters' Home Nursing Service. Their primary mission was commitment to physical, emotional and spiritual healing while respecting the dignity of all persons, and then to work for the Church in both parish and diocese.

Every day began with a trip to Murphy for Mass at the old Providence Hospital where Ivie Funeral Home is now.

Photo by Frank Bradley

The new community center, formerly occupied by Good Shepherd Home Health, was named in Sister John's honor. It will be used to house non-profit service organizations in Clay County.

In the early days, Sister John drove with a camper, which better suited her since she might be called on to be carpenter, plumber, cook, undertaker, supply clerk and more. She had to be resourceful to acquire needed clothing for a patient to wear to a hospital or to provide (or obtain) transportation for a very ill patient to receive more medical attention.

A very moving article by Father Patrick O'Donnell in the "Glenmary Challenge" in 1974 revealed one aspect of Sister John's work. He wrote, "Most of what happens at the Glenmary Sisters' Home Nursing Service is not startling ... but it adds up to a staggering work of charity. Occasionally, little miracles creep into the scene, like when the medical profession was ready to throw in the towel on little Carleen Medford. The sisters at Hayesville were asked to do their best with physical therapy blended with spiritual comfort and hope. Sr. John found Carleen in a wheelchair, her head to one side, unable to move hands or feet. 'Raise your arm, Carleen.'

"'I can't.' 'Please try,' encouraged Sister. Sr. John dropped in daily, working patiently with the child in professional physical therapy, spiked with love. Finally, a finger would move, then a hand, an arm, and eventually a leg. The child was excited. In three months Carleen was walking, laughing, and chattering like a magpie. ..."

In the Sisters of Charity's Newsletter by Sister Florence Speth, a regional superior reported and visited Sister John in Hayesville in 1980. Each patient was treated as an individual with a very special dignity. I don't believe a queen in a golden palace could be treated with more care and respect than the nurse showed. She entered a home because of her professional skills, but more important than the medicine she brought was her own presence to the lonely old folks. The nurse "wastes time" on her patients ... and this proved to be the best medicine of all.

In 1984 hundreds of her friends and admirers turned out for a Saturday Jubilee on the Georgia Mountain Fair; many drove in from other states to pay tribute to a lady who had touched their lives in some way with her kindness and generosity. The Town Council declared it "Sr. John's Day." And how did she respond at the end of the picnic and day of celebration in her honor? She danced a mountain clog solo for the crowd!

"Sister John is the best thing that has happened to Hayesville in twenty years," said Sister Rose Mary Commerford.

The local Civitan Club named her "Citizen of the Year 1994" for her outstanding achievement and unselfish service in the betterment of our community.

In 1996 Sister John was honored with the "Nurse of the Year award in Home Health for the State of North Carolina." In that same year, she celebrated the 25th year of her Appalachian mission.

Through the years many changes have occurred in Cherokee and Clay counties. The Glenmary Sisters' Home Nursing Service became an agency of the Catholic Diocese of charlotte and had its name changed to Good Shepherd Home Health Agency, Inc. It has now moved under the wing of Murphy Medical Center.

This story, which originally ran in the Smoky Mountain Sentinel & Business Report on Aug. 23, is reprinted with permission.

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Book Review

Book offers insight, profiles of courage for youth in civil rights movement

REVIEWED BY CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It is difficult to talk about that which is shameful. Harder still to articulate to children the incomprehensible cruelty of some people toward others whose skin is a different color. Yet this is precisely what Mary C. Turck has skillfully done in her book "The Civil Rights Movement for Kids: A History with 21 Activities."

"The Civil Rights Movement for Kids: A History with 21 Activities", by Mary C. Turck. Chicago Review Press, Inc. (Chicago, 2000). 190 pp., $14.95.

This comprehensive learning resource includes profiles of the courageous black and white leaders in the civil rights movement who struggled to change the oppressive laws which ordered one not to eat with someone, ride the bus with someone, go to school with someone, live among or marry someone because of race.

The book includes sidebars with intriguing facts and historical anecdotes, haunting photographs, stories, speeches, a timeline, learning activities for kids in each chapter, and the texts of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Web sites for youths, civil rights organizations, videos on the topic and books for further reading are also included.

The timeline starts in 1948 with

SEE REVIEW, PAGE 14

Word to Life

September 3, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

1) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
   Psalm 15:2-5
2) James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
3) Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

It is a Sunday evening as my 2-year-old granddaughter, Olivia, my daughter-in-law, Laura, and I enter their living room to admire Laura's new curio cabinet.

Standing before us is an elegant cabinet, crafted out of a rich cherry wood and stunning glass. Family treasures rest safely behind glass doors in just the right position to catch the light and spark a conversation among three generations.

Laura and I discuss the history and beauty of the objects that lie before us. Olivia punctuates our adult conversation with her own words of praise for the items that catch her sparkling brown eyes.

As I kneel down so that I can be on her eye level and affirm her choices, I am aware of the gift of this moment.

