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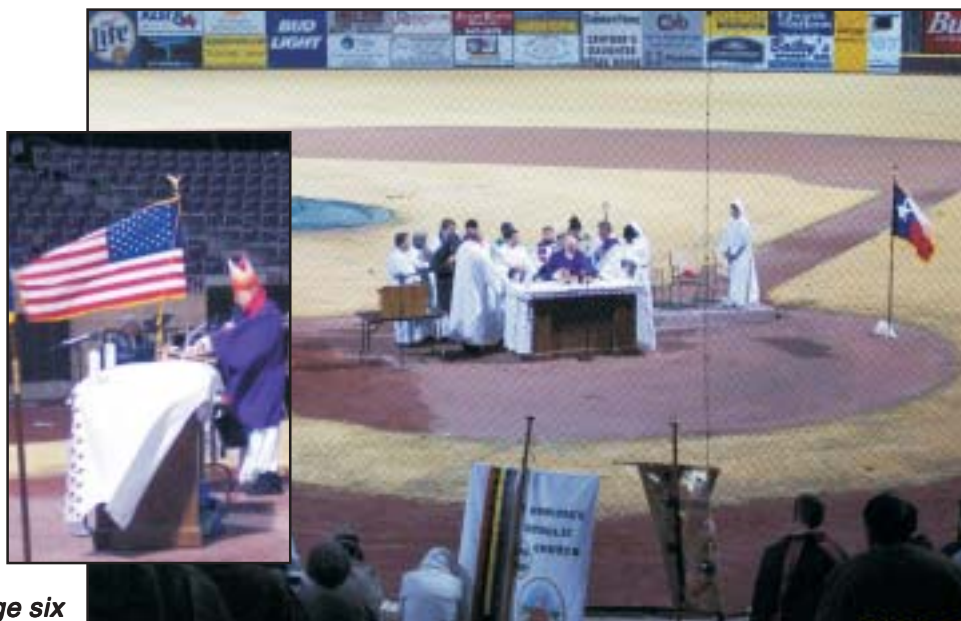
Bishop Celebrates Pro-Life Mass

by Peter N. Micale, WTA

With the wind howling through the open stadium, the American and Texas flags standing straight out on their poles on either side of the altar at home plate, and about 450 people huddled together in the stands, Bishop Michael Pfeifer said: "Welcome to the *cold* stadium..." He then quickly corrected himself and said: "Welcome to the *Colts* stadium..."

Actually, on the evening of Wednesday January 25th, the 30th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, Bishop Pfeifer was correct with both statements as he began the celebration of the open-air mass at the San Angelo Baseball Team Colts' Stadium. Priests, Deacons, religious and parents and sponsors

see "PRO-LIFE" page six



(Right) Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of San Angelo join Bishop Pfeifer at the altar during the Consecration of the Pro-Life Mass. (Left) Bishop Pfeifer keeps a firm grip on his notes as he addresses the 400 plus person crowd at Colt's stadium in very blustery January winds. (Photos by Stephen Talley.)

Bishop Weigand Says Pro-Abortion Politicians Should Not Receive Communion

by Catholic News Service

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS)– Any Catholic politician who supports abortion should "abstain from receiving holy Communion until he has a change of heart," Bishop William K. Weigand of Sacramento said Jan. 22.

In a homily at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, marking the 30th anniversary of legalized abortion in the United States, Bishop Weigand singled out California Gov. Gray Davis, a Catholic, for criticism.

He praised Msgr. Edward J. Kavanagh, pastor of St. Rose Parish in Sacramento and director of St. Patrick's Home, for barring

Davis from distributing Christmas gifts at the home in December because of the governor's stand on abortion.

"Thank you, Msgr. Kavanagh, for standing up for the unborn, for your dedication to truth and for your pastoral concern for souls, including the governor's," Bishop Weigand said.

"As your bishop," he added, "I have to say clearly that anyone – politician or otherwise – who thinks it is acceptable for a Catholic to be pro-abortion is in very great error, puts his or her soul at risk and is not in good standing with the church. Such a person should have the integrity to ac-

knowledge this and choose of his own volition to abstain from receiving holy Communion until he has a change of heart."

Bishop Weigand cited the U.S. bishops' statement on the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, the U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion virtually on demand throughout the nation, and the Vatican statement this January that Catholic politicians have a duty to uphold fundamental moral positions in their public policy decisions.

"Issues of the sacredness of human life and other questions of basic morality are matters of natural moral law, not simply of church

teaching. . . . There can be no division between public and private morality. It is untenable to say, 'I am personally opposed to abortion,' but support someone else's right to kill their unborn baby," Bishop Weigand said.

Criticizing the position of Davis, the bishop said, "In stating that many Catholics believe as he does and insisting that women should retain the right to decide to kill their own children by aborting them, Gov. Davis needs to recall that we do not own our bodies. We are not proprietors. We are stewards – stewards of a sacred trust."

He said abortion involves not just a woman's body but "another

body, that of the infant."

"The prohibition of God and the law of nature is abundantly clear: 'Thou shalt not kill,'" he said.

"We know it is not politically correct to be pro-life; but right and wrong, good and evil, are never revealed in a poll. All human life is sacred," he said.

"A true leader stands up for what is right, not for what is popular," he said.

Bishop Weigand wrote a briefer version of his homily in his column in the Jan. 25 edition of the Catholic Herald, the Sacramento diocesan newspaper.

"People need to understand that you cannot call yourself a Catholic in good standing and at the same time publicly hold views that are contradictory to the Catholic faith," he wrote.

see "WEIGAND" page eleven



The Year of the Rosary

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Pope John Paul II marked the 24th anniversary of his election on October 16, 2002 by signing the Apostolic Letter, *THE ROSARY OF THE VIRGIN MARY*. With the date of the signing of this unique letter, the Pope declared a *Year of the Rosary* which will run through October 2003.

In declaring the *Year of the Rosary*, the Pope is asking everyone to recite it frequently, lovingly and with the knowledge that its prayers link them with Mary and leads them to Jesus.

In his inspirational Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, John Paul points out that the rosary is not an escape from everyday reality, but a path of prayer that helps people live their lives more deeply. The Holy Father said in his recent document, the rosary is meant to rekindle a worldwide interest in this age-old devotional practice.

The Pope points out that ideally the rosary should help Christians rediscover the importance of contemplating "the face of Christ" by meditating on the episodes, the mysteries, of His earthly life. John Paul said the fact that the rosary looks at Christ's life from Mary's perspective, reflects the fact that Mary is the Church's "unsurpassed model of Christian contemplation." He also stated that this document should help convince families to recite the rosary together, "the family that prays together stays together." Our Holy Father asks Christians around the world to recite the rosary with the awareness that Christ is the "Prince of Peace," who wants justice and peace to reign in the hearts of individuals, families and populations. The rosary's value as a prayer for peace is something that should be underlined in the *Year of the Rosary*.

In his beautiful Apostolic Letter on the rosary, the Pope proposes five new mysteries for the rosary – "the mysteries of light," or "the luminous mysteries." The Pope states that the new mysteries bring out fully the Christological depth of the rosary, applying the lumi-



see "ROSARY" page nine

El Año del Rosario

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

El Papa Juan Pablo II marcó el vigésimo cuarto aniversario de su elección papal el 16 de Octubre, 2002, firmando la carta apostólica «*EL ROSARIO DE LA VIRGEN MARIA*». Al firmar esta carta única el Papa declaró con esta fecha el Año del Rosario que seguirá hasta Octubre 2003.

Al declarar el *Año del Rosario*, el Papa está pidiendo que lo recitemos frecuentemente, con amor y con conocimiento de que sus oraciones nos unen con María y nos llevan a Jesús.

En su carta apostólica inspiradora sobre el Rosario, Juan Pablo demuestra que el rosario no es un escape de la realidad de cada día, sino un camino de oración que ayuda a las gentes a vivir sus vidas profundamente. El Santo Padre dice en su reciente documento, el rosario tiene el propósito de despertar un interés mundial en esta práctica devocional de todos los tiempos.

