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Lawsuit Filed Against Bishop And Diocese

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer,
 OMI

Editor's note: Bishop Pfeifer held a press conference at noon on March 23 during which he issued the following quoted statement. He emphasized that the accusations contained in the filed brief do not depict the facts as they actually occurred, and he views the filing as a personal attack on him and his staff.

The matter has already been entrusted to the Diocesan attorneys.

On October 5, 2000, I had received a letter from a member of a Dallas law firm, accusing me, as bishop, and other diocesan authorities, of negligence in causing or permitting the abuse of a minor, by a young man who was a candidate at the time for admission to the seminary. I was deeply saddened by these allegations, and took them as a personal affront to my stewardship of the diocese. I strongly and categorically deny that I, or those who serve with me, were "negligent," or a cause of any

such alleged incident. The diocese sent an immediate reply to the letter and asked for more information. This firm ignored our response.

Today I am sad to report that a lawsuit has been filed in Tom Green County, which alleges that I, as bishop, and certain diocesan officials engaged in illegal and/or negligent behavior, in permitting and/or ignoring the sexual abuse of a minor.

As soon as we learned of this accusation, we reached out to the

victim and family. I was deeply saddened to learn of this abuse and our main concern was for the victim. I ordered the accused barred from participation in any youth programs, and we took immediate action to begin an investigation and resolution of the incident. The state and local government authorities were immediately notified. The alleged victim and family were offered counseling at the expense of the diocese. Later, after a thorough investigation, the young man accused was removed

from consideration for candidacy for the seminary. Then, and with the knowledge and consent of the alleged victim, and family members, and the criminal justice authorities, the young man was immediately returned to his native Spain, at diocesan expense. I notified the proper church officials in Spain of the case. The diocese acted promptly, openly and deliberately, and made no attempt at any cover-up.

see "LAWSUIT", page eleven

Maryknoll Essay Contest Winners Write Heartfelt Letters To The Holy Father

Diocese of San Angelo Student Describes Outstanding Examples of Those Living Jubilee Values

by Marybeth Christie

Editors Note: Be sure to see the complete text of Diocese of San Angelo resident Daniel Michalewicz's first place entry on page eleven!

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Maryknoll announced today the selection of six student winners in its annual essay contest who will share nearly \$3,000 in cash scholarships. This year's theme, "Letter to the Pope . . . Jesus' Mission Continues" attracted nearly 5,700

entries from middle and high school-aged youth around the U.S. Students were asked to compose a letter to Pope John Paul II reporting concrete ways that they or someone they know has lived Jesus' mission by "bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and setting the oppressed free." (Lk 4:18) Youngsters competed in two age categories—grades 7-9 (Division I) and 10-12 (Division II)—and submit-

ted essays composed of 500-750 words. A panel of Maryknoll missionaries and employees chose the following winners:

1st Place "Bishop Francis X. Ford Award" - \$1,000:

Laura Kaufmann, St. Thomas More School, Allentown, Pa., Grade 7

1st Place "Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Award" - \$1,000:

Daniel Michalewicz, Reagan County High School, Big Lake,

Texas, Grade 12

2nd Place - \$300:

Alyse Katharyn Jones, St. Francis Middle School, Palo Cedro, Calif., Grade 8

Ailise Jacobs, Elyria Catholic High School, Elyria, Ohio, Grade 10

3rd Place - \$150:

Jacqueline Mendez, Holy Spirit Catholic School, San Antonio, Texas, Grade 8

Michael Broache, Cardinal

Winner of national Maryknoll contest Daniel Michalewicz of Big Lake Texas.

Gibbons School, Baltimore, Md., Grade 11

see "CONTEST" page eleven





Christ Is Risen!

(Easter Holds The Promise That There Is A Power Stronger Than Death.)

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, holds the promise that there is a power stronger than death, the power of the very Breath of Life. Easter is founded on the Gospel proclamation, CHRIST IS RISEN! No one actually saw Christ rise from the dead. However, the very existence of the New Testament itself proclaims it.

Unless something very real, indeed, took place on that strange, confused but very astonishing first Easter morning, there would be no New Testament, no Church, no Christianity. As Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain." Christ did rise from the dead as he promised, and we through our baptism share in the wonderful new life of his resurrection. Easter is about eternal life, but it is also very much about the present moment. We cling to the promise of the Resurrection when our loved ones die or when we ourselves confront our own immortality, but Easter is about daily living.

The little "deaths" involved in daily living are more challenging to many of us than perhaps the thoughts of physical death. Just as the risen Lord left behind an empty tomb, so we, too, need to break free of those burial cloths and all that binds us in the here and now.

Too often, we-the living-are entrapped by "tombs" of our own making. We

see "RISEN" page ten



¡Cristo Es Resucitado!

(La Pascua Lleva La Promesa Que Hay Un Poder Mas Fuerte Que La Muerte.)

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

La Pascua, la Resurrección del Señor Jesús, lleva la promesa que hay un poder mas fuerte que la muerte, el poder del Aliento de la Vida. La Pascua se basa en la proclamación del Evangelio, CRISTO ES RESUCITADO! Nadie actualmente miró a Cristo resucitar de la muerte. Sin embargo, la existencia del Nuevo Testamento mismo la proclama.

A menos que algo muy real, ciertamente, tomara lugar en esa rara, confundida pero muy

asombrosa mañana de la primera Pascua, no habría un Nuevo Testamento, ni Iglesia, ni Cristianidad. Como Pablo dice, "Si Cristo no ha resucitado, vana es nuestra fe." Cristo si resucitó de la muerte como prometió, y nosotros por nuestro bautismo com-

partimos en la vida maravillosa de su Resurrección. La Pascua se trata de la vida eterna, pero también tiene mucho que ver con el momento presente. Nos pegamos a la promesa de la Resurrección cuando uno de nuestros queridos se mueren o cuando nosotros mismos estamos confrontados con la inmortalidad, pero la Pascua también se trata de vivir cada día.

Las "muertes" pequeñas que están incluidas en cada día son mas desafiantes para muchos de nosotros que quizás los pensamientos de la muerte física. Así como el Señor resucitado dejó atrás una tumba vacía, nosotros, también nece-

see "RESUCITADO" page eleven

The Bishop's Schedule



April 2001

April 1: Rowena, St. Joseph - 9:30 a.m. Confirmation (Confirmation for Rowena, Ofen and Miles.)

April 3: Big Spring, Spanish Inn - Lunch with Priests of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 11:45 a.m. San Angelo, St. Margaret - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 4: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Eden, St. Charles - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 5: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Christ Mass at 11:00 a.m. Presbyterial Council meeting at 1:30 p.m. Holy Angels Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 6: San Angelo, Albertson's - Go to Jail for the American Cancer Society at 11:00 a.m.

April 7: Odessa, St. Mary School - Diocesan Schools Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

April 8: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Mass at 9:45 a.m. Holy Angels - Seder Meal at 6:30 p.m.

April 9: Wall, St. Ambrose - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 10: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 11: Odessa, St. Elizabeth - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 12: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart -

Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.

April 13: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Good Friday - Procession of the Cross from St. Margaret's at 1:00 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at Christ the King Retreat Center. St. Joseph, San Angelo - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

April 14: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.

April 15: San Angelo, St. Mary - Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m.

April 16: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Easter Dinner for Staff at 6:00 p.m.

April 17-18: Rest and Prayer.

April 19: Rankin, St. Thomas - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m. (Confirmation for Rankin, Crane, Big Lake, McCamey and Iraan.)

April 20: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for staff at 8:30 a.m. Angelo Catholic School - Earth Day Prayer Service at 11:00 a.m. Appreciation Dinner at Newman Center at 7:00 p.m.

April 21: Sonora, St. Ann - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 22-23: San Antonio, MACC Board meeting.

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

April 26: Wall, St. Ambrose, Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.

April 27: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Meet-

ing at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

April 28: San Angelo, Convention Center for St. Joseph at 5:00 p.m.

April 29: Brownwood, St. Mary - Confirmation at 1:30 p.m.

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

May 2001

May 1: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Rosary at Mary's Grotto at 7:00 p.m.

May 2: Midland, St. Stephen - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 3: Abilene, Dyess AFB - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 5: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

May 6: Midland, St. Ann - Confirmation at 8:45 a.m.

