

Vocation Circle, p. 3

Why Catholic Education, p. 3

Pan-American Mass Media Effort,
p. 4

Statement on Sexual Abuse of
Minors by Priests, p. 5

Holy Angels Parish Will Have a
New Church, p. 6

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel
Restoration, p. 8

American Bishops' Overseas
Appeal, p. 10



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Catholic Social Ministers Urged To Get Behind Faith-based Legislation

by Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Towey, the Catholic who now heads the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, asked Catholic social ministry leaders to lend their support to passage of legislation supporting greater federal support for faith-based organizations that are trying to solve social needs and ills.

“Government cannot love. It’s hard for government to be neighbor,” Towey said. “But government

can work in partnership with faith-based groups,” he added.

“We can remove the real-world barriers.”

Towey spoke during a general session on the final day of the Feb. 24-27 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has supported two bills in Congress that respond directly to President Bush’s faith-based initiative: the Community Solutions Act in the House, which passed 233-198 last July, and the Charity Aid,

Recovery and Empowerment Act now before the Senate.

The House bill expands current charitable choice law, first enacted in 1996, to federal social service programs while protecting the religious freedom of both organizations and individuals; allows seniors over age 70 to make charitable contributions of individual retirement accounts without incurring a tax liability; and provides liability protection for certain corporate in-kind charitable donations.

see “**URGED**,” page eleven



Jim Towey, center, joins Catholic social ministry workers for prayer Feb. 27 at an annual gathering in Washington. Towey, a Catholic, is the new director of the White House Office of Community and Faith-Based Initiatives. (CNS photo by Martin Lueders.)

Longing For God: Mother Teresa’s Letters Reveal Isolation, Doubts

by Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk pores over the letters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the reports of her spiritual directors, he is increasingly struck by the enormous difficulty of all she accomplished.

The priest, who is in charge of preparing material for Mother Teresa’s beatification, is not surprised by the effort it took to open houses for the dying, the sick and the homeless.

The surprising aspect is how much she did despite feeling for years that God had abandoned her, he said.

Her letters to her spiritual directors over the years are filled with references to “interior darkness,” to feeling unloved by God and even to the temptation to doubt that God exists.

She wrote to her spiritual director in a 1959-60

spiritual diary, “In my soul, I feel just the terrible pain of loss, of God not wanting me, of God not being God, of God not really existing.”

In another letter she wrote that she wanted to love God “like he has not been loved,” and yet she felt her love was not reciprocated.

In the context of Mother Teresa’s life, the thoughts are not heresy, but signs of holiness, Father Kolodiejchuk said in a late-February interview.

Mother Teresa was convinced God existed and had a plan for her life, even if she did not feel his presence, the priest said.

“Everyone wants to share, to talk about things, to be encouraged by

others,” he said, but Mother Teresa, “hurting on the inside, kept smiling, kept working, kept being joyful.”

In a 1961 letter to the Missionaries of Charity, she wrote, “Without suffering our work would just be social work. ... All the desolation of poor people must be redeemed and we must share in it.”

Father Kolodiejchuk, a 45-year-old Canadian ordained in the Ukrainian-Byzantine rite, was among the first members of the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. Members of Mother Teresa’s order often heard her refer to Sept. 10, 1946, as “Inspiration Day,” when on a train in India she experienced a call to live and work

see “**DOUBTS**,” page nine



Mother Teresa holds the hand of an ailing man at the Missionaries of Charity home in Calcutta in this undated file photo. The postulator in her cause for sainthood said he is struck by all Mother Teresa had accomplished, even during times she felt God might have abandoned her. (CNS file photo.)



The Message of Easter - Through Christ's Resurrection Death is Overcome

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The prayers and the scriptural readings for the feast of Easter and the entire Easter season stress that death has been overcome through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Christ truly rose from the dead, all human beings may participate in eternal life. The Christian Gospel is meaningless without the resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection there is neither redemption from sin nor release from eternal death. If there is no possibility of resurrection of the dead for Christ and all human beings, then Christians are no better off than others.

Easter is a reminder that the tomb of Christ is empty because he indeed rose from the dead. It is said, "Only fools look into empty tombs and see nothing." As people of Easter faith, we look into empty tombs and we see our faith vindicated. This is the message of the resurrection, and the message that is given to us in the inspired readings throughout the Easter season.

Christ was raised from the dead and that has made all the difference in the world. The world will never be the same again. Death will never be the same again, because it will never be the final end.

The lesson of the empty tomb that we hear about in the Gospels is that in death Jesus did not cease to exist, and neither do we. Just as Jesus trusted in God's power to raise him from the dead, so we must believe that God's gracious power can save us from sin and death. We have all died and risen with Christ in baptism. And, we will all die and rise to new life in eternity. If it were not so, Christ's life, death, and resurrection would be meaningless. There

see "EASTER," page eleven



El Mensaje de la Pascua: Por la Resurrección de Cristo la Muerte se Vence

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, ONU

Las oraciones y las sagradas escrituras para la fiesta de la Pascua y toda la temporada de la Pascua ponen énfasis en que la muerte se vence por la resurrección de Jesucristo. Porque Cristo verdaderamente resucitó de la muerte, todos los seres humanos pueden participar en la vida eterna. El Evangelio Cristiano no tiene sentido sin la resurrección de Cristo. Sin la resurrección no hay redención del pecado ni liberación de la muerte eterna. Si no hay ninguna posibilidad de resurrección de la muerte para Cristo y todos los seres humanos, entonces los Cristianos no son mejores que los demás.

La Pascua es un recuerdo que la tumba de Cristo está vacía porque Él verdaderamente resucitó de la muerte. Se dice, "Solos los tontos miran dentro las tumbas vacías y no ven nada." Como gente de fe de la Pascua, miramos dentro las tumbas vacías y vemos nuestra fe justificada. Este es el mensaje de la resurrección y el mensaje que es dado a nosotros en las

lecturas durante la temporada de la Pascua.

Cristo fue resucitado de la muerte y eso ha hecho toda la diferencia en el mundo. El mundo nunca será lo mismo en el futuro. La muerte nunca será la misma, porque nunca será el fin final.

La lección de la tumba vacía que oímos en los Evangelios es que en la muerte Jesús no dejó de existir, y nosotros tampoco. Como Jesús confió en el poder de Dios para resucitarlo de la muerte, también nosotros debemos creer que el poder generoso de Dios nos puede salvar del pecado y la muerte. Todos hemos muerto y resucitado con Cristo en el bautismo.

see "PASCUA," page eleven

The Bishop's Schedule



March 2002

March 1: San Angelo, Lenten Retreat for Diocesan Pastoral Center Staff at 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 2: San Angelo, Meeting with Catholic Schools Commission at 12:00 noon.

March 3-4: San Antonio, Oblate Renewal Center - Meeting of Texas Bishops.

March 6: San Angelo, St. Mary - Soup-n-Sermon at 12:00 noon.

March 7: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Lenten Night of Prayer for Abilene

Deanery at 7:00 p.m.

March 9: Cayanosa, St. Isidore - Mass at 6:30 p.m.

March 10: Iraan, St. Francis - Mass at 10:00 a.m.

March 12: Big Spring, Immaculate Heart of Mary - Meeting with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

March 13: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Seminar of Hispanic History given by MACC at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 14: Abilene, Holy Family - Meeting with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

March 16: Odessa, San Martin - Mass at 7:00 p.m.

March 17: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mass at 10:00 a.m.

March 18-20: Private Lenten Retreat.

March 21: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council Meeting at 1:15 p.m.

March 22: San Angelo, La Quinta Motor Inn - Luncheon prayer and presentation for Pan American Association at 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

March 24: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Procession at 9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m.

March 28: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Holy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m.

March 29: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Procession and Way of the Cross at 1:00 p.m.; St. Joseph - Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.

March 30: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.

March 31: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Easter Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m.

April 2002

April 1: San Angelo, Bishop Residence - Easter Cookout for Bishop's Staff at 6:00 p.m.

April 5: Fort Stockton, St. Joseph (St. Agnes, Cayanosa and Imperial) - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 6: San Angelo, Convention Center - Holy Angels Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

April 7: Big Spring, St. Thomas/Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 11:30 a.m.

April 9: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m. Eldorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe (Knickerbocker and Mertzon) - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 10: Ballinger, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 11: Abilene, Dyess Air Force Base - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

April 12: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 13: Odessa, St. Anthony - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

April 14: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan - Confirmation at 10:00 a.m.

