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**VOLUME XXII
NUMBER 1**

**JAN
2001**

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ANGELUS

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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At Christmas, Pope Focuses On Hopes For Middle East Peace

By *Benedicta Cipolla*
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – At Christmas celebrations leading the Catholic Church into the final phase of Holy Year 2000, Pope John Paul II focused on hopes for peace in the Middle East.

At the open-air midnight Mass and in his traditional Christmas message, the pope expressed concern over the future of the region, where three months of violence between Israelis and Palestinians

has left more than 340 people dead.

During the Christmas Eve Mass, held outside for the first time during his pontificate to accommodate the large number of jubilee pilgrims, Pope John Paul looked back on his March pilgrimage to the Holy Land and recalled his moments in prayer in Bethlehem.

Usually a Christmas Christian mecca, this year the town of Christ's birth lay silent as tourists

feared getting caught in Israeli-Palestinian clashes.

"Tonight," said the pope, "I would like the Christian communities in (the Holy Land) to feel that the whole church is very close to them."

"We share your anxiety for the destiny of the entire region of the Middle East," he said to some 50,000 pilgrims who braved downpours to attend the Mass.

see "POPE", page eight



Thousands of worshippers braved heavy rains Dec. 24 to attend Christmas midnight Mass at St. Peter's Square where Pope John Paul II urged them not to forget those who are suffering and alone at this time of year. (CNS photo from Reuters)

Catholic Outreach Services Will Have Permanent Home

by *Miki Clemens*

After four years of existence, Catholic Outreach Services is taking the first steps towards establishing a permanent home in San Angelo, thanks to a generous gift for the purchase of a prime piece of real estate.

Mrs. Eva Comunez Tucker donated \$20,000 to COS to buy the land at 4th and Chadbourne Streets, which was the site of the old Santa Fe Railroad Station.

COS, currently located at 102 N. Chadbourne, plans to build a 6,000 square foot building on the

corner site and expand its merchandising operation and social services.

Eugene Berger chairman of the COS Building Committee and his team, spent over two years scouting suitable sites for the charitable organization's home. At least five locations were targeted and pursued over the course of time, many of which were rejected for environmental or extensive remodeling problems.

"We found this piece of property just a few blocks from where we are now located and where

COS has experienced such tremendous growth," Berger said. "It seemed an ideal location to continue our services and provides us with room enough to expand in the future when we need to."

"Thanks to Mrs. Tucker, COS is now on the fast-track to getting its new home. We hope to have it built and to be in it within the year," Berger added.

Local architect Henry Schmidt has been preparing plans for the building whose exterior will feature some of the railroad station's

see "COS", page eleven



Catholic Outreach Services Building Committee Chairman Eugene Berger presents a certificate of appreciation to Mrs. Eva Comunez Tucker for her donation of \$20,000 to purchase property for the new COS location at the corner of 4th and Chadbourne Streets. The certificate was presented at the COS annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Goodfellow AFB Officers Club.



“Follow Me”

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

“Follow me,” and I will make you fishers of men, were the words that Jesus addressed to the apostles, when he invited them to share in his ministry of salvation. Those first followers of Jesus were people like ourselves who were uncertain as to where this call of Christ would take them. However, they trusted Jesus, and he taught them how to be “fishers of men,” his special ministers of bringing God’s salvation to the world.

Through our baptism, Jesus calls all people – men and women – to follow him. Then, a specific call that we call a vocation is offered by God to each person. One of the vocations to which Christ invites people is the vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Those who accept this call to priesthood or religious life are the ones who become special “fishers of men” for Christ today. There are many “fish” that still need to be caught, and Christ is inviting many young people to assist him in his “fishing program” of bringing the Gospel to people.

Is Christ calling you to be one of his special “fishermen?” There is one thing for certain – Christ is still calling, and Christ is still inviting, while perhaps the call is not heard by many. I encourage you to seriously listen to the call of Christ and consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life.

Christ is still calling, the Church needs you, and many people need your service. This is a special way of living out your baptism, and assisting Christ of bringing God’s salvation to our world. Let us all pray for more vocations to priesthood and religious life.



«Sígueme»

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

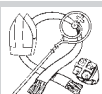
«Sígueme,» y los haré pescadores de hombres, eran las palabras que Jesús les dijo a los apóstoles, cuando el los invitó a compartir su ministerio de salvación. Los primeros discípulos de Jesús eran gente como nosotros, eran inciertos a donde esta llamada de Cristo los llevaría. Sin embargo, ellos tenían confianza en Jesús, y el los enseñó como ser «pescadores de hombres,» sus ministros especiales de traer la salvación de Dios al mundo.

Por nuestro bautismo, Jesús llama a toda la gente – hombres y mujeres – a seguirlo. Entonces, una llamada específica que nosotros llamamos una vocación es ofrecida por Dios a cada persona. Unas de las vocaciones a la que Cristo invita a la gente es la vocación al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa. Los que aceptan esta llamada al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa son los que se hacen especiales «pescadores de hombres» para Cristo ahora. Hay muchos «pescados» que todavía necesitan pescarse, y Cristo está invitando a muchos jóvenes para asistirlo en su «programa de pescar» de traer el Evangelio al mundo.

¿Te está llamando Cristo para que seas su especial «pescador?» Una cosa es seguro – Cristo todavía está llamando, y Cristo todavía está invitando, mientras quizás la llamada no sea escuchada por muchos. Los animo que seriamente escuchen la llamada de Cristo y consideren una vocación al sacerdocio o la vida religiosa.

Cristo todavía está llamando, la Iglesia te necesita, y mucha gente necesita tu servicio. Esta es una manera especial de vivir tu bautismo, y asistiendo Cristo de traer la salvación de Dios a nuestro mundo. Ojalá que todos recemos por mas vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa.

The Bishop’s Schedule



January 2001

Jan. 1: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Mass at 9:00 a.m. Court House, Prayer for New Officials at 11:00 a.m.

Jan. 2-5: San Antonio, Retreat for Bishops of Region X

Jan. 7: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Feast of the Epiphany and Closing of Jubilee Year, Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 9: Abilene, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils of St. Francis and St. Vincent

Pallotti parishes at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Personnel Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 11: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Liturgy Commission Meeting at 10:00 a.m. Meeting and Lunch with International Clergy from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 12: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Jan. 14: Winters, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Mass at 9:00 a.m. And meet with Pastor and Pastoral Council after Mass.

Jan. 15: San Angelo, Cathed-

ral Church of the Sacred Heart, Mass for Christian Unity and to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King at Noon.

Jan. 16-17: Rest and Prayer.

Jan. 18: Sweetwater, Holy Family, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils of Immaculate Heart, Holy Family, Roscoe and Merkel at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 20: Midland, St. Ann, Catholic Schools Commission at 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 21: Eola, St. Isidore, Mass at 8:00 a.m. Abilene, Holy Family, Pro-Life Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Pro-Life Mass at noon.

Jan. 23: Abilene, Sacred Heart, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Council at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 24: San Angelo, Newman Center, Mass at Noon.

Jan. 25-26: Rest and Prayer.

Jan. 27: Eldorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass with Area Knights of Columbus at 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 28: Knickerbocker, Im-

maculate Conception, Mass at 8:15 a.m.

Jan. 30: Menard, Sacred Heart, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils of Menard and Junction at 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 31: Midland, St. Ann School, Mass at 6:30 p.m. 50th Anniversary Celebration of School.

February 2001

Feb. 1: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 3: Christoval, Mass and Bless new Carmelite Monastery at 10:00 a.m.

Feb. 4: Brady, St. Patrick, Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass

Feb. 5-7: Dallas, Medical Moral Workshop for Bishops

Feb. 8: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Meeting of the Diocesan Legal Advisory Team at 11:00 a.m.