El Papa declara que idealmente el rosario debe de ayudar a los cristianos a redescubrir la importancia de contemplar el «Rostro de Cristo», meditando en los episodios, los misterios, de su vida terrena. Juan Pablo dice que el hecho de que el rosario mira a la vida de Cristo desde la perspectiva de María, refleja el hecho de que María es el «modelo insuperable de Contemplación Cristiana». El también deja dicho que este documento debe de ayudar al convencimiento para que a las familias recen juntos el rosario, «la familia que reza junta permanece unida». Nuestro Santo Padre pide a los cristianos de todo el mundo que recen el rosario sabiendo que Cristo es el «Príncipe de la Paz». El quiere que la justicia y la paz reinen en los corazones de todos los individuos, familias y pueblos. El valor del rosario como oración por la paz es algo que debe estar muy subrayado en el Año del Rosario.

En esta hermosa carta apostólica sobre el Rosario, el Papa propone cinco misterios

see "ROSARIO" page ten

The Bishop's Schedule



February 2003

February: 2 Big Spring, Immaculate Heart – Mass at 11:00 a.m.

February 3-5: Dallas, Workshop for Bishops

February 7: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

February 8: San Angelo, Convention Center – Diocesan Conference Day

February 9: Abilene, Holy Family – Mass at 10:30 a.m.

February 11: San Angelo, Cathed-

ral Church of the Sacred Heart – Mass and Anointing of the Sick, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes at 6:30 p.m.

February 12: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart – Meeting of the Sacred Heart Endowment

February 13: Brownwood, St. Mary – Meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 15: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart – 5:00 p.m. Scout Awards Mass

February 16-18: Austin, Texas Conference of Churches Annual Assembly

February 19: San Angelo, Dioc-

esan Pastoral Center – Liturgy Commission Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

February 20: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart – Meet with Rector of Cathedral and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

February 22: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan – Mass at 4:30 p.m.

February 23: Odessa, Holy Redeemer – Mass at 10:30 a.m.

February 25: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Presbyteral Council meeting at 11:00 a.m.

February 27: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center – Diocesan Convocation on Vocations

February 28: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center – Convocation for Priests

March 2003

March 1: Winters, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Mass at 5:30 p.m.

March 2-3: San Antonio, Meeting of Texas Bishops

March 4: Meeting with Task Forces of Midland/Odessa to work on counteracting abuse of minors at 11:00 am

March 5-6: Rest and prayer

March 7-8: Kerrville, Presentation to ACTS group

March 9: Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart – Rite of Election, 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

March 10-11: San Antonio, Presentation to Oblates of Mary Immaculate

March 13-14: Rest and prayer
March 15: Midland, St. Stephen – Mass at 5:00 p.m.

March 16: Big Spring, Sacred Heart – Mass at 10:00 a.m.

March 18: San Angelo, Holy Angels – RCIA presentation at 6:30 p.m.

March 19: San Angelo, Holy Angels – Diocesan celebration to receive the new Mission and Goals statement of the Diocese from

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 20: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe – Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

March 22: Christ the King Retreat Center – Mass with young adults at 4:00 p.m.

March 23: Rowena, St. Joseph – Mass at 9:30 a.m.

March 25-28: Bishop's Lenten Retreat

March 28-29: San Antonio – Blessing of Renovated Cathedral
March 30: San Angelo, St. Margaret – Mass at 10:30 a.m.

March 31: Diocesan Pastoral Center – Priests Personnel Board meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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A Note to All Parish Secretaries

Please check the parish's listing in the Diocese Web page and send any necessary corrections for times of Masses, phone numbers, and personnel changes in the parish, by e-mail to the Angelus office: pmAngelus@aol.com. The Web page address is: www.san-angelo-diocese.org.



Vocation Circle

Reflection on the Gospel Message of Vocation

by Fr. Tom Barley, JCL
Director of Vocations and Seminarians

When people ask me how vocations are going, I have two answers. First, my answer is "Great" since everyone is called by God through Baptism to holiness. Also, God invites everyone to full participation

in our Church. In addition, God offers everyone to a life that includes love and service. Every vocation is special and precious in the eyes of God. Second, my answer is that I am saddened because I believe that God calls many to the vocations of priesthood and religious life, but few show any interest in following

that call in our Diocese. It is the responsibility of every person, family, and parish/mission in our Diocese to encourage and promote vocations. There is no shortage of vocations, only a shortage of positive responses. God invites, but we often look for excuses to say "no." How often do we grasp on to lame excuses such as celibacy, length of studies, choice of seminary, obedience, gender, etc.? All that counts is hearing God and placing our trust that we will not be led astray. If God invites, God will make it possible if we will only cooperate and grow in maturity, knowledge, and grace.

The readings of January 19 (1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19, Psalm 40, and John 1:35-42) show that God's invitation to us is real and expects a response. At first Samuel had a little

difficulty in understanding the call, but he eventually got guidance from Eli that helped him to answer God: "Speak, for your servant is listening." When God calls us do we find excuses or do say "Here I am Lord, I have come to do your will." Can we set aside our excuses and proclaim "Behold the Lamb of God" and follow God's invitation?

The readings of January 26 from Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 25, and Mark 1:14-20 invite us to fast and prayer that we might more clearly hear the invitation "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men." If God calls us to holiness, service, and ministry, how can we say – "No"?

Our vocations are not important because of the need of the Church. They are important because God

calls us to be good priests, sisters and deacons, faithful spouses, loving parents, and chaste singles. God calls us to be active in our Church and in the world as "fishers of men". When we stand before God will our answer be "I answered your call" or will it be "I was looking for something better so I did it my way." As difficult as it can be to make a decision or as enticing excuses can be, our choice as Catholics is to be with peace in following God's invitation.

Interestingly and not surprisingly, studies show that today's youth have a strong desire to do good and a willingness to sacrifice and be of service to others. They have a real sense of the presence of

see "REFLECTIONS" page nine

World Day for Consecrated Life 2003

by Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P.

The Church in Rome has celebrated consecrated life on February 2, the feast of the Presentation, for many years. In 1997, the pope asked that this celebration be extended throughout the universal Church. John Paul said that the day offers the "opportunity to thank God for the gift of consecrated life, to promote knowledge of the life, to invite consecrated people to celebrate what God has accomplished in them, and to acquire more awareness of their mission in the Church and in the world." The theme chosen for this year is: In the Service of God.

By the time you read this, the Diocese of San Angelo will have celebrated this event. Perhaps you will have been introduced to women and men in your parish or

mission who have pledged their lives to God and have chosen poverty, celibacy, and obedience. It is possible that you heard about consecrated life from one of these religious. Therefore, in order to further what began on February 2, the sisters of this Diocese have agreed to respond to the question: "What does it mean to you to be a woman religious?" If these responses elicit a desire for information please call Malachy (915-949-8033) at the Newman Center and she will provide additional general information or put you into contact with the sister whose response you found particularly helpful. Know that the sisters hold you up to God in prayer daily and we ask that you remember us also.

1) My name is **Sister Esperanza Razura Villarreal, A.S.C.** I belong

to the Community of Adorers of the Precious Blood of Christ. As an Adorer of the Blood of Christ, to be a woman religious means to me to respond to the call of my voca-

To be a Woman Religious means to me personally – Fulfilling my heart's desire!

tion as an apostle whose life is permeated by the spirit of adoration and contemplation. In contemplation, I glorify the Lord and reverence his presence among people to whom I minister. In adoration, my love is in relationship with the Holy One in whom I am one with

the communion of the saints. To grow in relation means that my entire person, in all my relationships and circumstances, in all my sinfulness and giftedness, become even more fully surrendered with Jesus to the Father for the coming of the kingdom.

2.) For me being a woman religious means living a life of gratitude, confidence, and cherished work. I thank God every day for the gift of my vocation. **Sr. Mary Brian Overfield**, School Sister of Notre Dame.

3) As a woman religious, I am called to an ever-deepening relationship to Jesus, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. From this comes a deeper union with my brothers and sisters in the Faith, and with all people of the world, who are created to be children of God. All else I am or do flows from this love. God becomes Spouse to me and I vow to be His until death (and for eternity!). Unworthy? Yes! Incredible? Yes! Yet TRUE! **Sister Mary Grace**

of the Trinity, O. Carm.

4) To be a woman religious is a vocational call that I responded to many years ago. The understanding, privilege, challenge, and wonder of that call continue to grow in my being as I live into it each day. Growth in prayer, community life, educational opportunities, and ministry with so many of God's people in so many places and in so many capacities have graced my life so fully that I daily thank God for the hundred-fold I enjoy and sing "how beautiful." **Sister Joan Markus** – School Sisters of Notre Dame.