April 16: Rowena, St. Joseph (Miles and Olfen) - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 17: Ozona, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 18: San Angelo - Meeting of San Angelo Area Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

April 19: San Angelo, Newman Center - Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

April 20: Abilene, St. Francis - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

April 21-22: San Antonio - Spring Meeting of MACC Board

April 23: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Presbyteral Council meeting at 11:00 a.m. Wall, St. Ambrose - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 24: Sonora, St. Ann - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 25: Abilene, Holy Family - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 27: Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

April 28: Odessa, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 11:30 a.m.

April 30: Rankin, St. Thomas (McCamey, Big Lake, Iraan, Crane) - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

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Vocation Circle

Festival of the Arts

by Fr. Tom Barley
Director of Vocations and Seminarians

On Sunday, February 23, Assumption Seminary in San Antonio held a Festival of the Arts. Emilio Sosa and the other seminarians from our Diocese presented their artistic talents in the Festival. Emilio was the overall organizer of the Festival. His specialty is oil paintings. Ariel Lagunilla learned of his talent to paint last summer at St. Mary's in San Angelo. He uses pastels and oils. Ruben Covos of Holy Redeemer in Odessa presented woodwork that he and his father had made. Jorge Ramirez cooked food native to Colombia. Many other seminarians, faculty members, invited guests, and a few

professional artists participated in this Festival. Their presentations included paintings, woodwork, metalwork, photography, and the culinary arts. They were expressions of cultural, religious, and personal interests and values. The public was invited to visit Assumption and view the Festival exhibits. The Festival was reported to be a success.

During this school year Emilio has been offering art classes to the other seminarians. He has helped many of them to discover the art medium in which they can best express their feelings and artistic visions. Almost half of the student body has participated in this opportunity.



Why Catholic Education?

by Carol Halfmann

As adults, it is imperative that we study and know our faith in order that we may stand firm in it. When we brought our children to the Lord and before his Church in Baptism, we chose to hand that faith down to them. That task does not end there. Rather, it begins. We said yes to the challenge of teaching them their faith as they grow into adulthood. It is not enough that they merely follow us through the motions. They must study and know their own faith that they may

stand firm on their own.

God has commissioned us as parents to be our child's first teacher. We are first in the sense that the responsibility lies primarily and foremost on our shoulders to see that our child is growing in their faith. We should be doing everything possible to see that through to fruition. It is comforting to know that we are not alone in this endeavor. The body of Christ, His Church, stands ready to support and assist. Catholic schools have been around for centuries. They

successfully work with parents and the church to better equip our children for their faith journey.

Through Catholic education, Christ is present in every aspect of the student's school day. Through all their academics and in their extracurricular activities too. He is made present to them in each and every decision they are faced with. God's name is glorified from the beginning of the day, through constant openness of prayer, religion study and in our service to others. Focus is on Christ and following

His footsteps through every aspect of the day, in each lesson and activity. Are the students perfect in their behaviors? No. Do they never have conflict with their fellow classmates or teachers? Of course, they do. But it is in those conflicts and during those times that Christ can be and is brought into the core.

As Catholics, when it comes to teaching our faith, there is no substitute for Catholic education. Here in our diocese, there are three Catholic schools. We, as a Catholic, Christian people, are lucky to have each one. Angelo Catholic School is located in San Angelo. St. Ann's Catholic School is in

Midland, and St. Mary's Catholic School is in Odessa. All Catholic parents who live in and around these three areas should seriously consider the choice of giving their child an education that will help lead them into eternity.

Registration Opens March 25, 2002 for School Year 2002-2003 for Pre K-3 through 6th Grade.

Sacred Heart Campus, 19 South Oakes, San Angelo, TX 76903 (915) 655-3325.

Holy Angels Campus, 2315 A & M Ave., San Angelo, TX 76904 (915) 949-1747.

My Mother's Gift

by H. T. Sanchez, Principal of St. Mary's Central Catholic School

This has not only been my first year as principal of St. Mary's Central Catholic School but also my first year in formal Catholic education. To best describe the first half of this year, I would have to liken it to a roller coaster ride. I feel this metaphor succinctly illustrates the wild ride of emotions that have accompanied this endeavor to date. As with a roller coaster; some enjoy the ride while others are not so willing to venture off on their own two feet and place their safety, security, and faith in the hands of roller coaster designer. The identity of the designer is clear I am sure, and I will admit I have enjoyed the ride;

however, I know it is not over yet, so I am holding on for the next sharp turn or upside down loop.

Nevertheless, the point I wanted to make by writing this article is to state that I am here at St. Mary's Central Catholic School not only by the divine and beautiful will of God but also by the dream of my mother. You see, I am from a small West Texas town forty miles south of San Angelo, Texas. My hometown has one stop light in the center of it, and I can even remember when they put the thing up. The town is Eldorado, Texas; a small community of approximately 2,000 people. Eldorado has one elementary, one junior high, and one high school all located on the same campus. As is quite obvious,

Eldorado didn't have enough people in town to support a Catholic school. The closest Catholic school to Eldorado is Angelo Catholic School, and it just wasn't financially feasible, or I adamantly believe my mother would have driven my brother and me to San Angelo every morning.

She always stated that I would benefit so much from a Catholic education, and I, of course, resented the thought as I was a rebel without a clue. I look back and thank God that my mother took charge of me rather than me taking charge of myself. Even though I didn't have the benefit of a Catholic education at a Catholic school, I had the benefit of Sunday CCD classes. My mother would be sure that I was at CCD every Sunday. I could miss public school because I was sick, but I sure wasn't going to miss

CCD. I know that many of my CCD teachers didn't have professional certification or standard teacher training as do instructors in Catholic schools, but they had the desire to do God's marvelous work. Their certification was the Lord's blessing in their hearts to do God's will on earth.

Today, as I sit in my office and write this, I want to stress the importance of Catholic education in the lives of children. I may not have had the opportunity to attend a Catholic school in my small town; however, my mother knew what was best for me and tightly took hold of what was available to her in the form of the Sunday CCD classes offered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. We may not have had the benefit of air conditioning, and we may have had to leave the doors open during those hot

months, but today as a man I am indebted to my marvelous mother and the dedicated men and women who shared their time with me and other youths to open our eyes to the wonders of our beautiful Catholic faith. I have never had the chance to thank them all, so I will take this opportunity, "Thank You!"

Parents, if you have the opportunity before you, send your children to a Catholic school be it Angelo Catholic in San Angelo, St. Ann's Catholic School in Midland, or St. Mary's Central Catholic School in Odessa. Even if you move far away from this area, look up the closest Catholic school and send your children there. They may not thank you today, but as I am here saying thanks now, they will

see "GIFT," page eleven



Pan-American Mass Media Effort Launched By Catholic Bishops

MIAMI—For the first time ever, high-ranking Catholic bishops, archbishops and cardinals from throughout South, Central and North America, in conjunction with lay Catholic communications leaders, launched an aggressive mass media, Pan-American evangelization effort at the first annual public conference of the New Evangelization of America (NEA) organization, which was held January 9 - 12 this year in Miami.

The expressed primary purpose of this Catholic mass media launch is to help meet the objectives outlined by Pope John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation, *Ecclesia in America* (The Church in America). In this 1999, post-synodal document, which was delivered in Mexico City following the 1997 Synod of the bishops of North, Central and South America, the Holy Father called for "one Church, one America," while still acknowledging the cultural differences between the different countries in these regions. New Evangelization of America (NEA), founded under the leadership of Bishop Charles V. Grahmann of Dallas, represents the united episcopal response to the Holy Father's directives as outlined in his document.

A secondary aim of the bishops is to help remedy a lack of dynamic evangelization and proper catechetical instruction which has led to a massive exodus from the Catholic faith among the people of Latin America over the past several years. "There can be no effective evangelization without effective use of mass communication," underscored Nicolás de Jesús Cardinal López Rodríguez of the Dominican Republic, Primate of America and honorary chairman of NEA.

Most Reverend John Foley, Archbishop, Pontifical Council for Social Communications, actively participated in the four-day conference. He told attending episcopal and Catholic communications leaders that the Holy Father extends His Apostolic Blessing to

NEA and to its mass media communications initiatives. He also pointed to the need for credible Catholic public relations to help regain the inclusion of religious programming and news coverage on mainstream U.S. secular radio and television networks, as was the case in the past. He noted that the Holy Father's Midnight Mass this past Christmas Eve was broadcast in 47 countries and on 67 different networks.