Feb. 10: San Antonio, St. Mary’s University, Installation of New President

Feb. 13: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Staff

Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart Endowment Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 14-15: San Antonio, St. Mary’s University, Meeting of Texas Bishops with Presidents of Texas Universities

Feb. 16: Colorado City, St. Ann, Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils of Colorado City and Lorraine at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 17: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Scout Awards Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Feb. 18: Austin, Retirement Ceremony for Bishop John McCarthy at 3:00 p.m.

Feb. 19-20: Austin, General Assembly of the Texas Conference of Churches


Feb. 20: Austin, Board Meeting of the Texas Conference of Churches

Feb. 24: San Angelo, Diocesan Conference Day

Feb. 25: Olfen, St. Boniface, Mass at 11:00 a.m.

Feb. 27: San Angelo, Presbyteral Council at 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 28: Rest and Prayer



The West Texas Angelus

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of San Angelo

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

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

Automatic circulation to parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo
Subscription rate for all others: \$10.00 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS
Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times
A Scripps-Howard Company



Vocation Circle

Fr. Tom Barley, JCL
Director of Vocations and
Seminarists

National Vocation Awareness Week

Well, we recently finished the holiday season that included Thanksgiving, Advent, Solemnity of Immaculate Conception, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, posadas, vacation time and trips, shopping, parties and more parties, special foods, family gathering, the Christmas tree and the presents, the Nativity of the Lord – Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family, New Year's, Mary, Solemnity of Mother of God, the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, all those football and basketball games, and then there are the bills to be paid. Besides being a time for a lot of activity, it is also a time of values and faith. It is a time to gather with family and loved ones as the Holy Family gathered; to make sacrifices for others, find charity in our giving, and remember that we can live more simply than the

commercial world would have us think as the saints lived; to find rest and renewal in our lives as Jesus often did by going to the desert; and to sing Christmas carols that were originally used to teach our children the Faith when where we were persecuted like the early Christians. It is a time to gather at Mass to worship God in the Eucharist as the Church has done for two millennia. During the holyday season we remember to include our Catholic practices and values in our activities - because we are Church.

While most of us were wrapped up in the activities, it was really a time for each of us to live out the vocation God has invited us to. To do this, we must be aware of our own vocation and pray that each person will have the courage to hear God's call and answer:

"Yes, Lord, I have come to do your will!"

The week of January 7 to 12 has been designated as "National Vocation Awareness Week". During that week, let your family pray for vocations. Pray for faithfulness in strong marriages, dedicated chaste single people, for our deacons and diaconate candidates, and for the courage for some of our young adults to enter religious life and priesthood. Pray that your own children listen to God's call to a vocation of service in the Church and have the strength to go wherever it will take them. You do not have to be strange to follow God's call. You only have to be willing to be different as Jesus and the saints were different.

**National Vocation
Awareness Week
January 7-12, 2001
&
Annual Diocesan Special
Collection for
Seminarist Education
February 3-4, 2001**

Annual Diocesan Special Collection for Seminarist Education

Just before Christmas the seven seminarists for the Diocese of San Angelo gathered with Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, the Director of Vocations and Seminarists, and the Vocations Priest Advisory Team. These seven seminarists are studying to be the future priests for the Diocese of San Angelo. They are at different stages of their seminarist formation. They are in college, pre-theology (philosophy), and theology. Two are presently on their pastoral year in parishes in the Diocese. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

As our seven diocesan seminarists continue their education and formation into future priests, we have to deal with the reality of

the rising cost of preparing a seminarist for priesthood. A seminarist may have a few years of college or pre-theology before his five years of theology. Expenses include the cost of the school (college or theology), the seminarist, summer programs, and stipends. The average cost of educating and training a seminarist can cost around \$20 thousand dollars a year. Summer programs alone that give the seminarist a specialized experience can cost several thousand dollars.

In the past, much of the funds that paid for the education of our seminarists came from the interest derived from seminarist burses or money donated in memory of a person to the burse account specifically dedicated for the education of seminarists. The principle or the donated money itself is not spent. If it were spent, it would be gone very soon. Rather, it is used to generate a continuous income in interest that is to be spent on the education of seminarists. Until recently, this interest was

sufficient to pay for the educational costs. However, like everything else, the cost of seminarists, schools of theology, and summer programs have increased. Also, two pre-theology years have been added to seminarist formation by national standards for the preparation of seminarists. This greatly increases the overall cost of seminarist education.

Other sources of income to the Diocese for seminarist education include binations and trinations, gifts, grants and scholarships. Binations and trinations are when a priest receives a stipend for a second and third Mass in a day. Diocesan priests are required to contribute these stipends for seminarist education. Gifts sometimes are given to the Diocese for the education of seminarists. Over the past two years a friend of

Built Of Living Stones

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The U.S. Catholic Bishops at their November, 2000 meeting approved the document *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship* as guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops for the building and renovation of churches. The scope and purpose of the document is perhaps best described in its own preface:

"Twenty-two years after the publication of *Environment and Art*, the bishops of the United States presented a new document on Church art and architecture that builds on and replaces *Environment and Art* and addresses the needs of the next generation of parishes engaged in building or renovating churches. *Built of Living Stones* reflects our understanding of the liturgy, of the role and importance of the Church art and architecture, and of the integral roles of the local parish and the Diocese that enter into a building or a renovation project."

"*Built of Living Stones* contains many of the provisions of universal law governing liturgical art and architecture, and offers pastoral suggestions based upon the experience of the last thirty-five years. The document presents guidelines that can serve as the basis for diocesan bishops to issue further guidelines and directives for their dioceses. Where the document quotes or reiterates norms from liturgical books and the Code of Canon Law, those prescriptions are binding on local communities and dioceses."

I strongly encourage our priests, pastoral coordinators and leaders, pastoral councils, and all those involved in liturgy and religious education of our parishes, to study carefully this document that not only gives guidance for the building and renovation of churches, but also on how to better understand Church art.

Bishop Pfeifer's has contributed a sizable gift to help with our seminarist education. While this is helpful, we should not become dependent on the continuation of these generous gifts. Grants are applied for each year from the Extension Society, Catholic Home Missions and other national sources. Each year the Diocese usually receives some grant money from these organizations, which are used for the education of our seminarists. Again, we should try to become self-sufficient. This year the seminarists applied for scholarships from various sources. The Diocese has benefited from over \$16,000 from the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Life, CAPJANDER, PELL, SEOG, and the Catholic Knights of America. The scholarships help to pay for the education of the seminarists.

In truth, The Diocese of San Angelo is a missionary diocese with a population that is around 10 percent Catholic and with limited resources. People are not knocking down my door to apply for the priesthood (yet) or the number of Catholic educational opportunities or the funds that some other dioceses have. But let

me tell you this. What we have is not second rate. What we have is good people and a strong Catholic Church in the Diocese. What we need is for all of our Catholics to become active in the Diocese. Start with improving your prayer life, especially with your family. Participate in the sacraments on a regular basis. Take on a ministry in your parish or community. Help your family to do something that is charitable to others at least once a month. Forgive someone and reconcile with that person. Sacrifice something you like occasionally to remember what it is like to be in need. Please pray for people in vocation formation - our seminarists, diaconate candidates, and the people from our Diocese who are in religious formation or Church ministry somewhere in the U.S. If it is in your heart make a contribution for their education.

The Annual Diocesan Special Collection for Seminarist Education will be taken up on February 3-4. Special envelopes have been distributed. This year the collection will be taken up within the parish. Please support the educations of our seminarists. Keep them in your family prayers.



Respect For The Dignity Of The Human Person Demands A Commitment To Human Rights Across A Broad Spectrum (Abortion Is The Ultimate Child Abuse)

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

January 22, 2001 marks the 28th anniversary of the terrible death sentence given to the unborn by the highest court of our land. Just a few months ago, our Supreme Court also dealt another crucial blow to the nearly-born with its decision on partial-birth abortion in the Nebraska case. Justice Scalia, dissenting, accurately calls this "live-birth abortion." Abortion is the ultimate and most gruesome form of child abuse

As we move through the new millennium, God is calling us to establish a new vision for humanity, a vision based on the inspired word of God, and the highest principles of our Judeo-Christian tradition. This new moment of human history calls for building a culture of life and respect for human life at all stages – from the womb to the tomb; from the moment of conception until the natural end of human life as determined by God.