5) I am **Sister Rebecca Otter, O.P.**, a Dominican Sister of the Great Bend Kansas Dominicans. As a woman religious I have consecrated myself to God through a public profession of the evangelical counsels and have chosen Christ as my bridegroom. Through and with that love of Jesus Christ, I

see "WORLD DAY" page ten

The Diocese Of Kurnool, India

by Rev. Prasad Gallela,
Mission Procurator
St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
Rowena, Texas

This mission diocese of Kurnool was formed in 1967 and situated in Andhra Pradesh State, South India.

It consists of two civil districts (Kurnool and Ananthapur) that are the drought prone districts in our state. In the summer, people go 1 or 2 miles to get a pot of drinking water. There are over 60,000 Catholics most of whom are landless ag-

ricultural laborers, depending on daily wages for their living.

Social Status of our 90% Catholics in the diocese is a segregated community on the basis of Caste. In India, this caste is deemed as low and untouchable. Due to this, more than 70% of the people are illiterate. Invariably, they are made to live outside of the main villages. They have no dealing with the other communities either in marriage, cultural

interactions, or in no way do the villagers treat them as equals. They live in poor narrow huts. They can not raise their voice against any atrocities meted out to the women. They have no property except the God given children.

In spite of this persecution there are many conversions still taking place from this low caste community. The diocese has taken up the obligation to give them integral

human development through education, social uplifting, and pastoral programs. There are more than 4,600 who need to be educated, but presently, the diocese is able to accommodate 2,437 children in our boarding homes and orphanages. They also do training for youth, catechists, and seminars for the laity. In the rural villages, basic Chris-

see "INDIA" page nine



St. Ann and St. Joseph Churches Celebrate 50th Anniversary

by Fr. David Espitia

On January 12, 2003 the communities of St. Ann Colorado City and St. Joseph Loraine celebrated 50 years of St. Ann being canonically established as a Parish with St. Joseph as her Mission.

The Guadalupanas of St. Joseph also celebrated 50 years of service to the communities; it was a joyous and memorial occasion for both communities.

Our celebration began with the celebration of the Mass with Bishop Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I., with an honor guard provided by the 4th degree Knights of Columbus from Midland and San Angelo.

Our Church was busting at the seams with standing room only. The celebration of the Eucharist was awesome as always – it was enhanced with Mariachis from Big Spring and Matachines from Snyder who wanted to participate and be a part of this major celebration with us, and for that we were very grateful.

After the Eucharist we all moved over to the hall where the Guadalupanas, Knights of Columbus, and several of our parishioners had prepared a delicious meal for us to eat. A walk down memory lane provided by Marcelo and Jessie

Alvarez.

The history of St. Ann's Church dates back to December 26, 1890 when property was bought, but the actual church building was not erected until 1916. It was Fr. Joseph Keller; the pastor of Hermleigh who built a little framed Church on the property. St. Ann was a mission Church then.

On October 14, 1924 some property was bought north of the city in el barrio del clotche or the sands, where the second Church was built. Then in 1974 property was acquired on 2005 Walnut Street at the present location and a new Church was built.

In January 15, 1953 St. Ann's was elevated to Parish status and St. Joseph was annexed to her as her mission Church. Religious priests from the Franciscans Order and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

staffed St. Ann and St. Joseph, up until June of 2000.

On June 1, 2000 the parish ceased being a religious parish and was handed back over to the diocese with the arrival of Fr. David Espitia the present pastor, a diocesan priest.

(Photos by Fr. David Espitia.)



Durante la Celebración de la Eucaristía, ¿Está Cristo presente de otras maneras además de su Presencia Real en el Santísimo Sacramento?

[Preguntas básicas y respuestas]

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, O.M.I.

En este artículo les presento la pregunta numero trece del documento de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos sobre la Eucaristía. Este documento se llama, «La Presencia Real de Jesucristo en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía», y

aquí les presento las preguntas.

13. Durante la Celebración de la Eucaristía, ¿Está Cristo presente de otras maneras además de su Presencia Real en el Santísimo Sacramento?

Sí. Cristo está presente durante la Eucaristía de varias maneras. Está presente en la persona del pres-

bítero que ofrece el sacrificio de la misa. Según la Constitución sobre la Sagrada Liturgia del Concilio Vaticano II, Cristo está presente en su palabra «pues cuando se lee en la Iglesia la Sagrada Escritura, es Él quien habla». También está presente en el pueblo reunido que ora y canta, «pues Él prometió: `donde

están dos o tres congregados en mi nombre, allí estoy Yo en medio de ellos' (Mt 18:20)» (Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 7). Asimismo, él está presente «cuando alguien bautiza, es Cristo quien bautiza» (ibíd).

Hablamos de la presencia de Cristo bajo la apariencia de pan y vino como «real», con el fin de en-

fatizar la naturaleza especial de dicha presencia. Lo que parece ser pan y vino es en su misma substancia el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo. Cristo entero está presente, Dios y hombre, cuerpo y sangre, alma y divinidad. Si bien los otros modos en que Cristo está presente en la celebración de la Eucaristía no dejan, ciertamente, de ser reales, este modo supera a los demás. «Esta presencia se denomina `real', no a título exclusivo, como si las otras presencias no fuesen `reales', sino por excelencia, porque es substancial, y por ella Cristo, Dios y hombre, se hacen totalmente presente» (Mysterium Fidei, no. 39).



A Place At The Table

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

At their November meeting in 2002, the U.S. Catholic Bishops approved an important pastoral letter on poverty entitled, "A Place at the Table." This statement presents a renewed focus by the bishops for the elimination of poverty at home and abroad.

This pastoral letter serves as a splendid resource for all of us, but especially for social ministry leaders in their efforts to broaden and deepen the Church's commitment to social and economic justice. This new statement of the Bishops, *A Place at the Table*, provides an opportunity to:

- remind Catholics that central to our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ is our concern for those who are poor or suffering,

- affirm that even as our Church deals with its internal crisis, our

Community of faith must remain true to our best values and principles, including our commitment to build a world of greater justice and peace,

- urge that as our nation debates its response to global terrorism and violence, we must not only consider military options but also policy options that address suffering and build greater justice, good will and peace among all people.

There are countless opportunities during this new year to call attention to our responsibility as disciples of Jesus Christ to actively and concretely respond to the reality of poverty in our world. *A Place at the Table* gives much helpful direction. We must think globally, but act locally. The place to begin to eradicate poverty and hunger is right at the "table" of each local community. How are we reaching out as a parish community to the

poor, the needy, the marginalized? What more can our churches do to provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, assistance for the unemployed, clothing for needy people, medicine for the sick and comfort and hope for those who are imprisoned physically, emotionally or morally, or who are slaves to addiction? How can we be more welcoming to the new comer and the stranger who comes from another land? I ask that these important questions be discussed at our pastoral council meetings.

The new Legislative Year early in 2003 is a splendid occasion to promote legislation that will provide the opportunity for many, many more people to have "A Place at the Table." As Congress and many state legislatures reconvene, the theme of ensuring "A Place at the Table" can be used as a focus and foundation for communicating legislative priorities and initiatives.

When we open our doors and hearts to our needy sisters and brothers so that they can have *A Place at the Table*, we are doing this to Christ himself.

Liturgy And Law

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Soon we will be receiving the final version of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* which incorporates adaptations for the USA. Hopefully some time this year, we will also receive the final edition of the updated *Roman Missal*. It is still under study by Vatican authorities.

At various times, I have strongly recommended to all of our priests, pastoral councils, and other leaders of our parishes to read the draft of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* so as to be prepared to implement this once we have the final version of the *Roman Missal* itself. When the final edition has been approved, I ask that all the Norms be observed in the Sacred Liturgy celebrated in our Diocese.

As we embark on the implementation of the revised *Roman Missal*, I offer some brief reflections on the relationship of liturgy and law from a presentation given by Archbishop Lipscomb who recently was the Chairperson of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy.

"We have made a profound journey these past forty years—one which has abandoned a view of rubrics as rigid norms observed in the interest of mere ceremonial or spectacle. We have to a great extent seized a moment of grace and opened our hearts to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our own time.