"As Christian communicators, we should be actively contemplating, ready to share ourselves with the world and others," said Archbishop Foley. He pointed out that the Catholic radio station in Portugal is the country's most popular station and that the one in Spain is Spain's second most popular station. He called it a disgrace that air space on mainstream U.S. media networks was no longer made available for religious programming, saying that this reflected "thinking only of the bottom line and not at all about people...about the spiritual and human needs of the human person." The Archbishop praised the work currently being done in Catholic mass media throughout the Americas, especially highlighting the benefits of the hierarchy and laity working together to serve the Church with high-quality programming and doctrinally sound, yet varied programming. He exhorted Catholic communicators and bishops to continue to work together to bring the Gospel of Christ "to millions who have not yet heard it, or who have forgotten it."

"This conference is the first time in the history of Catholic communications that all forms of mass media have been under one roof," noted Bishop Grahmann about the Miami conference. "We're already seeing great interest among communications leaders here in collaborating and initiating various new forms of media for the entire North and South American continents. NEA was basically designed to be a catalyst; a facilitator in lis-

tening to all these voices and in connecting needs with resources that already exist. NEA is already impacting the Church by drawing together bishops and prominent lay persons from the entire Western Hemisphere."

Foremost among the initiatives launched and discussed at the NEA conference was Televida International, a Pan American expansion of Cardinal Rodríguez' Dominican Republic-based, highly successful Catholic television station. At the conference, it was decided that Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil-based Fr. Edward Dougherty, S.J., president of a large television production center called *Associacao Do Senhor Jesus*, will become general manager of the Televida International launch. The international organization will feature Catholic programming in Spanish, with some programs in Portuguese.

"This is a huge project for the entire Western Hemisphere," explained Cardinal Rodríguez about Televida International. "Up to now, Televida has provided programming for the Dominican Republic. From the beginning, we tried to acquire the groups we needed to develop our television plan. We bought all the necessary equipment, cameras and so forth. We are connected with Mother Angelica's satellite. We do most of our own programs and use Mother Angelica during the late hours. Now we will expand this Catholic television programming and evangelization effort to reach all the countries, stretching from Alaska to Chile." Fr. Dougherty plans to begin these expansion efforts immediately, by opening a Televida International office in Miami within the next few months.

"Together we can do so much," explained Fr. Dougherty. "What is so fantastic about Televida is the fantastic leadership of the Cardinal!"

"Our infinite God has infinite blessings for us," added Fr. Dougherty. "We, through mass media, can be instruments of the bless-

St. Francis Parish
826 Cottonwood St., Abilene, TX.
Invites You to Our Spring Fundraiser
April 27, 2002

The fundraiser will have two principal aspects: Silent auction and Mexican dinner both will be held in Homsey Hall.

Items available for the silent auction will be on display beginning at 2:00 p.m. on day of auction. Bidding will close at 8:30 p.m..

The dinner will be served from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the same day as the auction.

The dinner will be: a Mexican plate to include a taco, cheese enchilada, rice, beans, salad and a drink for \$5.00. Dessert items will be available for an additional cost.

Advance ticket sales, for dinner, are available at the Parish Office.

ing of God. One of the key things needed for the Church for these blessings to happen is a well-designed integration of Catholic mass media efforts, including television, radio, internet and video-on-demand. We're designing a spiritual revolution; to enter through their [the listener or viewer] doors and leave through God's."

Other Catholic initiatives discussed at the conference include the Pan-American expansion of the Florida-based Catholic Radio Association, which was co-founded several years ago by three Catholic Radio groups to share expertise, experience and resources among those involved in Catholic Radio. Various Internet ideas, tele-emersion, DVDs, holographic monitors and internet-integrated concepts were discussed, including internet-satellite-radio transmissions being used by Miami-based Pax Catholic Communications which is heard throughout Latin America.

Other successful Catholic programs were represented, such as the Bogatá, Colombia-based *El Minuto de Dios* which has been on air since 1950; Hollywood-based Family Theater Productions which was founded by Fr. Patrick Peyton in the '50s; the 24-hour, free satellite downloadable television and radio programs in Spanish and English of EWTN and EWEN; the National Council of Catholic Bishop's Conference production of

The Face of Christ in Art, and the work of Catholic movie and film writers and producers such as Barbara Nicolosi and Leonardo Defilippis. Defilippis is slated to release Saint Luke Production's first full-feature film to theaters late this year, a film on St. Therese of Lisieux.

"The goal of NEA is not to have meetings," emphasized Bishop Grahmann, "but to have concrete results." NEA managing director Alan Napleton agreed. "The media initiatives discussed here are an excellent example of the Holy Father's expressed desire to use media in the work of evangelization. We've made enormous steps this weekend and NEA as an organization is going to work hard to make these a reality. We also want to help to foster an effective dialog with Hollywood, the established mass media vehicles and the very effective Christian groups who are doing such an effective job in utilizing media to spread the Gospel message. We are very pleased to have the support and guidance of the Vatican, Archbishop Foley and Cardinal Rodríguez and our own Bishop Grahmann."

For more information on the work of NEA and Pan-American Catholic mass communications, please contact Alan Napleton at 972-570-8632 or email at neaconference@aol.com



COURAGE and EnCOURAGE

[Living in accordance with the Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality]

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

COURAGE and EnCOURAGE are respectively two spiritual support groups helping Catholic women and men-and their families-to live in accordance with the Catholic Church's pastoral teaching on homosexuality.

COURAGE was founded in 1980 by His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, and continues to be sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. There are now approximately ninety chapters of COURAGE and EnCOURAGE in the United States, Canada and worldwide.

COURAGE was established to help women and men struggling with the same sex attraction. It helps them live chaste lives in accord with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The goals and purposes of COURAGE are:

1. To live chaste lives in accordance with the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on homosexuality.
 2. To dedicate our entire lives to Christ through service to others, spiritual reading, prayer, meditation, individual spiritual direction, frequent attendance at Mass, and the frequent reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.
 3. To foster a spirit of fellowship in which we may share with one another our thoughts and experiences and so ensure that none of us has to face the problems of homosexuality alone.
 4. To be mindful of the truth, that chaste friendships are not only possible but necessary in chaste Christian life-to encourage one another in forming and sustaining them.
 5. To live lives that may serve as good examples to others.
- EnCOURAGE is the affiliate support group for family members, relatives and friends of men and women with homosexual feelings. This support group works and prays to develop a Catholic outreach to women and men who struggle with homosexual orientation.

In addition to individual counseling, these two support groups very often conduct their sessions with the assistance of the 12-Step format developed by Alcoholics Anonymous. When appropriate, individuals are referred to Catholic therapists.

These two support groups are helping thousands of women and men to deal with the issue of homosexuality in a meaningful way in accord with Catholic Church teaching.

The Catholic Church draws a clear distinction between homosexual orientation and homosexual activity, teaching that all homosexual acts are intrinsically wrong. The Vatican statement on homosexuality in 1986 referred to it as an "objective disorder." It is a philosophical, not psychological term. The acting out of the homosexual orientation is against the moral law and this acting out is considered to be "objectively disordered." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that homosexual inclination, not the person, is "objectively disordered and constitutes for most (homosexuals) a trial."

The U.S. Catholic Bishops in their statement, "Always our Children," call upon local churches to establish support groups for people struggling with homosexuality. In that statement, the Bishops deplored that such persons be subjected to violence. The Bishops point out that homosexuals, like all people, be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity.

Bishops' President Issues Statement On Sexual Abuse Of Minors By Priests

WASHINGTON – In a statement on the sexual abuse of minors by priests, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops expressed "profound sorrow that some of our priests were responsible for this abuse under our watch."

"We understand that your children are your most precious gift," Bishop Wilton D. Gregory said. "They are our children as well, and we continue to apologize to the victims, and to their parents and their loved ones for this failure in our pastoral responsibilities."

"The attention to this issue also gives me the opportunity to renew

the promise of our bishops that we will continue to take all the steps necessary to protect our youth from this kind of abuse in society and in the Church," he said.

Bishop Gregory said he was speaking on behalf of all of the bishops and as a pastor and a teacher of faith and morals.

In the statement, which was sent to all Catholic Bishops in the United States and widely disseminated, Bishop Gregory spoke of what has been done to address this problem over the course of the past two decades, and the kinds of policies and procedures that continue to be implemented.

"While we deplore the sexual abuse of young people, especially that committed by a cleric, we are confident that the numbers of priests involved in such criminal activity are few," Bishop Gregory said. "The damage, however, has been immeasurable. The toll this phenomenon has taken on our people and our ministry is tremendous. This is a time for Catholic people – bishops, clergy, religious, and laity – to resolve to work together to assure the safety of our children."

The full text of the statement is available on the Conference Web site; WWW.USCCB.ORG.

