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VOLUME XXVI
NUMBER 3

MAR
2005

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ANGELUS

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

PMangelus@aol.com • www.san-angelo-diocese.org

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One week after tracheotomy, pope 'continues to improve,' Vatican says

by Cindy Wooden *Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a week in Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he underwent a tracheotomy to ease breathing difficulties, Pope John Paul II "continues to improve and show progress," the Vatican spokesman said.

"The surgical wound is healing," spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters March 3. The pope was hospitalized Feb. 24 and underwent the tracheotomy, in which a tube is placed in the trachea through a hole cut in the throat.

The papal spokesman said the pope was continuing his "active collaboration" in exercises designed to help him breathe and to speak.

Navarro-Valls said the exercises "are not passive," but require effort on the part of the 84-year-old pope.

In addition to having resumed meetings with top Vatican aides and receiving visitors, the spokesman said the pope spends "much time in both the morning and afternoon" in the small chapel in the suite of rooms set aside for him on the 10th floor of Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic.

Navarro-Valls refused to estimate how long Pope John Paul would remain in the hospital.

"There still is no precise date and I do not want to give a probable date given the fact that it could change positively or negatively," he said.

Asked whether it would be before Easter, March 27, he said, "It is possible."

Asked later if the Vatican's Holy Week and Easter schedule, would be changed drastically, the spokesman said the Holy Week and Easter liturgies "are fixed."

"The pope must decide, once he has returned, the way he will participate in these ceremonies. But at the moment, nothing has been decided," he said.

Navarro-Valls said he did not think any changes were being made to the papal apartment in the Vatican in anticipation of the pope's return, nor did he think special medical equipment was being installed.

"I do not think so because I have not seen special equipment even in his room at the hospital. As I have said from the beginning, the pope has not needed assisted respiration," he said.

The spokesman said he expected Pope John Paul to appear at the window of his hospital room and offer his Sunday blessing to people outside the hospital March 6, as he did Feb. 27, after a Vatican official finished leading the midday Angelus prayer.

The next medical bulletin is expected March 7, he said.

The pope, Navarro-Valls said, "really wants to return to the Vatican, obviously, but at the same time the pope accepts the advice of his doctors."

"Especially because for the past three days he has been able to hold his regular meetings" with his top aides and "follow the activities of the Holy See," the pope accepts his hospitalization because "he is able to fulfill his ministry and he is doing so," he said.



Pope John Paul II blesses the faithful during a surprise appearance from the window of Gemelli hospital in Rome Feb. 27. The Vatican said the pope is continuing to recover well from a tracheotomy to relieve acute breathing problems. (CNS photo from L'Osservatore Romano, Arturo Mari)

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, had told reporters March 1 that the pope spoke to him in German and Italian and was working on some papers the cardinal had taken to the hospital for him.

Further confirmation that the pope was working came from a Vatican official who said March 2 the pope was reading and initialing the papers necessary for appointing new bishops.

A March 3 papal message to members of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments was signed "from the Gemelli Polyclinic."

German Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne was able to visit the pope March 2 at the hospital.

"His voice was much stronger than I had expected," the cardinal told reporters gathered in the makeshift pressroom in the hospital atrium.

"I am happy you are here," he quoted the pope as saying.

The cardinal will host the August celebration of World Youth Day; the pope is scheduled to join young Catholics from around the world in Cologne Aug. 18-21.

Cardinal Meisner said, "My personal opinion is that the Holy Father can come to Cologne in August.

"I told the Holy Father that he does not have to speak in Cologne, but that his presence is important. The figure of the Holy Father speaks for itself, and the presence of the Holy Father in Cologne is very important," the cardinal said.

On March 2, the little square outside the main entrance of the hospital was the scene of what the Italian news agency ANSA described as a "choir competition" between young people from Poland, from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio,

see "POPE" page eleven



Easter Should be a way of Life (The Resurrected Life)

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The resurrection of Christ on that first Easter has given a whole, new beautiful meaning to life. As followers of Christ, we are Easter people, as we share already in the resurrection of Christ.

The life of resurrection gives us an opportunity for an intimate experience of joyful communion with God, and with everything God has made. We stand in ecstatic wonder at the incredible beauty of God, and in God we marvel at the whole of God's creation.

Because Christ rose from the dead, it is our belief that one day our bodies, too, will rise from the dead, and be forever joined to our souls in Heaven. But already we have a foretaste of the resurrection in this life. Because of our baptism, and the celebration of the other Sacraments, we share in an intimate way in the great Easter mystery of Christ's resurrection.

Christ wants us to be Easter people every day of the year, and Easter should be a constant way of life. Easter makes a difference in our lives if we choose to be different, and if we choose to do the hard work necessary to make the necessary changes happen in our lives. Easter changes us if we choose to cooperate with the risen Savior, who is about the business of making all things new, bit by bit. Easter should be a way of life, every day of our life, and reminds us that Christ's renewing grace makes us brand new over and over again. Easter is a way of life if we live out its power in the small choices we make day by day. Easter makes a difference if we keep on, persevering with patience and prayer, even when it seems that nothing is happening.

In the Gospels, the message of the risen Savior is "peace." It is this Easter peace that Christ offers us to help us overcome our anxieties and our fears. Anxiety and fear rob us of our faith in God's providence and sap our energy. The risen Savior admonishes us to put

see "EASTER" page eleven

La Pascua debe ser una manera de Vida (La Vida Resucitada)

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

La resurrección de Cristo en la primera Pascua ha dado toda una nueva y bella significación a la vida. Como Seguidores de Cristo somos gente de Pascua, como ya compartimos en la resurrección de Cristo.

La vida de la resurrección nos da una oportunidad para una experiencia íntima de comunión alegre con Dios, y con todo lo que ha hecho Dios. Admiramos con asombro la increíble belleza de Dios, y en Dios maravillamos toda la creación de Dios.

Porque Cristo resucitó de la muerte, es nuestra creencia que un día nuestros cuerpos, también, resucitarán de la muerte, y ser eternamente juntos a nuestras almas en el Cielo. Pero ya tenemos una participación en la resurrección en esta vida. Por nuestro bautismo, y la celebración de otros Sacramentos, compartimos en una manera íntima en el gran misterio de la Pascua de la resurrección de Cristo.

Cristo quiere que seamos gente de Pascua cada día del año, y la Pascua debe ser una parte constante de vida. La Pascua hace una diferencia en nuestras vidas si escogimos ser diferentes, y si escogimos ser el necesario trabajo duro para ser los cambios necesarios en nuestras vidas. La Pascua nos puede cambiar si escogemos cooperar con el Salvador resucitado, quien hace todas las cosas nuevas, poquito por poquito. La Pascua debe ser una manera de vida, cada día de nuestras vidas, y nos recuerda que la gracia renovada de Cristo nos hace nuevos una y otra vez. La Pascua es una manera de la vida si vivimos su poder en las selecciones que hacemos día tras día. La Pascua hace una diferencia si nosotros seguimos, perseverando con paciencia y oración, hasta cuando que parezca que nada esté pasando.

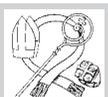
En los Evangelios, el mensaje del Salvador Resucitado es la "paz." Es esta paz de la Pascua que Cristo nos ofrece para ayudarnos a vencer nuestras ansiedades y nuestros temores. La ansiedad y el temor nos roban de nuestra fe en la providencia de Dios y gasta nuestra

see "PASCUA" page eleven



Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The Bishop's Schedule



MARCH 2005

March 1-4: Bishop's Lenten Retreat

March 6: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Mass at 10:30 a.m. and meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass

March 7: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

March 7-9: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Priests Convocation

March 10: San Angelo, Diocesan

Pastoral Center - Meeting of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission at 10:30 a.m. Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

March 13: Colorado City, St. Ann - Mass at 10:30 a.m. and meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass

March 14-15: Rest and Prayer
March 16: San Angelo, for St. Mary - Lenten Presentation at Noon at the Nazareth Presbyterian Church, 313 W. Avenue N

March 17: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. and Presbyteral

Council at 1:30 p.m.

March 18: Staff Meeting and Luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

March 19: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Youth Ministry Training for Adults from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 20: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Mass at 9:45 a.m. Holy Angels - Seder Meal at 5:30 p.m.