"Yet, still, some unhealthy and unrealistic attitudes toward the liturgy and her laws endure. This has been made all the clearer in the months preceding and immediately following the publication of the new Roman Missal. Such individuals just want to know what to do and what to change and how to get on with it. The rich catechetical, historical and doctrinal elements of the Roman Missal are but an impediment to their efficiency.

"Others become lost, to a remarkable extent, in endless speculation on the theological, ecclesiological and doctrinal significance of new liturgical laws. Their reflections, as ingenious as they are endless, petrify and preclude any real action.

"Then there are those who use the law to resolve personal vendettas, to exercise control over those whom they do not trust. Such conflicts, rooted more in relational failures than liturgical issues, even gave rise to a too long lived and increasingly aggravating joke.

"Finally, there are those who exercise an approach to liturgical law which lives by the motto: 'the exception is better than the norm.' They search untiringly for the exception to every particular norm and use it to justify the setting aside of the law itself. In the resultant vacuum, they gladly assume the role of sole remaining arbiter of the truth.

"I suggest there is but one sufficient antidote to such self-serving attitudes toward liturgical law. It is the virtue of obedience — a virtue even less practiced than it is appreciated. I ask you: if the heart of the liturgy is Christ's kenotic selfgiving upon the cross, what virtue is more liturgical than obedience? That is what the antiphon for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time means when it proclaims: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart. Each person who seeks to implement the new *Roman Missal* must be inspired and driven by precisely such a response.

"That is why the new *Roman Missal* speaks about posture by saying: 'The uniformity in posture, which must be observed by all participants, is a sign of the unity of the members of the Christian community gathered for the Sacred Liturgy: it both expresses and fosters the mind and spiritual attitudes of the participants' (GIRM, no. 50).

"Patience, conviction, and courage are needed as we embark on an implementation of the new *Roman Missal*. Discernment is crucial and must be complemented by a strong measure of common sense and pastoral sensitivity. But in all this we must never lose an appreciation for the prescient words of the responsorial refrain for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: *Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!*"

Inculturation of the Gospel Message

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

In a recent addition of the *Angelus* I pointed out that I would be featuring articles in the *Angelus* as regards the key ways of inculturating the Gospel message of Christ. The information that I share with you is taken from the draft of the New National Directory for Catechesis. In this addition of the *Angelus* I am addressing the following topic.

The Process of Inculturation

The inculturation of the Gospel occurs within a dynamic process that has several interactive elements. Inculturation involves listening to the culture of the people for an echo of the word of God. It involves the discernment of the presence of authentic gospel values or openness to authentic gospel values in the culture. It involves, when necessary, the purification of the elements in the

culture that may be inimical to the Gospel. And it involves an invitation to conversion.

"True inculturation occurs when the gospel penetrates the heart of cultural experience and shows how Christ gives new meaning to authentic human values. However, the Church must never allow herself to be absorbed by any culture, since not all cultural expressions are in conformity with the gospel. The Church retains the indispensable duty of testing and evaluating cultural expressions in the light of her understanding of revealed truth. Cultures, like individual human beings and societies, need to be purified by the blood of Christ."

The inculturation of the gospel message is an urgent task for the dioceses in the United States because it correlates faith and life. It seeks to dispose the people of

the United States, who live in a multicultural and pluralistic society, to receive Jesus Christ in an integral manner. The process of inculturation must involve the people to whom the Gospel is addressed, so that they can receive the faith and reflect it. It touches them on the personal, cultural, economic, and political levels so that they can live a holy life in total union with God the Father, through the action of the Holy Spirit. "It is necessary to inculturate preaching in such a way that the Gospel is proclaimed in the language and in the culture of its hearers." Thus the inculturation of the faith, while using the language proper to the Christian message, must enter into dialogue with the people to whom the Gospel is being addressed by using terms familiar to them.

Pray for Peace



PRO-LIFE

from page twelve

with their children and their banners from the various parish organizations from the four corners of the San Angelo Diocese were in attendance.

Members of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, in their regalia, from throughout the Diocese presented an honor guard for the celebrants of the Mass, and the men's choir from St. Ambrose Church in Wall, TX sang hymns under the direction of Frank Diaz.

There probably has never been a faster exit from this Stadium than when the Bishop said that the Mass was ended. Everyone exited to the warmth of their vehicles in the parking lot, but they were comforted by the knowledge that they had made a public demonstration of their support for those "who are the least amongst us," the unborn children.



Over 400 people join Bishop Pfeifer in frigid temperatures at the outdoor Pro-Life Mass. (Photos by Stephen Talley.)



Knights of Columbus of the Diocese serve as the Color Guard for the entrance procession.

(Below) Bishop Pfeifer speaks with a young admirer from the crowd.



Youth groups of the Diocese enthusiastically participate at the gathering.



Priests of the Diocese bow in prayer for the unborn. (L-R) Frs. Cornejo, Espitia and Brenon.



The St. Ambrose Church Men's Choir with musicians from the Cathedral provide music under the able direction of Frank Diaz (Right).



Priests and Deacons of the Diocese assist Bishop Pfeifer during the Mass.



(Left) People use a variety of different hand positions during the praying of the *Our Father*.



The congregation keeps warm any way it can during the chilly proceedings.



Deacon Ray Smith assists Sara Cabeza in proclaiming the first Reading.



Hardy souls complete singing the last stanza of the last song where others have located to a warmer clime.

President Bush's Remarks to March for Life

by Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Here is the White House text of President Bush's remarks in a phone call to the rally preceding the annual March for Life Jan. 22 in Washington. Bush called from St. Louis.

Thank you Nellie, and thank you all very much. I am in Missouri today, and I appreciate being included in your celebration of life.

I know that many of you have made great sacrifices to come to Washington today – riding buses all night, and braving the cold all day. I admire your perseverance and your devotion to the cause of life.

You are gathered today on the National Mall, not far from America's monument to Thomas Jefferson, author of our Declaration of Independence. And the March for Life upholds the self-evident truth of that declaration – that all are created equal, and given the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

That principle of America needs

defenders in every place and every generation. In our time, respect for the right to life calls us to defend the sick and the dying, persons with disabilities and birth defects, and all who are weak and vulnerable. And this self-evident truth calls us to value and to protect the lives of innocent children waiting to be born.

You and I share a commitment to building a culture of life in America, and we are making progress. As president, I have signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, opposed the destruction of embryos for stem-cell research, and refused to spend taxpayer money on international programs that promote abortion overseas. My administration is challenging the Oregon law that permits physician-assisted suicide. We support abstinence education, crisis pregnancy programs, and parental notification laws. And we are offering compassionate alternatives to abortion, by promoting

adoption and extending state health care coverage for unborn children.

I hope the United States Senate will pass a bill this year banning partial-birth abortion, which I will sign. Partial-birth abortion is an abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity. I also urge the Senate to ban all human cloning. We must not create life to destroy life. Human beings are not research material to be used in cruel and reckless experiments.

For 30 years, the March for Life has been sustained by constant prayer and an abiding hope: that one day every child will be born into a family that loves her and a nation that protects her. And when that day arrives, you will have the gratitude of millions – especially those who know the gift of life because you cared, and you kept faith.

May God bless you all. And may God bless America.



View of pro-life march down Constitution Avenue. Tens of thousands march in frigid weather down Constitution Avenue in the nation's capital Jan. 22, during Washington's 30th annual March for Life. Youths were especially visible protesting the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision to legalize abortion in Roe vs. Wade. (CNS photo by Martin Lueders)

Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, center, leads the Pledge of Allegiance at the 30th annual March for Life rally Jan. 22 in Washington. Knights were among the tens of thousands of people who walked up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court on the anniversary of the 1973 rulings that legalized abortion in the nation. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



Ground Breaking for Catholic Outreach Services

by Pat Dishman

January 20th, 2003 was a day for Catholic Outreach Services to remember. At 3 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20, COS broke ground on its new and much larger building to be located at 4th and N. Chadbourne,

"The COS board, volunteers and staff have worked over four years raising the funds, getting the plans drawn and approved and doing the many other things necessary to reach this point," Bishop Michael Pfeifer, O.M.I, Bishop of San Angelo, said.

"Eight foundations very generously awarded grants in excess of \$413,000. In addition, San Angelo parishes and friends along with others from Abilene and Brownwood continue to support this project and ministry.