Champagne flutes, china, a special book are all there for her admiration. I look at Olivia and feel her warm little hand grasping my finger as she names the items before us and tells me they are pretty.

For a moment I am reminded of my own mother and her love of beautiful dishes and glassware. I think of her pink Depression glass that rests in a hallowed space in my own home. I wonder what it is that seems to link generations of women and the objects of beauty they pass along down the generations.

Then Olivia's eyes fall on Laura's crystal Celtic cross. "Mommy's cross. Pretty. Pretty."

"Yes," I say, nodding in agreement. "It's very pretty."

"Very pretty!" echoes back to me. Laura and I exchange an understanding smile. The moment passes.

Later when I leave, I catch a glimpse of the Celtic cross that Olivia has wisely called "Mommy's cross." Its message is crystal clear.

We as parents and grandparents have been entrusted with great responsibility to pass on the mystery and the good news of God's love for us. It's our job.

We are part of a living tradition that stretches back in time for thousands of years.

I ponder the gift of family and the importance of the sacred traditions we pass on to our children and our children's children.

I think of Olivia, a tiny little girl with brown curly hair, who is a blessed link between my future and my past.

Question:

Whether you are the first link in your family's chain or the 15th, how are you passing your faith along to your children and grandchildren?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 3 - 9, 2000

Sunday, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8, James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23; **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 (Birth of the Virgin Mary)**, Micah 5:1-4, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23; **Saturday (St. Peter Claver)**, 1 Corinthians 4:9-15, Luke 6:1-5

Readings for the week of Sept. 10 - 16, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday**, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday (St. John Chrysostom)**, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday (Triumph of the Cross)**, Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Friday (Our Lady of Sorrows)**, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 2:33-35; **Saturday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian)**, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Luke 6:43-49

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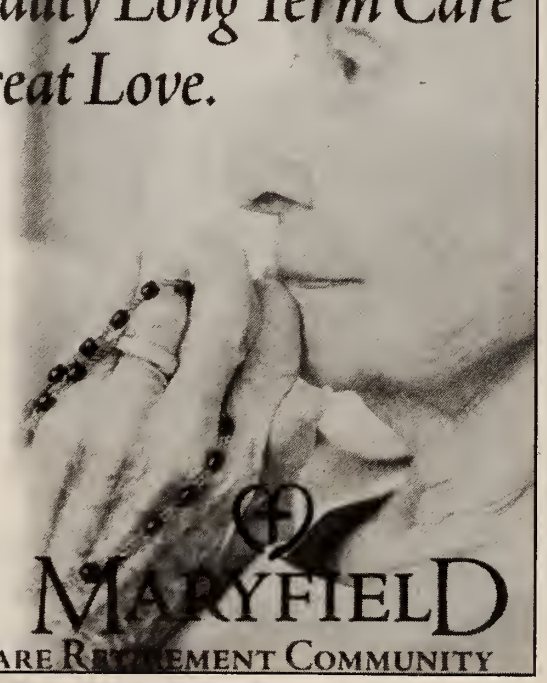

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The Catholic Conference Center

Retirement, from page 1

these 46 counties, the community of faith becomes an extended family. And with the annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection, scheduled in parishes for Sept. 9-10 this year, the diocesan family of faith can offer its thanks to those ministers of Christ who give the best years of their lives in priestly service.

For Father Kelleher, who has served in North Carolina since 1966, "retirement" is a relative term. Now a Winston-Salem resident, he continues an active schedule of filling in at parishes on the weekends, and his ministry to young and elderly alike brings countless smiles to many.

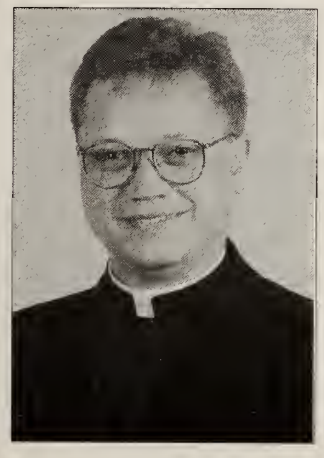
"On weekends, I go all over the place — not just in the Triad, but throughout the diocese," said Father Kelleher. "Sometimes," he adds with a chuckle, "I get calls and I have to say, 'I'm sorry, I've been booked for two months.'"

Visits to Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point keep him in touch with some of the diocese's senior priests and residents, including Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley. And ongoing involvement at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem — from celebrating Mass in the school chapel to serving fries on the cafeteria lunch line — continues a presence that he and the school community appreciate.

"To give these people a real presence and to be there for them in reality is very important," said Father Kelleher, who remains in contact with BMHS graduates into their college years and beyond. "I hope to offer a presence that lasts long after they're gone from school."

The Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection is designed to provide sound financial security to priests of the diocese and the 11 religious orders who serve here, as they enter their retirement years.

The collection's goal this year is $776,000, according to Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. Two-thirds of the funds will be used for diocesan clergy, and a third for the retirement funds of the religious order priests who serve here.