March 23: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Lenten Retreat for the Diocesan Staff at 10:00 a.m.

March 24: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.

March 25: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Way of the Cross at 1:00 P.M. St. Joseph - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

March 26: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.

March 27: San Angelo, St. Mary - Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m.

March 28: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Staff Easter Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

March 29: San Angelo, Prayer for the Downtown Main Street Program Kick Off

March 31: Abilene, Hardin Simmons University - Presentation to the Student Body at 9:30 a.m.

APRIL 2005

April 2-3: San Antonio

April 4: San Antonio, Oblate Renewal Center - Spring Meeting of the Texas Bishops and the Texas Catholic Conference

April 5-7: Rest and Prayer

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

April 9: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

April 10-11: San Antonio, MACC Board Meeting

April 12: Wall, St. Ambrose - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 13: San Angelo, Newman Center - Mass at 12:00 noon; Brownwood, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 14: Knickerbocker, Immaculate Conception and Eldorado and Mertzon - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 15: San Angelo, St. Mary - Blessing and Dedication of Renovation and New Addition at 6:30 p.m.

April 16: Sonora, St. Ann - Confir-

mation at 7:00 p.m.

April 18-19: Austin - Open Legislative Session with Prayer

April 20: Midland, St. Stephen - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 21-22: Austin - State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of America

April 23: Odessa, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 24: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Confirmation at 12:00 noon

April 25: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 26: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center Presbyteral Council Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

April 27: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass and Luncheon for Pauline and Raymond Castillo (50th Wedding Anniversary) at 11:00 a.m.; Ballinger, St. Mary - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 28: Abilene, Holy Family - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 29: San Angelo, Newman Center - Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

April 30: Miles, St. Thomas - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

The West Texas Angelus

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of San Angelo

POSTMASTER: Send all Changes of Address to:

WEST TEXAS ANGELUS

P.O. BOX 1829

SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

Publisher

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Editor

Peter N. Micale (PMangelus@aol.com)

Layout

The Talley Press

Production

Kenneth Grimm

Published monthly with automatic circulation to parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo

Subscription rate for all others: \$10.00 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times

A Scripps-Howard Company

Obituary - Fr. Thomas (Tom) Kelley

by Peter Micale

MIDLAND – The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, and specifically the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of San Juan in Midland, Texas, lost a most beloved priest after a valiant battle with cancer. Rev. Thomas (Tom) Kelley went to be in the bosom of the Lord from the Midland Memorial Hospital in Midland, Texas on February 21, 2005.

Fr. Tom was born in Titusville, PA on January 8, 1943 as the only son of DeAnna Heher Kelley and Spicer C. Kelley, who had two daughters. He attended the Cathedral Preparatory H.S., St. Mark Seminary H.S., and Gannon University all in Erie; the St. Bonaventure University and Christ the King Seminary in Olean, New York, and the North American College in Rome, Italy. He was ordained on December 21, 1967 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. He received a degree in Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, and a Master Degree in Education from Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA.

The following are Fr. Tom's assignments prior to the Bishop of

Erie agreeing to send Fr. Tom to the Diocese of San Angelo: from 1968 to 1972 he was a parochial vicar at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie; from 1972 to 1985 he served as faculty member, principal, vice-rector and finally rector of St. Mark Seminary in Erie; from 1985 to 1989 he returned to the North American College in Rome, Italy and served as the Academic Dean; from 1989 to 1990 he was the administrator of St. Michael parish in Greenville, PA and then served as pastor from 1990 to 1994. The Bishop of Erie then sent Fr. Tom to the San Angelo Diocese for a six month period on July 5, 1994. He was officially attached – incardinated – to the Diocese of San Angelo on February 1, 2001.

His many assignments within the Diocese of San Angelo follow: his first assignment was as Parochial Vicar at St. Agnes and St. Joseph Churches in Ft. Stockton, St. James Church in Sanderson, St. Isidore Mission in Coynosa, and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Imperial; on September 6, 1994 he became the Pastor of St. Agnes in Ft. Stockton and the St. Isidore Mission in Coynosa, and Our Lady of Lourdes Mission in Imperial; on

February 11, 1995 Fr. Tom received permission from the Bishop in Erie to remain in the San Angelo Diocese for another year beginning January 5, 1995; on October 10, 1995 the Bishop of Erie told Fr. Tom to return to Erie after December 5, 1995; on November 11, 1996 he received permission from the Erie Diocese to return to the San Angelo Diocese for three years effective January 2, 1997; and on that date he was assigned as Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of San Juan Church in Midland; on February 1, 2001 Fr. Tom was incardinated into the San Angelo Diocese; on August 8, 2003, he was assigned as Pastor of Our Lady of San Juan, where he served until his death, became the Director of Deaconate and guided thirty men of the Diocese until they were ordained as Deacons of the Church. On August 28, 2003, Bishop Pfeifer assigned Fr. Tom as Dean of the Midland/Odessa Deanery.

Throughout his priestly vocation Fr. Tom was a member of the following Boards and Committees: Continuing Education of Diocesan Priests, Ethics Committee of Greenville Regional Hospital,

President of the Association of Eastern Region of College Seminaries, Papal Evaluation Team of American Seminaries, Priestly Formation Committee of the National Bishop's Conference, the Seminary Board of the National Catholic Education Association, the Diocesan Priests' Senate and Personnel Board.

Visitation of the body was from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM at the Church prior to the Wake Service, and at 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, prior to the Mass. The Wake Service and Rosary were at 7:00 PM, Thursday evening February 24, 2005 at Our Lady of San Juan Church in Midland, 1008 W. New Jersey Street. Rev. Bernard Gully presided, and a bi-lingual homily, in English and Spanish was given by Deacons Sador Sotelo and Ignacio Villa. Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, was the main celebrant of the Funeral Mass at 10:30 AM on Friday morning, February 25, at Our Lady of San Juan Church. Rev. Joseph D. Wolf delivered the homily. Burial was immediately following the funeral Mass in Resthaven Cemetery in Midland.

Fr. Tom's Mother, DeAnna Heher



Fr. Tom Kelley. (Photo courtesy Jimmy Patterson.)

Kelley, died on January 11, 2003; and his father, Spicer C. Kelley, died on March 27, 2003. He is survived by his two sisters: Mrs. Susan Dixon and husband Kenneth of Dyer, Indiana; and Mrs. Mary Margaret Gupta and her husband B.D. of Swamscott, Maine. Fr. Tom is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Final arrangements were done by the Pipkin Funeral Home in Midland, TX.

"WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT. ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

Obituary - Deacon Mark Reeh

BIG SPRING - Deacon Mark Reeh, 56, of the St. Lawrence community of Garden City went to be with our Lord on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005.

He was born March 12, 1948, to Clemens Reeh and Lucile Heiman in Fredericksburg, Texas. He married Linda Eggemeyer Seidenberger on Aug. 29, 1998, in Fredericksburg, Texas, and moved from Forsan to St. Lawrence.

Mark Reeh was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He received a

Bachelor's of Science degree from Sul Ross State University in 1971 and taught Vocational and Industrial Technology in the public schools for 30 years, mostly in the Forsan School District. Mr. Reeh received numerous Outstanding Technology Teacher awards over the years, taking many technology projects to local, regional and state competition. Mark looked for the best in his students; hoping the life skills he taught them would lead to success throughout their lives. He also taught driver education in the

school system for many years, most recently being a partner in Big Spring Driver Education.

Mark's love and devotion to the Catholic faith was strengthened when he was ordained a deacon on June 26, 2004. He assisted at the altar for the parish of St. Lawrence and the mission of St. Thomas in Midkiff. He also served as a youth minister, taught senior religion classes and Rite of Christian initiation classes, participated in the Prison Ministries and willingly served the Church and community when asked. His strongest desire was to serve others always looking for and seeing the face of Christ in his fellow man.