Respect for the dignity of the human person demands a commitment to human rights across a broad spectrum: Both as Americans and as followers of Christ, American Catholics must be committed to the defense of life in all its stages and in every condition. The Catholic Church espouses and affirms a consistent ethic approach to life teaching that all human life

is sacred as it has been stamped with the divine image. This is why the Church condemns abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment. Our nation is witness to a culture of death from domestic violence, the spread of drugs, sexual activity outside marriage which poses a threat to lives, and a reckless tampering with the world's ecological balance. The culture of death extends beyond our shores: famine and starvation, denial of health care and development around the world, the deadly violence of armed conflict and the scandalous arms trade that spawns such conflict.

Respect for human life calls us to defend life from these and the other threats. It calls us as well to enhance the conditions for human living by helping to provide food, shelter and meaningful employment, beginning with those who are most in need at home and abroad. However, abortion and euthanasia have become the pre-eminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others. These atrocities are committed against those who are weakest and most defenseless, those who are genuinely the poorest of the poor. Pope John Paul II, the champion of human life, asks: "As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and

assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to see the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and support that will help them always to embrace life?" (John Paul II)

The Supreme Court's decision on January 23, 1973 in *Roe v. Wade* was a shameful and a sad date. Shameful, because on that day the Supreme Court arrogantly took away a right that is "endowed by the Creator," the "unalienable" right to life of every human being, born and unborn. And sad, because our country has not yet rectified this outrage.

Since the dreadful decision of the Court in 1973, over 40 million babies have been killed. We now are witnessing a new plateau in barbarism, with partial-birth abortion. A baby, only 3 inches and several seconds from birth is being killed by forcing scissors into the base of the skull, then delivering the baby dead. If this isn't gruesome enough, now we have facts that tissue and body parts of the aborted child are being sold. Abortion kills the equivalent population of a city the size of Philadelphia every year.

Pope John Paul II stresses that, "The Life of the fetus must be protected, defended and nurtured in the mother's womb because of its inherent dignity, a dignity which

belongs to the embryo and is not something conferred or granted by others, whether the genetic parents, the medical personnel or the state."

As people faithful to God, we see abortion as a religious issue, and it is. However, it is primarily a civil rights issue. Our Constitution guarantees "the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It does not exclude the unborn. Even though a child resides in the mother's womb for 9 months, the unborn child is a genetically unique and biologically separate individual. Why should it be legal to kill that individual?

Our natural resources are of great importance to us. We protect our forests, lakes, and endangered species of all kinds, plants, sea creatures, and animals. Yet, we allow 4,400 of our children to be killed every day in our country by abortion. The greatest natural resource any country can have is its children.

Abortion debates most often focus on the mother and the unborn child, but counselors and researchers know that the attitude of the unborn child's father is one of the most critical factors in a woman's decision to have an abortion. Despite the fact that the burden of the decision is placed on the mother, the presence or absence of commitment and support on the part of the man who has

fathered the child, or the mother's perception of his support or the quality of her relationship with him, will often be decisive. The attitude of the prospective father is an important factor in the stress, anxiety or depression of the pregnant woman.

Women struggling with a pregnancy decision or who have had an abortion need our compassion and help – emotional, spiritual, psychological and financial – and prayers. We must also make men aware of their responsibilities in this grave matter and provide them with the proper assistance.

Almost 2,000 years ago, an angel announced the pregnancy of a young unmarried woman. The courageous choice made by that young woman, Mary, to give birth in difficult circumstances, supported by a man named, Joseph, still stands as a model of God's way to handle an unplanned pregnancy. How life would be different today if Mary, the Mother of Jesus, had decided to have an abortion instead of submitting to the will of God. The loving encounter of two expectant mothers in the visitation scene of Luke's Gospel strongly affirms the personhood of the unborn from the moment of conception.

Christ The King Retreat Center Men's Annual Retreat "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

January 26 – 28, 2001

FMI: Fr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I. 915-651-5352 • e-mail: ckrc@wcc.net
Mr. Al Kramer 915-643-2188 • e-mail: aekr1@msn.com

At the beginning of the new year each of us tends to make resolutions to help us become better persons during the ensuing

months. But only too quickly we forget or ignore those good intentions! To help us underscore the good that we want to accomplish the rest of the year, the men's annual retreat will focus on our relationship with the God-Man Jesus, Whose birthday we have just celebrated. It is only when each of

us, individually, answers the question which Jesus poses to each of us, "Who do you say that I am?" that we begin to understand the relationship which Jesus wants to have with us and we want to have with Him.

This annual retreat for men will try to address the following

questions:

- Where is the Lord in those all-to-many daily moments not so seemingly holy?
- Can I really pray when there is so much to get done?
- How can I know inner peace when there is so much going on around me?

• In the midst of all this motion and commotion, am I really called to holiness?

• Is the Lord really in the middle of all this?

• Where is God when everything goes wrong?

Fr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., will direct the retreat.

Registration will open Friday night at 7:00 pm and the retreat will begin at 7:30 pm and conclude on Sunday at 1:00 pm. Donation: \$85. (Preregistration is requested.)



Corrada Named Bishop of Diocese of Tyler

by Jim D'Avignon

TYLER – Bishop Álvaro Corrada del Rio, 58, has been named third bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tyler.

Bishop Corrada will be installed in Tyler Jan. 30 to succeed Bishop Edmond Carmody, who was installed bishop of Corpus Christi on March 17.

The formal announcement was made Dec. 5 by papal nuncio Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo in Washington, D.C. Bishop Corrada held a press conference at the cathedral center at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler at 10 a.m. Dec. 5.

Bishop Corrada is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., but has been serving as apostolic administrator

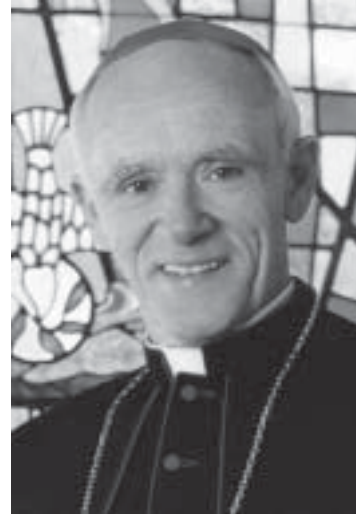
of the Diocese of Caguas, Puerto Rico, since 1997. He will continue in that post until early January, 2001, when he will return to Texas to prepare for his installation.

Born in Morovis, Puerto Rico, Bishop Corrada entered the minor seminary of San Ildefonso, Puerto Rico, in 1955 and joined the New York Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) at St. Andrew on Hudson, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1960.

He was ordained a priest July 6, 1974, at his hometown. Father Corrida was ordained an auxiliary bishop at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 4, 1985, by Cardinal James Hickey, archbishop of Washington.



Bishop Alvaro Corrada, (CNS photo from Catholic Standard.)



Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Edmond Carmody of Tyler, Texas, to head the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas. (CNS photo courtesy Diocese of Corpus Christi)

Fashion/Moda

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

You always need to know this my son, "The man makes the fashion" and not the "Fashion makes the man." Fashions change constantly as time passes on. But the man, always stays the same no matter how much time passes.

Hijo, siempre debes saber que el hombre hace la moda y no la moda al hombre, pues la moda se acaba seguido con el cambiar de los tiempos; pero el hombre siempre sera el mismo aunque los tiempos cambien.

Transition Time In Texas Politics

by Richard Daly

While most Texans were preparing for the holiday season, many, many Texas politicians were preparing for new careers either in Washington, D.C., or Austin, Texas.

Now that the governor has become the president-elect, many of his close advisors and staff will be moving to the nation's Capitol with him. Two very high profile close associates Karen Hughes and Al Gonzales will have very prominent roles in the new administration. Ms. Hughes, who has been the press spokesperson for Governor Bush, will become counselor to the President. Mr. Gonzales, a former member of the

Texas Supreme Court, will be the White House Counsel.