"To receive the care and concern that people give in a very real and tangible way as a way of showing how they appreciate their priests is a very heartwarming thing to see."

— Father Christopher Davis

The amount of the collection factors in 3 percent of each parish's annual offertory income.

Twenty-two retired diocesan priests currently benefit from the collection, which also helps provide for those 71 diocesan priests in current active ministry who will someday be eligible for retirement benefits.

Among those in active ministry is Father Davis, who in July entered a pastoral assignment as administrator of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville and sacramental minister at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden.

Father Davis credits Father Conrad Kimbrough, a senior priest in the diocese, for fostering his calling to converting to Catholicism — and, later, to the priesthood.

It was as the organist at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro that Father Davis — then a college student considering a future in music — had important conversations with Father Kimbrough about the Catholic faith. After a lengthy period of prayer and consideration he converted. That led him to yet another path of discernment — one that led him to the priesthood.

"During my college years at UNC Greensboro, I was trying to figure out what I really wanted to do with my life," said Father Davis, who was ordained in 1998. "And about the only thing that really gave me a sense of peace was to really think about being a priest and the ministry of celebrating the sacraments and the Mass."

Both Fathers Kelleher and Davis said that to serve the family of faith in the diocese — a family who in turn will provide for their well-being in their times of need — brings a humble sense of gratitude.

"There are many, many times during the day when I thank God for having what I have, and I ask him to bless the people who provide for me," said Father Kelleher. "I'm grateful for that, and I hope to still be available to pray and to work for their salvation."

"To receive the care and concern that people give in a very real and tangible way as a way of showing how they appreciate their priests is a very heartwarming thing to see," added Father Davis. He thanked those senior priests in the diocese who worked so diligently "to persevere to make the church that we have inherited today."

"We're living off the fruit of their work and labor," he said, "and it's just very awe-inspiring."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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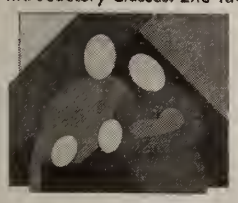
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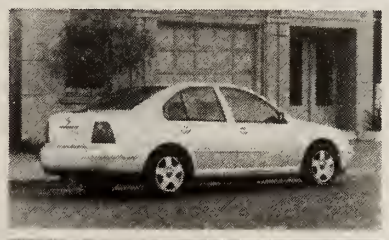

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says World Youth Day exceeded 'all expectations'

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked God for a World Youth Day celebration he said exceeded "all human expectations" and prayed that the young people would ignite the world with God's love.

"I will never be able to forget the enthusiasm of those young people," he told pilgrims at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Aug. 23.

"I would have liked to have embraced them all and expressed to each one the affection which ties me to the youth of our time," he said.

More than 2 million young people from 160 countries crowded an 800-acre field on Rome's outskirts Aug. 19-20 for a prayer vigil with the pope and Mass with him the following morning. It was city's largest gathering of people in living memory.

"Flying over the area in the helicopter," said the pope, referring to his arrival and departure from the field, "I admired from above a singular and impressive sight: an enormous human carpet of joyful people, happy to be together."

The youths' community and personal experience of encountering Christ during the event, he said, showed that the young people felt themselves "a living part of the church" and "a people of God in journey."

The pope said the young people were not afraid of their own human frailties and limitations "because they count on the love and mercy of the heavenly Father, who sustains them in daily life."

"Beyond every race and culture, they feel like brothers gathered by a single faith, by a single hope, by a single mission: to ignite the world with God's love," he said.

"To all the young people I would like to repeat: Be proud of the mission which the Lord has entrusted to you and carry it forward with humble and generous perseverance," the pope said.

"Christ and his church count on you!" he said.

Pope announces 2002 World Youth Day will be in Toronto

ROME (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II drew World Youth Day 2000 to a clamorous close in Rome, he announced the next site for the gathering would be in Toronto, Ontario, in 2002. "Right from now I invite the young people of the world to set out for Toronto," the pope told a 2 million-strong crowd that convened on a university campus on Rome's outskirts for the climax of this year's youth day observance. "I offer a special greeting to the Canadian delegation, who wanted to be here at this celebration to accept the task which will be theirs," he said Aug. 20 as Canadian flags began waving furiously.

Labor Day: Then and Now

When Labor Day became a federal holiday in 1894, workers marched in major cities to demonstrate the strength of labor organizations in their communities. In the afternoon after the parades, workers and their families enjoyed recreation together in parks and other public places.

One hundred years ago workers, especially in railroad and steel, regularly worked twelve-hour shifts six days a week. In 1880 one-sixth of American workers (1,118,000) were children under the age of 16. In 1889 alone, 22,000 railroad workers were killed or injured on the job. Because wages fluctuated with the economy, the Carnegie Steel Company in 1892 cut pay between 18 percent and 26 percent leading to the Homestead Strike that ended in bloody violence.

Only a century ago the human dignity of American workers was sacrificed to the new wave of industrialization.