Survivors include his wife, Linda, of St. Lawrence; two children, a son, Eric Reeh and a daughter, Erin Taggart of Big Spring; sisters, Janice Howell of Fredericksburg and Karen Stahl of Salt Flat; father, Clemens Reeh of

Fredericksburg; and eight grandchildren. Also welcomed into his life and loved by him are LeAnn Seidenberger and husband Brad Bowen of Midland, Stephanie Zimmerman and husband, Eric and twins Ramzey and Jaxson of Bryan, Matthew and Lorena Seidenberger and son Gary of Fredericksburg; and Brent and Tommi Seidenberger and son Samuel of Bryan; brother-in-law; Harvey Eggemeyer; and sister-in-law, Jean Glass.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lucile Reeh, and mother-in-law, Clara Eggemeyer.

Vigil service was at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Big Spring. Mass of Resurrection was at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Rite of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, in Greenwood Cemetery in Fredericksburg.

Pallbearers were Mike Poynor, Dennis Fuchs, Dean Munn, Keith Stone, Neal Wilde and Wendell

Jones.,

Honorary pallbearers were Harvey, Eggemeyer, Bill Schraeder, Floyd Wilde and Paul Lindell.

Deacon Mark truly loved teaching, both in school and in church. He challenged others to find the best in themselves and in others. His philosophy was to "plant the seeds of knowledge and faith, then watch them grow."

Deacon Mark requests donations in lieu of flowers to be made to Oblate School of Theology, 285 Oblate Drive, San Antonio, TX 78216; the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, R O. Drawer 21214 Big Spring, TX 79721-2121; EWTN Catholic Radio Station, 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL 35218, or the charity of your choice.

"Well done, good and faithful servant Enter into the kingdom of God." We love you and will miss your ever optimistic and loving presence. Rest well.

see "REEH" page eleven

March Necrology

Please pray for the following priests and deacons whose anniversaries of death are during the month of March.

- 11 - Rev. Leopold J. Bujnowski (1976)
- 11 - Deacon Albert Libertore (1977)
- 21 - Deacon Frank Trudo (1992)
- 26 - Rev. Serran Braun (1999)
- 26 - Deacon Audon Saldivar (2000)



The Eucharist and the Pro-Life Stance Go Together

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Pope John Paul II has declared a Year of the Eucharist which began on October 1, 2004. The Church, during this special year, encourages us to meditate upon, to express our gratitude for, and to celebrate, worship, and proclaim the great gift of the Lord’s Body and Blood. The Eucharist, in its essence, is Life, because it is Christ Himself. There is an intimate relationship between the Eucharist and the Church’s pro-life stance and commitment, which stresses that all human life is made in the very image and likeness of God. In the wonderful moment of consecration, the priest using the words of Jesus pronounces over

the bread, “This is my Body.” Jesus, in turn, proclaims about each unborn, “This is my Body.” Each baby waiting to be born is precious and loved by Jesus.

Borrowing from the publication, “Priests for Life,” I present for your reflection how the prolife commitment is Eucharistic, and how the Eucharistic commitment is pro-life:

1. Sacrament of Faith-If we can see Jesus in the tiny Host, we can see him in every human person, including the tiny unborn child.
2. Sacrament of Unity-The Eucharist draws us all to Jesus, and therefore all to one another in one body. While abortion divides the human family, the Eucharist unites it, making us members of one another.

3. Sacrament of Perfect Worship—The attitude of “pro-choice” is that my choices belong to me. The attitude of worship, which reaches its summit in the Eucharist, is that all our choices are submitted to Jesus, our King, and true freedom is found only in him.

4. Sacrament of Life The Eucharist is the victory of life. “Dying you destroyed our death” - and also the death of every unborn child. The Eucharist destroys the power of abortion.

5. Sacrament of Love-Love says, “I sacrifice myself for the good of other.” Abortion says, “I sacrifice the other for the good of myself.” Abortion is the opposite of love. The same words are used for both: This is my body.

Under the influence . . . of Jesus - the Eucharist and Contemplation

by the Carmelite community of the Diocese of San Angelo

SAN ANGELO – Your Magnet is Jesus. Otherwise, why read this! Sometimes we feel the magnetism, the drawing to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We can hardly wait. That’s nice, but not necessary. Strong faith supplies what weak feelings lack.

A good coach, preacher, teacher, friend, encourages others to explore their potential and use it to attain their goals. In this Year of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II encourages us to accept Jesus’ Gift of Self in the Eucharist, to strengthen our faith in His Real Presence, and to do something concrete about it. The potential here is limitless. So is the primary goal of our lives — union with God now, and forever.

Eternal Love has gone to the uttermost to be with us. Love is with us always, till the end of time, and till the end of our individual time. It is one thing to say this, another to really own it. What part does Jesus in the Eucharist play in

your life? He says: “Come to Me.” If He is High Priority in your scale of values, do you give Him some priority time outside of weekly celebration of the Eucharist? If you can’t find the time, seek and you will find!

To develop a relationship, it is necessary to spend quality time with the other. The same holds for union with Christ. Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament is not yet a Face to face meeting (though He sees yours). Rather, it’s Presence to presence. He gazes at you, you gaze at Him. Something happens in you, even if you do not perceive it at the time. This is a wonderful way to “put on the Mind (and Heart) of Christ.”

If you want a mentor and guide in the art of communication and relationship with Jesus, the best is His Mother, Mary. “O Godhead, devoutly I adore YOU,” sung for centuries by the Church to Our Eucharistic Jesus, could serve as a lullaby to Mary’s infant Son or as an act of faith beneath the Cross.

No one ever contemplated Jesus in His humanity as did Mary. After His Ascension, she continued her contemplation of the risen Jesus hidden in the Eucharist. She stood before Him with the matured openness expressed in her “fiat”: behold the handmaid of the Lord. It was a mutual exposition of intense, loving regard.

The simplicity of Mary before her Son and God is the attitude of the contemplative who comes before our Eucharistic Jesus. It is intimacy. It is adoration. It is exposing oneself wholly, because Jesus bids us come to Him with our burdens. One who trusts, believes and hopes against hope finds in this loving gaze toward Jesus the “food” that strengthens the soul in its journey to transformation in Christ. It is becoming one Spirit with Jesus. It is resting as a child under the eye of Love.

Peace. . . O Sacrament of Peace! If one comes into the Presence of our Eucharistic Lord laden with

Divine Mercy Sunday

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – The second Sunday of Easter, which this year falls on April 3, 2005, has been declared by Pope John Paul II as DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Basing his proclamation on the revelations of St. Maria Faustina, our Holy Father has indicated that this Sunday - the Octave date of Easter-is a day when the Risen Christ wants to pour out extraordinary graces - a complete outpouring of His mercy upon all who approach Him with great trust and expectant faith.

In preparation for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, I strongly encourage our priests to preach about the meaning of this Sunday and how our kind and loving Christ wants to grant all of us mercy, forgiveness, and new grace to be his faithful disciples. I also encourage family members and friends to prepare in prayer for Divine Mercy Sunday in groups, trusting in our Lord’s promise that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is there in their midst. Pray first for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, pray for God’s Divine Mercy and forgiveness to fall upon all of us, especially to change hearts that are hardened and that are closed off to the Gospel message of Christ.

There are various ways of preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday on a parish level. The most important is that the Pastor be involved. He can encourage all to open their hearts to receive God’s Divine Mercy in the following ways: —Announcements in the parish bulletin several weeks ahead about preparation for the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. —Provide opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, especially within penitential services.

—Provide time for Eucharistic exposition and adoration, asking people to focus primarily on the mercy and forgiveness that our loving Christ, who died on the cross for our sins, is always offering us. —Make Divine Mercy material available to the people. —Preach about the Divine Mercy message throughout Lent. —On Divine Mercy Sunday, offer a special prayer for God’s mercy and compassion and encourage all to receive our merciful Lord in Communion.

Whether we prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday individually or as members of our parish or other groups, it is essential to follow the ABCs of this Sunday: Ask for mercy, Be merciful to others, and Completely trust in Jesus.

an awareness of sinfulness, He is waiting to show Himself as Saviour. His mercy is as real as the air you breathe but cannot see. To contemplate Him “emptied” into the Eucharist for love of you, is to find Salvation in this House.