A former board member of Catholic Charities in the Galveston-Houston Diocese and trustee of the University of St. Thomas, Gonzales served as General Counsel to Governor Bush during his first term.

Other names associated with the Bush administration in Austin have also been mentioned as moving to Washington to take on important positions, including Secretary of State Elton Bomer, Railroad Commissioner and former Secretary of State Tony Garza, and the governor's current General Counsel Margaret Wilson.

Agricultural Commissioner

Susan Combs and West Texas Congressman Charles Stenholm had been mentioned as possible secretaries of agricultural, but that obviously did not happen. (*Ed. Note: Ann Veneman, of California, was selected by President-Elect Bush on Dec. 21, 2000.*)

Another very close associate of the governor, his former personal attorney Harriet Miers, who also served as chair of the Texas Lottery Commission, has been expected to join the administration although probably not as Attorney General.

Most Texas politicians will be staying in Austin and preparing for the 77th Legislature with a brand new governor, former Lt.

Gov. Rick Perry.

As Lt. Gov., Perry had a staff of about 50 people; his gubernatorial staff will be four or five times that number.

Long-time Republican Party operative James Huffhines is in charge of the transition team for the new governor. It is his job to identify individuals who are qualified and interested in working for the new governor.

Governor Perry's first appointment was a very interesting one, former Democrat State Representative Henry Cuellar of Laredo as Secretary of State. Cuellar, a much respected and highly educated (law degree and Ph.D.) member of **see "TEXAS", page nine**

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Patricia Ann Taylor, whereabouts unknown:

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before, January 24, 2001, to answer to the Petition of Jesse Harold Price, Petitioner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Jesse Harold Price vs. Patricia Ann Taylor, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as PRICE-TAYLOR, Protocol I.D.: LIGAMEN 2001, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 5th day of January 2001.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson, OMI, MCL, JCL
Judicial Vicar

K of C Distributes \$1.3 Million For Current Year Higher Education Scholarships

by Charles R. Pucie, Jr.

NEW HAVEN, CT, – The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has awarded 655 college and post-graduate scholarship and fellowship grants for the 2000-2001 academic year and distributed scholarship funds totaling approximately \$1.3 million. During the same period, the Knights of Columbus at all levels

awarded college and postgraduate scholarships totaling \$9.1 million. An additional \$6.2 million was expended to support Catholic schools in various ways.

Of the funds distributed by the Supreme Council, \$360,000 was specifically earmarked for religious vocational studies by 195 scholarship grant recipients. The

Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization spent more than \$7 million to promote vocations, support seminarians and religious postulants either directly or through scholarships, and in direct support for seminaries.

With 1.6 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family

fraternal service organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, communities, families and young people. In 1999, the Knights of Columbus in 11,500 councils distributed \$109 million to charitable causes and rendered 55 million hours of volunteer service.



At Jubilee Mass, Pope Asks Entertainers To Be Positive Models

By *Benedicta Cipolla*
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Celebrating a jubilee Mass attended by thousands of actors, singers and other performers, Pope John Paul II urged the entertainment industry to act responsibly and promote a healthy concept of fun.

Addressing some 40,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square Dec. 17 for the Jubilee for Entertainers, the pope told them to keep in mind the rights and needs of their audience, especially children.

"Do not let yourselves be conditioned by sheer economic or ideological interests," he told the crowd, which included film and television personalities, musicians and entertainment executives.

Stars in the public eye, he said, "must be constantly aware of their responsibility."

"Always be positive and coherent examples," the pope told entertainers, "capable of inspiring trust, optimism and hope."

While Christian joy is prima-

rily focused on a spiritual level, he said, "it also embraces healthy fun that is good for both body and soul."

"Society thus must give thanks to those who produce intelligent and relaxing transmissions and programs that are enjoyable without being alienating, funny but not vulgar," said the pope, who penned and acted in plays as a young man.

"Spreading authentic cheer," he said, "can be a genuine form of social charity," and the new evangelization of the third millennium must involve the entertainment industry.

In addition to specifically Christian performances based on the Bible or church teaching, the pope said artistic works and programs "not explicitly religious" also can "speak to people's hearts, provoking surprise, questions and reflection."

Following the Mass, at his weekly Angelus prayer, the pope mentioned in particular itinerant performers, from circus and carnival workers to street artists.

Presenting an icon of Christ on the cross, which was to make its way through European and American circuses and carnivals in 2001, he said traveling entertainers "remind everyone that the church is made up of a people who are always on the move, without a fixed home in this world."

The three-day jubilee event, the last celebration on the Holy Year calendar to focus on a specific group, also included a conference on Pope John Paul and the cinema, prayer services and an afternoon of song and dance at a Rome film studio.

Speaking Dec. 16 at the Titanus studios, Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, praised entertainers for their contribution to society.

"In a world such as ours," he said, "at times so complex and difficult, and unfortunately also violent and filled with troubles and doubts, competition and falsehoods, you, in very different genres of this immense artistic



Pope Waves To Pilgrims At Jubilee For Entertainers. Pope John Paul II makes his way through the crowd in St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee for Entertainers Dec. 17. (CNS photo by Vincenzo Pinto)

universe, know how to communicate human, important, lasting values."

Whether watching circus performers or ballet dancers, said the cardinal, spectators enjoy moments of relaxation and witness the marvel of human inspiration.

The event brought a festive spirit to the Vatican amid the already celebratory pre-Christmas mood, with participants donning clown costumes, juggling pins and spinning hula hoops.

At the Dec. 17 Mass, marching bands paraded up Via della Conciliazione to St. Peter's Square. The pounding oom-pah-pahs of tubas punctuated the chilly December air as baton twirlers and girls bearing pompoms skipped down the street.

Men and women on stilts gingerly bent down to receive Communion from priests who strained to reach the performers' out-

see "JUBILEE", page eight

Jubilee for Catechists

by *Sister Joan Markus SSND*
Director of the Office of
Education and Formation
San Angelo, Texas

"The Congregation for the Clergy is asking for participation of at least one representative from each Diocese in the United States at the Jubilee for Catechists, to be celebrated in Rome, December 9-10, 2000."

This communication, originating from Vatican City, was the beginning of a journey to a celebration in Rome honoring those who serve in catechetical ministry. Although the event was brief, I had a desire to participate. My bishop, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, encouraged me to attend. In a written communication to me he said: "As you make this trip, I want to thank you for the many wonderful things you have done for the religious education program and other min-

istries of our diocese during the years you have been with us. This trip is a small way of saying thank you for your beautiful service and the many fine things you do to support me in my ministry." What a send off!

The two days included the celebration of mass at St. Paul Outside the Walls and at St. Peter's Basilica. Both were faith events. Thousands were gathered. The people of God and the massiveness of both basilicas were reminders of a deeply rooted faith tradition and the global embrace of all people. The presentation of the catechism by the Holy Father to representatives of the five major language groups symbolized for me the fruit of St. Mark's gospel mandate "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." The celebration of Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul

was significant for me. From my study of scripture and church, I realize the impact Paul had on the formation of our faith tradition. His conviction and courage about Jesus Christ convinced early church officials to open up a primarily Jewish oriented church to one that would include the Greek and Roman world and now a world church.

The two study afternoons focused on the theme of evangelization. Many ideas presented by Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger were taken from the General Directory for Catechesis.



S. Joan Frey and S. Joan Markus at St. Peter's Square during Jubilee 2000 for Catechists – December 9-10.

The two images I continue to reflect upon are Mary as perfect disciple and model catechist of Jesus and the story of the Mustard Seed.

We were reminded to sow the seed and allow how it will grow to

see "CATECHISTS" page eleven



To Reach People, Franciscans Take Gospel To The Mall

By Connie Cissell
Catholic News Service

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — Amid the Christmas trees and shoppers rushing through the Carousel Mall in Syracuse to finish holiday shopping, a little storefront holds a lot more inside than gift ideas and a cash register.