USCCB Web Site Details Bishops' Efforts To Address Sex Abuse

WASHINGTON—A description of two decades of efforts by the nation's Catholic bishops to address the problem of sex abuse in the Church and to assist those who have been affected by it is now available on the Web site of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"The purpose of the site is to provide a comprehensive and readily accessible resource on this topic to those who are interested in knowing what has transpired," said Msgr. Francis Maniscalco, USCCB Secretary for Communications and staff to the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse. "There has been a dramatic improvement in the handling of these cases, a fact which many in the media have insufficiently recognized," he said.

The site, Restoring Trust: A Response to Sexual Abuse, has an opinion piece by USCCB President Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, which appeared in USA Today on February 13, and an opinion piece by Bishop John F. Kinney, past Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse. It contains To Combat Clergy Sexual Abuse Against Minors, a chronological history of

the work done by the Committee from 1982 to 1997; Diocesan Policies; The Five Principles to Follow Regarding Allegations of Sexual Abuse; and an interview with Frederick Berlin, MD, of Johns Hopkins University.

Also on the Web page is Walk in the Light: Pastoral Response to

Child Sexual Abuse, a statement by the Bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church and the Bishops' Committee on Marriage and the Family.

Restoring Trust can be found at www.usccb.org/comm/restorustrust.htm.

Taller Cuaresmal En Español

Viernes, día veinte y dos de marzo, 2002

HORARIO

- I. 5:15 - 6:15 P.M. Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento (Capilla)
- II. 6:15 - 6:30 P.M. Inscripción
- III. 6:30 P.M. Apertura, Bienvenida, Introducción (Música)
- IV. 6:45 P.M. La Semana Santa: Recordar, Reflexionar, Regocijar Padre Juan Gonzales Castro, O.M.I.
- V. 7:15 P.M. Descanso
- VI. 7:30 P.M. Vía Crucis (al aire libre, si se permite, con música)
- VII. 8:15 P.M. El Desafillo de Jesús y Su Virgen Madre Para Con La Persona Moderna Padre Juan Gonzales Castro, O.M.I.
- VIII. 8:45 P.M. Descanso
- IX. 9:00 P.M. Las Siete Ultimas Palabras de Jesús Desde La Cruz (Música) Padre Juan Gonzales Castro, O.M.I.
- X. 9:30 P.M. Clausura

Preinscripción se requiere antes del día diez y ocho de marzo, 2002, por razón de limite de espacio. Para mas información, llame al (915) 651-5352 y pida por Margie Schillo, coordinadora administrativa.

Donación \$5.00 por persona.



Holy Angels Parish Will Have A New Church

by Peter Micale, Editor WTA

Shovels wielded by the bishop, the pastor, architect, contractor and members of the Parish Council finally pierced the dry West Texas dirt in the field behind the Holy Angels campus of Angelo Catholic School and the Church rectory on Friday afternoon, February 8.

Several hundred parishioners huddled in a brisk breeze near a podium and table placed over the approximate spot where the altar of the new church will stand. The church's model, created by the architect firm of Chakos Zentner Marcum, rested on the wind blown table. The Templeton Construction Co. is the general contractor for the project.



crust of the hard ground, youngsters and some senior parishioners took their turns at scratching the surface with the shovels. Within a week, several large earth moving vehicles began doing a much better job.

The new 1,000 seat church will fulfill the religious needs of an ever-expanding Southwest side of San Angelo. The project is scheduled for completion in May 2003, and the renovation of the existing Church into the parish Religion Education Center will take an additional three months.

(Photos by Pete Micale, WTA.)

After the principles broke the



Two Million Rosaries To End Abortion

A Prayer Event For An End To The Surgical And Non-surgical Killing Of Unborn Babies

May 11th, 2002 (Saturday) – During the 8:00 a.m. hour

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. “Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2270

On May 11th, 2002 (Saturday), during the 8:00 a.m. hour, it is anticipated people in Catholic Churches, homes, etc. will pray the Rosary (Joyful Mysteries) for an

end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn babies. For this prayer event, it is hoped two million people from many nations will pray the Rosary.

People planning on participating can register at: www.ROSARIESforLIFE.org

A person can promote the two million rosaries to end abortion prayer event by doing one or more of the following:

1. Inform people of this prayer event by e-mail, telephone, etc.
2. Print this page and make pho-

tocopies (or just make photocopies of this page if it is already in printed form) and distribute to people you know. (Consider making 10, 50, 100 or more photocopies.)

3. Ask one, a few, or all the priests in your diocese/archdiocese to encourage parishioners to participate in this prayer event.

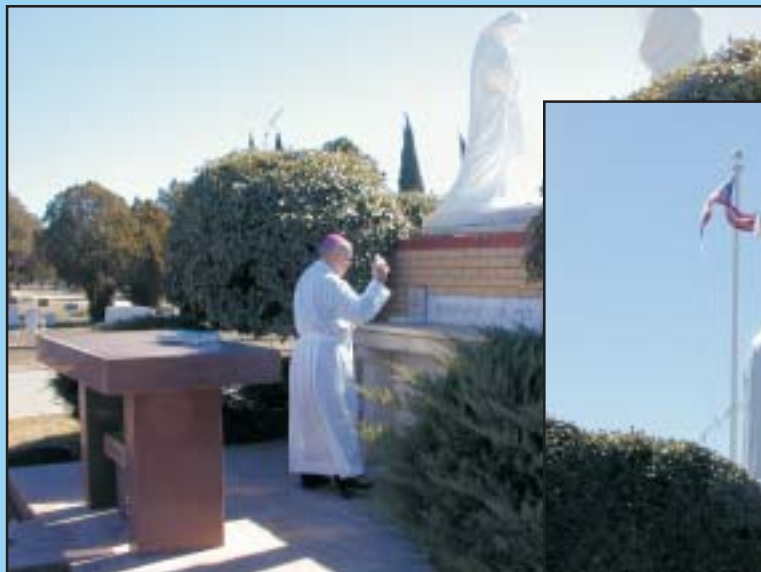
4. Ask that your parish and/or one or more other parishes print this page and make photocopies (or just make photocopies of this page if it is already in printed form) and distribute to parishioners.

5. Ask that your parish have the following announcement put in the parish bulletin one or more times: **TWO MILLION ROSARIES TO END ABORTION** is scheduled to take place on May 11th, 2002 (Saturday) during the 8:00 a.m. hour. This is a prayer event for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn babies. For more information: Rosaries for Life; P.O. Box 41831; Memphis, Tennessee 38174; U.S.A. For more information, the registration page, etc.: www.ROSARIESforLIFE.org



Blessed Mary, Ever-virgin Mother Of God

Calvary Cemetery Restored



(Photos by Pete Micale, WTA.)

by Peter Micale, editor WTA

With the sun glistening off the brilliant white, life sized statue of the Blessed Mother, Bishop Michael Pfeifer dedicated and blessed it and the repaired altar at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery on February 8, 2002. The crystal

clear air of a high noon winter day provided a luminous blue-sky background for the elevated Crucifixion scene in the center of the cemetery.

The new statue, made of a fiberglass material intended for outdoor use, replaces the original marble

statue that was incomprehensibly desecrated and broken by a vandal or vandals last October. A suspect, who had been jailed, is also accused of inexplicably returning to the cemetery on the evening of the day after receiving a suspended sentence. According to the testi-

mony of a newly hired nighttime guard, the suspect was intercepted and once again demonstrated his unbalanced acumen, by attacking the guard. Perhaps the Texas judicial system will keep him entertained for the foreseeable future, and contemplative serenity may

return to the cemetery.

Those who gathered to witness the service heard Bishop Pfeifer say, "We do not worship the statue, but since these for us are sacred objects, we act out of reverence. These objects are not idols, but they are sacred to us."

The Human Zygote is a "Tiny Being," Not a "Tiny Thing."

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The first human fertilized cell is called a Zygote, which in Greek means "tiny being." The zygote contains the chromosomes and genes that form all the characteristics of our bodies. This one cell is filled with more information than the encyclopedia. To call the zygote, or embryo, or fetus an "it" is

to totally depersonalize him or her. Just like a (born) child is never an "it," likewise an (unborn) embryo is never an "it."

Presently, some scientists and politicians are talking about the distinction between "reproductive cloning" and "therapeutic cloning." In reproductive cloning, the cloned zygote is implanted into the

womb of a woman and allowed to grow to full term, resulting in a live baby. In therapeutic cloning, the zygote is kept in a petri dish in the lab and only allowed to grow to the early embryo stage and then dismembered to obtain stem cells. The distinction between these two types of cloning is a biotechnical distinction without a moral differ-

ence; both are a crass manipulation of the intrinsic dignity of human life.