Contemplating His Real Presence is opening oneself to Jesus so that He may abide in you and you in Him. Then you never leave His Real Presence, for He lives within your soul and you live, move and have your being in His Presence. This is the work of Love. It is the fruit of Eucharistic contemplation. This work of the Holy Spirit is wrought in the hidden and silent recesses of

your soul. Love’s language is silence. Adoration is love.

But true contemplation does not end with nourishing oneself. Once fed and strengthened at Eucharistic contemplation, you are called to go out and carry that Food to those you meet throughout the day. In this way, you become a channel for Christ to feed the hungry multitudes once again. There will always be love left over. The more you give, the more will be poured into your heart, full measure, overflowing. There is no joy like it!



Collection for tsunami victims was the largest special collection in history

by *Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI*
 SAN ANGELO – As of March 7, 2005, an amount of \$109,242.50 has been collected from the communities of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, which makes up 29 counties in West Texas. The \$109,242.50 is the largest special collection in

the history of our Diocese. After the terrible tsunami tragedy, right after Christmas, I made an appeal to the 74 churches of our Diocese for contributions. Our people immediately began to give, and they have given very generously. I am deeply grateful to the people of the Catholic Dio-

cese for their generosity, and to people of other religious denominations who have sent contributions for the victims of the tsunami catastrophe. Never in the history of the Diocese have we had such a large special collection.

Thank you.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development thanks diocese

by *Rev. Robert J. Vitillo, Executive Director CCHD*

WASHINGTON – On behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), I am writing to thank you and all of the faithful of the Diocese of San Angelo for your very generous 2004 collection contribution of \$21,691.39. This support enables the Church in the United States to continue to support people who are poor to break the cycle of poverty.

For more than three decades the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has been able to support low-income people as they find

a way out of poverty for themselves and their communities. We turn the gifts of individual parishioners into hope for communities caught in a cycle of poverty. In 2004, you helped CCHD grant \$9 million in support of 330 local projects in 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are proud to be one of the largest private funders of anti-poverty programs initiated and led by people living in poverty.

In his World Day of Peace Message for 2005, Pope John Paul II invited “all who believe in Christ to show, practically and in every

sector, a preferential love for the poor.” Through their gifts to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the people of your diocese demonstrated just such a love. Please place a thank you in your diocesan paper so that parishioners know how grateful we are to them. We are indebted to your leadership and the invaluable partnership of your diocesan director, Mr. Les Maiman. Be assured of our prayers for you and those you serve.

Visit our web sites: www.povertyusa.org and www.usccb.org/cchd.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas to hold State Convention in Austin, April 21-24

by *Ester Tobin*

AUSTIN – The 44th Texas State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be held April 21-24, announced Dee Scheetz, CDA state regent of Austin, in her first-call convention letter to members to Texas members. It will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. The theme is “Spirit of God, Renew Us.” Peggy Rosales of Austin, general chairman, has mailed registration forms and agendas to all Texas members.

General meetings, daily liturgi-

cal services, election of state officers, guest speakers, workshops, awards, exhibits, luncheon meetings, and more will fill the long-week end agenda. Details will be published later.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a non-profit corporation established in Utica, New York as the “Daughters of Isabella in 1903 and the first court in Texas in 1909. The national court has more than 120,000 members and Texas has about 16,000 with more than 200 local courts. It is an organiza-

tion for Catholic women 18 years of age or over, who are interested in religious and charitable work as well as the moral and intellectual improvements of its members as stated in the by-laws.

Current state officers, who have served for the one-time only three-year term, are: Dee Scheetz of Austin, regent; Olga Samaniego, El Paso, first vice state regent; Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland (Texas), second vice regent; Sheila Martinka, Pasadena, secretary; Della Santos, **see “DAUGHTERS” page nine**

Ballinger Knights conduct a drive for Pregnancy Help Center

by *Edwin Zly*

BALLINGER – St. Mary’s, Star of the Sea, Council 10985, Ballinger, Texas recently conducted a drive for the local Pregnancy Help Center. The Council Grand Knight Edwin Zly and past Grand Knight James Studer devised a fund raiser called “Can You Spare Your Change.” One hundred and fifty baby bottles were distributed to members of the parish with the instruction to return them in three weeks filled with the change from their pockets, ashtrays, and even what they picked up from the streets.

It took several hours to count and to roll the change and when it was completed there was an overwhelming response. A check in the amount of \$1,052.05 was presented to the San Angelo Pregnancy Help Center to assist where the need was the greatest.

A simple project had a tremendous return through the selfless dedication of the Knights of Columbus.

Wanted: Knights To Help Knights



The Knights of Columbus Insurance program provides needed Insurance coverage to over one million policyholders. We currently have in excess of \$43 billion of life insurance in force.

Because of the growth of the Order’s insurance program, we are in need of Knights who can represent the order as agents or, if qualified, even supervisory and/or management positions may be available.

This full-time career opportunity offers:

- Professional level earnings potential
- Non-contributory pension plan
- 401K
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- Non-contributory disability plan
- A chance to make a difference in people’s lives ...
- And much more

A pretty impressive list, isn’t it? Would you like to help provide benefits and services to Brother Knights and their families? Would you like to know more about how you can become an insurance representative?

If you are a practical Catholic and are eligible to join the Knights of Columbus, with or without insurance experience, and would like to know more about joining our ranks, mail, fax, or e-mail your response to:



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Bishops join papal envoy to celebrate funeral of Fatima visionary

by Catholic News Service

COIMBRA, Portugal (CNS) – Most of Portugal’s bishops joined Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone of Genoa, the papal envoy, in concelebrating the funeral Mass for Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last of three Fatima visionaries.

Sister Lucia died Feb. 13 in her cloistered convent in Coimbra, Portugal, at the age of 97.

After the Feb. 15 Mass in the Coimbra cathedral, she was to be buried temporarily at the Carmelite convent while preparations were made for final burial alongside her two cousins, Blesseds Francisco and Jacinta Marto, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

On May 13, 1917 – when Lucia was 10 years old, Francisco was 9 and Jacinta was 7 – the children claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, near their home.

a month until October 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Roman Catholic Church.

Cardinal Jose da Cruz Policarpo of Lisbon, Portugal, told reporters before the funeral: “Fatima has lost the simple and direct witness of its last protagonist. Now it is up to us to consolidate this great message of faith.” Pope John Paul II sent a message, which was read at the funeral, saying, “I remember with emotion the various meetings I had with her and the bonds of spiritual friendship that intensified with the passing of time.

“I always felt supported by the daily gift of her prayers, especially in difficult moments of trial and suffering,” the pope wrote.

“May the Lord repay her abundantly for the great and hidden service she gave the church,” the pope wrote in the message, released Feb. 15 at the Vatican.

Cardinal Policarpo delivered the

homily at the funeral, calling it “a special occasion because Sister Lucia was special.” The cardinal said the “extraordinary” gift Sister Lucia received of seeing and hearing the Blessed Virgin Mary would have had no meaning if Sister Lucia had not listened and lived the call to conversion and to following Jesus Christ at every moment of her life.

In the same way, he said, the extraordinary grace given to all the baptized is meaningless if they do not allow it to make a difference in their lives.

“God calls us and trusts us to fulfill our mission. Lucia recounts in her memoirs the apparition of the Madonna with the simplicity of a child. They received the totally unexpected visions as a mission, as something specific Our Lady was asking them to do,” he said.

Sister Lucia’s specific mission, the cardinal said, was to be “the



Pope John Paul II meets with Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos May 13, 1982, in Fatima, Portugal. One year earlier, the pope survived an attempted assassination at the Vatican. The pope, in thanksgiving that his life was spared, had one of the bullets that struck him embedded in the crown of the statue of Our Lady at Fatima. (CNS photo courtesy of Shrine of Fatima)

spokeswoman, the messenger of the revelation. Francisco was a contemplative, he liked to be in silence. Jacinta, in the joy of her childhood, almost never spoke.” “Lucia was always faithful to her mission to spread the message of Fatima, which challenges people to

penance, conversion and contemplation,” Cardinal Policarpo said.