May 7: San Angelo, St. Mary - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.

May 8: Ballinger, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 9: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m., Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

May 10: Fort Stockton, St. Agnes, also St. Joseph, Our Lady of Lourdes in Imperial and St. Isidore in Coyanosa - Confirma-

tion at 7:00 p.m.

May 11: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 12: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

May 13: Odessa, St. Joseph/St. Anthony - Confirmation at 11:30 a.m.

May 14-15: Rest and Prayer

May 16: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

May 17-18: Rest and Prayer

May 19: Abilene, St Vincent - Confirmation at 5:30 p.m.

May 20: Sweetwater, Holy Family, Immaculate Heart and Merkel - Confirmation at 12:00 noon

May 21: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Budget Review by Presbyterial Council and Diocesan Finance Council - 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 22: Big Spring, Immaculate Heart - Confirmation and First Communion at 6:30 p.m.

May 26: Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

May 27: Sanderson, St. James - Confirmation at 3:00 p.m.

May 28: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

May 30: Abilene, St. Francis - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

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Vocation Circle

Vocation And Sacrifice

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

The season of Lent is a time of reflection to learn more about ourselves in our faith. During Lent it is good to remember that by our creation we are called to responsibility for all of creation. By our baptism we are called to love one another. By our choice to follow Jesus we are called to the cross. The world teaches us to care for ourselves and to make sacrifices for the people we love. Jesus shows us how to see all people as our family and to lay down our lives for people in need. Jesus shows us the joy of the supreme sacrifice. We are not called to be comfortable or self-serving. Rather, we are called by God to reach out to others as God has touched our own souls from the moment of creation to now. Some would call this a real sacrifice.

My dictionary defines "sacrifice" as the loss, destruction, deprivation, giving up or surrender of something. However, when I look at the life of Jesus I see that sacrifice is really the choice to love others. It does not mean that I choose what I would like to do, but what is right and merciful. When I see the sacrifices that par-

ents make for their children, I see the love that makes their deeds possible. When I see the sacrifices that people make for strangers or those who can never repay them, I see the presence of Christ.

We are not called to sacrifice a thing or two. Rather, are called to be people of sacrifice. People who give let go of angers, hurts, pride, prejudices, etc. in order that they can take on the vulnerability of love and compassion. At the beginning of our life of faith we may have given up sweets or something else for Lent. As adults we are invited to live Lent by being true to the call that God has lovingly given to all of creation.

While each of us has seen the power of simple and humble service, the question for Lent is - How does it feel to recommit ourselves to live the vocation that God has given you? Maybe the sacrifice we can make this year is to listen to the whisper of God in our lives and be willing to go wherever that voice of God takes us. If God calls you to marriage, you would probably say "Yes, Lord!" What will you say if the voice of God calls you to the loving sacrifice of giving your living witness to the People of God in priesthood or religious life? "Yes, Lord. I have come to do your will!"

Holy Angels Catholic Church

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Sunday, May 6

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A Word to the Wise . . .

Annual Church Festival Information Must Be Sent to
WT Angelus Office at Least Two (2) Months Ahead of
Festival Date to Guarantee Advertisement Insertion!

Don't Miss Out!

Seminarian Joey Faylona Receives Candidacy

On February 11, 2001, Joey Faylona, a seminarian for the Diocese of San Angelo, received Candidacy at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. This means that Joey has taken the step to publicly commit himself to the Diocese of San Angelo in his studies leading him toward priesthood. Before this commitment Joey was in discernment about priesthood and priesthood in the Diocese.

Joey received Candidacy from Bishop Patrick Zurek, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, with the permission of Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo.



Left to Right: Joey Faylona, Bishop Patrick Zurek, Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio and Fr. Tom Barley, JCL.

Joey Faylona is from the Philippines. He is in the third year of theology at Assumption. Next school year Joey will serve his pastoral year at a parish in the Diocese.

Position Open For Director Of Catholic Youth Ministry

POSITION OPEN: Director of Catholic Youth Ministry within the City of Fort Stockton, comprised of two parishes which are approximately 80% Mexican American. Under the direct supervision of the Pastor, coordinates, implements and evaluates all facets of the Youth Ministry; directs the training of all High School Youth Ministry volunteers; develops a program for staffing the High School Youth Ministry to eventually establish Life Teen; maintains accurate statistical records of the Youth Ministry program; implements a program to promote all parish

Youth activities; administers the Youth Ministry Program budget; promotes good public relations within and beyond the parish; performs other related tasks deemed necessary and/or assigned by the Pastor.

Qualifications: Applicant must be practicing the Catholic faith with a great love for both the Church and youth, desiring to lead young men and women to lives of responsibility, knowledge and holiness. Must be self-motivated and creative. Applicant should have good communication skills, leadership qualities and the ability to

work in a team setting. An additional skill that would be highly advantageous to this position would be the ability to play a musical instrument and lead music.

Salary/Benefits: Generous compensation package commensurate with experience and qualifications.

To Apply: Send resume to Search Committee, Catholic Community of Fort Stockton, 403 S. Main Street, Fort Stockton, Texas 79735 or e-mail address: st_agnes@brooksddata.net

Scholarships Now Available

by Sadie D. Wilks

SAN ANTONIO - Catholic Life insurance, the nation's 10th largest fraternal life insurer, is now accepting applications for the 2001 Leadership Scholarship Program. The program awards ten \$500 scholarships to Catholic Life Insurance members who attend any private or public college or university full time.

Catholic life Insurance offers

this program to help ease the financial burden of a college education. Through the Leadership Scholarship Program, ten non-renewable \$500 college scholarships will be awarded to deserving students. To be eligible, students must be a Catholic Life Insurance member for at least one year before the application deadline and be attending any private or public college or university full

time. Scholarship selections will be based on scholastic achievement, leadership qualities and community service. The scholarship winners will be announced in August.

Interested individuals may call the Catholic Life Communications Department at (800) 262-2548 or (210) 828-9921 for

see "SCHOLARSHIPS" page nine



Russian Parliament Asks Government To Combat Catholic Expansion

By Frank Brown
Catholic News Service

MOSCOW (CNS) — In a highly unusual move, Russia's parliament has asked the Foreign Ministry to explore ways of combating "intolerable Catholic expansion" in Russia and other predominantly Orthodox Christian countries.

In early March, the Russian Duma approved a nonvoting resolution to instruct its international affairs committee to work with the Foreign Ministry on a plan to impede the growth of the Roman Catholic Church in Russia, a country of 145 million people with about 500,000 Catholics.

The measure, sponsored by Duma Vice Speaker Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, has little practical weight but highlights a growing closeness in the interests of Russia's executive and legislative branches with the dominant, 80-million-member Russian Orthodox Church.

Russian Orthodox leaders routinely accuse the Vatican of orchestrating a well-funded campaign of expansion through proselytism in the former Soviet Union, a charge Catholic prelates vigorously deny.

Two days after the Duma action, the Russian Catholic bishops' conference reacted with an indignant open letter expressing the bishops' "bewilderment and serious anxiety" that the country's

Catholic minority would be singled out as a potentially suspicious element.

The letter, signed by the head of the bishops' conference, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, apostolic administrator of Northern European Russia, argued that Russia's Catholics are "law abiding and loyal to their government."

The letter said the bishops were especially troubled "that the request to the Foreign Ministry was made by the state Duma, a representative body called to articulate and defend the interests of all of society, including religious minorities, which include Catholics."

Zhirinovskiy, one of the country's best orators and most colorful politicians, is known in the West for his nationalist and sometimes anti-Semitic rhetoric. After a second-place showing in the 1994 Duma elections, his Liberal Democratic Party has steadily lost support in nationwide balloting.

Despite his sometimes outlandish ideas — like a recent proposal to rename Russia as a way of evading the country's colossal foreign debt — Zhirinovskiy and his party usually vote the Kremlin line. The Kremlin often uses Zhirinovskiy to launch trial balloons.

As the Kremlin-connected Russian Web site, www.strana.ru, approvingly noted in commentary on the Duma's measure, "a fact is

a fact: Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is one of the very few Russian politicians to be working on questions of church diplomacy."