The vast majority of people are opposed to reproductive cloning because it is so revolting, even denying that child a natural father, and the mother becoming the sister of the child. However, some people are being deceived into believing that therapeutic cloning is ok because it is only used to obtain embryonic stem cells. In a moral sense, it is never permissible to kill an innocent human life, even if this is done for the very noble cause of trying to cure the illness of someone else.

Last Fall, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Bill to ban both forms of human cloning. President Bush is also adamantly opposed to human cloning. Very soon, the U.S. Senate will decide whether or not to ban human cloning. While many Senators are opposed to reproductive cloning, already the argument in favor of "therapeutic" cloning is being put forward. It is extremely important not to fall into this language trap. Fortunately, God has provided alternatives to human cloning and embryonic stem cells without any destruction of human life.

El Cigoto Humano Es Un «Pequeño Ser,» No Una «Pequeña Cosa.»

por Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, O.M.I.

La primera célula humana fertilizada se llama *Cigoto*, lo que significa "pequeño ser" en Griego. El cigoto contiene los cromosomas y genes que forman todas las características de nuestro cuerpo. Esta única célula contiene mas información que la enciclopedia. Llamar

el cigoto, o embrión o feto una "cosa" es totalmente despojar de personalidad a el o ella. Como un (nacido) niño nunca es una "cosa," de la misma forma un (no nacido) embrión nunca es una "cosa."

Actualmente, algunos científicos y políticos están tratando de establecer una distinción entre la

clonación "reproductiva" y la clonación "terapéutica". En la clonación reproductiva, el cigoto se implanta en la matriz de una mujer y se le permite desarrollar a través de todo el embarazo, dando a nacer un bebe. En la clonación terapéutica, el cigoto se mantiene en una cajita de Petri, en el labora-

torio, y solo se le permite crecer hasta la etapa de ser un embrión, y después es desmembrado para obtener sus células promotoras. La distinción entre estos dos tipos de clonación es una distinción biotécnica sin diferencia moral; ambas son una crasa manipulación de la dignidad intrínseca del ser humano.

La gran mayoría de la gente se opone a la clonación reproductiva, ya que es tan repulsiva, aún negándole a niño un padre, y convirtien-

do a su madre en su hermana. Sin embargo, algunas personas están cayendo en la trampa de pensar que la clonación terapéutica si es buena, porque ayudaría a curar enfermedades. En un sentido moral, nunca se puede permitir la matanza de seres humanos inocentes, aún cuando fuera para una noble causa, como la de tratar de curar graves enfermedades.

El Otoño pasado, la Cámara de

see "CIGOTO" page eleven



St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Restoration

by Debra Guerra Vasquez

If St. Francis were alive today, he might find it a bit ironic that a church bearing his name is in the process of restoration. Ironic, because when St. Francis first heard God's call as a young man, he thought it was to restore the ancient church at San Damiano which had fallen into ruin and decline. As Francis' conversion evolved, he discovered a much larger calling of rebuilding the Catholic Church.

A much humbler goal is the intent of the diverse group of parishioners, community leaders, Abilene Catholics and non-Catholics who are involved in the restoration – to preserve a legacy and history of faith by preserving the first Catholic Church and the oldest surviving church building in Abilene, Texas. The St. Francis Chapel, formerly known as the 1892 "Old Sacred Heart Church," is a joint project of the parish of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and the Abilene Preservation League.

Originally built at North Fifth and Beech Streets in 1892, the church served as the founding Catholic Church in Abilene, from

1893 until 1926, when a new church was built. It provided a faith home to Abilene Catholic families who were primarily of German, Irish and Mexican background.

The first Mass in Abilene was believed to have been said in the home of James Condon at North Third and Pine in 1880 by a traveling missionary priest, Rev. T. K. Crowley. Abilene had about 3,000 citizens at the time. Many Abilene Catholics were involved in the early development of the city such as Theo. Heyck, Gus Akermans, James E. Condon, G.W. Duty, Dan Foley, Mrs. S.L. Ralph and City Marshall J.J. Clinton.

James Condon is believed to have donated the property where the Sacred Heart Church was built. In 1926 it was moved to 826 Cottonwood, the site of St. Francis of Assisi parish, hence it is now known as the St. Francis Chapel. The building was used for educational purposes until a new hall was built by the parish.

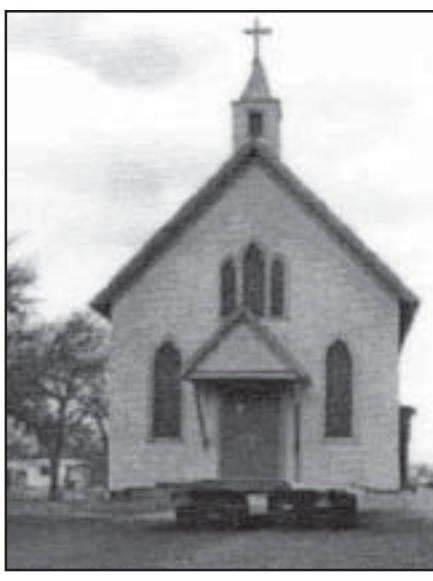
The Abilene Preservation League, with the approval of the St. Francis of Assisi parish, took on the responsibility of moving the

church building to a permanent location on the grounds of St. Francis Church, where it has been stabilized and closed. Design plans for the restoration of the chapel building to its original condition and fundraising are underway.

One of the major uses of the chapel will be as a museum to house historical artifacts, mementoes, photographs of religious celebrations and activities of the Abilene Catholic faith community, especially if they took place in the old Sacred Heart Church. These may be photos of baptisms, marriages, quinceaneras and the like. Former members and parishioners are invited to donate any mementoes they may have. The committee especially seeks any articles which may have belonged to the original church. To the delight of committee members, the original organ was recently returned and will be a part of the restored chapel.

For more information, please call Mr. Tony Hernandez, St. Francis Church, at 915-672-6695 or Email: stfrancis@nts-online.net

Article resources: *History of Sacred Heart Church, Abilene, Texas* by Rev. Mark Woodruff and "Catholic Mass First Said in Homes," *Abilene Reporter-News*, April 12, 1981.



Mercy Sunday Celebration Scheduled at St. Joseph Church In San Angelo

by Bobby Castillo

On Mercy Sunday, April 23, 1995, Pope John Paul II enthroned the Divine Mercy Image at the Divine Mercy Center established for the Diocese of Rome in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Sassia. On the Sunday after Easter, Sunday, April 7, 2002, people all over the world will gather in various places to celebrate the feast of Mercy. People in the Diocese of San Angelo will gather at St. Joseph Church, located at 301 W. 17th St. in San Angelo on that day to celebrate Mercy Sunday.

A young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska, saw a vision of Jesus with rays of mercy streaming from the area of His Heart on February

22, 1931. He told her to have an image painted to represent this vision and to sign it, "Jesus, I trust in You!" The image that Our Lord asked Blessed Faustina to have painted is a portrait of Jesus as Merciful Savior. The red and pale rays represent the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' pierced Heart as a fountain of mercy for us. The image is a reminder for us to come to Jesus with trust and to be merciful to others. Many different versions of this image have been painted, but Our Lord made it clear that the painting itself is not what is important: "Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush lies the greatness of this image, but in my grace."

Calling her the "Apostle and Secretary of His mercy," Jesus ordered Sr. Faustina to begin writing a diary so others would learn to trust in Him. In a series of revelations, He taught her that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners, and He revealed ways for people to respond to His mercy.

The message of mercy can be called to mind simply by remembering A-B-C: A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly. B - Be Merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our

trust.

From Sister Faustina's Diary, it is clear that this Octave Day of Easter is a day chosen by Christ as a day of extraordinary graces, a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith. To prepare for the celebration of Divine Mercy, we are urged to use Lent to prepare ourselves by placing more and more trust in the mercy of God and putting mercy into practice through deeds of mercy.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent is very important, especially before Mercy Sunday. The Diary of Sister Faustina records the words of Our Lord in regards to Holy Communion,

saying that Communion must be received on Mercy Sunday (Diary, 300, 699, 1109).

There are many other things we can do on a daily basis to prepare for the Feast of Mercy including:

- Show mercy to others by doing spiritual or corporal works of mercy.
- Pause for prayer during the 3 o'clock hour:
- Make a continuous Novena to The Divine Mercy
- Read the Diary of Sister Faustina or other materials about Divine Mercy.
- Tell others about God's mercy, especially as it has touched you in your own life
- TRUST in Jesus even more.

Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for nine days is another way of preparing oneself for the Feast of Mercy. On Good Friday, 1937,

see "MERCY" page eleven

September 11 and Abortion

by Fr. Frank Pavone
Priests for Life

A number of commentators since September 11 have carefully drawn the comparison between the acts of terrorism that occurred on that day and the daily terrorism of abortion. Both are attacks on innocent human life.