The cardinal said, “We are moved today, not so much because of her death, but because today between Fatima and heaven a new bridge has been built.” Pope John see **“FATIMA” page eleven**

Galveston-Houston Archdiocese Celebrates Christophers’ 60th Anniversary

NEW YORK, NY – Hispanic Catholics in the Houston area celebrated the 60th anniversary of The Christophers and the 56th anniversary of the Christopher Leadership Course with a Mass at which Bishop James A. Tamayo of Laredo hailed the New York-based organization for bringing light and hope to people all over the world.

A former auxiliary bishop for Galveston-Houston, Bishop Tamayo not only helped to introduce the Leadership Course to Spanish-speaking Catholics in the region, but was also one of its first graduates. About 200 worshipers, many of them Leadership Course graduates, attended the Mass, held in the St. Dominic Center and concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishop José S. Vásquez,

vicar of Hispanic Catholics in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese.

Dennis Heaney, president of The Christophers, thanked archdiocesan representatives for their pioneering role in promoting the Spanish-language version of the course.

“Your dedication is an example to us all,” he said, noting that in just 10 years the course in Houston has produced 547 graduates. Many of them have gone on to active roles in the community and in the Church, he said, pointing to the fact that the two deacons who assisted at the Mass – Celestino Pérez and Juan Contla – pursued their studies for the diaconate after completing the course.

At a reception following the Mass, Mary Ellen Robinson, di-

rector of the Christopher Leadership Course, presented awards to Jorge A. Delgado, director of Houston’s Office of Hispanic Ministry, and two of his staff members, Lázaro Contreras and Gloria Rangel, for their active support of the course.

The Christopher Leadership Course, which is presented in several cities throughout the country, was developed by Maryknoll Father James Keller not long after he founded The Christophers in 1945. Typically it is taught one evening a week for eight consecutive weeks and is designed to improve public speaking skills and develop leadership qualities. It is a vital component of the overall program of The Christophers, which also uses books and newspaper col-



Celebrating The Christophers’ 60th, from left: Deacon Juan Contla, Jerry Costello, Auxiliary Bishop José Vásquez, Mary Ellen Robinson, Bishop Jaime Tamayo, Christopher president Dennis Heaney, and Deacon Celestino Pérez. (Photo courtesy Umberto Mignardi, The Christophers.)

umns, radio and television broadcasts and the annual Christopher Awards to promote positive values and convince people that

they can change the world for the better. Visit www.christophers.org to learn more.

Diocesan Conference Day offers a broad vision of faith formation

By Sister Hilda Marotta, OSF

San Angelo - Participants who gathered for the annual Diocesan Conference Day, held February 19, 2005 at the San Angelo Convention Center, included catechetical/youth ministry leaders, catechists, clergy, catholic school teachers and parishioners representing 43 parishes/missions and three Catholic Schools of the diocese.

Jo Rotunno and Donna Glaser, the two featured speakers from Resources for Christian Living in Allen, Texas addressed the topics: All Are Welcome: A Vision for Building a Strong Community of Faith; Building Households of Faith and Implementing the Vision for a Whole Community of Faith: Practical Ideas and Resources.

The day began with a welcome by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI followed by the opening prayer. Jo Rotunno described an approach to catechesis that involves the whole faith community. She addressed the need to expand our understanding of family, to be aware of the different households of faith in our communities and provide opportunities

that help all households to be witnesses of God's love. Ways to build strong households of faith are vibrant Sunday liturgies, ongoing opportunities for growth in faith and community, supporting all forms of family, evangelizing and catechizing.

Participants shared with their table group on the following questions: What are the best ways you now serve families? Who are the families who might feel excluded right now? What one thing could you begin to do to make all families feel included in the whole community of faith?

During the afternoon session, Donna Glaser offered some practical ways to implement this vision and reminded the participants again and again that whole community catechesis is not about a program, but is a PROCESS.

The day also included displays of catechetical materials that are available and the opportunity to speak with representatives of different publishing companies.

A delicious meal was prepared by the Knights of Columbus. The



Speaker Jo Rotunno makes a point at the Diocesan Conference morning session. (Photo by Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF.)



Hundreds of Diocesan participants attended the learning sessions at the San Angelo Convention Center. (Photos in this column by Steve Talley.)



Many Catholic vendors were also in attendance. Here (r-l) Bea Baron and Stacy Combs show off items on sale by Trudo's in San Angelo.

day concluded with the celebration of Eucharist with Bishop Michael Pfeifer presiding.



Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF, Director of the Diocesan Office of Education and Formation, holds a plaque with a photo of Mrs. Gloria Trevino, long time secretary of the office prior to her untimely death. The plaque now hangs in the library of the Education office to commemorate Gloria's dedication to the office. (Photo courtesy Office of Education and Formation.)

Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

Please consult the schedule posted on our web site [www.san-angelo-diocese.org] from time to time since workshop dates are continually being added. Due to unforeseen circumstances, workshop dates may be subject to change.

Those who have attended this 3-hour workshop do not need to repeat it. Please check with your parish if you need to verify your attendance.

San Angelo Deanery

- April 5, 2005, Tuesday, 7-10 pm (Eng), St. Margaret, San Angelo
- April 21, 2005, Thursday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Sacred Heart, Menard
- April 26, 2005, Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 pm (Eng), Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ozona
- May 12, 2005, Thursday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, San Angelo

Midland/Odessa Deanery

- March 22, 2005, Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 pm (Eng), St. Mary, Odessa
- April 4, Monday, 6:30-9:30 pm (Eng), St. Mary, Odessa
- April 14, 2005, Thursday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Our Lady of San Juan, Midland
- May 25, 2005, Wednesday, 7-10 pm (Eng), St. Ann, Midland

Abilene Deanery

- April 25, 2005, Monday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Holy Family, Abilene
- April 26, 2005, Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 pm (Eng), St. Mary, Brownwood
- May 17, 2005, Tuesday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sweetwater
- May 23, 2005, Monday, 7-10 pm (Eng), Holy Family, Abilene

If you have need of an additional Ethics Workshop (English or Spanish) at your parish or Catholic School, please contact Mike Wyse at the Chancery Office (325) 651-7500.



God, grants, and special opportunities

By Luke Burnett

SAN ANGELO – Early in the spring semester of 2004, I had the opportunity to do something special for very special people. Sister Malachy, of the Newman Center at Angelo State University, asked me if I would be willing to help the Newman Center. With a question like that all sorts of chores and favors began to run through my mind. I was thinking that she might need me to do some yard work or load and haul something around town. I told her I would help and quickly asked her what she wanted me to do. (I had a class during the usual time when we had lunch and Mass on Mondays and Wednesdays, so I was thinking my participation was going to be limited and would be pretty irregular.)

She asked me to write a letter requesting five hundred dollars from Catholic Life Insurance which would be used to give our soon-to-

arrive Honduran friends presentations about our lives here in the United States. One month out of my Business Communications class and about one week into the spring semester, the timing and the situation could not have been any better. I was excited about participating, helping, and seeing how I would do in a real-deal situation. Unlike my Business Communications class, I was asking a real business person for real money.

Our Honduran friends are from San Pedro Sula, and in spring 2002 a group of students from the Newman Center visited Honduras to see the poverty/wealth situation there. While in San Pedro Sula, they experienced very disturbing, even terrifying problems in the area. They saw families living in shacks, and no farther than a stones-throw away, the wealthy families of San Pedro Sula live in immaculate homes and want the shacks torn

down because their presence lowers the property value. Their van driver was followed and shot in the arm when criminals tried to steal the van. The victim refused blood transfusions during the surgery to save his arm because of the rampant HIV problem there. The whole trip to San Pedro Sula was a huge reality check for the students but only phase one of an ongoing project with the dioceses of San Pedro Sula and San Angelo. The next phase is to have Honduran students visit the United States, which is a much more difficult goal.

The Honduran students' resources are, to say the least, limited, so the Newman Center organized fund raisers to help defer the cost of the trip. It is going to be difficult for the Honduran students to accurately understand the poverty/wealth situation in the United States, because circumstances are substantially different. To accurately portray for the students the United States' situation, we would need better presentation equipment, which is where my request enters the anecdote. The money, if received, would be used to buy photography equipment which can be used to illustrate our poverty/wealth situation in a Power Point or computer generated presentation and would save us from spending money raised for the students' trip on equipment.