"We are very grateful to every-

one and especially Mrs. Eva Camunez Tucker for her generous donation of the land," he said,

The new 6,000 square foot building, designed by architect Henry Schmidt, honors San Angelo's past with a façade of the old Santa Fe Depot that once occupied the location. The future is honored by the fact that Catholic Outreach Services will use the central location to continue to help the needy with its wide-range of social services including assistance with utilities, rent, food, clothing and other basic needs.

Since COS opened in 1995, over 9,260 families representing more than 24,932 individuals have been served with assistance valued in excess of \$480,000.

With the larger space, used furniture and appliances will be added to the Thrift Shop.



Mr. Eugene Berger made opening remarks with Bishop Pfeifer and Board members.

Plans also include developing job preparedness training with the goal of helping qualified unemployed individuals find and keep good paying jobs.

Catholic Outreach has played a positive role in San Angelo's social services and all indications are that this role will continue to grow as more and more people are helped.



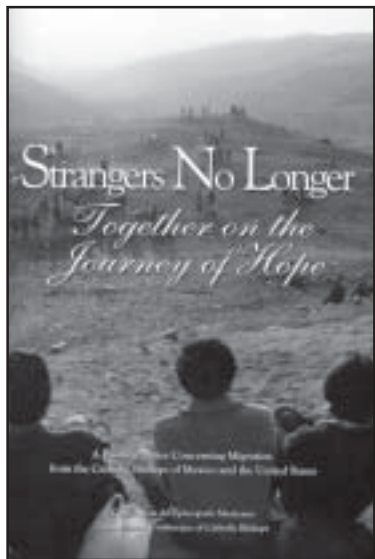
Superintendent Herb Straach and Templeton Construction sign showing façade of new building.

Some shovels did break through the hard ground. (Photos by Peter Micale.)





Mexican – U.S. Bishops' Joint Letter Calls For Immigration Changes



Washington press conference Jan. 24 where the document was released. "Many are grossly exploited – both en route and once in the United States – and their human dignity is trampled."

Bishop Wenski, who heads the Committee on Migration of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the U.S. immigration system is broken and must be reformed. Attitudes toward immigration and how social institutions, including the church, respond to migrants also must be addressed, he said.

"Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," the first joint pastoral letter of the two national bishops' conferences, was released Jan. 23 in Mexico City and Jan. 24 in Washington.

The two bishops' conferences approved the statement at their plenary meetings in November. Its publication was held up until minor differences in the wording of the text could be sorted out by the bishops' respective migration committees. The release dates closely coincide with the anniversary of Pope John Paul II's 1999 apostolic exhortation, "Ecclesia in America," which calls on the church to consider the Americas as one continent in addressing issues such as evangelization.

The new 50-page joint letter says the governments of both countries must change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both countries and addressing the root causes of migration – poverty and lack of employment options in Mexico and Central America.

It discusses the theological roots of the church's support for immigrants and lays out steps to be taken by church and public authorities. It notes that "misperceptions and

The bishops' conferences of Mexico and the United States have issued the pastoral "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," which concerns aspects of migration and ministry to migrants. (CNS)

by Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – With current migration policies essentially creating a new underclass in the United States, the time has come for the governments of Mexico and the United States to make basic changes in immigration law and practice, say the Catholic bishops of the two countries in a new joint letter.

The bishops of the United States and Mexico jointly challenged their governments to change immigration policies and promised to do more themselves to educate Catholics and political leaders about the social justice issues involved in migration and address migrants' needs.

"Many who seek to migrate suffer inhuman conditions, and in too many cases, die tragically trying to get here," said Miami Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski at a

Annual Service Held in Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Annual Ecumenical Service in Honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. held on Jan. 20, 2003 at noon at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart. (L-R, above) Fr. Maurice Voity, Rev. Nathaniel Hankins, Bishop Pfeifer, Rev. Stanley Hall, Elder Jackie Allen and Rev. L. E. Pope.



(Above) Bishop Pfeifer addresses congregation. (Left) Rev. Hoover Lemons delivered main message.



Wesley United Methodist Church Mass Choir. (Photos by Peter Micale.)



Sister Barber Boone.

xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an atmosphere in which undocumented (people) are discriminated against and abused."

The letter urges both governments to "abandon the type of (law enforcement) strategies that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths" and to restore due process rights. It encourages a broad legalization program for the millions of people who are in the United States without the proper

authority.

"Legalization represents sound public policy," said the letter. A broad legalization program would benefit both countries, it said, by stabilizing the labor market in the United States, improving the standard of living in immigrant communities and smoothing the flow of remittances and travelers between Mexico and the United States.

Bishop Wenski said a legalization program also would help ad-

dress security concerns that have heightened since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by allowing people to feel they no longer must hide lest they be deported. People in immigrant communities, for instance, often hesitate to report crimes or become involved in their children's schools or other community efforts for fear of attracting attention to their own illegal status, he said.

see "BISHOPS" page eleven



Catholic Daughters and KC's Sponsoring Benefit

by Theresa Weishuhn

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Knights of Columbus at Wall are sponsoring the 4th Annual Mardi Gras celebration to Benefit Hospice of San Angelo.

Event will take place Saturday, March 1, 2003 at St. Ambrose Parish Hall, Wall. The Theme this year is "Moonlight Masquerade" so

wear your favorite mask. Happy hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with music by the San Angelo Jazz band, at 6:00 a steak and shrimp dinner, 7:30 - 10:30 Casino games with prize drawings at 10:30. It is BYOB with Setups and Snacks of all kinds provided. Tickets are available for \$35 per person and must be purchased in advance from Kevin

Halfmann at 655-1278 . Please make checks payable to Wall Knights of Columbus notating Mardi Gras Benefit for HOSA.

If you are unable to attend, but would still like to donate to Hospice of San Angelo, please send checks to Kevin Halfmann, 133 W. Concho, Suite 208, San Angelo, TX 76903.

ROSARY

from page two

nous principle of Vatican II that Mary is the one who most fully participates in the mysteries of Christ. These new mysteries broaden the rosary to the mysteries of Christ's public ministry between His baptism and His passion.

The five new luminous mysteries of Christ's life are:

- 1) His Baptism in the Jordan.
- 2) His self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana.
- 3) His proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with the call to conversion.
- 4) His Transfiguration.
- 5) And finally His institution of the Eucharist as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery

To celebrate the *Year of the Rosary* in our diocese, I am asking that the Rosary be prayed in a prayer ceremony with Scriptural readings and singing in all of our churches on May 5, 2003. On that day I will gather with the parishes of the city of San Angelo, for a "Rosary Rally," for the praying of the rosary at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart. I strongly encourage that in our larger cities that we have common "Rosary Rallies," bringing together several communities on this date for the praying of the rosary. The Deans of the three deaneries have worked out the places of these rosary celebrations.

To close the *Year of the Rosary* on October 7, 2003, I am asking that we pray the Living Rosary with children of our parishes participating. Again, I ask that we have common Rosary Rallies in our bigger cities, bringing together in one

church several parishes of the same city. On that day, I will be leading the praying of the rosary at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart in San Angelo.

In accord with the above, I present to you the places where the Rosary Rallies will be in each deanery, joining together several parishes in one church service:

San Angelo Deanery

- On May 5, 2003, Bishop Pfeifer will lead a Rosary Rally for the parishes of the city of San Angelo at 7:00 p.m. at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart. This is for all the parishes of the city of San Angelo. On the same day, all of the other parishes of the deanery are asked to pray the rosary in each church at 7:00 p.m.

- On October 7, 2003, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, Bishop Pfeifer will lead a Rosary Rally with the praying of the Living Rosary with children which will be held at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 p.m. This will bring together all the parishes of the city of San Angelo. On the same day throughout the deanery, the rosary will be prayed in all the churches of the deanery at 7:00 p.m.

Abilene Deanery

- As there is a conflict to have the Rosary Rallies on May 5, a Rosary Rally for the parishes of the city of Abilene will be held at Holy Family Church in Abilene on May 6, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. All the churches of the city of Abilene are asked to be present for this Rosary Rally. On the same day, the rosary will be prayed in all of the parishes of the deanery at 7:00 p.m.