At first glance, The Franciscan Place looks like a mix between a Catholic gift shop and a self-help bookstore. Nestled at the end of a short hallway,

it has necklaces, rosaries, greeting cards, books and St. Francis of Assisi pins and magnets.

Step through the store, however, and you find yourself in a chapel, an oasis of soft light, candles glowing and a beautiful San Damiano crucifix above a simple altar.

The chapel has more visitors than many of the mall's stores. It hosts a morning, noon and afternoon Mass Monday through Friday. A priest hears confessions four hours a day weekdays, three hours on Saturdays.

The store and chapel are a joint ministry of the Syracuse-based Third Order Franciscan Sisters and the Conventual Franciscan Friars of Immaculate Conception Province, based in Rensselaer in the Albany Diocese.

The two orders have forged several new health, youth and social ministries in the Rochester Diocese recently, but their mall ministry is unique.

Franciscan Sister Marcia Barry and Conventual Franciscan Brother Joseph Freitag, co-directors of The Franciscan Place, had



Franciscan chapel is draw for mall shoppers. Shoppers browse the gift and book shop at the Franciscan Place located inside Carousel Mall in Syracuse, N.Y. The store also contains a chapel where Mass is celebrated three time a day. (CNS photo by Paul Finch, Catholic Sun)

never imagined themselves working in a mall.

"The greatest gift we offer is availability," Brother Joseph told the Catholic Sun, Syracuse diocesan newspaper. "A lot of people are hesitant to ring the doorbell at a rectory.

"Here they can just walk in, say hello to a friar or a sister, maybe they'll ask a question that they might already know the answer to, but they just want to talk. You don't have to buy anything here. There are a lot of lonely people walking around the mall."

Many people shop just to get out of the house, he said. "People walk in sometimes and don't talk to us. They just walk into the chapel. Sometimes they look at the information we have and maybe pick up a brochure and leave. There are times when you don't know what will happen."

Typically about 100 people a day attend Mass at the mall and confessions run upwards of 30 a day.

"There are people going to confession for the first time in 30 years," Sister Marcia said. "Some

of them come back to the church after that."

Brother Joseph said some who inquire about confession are frightened of going and need gentle encouragement.

"I tell them, I'm just going to walk you through, and I will show them where the confessional is and they can meet the priest," he said. "Some of them are shaking with fright. They are ner-

vous, some close to tears sometimes. After we walk through, most of the time they make the decision to go. And, when they are done, they are very pleased that they went."

Three Franciscan priests, several brothers and five sisters staff the ministry, with some help from lay volunteers. Just being there to listen is a big part of their ministry.

"It amazes me that people will come in and tell us their stories — that they trust us and share with us," Sister Marcia said.

People today don't feel like they are being heard," Brother Joseph said. "What people really want is someone to listen to them."

He said there are a few other mall ministries around the country, but The Franciscan Place is different in a couple of ways.

It is the only one where men and women religious are building the ministry together, he said.

Most mall ministries have weekend liturgies, he said, but at the Carousel Mall they purposely

see "MALL" page nine



Pope John Paul II blesses thousands of people Dec. 25 at St. Peter's Square where he delivered his annual Christmas "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) address. (CNS photo from Reuters)



Christmas tree goes up in St. Peter's square. Workers placed a 109-foot tree from Austria inside St. Peter's Square Dec. 12 as the Vatican prepared for its Christmas celebrations. The pope held Christmas Eve Mass in the square rather than inside the basilica to accommodate tens of thousands of Holy Year pilgrims. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photos)



Catechists Must Be In Harmony With Church Teaching, Pope Says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In order to fulfill their mission in the Catholic Church, catechists must live their faith and must present the faith to others in complete harmony with official church teaching, Pope John Paul II said.

"It is not enough to have an intellectual knowledge of Christ and his Gospel," the pope said Dec. 10 during a Mass concluding the two-day Jubilee for Catechists and Religion Teachers.

"To believe in him means to follow him," the pope told the 7,500 jubilee participants and thousands of others gathered for the Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Catechists should model their

lives after that of St. John the Baptist, he said, undertaking a serious personal spiritual journey, living simply and showing great courage in proclaiming the Gospel.

Catechists are called to make straight the paths to the Lord, to fill every valley and make the rough roads smooth, he said.

"These 'valleys to be filled' remind one of the separation some make between the faith they profess and the daily lives they lead," he said.

"The 'paths to straighten' call to mind the condition of some believers who, from the complete and unchanging patrimony of faith, cut out some subjectively chosen elements" and stray from the path of the Gospel and its moral values, the

pope said.

Catechists must lead people to Christ and show them the path which the church firmly believes leads them to him, he said.

"All the faithful have a right to receive from those who, by virtue of their office or mandate, are responsible for catechesis and preaching, responses which are not subjective but correspond to the constant teaching of the church," Pope John Paul said.

"May the Christian message, whole and universal, permeate every environment and every level of culture and social responsibility," he said.

Pope John Paul said the fact that an estimated 2.5 million Catholics work as catechists around the world

"gives me comfort and hope."

At the end of the celebration, Pope John Paul gave a copy of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" to five couples who are catechists and represented Africa, Asia, Europe, America and Oceania.

"With this gesture," he said, "I would like to underline that, in various languages and cultures, catechists are called to announce to the whole world the same truth: Christ, the only savior of the world, yesterday, today and forever."

Meeting jubilee participants Dec. 9, Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, which includes responsibility for catechesis, told participants that leading people to Christ means leading them to his church.

The subject of catechesis is not just the historical Christ and what he said and did 2,000 years ago, it is Christ's living body, the cardinal said.

"You are called to live and to express the greatness of the mystery of the church," a mystery of communion which crosses the boundaries of time and space and accompanies those who believe in Christ, he said.

"The church alone is able to guarantee every man and woman an encounter with Christ the savior, which overcomes any partial and subjective vision of the Christian mystery," he said.

Without the guidance of church teaching, Cardinal Castrillon said, one who reads the Bible "ends up finding only himself, his culture or, more generically, the dominant mentality of his age."

The cardinal asked catechists to reconfirm their communion with the church and to commit themselves to a "360-degree" evangelization, "that is, wherever people are present with their sufferings and joys, their fears and hopes."

POPE from page one

In his annual Christmas message to Vatican officials Dec. 21, the pope said that his trip to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories offered a foretaste of the "joy that all people will feel ... when that land, so holy and unfortunately so tormented, finally will find peace."

On Dec. 25, the pope's thoughts again turned to the Holy Land, "where violence continues to stain with blood the difficult path to peace."

His twice-yearly blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and to the world), delivered this year from the steps of St. Peter's Basilica rather than from the basilica's balcony, also included a plea for peace in Indonesia, where a series of Christmas Eve church bombings killed at least 13 people.

In today's society, said the pope, the "culture of death" takes many forms, from violence against women and children to the "endless streams of exiles and refugees."

Referring to abortion and euthanasia, he said, "Shadows of death threaten people's lives at every stage of life and are especially menacing at its earliest beginning and its natural end."

But despite the darkness of death, the pope said he found hope in people's work around the world to defend human rights, end tragic conflicts among warring countries and relieve the debt of developing nations.

The pope underlined the jubilee theme of charity Christmas Eve, spurring people to engage in "charity in action, showing itself in openness to and support of our many brothers and sisters sorely tried by want and suffering."

Closing the four-day holiday weekend, some 30,000 pilgrims thronged St. Peter's Square Dec. 26 for the pope's Angelus prayer marking the Feast of St. Stephen. Taking the martyr of the early church as an example for all Christians, the pope said the faithful must spread the Gospel "even at the cost of life."

Looking out over the crowd, the pope said he was moved by the multitude of people who were waiting to pass through St. Peter's Holy Door during the final days of the jubilee.

Intermittent showers throughout the holiday weekend, and especially Christmas Eve, did little to steer people away from St. Peter's or dampen Christmas cheer. Pilgrims paraded in a steady stream up the Via della Conciliazione toward the open-

air Mass in St. Peter's Square, carrying bundled babies and laughing under their umbrellas and hats.