In mid-February, Zhirinovskiy met with Metropolitan Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church's Department of External Church Relations. Since then, Zhirinovskiy has spoken out several times in favor of increased government support for the Russian Orthodox Church.

Like Russian Orthodox leaders who have asked the pope to put off a planned June visit to predominantly Orthodox Ukraine, Zhirinovskiy criticized the Catholic Church as a destabilizing, divisive force.

Following his meeting with Metropolitan Kirill, Zhirinovskiy told the independent NTV television network that Ukraine and Russia "are linked economically; you cannot stop trade, but through religious forces, including aid to Uniates and sects, Western countries are trying to break the ties between our peoples and to do what is necessary to get citizens of Ukraine to stop feeling themselves Orthodox."

"Uniates" is a pejorative term for Byzantine Ukrainian Catholics.

The Duma also demanded an explanation from Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov as to why he recently met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. Following that meeting, the Russian Orthodox Church's leader, Patriarch Alexei II, complained of politicians meddling in church affairs and, specifically, of prodding Kasyanov to meet with the pope.

And finally, the Duma requested the Ministry of Culture to explore ways to facilitate the return of the Kazan Mother of God icon from the Vatican to the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Vatican's diplomatic envoy to Russia, Archbishop Giorgio

see "RUSSIAN", page eleven

Feast of Mercy Celebration

by Daniel Silva Pena

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated in San Angelo on April 22, 2001. You are asked to start your novena on Good Friday, April 13, at your home or local parish. You may obtain the leaflet (LFMCN), *Novena To The Divine Mercy / Chaplet Of The Divine Mercy*, from Trudo's Religious Store. A Mercy Sunday prayer service will commence at St. Joseph Catholic Church, San Angelo, Texas at 1:30 p.m. A Holy Hour will start at 3:00 p.m. At the end of the Holy Hour, the people will process to the altar to venerate the relic of St. Faustina.

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Our Mission As A Catholic School Community Is To Create An Atmosphere Inspired By The Gospel Of Jesus, Enabling Our Students To Live In A Community Of Faith And Service.

Healing Mission In San Angelo

The San Angelo Chapter of Order of St. Luke is sponsoring a Healing Mission on April 19-21. The speakers, Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn & Matthew Linn, S.J., have taught courses on healing in more than forty countries, including a course to doctors accredited by the American Medical Association. The Linns have authored thirteen books which have sold more than a million copies in English and have been translated into fifteen different languages.

The Healing Mission, *Healing Life's Hurts*, will begin with a Spanish Healing Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in San Angelo on Thursday, April 19.

Critical Issues to Pastoral Care will be the title of the special training for Pastoral Ministers, Therapists, Spiritual Directors, Health Care Professionals and Care givers to be held at River Crest Hospital, 1636 Hunter Glen Rd., San Angelo, on Friday, April 20. Six hours of Continuing Education Units at a cost of \$40.00 will be available for the professionals.

Catholic Campaign For Human Development

by Rev. Robert J. Vitillo
Executive Director

Dear Bishop Pfeifer, on behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, I am writing to thank you and all of the faithful of the Diocese of San Angelo for your very generous contribution of \$21,904.42. This support reflects the strong commitment of Catholics in San Angelo to helping the 32 million Americans living in poverty create more secure lives and stronger communities.

Over the past thirty years, through your generous support, the CCHD has strengthened its efforts to help people help themselves. CCHD-funded groups uphold the sacredness and dignity of human life by encouraging self-sufficiency and by educating all to the root causes of poverty and other injustices in our communities.

We are grateful for your leadership. This contribution represents a 44.2% increase over last year's gift. Many thanks to your clergy, religious, and laity for this increase which is essential to meeting the needs of the poor in our country.



Ecojustice Calls For A New Respect For All Life On Earth

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Planet Earth is our home and also our garden and our loving God has entrusted this home and garden to the care of humans. We are told in the first book of the Bible that as our God brought the world into existence that "God looked at everything God had made, and found it very good" (Gn I: 31). Earth Day, April 22, is a reminder that good stewardship of the gift of earth demands that we develop a system of ecojustice that respects all forms of life on Planet Earth.

Ecojustice recognizes that the web of life is one. Creation has an integrity and an inherent value beyond its usefulness to human beings. Human beings are to be responsible stewards of creation. In that activity they work in harmony with God as co-creators. The sin of "species-ism" is now coming more clearly to be acknowledged and recognized. We cannot do just whatever we want with the created order and the whole system of ecology. Adequate science, common sense, and appropriate faith values teach us to respect the web of life and each member of it and the deli-

cate balance of the ecosystem of the garden God has placed in our care.

The great poetic prophet, Isaiah foresaw a new Garden of Eden. Lion and lamb lie down together; cow and bear live in peace. "There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain," says the Lord. Children happily at play are an important part of this vision. Do we dare hope to regain such a garden on planet Earth? The Bible says yes. The prophets of old taught that justice and peace among human beings would bring harmony to the world of nature. They were ecologists before their time. We have begun to catch up with their teaching. We realize more and more that many of the ills in the environment come from carelessness and greed and exploitation. As God's children, we are called to practice justice in the Lord's garden on planet Earth and to enjoy the joy that results from it.

Although the word ecology may not have been known to previous generations, it is at the forefront of our global awareness today. To toy with one area of the vast ecosystem, is to affect all of it. For example global warming

does not simply concern a few days of heat in the summer. Global warming could change how and where it rains, who lives on the coast and who lives in a desert and where certain crops will grow and where they will not. The ecosystem is an interrelated whole - every part relies on another part. Ecojustice teaches us to care for all parts.

We cannot continue to ignore the implications of the ecological crisis surrounding our rivers, streams, forests, and cities. Care for the ecosystem is also a moral and ethical responsibility. It is a life issue that cannot be separated from social justice. Ecojustice requires a radical shift in the way we think about ourselves in relation to the rest of creation.

Ecojustice stresses that the ecosystem is a community. The more we learn about the ways these communities function, the more we realize the relatedness of all that forms them - human, animal, vegetable, plant, tree and mineral. We share with other species a common origin in the created act of God that began billions of years ago and continues to unfold

see "ECOJUSTICE", page nine

Incredible Support For Access To Health Care For Poor Children

by Richard Daly

One of the good stories coming out of the 77th Legislative Session is the progress being made to make it easier for poor children to access the Medicaid system in Texas.

A series of bills have been introduced by Rep. Patricia Gray of Galveston and Sens. Judith Zaffirini of Laredo and Mike Moncrief of Fort Worth to do such things as simplify the application form in order to make it easier for parents to apply for Medicaid coverage for their children, eliminate the assets test which has in the past precluded many poor families from participating in the program,

extending the eligibility period once a child qualifies for health insurance from six months to 12-months, and eliminating the face-to-face interview required to gain access to Medicaid.

The latter two provisions are especially important for working poor parents who find it very difficult to get off work and endure the lengthy process of enrolling their children in Medicaid.

A wide range of advocacy groups including the Texas Medical Association, the Texas Hospital Association, many child advocacy organizations and the religious community, including the Texas Catholic Conference, are

strongly supporting these efforts.

The chief sponsors of these bills and their allies, especially Rep. Glen Maxey of Austin, have been successful in securing numerous co-sponsors, at last count approximately 80 in the Texas House of Representatives and about 15 in the Texas Senate.

The Bishops of Texas supported the effort by publishing a pastoral statement "Our Children's Health - A Texas Treasure" advocating all of these measures, "Our Children's Health - A Texas Treasure." Catholic children's advocates and pastors throughout the state have been encouraging the faithful to con-

Elections, Again!!!

by Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director, Priests for Life

The kind of election we had in 2000 taught us many lessons. One is that it is time now to start working on the elections of 2002.

While the Presidency was the central concern of this past election, the composition of the US Senate should be a key concern of the next one. One-third of the Senators are up for re-election, and this will involve Senate races in Colorado, Montana, Delaware, Missouri, Georgia, Mississippi, Maine, Idaho, New Mexico, Illinois, Wyoming, Texas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Carolina, Arkansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Kansas, West Virginia, Alabama, Oregon, New Hampshire, Alaska, Tennessee, New Jersey, South Carolina, Virginia, and Minnesota.