Another link between the two is the perversion of religion.

Priests for Life maintains excellent working relationships with Muslims, and the people who work with us could never imagine a God who would justify people taking innocent human life. Yet we have learned that there are people in the world who call upon the one they regard as the world's Creator, and thank Him for the successful destruction of some of His creatures.

"You shall not use the Name of the Lord your God in vain." That commandment does not simply forbid using God's name as a curse word. It forbids invoking God to justify evil acts. It forbids thanking God for what happened on September 11.

The name of God is also taken in vain to justify abortion. Many supporters of the killing of innocent babies engage in the same kind of perversion of religion.

If you want proof, start by look-

ing at the website www.rcc.org. It is the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. A more accurate title for the group would be False Prophets. They take the name of Jesus Christ, and His saving Gospel, and try to find there a justification for the dismemberment of tiny children.

The logo on their website is, "We are pro-choice because of our faith."

They even have a Clergy for Choice Network. The "Clergy for Choice Pledge" reads in part, "We clergy members, representing many different religious denominations around the country, pledge our strong support for reproductive choice, which encompasses access to safe, reliable contraception, family planning education, comprehensive sexuality education, affordable and reliable childcare and health care, adoption services, and access to safe, legal, and affordable abortions."

If you still doubt that abortion involves an explicit perversion of religion, read the cover story in the October 1993 issue of *New Age Journal* ("Sister Against Sister," p. 66). Author Brenda Peterson writes, "In her book *Pagan Meditations*, Ginette Paris describes abortion as an essentially religious act, a sac-

cred sacrifice to Artemis. 'One aborts an impossible love,' she writes, 'not a hatred.' In her new book, *The Sacrament of Abortion*, Paris explains further that if we saw abortion as a sacred ritual, it would restore to the act a sense of the sanctity of life."

Newsweek magazine reports (October 17, 1994) that many abortionists "have a missionary sense about their work." Dr. Curtis Boyd, a Texas abortionist, told the magazine, "I perform abortions because of my religion." Dr. Boyd is often asked by Native American women to bless the aborted fetus, and by Catholic women to baptize it. He proposes schools of theology develop special ceremonies and prayers to mark the loss of a fetus.

You shall not use the name of the Lord in vain – neither for terrorism against the born or the unborn.

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

Pray For Justice

but it was strictly for appearances. As Harper reported, Hirschbeck didn't even make eye contact with Alomar, let alone talk to him, all through the 1997 and 1998 seasons. The big breakthrough finally came in May of 1999, when a clubhouse friend whom Hirschbeck respected said some kind things about Alomar.

"That got me thinking, and I decided three years was long enough," Hirschbeck said. "I was umpiring at second base so I decided I'd say hello that night. When he came out to his position, I was about 10 feet behind him and I said, 'Hey, Robby, how you doing?' Well, it was like opening the gates. He kept turning around. He couldn't stop talking to me."

That was just the beginning. Not only did a friendship blossom, but Alomar began to help Hirschbeck regularly in fund-raising efforts to fight the disease adrenoleukodystrophy, which killed Hirschbeck's son in 1993.

DOUBTS from page one

with the poor.

Mother Teresa had described the call as "an order, a duty, an absolute certainty" that she must leave the Sisters of Loreto and move into the slums of Calcutta to devote herself completely to the poor.

"We thought that in some way, which she never explained, she experienced Jesus' call," Father Kolodiejchuk said.

But now, from reading her correspondence with her spiritual director, he said, it is clear she experienced what theologians call an "interior imaginative locution" — she distinctly heard a voice in her head tell her what to do.

"And it continued for some months," he said.

"The call was so direct that she knew it was the right thing despite this darkness she experienced for many years, at least until the 1970s," the priest said.

At one point, a former archbishop of Calcutta wanted to share some of her letters with a struggling founder of another religious congregation, Father Kolodiejchuk said.

Mother Teresa begged him not to and asked that all her letters be destroyed.

Father Kolodiejchuk said she told the archbishop, "When people know about the beginning, they will think

Let their own words, as reported by Harper, tell the rest of the story.

Alomar: "I was surprised that night when John started talking to me ...I'm glad he did it. I've gotten to know him and John's a great guy. I feel like he's a lifetime friend now."

Hirschbeck: "He's a good guy. We talk all the time now. I'm glad it worked out ...It's kind of like if you have an argument with your wife. You can kind of look at each other and know it's just better to move on than rehash the whole thing. You kind of forget about it. I think he's a good person. We all make mistakes in life. If he can look back toward the end of his life and that's the worst thing he did, that's not so bad." It's all there: Contrition. Forgiveness. And a new lease on life. They crop up every day, these lessons for living, even on the sports pages. They're there for the taking. All we have to do is take the lessons to heart.

more about me and less about Jesus."

Does Father Kolodiejchuk worry that he is betraying her wishes by publicizing the information?

"I think her perspective is very different now," Father Kolodiejchuk answered.

Several of the letters and diary entries were published last year in the "Journal of Theological Reflection" of the Jesuit-run Vidyajyoti School of Theology in New Delhi.

The investigations into her faith life are not idle prying, the priest said. Beatification and canonization are recognitions not of a person's life work — which is obviously praiseworthy in Mother Teresa's case — but of holiness.

While some people may be surprised or even shocked by Mother Teresa's spiritual struggles, he said he hopes it also will help them come to "a fuller and deeper appreciation of holiness, which Mother Teresa lived in a way both simple and profound: she took what Jesus gave with a smile and stayed faithful even in the smallest things."

The feeling that God is far away or even nonexistent is a common spiritual experience, he said.

"Maybe we won't have the same intensity of experiences, but most of what she did was very ordinary — it just became extraordinary when it was all put together," Father Kolodiejchuk said.

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta in September 1997.

In 1999, Pope John Paul II waived the rule requiring a five-year wait before a beatification process can begin.

Although he works on the cause from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Father Kolodiejchuk said he believes it will be "several months" before the Vatican formally recognizes that Mother Teresa heroically lived the Christian virtues and declares her venerable.

He said work also is underway on preparing a report on the potential miracle needed for beatification: the 1998 cure of an Indian woman who had a huge, unidentified growth in her abdomen.

"People do say, 'Do it faster,'" the priest said.

But the official process takes time, he said. "It is designed to discern the sense of the people of God and the verification of the miracle is God's confirmation of that."

All Is Forgiven

by Msgr. Jim Lisante
The Christophers

The simplest lessons of life have a way of turning up where you least expect them. Even something as basic as learning how to say, "I'm sorry." Or, conversely, "That's okay; all is forgiven." That's just the kind of message that turned up in a recent newspaper story that appeared, of all places, on the sports page. And quite a story it is.

The story was about the blockbuster baseball trade that sent All-Star second baseman Roberto Alomar from the Cleveland Indians to the New York Mets (occasioning shouts of joy, it should be mentioned, from Met fans). All the stories in the New York papers mentioned the glowing statistics that Alomar has compiled at the plate and in the field. But on the negative side, they re-

ferred also to the unpleasant incident for which Alomar is too-often remembered: his 1996 confrontation in Toronto with umpire John Hirschbeck, which ended in an uproar when Alomar spit in Hirschbeck's face.

Most of the sportswriters took note, at least in passing fashion, of the fact that Hirschbeck and Alomar have long since settled their differences. But John Harper's story in the *New York Daily News* went a step further. He took the trouble to call each of the principal parties involved. And what emerged was a true lesson in contrition and forgiveness.

The 1996 incident was a genuine donnybrook, one that left bad feelings all around - as sports altercations often do. There was a staged "reconciliation" handshake between player and umpire in 1996,



American Bishops' Overseas Appeal

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The terrible events of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath have changed the way we look at the world. As we bishops wrote in our recent pastoral message, *Living with Faith and Hope After September 11*, "The injustice and instability in faraway lands about which we know too little can have a direct impact on our own sense of peace and security." Though our sense of well-being has been shaken, we may find in this vulnerability a special kinship with our brothers and sisters in the developing world whose lives are also unsettled. Many flee war or suffer from persecution by repressive regimes or are left homeless by natural disasters. For their sake, we must resist the urge to turn inward and instead become more engaged in the world.

One important way to demonstrate your solidarity with the poor, the hungry, the migrant and the refugee is by supporting the *American Bishops' Overseas Appeal (ABOA)* through your parish collec-

tion on March 10, 2002. This annual appeal, which helps to build the international social ministry of the Church, funds the work of four agencies:



Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington blesses a child as he greets residents of Izalco, El Salvador, a town devastated by last year's earthquakes.