Children from eight countries carried the offertory gifts, wearing fuchsia hats from Korea and Congolese purple batik, and brought a smile to the face of the pope, who appeared tired throughout the late-night liturgy.

M.C. Sullivan, in Rome for Christmas with her parents, Bertha and Lawrence Sullivan, all of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellesley, Mass., said that while she had been to the Vatican for Christmas before, the jubilee year made the event special.

"Every time you come here," she said, "you realize the universality of the church — and no more so than this year."

Television stations in 40 countries, from the United States to Cameroon to predominantly Hindu India, carried the midnight Mass and Dec. 25 "urbi et orbi" blessing. The Mass included readings and prayers in 10 languages, and the pope delivered Christmas Day greetings in 59 languages.

Lawrence Sullivan, immersed in memories, said he felt lucky to return to Rome after being posted there during World War II.

He said he met Pope Pius XII twice — once as an altar server

during then-Cardinal Pacelli's trip to Boston in the 1930s, and again in Rome in 1944, when army officers from Northern Ireland invited him along to their papal audience.

"It's just wonderful to be here again," he said, looking toward the life-size Nativity scene and 89-foot Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square.

Rafael Salas, who spent Christmas in Rome with his mother, the Philippine ambassador to the Czech Republic, also said this year's trip, his second, had a different feel to it.

Some time ago, added his mother, "I was speaking to the ambassador here (to the Holy See), and I realized I only had a little time left to come for the jubilee."

The midnight Mass marked the one-year anniversary of Holy Year 2000's kickoff, when the pope opened St. Peter's Holy Door and ushered in the jubilee.

Pope John Paul was to close the Holy Door, and with it the jubilee, Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany.

JUBILEE from page six

stretched hands above them.

Among some 200 participants from the United States were Jack Shea, head of the Directors Guild of America, and Patt Shea, president of the Catholics in Media Association. In a message delivered at the Mass, the couple, representing the Hollywood community, prayed that entertainers would "continue to use the talents that they have received from God to work for the betterment of the human condition."

Alberto Sordi, one of Italy's best-loved comic actors, fondly recalled his experiences as a young altar boy, when he discovered his love for performing.

Being on the altar "seemed like being on stage, as if I could satisfy all the faithful in the church," said the actor.

While he said the pastor gave him a "big slap" for his altar antics, Sordi went on to realize his dream of becoming a film star.

"But my connection with the church continued," he said, "and I never forgot my Christian principles."

Pray Often



Project Rachel Conferences: Healing After Abortions

By Mike Koller

The noisy battle between pro-life and pro-choice forces receives a lot of public notice, but the personal consequences of abortion get little attention.

Many who have abortions to extricate themselves from a difficult situation suffer in silence and shame and act out the effects of their lethal choice in self-destructive behavior.

The personal stories of women who have regretted an abortion decision are as varied as the individuals themselves. One woman with a drug and alcohol problem tearfully said she had not menstruated since her abortion five years earlier, and she believed God was punishing her with infertility. Only years later did she come to terms with God and her decision, and later bore twins.

A priest told of a woman who confessed to an abortion in a quaking voice and collapsed in cathar-

tic tears when the priest reached through the confessional screen and held her hand to comfort her.

But not many women find that kind of liberation from guilt, a byproduct of abortion for some that pro-choice supporters neglect to mention. Few know where to turn.

A group with global reach called Project Rachel is working to offer help and spread the word.

Organizers held a series of "Healing After Abortion" conferences in mid-November to help licensed therapists, counselors, doctors, nurses and others become aware of the influence an abortion has on women and others involved in abortion.

The name Project Rachel comes from the 31st chapter of Jeremiah which describes Rachel, who mourns the loss of her children but says there can be redemption from grief.

The talks were held in Dallas,

Midland-Odessa, Houston and San Antonio, and presented information relating to what people experience after abortion and what can be done to help them.

"People who have had an abortion realize at some point in their life that it bothers them but they have no place to turn, so it manifests itself in many ways" said Mark Hennes, director of Abortion AfterCare-Healing and coordinator of the conference. "They act out their troubles with drug addiction, depression, extreme guilt and shame. Many feel they can never be forgiven by God, that it's an unforgivable sin, and they will never forgive themselves."

Men suffer too. The awareness among men is less obvious than among women, but sometimes they suffer as much because in some cases the father opposes the abortion, Hennes said. Other men push for abortion to escape responsibility.

"About 10 percent of Project Rachel deals with men, because men surely are part of the problem but may not be aware of it, and many don't want to take ownership of it," he said.

Many women troubled by an abortion, even far in the past, suppress their feelings, stuffing them so deeply into their psyche that they see no connection between their acting out and the root cause of their destructive behavior.

Some counselors never ask women if they have had abortions and thus are never able to reveal the source of personal and emotional problems. If it is revealed that a woman has had an abortion, counselors may not grasp its impact and fail to recommend steps to find a solution.

The conferences are intended to help counselors see the connection and pick up strategies for finding a solution, with an emphasis on mercy.

One obstacle to full healing is the secretive nature of abortion.

"They don't realize they need to reveal it in order to be freed from their trouble," Hennes said. "We're in a public information

push to take the lid off the secret and show that this problem exists out here among so many people."

Another obstacle in spreading the word, Hennes said, is the pulpit.

"We can't easily get the Church to speak about it," Hennes said. "If there is any sermon about this, I'd like to hear about where it is being given."

He conceded that increasingly, some priests or deacons are addressing the issue, but far more needs to be done.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops dedicated 2000 to doing something about the post-abortion problem, Hennes said.

"The bishops have dedicated this year to seek God's justice for abortion," he said. "It could awaken people to what's wrong in their lives because of abortion."

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Annetta Mae Purman (Robertson), whereabouts unknown:

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before, January 24, 2001, to answer to the Petition of Michael Reynolds Myers, Petitioner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Michael Reynolds Myers vs. Annetta Mae Purman (Robertson), Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as MYERS-PURMAN, Protocol No. SO 00/77, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 13th day of December 2000.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,
OMI, MCL, JCL
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

Presbyteral Council Dates For 2001

By Father Bill Dubuisson, OMI

February 1: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 27: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

April 5: Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m.

Then Presbyteral Council 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 21: Final Budget Review 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

June 19: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MALL

from page seven

do not offer weekend liturgy in order not to take anything away from parish life.

"We want people to go to church," Brother Joseph said. "We can augment or add to that. We aren't trying to build another parish here."

He said the 4:15 p.m. Mass is the most attended, with standing-room-only most days.

Cricket Scullin said she often stops by for daily Mass when she misses it at her parish. "To be able to come in here and pray at all different times, it is just wonder-

ful," she said.

Conventual Franciscan Father Conrad Somerville is one of the priests who celebrates Mass in the chapel. "I wish we would've thought of this 40 years ago," he said.

TEXAS

from page five

the Legislature, had raised the ire of many Democrats by campaigning nationally for George W. Bush. The Cuellar appointment was reminiscent of one of the first appointments by newly elected Governor George W. Bush six years ago when he appointed Tony Garza to the same position.

Diocesan Conference Day

February 24, 2001

9:00 am – 4:15 pm

San Angelo Convention Center

Keynote Speakers

Dr. James McGinnis &

Dr. Kathleen McGinnis

from the Institute of Peace and Justice,
St. Louis, MO

Fee: \$16.00

if postmarked before Feb 16, 2001

\$20.00 after Feb 16th

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At this writing, the Senate has not yet elected one of its own to be the presiding officer when the 77th Legislature convenes on January 9. (Ed. Note: Sen. Bill

Ratliff was elected Lt. Gov. on Dec. 28, 2000.)

Politics are always interesting in Texas. This year they are incredibly interesting.



A Post-Election Reflection

by Fr. Frank Pavone

Fortunately, the nation now has a President-elect, and the indecision of this election has come to an end.