- On October 7, 2003, a Rosary Rally for the parishes of the city of

Abilene will be held at Sacred Heart Church at 7:00 p.m. This Rosary Rally will include the praying of the Living Rosary with children. This is for the parishes of the city of Abilene, and all the other parishes in the deanery are asked to pray the rosary the same day at 7:00 p.m.

Midland-Odessa Deanery

- In the city of Odessa on May 5, 2003 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a Rosary Rally at Holy Redeemer Church in Odessa for all the churches in the city of Odessa.

In the city of Midland, on the same day, there will be a Rosary Rally at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Midland at 7:00 p.m. for all churches in the city of Midland. All the other parishes of the Midland/Odessa Deanery are asked to pray the rosary on the same day at 7:00 p.m.

- On October 7, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. St. Ann's Church in Midland will host a Living Rosary, praying the rosary with children, for all churches of the city of Midland.

The Living Rosary with children participating will be celebrated with the parishes of the city of Odessa on the same day - 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Odessa. Each church in the Deanery is asked to have a rosary service on October 7, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

During the *Year of the Rosary*, as the rosary is prayed in our parishes and homes, I ask that the following intentions always be remembered; the intentions of our Holy Father, the local bishop, priests, religious and deacons and their wives and all ministers of our Church, a new appreciation for human life at every stage of life, espe-

RENEW Implementation Continues

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

Implementation of RENEW continues around the diocese. Over 250 people attended the first round of Informational Meetings held in each of the three deaneries. At the end of the meeting, Deacon Michael Hanly from RENEW International challenged the parish representatives to identify 8-10 people in their parish who would make an effective Parish Core Community to assist with the parish implementation of RENEW.

Deacon Michael Hanly from RENEW International will return to the diocese in February for the training of the Parish Core Communities. The training meetings are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the following parishes: **Abilene Deanery** (St. Francis Parish) February 17, **San Angelo Deanery** (Christ the King Retreat Center) February 18, **Midland/Odessa Deanery** (St. Ann's Parish) February 19.

RENEW is a spiritual renewal process designed to help parishioners develop a closer relationship with Christ, to make an adult commitment to Jesus as central in their lives and to open them to the power of the Holy Spirit so that they become more authentic witnesses.

For more information about RENEW call the Office of Education and Formation at 651-7500.



cially praying for an end to abortion, our sick and suffering, the homeless and unemployed, world peace, our seminarians and deacon candidates, and more vocations for priesthood and religious life, family life, all those preparing for marriage, rain, our deceased, and of course, we pray for all other intentions.

REFLECTIONS

from page three

God. Let us pray that they will hear God's call and they have courage to surrender themselves to it.

While nothing human is perfect, I can say that priesthood is a wonderful way of life with challenges and rewards from heaven. If God is inviting you to a vocation to priesthood or religious life, are you willing to follow? Contact Fr. Tom Barley, Director of Vocations and Seminarians at 915-651-7500. Can you think of other scriptural passages that talk about vocations?

INDIA

from page three

tian communities are the priorities of the diocese of Kurnool. The diocese has 340 mission stations, looked after by 74 priests. Still we have 170 villages that need chapels to pray.

We count on your generosity in giving us mission appeals and mass intentions, because as members of the one Body of Christ, you share in our joys and sorrows by extending help. May God bless you.

Contact person USA: Rev. Prasad Gallela, Mission Procurator, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 96, Rowena, Texas 76875 (915)442-2362, E-mail address: prasadgallela@aol.com.



Apostolic Nunciature Thanks Diocese

by *Apostolic Nuncio*

With deep gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$19,286.00 representing a contribution for the support of the Holy See from the Diocese of San Angelo for 2003, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 1271.

While I can assure you that this sum will be sent to the Secretariat of State on your behalf, permit me to offer in the name of Pope John Paul II an initial word of thanks for this expression of generosity.

May God continue to bless you and the faithful you serve.

Intentions Of The Holy Father For February

General – Bread and water for all the world. That all Christians, sensitive to the people who are still suffering from hunger and thirst, may be moved to greater solidarity with their brothers.

Mission – The Church in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. That these Churches may dialog with other religions while keeping faithful to their exacting evangelizing missions.

WORLD DAY

from page three

strive to follow the Gospel by serving the People of God, especially those who are less fortunate. I live this out in and through my religious community's charism: "...to be attentive to the Lord, to proclaim the Word, and to celebrate life," and through our recently revised mission statement: "We Dominicans of Kansas impelled by the Gospel of Jesus are the Holy Preaching."

6) To be a Woman Religious means to me personally – Fulfilling my heart's desire! To strive daily to know, love, and serve God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength through the grace of my Baptism, Confirmation, and Religious Profession. Proclaiming the Good News in word and action to all and letting them know that we are pilgrims on this earth journeying "together" to our True Home – Heaven. When life's burdens and cares become heavy-laden, I want to be there to "help" through my life of prayer and contemplation.

Sister Madonna, O. Carm.

7) The heart of all ministry, and of life itself, is relationship; relationship with God, Jesus the Christ,

the Spirit of God, and the People of God. In partnership with others I seek to foster right relationships with my sisters and brothers and the planet that sustains us. As a Sinsinawa Dominican woman religious I am called to proclaim the Gospel, to preach, and to teach in order to participate in a holy and just society. I have committed myself to becoming an antiracist, to working for social justice through prayer, study, social analysis, and action, and to speaking truth to power. I believe my life of consecration is a response of love and gratitude to the God who first loved me. **Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P.**

8) I, **Mary Kay Bailey, OP**, am a celibate, communitarian woman committed to the service of the church. We Dominican Sisters claim, with one voice, our Dominican tradition as "Communities of the Holy Preaching" and embrace our call to be women preachers of justice. My public vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience free me to respond to the Lord's call, wherever and whenever my God, through the Spirit, leads me.

9.) As a woman religious I am called through baptism to become holy and to continue the mission of Jesus Christ which is to bring

about the reign of God in our world today. I have chosen to do this as a woman religious who lives in community with other women who have responded to this call. Together we share prayer and faith together, meals, and recreation. As a woman religious I live the vow of poverty which means we hold all things in common, the vow of celibacy which means we choose to remain single in order to have more freedom for ministry, and the vow of obedience which means we listen in order to discern God's call in our daily lives. My congregation is School Sister of Notre Dame. **Sister Carol Markus, S.S.N.D.**

10.) To be a woman religious is to respond to a call to live a particular way of life. Together in community, we share, support, and challenge one another in our mission.

Over the years my life has been enriched by a growing and deepening life of prayer, living community as a School Sister of Saint Francis, and the many opportunities I have had to work with the People of God in a variety of ways. In a spirit of poverty, I can honestly say, "I have been richly blessed." **Sister Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.**

ROSARIO

from page two

nuevos del Rosario – «los misterios de la luz», o «misterios luminosos». El Papa dice que los cinco nuevos misterios sacan a la luz la profundidad cristológica del rosario, aplicando el principio luminoso del Vaticano II de que María es la que más participa plenamente en los misterios de Cristo. Estos nuevos misterios amplifican el rosario a los misterios del ministerio público de Cristo, desde su Bautismo hasta su Pasión.

Los cinco nuevos misterios luminosos de la vida de Cristo son:

- 1) Su bautismo en el Jordán.
 - 2) Su manifestación en las bodas de Caná.
 - 3) Su proclamación del Reino de Dios, con la llamada a la conversión.
 - 4) Su transfiguración.
 - 5) Y finalmente su institución de la Eucaristía como expresión sacramental del Misterio Pascual.
- Para celebrar el año del Rosario

en nuestra diócesis, pido que se rece el Rosario en una ceremonia de oración, con lecturas de las Escrituras y con cantos, en todas de nuestras Iglesias el 5 de Mayo, 2003. En ese día me reuniré con todas las parroquias de la ciudad de San Angelo para rezar el rosario en la Catedral del Sagrado Corazón. Recomiendo mucho que se celebren reuniones del rosario en nuestras ciudades grandes, juntándose varias comunidades en este día para rezar el rosario. Los decanos de los tres decanatos han determinado los lugares de estas celebraciones del rosario.