A sense of solidarity and purpose gripped union members that first Labor Day with slogans like "an injury to one is an injury to all." They were optimistic about making a difference. The issues at the time included securing the eight-hour workday, eliminating child labor, minimizing unsafe work conditions and mandating a fair wage. Labor Day 2000 finds most workers in the U.S. living a middle-class life.

The eight-hour day has become standard and child labor is outlawed. Yet, 10 million workers still receive minimum wage and vast numbers work with no health insurance. While companies cannot easily change wages according to economic highs and lows, they can employ a contingent workforce of temps, part-timers and contract labor. In today's market system, workers see themselves as independent entrepreneurs selling their work skills to the highest bidder. Even well-educated workers recognize they will work for numerous companies before retirement and possibly change careers two or three times. The social fabric of loyalty between many workers and employers appears shredded.

But, the single greatest difference between the first Labor Day and Labor Day 2000 remains the global economy. Today that arrangement weakens the rights of workers everywhere. Corporations are free to move capital across international borders, finding countries with low wages to produce goods.

The International Labor Organization, an arm of the U.N., adopted resolutions covering five basic human rights for all workers. They include the right to organize unions and the right to bargain collectively with employers.

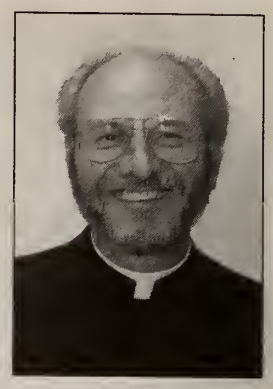
Today over 46 million children under 14 work in factories and fields and millions of adult workers log 70 hours a week on assembly lines. Prison labor is forced to produce for international markets and women suffer discrimination in the workplace. Many times these labor abuses translate into cheap prices for American discount stores.

Labor Day today usually signals the end of summer for American workers. For people of justice it offers a time to pause and reflect about how far labor has come and what issues remain.

Father Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER
JOHN RAUSCH
Guest Columnist



Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRY LYKE
Guest Columnists

Launching stages in family life

As lay ministers who have worked with families for many years, our view of the various stages of family life can be skewed by theory when our experience at a stage is lacking.

For example, our only understanding about raising teens was what we had heard and seen in others, and what we scarcely remembered from our own adolescence. Now in the midst of adolescence, our family experiences give us practical wisdom into which we may apply some of the learned theory.

Frankly, we now know the "real deal" about raising teens.

We are entering a new stage of family life of which we are learning the lesson of experience — the launching stage.

Our older child, Andréa, is leaving for college. With the similar trepidation of her first day of kindergarten, we are enrapt with this experience of launching.

As clinicians of family life, we have prepared for this stage for years. We understand its functions and purpose.

Yet there is an ever-present anxiety that gnaws in our gut. Transitioning previous family life stages have taught us something important that we will use to maneuver this phase.

Welcoming a new child into our family setting for the first time was scary. Though we were excited and well prepared, there was so much we didn't know. There were so many "what-ifs" to consider that we found ourselves sometimes stuck in fear. Watching Andréa board the school bus for the first time gave us pangs of fear, a sense of loss, a remorseful knowing that things will not be the same.

And so it has been for each stage we have traversed: pangs of fear, a sense of loss.

Experience tells us that standing still and bemoaning our loss are not healthy options. Our children are ever-evolving, whether we like it or not. To "get with the program," we have had to trust in God. At each stage thus far, there was a "letting go and letting God" factor that got us through.

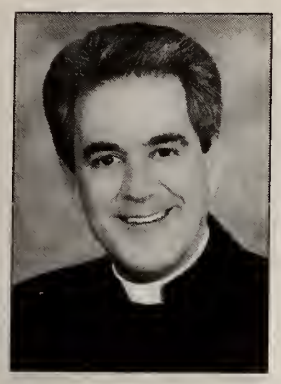
There is a pattern of the Paschal Mystery at work here: bearing the cross of change, entering the tomb of anxiety and embracing the resurrection of newness in family life.

Having lived this pattern through the previous stages of family life, we anticipate the joy of watching Andréa evolve as a young adult college student.

It tempers the anxiety and gives us hope.

So, again, as with other families sending their first-borns off to school — kindergarten or college — we are learning to let go in brand new ways. We are also trusting that God is with us through every step and every stage of family life.

Andrew & Terry Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Light One Candle

MSGR. THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

White Lies

White lie, n. a minor or harmless lie. Who hasn't at some time found an excuse for fibbing? Either the truth would embarrass the other person or be too inconvenient for ourselves, so we lie. From "Tell him I'm not here!" to "Honestly, you look thinner in that dress!" — harmless, face-saving lies. No big thing.

No big thing unless you read St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.), Bishop of Hippo, Doctor of the Church and one of the most intriguing and influential Christian writers of all time.