Throughout the election season, we – along with many others – stressed how important this race was for the fate of unborn children for the next generation, as well as for the preservation of so many other Christian values in our society.

Why did the election take so long to resolve? We can ask this question from many perspectives, and one of the answers certainly is that it was simply so close. But from a theological perspective, perhaps we could say that in this Jubilee Year election, God pressed a “pause” button in order to give us additional time to reflect at the significant crossroads at which we have arrived, and to offer more prayer and sacrifice for the leaders and policies of our nation.

There is a further perspective regarding the manner in which the election was finally resolved, namely, through a Supreme Court decision. The fact that unborn children have no protection from the violence of abortion resulted not from any vote or choice of the American people, but from an unjust Supreme Court decision in 1973 which, as the US Bishops have said, “deserve[s] only to be condemned, repudiated and ultimately reversed.” Certainly, neither this election nor any election in itself resolves the abortion problem. But it is at least curious that in an election during which pro-abortion groups were saying that a George W. Bush presidency poses a tremendous threat to *Roe vs. Wade*, the process should be brought to a conclusion by the same institution that brought us *Roe vs. Wade*.

People committed to the cause of life have reason to be grateful that the new president-elect likewise believes that “A truly welcoming society must be a culture of life . . . We must appreciate the dignity of life in all its seasons . . . and look toward the day when every child, born and unborn, is welcome in life and protected in law” (Remarks to the Catholic Press Association, May 2000).

Naturally, this does not mean and cannot mean that the new president – or any elected official, no matter how committed to the right to life – will do our work for us. The defense of the unborn child remains the work, the responsibility, of each and every one of us, in our own communities, Churches, and personal spheres of influence. The biggest mistake the pro-life community could make at this point would be to sit back and expect government to accomplish the pro-life task.

But it certainly makes a difference when those in the highest office of our land recognize that unborn children are not garbage, or “non-persons,” and when they will not stand in the way of what the pro-life movement tries to accomplish.

Scripture tells us to pray for those in authority. This is a moment to do that, and to resolve to work in a positive, constructive spirit with our national leaders to advance the protection of life as much as possible. It is a time neither for unrealistic expectations, which can quickly lead to disappointment, nor for cynical rash judgment, which can cause us to lose sight of the new opportunities that we now have.

Some pro-abortion groups will claim that the new president-elect has “no mandate” to restrict “the right to choose.” That’s a strange line of reasoning for people whose philosophy of abortion-on-demand was never voted on, and had no mandate except the decision of seven unelected judges in 1973. Moreover, repeated surveys of the American people certainly do reveal that they want abortion restricted, and most of the abortions completely banned.

The fundamental American mandate, of course, for restricting and indeed ending abortion comes from the Declaration of Independence itself. Beginning today, may all Americans work with greater determination than ever to restore the teachings of that Declaration to our national policies.

Great Victory On International Debt Relief

by Richard Daly

Thanks to a broad coalition of individuals throughout the nation including significant religious leaders, the 107th Congress has approved appropriations to give significant debt relief to the poorest nations in the world in this Jubilee Year.

Proponents of international debt relief were generous in their praise for religious leaders starting with Pope John Paul II in achieving this significant victory that just a few days before the final vote appeared to be in doubt.

Catholic efforts in Washington, DC to lobby the Congress for the maximum \$435 million appropriation were led by the American Bishops’ representatives at the United States Catholic Conference and Catholic Relief Services.

The Bishops of Texas were also involved individually and through the Texas Catholic Conference in supporting the relief effort especially with key members of the congressional leadership, Senator Phil Gramm and Representatives Dick Armey and Tom DeLay.

International Debt Relief has

been one of the cornerstones of the Holy Father’s efforts during this Jubilee Year. Religious persons of all faith have joined with him in calling on the international community especially the United Nations and the American Congress to provide debt relief for the poorest nations in the world.

Because of their efforts, the poorest of the poor on this planet now face a brighter future.

This action of the 107th Congress was a fitting prelude to this Holy Season.

The One That Got Away

by Msgr. Jim Lisante
Director, *The Christophers*

The beginning of the year is a time to look ahead. But, people being people often look back as well, at happy memories and, perhaps, some not so happy as well.

Regrets. If you have lived any length of time at all, you have had a few regrets. We all do. But there are some people who have a price-less ability for keeping things in perspective.

A friend told me about one of those folks. He was a man named Hugh Alexander and he died not long ago. Known as “Uncle Hughie” to generations of baseball players and executives, he was a scout, considered by many the best of all time. He had a real eye for talent, and as he traveled the country he was responsible for signing dozens of players who made it to the major leagues – athletes like Allie Reynolds, Frank Howard, and Hall of Famer Don Sutton.

Hugh Alexander was one of the most knowledgeable baseball men around. And he shared his wisdom: over the years, he taught a number of young scouts their trade. And then there was his storytelling. Alexander was known for his gift, and this is one of his favorite reminiscences.

While on one of his innumerable trips to small-town America searching for players who might

have what it takes to be major leaguers, a friend gave him a name of a talented youngster. When Hugh Alexander got to Commerce, Oklahoma, he headed for the high school. He told the principal who he was and whom he wanted to see. The principal let him know that there was a problem: the young athlete had injured himself playing football and had developed arthritis in his legs.

The scout knew it was tough enough for a healthy guy to make it professionally. So when he got back to his car, he just tossed away the piece of paper with the prospect’s name. Years later, Hugh Alexander said he could “still see it blowing across the parking lot.”

So baseball’s best scout failed to sign one of baseball’s best players, Mickey Mantle.

But while he never forgot what he did, or, rather, did not do, Alexander knew better than to dwell on an error in judgment. He just got back to work and got on with life. I suspect he learned something about relying on the opinions and assessments of others without verifying them. And he just might have been reminded that we should not be too quick to judge the ability of people to overcome problems.

And, that, after all, is something his own life taught Hugh Alexander. He, too, had once been

a fine young player with a bright future, joining the Cleveland Indians in 1937 when he was only 20. But in the off season when he was working on an oil rig, a very bad accident resulted in the amputation of his hand. He could have let bitterness fill him with regret for a lifetime. But he was offered a different chance in baseball and he made the most of his life – and the most of the many lives he touched.

What about those men and women who are never able to let go of an event from the past that colors their entire lives? A bad decision or lost opportunity can gnaw away at hope and everything that makes life worth living. Whether or not you are “guilty” of something done or undone, or some tragedy strikes without your consent, you still have a choice to make. You still get to decide what your attitude will be toward yourself and the world.

You should never let your own life be the one that got away.

**Pray
for
Rain**



Robert Ducote Named COS Volunteer of the Year

Robert Ducote, long time member of Holy Angels Parish in San Angelo, was recently named Volunteer of the Year for Catholic Outreach Services.

Robert Ducote has lived in San Angelo since 1929: He was in the coffee business with DeCoty Coffee Company for 40 years in West Texas and Eastern Mexico. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He and his wife, Noma, have three children and six grandchildren.

Two years ago, Mr. Ducote became a Catholic Outreach volunteer and has helped with a variety of ways: "He is adept at repairing and painting bicycles, fixing small appliances, stocking the COS Pantry, picking up large loads of do-



Robert Ducote, Catholic Outreach Volunteer of the Year.

nated items, helping keep the store and storage trailer clean and or-

derly, making runs to the Concho Valley Food Bank, and doing just about anything else anyone asks him to do," Pat Dishman, executive director, said. "Robert even drove his pickup and pulled a trailer in last fall's Community Hunger Walk. Whatever needs to be done, he is ready to do it."

She added, "Organizations such as Catholic Outreach are dependent upon volunteers to help. We have been blessed with outstanding men and women willing to give their time, talents, and friendship as active participants in this important ministry to the poor and needy in San Angelo and Tom Green County. Robert is a prime example and we are all most grateful."