Para concluir el Año del Rosario el 7 de Octubre, 2003, estoy pidiendo que se rece el rosario vivo con los niños en todas nuestras parroquias. De nuevo, pido que se celebren reuniones del rosario en nuestras ciudades grandes, juntándose en una iglesia, varias parroquias de la misma ciudad. En ese día dirigiré el rezo del rosario con las parroquias de la ciudad de San Angelo en la catedral del Sagrado Corazón.

De acuerdo con lo mencionado, les presento los lugares donde las reuniones del rosario serán en cada decanato, juntando varias parroquias para un servicio en una iglesia:

Decanato de San Angelo

• El 5 de Mayo, 2003, el Obispo Pfeifer dirigirá una reunión del rosario para las parroquias de la ciudad de San Angelo a las 7 p.m. en la catedral del Sagrado Corazón.

• El 7 de Octubre, 2003, la fiesta del Santo Rosario, el Obispo Pfeifer dirigirá una reunión del rosario rezando el rosario vivo con los niños en la catedral del Sagrado Corazón a las 7 p.m. Esto juntará a todas las parroquias de la ciudad de San Angelo. En ese mismo día en todo el decanato, el rosario se recerá en todas las iglesias del decanato a las 7 p.m.

Decanato de Abilene

• Como hay un conflicto en tener las reuniones del rosario el 5 de Mayo, la reunión del rosario para las parroquias de la ciudad de Abilene será en la iglesia de la Sagrada Familia en Abilene el 6 de Mayo, 2003 a las 7 p.m. Les pido a todas las iglesias de la ciudad de Abilene que estén presente para esta reunión del rosario. Ese mismo día el rosario se rezará en todas

las parroquias del decanato a las 7 p.m.

• El 7 de Octubre, 2003, una reunión del rosario para las parroquias de la ciudad de Abilene será en la iglesia del Sagrado Corazón a las 7 p.m. Esta reunión del rosario incluirá rezando el rosario vivo con niños. Esto es para las parroquias de la ciudad de Abilene, y a todas las otras parroquias del decanato se les pide que recen el rosario ese mismo día a las 7 p.m.

Decanato de Midland/Odessa

• El 5 de Mayo, 2003, a las 7 p.m., habrá una reunión del rosario en la iglesia del Santo Redentor en Odessa para todas las parroquias de la ciudad de Odessa.

En ese mismo día, habrá una reunión del rosario en la iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Midland para todas las iglesias de la ciudad de Midland. A todas las otras parroquias de Midland/Odessa se les pide que recen el rosario en ese mismo día a las 7 p.m.

• El 7 de Octubre, 2003, a las 7 p.m. la iglesia de St. Ann's en Midland tendrá un rosario vivo con todos las iglesias de la ciudad de Midland rezando el rosario con niños.

El rosario vivo con niños participando será celebrado para todas las parroquias de la ciudad de Odessa en ese mismo día - 7 p.m. en la iglesia de San Jose en Odessa. A cada parroquia en el decanato se les pide tener un servicio del rosario el 7 de Octubre, 2003 a las 7 p.m.

Durante el *Año del Rosario*, pidamos por todas las intenciones del Santo Padre, nuestro obispo local, nuestros sacerdotes, los religiosos y los diáconos y sus esposas, todos los ministros de nuestra Iglesia, por un nuevo respecto para la vida humana en todas sus etapas, sobre todo por los no-nacidos, nuestros enfermos y los que sufren, aquellos que no tiene hogar ni trabajo, la paz del mundo, nuestros seminaristas y candidatos al diaconado, y más vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa, la vida familiar, todos aquellos que se preparan al matrimonio, la lluvia, y por supuesto, todas las demás intenciones.



Catholics in the Military

by Terry C. O'Connor

For Catholic families with a loved one serving in the US Armed Forces, there is a web-based apostolate whose mission is to “strengthen military families and promote vocations to the Military Ordinariate.” Its founders are retired military officers, an active duty Air Force Reserve chaplain, and the wife of a career naval officer and mother of six.

This “online base” for Catholics in the military offers Church teachings on just war, biographies of military warrior saints and those whose cause for canonization has been opened, profiles of Catholic chaplains serving on active duty, and profiles of heroes, such as Rocky Versace. Theologian and “resident chaplain”, Fr. John Echert, has served 18 years as an Air Force Reserve chaplain. Having recently returned from three months in the desert region of Qatar with Operation Enduring Freedom, Father Echert fields questions from Catholics in the military in the Q&A forum and also pens a quarterly newsletter.

“We receive numerous inquiries into the military chaplaincy and direct them to the Military Ordinariate. This is very encouraging given the shortage of Catholic chaplains. Now more than ever, chaplains are very much needed.” said co-founder Judy McCloskey.

When asked to define the focus of CatholicMil.Org, Mrs. McCloskey responded: “The focus of this apostolate is threefold: to aid in understanding the military vocation, to aid in understand the oath, and to give our military some spiritual weapons in the battle for personal sanctity and the sanctity of their family. These are the tools we use to help strengthen military families and promote vocations to the Military Ordinariate. The catechism states: “Those who are sworn to serve their country in the armed forces are servants of the security and freedom of nations. If they carry out their duty honorably, they truly contribute to the common good of the nation and the

maintenance of peace.’ It seems a dichotomy, but it is the military that the Catechism refers to as ‘peacemakers’ and this is true. Jesus taught ‘No greater love has this than a man lay down his life for his friends.’ This is what military personnel are willing to do on a daily basis, and their families prayerfully support them.

“During the Jubilee celebration for military and police, the Pope acknowledged the difficulties faced by military families. To paraphrase, he said ‘it’s not easy to be a member of a soldier’s family. A person defends what he loves. Where does one learn to love peace and life if not first in the family?’ Our Holy Father recognizes military service as a mission of defending what is rightly loved- God, family, nation, true freedom. Within this military family setting, vocations to the Military Chaplaincy are sure to follow, given that service members are the first witnesses to their children on the meaning of self-sacrificial love. This is a message Archbishop O’Brien repeats wherever he goes, with the caveat that ‘if we don’t pray for vocations, we don’t deserve them’- rightly so. So, we encourage prayer and offer within the website prayers for vocations and prayers that speak of situations unique to military life. One new item offered on the CatholicMil.org site is a Mass intention feature. Intentions submitted through the site are remembered in a special weekly Mass offered specifically for these Catholics in the military, their families, their loved ones, those discerning vocations, and all else.

“And given that most of our military personnel are young adults between 18 and 22 years of age, we want to instill in them an understanding of the military vocation and promote a greater understanding of the sworn oath. To that end, Catholic Exchange generously allowed us to include a segment from their Bible study on the book of James. Written by Jeff Cavins and Dr. Scott Hahn, the segment deals entirely with the meaning of oath. When a soldier or a sailor, airman

or marine, for the sake of military ecumenism ‘swears in’, he invokes the name of God making this more than another military formality. ‘So help me God’ brings God into the equation. In time of greatest need, recalling the oath that was sworn and calling on His Name brings immediate Divine Aid. God’s entire Being is invoked – His Person, Presence and Power are invoked – to help us so that with Him, in Him and through Him, we may be strengthened to carry out our duties honorably. And there is a sacramental understanding involved as well, such as when God swears an oath. The word ‘sacrament’, from the Latin word ‘sacramentum’, literally means ‘oath’ - God’s oath. Dr. Scott Hahn has extensively researched the covenant, sworn by oath, and this work has greatly influenced our own understanding and application of such truths. Sharing what the Church already proclaims, CatholicMil.Org works to bring these messages more fully into military families and military communities.”

Chaplain John Echert, an Air Force Reservist and EWTN scripture forum expert, was introduced to the work of CatholicMil through a mutual friend and acquaintance, Jeff Cavins. “Jeff and I met while on pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” Judy recounts. “It was through Steubenville University Tours, with Fr. Mike, the late Fr. Sam, and Jeff. Shortly after that pilgrimage, I began prayerfully discerning ways to become active in an apostolate serving our military. The idea for a web-based apostolate was born then. Years later, I saw Jeff again- this time at EWTN. Jeff spoke of his friend, an Air Force chaplain- and that chaplain was Fr. Echert. When I first contacted Father Echert and told him of the work already begun, he responded that he also had been thinking along those lines recently as well. God orchestrates everything.”