He makes the case that even the slightest intention to mislead others in their pursuit of truth is a sin. His stand is unequivocal — whenever you tell a lie, you violate your sacred obligation to the truth. You cannot be a liar and still pretend to serve God who is himself truth. But what about those times when we are just silent and keep the truth to ourselves? Silence is vague. Somebody can take from your silence whatever they want. That isn't lying, is it? Well, to Augustine it is.

Many of us would probably quibble, saying that we cannot be held responsible for the way someone interprets our silence. We might argue that it would be the same as a listener getting a different meaning than we intended because a word we use has more than one meaning.

The crux of the matter is our intention: neither silence nor vagueness protects us from lying if we intend to deceive our listener. Oh, by the way, should our deception fail, we are still lying because that was what we were trying to do. According to Augustine, even if we speak the truth but know that for some reason it won't be believed and that is what you want, you have lied.

Wow! You would have to be a saint to live up to that standard!

But if we see a lie, the intention to deceive, as a betrayal of our shared search for truth, Augustine's arguments are understandable. Lying is a barrier to that search.

Studies in the dynamics of communication show that people who lie often begin to believe their lies are truth. A sort of cognitive dissonance sets in whereby one's mind becomes so conflicted that truth is unrecognizable. Lying also affects relationships. Once a deception has been practiced in matters where all should be fair and open, confidence can never be completely restored. Indeed, the worst of all deceptions is to think one thing and say another. It cheats both the other and one's self. Other sins are easier after that.

Augustine would be the first to say he knew something about sins. His mother Monica prayed for his conversion, even as he lived a rather earthy life. Yet, he struggled for years with his own search for truth. Finding his answer in God, he then spent the rest of his life trying to live out his belief in the One Eternal Truth.

I suspect that most people aren't ready to swear off the occasional "white lie." But as we travel on our own search, we might reflect a little more not only on what truth is, but Who Truth is. As Augustine prayed: O Omnipotent Good, who cares for each of us as if no one else existed and for all of us as if we were all but one! Your law is truth and truth is Yourself. You made me for Yourself, and my heart is restless until it rests in You.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Why people like being Catholic

Being Catholic means being part of a family which has given us "a way of seeing," a new book titled "I Like Being Catholic" (Doubleday) shows through the words of scores of people — famous and not famous, clergy and laity.

The book's authors are Michael Leach and Therese Borchard (Doubleday). Borchard, summarizing the conviction of so many others, writes: "My faith opens my eyes to the good and the beautiful in everything around me. Everything that I enjoy in an average day is pregnant with the goodness of God."

Some of the testimony is a sheer, soaring love story, like this by journalist Brian Doyle: "I like being Catholic because Catholicism is about light. Because all of Christ's message can be boiled down to a single word: 'love.' Because I need to believe in a future driven by love and in a life after this life defined wholly by love. Because divinity is everywhere and in everything, and Catholic saints above all others have articulated this with passion and poetry. Because more than any other faith, it is about hope beyond sense."

And a Maryland postal worker, Quentin Cupp, affirms: "I like being Catholic because you are forgiven for everything. You can start all over again."

The authors have assembled an incredible array of affirmations about being Catholic from people living and dead: Martin Scorsese, Maria Shriver, Babe Ruth, Knute Rockne, Bob Newhart, Flannery O'Connor, Father Andrew Greeley and Gary Cooper. Read these, and you know we are relatives, family. "The bloodstream of every Catholic — liberal, conservative or confused — traces back to the same pool of blood at the foot of a cross," writes Leach.

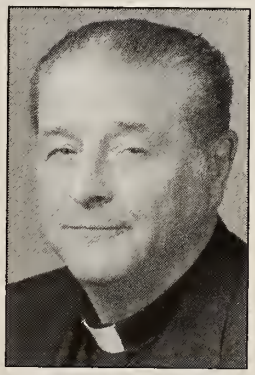
The power of this book is that it helps us remember who we are because of our baptism, which connected us with something magnificent. As life hands us confusion, blows, boredom, temptation, whatever, we sometimes walk away from the "noble family" we belong to, to use the words of the famed convert Clare Booth Luce.

A priest once told me that when a couple came to him saying they wanted a divorce, he would say: "Once you two loved each other so much you wanted to spend the rest of your lives together. Can you remember that? Can you regain that beautiful time?" I feel that if people who have put the Catholic Church aside would read this book, they would remember the original love story they had in their life and perhaps yearn to find it again.

In a final essay about tomorrow's Catholics, Leach sees "signs of new life everywhere" among the young. The church they shape may look different in some ways, but, he affirms, "there is nothing to fear.... The center is Christ, and it is he who draws all things together and makes them new. To be Catholic is to appreciate change and to see the face of Christ in everyone."

The new century of Catholicism, he writes, "may be more filled with faith, hope and charity than any before it."

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Parents of Homosexual Children

Q. We have four grown children, all raised Catholic with a Catholic education, and we enjoy a good, loving relationship with all of them.