For the passage of laws that favor the right to life, and for the appointment of Supreme Court Justices who see the justice of our cause, the President cannot act alone. The Senate must vote in a pro-life direction.

That will happen only if we vote in a pro-life direction when we elect our Senators.

Several steps need to be taken, starting today:

a) Pro-life candidates who have a likelihood of victory should be encouraged to run, and if there are none in a particular race, they should be sought and found now.

b) Voters should be informed now of the opportunities they will have to shape the composition of the Senate. Even if a Senate race is not happening in our state, we can influence people in other states.

c) People need education on the central importance of the right to life as an election issue. Whether the candidates themselves emphasize the issue or not, the voters need to know where the candidates stand on this "fundamental human rights issue" (US bishops, Resolution on Abortion, 1989). If candidates have not expressed themselves on the issue, they should be asked both privately and publicly.

d) Pro-life activists should not tire in speaking, teaching, and writing about the political responsibilities we have. There is time now to prepare new materials in anticipation of the elections of 2002, if we start right away.

e) Clergy should preach fearlessly about the political responsibilities of believers, and highlight what the bishops have said about the central importance of the right to life in evaluating candidates. The document *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics* (1998) remains a key guide in this area.

f) Fervent prayer should be offered, publicly and privately, for all who hold or seek public office.

A commitment to the right to life is not identical to a commitment to any particular political party. No party perfectly embodies the Gospel, nor is our loyalty to party supposed to be stronger to our loyalty to our moral convictions. Candidates of any party can be pro-life. Throughout the changes that occur from candidate to candidate, election to election, and year to year, our message is always the same: No government has the authority to allow the destruction of innocent human life, and we have the solemn responsibility to choose leaders who recognize that.

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

tact state representatives and state senators supporting these Medicaid access issues. That is really good news for poor children in Texas.



President Bush, Cardinals, Officially Open Pope's Cultural Center

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seven cardinals and President Bush presided over the March 22 ceremony and ribbon-cutting that marked the grand opening of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, president of the center dedicated to the Catholic faith, told the audience of about 1,200 guests in a huge tent on the grounds of the museum that the pope insisted it be located in Washington instead of any of several other suggested sites, including Warsaw or Krakow in Poland.

"He sees Washington, D.C., as the crossroads of the world," Cardinal Maida said. "The center's location here will allow it to impact and shape the many events that transpire here."

In a letter read by Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, the pope said he was grateful "that the new center was planned as a means of introducing visitors to Catholic cultural life and as a place of study and reflection on themes related to the religious and humanitarian mission which the church is called to carry forward at the dawn of the third millennium."

Bush referred to some of the ways the pope has influenced society by tracing highlights of his life, from a 1976 stop in Washington to speak at The Catholic University of America, near the cultural center, through his first visit to Poland after he became pope. That visit, Bush said, was "when faith turned into resistance and began the swift collapse of imperial communism."

The president noted that the last leader of the Soviet Union called the pope "the highest moral authority on earth." He referred to the pope's visits to Manila in 1995, when more than 5 million people came to see him, and to Israel last year, "on a mission of reconciliation and mutual respect between Christians and Jews."

Bush received a standing ova-

tion when he echoed the pope's challenge to society to adopt a "culture of life," which "is a welcoming culture, never excluding, never dividing, never despairing and always affirming the goodness of life in all its seasons."

He said a culture of life must make room for "the stranger," the sick, the aged and immigrants. "We must teach our children to be gentle with one another. We must defend in love the innocent child waiting to be born."

Bush also was interrupted by applause for his remark that society is "responsible to stand for human dignity and religious freedom wherever they are denied, from Cuba to China to southern Sudan."

Cardinal Maida said the center's founders hope it will "inspire, and motivate, form and shape a whole new generation of Christian leaders who will bring their faith values to the marketplace and to all the professions."

He said he hopes visitors will experience a conversion of mind and heart and see how to put their faith into service and action.

Earlier, Bush was given a brief tour of the cultural center by its director, Father G. Michael Bugarin, Cardinals Maida and Szoka and Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick.

After the speeches, Bush and Cardinal Maida together cut the red ribbon strung in front of the center's doors, as other cardinals in their formal red robes held onto their hats in a brisk March wind.

Cardinal Maida was the driving force behind the cultural center, which he originally envisioned as a sort of papal equivalent to presidential libraries. Its content has been expanded to incorporate exhibits about the history of Catholicism and other religions, art exhibits and ways for visitors to leave testimonials about faith, hope and service.

The 100,000 square-foot building on 12 acres near Catholic University cost \$60 million, which was raised through private donations.

Its highlights include such features as a 75-foot gilded cross, 89 bronze casts of hands collected

from 24 countries visited by the pope and 38 works of art from the Vatican.

It was designed by architect Leo A. Daly of Washington. Its exhibits were developed by Edwin Schlossberg Inc., of New York, the firm headed by the husband of Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg. The Schlossbergs and her uncle, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., attended the ceremony, along with many bishops, priests and religious, politicians, donors and supporters.

The center's directors say the new museum can accommodate 1,500 visitors a day; they hope to draw 500,000 people a year. It is open Tuesday through Sunday, and only on Monday when it is a holiday. Admission is \$8, with a discounted rate of \$6 for senior citizens. Children under age 3 are admitted free.

The grand opening program at the center grounds followed a celebration Mass at the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Several receptions and dinners to honor and thank the center's planners, donors and supporters also were held.

The evening before, Bush hosted about 60 bishops and other church leaders for a reception at the White House.

He said the best way to honor the pope "is to take his teaching seriously, is to listen to his words and put his words and teachings into action here in America."

Bush thanked the bishops as among those "who inspire and teach love and compassion and hope," and for their concern for the weak and suffering as well as for "making sure every child is educated."

Among those attending the White House reception were Cardinal Szoka, Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Cardinal Maida, Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, retired Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey, Cardinal McCarrick, papal nuncio Arch-

see "CENTER", page seven



President greets Cardinals at White House. President Bush greets the retired archbishop of Washington, Cardinal James A. Hickey, as Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler and Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick look on in the East Room of the White House March 21. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



President Bush welcomes bishops and guests to the White House March 21 in honor of the opening of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. Standing from left are papal delegate Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, Bush, retired Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey, Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo and Galveston-Houston Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



President Bush places a stone in a meditation fountain at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington March 22. With him from left are center deputy director Penny Fletcher; Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida and Father Michael Bugarin, center director. The \$60-million Catholic museum, learning facility and think tank was inaugurated at a ceremony attended by the president and hundreds of guests. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



High-Tech Center Honors Tradition Of 'Pilgrim Pope'

By KATHERINE M. SKIBA
Journal Sentinel staff

Washington - Hear "peace be with you" in 75 languages. Design a stained-glass window using a computer. Place your hand in a bronze casting of the pope's.

These are among the offerings at the John Paul II Cultural Center, a \$65 million institution that marries cutting-edge technology with the art and teachings of the 2,000-year-old Roman Catholic Church. Adam J. Maida, while bishop of Green Bay in the late 1980s, came up with the idea to honor history's most-traveled pope.

Maida's touch was seen beginning March 22, when doors opened to the ultramodern, 100,000-square-foot center in northeast Washington. Officials hope for 500,000 visitors a year. Now Detroit's cardinal, Maida found several Wisconsin people and parishes shared his vision, and, as such, pitched in when the plate was passed.

Set on 12 acres, the three-story building already has been blessed by critics. "An architectural landmark of a high order - an at-times exhilarating demonstration of architecture's power to move the soul," The Washington Post judged.

Maida, 70, said he wanted to commemorate the pontiff with more than a clone of a presidential library. After discussions with John Paul II, architects and exhibit designers, the result was not so much a museum, but a living place to explore faith and heritage.

The "pilgrim pope" is seen and heard throughout the building. A 50-minute documentary tells his life story. A "Papal and Polish Heritage Room" contains some of his possessions: his Holy Communion portrait, Dynastar downhill skis (circa 1985-'87), one of his place settings (white china with gold borders) and bejeweled gifts bestowed by world leaders.

Elsewhere a large black-and-white mural depicts ordinary Catholics from the four corners of the earth, suggesting the lives he's touched during travel to 118 nations. Eventually, as many as 12 scholars will be invited to the center's intellectual arm to promote

the study of the impact of the papacy on world culture.