A final encouragement was offered for those with a member of the family serving in the military. “A most efficacious time to pray for them is just before Communion, when the words that caused our Lord to marvel at a soldier’s great faith are immortalized in Mass: ‘Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I

shall be healed.’ That was a soldier’s faith- taking the Lord’s word as a direct order, with surety, and simplicity. That’s certainly a most powerful time to pray for a military family or friend. Try it and see.”

Visit online at: www.catholicmil.org.

FOOTBALL

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on her student. As part of a literacy program promoted by the NFL, he nominated her as the teacher who had the most positive effect on his education.

“To be singled out for that was such an honor,” she said. “It was unbelievable.”

They met again when the NFL player was in town and stopped by to visit his former grade school. One of the teachers quickly organized a student assembly of the seventh and eighth grades and McGlynn-Haugh asked him to talk to them.

“He went in there and just knocked them out,” she said “He spoke straight from the hip. He told them that he had ridden his bicycle in the same places they had, had played sports on the same fields. But he reminded them that, even if they wanted to be a professional athlete someday, that they had to have a back-up plan because it’s so rare that someone gets the opportunity.”

BISHOPS

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The increased militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border in the last decade, which has led to thousands of deaths of people crossing the border and has cost millions of dollars, could be eased if people have more legitimate ways of entering the United States to find work, he said.

In many ways, Bishop Wenski said, the current situation in the United States is essentially creating a new underclass of immigrants.

“By keeping millions of undocumented people without documents they are only exploited,” he said, adding that such migrants lack the same civil and legal rights as

legal immigrants and are held back by a glass ceiling from improving their lives.

“The last time we created an underclass like that we called it Jim Crow,” Bishop Wenski said. “We still haven’t gotten over the consequences of that.”

The letter was the product of two years of work by the bishops’ migration committees and their staffs. It came about at the suggestion of bishops from Texas and the adjoining Mexican states. It notes that the two countries share a common history in which migration has always been an important factor.

The two nations are interdependent in many ways, it notes. About 800,000 Mexicans enter the United States each day to work, visit relatives or shop. Bishop Wenski said Mexicans send about \$10 billion worth of wages back to relatives in Mexico each year, a significant portion of the nation’s income.

He noted that the letter makes recommendations as simple as creating less expensive ways for U.S. residents to send that money home to Mexico, so more of the workers’ wages can reach their families.

Bishop Wenski said perhaps the most challenging part of implementing the recommendations of the pastoral letter lies in persuading Congress and the administration to make the sought-after changes in U.S. law and policy.

No specific funding has been set aside yet by the U.S. bishops to implement the letter’s recommendations, he told reporters. But “there’s always a way to stretch a little and find ways to cover things,” he added.

WEIGAND

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“Roe vs. Wade cannot stand as the law of this great nation, a nation founded on the self-evident truth that all people are created with an inalienable right to life,” he added, quoting from the statement the bishops adopted last November to mark the 30th anniversary of that decision. “We are committed, no matter how long it may take, no matter the sacrifices required, to bringing about a reversal of this tragic Supreme Court decision.”



Pro Football's MVP Keeps Catholic Roots And Values

by John Knebel
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—At 37, Oakland Raider Rich Gannon has pretty much done it all as a National Football League quarterback.

In leading the Raiders to this year's Super Bowl, he set an NFL single-game record with 21 consecutive completed passes and single-season records of 418 completions and 10 games with 300 or more passing yards. At the end of the regular season he was

voted the NFL's Most Valuable Player. Twice in past years he was MVP of the Pro Bowl.

But those aren't the things that make Philadelphians Joan and Jim Gannon most proud of their son, whose Catholic faith is an important part of his life.

"He knows his values," Joan Gannon told The Catholic Standard & Times, Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper. "He has things in the right order."

"We're proud of all of our kids," said Jim Gannon. "The public

knows Rich as a football player, but to us, we love him because he's Rich, the person."

Even though Rich Gannon is not a Philadelphia Eagle, he has a big fan base in Philadelphia and the state of Delaware. His parents still live in Fox Chase, a northeast Philadelphia suburb where he grew up with four brothers and a sister and attended St. Cecilia's Grade School.

After his 1983 graduation from St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, Rich Gannon went to the University of Delaware, where his quarterback skills led to his being drafted by the NFL.

He has used the financial success of pro football to benefit his three former schools, making generous contributions to each without fanfare.

In fact, he has never been known to seek the limelight.

His mother understands why. "Rich has said a lot of times that even though he loves playing football, it's his job," she said. "That's what he does for a living, but he has his own life to live, and his family is so important to him."

Her son and his wife, Shelley, have two children: Alexis, 7, and Danielle, 5.

"He told me once that he feels responsible to do well not only for himself, but for the players on the team, and the coaches as well," Joan Gannon said. "He once said, 'If I don't do well, I could potentially cost a coach a job.'"

"It's not all about him. It's never been all about him," she said.

But the quarterback does not shy away from espousing his Catholic beliefs. He is a member of Life Athletes, a coalition of more than 200 professional and Olympic athletes who have made a commitment to lives of virtue, abstinence and respect for life and who work to spread that message.

The group's Web site — www.lifeathletes.org — sums up that commitment in four mottos: "I will try to do what is right, even when it is difficult. I will give myself only to that special person I marry as my partner for life. I will respect the lives of others, especially the unborn and the aged. I will not quit or make excuses when I fail; I will try again."

Rich Gannon said that "living

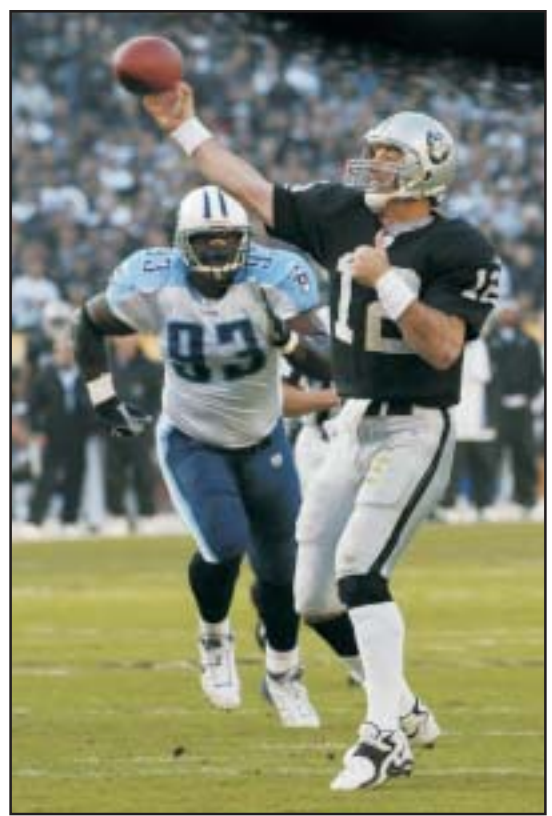
by example" has always been important to him. He said his parents were pivotal positive forces in his young life, and he had nothing but praise for St. Cecilia's and St. Joseph's Prep.

"They helped guide me in more ways than I can count," he said. "It was a blessing to go to those schools. It took sacrifice for my parents to send (him and his siblings) there. I think it's important for all of us to try and give back what we can in the ways we're best able."

None of this surprises his high school coach, Jack Branka, who has remained in touch with the football player throughout the years.

"I'm really proud of what he has accomplished," said Branka. "Even though he's become a star, he's never let it change the things most important to him."

Even when Rich Gannon was a teen-ager "he was sure of himself, but he wasn't arrogant," said Branka. "He believed in teamwork. The other players believed in him.



Oakland Raiders' quarterback Rich Gannon throws a touchdown pass as Tennessee Titans' Kevin Carter rushes during the Jan. 19 American Football Conference championship game in Oakland, Calif. Gannon, named the NFL's Most Valuable Player, is a product of Catholic schools. (CNS photo from Reuters)

And he was a great competitor."

Margie McGlynn-Haugh, now in her 32nd year teaching at St. Cecilia's, taught Rich Gannon in fourth grade in 1974-75. Fifteen years later she was surprised to learn how big an impression she made

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Msgr Larry Droll (6th from right), Deacon Leroy Beech (center) and KC State Warden Joseph J. Marusik (5th from left) pose with Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of San Angelo after a Mass at St. Ambrose Parish Church, Wall, Texas opening the Annual KC Tri-District Banquet on January 25. (Photo by Stephen Talley)