- *Catholic Relief Services (CRS)*, the U.S. Bishops' overseas relief and development agency, works in solidarity with poor people in more than eighty countries. CRS provides emergency relief and supports long-term sustainable development projects.

- *Migration and Refugee Services* of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops annually resettles one-fourth of the refugees admitted to the United States and

provides advocacy and pastoral care to many new comers, migrant workers, and other people on the move.

- *Holy Father's Relief Fund* assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world.

- *Department of Social Development and World Peace* of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops advocates for poor and vulnerable people and for international peace and justice. It works to build the capacity of the Church to respond to global concerns such as debt relief to poor countries and religious freedom.

In giving to the *American Bishops' Overseas Appeal*, you stand in solidarity with the starving child, the believer in jail, the woman without clean water or healthcare, and others in whom we see *Jesus in disguise*.

I thank you for your past generosity for this appeal, and I encourage you to generously support this year's collection. With our financial assistance, let us send our prayers to help our needy brothers and sisters who benefit from this important appeal.

Catholic Daughters Convention

by Ester Tobin

The 43rd Biennial State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, a non-profit charitable organization for women, will be held on April 25-28, 2002 in El Paso, Texas, announced Duchess Collins, state regent of Sugar Land. She said all activities will be held at Hilton Camino Real and the El Paso Convention Center. Between 800 and 1,000 persons are expected to attend.

The CDA state leader said one of the highlights of the convention will be the State Court's 85th Anniversary celebration during the Saturday night formal banquet. The first CDA court in Texas, Maria Galante #115 was instituted on October 17, 1909 in Austin with 34 members. The first court in the United States was organized in Utica, New York, in 1903 with 60 members as a branch of the Knights

of Columbus by the name of The Isabellas, which was changed twice to "The Catholic Daughters of the Americas."

Mary Lou Lopez, district deputy of El Paso, is the convention chairman, and the Five El Paso courts will serve as hostesses. Ms. Lopez said the convention theme is "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas."

The four-day conference agenda includes daily liturgical celebrations, general sessions, keynote speakers, election of officers, luncheon meetings, leadership training workshops and presentation of awards.

On the fun side, there will be a Friday night Mexican Fiesta featuring "Baffles Folkloricos Mejicanos," (folkloric dances), Mexican food, music, and door prizes. Also scheduled on April 24 and 25 are three tours on Wednes-

day: a Tram-car trip to three adjoining states and two nations at 1 p.m.; a tour of three old missions in Texas also at 1 p.m.; and an evening in Juarez, Mexico at 6 p.m. On Thursday, tour choices are: an El Paso shopping tour plus lunch or shopping and lunch at Juarez, Mexico, both at 9 a.m.; a men's tour to the War Eagles Museum for spouses and clergy; and a Casino Night at Sunland Park in New Mexico departing at 8:30 p.m.

The first liturgical celebration will be held on Thursday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at the El Paso Convention Center with the Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, CDA state chaplain, as main celebrant. All visiting chaplains will serve as concelebrants. All officers present, national, state or local are asked to wear their official robes and state chairmen and members will wear white dresses. More than 800 are

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD and HEALING SERVICE

By
FR. MATHEW NAIKOMPARAMMIL
Fr. Kuriakose & Team
(Leading Evangelists with the
miraculous gifts of healing)

AT Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, ELDORADO, TX
March 29, 30, 31, 2002: 7:00 p.m.

Come and experience the power of the Spirit! Physical, spiritual and emotional healing through the anointed Ministry of Fr. Mathew. All are invited in the name of Jesus, the Divine Healer.

"I am the Lord, the one who heals you." Ex. 15:26

Fr. Mathew Naikomparambil, A native of Kerala, India, is internationally known for his ministries of Healing and Evangelization. His healing services in India, draw crowds of 100,000 and more. The intercessory prayer groups which meet every Saturday, to pray for all the countries in the world, are attended by 50,000 people on an average.

Fr. Mathew is the Founder of the largest Residential Retreat Center in the world, near Pota, in Kerala. The weekly Retreats, conducted all through the year, bring crowds of 15,000 and more from all parts of India and the neighboring countries - Christians of all denominations, Hindus, Moslems, people of all religions and no religion.

What draws them all to that small, little city of Pota where it all began??? "COME AND SEE" ... and experience in ELDORADO!

For more informations, call:
Rev. George Varakukala (915) 853-2663
Victor Belman (915) 853-2187
Albert Torres (915) 853-2706
Roland Vasquez (915) 853-1801

expected to attend this opening event.

State Regent Duchess Collins proudly announced that the 200th CDA court in Texas was instituted on January 26 at Mineral Wells, Texas, with 21 charter members. She said that 17 new local courts had been organized since April 2000, which was her goal upon her election as state regent.

Current state officers are besides Ms. Collins: Dee Sheetz, first vice regent of Austin; Olga Samaniego,

second vice state regent, El Paso; Carolyn Bachman, state secretary, Scotland; Therese Newchurch, state treasurer, Corpus Christi; and Loraine Hilscher, state parliamentarian, Dallas. Libby Ramirez of Victoria is one of the nine national directors. The Most Reverend James A. Tamayo, bishop of the Laredo Diocese, serves as the state Chaplain; and Reverend Donald Ruppert of East Bernard is state clergy consultant.



Holy Angels Youth Group To Present Stations of the Cross

Traditionally, Lenten devotions in parish churches have drawn attention to the suffering and death of Jesus. Perhaps the most popular devotion is the *Stations of the Cross*. During the time of the crusades, pilgrims to the Holy Land walked in the footsteps of Jesus to Calvary. When this became too dangerous, a substitute pilgrimage, the *Stations of the Cross*, became a popular outdoor devotion throughout Europe. Each station represents a critical event from Scripture or tradition of Jesus' journey to Calvary.

Each year, Holy Angels Youth Organization prepares a special drama that takes one on a spiritual journey leading to a greater appreciation of what Christ did for mankind. This year, the journey will be experienced through the eyes of Mary.

Members of the youth group have come together to lead you on this special journey through prayer, drama, and music. They invite you to join them on Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. or on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the church. Holy Angels Church is located on the corner of Oxford and A&M. For more information call Lori Hines at 942-8192 or 949-3308.

GIFT

from page three

be forever blessed. If you do not live in a community that has a Catholic school, send your children to Sunday or Wednesday CCD classes. The knowledge, self-esteem, and love for God will forever guide their lives. People today look so hard for something positive in their lives. Why not give them Jesus at an early age. No matter how difficult or complex their lives may become, they will always have Him with them.

Every day of the week as I walk the halls, I see the authentic love for Christ my students at St. Mary's Central Catholic School radiate. I see the joy in their eyes as they

spend time each day discussing the glorious aspects of our fantastic Catholic faith. These students are positive. They are leaders, and they want to lead in the direction that is in pursuit of Christ. Jesus is their role model. They know Him and His works. When the world stands before them and challenges what they know, I know these children will be prepared to make the best choice. I look at where I am, and I look at how far I have come. I plan to enroll into a doctoral program in pursuit of a Ph.D. either in the fall or next spring, and I know that I will have the strength to carry on because Jesus has always stood beside me. Thanks mom for introducing Him to me.

EASTER

from page two

would be nothing more than an empty tomb in which people without faith see nothing.

Doubts about our lives, our world, and the future, fears of pain, sickness and death, preoccupation with the trials of our life, can make the suffering and death of Jesus seem long ago and far away. But, our faith reminds us that the resurrection of Christ makes an impact on our lives here and now-every day of our lives.

Because Christ has been raised from the dead we can turn to him in our doubts and fears, and he will calm us. Because Christ has been raised from the dead, our empty souls can be filled with God's love and power to save us. Because of his resurrection, Jesus is more alive than ever, ready for us to come to the tomb, to search for and to find him in the everyday realities of human existence. Everyday, we are Easter people, people of the resurrection, because our risen Savior is alive in our world and in all of us.

PASCUA

from page two

Y, todos vamos a morir y resucitar a vida nueva en la eternidad. Si no fuera así, la vida, la muerte, y la resurrección de Cristo serían sin sentido. Sería nada mas que una tumba vacía en que la gente sin fe no mira nada.

Las dudas sobre nuestras vidas, nuestro mundo, y el futuro, el miedo del dolor, la enfermedad y la

muerte, la preocupación por los asuntos de nuestra vida, pueden dar la impresión que el sufrimiento y la muerte de Jesús son de antaño y muy lejos. Pero, nuestra fe nos recuerda que la resurrección de Cristo hace un impacto en nuestras vidas aquí y ahora – cada día de nuestras vidas.