Ancient to cutting edge The Center is a blend of old and new. About \$2 million worth of paintings from Vatican museums arrived Thursday night. The first exhibit of 38 works is called "The Mother of God: Art Celebrates Mary." The paintings, dating from the 1st century to the 20th century, will be on display through June 2002. Later, gallery space will host other traveling exhibits of Vatican treasures.

Now, onto the 21st century. The center hosts an eye-popping array of hands-on, high-tech exhibits in five galleries focusing on Catholic history, life and faith.

The exhibit designers: Edwin Schlossberg Inc., the New York City firm led by the man who married Caroline Kennedy. He is Jewish; she, Catholic. ("We had to teach him a little bit about the church," confides Maida, who pronounced Schlossberg's designs "great.")

Here one may create the stained-glass window, pull a rope to ring bells sounding out spiritual music (such as "Amazing Grace") or design an electronic, wall-sized collage. Visitors are invited to enter confessional-sized booths, not to recite their sins but to leave behind testimonials of their faith: text messages banged out on a computer keyboard, or drawings made with a light pen, or audiotapes or videotapes. Testimonials may be kept private, or left behind for posterity.

After playing with the gizmos and whirligigs, a dose of Catholic guilt: A computer-generated list of charities - from Catholic Charities to Jesuit Volunteers Corps to Special Olympics - shows the way for those who want to lend a helping hand.

Throughout the center, visitors are invited to use credit-card-sized, bar-coded cards that may be swiped as they travel among displays. That creates a record of each visit, which may be replayed in the center's hip-looking cafe. If the modernist furnishings and Starbucks coffee aren't proof enough that this is no church basement, computer sta-

tions (insert bar-coded card here) replaying one's visit are sure to signify that Catholicism, indeed, has leaped into the third millennium.

One leaves with a computer-generated, personalized paper memento of the visit.

Opening delayed State-of-the-art? Yes. But a small flood involving the reflecting pool that decorates the front lawn stalled the opening for more than four months. The flood last September caused an estimated half-million dollars in damage to computer equipment stored in a lower-level room, said Penelope Fletcher, the center's 54-year-old deputy director. ("We baptized the computers," she joked.)

Among invitees to the center was President Bush. "I think there's strong interest in him seeing this as D.C.'s newest tourist attraction," Fletcher said.

But a bigger question is whether the pontiff, now 80 and frail, will see the center that carries his name. "I pray he will," is how Maida put it.

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bishop Gabriel Montalvo, and Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, who is president of the U.S. bishops' conference.

Also attending the reception were major donors and other members of the founding trustees of the cultural center.

Other Catholic leaders at the grand opening ceremonies included Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., vice president of the U.S. bishops' conference; Bishop Bernard J. Harrington of Winona, Minn., chairman of the grand opening committee; and Dominican Father J. Augustine Di Noia, founding director of the center's intercultural forum.

Editor's Note: Information about the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center is available at the Web site www.jp2cc.org; by calling (202) 635-5400; or writing to the center at: 3900 Harewood Rd., NE, Washington, DC 20017-1555.



Visitors to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington try designing a stained-glass window at one of the center's interactive exhibits. The new \$65-million museum opened to the public March 22. (CNS photo courtesy Pope John Paul II Cultural Center)



Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida and President Bush cut a ribbon opening the new Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington March 22. At left is Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law and Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka. Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick looks on at right. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida welcomes President Bush to the official opening of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington March 22. The president, church leaders and hundreds of guests were on hand to inaugurate the \$60-million Catholic museum, learning center and think tank. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



Speaker Assesses Ups, Downs Of History Of Women In Church

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Opening a consultation with 150 women in diocesan leadership posts, a former official of the U.S. bishops' conference reviewed the history of "high ascents and steep declines" that marked the bishops' efforts to approve a pastoral letter on women.

The March 11 talk by Dolores R. Leckey, former executive director of the bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth and now a senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center, also addressed other key issues affecting women in the 19th and 20th centuries and the role that the Catholic Church played in them.

The gathering at Chicago's Drake Hotel brought together top women leaders in U.S. dioceses at the invitation of the bishops' Committee for Women in Society and in the Church. Representing the Diocese of San Angelo was Sister Joan Markus, Director of the Office of Education and Formation. The theme of the three-day consultation was "Hear, Listen, Affirm: The Voices of Women."

Leckey centered her keynote talk on the image of a bridge, lined with statues of those who have been important to the progress of women in the church. From that bridge, she said, one can see some

of the past and some of what lies ahead.

But one's views of those and other perspectives can vary, she said, according to where one stands on the bridge.

During "the first wave of reform" when women sought the vote at the end of the Civil War, "the Catholic story line in this was, shall we say, a bit uneven," Leckey said.

Although some bishops supported giving women the vote, others opposed it, she said. It wasn't until the issue came up again after World War I that the bishops agreed that "women in the voting booth would raise the level of civil discourse" in the United States, she added.

The next big issue was the Equal Rights Amendment, first proposed in 1918 and opposed by the National Council of Catholic Women, which was started by the bishops at around the same time, Leckey said. Other Catholic groups supported it, however.

When Cardinal Dennis Dougherty of Philadelphia wrote in a 1945 letter to the National Women's Party that he favored the ERA, Leckey said, "it made it easier for Catholic women to reconcile feminism and their faith."

When the ERA was brought to the fore again in more modern times, it fell to the bishops' Com-

mittee on Women in Society and in the Church to take up the matter, Leckey said.

The then-ad hoc committee was chaired by Bishop Michael F. McAuliffe of Jefferson City, Mo., now retired, who "never expected nor intended" to be chairman of that committee but was recruited by Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin after he volunteered to head the vocations committee.

Growing up in a family with six sons and no daughters, Bishop McAuliffe "knew he didn't know much about women," Leckey said, but he set out to really hear women's voices.

One of the committee's first actions under Bishop McAuliffe was a 1978 recommendation that the Administrative Committee support the ERA, because the committee on women was "convinced you could separate the ERA and the abortion issue," Leckey said. That recommendation was unanimously rejected by the Administrative Committee.

Its next project was a series of three structured dialogues over one-and-a-half years with the Women's Ordination Conference. The committee issued a final report on that dialogue, but the Administrative Committee denied permission for publishing that report, Leckey said.

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of



Women diocesan leaders meet at national forum. Alicia Alvarez, director of Christian formation in the Diocese of Lubbock, Texas, and Bonnie Lemelle Abadie, director of the Catechetical Center in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas, talk at the opening session of a national consultation on women in the church and society in Chicago March 11. (CNS photo by Karen Callaway)

Joliet, Ill., then took over the committee and began what Leckey called "a project full of high ascents and steep declines" — the bishops' pastoral letter on women that took nine years and was eventually defeated by the full body of bishops.

Bishop Imesch and his key collaborators on the pastoral — Sister Mariella Frye, a Mission Helper of the Sacred Heart, and lay theologian Susan Muto — "gave themselves to a difficult cause and for a very long time," Leckey said.

Despite the pastoral's defeat, the action items that were passed have borne fruit in various meetings held and documents approved since then, Leckey said.

In looking at women in the church today, "we are nowhere near the end of the bridge," she added. "Bishop McAuliffe's

words — 'We learn to trust by doing' — are very present to me as I continue to take one step at a time."

Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., current chairman of the committee, welcomed the women leaders to the Chicago gathering, saying he hoped they would find by meeting with their peers the same support he gets from the twice-yearly meetings of U.S. bishops.

But the main goals of the consultation, he said, were to "hear and reflect critically on the experiences of women in the trenches" and to obtain their views on various issues of interest to the church at large.

More than two dozen of the women in Chicago were chancellors or vice chancellors of their dioceses, a post that was not open to women until recently.

Pope Urges Greater Recognition Of Women In Society, Church

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said that despite decades of progress in women's rights, women are still awaiting full recognition of their dignity in society and in the church.

Women's dignity is especially harmed by practices like sex tourism, mass sterilization and various forms of violence, the pope said. He termed abortion an "aberra-

tion" that distorts the idea of women's rights and weakens those of unborn children.