(L-R) Co-presidents Missy Garza and Lydia Martinez with Mr. Werner Halfmann of Catholic Life Insurance. (Photo courtesy Sr. Marie Malachy Griffin, OP.)

Our purpose is to bring the dioceses together and allow students to discuss how the Catholic Church's social teachings and our understanding of our society can be used to improve the lives of the less fortunate in both of our countries.

I wrote the request and proof read, revised, and edited the letter many times, but, just to make sure the letter was the best it could be, I still asked my former Business Communications professor, Dr. Mark Hama, for more help. He quickly made some suggestions and found errors which I overlooked. I made the corrections, added what he suggested, and mailed the letter.

I think about a month passed, the momentum in my classes picked up, and I still had not heard whether or not we received the grant. My first thought was that the letter was not good enough and we did not receive the grant, so, when I could, I stopped by the Newman

Center and asked Sister Malachy about the request's status. To my relief, she told me the request had to be sent through a committee which had not yet convened.

Well, the semester was coming to an end, and, in my usual fashion "out of the blue", I decided to stop by the Newman Center again. I had almost forgotten about writing the letter when Sister Malachy told me we received the grant. I was extremely happy to know something I did actually went through. I have not yet experienced a better feeling than knowing what I do makes a positive difference for other people, whether it is volunteering my time at the local elementary school, at church, or writing grant requests for the Newman Center.

Many thanks to Sister Malachy for giving me the opportunity to help, to Dr. Hama for his selfless assistance, and to Catholic Life Insurance for their awesome contribution.

Christ the King Retreat Center March Calendar

Seven (7) sessions of *Life in the Spirit Seminar* are being conducted on Mondays in March and April, commencing March 14 through April 25, 2005 at the Retreat Center. The total cost for the Seminar is \$5.00. Pre-registration is accepted and encouraged. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Margie, Nancy, or Rosa at (325) 651-5352.

- 1 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 2 Angelo Catholic 5th Grade Retreat
- 6 Confirmation Retreat
- 7-9 Priest Convocation "Renewing Sunday Preaching"
- 8 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10-13 Men's Walk to Emmaus
- 14 Life in the Spirit Seminar
- 15 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 18-20 St. Ann's Midland Confirmation Retreat
- 19 Palm Sunday
- 21 Life in the Spirit Seminar
- 22 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 23 Lenten Day of Reflection- Bishop's Staff and San Angelo Deanery Parish Staffs
- 25 Good Friday Office Closed
- 27 Easter
- 28 Life in the Spirit Seminar

Estudio Bíblico de Santa Margarita en Big Lake, Texas

Invita a Todos • Día 2 y 3 de Abril, 2005
 de las 9:00 a.m. a las 9:00 p.m. día Sábado
 Domingo de 9:00 a.m. a las 3:00 p.m.

**Papa Juan Pablo II proclamo éste año 2005
 como "El Año de la Eucaristía"**

son invitados a crecer en el Espíritu Santo y en el amor a la Eucaristía
Predicador Católico: Francisco "Panchito" Arujo
y sus compañeros de Quotemoc, Chihuahua. México
¡Este Retiro es gratis!

Supreme Court hears arguments in two Ten Commandments' cases

by Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In two cases argued March 2 over displays of the Ten Commandments on government property, Supreme Court justices raised questions about the motives of government authorities who ordered the displays, about the difference between versions of the commandments, and about what sort of tests should be used to evaluate the displays' constitutionality.

In the cases, which were heard separately, the court is being asked to rule on the constitutionality of a 40-year-old granite Ten Commandments' monument on the grounds of the Texas state Capitol in Austin, and on displays of framed copies of the commandments amid other historic documents on the walls of courthouses in McCreary County and Pulaski County in Kentucky.

Although some defenders of the monuments have portrayed the cases as a critical turning point for religious rights, other legal observers have said it is more likely that they will affect little more than other such monuments – those that already exist and future attempts to place Ten Commandments' displays on government property.

Supporters of the monuments in both cases, including the acting U.S. solicitor general, argued that the Texas Legislature and county supervisors in the two Kentucky counties were not promoting a particular religion but merely giving appropriate credit to the historic importance of the commandments in the foundation of the U.S. government and its legal system.

Attorneys for opponents of the monuments tended to stick to the specific circumstances of each case,

avoiding the justices' efforts to discuss the circumstances under which it would be appropriate to have government-sponsored displays of the Ten Commandments.

Attorney David Friedman, arguing for the American Civil Liberties Union in its case, *McCreary County vs. ACLU of Kentucky*, pointed to resolutions passed by the two counties' governing bodies that said Ten Commandments' displays in the courthouses were justified because "Jesus is the prince of ethics," and voicing support for former Alabama Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore, who was forced from his job after he refused to remove a commandments' monument he had placed prominently in his courthouse.

The counties' supervisors "absolutely intended and felt they had a right to display the Ten Commandments because of the religious nature of the displays," Friedman said. Even a third version of the display, which included equal-sized versions of other historic documents in addition to the commandments emphasized that the tablets Moses received from God are "the' foundation of our legal system," he said.

In their questions, several justices focused on the resolutions as evidence that the purpose of the monuments was and is overtly religious.

"Everybody knows what's going on," said Justice David Souter, who said adaptations of the display were made strictly to get something the courts would allow, while still serving the original purpose.

Attorney Mat Staver, arguing for the Kentucky counties, urged the justices to look beyond the overtly Christian intentions of the county

supervisors who commissioned the original displays – in which just the Ten Commandments were posted in 1999. Instead he said the court should focus on the third version of the displays, created after lower courts rejected earlier versions as too overtly Christian to the exclusion of other belief systems.

Staver said the resolutions no longer reflect the counties' intentions and probably were only still on the books because of an oversight. "They will repeal and repudiate them," he said.

In the Texas case, attorney Erwin Chemerinsky argued that because the commandments' display is the only religiously themed piece among 17 monuments on the grounds of the state Capitol, it unconstitutionally elevates specific Judeo-Christian beliefs above other religions.

In the Texas case, *Van Orden vs. Perry*, a man who frequently walks on the Capitol grounds sued because he said the Ten Commandments' monument made him feel that the state was forcing a Christian religious message on him.

Justice John Paul Stevens several times raised the question of how the monuments could be considered a secular tribute to the origins of law when even different branches of Christianity use different versions of the commandments.

Such monuments around the country typically include the version of the commandments familiar to most Protestants. It differs from the one familiar to Catholics in that it includes a prohibition on worshipping graven images and combines what the Catholic version treats as two commandments forbidding coveting a neighbor's wife and coveting a neighbor's goods.

Justice Antonin Scalia argued that "it doesn't matter what version it is if it stands for the belief that the law is from God."

Scalia said most people wouldn't know the difference.

"I think 90 percent of the American people believe in the Ten Commandments, but virtually 85 percent couldn't tell you what the Ten



Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott addresses the media in front of the U.S. Supreme Court March 2 in Washington. He spoke to the press after he defended the Ten Commandments monument that sits on the grounds of the Texas Capitol. The Supreme Court heard arguments in two cases regarding the display of the Ten Commandments on government property. (CNS photo by Bob Roller)



Ten commandments monument pictured on Texas Capitol grounds. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott will defend the placement of the Ten Commandments monument on the Texas Capitol grounds during oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court March 2. (CNS photo from Office of Texas Attorney General)

are," he said. When somebody walks by such a monument, he said, it's not important what the exact words are, but that they remind people of God's role in shaping the founders' beliefs and the system of law.

DAUGHTERS

from page five

Houston, treasurer; and Loraine Hilscher, Dallas, parliamentarian.

The Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Austin, is state chaplain; and Reverend Donald Ruppert of East Bernard is state clergy consultant.

The state court is composed of the national regent or her representative, the five state officers, past state regents, local regents, and local court delegates. Local courts allowed to elect one delegate for each 25 members. State officers may serve only two, two-year consecutive terms.

Intentions of the Holy Father for March

Missionary - For the local Churches: may they realize the need to form Christians to face the challenges of new evangelization.

General - For governments: when adopting development plans and policies may they take into account the poor and the excluded.