Today, the two who are, and have been, the most gentle and caring, and most spiritual, are self-proclaimed homosexuals. Both of them, one son and one daughter, claim to have known from an early age they were different. As their mother, I believe this is true.

I don't know the details of their personal lives, but does my church tell me that if these two are not able to abstain they are going to hell? How can God, who gave them such beautiful gifts and strong human urges reject them?

I have always sought and loved a God who is compassionate and merciful, a God we cannot understand or know everything about. Have I been wrong?

A. No, you are not wrong. You are thinking and hoping and fearing in the same way as many thousands of other parents in the same circumstances, including Catholics like yourselves.

One of the most caring and helpful documents ever issued by the bishops of the United States was titled "Always Our Children." First published in September 1997 and intended primarily for parents of homosexuals, it considers, as gently and as honestly as possible, many crucial points for families of homosexuals.

It is impossible to go into great detail in this column, but their opening summary of what they desire to offer mothers and fathers is itself constructive. Their message, the bishops affirm, speaks of "accepting yourself, your beliefs and values, your questions and all you may be struggling with at the moment; of accepting and loving your child as a gift of God; and of accepting the full truth of God's revelation about the dignity of the human person and the meaning of human sexuality.

"Within the Catholic moral vision there is no contradiction among these levels of acceptance, for truth and love are not opposed. They are inseparably joined and rooted in one person, Jesus Christ."

God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual, says the letter, and that love is always and everywhere offered to those who are open to receiving it. St. Paul's well-known passage is quoted that nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:39).

The bishops repeat the church's teaching that same-sex genital behavior is objectively immoral. Whether such activity is subjectively sinful, however, whether an individual actually sins personally in engaging in these activities, depends on several factors.

Traditionally, a grave sin must involve a serious matter, and must be done with full knowledge and deliberate consent. (The Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses these briefly in Nos. 1856-61.) Whether and how these conditions may be present in an individual circumstance is often extremely difficult to unravel, even for the individual involved, let alone for anyone else.

As the bishops significantly note, our sexual orientation, heterosexual or homosexual, is only one component of our self-identity. "Our total personhood," they note, "is more encompassing

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Labor Day, from page 1

overall economy," he said. "In exchange for their willingness to work in difficult jobs with little pay and few benefits, they are often mistreated and abused."

Commenting on the prosperity of our times, Cardinal Mahony said, "Just beneath the surface of economic prosperity lies the reality of what our bishops have described as three economies living side-by-side.

"A first economy finds many people prospering in this new information age and global marketplace," he said.

"A second economy includes people who are doing well by some measure, but are squeezed by declining incomes, struggle to afford health care, and worry about the cost of a college education or Catholic schools for their children."

In the third economy, he said, there are "a substantial number of people who are left behind and cannot escape poverty."

"For Christians, these realities represent not just troubling statistics, but the struggles of brothers and sisters, members of one human family," Cardinal Mahony said.

"The values of our faith call us to shape economic policies that protect human dignity, promote strong families and create vibrant communities."

Rapid globalization of finance, trade and work — which can cause "both economic growth and economic dislocation" — present a real challenge today, the cardinal said.

"Retraining of dislocated workers to allow them to engage in the developing technologies should be a top priority," he said.

"At the same time, workers, particularly those in the growing service industry, must be assured of their right to choose whether to organize and join unions or other associations to promote and defend their dignity," Cardinal Mahony said.

"The church has long stood and continues to stand with workers and their unions in the struggle for justice, decent wages and a meaningful voice in economic life."

"The values of our faith call us to shape economic policies that protect human dignity, promote strong families and create vibrant communities."

-- Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

Cardinal Mahony said the U.S. bishops' conference is "exploring ways to encourage a Catholic conversation on economic globalization framed by our traditions and values."

The conversation would include business and labor leaders, economists and theologians, "those who shape globalization and those touched by it," he said.

"We must join together — workers and employers, entrepreneurs and union leaders, tradespeople and policy-makers — to build a society that respects each person and their work," the cardinal said.

"This is our continuing challenge and our necessary work as we begin this new millennium."

The full text of the Labor Day statement is available on the Web at www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/laborday2000.htm.

Dietzen, from page 13

than sexual orientation. Human beings see the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart."

Sometimes, according to the letter, the best approach may be a "wait and see" attitude, while you try to maintain a trusting relationship and provide various kinds of support, information and encouragement.

The bishops' message includes numerous suggestions and insights which, in my experience, have proven helpful to parents of homosexual children. It is available from the U.S. Catholic Conference Publication and Promotion Service. Phone 800-235-8722. Ask for "Always Our Children," Publication 5-131.

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.

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President Harry Truman ordering integration of the armed forces and ends with the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. Highlights in between include school integrations, lynchings, boycotts, lunch counter sit-ins, landmark court decisions, police dogs "tearing human flesh," the Birmingham church bombing that left four little girls dead, assassinations and voter registrations.