The pope's comments came in a message to some 600 delegates of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, which held a general assembly in Rome March 17-21. Since 1910, the movement has brought together women from church activist groups all over the world.

The pope told the delegates

that, when it comes to appreciation of women and their role, "the journey traveled in the course of the past century has been remarkable."

"In many countries women today enjoy freedom of movement, of decision and of self-expression, a freedom which they have achieved with clear-mindedness and courage," he said.

But he said the delegates were rightly praying for an end to "the

many obstacles which still hinder full recognition of the dignity and mission of women in society and within the ecclesial community."

Among the impediments to women's genuine fulfillment, he said, were those created by the prevailing culture across the globe, including models of life that are "contrary to women's deeper nature."

"There have been serious aberrations, some arising from indi-

vidual selfishness and a refusal to love, others from a mentality that stresses each individual's rights to such an extent that respect for the rights of others is weakened, and particularly those of defenseless unborn children who in many cases are deprived of all legal protection," he said.

The pope said part of the role

see "WOMEN", page nine



Take Note Of Possible Liturgical Changes

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The updated *Roman Missal* for Mass with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* in Latin is expected to be published sometime in April, 2001. There has been much speculation about what might or might not be changed in the *General Instruction* and how this might affect the Proposed USA Adaptations. So, before jumping to conclusions, I ask that you take into account the following bulletin that comes from the Newsletter of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Committee on the Liturgy (Jan-Feb, 2001).

Implementation of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* and the Proposed USA Adaptations

The *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani editio typica tertia* (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2000) goes into effect upon its publication as a part of the *Missale Romanum*. Publication is presently expected for sometime before Easter, 2001.

While the *Institutio Generalis* takes effect upon its publication, it is important to bear in mind that **those provisions presently contained in the confirmed USA Appendix (found in the front of all published editions of the Sacramentary) retain the force**

of particular law in the dioceses of the United States of America.

In addition, a certain pastoral discretion is advisable when addressing **those provisions of the revised *Institutio* which the NCCB may well change at its June, 2001 meeting.** At the June 2001 plenary meeting of the NCCB, revisions of the following numbers from the revised *Institutio* will be considered:

IGMR 43: Gestures And Posture Of The Faithful. IGMR 48: Opening Song. IGMR 61: Responsorial Psalm. IGMR 67: Apostles' Creed. IGMR 74: Presentation Song. IGMR 87: Communion Song. IGMR 160: Distribution Of Holy Communion. IGMR 283: Communion Under Both Kinds. IGMR 301: Materials For Fixed Altars. IGMR 304: Color Of Altar Cloths. IGMR 318: Veiling Of Crosses. IGMR 326: Materials For Sacred Furnishings. IGMR 329: Materials For Sacred Vessels. IGMR 336, 339: Vesture For Lay Ministers. IGMR 343: Materials For Sacred Vestments. IGMR 346: Color Of Sacred Vestments. IGMR 362: Readings For Mass. IGMR 373: Special Days Of Prayer. IGMR 393: Musical Instruments. IGMR 393: Approval Of Mass Texts Set To Music. IGMR 393: Approval Of Liturgi-

cal Songs.

In addition, a proposed revision of *This Holy and Living Sacrifice: Norms for the Celebration and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Species in the Dioceses of the United States of America* includes provisions whereby extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion would be permitted, when pastoral need dictates, to assist with the distribution of the consecrated species to ancillary vessels, to consume what remains of the Precious Blood after the distribution of Holy Communion, and to purify sacred vessels.

While the revised *Missale Romanum* provides a wonderful opportunity to develop a thorough catechesis on the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, **it would be unwise to hastily implement those provisions which might well be changed within a matter of weeks.** Such an approach is in no way designed to compromise the effective implementation of the revised *Institutio* but simply to avoid the proliferation of unnecessary changes in a precipitous fashion.

When the NCCB decides on the final form of the USA adaptations of the *Institutio Generalis*, it will be submitted to the Holy See for confirmation. Once that confirmation has been received, all provisions of the revised *Missale Romanum* should be implemented in a timely fashion as the law of the Church.

Pray For All Who Suffer From HIV/AIDS

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Our brothers and sisters who suffer from HIV/AIDS need our help. Let us join in prayer with all people for all affected by HIV/AIDS! *Why? - Because prayer changes things!*

Pray with the church . . . for all who suffer from HIV or AIDS.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, O Good and gracious God, You are the God of health and wholeness. In the plan of Your creation, You call us to struggle in our sickness and to cling always to the cross of your

Son. O God, we are Your servants. Many of us are now suffering with HIV or AIDS. We come before You, and ask You, if it is Your Holy will, to take away this suffering from us, restore us to health and lead us to know You and Your powerful healing love of body and spirit. We ask you also, to be with those of us who nurse Your sick ones. We are the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children and friends of Your suffering people. It is so hard for us to see those whom we love suffer. You know what it is to suffer. Help us to min-

ister in loving care, support, and patience for Your people who suffer with HIV and AIDS. Lead us to do whatever it will take to eradicate this illness from the lives of those who are touched by it, both directly and indirectly. Trusting in You and the strength of Your Spirit, we pray these things in the Name of Jesus. Amen

When can I pray this prayer? With those who wish to remain after Mass. With my family on Friday or Sunday evenings or even every night. While praying the rosary, alone or with a group. During novenas or other devotions of the parish. Alone, in the quiet of my room.

National African American Catholic HIV/AIDS Task Force February 2001

SCHOLARSHIPS

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an application. All applications must be postmarked on or before July 11, 2001.

Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance offers life insurance, IRAs and retirement annuities to businesses and individuals living in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Mississippi.

ECOJUSTICE

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around us. Each species has its place in the ecosystem, and as we are learning to our dismay, one species cannot be destroyed or displaced without upsetting the whole system.

Ecojustice calls for a new respect for all life on earth, but especially human life. In his 1990 World Day of Peace message, Pope John Paul II declared that, "The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of respect for life".

When the quest for ever greater productivity in profits takes precedents over the welfare of workers, when people are forced to earn a living in an environment with polluted air, exposure to hazardous waste, and other unsafe working conditions, then their dignity as human beings is being violated. When delicate ecological balances are destroyed by reckless exploitation of natural resources, whole cultures are in danger. When biological research involves experimentation with human embryos and the unscrupulous manipulation of genetic materials, the dignity of the human person is being ruthlessly disregarded.

Human understanding and control of natural processes empower people not only to improve the human condition but also to do great harm to each other, to the earth, and to other creatures. As concerns about the environment have grown in recent decades, the moral necessity of ecological stewardship, a system of ecojustice, has become increasingly clear.

Our position informed by revelation and confirmed by reason and experience, views human stewardship that unlocks the potential in creation for all earth's inhabitants as good. Humanity alone of all the created order is capable of developing other resources and can thus enrich creation, so it can properly be said that the human person is the most valuable resource on earth.

Humans are the reflecting consciousness of our ecosystem. Only we, of all species, have the ability to reflect on the consequences of our actions and make choices that would determine the future of our communities. By developing a new planetary vision, based on justice, for Planet Earth, which is our home and garden, then we can fully embrace our role as co-creators with God.

WOMEN

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of the Catholic women's organizations was to be a voice in international forums and "insist that every life is a gift of God and deserves to be respected."

He also encouraged the organizations to help provide more material and moral support to women in difficulty, including victims of poverty and violence. This is especially important today "in a world fascinated by success and efficiency, but in which many people have no share in the benefits of global progress and are becoming poorer and more neglected than ever," he said.

Within the church, he said, "feminine holiness" is indispensable and is rooted in the role of Mary in the early days of the Christian community.

"The world and the church need your specific witness," he said.

The pope said women were uniquely gifted to transmit the faith and apply it to all of life's circumstances, in the family and in the worlds of work, study and leisure.

"Today, at a time of a deep spiritual and cultural crisis, this task has assumed an urgency that cannot be overstated," he said.



77th Legislature Continues At A Hectic Pace — Redistricting Fight Looms

by Richard Daly, CSC

In what has proven to be the fastest starting legislative session in memory, the 181 members of the Texas House and Senate have begun considering what is expected to be 4000 to 5000 bills and resolutions which will be introduced this session. With the deadline looming for free filing of legislation, March 9, the final days of February were extremely busy for members and especially for their staffs.