COS

from page one

Spanish-mission features. The station was built circa 1908 and torn down in 1947. Though plans are still in the formulative stages, estimated cost for the new building is \$400,000. Plans will include more space for merchandise, including furniture and appliances, public restroom facilities, a merchandise intake area with repair shop, clothes washer and dryer, adequate storage area for seasonal clothes, and a private office for the executive director to extend social services for individuals seeking help.

Rosa Perez, board chairman of COS, said building a new, larger place for COS services is part of a five year plan the board put together two years ago after studying needs not being met in San Angelo and the surrounding area.

"COS operates at the discretion of Bishop Michael Pfeifer, supported by the five parishes of San Angelo: Holy Angels, Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, St. Mary's and St. Margaret," Perez said. "We also get tremendous support from Our Lady of Peace Mission at Goodfellow, AFB; St. Ambrose at Wall and St. Therese at Carlsbad.

Catholics and Protestants from around the San Angelo area contribute to the COS Food Bank and to its Thrift Store sales on a continual basis. COS has been very blessed this way."

The five year plan also targets helping people find jobs. From the job search to the job interview preparation, COS will help individuals find employment. A shower/ grooming area is planned for the new building to help prepare people for interviews.

COS began operation in the spring of 1996, replacing and expanding the services of St. Vincent de Paul. The first month of operation the Thrift Shop sales were \$824. In October 2000, sales topped off at \$5,770. The increase in shop sales enables COS to give more financial aid to the needy.

COS is of particular help to fire victims, tracking fires in the community and making sure the families are helped. Expansion of the Thrift Shop to furniture re-sale will enable COS to help these victims in establishing new homes.

Since its inception, there have been three executive directors of COS. The first was Josie Whaley, who helped establish COS. Later, Maureen Berryman, who came to COS with Red Cross background,

the operation continued to thrive.

The current executive director is Pat Dishman who has guided the COS Thrift Shop and social service components to its greatest achievements thus far. The steady increase of Thrift Shop sales and the numbers of individuals and families being served has called for COS to hire two part-time employees. Ms. Dishman has also established a firm base of approximately 30 volunteers who help operate the entire COS operation daily. At the recent COS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Robert Ducote was honored as COS Volunteer of the Year. He is a member of Holy Angels Parish.

Donations to the Catholic Outreach Services Building Fund may be mailed to 102 N. Chadbourne St., San Angelo, TX 76903.

CATECHISTS

from page six

God. Growth is usually not in mass movements but in small, invisible ways. Becoming a Christian is a "birthing process". In our church at all times we have simultaneously the mustard seed and the tree. God calls us to surrender to the mystery of the Mustard Seed.

Bishop Celebrates Christmas Mass for Prisoners



On Christmas Eve at 9:00 am, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, celebrated his annual Mass in the Women's Barracks at the Tom Green County Jail. Knights of Columbus Sir Knight Tony Schillo assisted him. A choir of three ladies sang hymns during the Mass: Mrs. Margie Schillo, Rosie Rodriguez, and Terri Good. (Photos by Peter N. Micale.)

Testimonials following the presentations emphasized the use of art, music and technology in catechesis. The formation of catechists was stressed as essential. Long-distance learning was presented as a method for catechist formation in areas where higher Catholic education is not available.

Additional gifts during this trip were staying at the headquarters of my congregation in Rome, visiting with the sisters who work in congregational leadership and experiencing tours of historic sites by those who know Rome quite well.

As I return to my ministry in

San Angelo, TX, I am reminded that our church is very big and that there is room for all to grow and develop like the Mustard Seed. The church embraces each stage simultaneously in its membership. I feel privileged to serve in catechetical ministry, a ministry of the Word. It is essential that I know and love the Word so that I can do it well. My experience affirmed me in the direction of catechetical ministry in the office for which I am responsible. It also energized me to continue sowing seeds and allowing how they will grow to God. May this spirit of jubilee linger forever.



Dedication of New Carmelite Monastery

by Peter N. Micale

The Carmelite Nuns, now in Christoval, wish to extend a big "God reward you" to all who have helped, and are helping, to make their new monastery a reality. They now have the joy of inviting you to participate in the dedication ceremonies of Our Lady of Grace Monastery. Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, will officiate at the Dedication Mass, scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 3. You are welcome to stay for refreshments and a guided tour through the monastery.

The San Angelo Diocese acted in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council in inviting the Carmelite nuns to establish a monastery in the Diocese. The Council expressed the desire to have the presence of contemplative houses spread throughout the Church, as parts of the diocesan family. This Carmelite monastery is the only house of contemplative nuns in the San Angelo diocese.

When the Sisters established

build a monastery where there could be greater silence, solitude and space for prayer. They did not have to move out as far as they did, but when land was offered which answered to their need, they most gratefully accepted it. It was not easy to leave the old familiar place and faces.

God has entrusted a mission of prayer to the Sisters: contemplative prayer, thanksgiving, petition for all ministries in the Church. St. Therese wrote: "What a mystery! . . . Is Jesus not all-powerful? . . . Why, then, does Jesus say: 'Ask the Lord of the harvest that he send some workers' . . . He wills that we have a share with him in the salvation of souls . . . ask me for workers and I shall send them, I await only a prayer."

Your every request for prayer finds a response in the Sisters' open hearts, whether you come to the monastery or ask from a distance. There is no distance in prayer. By day, by night, on carmel's height, someone prays for

with the Lord. And it is a reminder that you are NEVER alone. The Sisters are here for you.

The Carmelites need you to be there for them, too. Because of the amount of time spent in prayer, they cannot engage in fulltime means of support for themselves. They do what they can. (Right now they have gifts to sell.)

You may have seen photos of the new monastery at various stages of its construction. (See May 2000 edition of Angelus.) Because of the overwhelming generosity of benefactors of every description and walk of life, the basic cost of the building has been covered.

The Sisters want you all to know their boundless gratitude for your tremendous help, in so many shapes and forms, which has gone into this new monastery: advice, encouragement, friendship, fund-raisers, humor, ingenuity, land, materials, meals (on YOUR wheels!), monetary gifts, muscle power, perspiration, prayer, printing, publicity, time, transportation, and trucks to supplement our wheelbarrows. God reads between these lines. Hopefully, you do, too. If you have not found yourself in the above list, please look again. If you still cannot, it is not too late to help!

The new Carmelite monastery is a monument to the wonderful charity and support of the local community, the San Angelo Diocese, and beyond. It continues to be a most inspiring experience of the goodness of countless persons.

We are coming around the mountain of so much goodness, sacrifice and love to the day of dedication. Our Carmelites hope you will join them in this celebration on Saturday, February 3. For those unable to attend on Saturday, a guided tour will follow the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 4.



To Reach Monastery:

DIRECTIONS:

1. From San Angelo take Rt. 277 to Christoval
2. Turn left when you come to Loop 110
3. Turn left onto Fort McKavitt Road
4. At the Baptist Church turn right onto Farm Route 2084.
5. Go 15 miles to Rudd Road and turn left.
6. Once on Rudd Road go over 5 cattle guards.
7. Turn right immediately after the 5th cattle guard onto Via Maria which will take you to the Monastery.

NOTE: The sign for Rudd Road is poorly marked so it is

helpful to clock the distance from the Baptist Church which is about 15 miles. There is also a blue sign just below the Rudd Road sign marked Carmelite Monastery.

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themselves in the City of San Angelo, all concerned knew it was a temporary arrangement. Many friends helped the Sisters to make the ranch house as monastery-like as possible. Those of you who shared those early years with the Sisters know what a joyful and blessed experience that was. Some of those good and generous friends have left us for a deeper, everlasting life in God. They surely continue to help from before the Throne of God, while receiving unending gratitude from the Carmelites.

The Sisters needed a place to

me! You in the Diocese and City of San Angelo, you across desert and mountains and lakes, can make these words your own.

The presence of the monastery is also meant to encourage you to pray, to ponder the place of God in your own life, to desire and try to develop a deeper relationship with him. It is a reminder that he is worth whatever effort it takes, that there is joy in being counter-cultural when that is the cost of allowing God to be God in your life. The cloister is a symbol of that space in the heart where every person is called to union