Young people will read about high school student Claudette Colvin, who was arrested on March 2, 1955, and jailed for refusing to go to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Ala. She was more than willing to allow her case to test segregation laws, but her lawyers determined that she was too young and vulnerable to bear the burden of the challenge. Then, on Dec. 1, 1955, a soft-spoken, 42-year-old seamstress who had studied nonviolence tactics and was a leader in the local NAACP took her seat on the bus and refused to give it up. While Rosa Parks knew Colvin, writes Turck, she couldn't have known it at the time that "her challenge would change the country forever."

The hands-on projects devised to help children appreciate the civil rights movement and what they themselves can do today to influence current civil rights issues include:

— Organizing a walk to raise money for an organization that is working for justice today.

— Conducting a workshop to learn about nonviolence.

— Enacting a play to re-create the drama of a lunch counter sit-in in the early 1960s in the South.

— Writing a freedom ride journal.

— Sharing a freedom feast with friends.

Turck dedicates her book to the "the people of Cabrini Green, among whom I lived and ... learned from 1967 to 1973, ... and (to) the sister, brothers, priests, and parish of St. Dominic." She stresses that the civil rights movement "is not a part of history, but a part of present-day political reality."

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Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Rita of Cascia for a favor received. P.M.

Vatican condemns use of embryos for stem-cell research as immoral, unnecessary

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling it immoral and unnecessary, the Vatican condemned the production and use of human embryos for stem-cell research, despite its humanitarian aims.

In a seven-page statement released Aug. 24, the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life encouraged adult stem-cell research, which does not pose ethical problems and which has seen recent published successes.

The Vatican's statement followed an Aug. 23 decision by the U.S. government to release federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research projects. In mid August, England's chief medical officer recommended allowing scientists to obtain stem cells by cloning human embryos, a process known as "therapeutic cloning."

Stem cells are basic undifferentiated cells that replicate repeatedly, producing cells that can form various body tissues. Because of the cells' ability to generate different body tissues, scientists believe they hold promise in treating various diseases, especially the degenerative diseases of age.

The Vatican statement said the production and use of embryos to harvest stem cells amounts to viewing a human life — the embryo — as "a simple accumulation of cells" rather than a subject with rights.

"As a 'human individual,' it has a right to its own life; and, therefore, any intervention which is not for the good of that embryo is a detrimental act to that right," the statement said.

"As a 'human individual,' it has a right to its own life; and, therefore, any intervention which is not for the good of that embryo is a detrimental act to that right."

The process of removing the stem cells "seriously and irreparably damages the human embryo, cutting its development short," the statement said, making it "a seriously immoral act, and therefore, gravely prohibited."

Citing the same ethical concerns, the statement explicitly condemned "therapeutic cloning," by which embryos are produced for stem-cell harvesting.

Other common sources of embryonic stem cells are embryos left over from "in vitro" fertilization and frozen embryos originally created for use by infertile couples.

The Vatican said it was immoral for scientists to use embryonic stem cells even if the scientists were not involved in removing the cells from the embryo. Doing so involves "a close material cooperation in the production and manipulation of human embryos," it said.

Speaking on Vatican Radio Aug. 24, Bishop Elio Sgreccia, vice president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, criticized the U.S. government's decision to fund embryonic stem-cell research and said it represented "a yielding to the pressures of the industries that want to commercialize human material."

He said existing U.S. laws that prohibit federal funds for research involving the destruction of human embryos were "a hypocrisy."

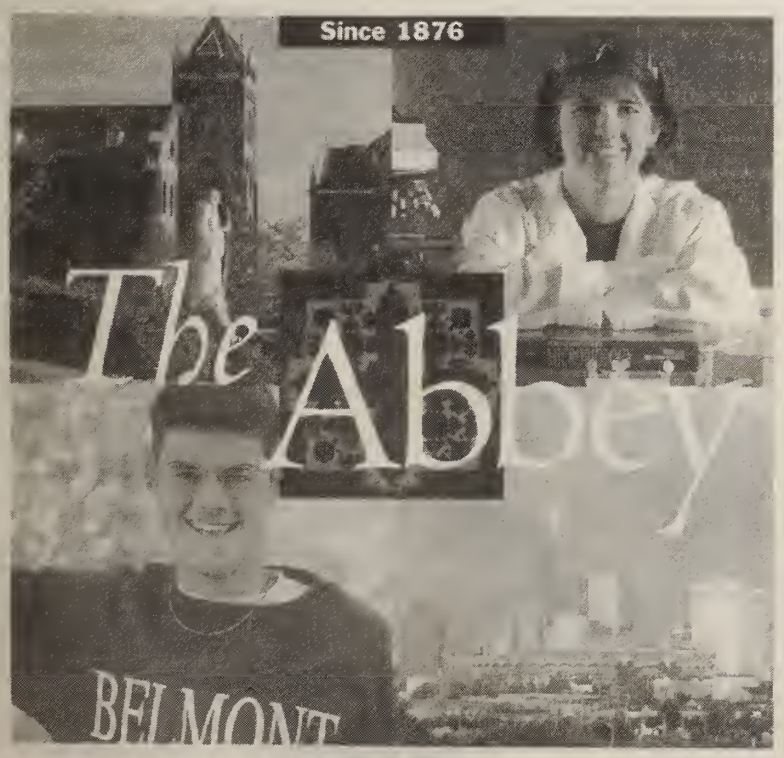
"When frozen embryos are collected (for stem cells), they are destroyed by these researchers. They, too are human embryos," he said.