The anxiety level around the Capitol was enhanced a bit when it was announced that the population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau might be available earlier than the original date set, April 1. Indications from Washington were that the population figures, which will be used to redraw the districts for the U.S. Congress, Texas State Senate and House, and State Board of Education, might be available as early as mid-March.

Although the legislature does redistricting every ten years, even those veterans of the legislative process, including Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, who has seen four redistricting sessions, are not quite sure what to expect due to the extremely close partisan split in the legislature. Republicans have a one-vote majority in the Senate and Democrats have a six-vote majority in the House.

In addition, the Republicans hope to secure a majority in the Texas delegation in Congress in the next election cycle.

The redistricting fight is further complicated by the fact that Texas will receive two new seats in the Congress bringing the total from Texas to thirty-two. Where to locate those two seats and whether they will be "safe" for any particular member be he or she Democrat or Republican, or possibly an African American or Hispanic, will add to the drama.

BUDGET FOR 2002/2003 BIENNIUM. Even as the legislature was getting ready for the redistricting fight, the powerful House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees continued

deliberations over the state budget for the 2002/2003 biennium which will be somewhere in the area of \$110 billion. The budget writer's tasks were made more difficult when it was realized that the tax cut enacted last session cut into an anticipated surplus, which means that there will be very little money available for new projects of any sort, including increases in the delivery of health and human services to needy Texans. Writing the budget for the next biennium is the *only* thing that the 77th legislature absolutely has to do before adjournment sine die on May 28, or in a special session.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR THE POOR ESPECIALLY CHILDREN. Efforts by a wide variety of advocacy groups including the Texas Catholic Conference and the Texas Conference of Catholic Health Facilities to make it easier for the poor, especially poor children, to access health care have received incredible support but the budget considerations mentioned above put some of the proposed legislative innovations in jeopardy. Specifically, the bishops' conference and others would like the medicaid process made simpler for people to access. Simplifying the application form, eliminating the need for face-to-face interviews, lowering the assets test for Medicaid recipients, and extending the time of eligibility to 12-months instead of six-months, are all top priorities for the bishops and other advocates for children. The bishops' position on this issue has been articulated in their recent pastoral statement, *Our Children's Health — A Texas Treasure* which has had wide circulation including a mailing to every member of the legislature and every pastor in Texas.

DEATH PENALTY ISSUES. In what has been cited by many death penalty opponents as one of the most significant turnarounds in recent legislative history, both the House and the Senate are giving serious consideration to several issues related to the death penalty. While no one thinks that

Texas will abolish capital punishment any time soon, serious consideration has already been given in committee to bills which would mandate DNA testing in capital cases, giving juries the option of imposing life without parole in place of the death penalty, and banning the execution of the mentally retarded.

Serious consideration is also being given to a better system of providing legal counsel for the indigent. Also on the death penalty opponents' wish list are bills to give the governor the power to declare a moratorium and proposed legislation to suspend executions while a study of the entire Texas criminal justice system is undertaken. Individuals concerned about the death penalty are encouraged to contact their state representatives and senators indicating support for these measures. In the past, elected officials have been concerned that any support for anti-death penalty legislation would be taken only at serious political risk.

SCHOOL CHOICE. One voucher experiment bill has been introduced (HB 1240 by Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston), but it is not expected to be seriously considered. School (parental) choice proponents are considering other proposed legislation.

REGULATION OF ABORTION. Pro-life legislators have once again filed a series of bills to provide greater regulation of the practice of abortion in Texas. Among those is one to strengthen the parental notification bill which was passed last session. Other bills would require informed consent and a waiting period for the woman seeking an abortion.

INJURY TO A PREGNANT WOMAN. Two bills are working their way through the legislature enhancing penalties for causing injury to a pregnant woman, SB 269 by Sen. Steve Ogden, R-College Station, and SB 815/HB 509 Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria and Rep. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE RE-

FORM. Another issue, which is getting serious attention this session, much to the surprise of longtime capitol observers, is campaign finance reform. Thanks to a well-organized effort led by a single issue group called *Campaigns for People*, individuals from across the political spectrum have come together to support minimal campaign finance reform including full disclosure of contributions and some caps on donations. An indication of the breadth of the bi-partisan support for the issue is that former flamboyant liberal State Democrat Senator Babe Schwartz of Galveston and former longtime conservative Speaker of the House Bill Clayton, who is now a Republican, have both testified in support of the various bills being considered by the House and the Senate.

SAME GENDER UNIONS. Even though Texas has a very strong statute which defines marriage as being between one man and one woman, the Texas Catholic Conference has joined with other concerned individuals and groups in supporting legislation which has been introduced by Rep. Warren Chishum, R-Pampa (HB 383) and Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington (SB 488) which would make it perfectly clear that Texas does not have to recognize same gender unions or marriages from other states. The basis for the Conferences' position on this matter is related to the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage.

HATE CRIMES. One of the most contentious and emotional issues of the last session, enactment of legislation to enhance penalties for crimes committed because of the victims race, sex, religion, or sexual preference, seems to be moving much easier through the legislative process this session. Senator Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, the Senate sponsor has already had his bill reported favorably from committee, as has the House sponsor Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston. Last session the bill passed the House and then

died in the Senate. The legislative strategy this session seems to be to secure passage in the Senate before asking the members of the House to vote on it. During the consideration of the bill in the House Committee, Bishop Curtis Guillory of the Diocese of Beaumont sent a personal representative, Father Ron Foshage, the pastor of the Catholic church in Jasper, Texas, to testify in favor of the bill.

The Texas Catholic Conference urges concerned citizens to contact state representatives, state senators, and the governor's office voicing support for issues of concern to them.

In order to contact members of the Texas House and Senate or the Governor's office the following addresses should be used:

The Honorable (Full Name)
Texas Senate P O Box 12068 –
Capitol Station Austin, TX 78711
The Honorable (Full Name) Texas
House of Representatives P O Box
2910 Austin, TX 78768-2910
The Honorable (Full Name)
Governor's Office P O Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

The Legislative Reference Library provides on-line contacts to check on the status of pending legislation. The address is: www.lrl.state.tx.us.

RISEN from page two

need to let the great Breath of Life of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ set us free.

Easter invites us to roll back the metaphorical stones that hold us captive and to embrace the light of day. Easter assures us that our God, the God of the living, is to be found in each event of our daily lives—our moments of celebration as well as in moments of loss. Because Christ is risen, we are people of hope, and we are people of a new power that enables us to conquer all difficulties.



Maryknoll Student Essay Contest Winner

Ripples Through Place and Time

by Daniel Michalewicz,
Big Lake, Texas
Division II: Grades 10-12

Dear Holy Father,

When Jesus came to earth at the request of his Father, his humanity must have been overwhelmed with the mission he had been sent to accomplish. Today when we are called to continue Jesus' mission "to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free" (Lk 4:18), we feel overwhelmed also.

How do I as an individual make a dent in these areas? Jesus showed us by his example how to do these things. More importantly, he gave us a commandment to follow: "Love others as I have loved you." Thinking this over, I began to look at those in my family and community who were fulfilling the words of St. Luke. I found that I had many examples to follow. I imagined how the

farmer in our community felt when he found out that the men in our community had harvested his crop for him while he was recovering from cancer surgery. That had to be good news to the poor.

Then there was the benefit meal my community held to help pay the hospital costs for a family whose child had been in a severe accident. On top of that, many donated not only their time and money, but also their blood for the transfusions that the child needed. All of these acts had to be good news to those poor at the time.

Our Catholic youth group has gone trick-or-treating for canned goods on Halloween. Besides having fun, we were surprised at how quickly we could accumulate hundreds of pounds of food. Then we went to a food bank in a town nearby and helped prepare baskets for the upcoming holidays.

During the Christmas season, each of the high school kids in

our parish donated a couple of dollars toward buying needed items for a battered women's and children's shelter. We then challenged the adult organizations in our area to match our donations. A lot came from our small community.

On one occasion a large funeral was held in our parish. Some of the high school girls went to their principal and asked to be allowed to miss school for the morning. They wanted to care for the small children of the victims' families and the children of the friends who dug the graves and cooked the meals for the grieving people.