Thank You for the Retirement Fund for Religious

by Sr. Andreé Fries, CPPS, Executive Director

WASHINGTON – Dear Bishop Pfeifer: Thank you for your Diocesan check for \$53,895.01 which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total Diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to \$746,056.47. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XVII for 2004.

Because of your generosity of the Catholic community of your diocese, retired religious who have given so many years of service will be assisted in receiving the care they need. These funds, with all the other contributions received will be used to provide retirement grants to needy religious institutes of women and men in June 2005. As you well know, health care costs are rising quickly and all of us religious appreciate your generosity. Through these gifts, we can continue to face the financial challenges that are upon us.

Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons are essential to the Fund's success and we are grateful for all you do. You can be assured that the 40,000 retired religious will remember you in their prayers. May God bless you as abundantly!



On March 6, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of the Fifth Texas District of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province held an Exemplification at the KC Hall in San Angelo, Texas for 18 candidates including three priests. Dignitaries attending were (l-r, starting third from left) Supreme Director Ron Gay, Vice Supreme Master Richard Shulte, Father Bhaskar Morugudi, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, Father George Thirumangalam, Father Quirino H. Cornejo, and Master Joe Carrillo. (Photo by Frankie Aguirre.)

Dulles: Council of Trent teaching on real presence remains the norm

by Tracy Early
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) – Cardinal Avery Dulles said in a lecture Feb. 15 that the 1551 teaching of the Council of Trent on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist “remains today as normative as ever.” The council described the presence with three adverbs – “truly, really and substantially” – that are “the keys that open the door to Catholic teaching and exclude contrary views,” he said.

Noting the misconceptions of some Christians and the “minimizing errors” of others, he said that “the fathers and doctors of the church have confidently proclaimed the real presence century after century.” The cardinal, a Jesuit widely recognized as one of the most eminent Catholic theologians of the United States, became the first McGinley professor of religion and society at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York in 1988 after retiring from The Catholic University of America in Washington.

lecture last fall on Pope John Paul II's vision of a eucharistic church and proclamation of the Year of the Eucharist, which began in October 2004, Cardinal Dulles devoted his lecture for the second semester to the topic of “How Real Is the Real Presence?” He was scheduled to give the lecture again the following evening at the seminary of the Archdiocese of New York, St. Joseph's in the Dunwoodie section of Yonkers.

Cardinal Dulles said the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist should not be interpreted in “too materialistic a way, without sufficiently distinguishing between his natural and his sacramental presence.” As an example of an overly materialistic understanding, he referred to a girl who was afraid Christ would get cold if she ate ice cream after taking Communion.

He said Christ is not present in the sense his head might be found in one part of the bread or wine and his feet in another, but in the way the soul is “entirely present in the whole and in every part” of the human body.

“Real” means that the presence is objective, something brought about by the power of the Holy Spirit and recognized by those who have faith but not produced by their faith, he said.

While Christ is present in the other sacraments, the Eucharist “may be adored” because there his presence is substantial, the cardinal said. “It is the greatest of all sacraments.” Cardinal Dulles said the church coined the term “transubstantiation” to indicate the “unique and unparalleled” process by which the substances of bread and wine were changed into the body and blood of Christ without any change in their physical qualities. Although Christ is present in other ways – in other sacraments and the proclaimed word – and some theologians have said that his “primary presence”

was in the worshipping community, the teaching of the church is that “the presence in the Eucharist surpasses all the others,” the cardinal said.

Worshippers with the proper disposition are “mystically united to God by grace,” but “they are not transubstantiated.” “In calling the eucharistic presence of Christ substantial, the church means that the Eucharist in its own reality is nothing other than Christ,” he said.

Cardinal Dulles said that at the time of the Second Vatican Council “avant garde religious educators” were “incessantly” telling the faith-

ful “that the purpose of the sacrament was to be received in Communion, not to be adored, as if the two were mutually exclusive.” But he said the Council of Trent “insisted that the Blessed Sacrament is to be honored and adored after the sacrifice of the Mass has been completed,” and that Popes Paul VI and John Paul II had promoted devotion to the sacrament outside the Mass.

Pope John Paul “spends long hours before the Blessed Sacrament and receives many of his best insights from these times of prayer,” the cardinal said.

He said the pope's example had brought “a striking resurgence in the practice of exposition and holy hours of adoration,” and that these practices, “far from undermining the hunger for holy Communion, stimulate it.”



FOCUS ON INITIATION: CONCERNING THE BAPTIZED

Co-Sponsored with The North American Forum on the Catechumenate and The Diocese of San Angelo, TX Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo June 2-4, 2005

This institute will explore the underlying vision for journeying with baptized adults who seek to complete their initiation and/or to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church.

For more information call the Office of Education and Formation at 325-651-7500.



Ahora tenemos programas de radio en Español

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Desde la primera semana de este año nuevo, tenemos programas Católicos de radio en Español en la Diócesis de San Angelo. Esta programación comenzó con la Hora Católica en la estación KSJT, 107.5 FM en la ciudad de San Angelo y tiene un alcance más o menos de 80-100 millas. Últimamente también tenemos otro programa Católico de radio en la ciudad de Abilene. Esta estación es KJZT 106.9 FM.

La Hora Católica en San Angelo es transmitida por KSJT cada Domingo de las 10:00 hasta las 11:00 de la mañana. La Hora

Católica en Abilene es transmitida por KJZT cada Domingo de las 12:00 hasta la 1:00 de la tarde. Ojalá que todos de habla español aprovechen de estos programas que tienen información sobre la fe Católica y lecciones importantes para toda la familia, incluyendo los niños.

El Papa Juan Pablo II nos ha exhortado usar los medios de comunicación para la evangelización y para proveer enseñanza Católica.

En el no. 72 de la Exhortación Apostólica *La Iglesia en América de Su Santidad*, el Papa Juan Pablo II, podemos leer: “Es fundamental para la eficacia de la nueva evangelización un profundo conoci-

miento de la cultura actual, en la cual los medios de comunicación social tienen gran influencia. Es, por lo tanto, indispensable conocer y usar estos medios, tanto en sus formas tradicionales como en las más recientes introducidas por el progreso tecnológico. Esta realidad requiere que se domine el lenguaje, naturaleza y características de dichos medios. Con el uso correcto y competente de los mismos se puede llevar a cabo una verdadera inculturación del Evangelio.

Que gocen estos nuevos programas de radio y escúchenlos con toda la familia.

FATIMA

from page six

Paul had asked Cardinal Bertone to preside in his name at the nun's funeral. The cardinal, former secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, met with Sister Lucia and discussed the apparitions with her several times in preparation for the 2000 publication of the so-called “third secret of Fatima.” While Francisco and Jacinta died at a young age – as Our Lady of Fatima apparently told them they would – it was left to Sister Lucia to transcribe the messages of Fatima, including the third section.

Sister Lucia wrote down the third part of the message, sealed it in an envelope and gave it to her local bishop. The message was sent to the Vatican in 1957, where successive popes read it, but decided not to reveal its contents.

Sister Lucia's last meeting with Pope John Paul was in May 2000, when he traveled to Fatima to beatify her cousins and to announce that he was revealing the final piece of the Fatima message.

Bishop Serafim de Sousa Ferreira Silva of Leiria-Fatima told Radio Renascença, Portugal's main Catholic radio station, that Sister Lucia was exemplary for her “witness, vivacity, fidelity and cour-

age.” The bishop said that to the very end of her life she was concerned about “the problems of humanity” and dedicated her life to praying for “reconciliation, conversion and peace.” Born March 22, 1907, in Aljustrel near Fatima, she and her cousins were caring for their family's sheep May 13, 1917. After reciting the rosary at midday, the children saw a “woman brighter than the sun” holding a rosary in her hand.

The woman told them they must pray much and they must return to that spot at the same hour on the 13th of each month.

With some 70,000 gathered around the children Oct. 13, 1917 – what was to be the final apparition – the woman told the three youngsters that she was Our Lady of the Rosary and asked that a chapel be built in her honor.

The three children had not been to school and could not read and write at the time of the apparitions. Lucia first went to school in 1921.

In 1928, she took first vows as a Religious of St. Dorothy and made her perpetual vows in 1934. She transferred to the Coimbra Carmel in 1948.