Pastoral care training sessions scheduled

CHARLOTTE — Those currently involved in volunteerism or those who would like to become involved in the ministry will have the opportunity to attend free training sessions in pastoral care for the elderly in October. The program, sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry, St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, is designed to train volunteers to provide pastoral care to the homebound and elderly men and women living in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes and memory-impaired facilities.

Throughout the four-week training in two-hour sessions from 7-9 p.m., volunteers will be able to learn about parish ministry from B.J. Dengler, pastoral coordinator; Eucharistic ministry from Monsignor John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church; senior sensitivity and confidentiality from Bernadette Ford, a local gerontologist; and compliance and consistency from Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew Church.

The training sessions will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in the ministry center every Monday beginning October 9. For more information about the required registration, call (704) 364-5431.



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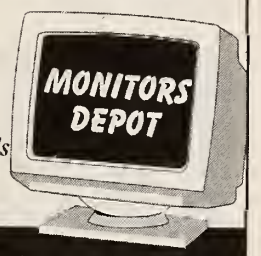

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Servite priests prays for healing of body, soul

By JOEY REISTROFFER
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — A wheelchair-bound woman suffering from lupus was brought up to the altar at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church last Wednesday night. After a special blessing by Servite Father Peter Mary Rookey, she stood up, took a few tentative steps, then walked back down the aisle, pushing her wheelchair.

Only the Lord knows whether she was cured, but Father Rookey's healing Mass in Hendersonville Aug. 23 certainly bolstered her faith.

About 1,000 people from Tennessee to Florida flocked to see Father Rookey in the North Carolina hill country on Wednesday. They came with aches and pains. They came with terminal diseases. They came on crutches, and they came with canes.

They had heard about this Servite priest who has been celebrating healing Masses all over the world for decades.

He did not disappoint in Hendersonville.

He described the curing of a Down syndrome child in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He also talked about once blessing a blind girl in Northern Ireland, who then regained her sight.

These are the stories that brought the crowd of believers to Immaculate Conception.

The day before, Father Rookey had filled the pews at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Charlotte. He also packed St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte on Monday.

Photo by Joey Reistroffer

Father Peter Mary Rookey blesses a pilgrim during a healing Mass Aug. 23 at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. Father Rookey, a Servite priest, celebrated three healing Masses in the diocese recently. He is popular throughout the world for a healing ministry he brings to many.

"They come looking for healing — either physical or spiritual," said Jim Hrechko, Father Rookey's assistant. "And they stay until the bitter end."

In Hendersonville, the service began at 6:30 p.m. with Father Rookey leading the Servite Rosary, the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Then he celebrated Mass, followed by witness testimonies to healings and finally the laying on of hands. The gathering did not wind down until 11 p.m.

Through it all, Father Rookey kept the evening fresh with his humorous wit and his humble appeal to the Lord.

During the Seven Sorrows of Mary, he said, "My mother and father had 13 sorrows, and I was one of the worst ones, I'm afraid."

One woman leaned over and said, "You can tell he thoroughly enjoys what he's doing."

Father Rookey brings people closer to God.

"It was an enlightening experience," Neil Boland described the healing Mass. "It shows the power of the Lord."

Beatrice Ferrenger, who is being treated for cancer, agreed. "I've been to several healing Masses. This one, by far, is the best. It inspired me. I've never met anyone like him before."

Rev. Mr. Patrick Crosby said Father Rookey's healing Mass "was awesome." He was close by when Father Rookey laid hands on the woman with lupus. "He kept touching her legs and asked if she could feel warmth in her legs. Finally he asked if she wanted to get up, and she said yes," Rev. Mr. Crosby said.

Father Rookey, however, takes no credit. He gives it to the Lord. "The spirit was powerful tonight," he said. "The spirit does all the work, not me. I'm almost 84 (years old.)"

Yet for almost five hours, Father Rookey blessed people seeking healing and anointed them with oil.

Once blessed, many in the crowd fell backward in what Father Rookey called a "resting of the spirit."

In this state, he said, they are fully conscious, intimately touched by the healing power of the Holy Spirit, and experience great peace and restfulness.

"Many times there can be a physical healing," Father Rookey explained, "but many times a healing won't take place until later. Let Jesus be your guest tonight. Let Him work His work in you."

Then he urged the people at Immaculate Conception to "be humble like a little child" and have courage, saying "Courage, thy faith has made ye whole."

Perhaps courage, faith in the Lord and a humble spirit made the woman with lupus whole.

Only God knows for sure, and miracles do happen in His name.

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