Our community does not rally together only during times of illness or tragedy. Last year youth volunteered to do yard work and wash windows for those who cannot do these things themselves. For people living out in the open country, these things become a real necessity.

At Christmas our Catholic youth group gathers to go around and sing Christmas carols to those who are shut in. Of course, we also stop at other places along the way, especially if we know of someone who needs to be reminded of the reason for Christmas.

A group of senior citizens in our area is training to become



Maryknoll Brother Mark A. Gruenke (right) congratulates Daniel Michalewicz, a 12th grader at Reagan County High School in Big Lake, Texas, for winning the \$1,000 Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Award, named for the Maryknoller who died on a forced march in Korea in 1950. Looking on are Daniel's pastor at St. Lawrence Church, Father Bernard Getigan, Daniel's parents, Jody and Robert Michalewicz, and his siblings, Theresa and Aaron.

reading mentors for struggling students. By improving the children's reading skills, the seniors also hope to improve their futures.

Often, the things we do for others do not seem to have a great effect. However, we must remember that each of us is part of a bigger whole. Each thing we do, no matter how small, reaches farther than we realize. I might compare these small things to the dropping of a pebble into water. The ripples it causes travel outward, reaching boundaries far beyond where the

small pebble was dropped.

Our ability to serve others should never be underestimated. Jesus was but one man, and by himself he changed our lives even though we never met him. His actions for those in need have traveled like ripples to us. Our actions "to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the captives free," no matter how small, will have an effect.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Michalewicz

CONTEST

from page one

"This year's teen writers were particularly insightful," said Marge Gaughan, managing editor of *Maryknoll* magazine who coordinated the judging, "in identifying the works of Christ both within and beyond their immediate communities, and seeing service to the poor and oppressed from a broader world mission perspective."

Laura Kaufmann, of Allentown, Pa., who won the Division I "Bishop Francis X. Ford Award" in honor of a Maryknoll missionary who died in a communist prison in 1952, wrote about her life-long battle with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. She described how the selfless love of family members has helped her bear the cross of this physical infirmity: "Last year, when I had an especially difficult time with my arthritis, my dad took me to the Stations of the Cross at our church. Thinking of

Christ's willingness to suffer for us made my pain seem easier to bear. Without Christ in my life, I would be a very depressed person, unable to cope with my illness. Thanks to my family, I know that Christ exists because I see Him in their actions."

Daniel Michalewicz, of Big Lake, Texas, who won the Division II "Bishop Patrick J. Byrne Award" in memory of a Maryknoll missionary who died on a forced march in Korea in 1950, described the charitable works of specific individuals in his small community. He concluded his essay by writing, "Our ability to serve others should never be underestimated. Jesus was one man, and by himself he changed our lives even though we never met him. His actions for those in need traveled like ripples to us. Our actions..., no matter how small, will have an effect."

Kaufmann's and Michalewicz's first-place essays will be personally delivered to Pope John Paul II, reprinted in the May issue

of *Maryknoll* magazine, as well as displayed on Maryknoll's web site at www.maryknoll.org.

LAWSUIT

from page one

On Wednesday, March 21, 2001 without advance notice, I was unexpectedly served with notice of a lawsuit filed here that same day. I am outraged that there is so little regard for the truth in their accusations against me and my staff, but especially the allegation that we conspired to cover up the incident!

I am fully satisfied that neither I, nor any member of my staff, or of our seminary recruitment and admissions team did, or failed to do anything that could be remotely labeled as "negligent." I intend to hold these accusers strictly and personally accountable for their accusations, by every legal avenue available to me.

Because of the sensitive legal constraints, and the litigation, which sadly has ensued, I cannot

give any further details at this time. I intend to seek justice and resolution of this sad dilemma.

RESUCITADO

from page two

sitamos rompernos libres de las vendas del entierro y todo que nos arrama en el aquí y ahora.

Muy seguido, nosotros - los vivos - son atrapados por "tumbas" que hicimos nosotros mismos. Necesitamos dejar que el gran Aliento de la Vida de la Resurrección de Jesucristo nos libre.

La Pascua nos invita a remover la piedras metafóricas que nos detiene en cautividad y abrazar la luz del día. La Pascua nos asegura que nuestro Dios, el Dios de los Vivos, se descubre en cada evento de nuestras vidas diarias -- en nuestros momentos de celebración así como en momentos de pérdida. Porque Cristo

es resucitado, somos gente de esperanza, y somos gente de un poder nuevo que nos permite a conquistar todas las dificultades.

RUSSIAN

from page five

Zur, does not grant interviews to journalists and would not discuss the Duma's actions, an official at the nunciature said March 13.

Father Sergei Timashov, vice chancellor of the apostolic administration in Moscow, said there are no ongoing discussions on the return of the icon, which many Russian Orthodox believers hold to have miracle-working capabilities.

Father Timashov said Catholic leaders in Russia were quite concerned with the Duma's measures.

"It was an official request — not just from Zhirinovskiy personally — so this is serious. This is an official action," he said.



Diocese Participates in Two National Consultations

On February 8th a Committee of fifteen met at Christ the King Retreat Center to review and discuss a proposed revision of the National Directory for Catechesis. Committee members were Bishop Michael Pfeifer, F. Joe Uecker, Barbara Ransbottom, Liz Rojo, S. Rebecca Otter, Judy Feist, Msgr. Larry Droll, Marge Hellinghausen, Leslie Pagano, F. Desmond Obi, Deborah Michalewicz, Anne Hermann, Gregg Elsner and S. Hilda Marotta. The committee was chaired by S. Joan Markus. Group discussion was animated and respectful as the task of compiling a diocesan report evolved. Some hopes expressed for catechesis in the third millennium were that adult Catholics would be able to articulate and live their faith more fully, that quality catechesis would exist in the family, that liturgy and rituals would be appreciated and celebrated more actively, that parishes would be model centers of discipleship, that formation would become a lifelong process and that missionary work would be a more integral part of parish life. The diocesan report will be compiled and sent to an Editorial Oversight Board. This Board is responsible for reviewing all diocesan reports and the writing of the first draft. A draft directory will be prepared



Group members at work are from left to right Judy Feist, S. Rebecca Otter, Marge Hellinghausen, Msgr. Larry Droll, Barbara Ransbottom



Clockwise from foreground are Carol Ann Hunt, Mike Wyse, Deacon Jerry Schwalb, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, Msgr. Larry Droll and S. Carol Markus.



Left to right are S. Hilda Marotta, Fr. Quirino Cornejo, Judy Phaneuf and Socorro Ramirez.

for a second consultation by December, 2001. The final document will be presented for a vote by the bishops in November, 2002.

On February 22nd a Committee of eleven met to review and discuss the first proposed draft for a national catechism. Members of the committee were Bishop Michael Pfeifer, Deacon Gerald Schwalb, Msgr. Larry Droll, Carol Ann Hunt, Mike Wyse, Judy Phaneuf, F. Quirino Comejo, Socorro Ramirez, S. Carol Markus

and S. Hilda Marotta. The meeting was chaired by S. Joan Markus. When the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church was released, Pope John Paul II noted that the universal Catechism was intended to encourage and assist in the writing of local catechisms. In January, each bishop received consultation materials. Bishop Michael Pfeifer requested that a committee be formed to study the materials. The diocesan committee members supported the

proposed approach for each chapter and also gave some additional suggestions. There was animated conversation throughout the meeting as the groups discussed the content for each of the sections in the outline. Additions and deletions were suggested as well as suggestions for the draft to be written. As the meeting drew to a close, members expressed that it was a privilege and life-giving to be part of this historic creation. A single Diocesan Report will be

compiled and sent to the episcopal Editorial Oversight Board responsible for the reviewing and rewriting of the text. It is expected that the first draft will be ready by January, 2002. Allowing for a six month consultation on the first draft, followed by a period of review and rewriting the text, the timeline calls for a presentation of the final draft of the national adult catechism to the General Assembly in June, 2003.

Bishop Awards Religious Emblems to Scouts



On February 17 Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI awarded to Boy and Girl Scouts of all ages the religious emblems for which that had been working all year. The presentations were made at the annual Scout Celebration Mass sponsored by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.