In the late 1930s, Sister Lucia made public the first two parts of the messages from Mary, which the children had kept secret.

The first two parts included a vision of hell shown to the chil-

dren, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, including a triumph over Russia if the country were consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

According to the Vatican's interpretation, the third part of the secret predicted the 1981 attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul.

The pope, in thanksgiving that his life was spared, had one of the bullets that wounded him embedded in the crown of the statue of Our Lady that stands at the shrine in Fatima.

Releasing the third part of the Fatima message in June 2000, Vatican officials said it described the violence and persecution that afflicted the church and individual Christians under Nazism, communism and other totalitarian systems.

At the time of the message's release, then-Archbishop Bertone revealed that he had met with Sister Lucia and that she “repeated her conviction that the vision of Fatima concerns, above all, the struggle of atheistic communism against the church and against Christians and describes the terrible sufferings of the victims of the faith in the 20th century.” Archbishop Bertone said he felt he had to ask Sister Lucia why she had given instructions that the secret should be revealed only after 1960, an instruction many

people claimed was an order that it be published then.

Archbishop Bertone asked Sister Lucia if Mary had fixed the date.

“Sister Lucia replied: ‘It was not Our Lady. I fixed the date because I had the intuition that before 1960 it would not be understood,’” the archbishop wrote.

Sister Lucia continued having visions of the Virgin Mary and hearing messages from her as late as the 1980s and perhaps beyond, the archbishop said in 2000.

EASTER

from page two

away such anxieties and to be hopeful and peaceful, to seek the things of God instead.

To make Easter a way of life does not mean that we resign ourselves to fate. But neither should we become so consumed by worry that we lose our focus on the One who provides for all our needs. The risen Savior invites us to place all our hope in him and in the future he promised us. He invites us to surrender our future into his hands.

Each day we are invited to live a bit of Easter. The differences lie in the belief that choosing Easter every day, and in all the days between Easters, really is what makes the difference.

POPE

from page one

and a group of Polish-American pilgrims from Chicago.

They alternated singing their songs and chanting -- in Polish or English -- “Long live the pope,” “We love you” and “Bless us.”

With the pope's regular Wednesday general audience cancelled, many of the groups that had hoped to see him at the Vatican went to the hospital instead.

They began arriving at 10 a.m., and the crowd had grown to several hundred by noon. The larger the crowd grew, the more hopes increased that Pope John Paul would come to the window of his room.

The pope made no appearance, but a Vatican official did send down some rosaries blessed by the pope; a group of children

from a school in Paris was the recipients.

In addition to the school groups, six ambassadors arrived at the hospital bearing an icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Pope John Paul.

The diplomats from Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro, Romania, Cyprus and Greece said the icon was a sign of their hopes for the pope's continuing recovery and an acknowledgment of the pope's deep devotion to Mary.

Ambassadors from Uruguay, Argentina and Mexico visited the hospital March 3, meeting an official from the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Javier Moctezuma Barragan, the Mexican ambassador, said they were told the pope was doing well and that he appreciated receiving “the affection and greetings of our people.”

Contributing to this story were John Thavis at the Vatican and Sofia Celeste at Gemelli hospital.

PASCUA

from page two

energía. El Salvador resucitado nos amonesta a dejar las ansiedades y tener esperanza y paz, para buscar en cambio las cosas de Dios.

Para hacer la Pascua una manera de vida no quiere decir que nos entregamos a la suerte. Pero no debemos ser tan consumidos por la preocupación que perdimos nuestro enfoque en el que provee por todas nuestras necesidades. El Salvador resucitado nos invita a poner toda nuestra esperanza en El y en el futuro que el nos prometió. Nos invita a encomendar futuro en sus manos.

Cada día estamos invitados a vivir un poco de la Pascua. Las diferencias están en la creencia que escogiendo la Pascua cada día, y todos los días entre las Pascuas, verdaderamente es lo que hace la diferencia.

REEH

from page three

Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com. Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home



Rite of Election held at Cathedral

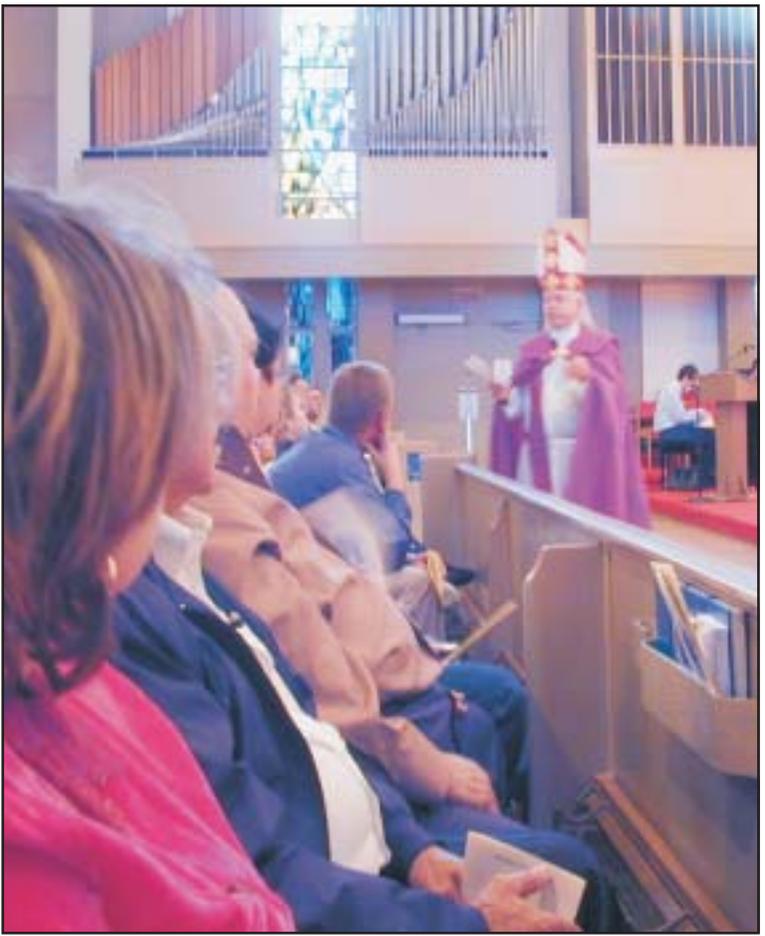
by Peter Micale, WTA

SAN ANGELO – Students from many of the parishes’ RCIA programs united at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in San Angelo on February 13 for the Rite Of Election for Candidates and Catechumens.



(Right) Each Candidate and Catechumen was greeted by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI.

(Below and below right) Each parish’s Candidates and Catechumens rose and approached the altar individually.



Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, addressed the RCIA students. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

Brownwood holds 40 Hour Devotion

by Al Kramer

BROWNWOOD – With the support of pastor Fr. Barry McLean and the help of Fr. Bob Bush, the parishioners of St. Marys Queen of Peace Church Brownwood, participated in a Forty Hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the Lenten Season. Starting with Mass at 7 a.m. and concluding the following day at 11 p.m. with Benediction, Fr. McLean was quoted as saying “This devotion holds the promise of many spiritual blessings for the entire parish community.”



St. Mary’s Queen of Peace Church Forty Hours Devotion. (Photo courtesy Al Kramer.)

St. Lawrence Church holds parish mission and forty hours devotion

by Diane Eggemeyer

ST. LAWRENCE – On February 6-9, St. Lawrence Catholic Church in St. Lawrence held a Parish Mission. Rev. Richard M. Hogan from Natural Family Planning in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City conducted the mission. He spoke about the Catechism of the Catholic Church according to Pope John Paul II. Father Hogan has appeared many times on EWTN (Catholic Television).

During the mission, Forty Hours Devotion was held, where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for forty hours of continuous adoration. The mission and Forty Hours were closed on Ash Wednesday with the celebration of the Mass and a procession.



“Angels” in the procession at St. Lawrence were Hannah Halfmann, Lexi Schaefer, Kamie Halfmann, Ashley Halfmann, Jessica Martinez and Alex Salazar from the third grade class. (Photo courtesy Diane Eggemeyer.)

Father Bernard Getigan, carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the procession, was followed by children dressed as angels and other youth of the parish.