Porque Cristo ha sido resucitado de la muerte podemos acercarnos a Él en nuestras dudas y temores, y El nos calmará Porque Cristo ha sido resucitado de la muerte, nuestras almas vacías pueden ser llenados con el amor y poder de Dios para salvamos. Por Su resurrección, Jesús es mas vivo que nunca, listo para que nosotros vengamos a la tumba, a buscar y a encontrarlo en las realidades de cada día de la existencia humana. Cada día, somos gente de Pascua, gente de la resurrección, porque nuestro Salvador resucitado es vivo en nuestro mundo y en todos nosotros.

MERCY

from page eight

Jesus dictated the intentions for a Novena that He wanted St. Faustina to say before the Feast of Mercy. By means of a special prayer, she was to bring His Heart to a different group of souls each day: "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy" (Diary, 1209).

Sister Faustina was solemnly beatified in Rome by Pope John Paul II on the Sunday after Easter, April 18, 1993 (Mercy Sunday). She was canonized a saint, with the title of "the Apostle of Mercy" by Pope John Paul II on April 30, 2000. On that date, the Pope also established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Everyone is invited to join the prayer, teachings on the Divine Mercy, and music that are planned for the Feast of Mercy on April 7, beginning at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 301 W. 17th Street in San Angelo. For more information, please contact Bobby Castillo at 651-4638.

CIGOTO

from page seven

Representantes de los Estados Unidos aprobó un decreto de ley que prohíbe toda forma de clonación humana. El Presidente Bush tam-

bién esta completamente en contra de la clonación humana. Ahora, el Senado de los Estados Unidos va a decidir si prohibir la clonación humana o no. Aunque muchos senadores se oponen a la clonación reproductiva, desafortunadamente el argumento a favor de la clonación terapéutica esta siendo promovido. Es sumamente importante no caer en esta trampa lingüística. Afortunadamente, Dios nos ha proveído con alternativas a la clonación humana y a la investigación de células promotoras embrionicas sin la destrucción de la vida humana.

URGED

from page one

The Senate bill, introduced in February to deal with the ongoing recession and aftermath of September's terror attacks, includes changes in the tax code to encourage more private charities giving, including a more generous deduction than in the House bill for those who do not itemize deductions; funding for a Compassion Capital Fund to give technical assistance to small charities that may want to try to obtain a federal grant; and more Social Services Block Grant and Second Chance/Maternity Groups Home monies to enable religious and nonreligious charities to provide needed social services.

The charitable choice language in the House bill does not appear in the Senate version.

Towey spoke of a Catholic shelter in South Carolina that gave back a \$50,000 federal Housing and Urban Development grant after a HUD representative said the shelter would have to take the crosses off the walls to stay in compliance with federal guidelines.

He also told of a Grand Rapids, Mich., religious charity that runs afoul of federal grantmakers because the charity stipulates that a certain number of members on its board be members of a particular religion.

"You should not be preaching or proselytizing on the federal government's dime," Towey said. "But you cannot strip programs of their religious content, because that is what makes them effective."

He said technical assistance for small religious groups is only part

of the solution. Another component is easing the process that would register the groups as federal non-profit organizations, thus qualifying them for federal grants.

A "massive education program" also would need to be undertaken so that religious charities can see how they can be partners with the federal government, Towey said. He added that some charities still ultimately may decide not to apply for federal money to assist with their programs.

Towey, who served as the Missionaries of Charity's U.S. legal counsel for 12 years, also lived for a year in a home staffed by Mother Teresa's orders in Washington.

Mother Teresa, he said, was one who lived for others. When someone once pointed out to her that, for every person she took off the streets of Calcutta to be cared for by the Missionaries of Charity, another 10 died, her famous reply was, "God did not call me to be successful. He called me to be faithful."

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Elaine Zarate.

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, March 20, 2002, to answer to the Petition of Thomas Aguirre, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Thomas Aguirre vs. Elaine Zarate, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as AGUIRRE-ZARATE, Protocol No.: SO 02/10, 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 19th day of February 2002.

Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Murphy, P.A., V.G., J.C.L.,
Judicial Vicar



The Diocese's Corporate Memory

by *Pete Micale, Editor WTA*

There has been one constant throughout the 40 years of the existence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo. Forty years

minus one month, to be perfectly correct. The Diocese was established on January 19, 1962, and one month later, on February 19, a young San Angelo girl began her continuing professional career as "the Bishop's secretary." She previously worked as the secretary to the president of the photo processing plant, Wallace Lab.

Mary Sue Brewer has been the only secretary of the five Bishops of this Diocese. She has moved with the diocesan offices from the original two story building on East Beauregard next to the Catholic grammar school, to an annex of the

Cathedral Church of San Angelo, and now, finally, to the present offices of the Pastoral Center. At the creation of the diocese, she was one of five staff members. She has seen the staff grow to twenty-two. The staff recently helped

Mary Sue celebrate her forty years with the diocese at a dinner in the Zentner's Daughter restaurant. Her work for the several Bishops has not been confined only to San Angelo. She was fortunate enough to accompany Bishop Levin to a conference in Europe. Once, for a period of nine months, in the extended absence of one of the Bishops, and for insurance reasons, she lived in the Bishop's residence when it was located on Old Christoval Highway.

Mary Sue is proud to say that



(From Left to Right) Malcolm Brewer, Bishop Pfeifer, Mary Sue Brewer, and Msgr. Murphy at Mary Sue's Fortieth Anniversary Dinner at Zentner's Daughter Restaurant. (Photo by Pete Micale, WTA.)

she is a fourth generation Texan. Their paternal grandmother, Permelia Brewer, raised her and her three siblings, sisters Barbara Henry and Helen Mixson and brother Malcolm Brewer, in San Angelo. Mary Sue attended the Immaculate Conception Academy, which was the first name of the Angelo Catholic School. She is an original member of the Holy Angels Church parish. Mary Sue extended her great love for her nieces and nephews to the young teenagers of the parish by working

in conjunction with Tom Berscheidt in the Holy Angels Youth Organization (HAYO) for twenty years. She also taught in the CCD programs at both Holy Angels and the Cathedral. Mary Sue has been a tremendous help to me in providing background material for several articles in the *ANGELUS*, and if she doesn't have the information stored in her memory or at her fingertips she knows where it is archived.



Mary Sue Brewer

Beginning Experience

by *Mindy Ward*

On November 16th through 18th, 2001 and February 8th through 10th, 2002 the Christ the King Retreat Center was host to Beginning Experience Weekends for divorced, separated and widowed individuals. The weekends began at 8:30 PM on Friday and finished at 3:30 PM on Sunday. There were approximately 30 team members and participants in attendance during the November weekend and 20 during the February weekend. Father Tom Barley, the Diocesan Vocations Director celebrated mass and heard confessions during both weekends.

The Beginning Experience is a peer ministry sponsored by the Diocese of San Angelo for people of all denominations who are experiencing the pain of losing a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Every team member is a full participant in the program as well as an aide to new participants. The purpose of the weekend is to help indi-

viduals to work through their grief by listening to the stories of others and exploring their own experiences and feelings in order to prepare for moving on in their lives to a new beginning.

The next weekends will be held at the Retreat Center on July 5, 6 and 7, 2002 and October 18, 19 and 20, 2002. For information and registration please contact Barry Kleypas at 915-947-1301 or Kathy Keaton at 915-944-4746. A \$25.00 deposit is required to reserve space for a weekend.

President Bush Promotes Abstinence

WASHINGTON, DC – In announcing his proposal of \$135 million for abstinence education programs, President Bush made the

following statement today regarding the government's role in educating children about sex education:

must promote the good choices."

The Facts:

* In July 2001, the National Institutes of Health issued a report, which found insufficient evidence that condoms effectively protect people from the majority of sexually transmitted diseases.

* According to the panel of 28 experts who assembled the report based on data from numerous studies, condom use can reduce the risk of gonorrhea for men and HIV transmission for men and women. However, there was no evidence that condoms prevent transmission of chlamydia (which can lead to infertility and tubal pregnancy), syphilis, female gonorrhea, herpes, chancroid (which can increase the chances of getting HIV), trichomoniasis, or human papillomavirus (the number one cause of cervical cancer).

"Abstinence is the surest way and the only completely effective way to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. When our children face a choice between self-restraint and self-destruction, government should not be neutral. Government should not sell children short by assuming they are incapable of acting responsibly. We



Reverend Richard Fragomeni addresses over 400 participants at the annual Diocesan Conference Day for the Diocese of San Angelo on February 23, 2002.